Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.

-Jane Jacobs
Vision
Together we unite as a community, where everyone is respected and supported to live a healthy and fulfilled life.

Mission
• To work together to achieve our goals of a better community
• To engage and create an active and responsive link between residents, service providers and others involved in the Riverdale Community
• To encourage residents’ participation in the Riverdale Community
• To be a voice in the Riverdale Community

Values
• Respect
• Commitment
• Inclusiveness
• Fun
• Diversity

Riverdale West Catchment Area (boundaries)
• North – Barton Street
• South – Queenston Road
• East – Lake Avenue
• West – Centennial Parkway (Highway 20)
1 Welcome to the Riverdale Neighbourhood

2 History of the Neighbourhood

3 The Planning Process

4 Implementation of the Plan - Next Steps

5 Terms of Reference

10 The Workplan

Thank You
History of the Neighbourhood

The Riverdale Community Planning Team developed this plan in 2011-2012. We were supported in the planning and implementation process by a Community Development Worker and the Neighbourhood Development Office of the City of Hamilton.

We engaged the Riverdale neighbourhood throughout this planning process in the following ways:

• Face-to-face
• Surveys
  • Youth surveys (13 and over) 72
  • Kids (7 – 12) 10
  • Adults 66
  • Mixed community members 205
• Community meetings
  • Community members 125
  • Service Providers 43
  • Youth 30
• Other
  • Community Information Drop In 30
  • Hamilton Urban Core 18

This plan is more than words on paper; it is intended to drive clear and feasible action by the Riverdale Community Planning Team, Hamilton Community Foundation and the City of Hamilton. However, we understand that not all our actions may be feasible due to funding or other limited resources, but we will explore each option to its fullest.
Profile of Riverdale

The following is a quote from “Riverdale 2009 A Changing Mosaic” (Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton)

“A small neighbourhood in East Hamilton, right next to the border between Stoney Creek and the original Hamilton, Riverdale West is home to a vibrant mix of citizens from around the world. 51% of the population is foreign-born and the percentage of recent immigrants (arriving in Canada between 2001 and 2006) is 16% in Riverdale West compared to 3.3% for Hamilton as a whole. In fact, 7% of Hamilton’s recent immigrants live in Riverdale West (in contrast, Riverdale West has only 1% of the city’s overall population).

The numbers at Lake Avenue School, the neighbourhood’s elementary public school suggest that the community is even more diverse than census numbers indicate: 18% of students have been in Canada less than 5 years, 81% of students speak a first language other than English and over 31 different languages are spoken by students. The 2006 – 2007 kindergarten class alone spoke 16 different languages.

In a state of constant change: the Riverdale community is also distinguished by its changing population and high mobility rate. The 2006 census showed that 22% of Riverdale residents changed address in the previous year (whether moving across the world or across the street).”
Why did we do this
So the community has a strong voice in where they live and what programs are being offered in their community.

How the plan was developed
Community members were encouraged to come to monthly meetings and requested to do a series of tasks. The first was an asset mapping exercise outlining the good things in their neighbourhood. A survey was done asking again the good things in the neighbourhood but also things they would like to change if they had the opportunity. Other questions were also asked, for example, if they felt safe during the day and at night. The surveys were done all over the community, ESL programs, CAPC office, community centre, out on the field, anywhere people were gathering. With the help of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton the data was collected and sorted. Topics/issues were selected, brought back to the community members and asked to be put into priorities. Which ones would be 1, 2, 3 etc. After all this hard work a community plan was developed, presented to the planning team and approved.

Who participated on the Planning Team
Participants included community members from all backgrounds (there are 18 non English speaking members), the Community Development Worker, the Riverdale Resource Facilitator and the Social Planning and Resource Council of Hamilton were the facilitators in this process but other service providers were also at meetings. They were Lightway Church, Hamilton Public Library, City of Hamilton, YWCA, Immigrant Women’s Centre, Hamilton Urban Core, Ontario Early Years Centre and St. Charles Adult Education.
Implementation of the Plan – Next Steps

- Have a strong Riverdale Community Planning Team (RCPT)
- Implement Work Plan
- Continue promotion of the RCPT
- Continue engagement with the community to implement the community work plan
- Continue to seek out and support the strengths in the community
- Bring Service Providers to the Planning Team table on a community need basis
- Start engagement with City of Hamilton to implement the work plan
Terms of Reference

Riverdale Community Planning Team

Purpose

• Identify and address the challenges that affect Riverdale
• Build on existing relationships and resources
• Organize events to bring the community together
• Involve the community in the development of Riverdale
• Promote a positive environment where ideas can be exchanged

Membership

• Representation from households, businesses, agencies, and faith communities of the Riverdale Neighbourhood (defined as Barton Street to the north, Queenston Road to the south, Centennial Parkway to the west and Lake Avenue to the East).
• Anyone who is committed to our mission and vision, identifying issues and suggesting solutions
• Recruit new members on an ongoing basis
• Attend monthly meetings

Resources and Support

The Riverdale Community Planning Team welcomes support of any and all individuals, agencies and institutions, as invited, that support the vision, mission and values of our group.

