

**Mayor's Annual State of the City Address to the Burlington Chamber of Commerce**

**Wednesday, October 14, 2009 – CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Good morning and welcome.

Thank you for your kind words and introduction Janet and thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for hosting today's annual event. Congratulations to President Francis Mackan for yet another record breaking year with over 1100 members. By promoting strong partnerships in our business community, and with city hall, the Chamber team helps us to understand important issues that matter to our economic future and our City's future.

Special recognition to this morning's sponsors: Bell Canada, Burlington Youth Soccer Club, CMA - Certified Management Accountants, and Scotiabank. Your ongoing support of our Chamber is greatly appreciated.

I'd like to take a moment to introduce some other special guests that join us here this morning including our Federal MP Mike Wallace, and our Provincial MPP, Joyce Savoline, and Regional Chair Gary Carr.

It is my pleasure to introduce the members of our Council team and I'll ask them to stand as I call their names: From Ward 1 Councillor Rick Craven, Ward 2 Peter Thoem, Ward 3 John Taylor, Ward 4 Jack Dennison, Ward 5 Rick Goldring and Ward 6 Carol D'Amelio.

Our City today, continues to be a work in progress. Together as a Council we are in the process of building a strong and resilient community that listens to its citizens, and responds to their needs.

We care for our environment, and craft an economy that excels in good times and prospers, even in stormy weather.

We focus on keeping careful watch over our budget, and living within our means.

Most of all, we pledge to meet the challenges we face with innovation, courage and resolve. At the same time, we seek opportunities to forge a city that is the best place to live and to work for all its citizens.

That stewardship and focus defines our City and Council. Working together, we are helping Burlington to take its place as a leader among communities.

Clearly we are on the right track because this year, Money Sense Magazine ranked Burlington as the 4<sup>th</sup> best place to live in Canada moving us up from 18<sup>th</sup> spot in just three years.

In Burlington, they see a place where values and vision drive strategic thinking and planning; a place people are proud to call home.

Vision is simply a view of the way ahead however it takes leadership, hard work and decisive results to actually get us there.

The City is excited about the progress we've made in the past year.

- Construction has begun on the McMaster University DeGroote Centre for Advanced Management landmark building and on our Performing Arts Centre which will add to the cultural vitality and civic engagement of our growing city.

Both are on target and on budget

- Completion of a \$1.6 million turf field and soccer dome at Sherwood Park

- New Storm water management program

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Major review and service expansion at Tyandaga Municipal Golf course

- Agreement to build the Alton Community Centre and Library \$17 million

- An accessibility coordinator for implementing the Ontarians with Disabilities Act

Act

- Participation in Sustainable Halton and the Nelson Quarry application

- On-demand video streaming of Community and Corporate Services and Budget and Strategic Planning committee is now available online

### ***Energy and Environment***

- We are moving forward with an indepth analysis of strategic land acquisitions that will help us plan for future service needs and the protection of our at risk urban green spaces.

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards have been expanded to include not only the PAC but also the Appleby Ice Centre Expansion and the Transit Operations Centre expansion

- New Solar Thermal Panels at Tansley Woods to reduce energy costs

- Central Fire Station and City Hall will have more efficient lighting upgrades

- Waste Reduction/Diversion program will now include battery recycling in five city facilities, collecting disposable and rechargeable batteries and cell phones, additional recycling bins in the downtown core
- In 2010, we will introduce a new anti-idling By-law
- Council will review the staff reports on both the Bottled Water Restrictions and Waste Reduction Strategy in December
- We will engage a community dialogue on our environment as the city hosts its first Community Climate Change Summit
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> Burlington's first ever Environmental Youth Conference, thanks to sponsorship funding from the Mayor's Green Future Fund and planning support from Burlington Green and the Halton Learning Foundation.

...and this is the short list

### ***Infrastructure Stimulus***

We appreciate the support of our Provincial and Federal governments for providing close to \$104 million dollars to support important capital projects.

Through the leadership and prudent planning of Leo DeLoyde, the General Manager of Development and Infrastructure and General Manager of Community Services, Scott Stewart, we are in a good position to capitalize on new infrastructure stimulus funding representing 2/3rds of the total capital costs. This list of new projects is impressive:

- \$2.4 million for the new Fire Station in north east Burlington
- \$4.5 million for new City Park in north west Burlington

- \$8.5 million for the renewal and expansion of the Transit Operations Centre
- Over \$10 million to double the Appleby Twin Pad Arena
- \$4.3 million for upgrades to Centennial and Hydro Bike Paths
- \$159 million to upgrade the Skyway Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Work has started on the Waterdown/403 interchange with the City contributing \$7 million

This welcomed construction news reflects a City on the move; a City building and renewing itself. As I said at the outset our City is a work in progress. It's not just the bricks and mortar of buildings but the interrelationship to our planning in order to provide programs that meet the changing needs of our citizens. Planning and policy decisions which are affordable, sustainable to create the necessary jobs to meet the challenges and the opportunities for our City's future. We are proud of the growing leadership we find everywhere in our community to help us in this task.

