

Good morning Mayor Meed Ward, Members of Council, City staff & the Burlington community,

I'm sorry I am unable to be there in person this morning, and while there are certainly other items also on the agenda today relevant to comment on (such as the positive step of directing staff to investigate solar incentives offered by other municipalities), today I would very briefly like to state BurlingtonGreen's support for the Motion pertaining to the proposed Millcroft Greens infill development.

As I stated last week when delegating on the proposed Nelson quarry expansion issue, it is essential that **conserving and restoring natural spaces** be prioritized by municipalities (and all levels of government) as a key and necessary measure to address the escalating implications of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The loss of **urban** green space leads to increases in urban heat and flooding, and the removal of vegetation releases stored carbon into the atmosphere and undermines future carbon storage potential. Replacing mature green space in urban communities with infill development is no longer an option given the climate emergency. Newer subdivisions with young trees and lawns do not provide the heat mitigation, flood protection and biodiversity support of more mature landscapes.

Particularly given Burlington's **declared climate emergency**, Climate Action plan and the more recent Climate Resilient Burlington Adaptation Plan that includes natural infrastructure action items, I was surprised to see that there was **no reference to climate change** in the Motion itself, and that other key checkboxes for Vision to Focus alignment in the report were not identified, namely:

Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment, and Increase economic prosperity and **community responsive city growth**

Notwithstanding the attempted Greenbelt grab by the Ontario Province, according to their website, conserving natural spaces can play an important role in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change by:

- providing safe havens for wildlife,
- capturing and storing carbon, and
- improving resilience to weather events, such as flooding and drought.

Thus, your Motion could be strengthened by including a reference to climate change.

The climate emergency must drive land use planning and government decision-making.

Thank you,

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

Amy Schnurr
Executive Director
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association