July 27, 2010

City Clerks Office
Hamilton City Hall
71 main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear City Clerk,

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

The Hamilton Library Board will submit a request proposing the new Waterdown Library be located on Highway #5/Dundas Street on the site of the existing Flamborough Municipal Centre. I am joining many other residents asking that the new Waterdown Library be 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.

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.

The new Waterdown Library should 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.

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 senior residences, 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 restaurant social outlets. There is nothing on Hwy #5 Flamborough Municipal Centre that would entice students to go there.

Some basic research will reveal that suitable places can be found in this area for the library and moving it out of a core location makes no sense. The core of any well planned community needs infrastructure to form a hub to attract community activity and ties together all its resources whether corporate, commercial, educational and personal service. A library is one of those unique, special public buildings that belongs in the core of a community.

While the financial aspect of choosing Flamborough Municipal Centre is important, that is trumped by the importance of choosing the right site. Placing the library in the wrong site would really be wasting money.

There has been only one public meeting on this matter, last January. It must not have been widely publicized as I did not know about it. This proposal has not had adequate public discussion in this area.

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

Yours truly,

Stanley Haworth