

Why did I vote to appeal this decision?

I support the splitting up of Ward 11. I believe the drastic population growth that Ward 11 is experiencing does call for a change. However I do not support the new ward boundaries as a whole for the city. Ultimately I voted in favour to appeal due to how the decision will affect area rating. At amalgamation the Province designated seven suburban Wards (made up of the former municipalities of Glanbrook, Stoney Creek, Dundas, Ancaster and Flamborough) and 8 urban former city of Hamilton wards and one mayor. At that time area rating for the former suburban municipalities was implemented for the suburban areas.

As a result of the new ward boundary ruling, one rural ward has been eliminated and one urban ward has been added. For the past 17 years area rating has been kept for the former suburban municipalities at a lower tax rate because of the makeup of rural and urban wards. With the new ward boundaries theoretically the vote can now be considered lopsided and with the loss of the rural vote it will now be almost impossible to defend and uphold area rating as was in the past.