As your Mayor I wish to speak with you about these challenges and opportunities in three broad themes.

### ***#1 Community Development: Joseph Brant Hospital***

Firstly, our City is recognized as a leader in community development and yet the most significant contributor to the health, safety and well being of our City is our hospital.

It has taken care of us for many years. Now, we must take care of it.

Today it has fewer beds than a decade ago and yet our community continues to grow. But in this challenge, arises a compelling 'once-in a generation' opportunity.

Yesterday our hospital publicly confirmed its application for Ministry approval of a \$312 million phase one expansion that according to Provincial Government guidelines will require a combined community or local contribution of \$120 million. The Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation has recently commissioned a fundraising feasibility study which concluded that the Foundation could publicly fundraise half or \$60 million of the local contribution. Yesterday, the Chair of the Hospital Board of Governors, Peter Vankessell asked City Council for a civic contribution of \$60 million.

It is a call to action, we simply cannot ignore.

Our hospital was built in 1961. Today it must grow and modernize to meet the current and future needs of our citizens.

But, we cannot act alone. A city commitment of this magnitude is the largest infrastructure investment in our City's history.

We must consult widely working with our hospital Board as we engage our residents about how we can all contribute to expanding and modernizing Joseph Brant Hospital.

In the coming weeks you will be receiving new information about Joseph Brant's expansion plans. We want to hear from all our citizens in a timely fashion. How

and when we fund this future expansion is essential to the success of our application to the Provincial Government.

I'd like to acknowledge Kevin Bradey, Chair of the Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation. Our national search for a new CEO and President found the very best candidate in the country to move this expansion forward and to strengthen the management team of our hospital. Our new President is committed to improved patient care and improved service delivery.

Please recognize one of our newest community leaders Eric Vandewall President and CEO of our hospital....thank you Eric.

***Community Development: Affordable Housing***

Good community development speaks to the important issue of housing, especially affordable housing not just for young families but for persons with disabilities and our growing number of seniors.

New demographic information reveals that the ratio of seniors and single senior households in Burlington is one of the highest in Canada. It is wrong that many seniors after a lifetime of contributions to our City must leave to find adequate and affordable housing elsewhere.

Affordable housing is an important personal commitment as your Mayor. My participation in the Halton Housing Task Force is to ensure Burlington is front and centre with these needs.

I am delighted at the forward progress on an agreement between the Region of Halton, Habitat for Humanity and a private landowner in East Burlington to provide approximately 260 new units into our City. And we are searching for more.

Let me introduce and thank community leaders Ed McMahon, Chair of the Board and Lynn Ferguson, Interim Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity....Thank you

***Community Development: Burlington Inclusivity Advisory Committee***

Council's strategic plan commits us to find ways to make Burlington a more responsive community, to promote and foster a caring and inclusive city. Clearly we need to do more to ensure the civic engagement of all our citizens.

Your Council has appointed an Inclusive Advisory Committee to recommend ways of maximizing social inclusion.

In the spring of 2010, there will be a major forum on social inclusion involving all demographic sectors of the community.

I'd like to thank Ancilla Ho-Young, Chair, Brian Heagle, Vice Chair, and John Boich a few of the leaders on the Burlington Inclusivity Advisory Committee.

***Community Development: Citizen Engagement***

Over the past few months, it has become clear that our communication efforts need to be improved to support citizen awareness and engagement. Prior to 1998, there were twice as many City Councillors and, on a daily basis, twice as many opportunities for contact between elected representatives and citizens.

With a reduction in the number of Councillors, the workload has increased dramatically and, as a result, communication with citizens has decreased.

In 1997, Mayor Walter Mulkewich appointed a Citizen's Committee to recommend a variety of opportunities for Councillors to consider improving communications with citizens. Only a few of those recommendations were implemented. We need to find ways to eliminate civic complacency. We need to recreate a Citizen's Committee once again to recommend to City Council ways and means of communicating more effectively with our citizens.

## ***#2 Fiscal Accountability and Good Stewardship***

My second theme is good stewardship and sound fiscal responsibility. Both require leadership and guidance. Our new city Manager Roman Martiuk has provided leadership and direction as we continue to make progress on our accountability and transparency agenda.

