

**CAMERON
KROETSCH**
City Councillor

WARD 2



2022-25 Impact Report



We're just over half way through this term of Council and I wanted to let every Ward 2 resident know about the progress we've made and to provide a look ahead to the work we still need to do. I want to first thank the thousands of residents who have reached out to me and my office since I was elected with questions, ideas, concerns, and feedback.

I appreciate hearing from you. The only way to improve our community is by working together and I value the spirit of collaboration evident in the communication I receive every day. To

that end, the Ward 2 Team has honoured my commitment to respond to all residents in a timely manner. Some issues are easy to resolve, while others require additional follow up, meetings, and changes to municipal policy. I appreciate your patience as we work to address the issues you've raised with us, big and small.

Like you, I live in Ward 2. It's my home. And like you, I'm fiercely proud of our Ward, each of our six neighbourhoods, and our tight knit downtown community. Since I was elected, I've held more than 70 community meetings and events around the Ward, including town halls, issue specific meetings, and meetings for individual groups like seniors, tenants, and business owners.

Each month I send out a newsletter that's filled with updates on work being done on issues important to Ward 2 residents. I post regularly on five social media platforms, write articles, and I'm regularly interviewed by the mainstream media. All of this is focused on keeping Ward 2 residents more informed, especially during these very challenging times, politically, socially, and economically.

This Ward 2 Impact Report provides a summary of how far we've come together. I believe it's important to be transparent about where we've made achievements and where there's still work to do. I'm grateful to continue to represent you and I appreciate your support.

Cameron Kroetsch

Our 6 Neighbourhoods





Sidewalk repairs on a complex stretch of sidewalk in Ward 2's North End neighbourhood

Improving How We Get Around

Our downtown is home to more pedestrians with disabilities than in any other part of the city. It's why the condition of our sidewalks is crucial to making everyone feel safe when they're trying to get around. I've committed millions to repairing damaged downtown sidewalks. These improvements will make our downtown more vibrant, provide safer pedestrian access, and help nearby businesses thrive as they continue to recover post pandemic. Everyone deserves to get around our downtown safely.

Expanding Parks and Greenspace

Last year, Hamilton released its first ever Hamilton Parks Master Plan (HPMP). The HPMP made it clear that Ward 2 is the part of the city most in need of new and expanded parks and greenspaces. During this term of Council, I put motions forward to turn the unprogrammed greenspace along Strachan Street, including the parking lot, into a linear park. I also kept my campaign promise to accelerate the expansion of Beasley Park. I look forward to welcoming all Ward 2 residents to these new spaces in the years to come.



Underutilized parking lot on Strachan Street East, the future park site, in the North End neighbourhood



Councillors Alex Wilson, Kroetsch, and Hwang with ATU Local 107 President Eric Tuck on Labour Day in 2024

Enhancing City Bylaw Services

Municipal Bylaw Services are among some of the most underresourced at the City. Residents continue to ask the City to increase bylaw services to help reduce noise, litter, and graffiti and to address parking concerns and other nuisances. I've put forward motions over the course of this term to improve and enhance the services residents are asking for. In cases where we need to be more reactive, as with noise impacts, we've increased our hours of operation to ensure bylaw officers are available when they're needed most.

Campaign Priorities - What I Promised to Do

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP



SAFE NEIGHBOURHOODS

DEPENDABLE TRANSIT



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

RESPONSIVE SERVICES



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Scan this QR code to read my detailed campaign priorities



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



- Approved Green Building Standards
- Accelerated the expansion of greenspaces and parks in Ward 2
- Provided space to more growers at the Hamilton Farmers' Market
- Hired City staff to prioritize Hamilton's climate emergency
- Enhanced the City's brownfield remediation program
- Planted more trees and increased the size of the urban forest

ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP



- Added community experts to the Board of Health
- Engaged with residents on social media
- Hosted regular community meetings and town halls
- Improved the Fair Wage Policy so it's in line with Collective Agreements
- Provided access to confidential reports for all Councillors
- Advocated to the Province for a better Code of Conduct for Councils



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Moved motion to repair nearly 500 CityHousing Hamilton units
- Supported creation of Caroline Street Co-operative
- Championed new Adequate Temperature Bylaw and supported Renovictions and Safe Apartments Bylaws
- Provided air conditioning units to low income tenants
- Funded urgent capital repairs for downtown YWCA and YMCA



SAFE NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Repaired an unprecedented number of sidewalks
- Installed speed cushions near schools and parks
- Developed new tool for neighbourhoods to track street safety
- Prioritized study of non police community safety interventions
- Increased fines for vehicles parked on sidewalks and bike lanes
- Closed James Street North for Art Crawls

After speaking with thousands of residents throughout Ward 2, I published eight Campaign Priorities (see left) and included them in all of the campaign literature I distributed door to door and by mail during the 2022 election.

