April 12, 2006

His Worship, Mayor Larry Di Ianni
and members of City Council
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Di Ianni and Councilors:

The members of REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington (RAHB) wish to acknowledge the city's efforts to unify the municipalities brought together through the amalgamation of the city of Hamilton. However, plans to alleviate duplicate street names throughout the amalgamated city have caused some concerns amongst the association's membership.

RAHB would like to ask that the city abandon the policy of renaming existing duplicate street names for several reasons. The first reason is the loss of heritage in these communities, some of which have been established longer than the original city of Hamilton itself. In some cases, the descendants of the families that settled the area still reside in family homesteads. We agree that change is constant; however, we also believe that the region is rich in history and that some of that history will be lost with the renaming of streets.

The second reason is the cost to homeowners, to area businesses, and to our 2,000 plus members not to mention the amount of time invested to implement the proposed changes. Homeowners would need to have documents amended to reflect the change in the legal description of their property, and area businesses would be obligated to change stationary, advertising, as well as legal documents. In addition, our membership would be required to ensure that the new street information was correctly in place on all essential documents when listing a property for sale.

RAHB would like to propose that the amalgamated city of Hamilton allow existing duplicate street names throughout the municipalities remain status quo and that a policy be implemented to ensure that future street names are not duplicated. We urge the city of Hamilton to preserve the heritage of the region, forestall added cost to area homeowners, and alleviate the legal concerns to our membership.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter, if you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at 905-975-2227 or by email at ed.cooper.realtor@sympatico.ca.

Yours truly,

REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington

[Signature]

Ed Cooper
Chairman
2006 Government Relations Committee