July 2010
City Clerks Office
clerk@hamilton.ca
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear City Clerk

Please accept this request for this letter to be read and received by the Mayor and City Councillors on or before the Tuesday August 10th or Thursday August 12th 2010 COW/Council meeting or other appropriate meetings to decide this issue.

The Hamilton Library will submit a request proposing the new Waterdown Library be located on Highway #5/Dundas St on the site of the existing Flamborough Municipal Centre. We are asking that the new Waterdown Library instead, remain located within the core of Waterdown. The Hamilton Library plans to move the new Library out of the core and locate near the Power Centre, two blocks from Clappison's Corners at Hwy #6 and #5. This busy five lane highway location of Flamborough Municipal Centre is not safe or easily accessible to many of the current Library users. It is one of the main routes for large quarry and transport trucks.

This request is for the Mayor and City Councillors to table city staff and Hamilton Library Board recommendations for the new Waterdown Library building location decision until after the October 2010 election. A delay of two months is not unreasonable.

First off let me express my regards and personal thanks to the Hamilton Library for support of the Flamborough community to ensure that our citizens have first class library service. We can all agree that the Waterdown Library needs to be expanded to accommodate the significant growth coming to Waterdown. Waterdown's current population is approx. 18,000. Over the next five -10 years, there will be an additional 17,000 people move into Waterdown – the population will effectively double. The decision of where to locate the new Waterdown Library is critical to servicing this future development. We also agree that the preferred building is a new Library building similar to the one floor plan at Turner Park.

The Hamilton Library presented a plan at Waterdown public meetings in January 2010. These were the only public meetings held. Prior to this, there were a few Flamborough people contacted individually throughout 2008-2009 for consultation. Very few people were privy to the Library discussions or public consultation even though they will tell you exhaustive consultation was done – it was not.

At the public meeting residents were told the Hamilton Library had enough funding to build a 15,000 sq foot facility. Any larger would require further requests for funding to City Council in the 2011 budget year.

A new Waterdown Library needs to stay located in the downtown core near the schools and people who use it. Many seniors in Waterdown, a population which is growing, use the existing Library branch and will not have easy access to the Dundas St./Highway #5 location that is proposed.

We are asking that the new Waterdown Library, like the existing Library be located on a bus route such as Parkside Drive, in the core area and within walking distance of other supporting facilities and accessible to the 6,500 new home developments along Parkside Drive East and West ends.

Benefits: Parkside Drive is a bus route which is accessible to the new homes being built on either side of Parkside at the east and west ends of Waterdown. On Parkside Drive and Hamilton (north side) is a new Youth Centre scheduled to be built. Within a two block walking distance there are two elementary schools, Waterdown Highschool, the YMCA, three seniors residence, the Waterdown Legion, two low income residents buildings, a shopping plaza, Tim Horton's etc. Building the new Library here would make it a true community hub. Students of all ages are within a one block walking distance from Memorial
Park and near many restaurants social outlets. There is nothing on Hwy #5 Flamborough Municipal Centre that would entice students to go there.

Flamborough Municipal Centre – proposed location

The current Hamilton Library plan is determined to locate the new Library on Hwy #5 on a busy 5 lane highway which is 2 clocks from the Clappison Corner’s Power Centre. The plan is to tear down the existing Flamborough Municipal Service (former Town Hall) building on Hwy # 5/Dundas Street which is a perfectly solid building paid for by taxpayers only 25 years ago. This Hwy #5 location, which is a very busy, unsafe 5 lane highway, is also far away from any other community facility, no schools nearby, no access from surrounding neighbourhoods, treacherous sidewalks, and not walkable or safely accessible to anyone riding a bicycle or the majority of people living in Waterdown, who currently use the Waterdown Library. The majority of the new growth in the East and West ends of Waterdown are along Parkside Drive. Approx. 6,500 new homes will be built, mostly in East Waterdown.

We need to build the new library accessible on or near Parkside Drive in the core of Waterdown. There is available land in two spots that can be considered. Moving it out of the core just doesn’t make sense. The core of any community needs to have community hub infrastructure activity that brings all resources together and includes a library, which would then be a catalyst to attracting other community resources. It brings people into the core, which supports local business, creates jobs and provides economic growth with prosperity.

We are asking the Hamilton Library Board to be open to these discussions - we do understand the Libraries deadlines, we do understand there are issues to overcome - we are asking for the opportunity to start that dialogue.

We appreciate City Council’s consideration to table this decision until after the municipal election in October 2010.

Yours truly,

Cc: Mr. Chris Murray, City Manager email: Chris.Murray@hamilton.ca