Leander supports the positions taken by the North End Neighbours relative to the Public Works report to be considered by the committee on Monday. Attached is our letter of support.

George Gage
President
Leander Boat Club
January 16, 2009

Councillor Bob Bratina
Chairman, Public Works Committee
City of Hamilton
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 2K3

Mr. Chairman,

Re: North End Child and Family Friendly Neighbourhood

I understand that on Monday January 19, 2009 your committee will be addressing the North End Traffic Management Study report of the Public Works Department dated August 14, 2008.

I am writing to you as the President of the Leander Boat Club and on behalf of the Board of Management and membership of Leander.

As a proud and long standing member of the North End community for more than 80 years the Leander Boat Club is pleased to support the initiative of the North End Neighbours organization (NEN) to develop the North End community as a Child and Family Friendly neighbourhood. Leander supports the traffic management measures that are proposed by NEN and are designed to further the child and family friendly objective.

In giving due consideration to this issue we have reviewed and considered the IBI Group report of February 2008, the undated written submissions of the Chamber of Commerce and the above referenced report of the Public Works Department dated August 14, 2008 and authored by Mr. Readman.
Leander draws its membership from all parts of the Greater Hamilton region. While some of our members reside in the North End neighbourhood it is fair to say that most do not. Most of us, including myself, are therefore "destination" users of the roadways in the north end. The bulk of the social and business users of our upstairs facilities are likewise "destination" users of north end roadways. The measures proposed by NEN for traffic calming (particularly the closures of MacNab St. N. and Bay St. N. at Burlington St. W.) and management (universal speed limit) will have an impact on both our members and the other users of our facility. We consider that the adjustments that will be required to adhere to these worthwhile measures are an exceeding small sacrifice to offer up in aid of the safety and well being of the children, families and senior citizens of the north end. It is a function of being a good neighbour.

We are satisfied that the measures proposed will not have an adverse impact on either our membership or our business activities. The notion that adding 45 seconds or even a minute to a trip down James Street North might deter anyone from visiting the north end or the west harbour demonstrates a needless lack of confidence in the beauty and vitality of the community and the waterfront. It is a notion that will not withstand practical scrutiny. Insofar as confusion is concerned it seems to us that a uniform speed limit covering the entire neighbourhood will be less confusing to drivers than providing for discrete exemptions.

Speaking for myself, it would seem to me that in an age of fast talkers, fast food, quick bucks and instant gratification, measures designed to encourage citizens to slow down and smell the roses ought to be celebrated and embraced rather than discouraged or compromised. This is a wonderful opportunity for Hamilton to be a North American pioneer in improving the quality of life of an entire community in a fresh and fiscally responsible manner.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours truly,

George S. Gage
President
Leander Boat Club

Cc: Counillors Powers, Collins, McCarthy, Merulla, Ferguson, Jackson & Mitchell