These priorities were driven by conversations at doors in every neighbourhood. They reflect what people told me mattered to them most.

I took all of the feedback I received and distilled it into these priority areas. I defined each area and included key actions I planned to take to implement the change people were asking for.

Below is a sample of the progress I've made so far in collaboration with my Council colleagues on each of the priority areas. To see more examples of the work I've done this term, visit the Motions section of my website at ward2hamilton.ca/motions.

DEPENDABLE TRANSIT



- Expanded the City's electric bus pilot to meet climate targets
- Explored shuttle services from major City amenities
- Supported motion to review out of date transit routes downtown
- Supported Hamilton Bike Share's e-bike pilot downtown
- Met regularly with Metrolinx to address concerns
- Seconded motion to phase in free transit

RESPONSIVE SERVICES



- Increased support staff in all Councillors' offices
- Improved services at the Hamilton Small Business Centre
- Supported a plan to implement a new 311 service
- Planned for the expansion of wifi connections in downtown parks
- Dedicated funds for a new music venue
- Expanded the hours for bylaw officers to address noise complaints



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Ensured citizens speak first at City meetings
- Moved motion to add an Indigenous seat to Council
- Secured sustainable funding for the Art Gallery of Hamilton
- Supported complete review of the City's Advisory Committees
- Started Ward 2 Community Grants
- Supported improved funding and criteria for City grants



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

- Upgrading Bennetto Auditorium to make it more accessible
- Moved motion to repair and maintain downtown underpasses
- Supported new program for graffiti cleanup grants
- Improvements to litter collection and new garbage cans downtown
- Supported removing parking minimums
- Supported creation of new BIAs in downtown Hamilton



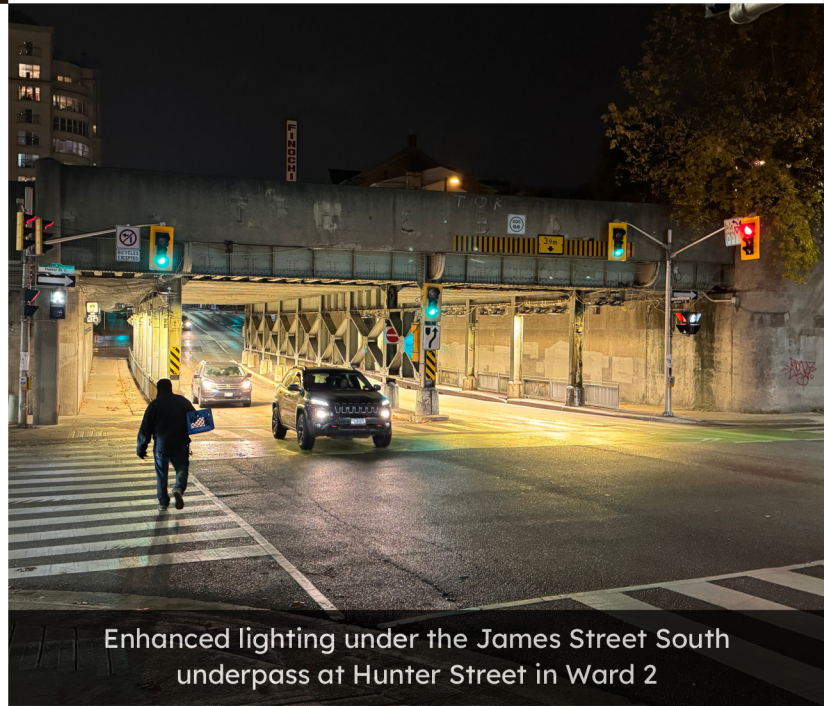
Councillor Kroetsch meeting with Ward 2 tenants at Church of the Ascension in 2025

Engaging with Ward 2 Residents

I take resident engagement seriously. It was the thing I heard about most from residents when I knocked on doors during the 2022 municipal election. Residents told me they wanted more opportunities to engage with their Councillor face to face and to see more meetings hosted by the Councillor's office on issues like affordable housing, climate adaptation, tenant rights, and safer streets. It's why I've hosted more than 70 community meetings, with more planned, on issues impacting all Ward 2 residents.

Making Our Streets Safer for All

I've heard from downtown residents that safer neighbourhood streets are a priority. That's why I've made improvements to lighting in and around our tunnels and underpasses, installed speed cushions, and have pledged Ward 2 funding to close streets to car traffic. I've also made plans to install pedestrian crosswalks, signalized lights, and raised intersections throughout Ward 2, in each neighbourhood. I'll also continue to meet with BIAs, police, businesses, and residents to address safety concerns in my role as Ward 2 City Councillor.



