May 12, 2009

Mayor and Members of Hamilton City Council

Dear City Council:

As you know, agri-business and agri-tourism are important parts of Hamilton’s economy. Over the last number of years, the profile of agri-business has increased, culminating in the inclusion of this sector as a cluster in the City’s Economic Development Strategy. For farmers, many have diversified their business, adding farm education tours, thereby expanding their impact on the local tourism industry. Each year, thousands of local and out of town school children tour local farms, learning about agriculture, the food chain, the eat local movement and healthy lifestyles. Many of these school children return during the year with their families to enjoy an agri-tourism experience.

At the last meeting of the Tourism Hamilton Board of Directors, the issue of insurance for farm tours was discussed. There may be a risk that school tours to farms will be impacted by interpretation of insurance policies. On behalf of the Tourism Hamilton Board of Directors, I would like to request that the City contact the local Boards of Education to ensure that all efforts are made to facilitate school tours to Hamilton’s farms.

I would be available to discuss this correspondence should members of City Council have any questions. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mark Farrugia
President, Board of Directors

c. Councillor Dave Mitchell
   Councillor Terry Whitehead
   Mayor Eisenberger
   David Adames, Tourism Hamilton