Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council

Please find attached a letter dated October 19, 2009. I had outlined my issues with the original tree by-law. At that time, Staff were given direction to negotiate with the building and development industry to develop a fairer approach to this important issue. Thereafter, a working committee was created with the HHHBA with a landscape architect, Mr. Haig Seferian, volunteering his time to work through the matter. After which, it was brought forward again.

To my dismay, the Staff recommendations are being ignored. This is simply unbelievable. In an industry faced with ongoing hurdles including increases to building permits and development charges combined with the upcoming introduction of the HST, such onerous obligations are unacceptable.

Trees are an important resource, by truly, at what cost??

Respectfully Submitted:

Ward Campbell
President
Starward Homes
October 19, 2009
Via Email Only

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

RE: Hamilton Private Tree and Woodland Conservation By-law and Associated User Fees and Charges

As a member of the Hamilton-Halton Home Builders’ Association and a local developer-homebuilder, I would like to voice my concern regarding the Draft Hamilton Private Tree and Woodland Conservation By-law and associated User Fees and Charges. The Draft Tree Cutting By-law for private properties in the City of Hamilton proposes to introduce significant permit fees and demanding requirements for compensation plantings that will be required in addition to street trees, storm water management facilities, parks, and other open space plantings as part of planning approvals.

This new By-law, will undoubtedly create onerous financial obligations by making the development process more complicated and, in turn lengthier and more expensive. The repercussion will be additional costs to the bottom line which will be borne by the Hamilton homeowners. In addition to the potential impacts, I feel that the Draft Hamilton Private Tree and Woodland Conservation By-law vastly impacts my development/private property rights.

Although the intent of this by-law is good — I strongly believe that it is inappropriate to introduce it without an in-depth review of the repercussions of its adoption including those I have listed above. I believe that this must be done in conjunction with the HHHBA.

Regards,

STARWARD HOMES

Ward Campbell
President