



November 1, 2025, Report F-36-24

Mayor, Council, Staff, Fellow Burlington Residents

Millcroft Greenspace Alliance(MGA), a not-for-profit organization which advocates for livable, sustainable communities and responsible development would like to express our concerns regarding the 2025 budget and the process.

The City of Burlington experienced a significant flood in July of 2024, just one decade after the historic 2014 flood. The cost of the 2014 flood, 10 years ago, to the City of Burlington was approximately \$90 million or about 20% of this years total proposed Budget. The City has advised us that the cost of the 2024 flood will not be available until November of this year, after the deliberations of this budget have essentially been completed. Further, the elected officials of the City of Burlington speak about their concern for the protecting the natural environment and flood mitigation yet when we review the proposed capital expenditures for 2025, 4.98% are to be spent on stormwater capital expenditures or 4.4% on green expenditures. Hardly seems to be a priority.

The Millcroft green infrastructure has been the subject of a development proposal since February 2020. Our community met with elected officials in the summer of 2020 to express our concern about the conversion of this important greenspace to housing. This proposed land use change will not only change the grading relative to the existing properties but will be developed with antiquated stormwater standards and new, privately owned stormwater management tanks and catch basins that can fail similarly to what was experienced in July of 2024 with blockages and surcharging that caused significant flooding. This green infrastructure, designed in "fairway channels" can be compared to the stormwater storage capabilities of Duff's Ditch in the City of Winnipeg, albeit on a different scale.

It is well documented in the provincial Auditor General's report on "Climate Change Adaptation: Reducing Urban Flood Risk" and the federal government's report "Adapting to Rising Flood Risk, A Report by Canada's Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation" that greenspace and green infrastructure are an important aspect of flood mitigation.

MGA has expended our resources over the past 4 years, to not only represent the concerns of the community and to bring to light the detailed engineering that was employed when this green infrastructure was built but also has researched and reached out to the City and upper level governments regarding funding opportunities which would allow the City of Burlington to cover or partially cover the costs of acquiring this important infrastructure. At the OLT hearing for the Millcroft Greens application, we heard that the City was restricted in mitigating flood damages in 2014 due to the private ownership of this land. The provincial government has clearly neglected its commitment to prevent homes being built on floodplains and to allow municipalities to determine where housing is to built. However, the City also has an obligation to its residents to own its infrastructure for the entire community including downstream, such that flood mitigation can be adequately managed as the

emerging impacts of climate change take effect. The City is within its legal right to own this natural infrastructure with or without a willing seller.