October 14, 2008

Kevin C. Christenson, City Clerk
City Centre
77 James Street North, Suite 220
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8R 2K3

Attention: Mayor Fred Eisenberg and Hamilton Council

By email: clerk@hamilton.ca

RE: Cladding Hamilton City Hall

Dear Mayor Eisenberg and Council,

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Council had the opportunity to experience Hamilton's excellent hospitality in March 2007, when our meeting was held in Hamilton City Hall. At the time we commented on the wonderful building that you enjoy, designed by local architect Stanley Roscoe. His service to the City of Hamilton left a remarkable collection of mid century treasures.

Following the meeting we toured buildings in the vicinity. Few Ontario cities have the wealth of architecture that Hamilton enjoys.

Our Hamilton branch has argued tirelessly for the preservation of Hamilton City Hall, first for designation, and more recently for restoration in its original materials. The marble was chosen to link this crisp modern building with significant buildings of the past. We agree with our local branch that replacement in concrete would downgrade the public image of the City of Hamilton and be poor heritage conservation practice.

Hamilton has committed its citizens to high standards in conservation of the significant collection of heritage buildings in private hands. We hope City Council will lead by example and work to the same standard in its own portfolio.

We urge you to accept the advice of your Municipal Heritage Committee on this matter. The best possible outcome would be to replace in the original materials.

We vote for marble!

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Catherine Nasmith, FRAIC OAA TSA CAHP
President