Joe – Call meeting to order

State purpose of meeting
- Stop closure of the road.
- To clarify the limited & often confusing information that has recently been in media and coming from City Hall.

Share our research & information on this closure.
Seek comments & concerns “from the people” and ask for their continued support and involvement.

Mention donations gratefully accepted.

Introduce Ken Alford.

Ken – Recognize Mayor & Councillors in attendance (Mention all were invited).

Thank Winterberry Heights Church (need name).
Thank the people for coming.

Thank committee & volunteers and the (26) small businesses as well as the (7) Senior Centers of, East Hamilton, Stoney Creek, Binbrook and Mount Hope who displayed and promoted the petition.
Read petition and give petition "update" & ask those who have not already signed too please do so tonight (circulate clipboards).

Introduction -
On Feb 15/07 Council reconfirmed the permanent closure of the Mount Albion Road access upon the opening of the RHVP. We are here tonight to provide you with facts & information surrounding the closure & to request your help to try to convince 2/3 of Council to reopen discussions on this issue and to put a moratorium on the permanent closure of Mount Albion Rd for 3-5 years in order to properly assess & conduct traffic studies in the area after the RHVP opens and we fully understand the impact of the expressway. Also we are scheduled to appear before the Public Works Committee one week from today, Monday May 7th at 9:30 am. More on that later!
The RHVP is scheduled to open this fall - probably in November. 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, once the RHVP opens.
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. And not just Seniors in the immediate neighbourhood – for example, a lady from Mt. Hope told us she is under doctors orders NOT to drive on highways. Another lady – from Binbrook area told us she never uses highway 20 and always uses Mt. Albion Road when she comes to Hamilton. – A gentleman from Stoney Creek Seniors told us that he too never uses highway 20 & always uses Mt. Albion Road. People simply avoid highway 20 and do not want to take the new expressway!

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!

Issues - (A) - process -
The City is required under the Municipal Act, to hold a Public Meeting whenever a road closure is proposed.

Also the City must notify Area Owners & Occupants who may be affected by the proposed closure and place one ad in the Spectator advertising the Public Meeting.

None of this has occurred!

When we asked for the records of public notification and meetings the response was, and I quote “there has not been a particular public meeting solely focused on the closure of Mount Albion, as it has been the objective of the City to discuss the project in it’s entirety”

R.H.V. Project Office
Public Works Dept.
City of Hamilton

DO A SHOW OF HANDS! When did you hear about this issue.

(B) - Documentation:
When we asked for specific documentation, traffic studies etc. justifying the closure the response was, and again I quote “attached you
will find a map and a specific text section from our Environmental Assessment Submission of 1982 regarding the closure of Mt. Albion Road.

The map shows the northbound, or down bound lanes of the expressway coming right down Mt. Albion Road. The text reads, in part: "The northbound lanes follow the existing Mount Albion Road alignment across the escarpment on the east side of the Hydro tower lines".

That’s it folks!

The entire justification for closing the road, was that the Expressway was to come down Mt. Albion Road. But, as we all know the Expressway does not come down Mt. Albion Road. Therefore there is no justification and there is no need to close this road!

So what happened? -
In 1996/97 the Region (now the City) realigned the expressway route entirely to the west of Mt. Albion Road and decided to keep the road open for pedestrians and cyclists use only, and to continue with the closure to vehicular traffic! In our opinion this was a major change to the RHVP plan and the closure issue should have been revisited and re-opened to the full & proper Public Process, as required by the Municipal Act.

This Never Happened!
C - The Land & Road at the top of the Escarpment

Most of us have heard that the land at the top of the escarpment is owned by a developer and the existing "temporary road" crosses the developer's property, and that the land will revert back to the developer when the expressway opens. This is all true. But the developer does not own all of the land! Our research found that the City still owns a substantial amount of property between the developers land and the expressway more than sufficient to build a new permanent road reconnecting Mt. Albion Rd. to Mud Street—a distance of approximately 300 meters, or about one-third of one kilometer!

D - Road Closure Motion & Vote at Council
It is normal that when the ward councillors are the proponents of a motion to close a road in their ward, the item carries through committee and City Council, and this was no exception. But, this is no ordinary road—it is a mountain access—an important North/South corridor that has existed for over 200 years. Mt. Albion Road serves most of the entire city, but particularly Hamilton Mountain lower east Hamilton, west Stoney Creek, Upper Stoney Creek, Binbrook, Mount Hope and beyond. Treating this as a Ward Issue is just not right. This is a city wide issue and should be
treated as such with full and proper debate based on factual and current information.

**DO A SHOW OF HANDS**

**COUNCILLORS CAMPAIGNED ON THIS ISSUE!**

So – why are they closing the road?
The proponents state two reasons:
1- it was always part of the 25 year plan on the project to close the road and
2- it would cost 2 – 3 million dollars to keep it open, although recently we’ve heard at a minimum it would be several hundred thousands if not into the millions.

Well, we’ve already talked about the 25 year (1982) plan that was substantially changed in 1996/97.

We don’t yet know what the cost would be to construct about 300 meters of permanent road.

What we do know is that the RHVP project budget is into the several hundred millions of dollars. The funds from the contracts for the Cul-de-sacs, which are no longer required, can be re directed to help fund the new road. Combine those funds with the estimated half-million dollars the City saved by stockpiling the crushed stone removed from the Parkway last
fall, and who knows- we may actually end up ahead of the game- with surplus of funds!

Ken “wrap up”
We’ve been told – you’re wasting your time, forget it – it’s a done deal, your flogging a dead horse! Well we wouldn’t be here if we believed any of this.

We’ve also been told – your bringing this up at the 11th hour! To that we plead guilty But the clock has not struck “12”.

The City has six months to construct the road so that there will be no delay in turning over the property to the developer and avoid any further unnecessary costs to the taxpayers.

All we are asking is for a moratorium of the closure of the Mount Albion Road access for 3 years to allow for traffic counts and related studies after the RHVP opens. Then the City can make an informed decision.

What Can You Do?
Please contact the Mayor and your Councillor to support the moratorium. A directory of phone numbers and Email addresses is available on the tables.
Please come out next Monday May 7\textsuperscript{th} 9:30am to the Public Works Committee meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall to show your support!

. Open floor for questions & comments.

. Conclude – Thank you all for coming out to show your support tonight. Hope to see you at City Hall next Monday.