All positions of the RCPT will be selected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting and/or at the end of term and/or as stated by the RCPT

The Planning team will have up to 15 seats, which include 4 specific. Everyone will have voting rights and titles to be determined (sub co-chairs, school/business liaison, membership, outreach, etc.)

All members of the Riverdale Community Planning Team will represent the group in a lead-by-example manner at all times.
Co-Chairs
Co-Chairs responsibilities are to:
• Demonstrate leadership
• Set the agenda with the secretary and any sub-committee chairs
• Facilitate meetings
• Create working sub group committees deemed necessary by the RCPT and solicit members for these purposes
• Represent the RCPT at any activities or appoint another member of the team pending discussion at a meeting

Sub-committee Co-Chairs
Sub-committee Co-Chairs responsibilities are to:
• Demonstrate leadership
• Set the agenda with the secretary
• Facilitate meetings
• Chair sub-committee for the length of time necessary to complete the work plan goal

Treasurer
The treasurer is responsible to:
• Demonstrate leadership
• Prepare and present financial statements for each meeting
• Setup and maintain a bank account for the RCPT

Secretary
The secretary is responsible to:
• Demonstrate leadership
• Take notes at all RCPT meetings
• Support Chair/Co-Chair(s) in meeting preparation and follow up
• Help set the agenda with the chairperson/co-chair(s)
• Provide communication support to the RCPT
• Bring all correspondence to monthly meetings
• Send out notes by e-mail (or regular mail if requested)
• Review notes with co-chairs for final edit before being distributed

Members
Members are invited to:
• Attend meetings and be prepared to discuss items on the agenda
• Share personal expertise and participate in activities, initiatives, sub-committees, planning process etc.
• Attend meetings on a regular basis
• Regrets are to be communicated to the Chair or another RCPT member prior to meeting (when possible).
Frequency
Meetings will be held:
  • As determined by the RCPT
  • Extra meetings as determined by the needs of the RCPT.

Location
Dominic Agostino Riverdale Community Centre or to be determined

Decision Making
Consensus will be the preferred decision-making model. If consensus cannot be achieved, the decision will be based on 50% plus one of the membership in attendance.

Vision Statement

Riverdale Neighbourhood
Vision Statement

“Together we unite as a community, where everyone is respected and supported to live a healthy and fulfilled life.”
What is a community asset?

A community asset is anything that improves the quality of community life.
### GOAL A: To Improve the Quality of Tenant Housing in Riverdale

#### Objective 1: Increase The Response to Tenant Maintenance Issues

| Action 1: Advocate for regular inspections in buildings with maintenance issues. Educate tenants about the inspection process so they will allow access to Property Standards. | City of Hamilton |
| Action 2: Educate tenants of their rights and maintenance processes through information sessions. | Tenants with support from: Housing Help Centre, Hamilton Legal Clinic |
| Action 3: Take action when maintenance issues are not fixed (such as take pictures, document, write letters, take legal action). | Immigrant Women’s Centre Hamilton Legal Clinic |
| Action 4: Increase awareness through group organizing/petition writing. | Tenants with support from: Housing Help Centre, Hamilton Legal Clinic |

#### Objective 2: Increase the Response to Tenant Housing Infestations *(Bedbugs, Cockroaches, etc)*

| Action 1: Inform and advocate to a third party office/organization | City of Hamilton Ontario Tenants Association |
| Action 2: Educate tenants about the process around bedbugs | Good Shepherd Bedbug Program City of Hamilton |

#### Objective 3: Improve the Communication Between Tenants, Superintendents and Property Managers

| Action 1: Invite Property Managers to RCPT meetings. | Property Managers |
| Action 2: Increase Superintendent cooperation by getting support/advocacy from a third party organization. | Tenants with support from: Housing Help Centre |

#### Objective 4: Advocate for Increased Affordable and Subsidized Housing.

| Action 1: Increase awareness through group organizing/petition writing. | Tenants with support from: Housing Help Centre, Hamilton Legal Clinic |
## Goal B: To Increase the Food Security of Residents in Riverdale

