

March 20, 2023

Good morning Mayor Meed-Ward and Burlington Councillors

BurlingtonGreen commends all of you for your demonstrated commitment investing in the advancement of low-carbon development projects in Burlington, such as the future Skyway Community Centre and the Robert Bateman multi-purpose community hub. Your recognition that immediate action on climate mitigation and adaptation will help to ensure a livable future for generations yet to come, is very encouraging, especially at a time when the health of the environment needs your leadership and the Burlington community's collective efforts more than ever before - thank you.

I am unable to delegate at your upcoming Council meeting where you may be discussing alternatives to accommodate additional parking for the Robert Bateman Project, so I would like to offer a few comments here for your consideration:

- As you know, protecting and increasing urban green space must be a top priority for all land-use and development planning decision-making. There are too many associated climate, ecological, social, health and economic benefits with green infrastructure to even consider conventional development practices that would replace or add to paved surfaces.
- Given that transportation represents over 40% of GHG emissions in Burlington, it is essential that an accelerated shift to sustainable modes of transportation be prioritized in the design of projects like these ones. While it's recognized that 'practical', and equitable access to community centres be factored, it is paramount that site design sees the accommodation of private vehicles through expanded parking as the lowest priority. BurlingtonGreen concurs that *"A 21st century city is built around a different transportation model, one designed to provide people of all ages and abilities with more travel choices for things like walking, cycling and transit."* (City of Burlington IMP Webpage)

Ideally, all of the green space will be preserved at project locations like these, and where it may not be entirely possible, there certainly are a multitude of proven (LID) Low Impact Development technologies and design features that can be integrated. You may find it of interest to learn from the [Green Parking Lot project](#) at Kortright as just one example. The Skyway Community Centre and the Robert Bateman Community Hub, along with other innovative, low-carbon projects to come, can serve as superb educational demonstration sites where the community can discover beautiful and sustainable solutions to living more softly on our one-and-only Planet Earth.

Thank you for considering this input.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Schnurr".

Amy Schnurr
Executive Director
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association