



Dundas Again Campaign

About The Campaign

In 2001 the provincial government forced Dundas to amalgamate with Hamilton, despite election promises made to the contrary and despite overwhelming opposition from the citizens of Dundas. Amalgamation has not delivered the promised tax cuts and service improvements, quite the contrary. Faced with a worsening situation, concerned local citizens began to organize a de-amalgamation campaign in May of 2003, the **Dundas Again Campaign**. Our goal is to pursue the de-amalgamation of Dundas in order to restore local democratic government. We aim to channel popular discontent into effective action. We invite you to join us.

How You Can Help

1. Wear a yellow ribbon or display one on your front door, mailbox or fence.
2. Volunteers are urgently needed to help us collect signatures for the de-amalgamation petition. Please contact Stan Nowak, basil.cottage@sympatico.ca or 905-627-8832 to volunteer.
3. Make your views known. Write, call, e-mail or fax local papers and elected representatives. Full contact information is available on our website, www.DundasAgain.ca.
4. Ask for a clear de-amalgamation commitment from candidates in upcoming municipal and provincial elections.
5. Make a contribution to help finance the campaign. Cheques should be made out to "Dundas Again Campaign" and dropped off or mailed c/o David Longo, 188 Melville St., Dundas, L9H 2B1.

Keep In Touch

Look for announcements of upcoming events in the Dundas Star or visit our website, www.DundasAgain.ca. Questions or suggestions can be addressed to David Longo, 905-628-5983 or e-mailed to info@DundasAgain.ca.

Top Ten Reasons For De-amalgamation

1. Respect the express wishes of an overwhelming majority of Dundas citizens
2. Reduce the democracy deficit: restore accountable, accessible representation
3. Reclaim our arbitrarily-revoked 154-year-old town charter, symbol of our community's proud history
4. Human-scale communities enhance our sense of identity and psychological well-being
5. We are **not** a "suburb" of Hamilton, rather a viable, independent municipality
6. The best decisions are made by those who have to live with the results: 9 councillors working on our behalf are better than 1
7. Would Dundas town planners have agreed to "pave paradise to put up a parking lot"?
8. It will cost us less to get out now than to pay Hamilton's projected tax increases for years to come
9. Return to pre-amalgamation service levels: community-based policing, a local fire department, even Fall leaf pickup and efficient snow removal
10. Feel like forking over tax dollars to build the Red Hill Creek Expressway, service new development in Meadowlands East, or pay to clean up Hamilton's neglected core? Sure hope your pockets are deep!



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Frequently Asked Questions

Isn't it too late now; wouldn't it be too expensive to de-amalgamate?

It may cost us far more to remain part of the “supercity” than to get out while we can. We are only now beginning to see the effects of amalgamation: our taxes are going up faster than ever, service levels are declining, decisions are being made in downtown Hamilton which do not reflect the interests of the citizens of Dundas, local government has become more remote, less accessible and less representative.

With the construction and long-term maintenance costs of the Red Hill Creek Expressway on the horizon, the tax dollars necessary to pay for the cleanup of Hamilton's neglected core and the expense of subsidizing new development on the East Mountain, things are only going to get worse.

At least one provincial party, the Liberals, have committed to covering a portion of the costs of de-amalgamation, should it occur. Democracy does not come cheaply, but it's worth every penny.

The provincial government hasn't listened to us in the past; what makes you think they will now?

This year, the Province set a precedent by agreeing to allow the City of Kawartha Lakes to include a de-amalgamation question on the ballot of November's municipal election. What's more, there's a good possibility that the Liberal Party will form the government after the next provincial elections. The Liberals have promised to allow de-amalgamation should four of the six former municipalities show "substantial support" for it.

Dundas can't go it alone; what happens if the other historic towns don't want to de-amalgamate?

Citizens in each of the former Wentworth municipalities (Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook and Stoney Creek) have organized de-amalgamation campaigns. Representatives

from each of these groups sit on the *Coalition for Local Democracy*, an umbrella organization formed to share ideas and resources among the municipal groups.

In order for any one of these former municipalities to realise its de-amalgamation aspirations, all or most of the others must follow the same path. Opposition to the merger was very strong in all of these municipalities, and there is an excellent chance that all will vote in favour of de-amalgamation.

Our priority in Dundas right now is to petition for a referendum which would demonstrate strong support for de-amalgamation, both for our sake and in solidarity with the other historic municipalities.

What sort of municipal structure are you suggesting to replace the “supercity”?

At this point, no one knows the details of what a de-amalgamated Dundas would look like. Much will depend on negotiations with the Province and with the other municipalities which choose to de-amalgamate. Although authority for municipal decision-making would revert to a locally-elected Town Council, many people imagine a “service board” type of arrangement where several municipalities would collaborate for greater economies of scale.

In all likelihood, once the decision to de-amalgamate has been made, a transition committee would be appointed to map out the specifics.

The people of the Town of Dundas, and our elected representatives at the municipal, regional and provincial levels were vocal in their opposition to amalgamation and consistently voted against it. Nevertheless, the Conservative government dismissed our aspirations and forced the merger. We will continue to hold them to account for their undemocratic and ill-considered action.