### Objective 1: Increased Access to Food Banks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Primary Organization</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Advocate for a new food bank in the Riverdale neighborhood/east end Hamilton.</td>
<td>City Councillor Community Planning Teams (Riverdale and Davis Creek) Riverdale Community Development Worker Community Members</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Increase availability of food and hours of operation of existing food banks.</td>
<td>Riverdale Community Planning Team Lightway Church Food Bank Volunteers Local Business Sponsorship</td>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 2: Increased Access to Enhanced Quality and Types of Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Primary Organization</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Increase the amount of fresh food available in current food banks.</td>
<td>Riverdale Community Planning Team Religious Institutions Local Business Sponsorship</td>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Increase the amount of culturally appropriate food in current food banks.</td>
<td>Riverdale Community Planning Team Religious Institutions Local Business Sponsorship</td>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 3: Develop other food security programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Primary Organization</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Encourage a Good Food Box program in the Riverdale neighbourhood.</td>
<td>Riverdale Community Planning Team Riverdale Community Development Worker Green Venture</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Develop other food security programs (Community gardens/ Community kitchen)</td>
<td>Riverdale Community Planning Team Green Venture Fortinos Hamilton Urban Core</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Educational programs for residents around gardening, cooking and nutrition.</td>
<td>Green Venture Volunteers Hamilton Urban Core</td>
<td>2014 - 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### GOAL C: To Strengthen Educational and Recreational Opportunities for Children and Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1: Improve elementary school’s response to the needs of children and their families</th>
<th>Primary Organization</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 1: Improve the maintenance of Lake Avenue School (example: the field).</td>
<td>HWDSB Trustee Principal (HWDSB)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 2: Advocate for the expansion of the school in order to get rid of the portables.</td>
<td>HWDSB Trustee Principal (HWDSB)</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 3: Develop a strategy for addressing bullying issues.</td>
<td>Principal (HWDSB) Hamilton Police Services City of Hamilton</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 4: Advocate for the school to adapt a better response to children’s language barriers.</td>
<td>HWDSB Trustee HWDSB Peer Helpers</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 5: Advocate for the provision of translators at parent/teacher meetings and at parent council meetings.</td>
<td>School Trustee HWDSB Volunteers</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 6: Advocate for enhanced services/programs for students with disabilities and health concerns.</td>
<td>HWDSB Trustee HWDSB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 2: Improve Secondary School’s Response to the Needs of Youth and their Families

| Action 1: Expand the policy for providing transportation to school for youth with health concerns. | HWDSB Trustee HWDSB |  |
| Action 2: Advocate for a bus to take youth from Riverdale to Glendale secondary school. | HWDSB Trustee HWDSB Volunteers |  |
| Action 3: Advocate for enhanced services/programs for students with disabilities and health concerns. | HWDSB Trustee HWDSB City of Hamilton SWISS worker |  |
### Objective 3: Enhance the Range and Availability of Recreational Programming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Primary Organization</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 1: Improve the outside basketball courts at Lake Avenue School.</td>
<td>Youth HWDSB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 2: Increase the variety of programming available at the Dominic Agostino Riverdale Community Centre.</td>
<td>City of Hamilton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 3: Increase the availability of programming at the Dominic Agostino Riverdale Community Centre (extended hours/increased programming on weekends and in the summer).</td>
<td>City of Hamilton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Riverdale Neighbourhood Action Plan

### GOAL D: To Enhance the Quality and Availability of Programs, Services and Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1: To improve Programs in Riverdale</th>
<th>Primary Organization</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Action 1: Improve the quality and availability of language programs | St Charles (HWOCSB)  
Lake Avenue School  
Hamilton Urban Core  
Wesley Urban Ministries  
Green Venture |           |
| Action 2: Increase the amount of programming for specific population groups such as seniors and persons with disabilities. | City of Hamilton  
Hamilton Urban Core  
Green Venture |           |

### Objective 2: To Increase Accessibility to Existing Services

| Action 1: Develop a strategy for providing residents with information about services (information centre/pamphlet). | Community Action Program for Children Volunteers  
Hamilton Urban Core |           |
| Action 2: Provide more no charge programming for residents. | City of Hamilton  
Hamilton Urban Core  
Green Venture |           |
| Action 3: Provide programming that addresses language barriers (example: provide translation). | City of Hamilton  
Adult Basic Education Association  
Wesley Urban Ministries  
Hamilton Urban Core  
Green Venture |           |

### Objective 3: To enhance area playgrounds and parks

| Action 1: Increase the maintenance of Riverdale playgrounds and parks. | City of Hamilton |           |
| Action 2: Increase the quality of Riverdale playgrounds and parks with new equipment. | Riverdale Community Planning Team  
City of Hamilton |           |
## Riverdale Neighbourhood Action Plan

### Goal E: Increase neighbourhood safety and security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1: Develop a Preventative Approach to Youth Involvement in Crime</th>
<th>Primary Organization</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 1: Increased positive activities for youth to decrease their participation in crime.</td>
<td>City of Hamilton John Howard Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 2: Provide crime prevention programs for youth.</td>
<td>Hamilton Police Services John Howard Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 3: Start a neighbourhood watch program.</td>
<td>RCPT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action 4: Hold community events that encourage community participation and pride.</td>
<td>RCPT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 2: Develop an Educational Strategy for Building Awareness of Crime

| Action 1: Provide information sessions for parents on bullying, gangs and youth crime. | Hamilton Police Services John Howard Society |  |

### Objective 3: Increase a Community Level Police Presence

| Action 1: Advocate for an increased community level police presence. | Hamilton Police Services |  |
| Action 2: Advocate for increased security at Riverdale Community Centre. | City of Hamilton |  |

This is a working document that will need to be visited yearly to make sure progress is being made.

Actions will only be removed when completed and new objectives and actions will be added as the planning team moves forward.

To continue an on-going relationship, service providers are asked to attend monthly meetings.
We wish to thank the Hamilton Community Foundation, for their generous on-going financial support and encouragement.