To: Mr. Kevin Christenson  
City Clerk  
City of Hamilton, City Hall  
71 Main St. West  
Hamilton On L8P 4Y5  

May 8, 2007

Subject: Mt. Albion Road Closure Moratorium Petition

Enclosed is our petition, signed by more than 3500, requesting a moratorium of the closure of Mount Albion Road (mountain) access for three years, to allow for traffic counts and related studies after the Red Hill Valley Parkway opens.

Also enclosed are two petition summaries as of May 7/07, and a copy of our presentation to PWC Monday May 7/07.

Could you please ensure the documentation is presented at the next scheduled Council Meeting, Wednesday May 16/07.

We respectfully request that City Council revisit and reverse the decision to reaffirm the closure.

Thankyou for your co operation and assistance.

Sincerely

Kenneth J. Alford
Whereas the decision to close part of lower Mount Albion road was made approximately 20 years ago and whereas there have been significant changes to commercial, industrial and residential developments since then and whereas we have an aging population in Hamilton east who, because of medical conditions and aging problems, prefer to use lower volume, lower speed transportation routes.

We the undersigned petition the City of Hamilton for a moratorium of the closure of the Mount Albion Road access for three years to allow for traffic counts and related studies after the Red Hill Valley Parkway opens.

The original petition received is in the custody of the City Clerk. All personal information has been severed pursuant to Section 32 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The petition was signed by 3,531 citizens.
MADAM CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

MY NAME IS KEN ALFORD AND I AM HERE THIS MORNING AS A SPOKESPERSON FOR THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY CITIZENS WHO SHARE THE GOAL OF KEEPING THE MOUNT ALBION ROAD MOUNTAIN ACCESS OPEN. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE CITY’S POSITION THAT WHEN THE RHVP OPENS THIS FALL, MT ALBION RD WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED. TO THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THE ROAD MUST REMAIN OPEN FOR LOCAL ACCESS AS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO USING THE HIGH SPEED, HIGH VOLUME TRAFFIC ROUTES OF THE RHVP OR HIGHWAY 20.

SO WHY IS THE CITY CLOSING MT ALBION ROAD??

WE WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE THREE MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION AND DEBATE THAT TOOK PLACE AT COMMITTEE & COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. NAMELY:

1 - LAND OWNERSHIP ON THE TOP OF THE ESCARPMENT.

2 - THE 25 YEAR PLAN & PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

3 - THE COST TO KEEP THE ROAD OPEN.

DEVELOPERS LAND AND THE EXPRESSWAY, MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO BUILD A NEW PERMANENT ROAD RECONNECTING MT. ALBION ROAD TO OLD MUD STREET—A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 300 METERS OR LESS THAN ONE THIRD OF ONE KILOMETER.

WHERE DOES THE CITY GET IT’S INFORMATION?

IS THE LAND REGISTRY INFORMATION WRONG?

2 - THE 25 YEAR PLAN & PUBLIC CONSULTATION.


PLAN “B” 1997 TO PRESENT

THERE WAS A MAJOR CHANGE TO THE PLAN, IN 1996/97 THE REGION (NOW THE CITY) REALIGNED THE EXPRESSWAY ROUTE ENTIRELY TO THE WEST OF MT ALBION RD AND, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC CONSULTATION, THE CITY DECIDED TO KEEP THE ROAD OPEN FOR PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLISTS USE ONLY, AND TO CONTINUE WITH THE CLOSURE TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. REMEMBER, THE ENTIRE AND ONLY JUSTIFICATION FOR CLOSING THE ROAD WAS THAT THE EXPRESSWAY WAS TO COME DOWN MT ALBION RD. BUT NOW THAT THE EXPRESSWAY DOES NOT
COME DOWN MT ALBION THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION, AND THERE IS NO NEED TO CLOSE THE ROAD.
WE BELIEVE WITH THIS MAJOR CHANGE TO THE RHVP PLAN IT WAS INCUMBENT ON THE CITY TO JUSTIFY THE CLOSURE THROUGH THE FULL AND PROPER PUBLIC PROCESS, AS REQUIRED BY THE MUNICIPAL ACT.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION
UNDER THE MINICIPAL ACT, THE CITY IS REQUIRED TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING WHENEVER A ROAD CLOSURE IS PROPOSED.
ALSO, THE CITY MUST NOTIFY AREA OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS WHO MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED CLOSURE AND PLACE ONE AD IN THE LOCAL PRINT MEDIA ADVERTISING THE PUBLIC MEETING.

NONE OF THIS HAS HAPPENED. WHEN WE ASKED FOR THE RECORDS OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND MEETINGS THE RESPONSE FROM THE RHVP PROJECT OFFICE, WAS AND I QUOTE
"THERE HAS NOT BEEN A PARTICULAR PUBLIC MEETING SOLELY FOCUSED ON THE CLOSURE OF MT ALBION AS IT HAS BEEN THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CITY TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT IN IT’S ENTIRETY”.

WHY WAS THERE NO SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC CONSULTATION?

WHY DID THE CITY NOT FOLLOW THE PUBLIC PROCESS TO JUSTIFY THE CLOSURE??

3 - THE COST TO KEEP THE ROAD OPEN
THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST CONFUSING ISSUE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD
IT WOULD BE IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IF NOT INTO THE MILLIONS.
- IT WOULD BE 1 – 2 MILLION DOLLARS
- IT WOULD BE 2 - 3 MILLION DOLLARS
- IT WOULD BE 2 ½ - 3 MILLION DOLLARS
- IT WOULD BE 2 MILLION A YEAR

PEOPLE ARE CONFUSED!

WHAT WAS THE BASIS FOR THESE WIDE RANGING ESTIMATES?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT WOULD IT COST TO CONSTRUCT ABOUT 300 METERS OF NEW ROAD?

