The Royal Canadian Legion
Battlefield Branch 622
12 King Street East
Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 1J8

To the Mayor and City Councillors.

On Wednesday April 28, 2010 the notice of motion to rescind the parking meters in Stoney Creek and Waterdown was taken to a vote. The decision was to let the parking meters go through, to be implemented by Jul 1, 2010.

To say the least we are very disappointed in this decision.

As we have stated many times before we are a service organisation relying on volunteers. Many of our volunteers are retired and on fixed incomes and will not be able to give as much of their time to our Branch. This is going to take away our ability to support and aid the Veterans and Seniors in our Community. Volunteers are how we keep the administration costs down. Monies that are brought into the branch are put back into the community. This keeps the cost down for the City of Hamilton as they would have to cover the cost of many of these services.

Over the past years not only our Branch but many of the Legion Branches in Ontario are finding it hard to stay open. Our Branch through the City of Hamilton had our license to run Bingo and sell Break Open Tickets taken away. This took away some of our financial income. We did have to cut back on some of our programs for our members and the community.

As a Branch we have gotten in touch with other Branches to see if they were interested in amalgamating. If that is the route we go we will not be in the Stoney Creek area or the City of Hamilton. If we sell the Branch, then again we would be moving to another area. How very sad that will be for our Veterans and Seniors. Will the City of Hamilton be able to aid the Veterans? We have gotten in touch with Royal LePage to see what options there are for us.

Our Branch not only supports the Veterans we also give bursaries to the students in the various schools in the Stoney Creek area. Will the City of Hamilton be able to help these students if we are not here? Who will support the T-ball, soccer, baseball and other teams we support for the youth of our area?

The City of Hamilton has much more to lose than they have to gain with putting the parking meters in effect and we have to relocate.

On Saturday May 1, 2010 I was at the 80th Anniversary of Branch 163 Mount Hamilton. The Mayor was a guest at this event. In his speech he mentioned that if it was not for the Canadians liberating Holland he and his family may not have been able to be were they are today. He also mentioned that we should always say thanks to our Veterans, not only from past wars but also to those that are in harms way today. How very sad the way the City of Hamilton is showing thanks to the Veterans in Stoney Creek. Shame on you.

Please, reconsider and do the right thing. Help the RCL Branch 622 to stay in Stoney Creek to be able to help not only our area but the City of Hamilton.

Yours in Comradeship,
 Joyce Brown, President Branch #622

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