- Since 2007 Burlington has received \$6.8 million of redistributed GTA pooling. In 2010 we will receive a further \$3.57 million
- Late in 2008 we embarked on a Cost Containment Pilot which after only two months achieved \$600,000 in savings in only a few departments
- In 2009 we achieved a further savings \$2.9 million by expanding cost containment to all city operations
- For the 2010 budget, we are targeting additional savings of \$5 million
- This \$5 million target is substantive. There are five areas being actively pursued for the 2010 budget directive: a core services review, a line by line capital budget review, administrative streamlining, enhanced vacancy management and

a full review of building and planning fees. Savings in all of these areas are essential if we are to achieve our \$5 million savings target

- City Council has approved a new budget system for 2010. This new process will set priorities for the capital and current operating budgets that will allow for greater earlier involvement of Council and staff leading to enhanced community engagement throughout the entire budget process. In the end, Council and the public will receive more focused information sooner, outlining the City's challenges for both the capital and operating budgets
- In 2009 Council established an internal audit position for the City. I would like to acknowledge Sheila Jones, City Auditor. This new internal audit function is essential to ensure that our systems have appropriate checks and balances. In addition the new Auditor's role includes conducting value for money audits to ensure we are achieving maximum value for the dollars we spend
- City Council recognizes the importance of better managing our large capital projects.

We have redeployed some of our cost containment savings in order to create a new Corporate Strategic Initiatives Department or CSI. I'd like to introduce you to Allan Magi Executive Director of Corporate Strategic Initiatives. Its mandate is to develop best practices for the budgeting and management of our large facility capital projects, to advance Council's environmental commitment as well as coordinate and manage the delivery of the City's Strategic Plan.

All of this work on fiscal accountability has helped Council and staff to focus on the bottom line for taxpayers. Our overall combined property tax increase in

2008 was 3.7% and in 2009, the tax increase was 2.81%. Our current direction to staff is to bring forward a final 2010 combined tax increase in the range of 2.6%.

We will need help to get there and so our first of several community consultations will take place on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at the Burlington Arts Centre.

### ***#3 Innovation and Prosperity: The future of Burlington Hydro***

Thirdly, is the theme of innovation and prosperity. Our City can boldly face the future because it is endowed with some amazing attributes and amazing community leaders.

Our local economy continues to consistently out-perform both the National and Provincial economies.

Prosperity doesn't happen by accident but by design and by team effort, by innovation and by commitment. Our City is proud to be home to some of the best business leaders and innovators in the country.

One of our great leaders is Burlington Hydro and we are better positioned than most to seize the opportunities provided by the new Ontario Green Energy Act.

The role of electricity in the growth and economic development of communities is moving from the background, right into the forefront.

This vision isn't completely new as we have already successfully established ourselves as innovators and a leader in electricity reliability, safety and financial performance. This has earned the approval of our industry peers, the Province and the international energy community.

Under Burlington Hydro's leadership we have secured a joint agreement with all local Hydro distribution companies in Halton to maximize our future efforts. Burlington Hydro is evolving into a multi-faceted, energy solutions provider and a catalyst for innovation. This will be driven by growing local expectations for cleaner, green energy choices and our responsibility to do our part in ensuring an abundant and affordable supply of electricity for generations.

At the forefront of our plans for continued growth, investment and innovation is the launching of GridSmartCity™. This is our future focused initiative to transform today's electricity system into tomorrow's SmartGrid. A SmartGrid integrates electricity production, delivery and consumption to produce a more efficient and reliable system with a lower environmental footprint.

GridSmartCity™ will serve as an innovator for renewable energy, expanding the boundaries of Burlington Hydro's role from a simple electricity distribution company, to a broad-based energy solutions provider.

Burlington residential, institutional and business customers will benefit from our local distribution company becoming much more engaged with the community with new and exciting products, services and initiatives.

As Mayor and as a member of the Hydro Board, we are proud of our investments in distribution automation which have resulted in being rated as one of North America's top utilities for electricity reliability which provides a compelling point of advantage for greater economic development.

I am pleased to acknowledge the leadership of Burlington Hydro's new CEO, Gerry Smallegange....Thank you Gerry.

***Innovation and Prosperity: The BEDC***

The Burlington Economic Development Corporation or BEDC is another of our competitive advantages. Under the leadership of Chair Mark Gregory and his high-powered volunteer Board, this private-public agency is committed to forging a stronger, more diverse and sustainable local economy.