LET'S BE CLEAR WE ARE NOT ASKING, AND THERE IS NO NEED, TO DELAY THE DEVELOPER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LEGAL DOCUMENTATION DOES CONTAIN A CLAUSE: (REFERING TO THE TEMPORARY ROAD) -SUCH DETOUR TO CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE CITY DETERMINES IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, THAT SUCH DETOUR IS NO LONGER REQUIRED.... ETC.

WE SAY LET THE DEVELOPER PROCEED SO THE CITY CAN EXPAND IT'S PROPERTY TAX BASE TO HELP PAY FOR THE PROJECT.

WE ARE RECOMMENDING ON A HIGH PRIORITY BASIS, WITHOUT DELAY, THAT THE CITY RECONNECT THE TOP OF MT ALBION TO OLD MUD STREET ON CITY PROPERTY. THE CITY HAS ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO CONSTRUCT THE ROAD SO THERE WILL BE NO DELAY IN TURNING OVER THE DEVELOPERS PROPERTY AND AVOID ANY FURTHER UNNECESSARY COSTS TO THE TAXPAYERS.

OTHER

WHEN THE RHVP OPENS, THIS WILL COMPLETE THE CONNECTION OF THE 403 HIGHWAY TO THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHWAY MAKING OUR CITY ROADS A PART OF A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM FROM WINDSOR TO NIAGARA FALLS & FORT ERIE. WE EXPECT THERE WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN TRAFFIC VOLUME ESPECIALLY TRUCKS, THE CLOSURE OF MT.
ALBION RD. WOULD FORCE US TO USE EITHER THE RHVP OR HIGHWAY 20 NEITHER OF WHICH IS AN OPTION FOR MANY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT DRIVE ON HIGHWAYS.

THE NUMBER 1 COMMENT WE HAVE HEARD IS THAT THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS SAFETY CONCERN. PEOPLE DON’T WANT TO DRIVE ON A VERY BUSY AND HIGH SPEED HIGHWAY JUST TO GO A COUPLE OF KILOMETERS UP OR DOWN THE ESCARPMENT. ALSO, HSR BUS DRIVERS, SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS, DARTS DRIVERS AND TAXI DRIVERS HAVE ALL EXPRESSED THEIR OBJECTIONS OF HAVING TO USE EITHER HIGHWAY.

ALSO WE’VE HEARD FROM MANY SENIORS WHO ALREADY FEEL STRESSED THAT THE CITY WOULD FORCE THIS ON THEM.

CLOSING MT. ALBION ROAD WILL BRING A VERY REAL HARDSHIP INTO THEIR DAY TO DAY LIVES. SOMETHING THAT CITY HALL HAS FAILED TO APPRECIATE OR EVEN RECOGNIZE.

CLOSING MT. ALBION ROAD WILL ALSO ELIMINATE AN ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES, POLICE, AMBULANCE & FIRE, WHEN THERE IS GRIDLOCK, AND THE RAMPS TO THE RHVP ARE PLUGGED WHERE WILL THEY GO?

– WELL THE HIGHWAY 20 OPTION IS AN EXTRA 5.5KM ONE-WAY AND THE KENILWORTH ACCESS ROUTE IS AN EXTRA 9.5KM ONE WAY. NEITHER OPTION IS ACCEPTABLE!

PETITION:

WE NOW HAVE OVER 3500 SIGNATURES ON OUR PETITON ASKING FOR A MORATORIUM OF THE CLOSURE OF THE MOUNT ALBION ROAD ACCESS FOR 3 YEARS TO ALLOW FOR TRAFFIC COUNTS & RELATED STUDIES AFTER THE RHVP OPENS. THEN THE CITY CAN MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION.
LAST WEEK I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM THE HONOURABLE LINCOLN ALEXANDER, HAMILTON’S MOST DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN. HE ASKED “WHY ARE THEY CLOSING THIS ROAD?” AND COMMENTED “IT’S A HERITAGE ROAD AND IT SHOULD REMAIN OPEN, AND YOU CAN TELL THEM I’M ON YOUR SIDE!”

TODAY YOU’VE RECEIVED 2 SUMMARIES WHICH SHOW AN OVERWHELMING 90.2% SIGNED DURING OUR DOOR TO DOOR CANVAS AND SOME 432 PEOPLE IN THE IMMEDIATE MOUNT ALBION ROAD VICINITY (WARD 5 POLL3) HAVE SIGNED THE PETITION.
WE WILL BE PRESENTING OUR PETITION AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

WHEN YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OVERWHELMING PETITION RESULTS COMBINED WITH THE STANDING ROOM ONLY TURNOUT OF OVER 400 PEOPLE TO OUR MEETING LAST MONDAY APRIL 30/07, WE BELIEVE IT’S TIME FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE MORATORIUM.

YOU HAVE A SWORN DUTY AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO REPRESENT ALL OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

WHY WOULD YOU NOT LISTEN TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS?

WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT CITY COUNCIL REVISIT AND REVERSE YOUR DECISION TO REAFFIRM THE CLOSURE.
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PETITION SUMMARY AS OF MAY 5/07  WARD 5  POLL 3

Harrisford St.  116
Mount Albion Rd.  110
Montmorency Dr.  81
Glen Castle Dr.  29
Congress Cr.  20
Brookstream Ct.  19
Glen Vista Dr.  15
Glen Forest Dr.  11
Forest Hill Cr.  7
Rouge Hill Ct.  6
Glencannon Dr.  3
Glendora Ct.  2
Peace Ct.  2
Glenmurray Ct.  2
Red Hill Av.  2
Birkdale Pl.  2
Lanscott Pl.  2
Renner Ct.  1
Haskins Ct.  1
Hixon Rd.  1

WARD 5 POLL 3 TOTAL  432