

## ON A MISSION

Journalist Karen Cumming is ready for the assignment of a lifetime — going to Mars.

Earlier this month (May), Cumming got the news that she made the second round of cuts to join the Mars One Mission. Starting in 2024, 24 brave souls, selected from a pool of volunteers, will be given a one-way ticket to the Red Planet. There, they will establish a permanent human settlement, paving the way for future space exploration.

Most people would be scared at the prospect of leaving home behind forever. But Cumming is not most people.

"I would feel so privileged to be the person who was assigned to document this story for the rest of humanity left behind on Earth," she explains.

Cumming, a former CHCH TV reporter who teaches and does freelance writing, views her potential role on Mars as two-fold — documentarian and teacher. She's prepared not only to teach and report from Mars, but also for the rigours of

a hostile terrain. Cumming has completed two Outward Bound wilderness school courses. She also volunteers for Disaster Aid International, which dispatches her to areas struck by calamity to assist survivors.

While Cumming and the rest of the 706 remaining candidates wait to find out the next step in the process, she remains positive about her chances.

"I really do hope that you will hear them read my name when it comes down to the final 24," she says.



## THE ROYAL RISES

The rebirth of one of Hamilton's most iconic properties is set to become reality with the unveiling of the restored lobby for the Residences of Royal Connaught on June 7th.

Showcasing the hotel's rich history, the three-storey art-deco lobby will serve as sales centre for the Residences of the Royal Connaught and later become the grand lobby for residents.

"The Royal Connaught is something incredibly unique. It is an architectural landmark with such a rich and storied his-

tory. It truly cannot be replicated or replaced so we wanted to get it right," says Rudi Spallacci, president of Spallacci Group.

"The soaring columns, dramatic chandeliers, intricate moulding and the entire grandness of the space—you won't see anything like this come around again," adds Ted Valeri, president of Valery Homes.

"The Royal Connaught is truly a legacy and its rebirth reinforces the excitement that everyone in this city feels—that Hamilton is back."

[royalconnaught.com](http://royalconnaught.com)

## SURVEY SAYS

# Weekly Poll 11.0

*Hamilton Magazine* readers are an opinionated lot — the response to our Weekly Poll offers insight into the mood, thoughts and opinions of city residents regarding a number of pressing, and not so pressing, municipal issues. Here are some of the highlights from our most recent Weekly Polls:

The city's pursuit of LRT has become something of a rudderless ship, thanks in large part to a mayor who refuses to champion the cause. Whether Hamilton ultimately gets LRT, and who pays for it, remains to be seen, but from the results of our weekly poll, the majority of voters support LRT over BRT.

*LRT is once again a hot topic in Hamilton. Do you support LRT for the city or should we be pursuing BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) instead?*  
**LRT 82%**

For the majority of Hamiltonians, October 2014 can't come soon enough. Hopefully the municipal election will usher in an era of change at city hall, starting with a mayor who recognizes the value of leadership. We put the hypothetical query to our readers and mayoral hopeful Brian McHattie (51%) came out on top, followed closely by Fred Eisenberger (38%).

*If the municipal election were tomorrow, who would get your vote for mayor?*  
**MCHATTIE 51%**

Poor Brian McHattie; all he wanted to do was erect a statue honouring Frankie Venom.

But then everybody started questioning the cost (\$200,000) and the process (not enough public consultation) and the idea got derailed. Turns out HM readers weren't keen on the idea either. *Brian McHattie wants to spend \$200,000 to commission a statue honouring Frankie Venom. Do you agree?*  
**NO 62%**

Ward 12 councillor Lloyd Ferguson heard "loud and clear" from his constituents that they weren't having a \$24 increase on their property tax bill in order to fund enhanced bus service on a popular Ancaster bus route. After all, they don't take the bus, so why should they pay for it? Voters, on the other hand, disagreed. *Lloyd Ferguson is against his Ancaster constituents paying an extra \$24 in property tax for enhanced bus service, arguing they don't take the bus. Do you agree?*  
**NO 88%**

City council showed rare vision by approving a 2-way bike lane along much of Cannon Street, agreeing to spend \$1.6 million to transform the pedestrian-unfriendly urban freeway into more of a complete street. This hugely popular weekly poll obviously struck a cord with our readers, as 79% supported the project. *City council has voted to move ahead with protected bike lanes on Cannon Street, at a cost of \$1.6 million. Do you support this project?*  
**YES 79%**

You have to feel for Tom Jackson. The veteran Ward 6 councillor recently complained that the dizzying pace of change to transportation in the lower city has left him "exhausted." Turns out that our voters don't agree and want the city to pick up the pace of its 2-way conversions. *Ward 6 councillor Tom Jackson says he is "exhausted" by the "mammoth amount of changes" in regard to transportation in the lower city. Do you agree?*  
**NO 92%**