Its focus is growing the companies we have, drawing new businesses here and attracting world-class talent to Burlington that fuels innovation and prosperity.

Recently, in close consultation with City Hall, the Chamber, and other business partners, we analyzed how our economy is changing, where it's growing and what we need to do to seize opportunities to build on our strengths.

They applied that knowledge to recast our ten-year economic development strategy. It is a bold and very achievable vision where we:

- Create 10,000 new jobs, increasing total employment in Burlington by 12%;
- Increase new jobs in the professional services sectors by 25%; and
- Build 400,000 square feet of new economic development construction each year

What is truly exciting is the potential of our entrepreneurs to continue to drive Burlington forward into the future. We know manufacturing in southern Ontario

is going through some tough economic challenges, but manufacturing isn't going away. It will come out of this, more focused, and more productive.

Make no mistake, the world wants Burlington's advanced manufactured products. Whether it's a factory in China, a retailer in Brazil, or the Pentagon in Washington, they prize the quality, innovation and value that is a hallmark of goods made right here!

This fact is not lost on Burlington companies. Nine out of ten local companies are planning to develop new products and services over the next two years. Many already have top-flight products to market and many are gaining global reputation for leadership inspired, design and quality. Here are just a few of these success stories:

- WESTLAKE INDUSTRIES – which just announced a 5000 square foot expansion, is recognized by Profit magazine as one of Canada's fastest growing companies. They now export world-wide.
- SIEMENS CANADA – chose Burlington to invest over \$2 million in capital improvements to support their determined global play in the industry automation sector. They picked us because of our many highly skilled engineers. Their new motor control system production will create 50 new jobs
- L3 WESTCAM – with over 500 employees, is a world leader in the airborne electro-optical imaging field. The US Army is a major customer, and recently they won a major contract from the Canadian military. They expect to hire 80- 100 new employees each year, for the next 5 years

- SOUND DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES, leaders in building miniaturized silicon chips for audio devices, have invested wisely in new green techniques to supply the growing demand for green electronic components. Currently employing 160 people they expect to double in size in four years
- CPC Pumps – recently moved from Mississauga bringing 75 jobs in this highly competitive manufacturing sector due to Burlington’s skilled labour and reliable energy supply
- And finally, we are talking to a major multinational food processing company about establishing a new product line in Burlington. We are competitive to this bid because we offer reliable energy and water sources, skilled labour and logistics supply chain management due to our strategic location.

With all of these stories comes the single word other communities only dream about...jobs. Good quality jobs.

It’s no secret why the BEDC Job Fair earlier this month was filled to the rafters with employers and skilled workers. Burlington’s the place to be. Burlington is on the move!

As the Chair of Team Burlington I am looking forward to this year’s Burlington Business Summit “Staying On Top” which will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> as we make plans to ensure Burlington strengthens its Brand as one of the top cities to live and work in Canada.

***Mayor’s Gala: In support of the Burlington Community Foundation***

There is an amazing level of good corporate citizenship in our City. Thanks to their support last year’s Mayor’s Gala raised over \$200,000 in support of the

Burlington Community Foundation, including the Mayor's Future Green Fund with a \$100,000 endowment to support community projects in our City dedicated to protecting, our natural environment. This year's Gala has been modified as an entertaining Ceilidh to be held on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

We still have a few tickets left. It will again break a record for corporate sponsorships as we continue to be the largest annual gift to the Burlington Community Foundation in support of their amazing work.

***The United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton***

Finally as a member of the Burlington United Way Campaign Cabinet, I would like to congratulate all those who have shown great corporate leadership in supporting this year's Campaign. Our city has set an ambitious goal \$2.08 million and we are well underway to meeting it.

Many of you are helping us to build a better community and at this time of year, I wish to particularly thank and acknowledge the growing list of leading businesses and their employees who are also signing on with payroll deductions to support our United Way Campaign.

I would like to recognize the new CEO of United Way, Len Lifchus and Tom Bontje, Chair of Board of Directors.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to learn more about the State of our City. Thank you again to the Chamber of Commerce, and to all of our community leaders, your quality contribution is essential for our City to continue to grow and prosper.

As your Mayor, I look forward to continuing to work with community and business leaders in the coming year to achieve the success of economic growth, prosperity and prudent planning of our City. Our citizens deserve our very best efforts.

Better futures are more certain when we work together.

Better futures are more secure with sound fiscal management.

Better futures are built with an inspiring vision and enduring values that matter most to people.

It foretells a place where hope, courage and leadership flourish.

It speaks about the Burlington we are building together for our children's future.

Thank you.