Enhanced lighting under the James Street South underpass at Hunter Street in Ward 2



Ribbon cutting in front of the grand opening of the Caroline Co-operative at 272 Caroline Street South

Providing More Affordable Housing

In a recent survey, Hamiltonians said that affordable housing was an important issue to them and they want to see all levels of government doing more to address it in Hamilton. The City is doing its part by investing in housing across the spectrum. Council has also supported my motions to help start the Caroline Co-operative, which is one solution to help fight rising housing costs. I also put forward a motion to repair nearly 500 CityHousing Hamilton units, which came back online at the start of this year.

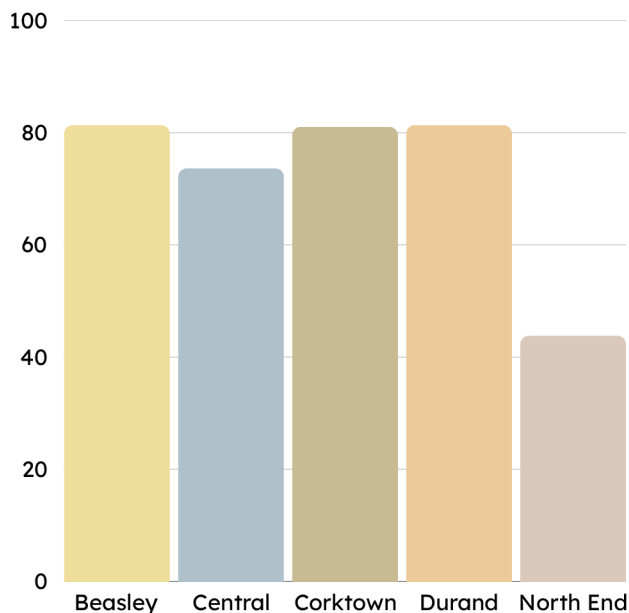
Ward 2 by the Numbers

Each one of Ward 2's neighbourhoods is unique and residents care deeply about the place they call home whether it's Beasley, Central, Corktown, Durand, the North End, or Stinson.

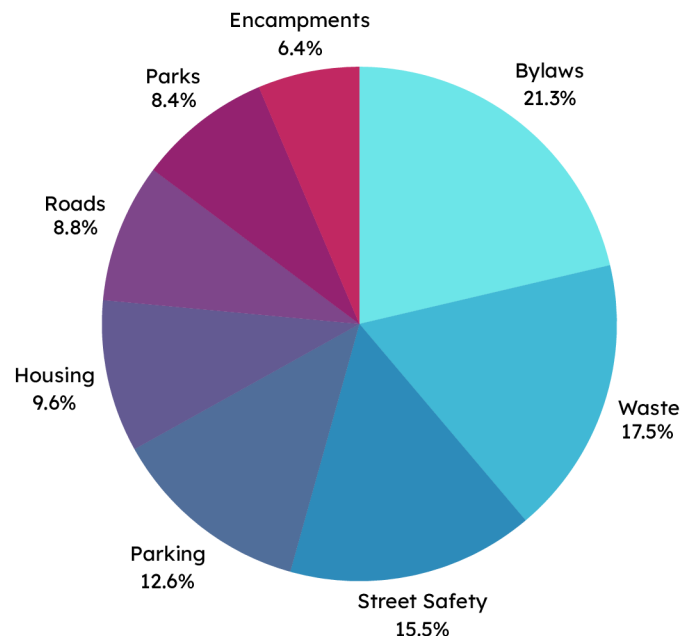
Statistically speaking, Ward 2 is very different from most of the other wards in Hamilton, except by population. Ward 2's population, at just over 37,000 people, is the average population for wards across the city. But it's by far the smallest of all 15 wards, at only 5.9km² compared to an average of 75km² citywide.

We're also a younger community with more 20 to 39 year olds living here than elsewhere in the city. We're also statistically less likely to be married or have children, with the majority of households being occupied by a single person and more than 80% of households with just 2 people. We also endure more poverty than in other parts of the city. Ward 2's average annual household income is around \$70k, while the citywide average is closer to \$110k.

Renters by neighbourhood (%)



Top issues raised (%)



Ward 2 is home to more renters than in any other part of the city. In Ward 2, 77% of residents rent their homes, with only 23% owning the home they live in (see average percentages by neighbourhood in the bar chart above).

Ward 2 residents also have unique concerns. The Ward 2 Team tracks all issues raised through our internal ticketing system, broken down by issue. The top issues raised are shown, by percentage, in the pie chart above (right). What this tells me is we have much more work to do to support the City's bylaw division, to come up with better waste management solutions, and to address street safety in the core.

The Ward 2 Newsletter keeps residents informed of important Council and Committee decisions, meetings, and events



Scan this QR code to sign up for my newsletter



Sign up for my newsletter and check out the archive at ward2hamilton.ca/newsletter



Scan this QR code to connect to my website, social media accounts, and information updates



Visit my website at ward2hamilton.ca

The Ward 2 Team is here to assist residents



Joey, Phoenix, Councillor Kroetsch, Liesl (left to right)

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