Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for meeting with Jim Rudnick and I last week to discuss the relocation of the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) office from the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) operated by Tourism Hamilton at Clappison’s Corners into the former Flamborough town hall in Waterdown. We are especially appreciative of your support.

As you know, Tourism Hamilton is moving its VIC services into the five municipal service centres, operated by the ‘new’ City of Hamilton. It is our understanding that later this month (in time for the Victoria Day weekend), Tourism Hamilton will be launching the transferred services from the Clappison’s Corners VIC to the local municipal service centre in Waterdown (the former Flamborough town hall on Dundas Street). While being very considerate and sensitive to our circumstances, Tourism Hamilton has nevertheless formally informed the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce it will need to vacate the Clappison’s Corners VIC.

To be perfectly frank, there is some confusion about the relevant bylaws needing to be changed to allow the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce to move into the Waterdown municipal service centre. As you know, the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce is currently - on a cost-shared basis - a tenant in the Clappison’s VIC (also a municipally-owned facility) since it was constructed in the 1990s as a joint venture between the former Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth and the former Town of Flamborough.

Some are also puzzled why the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce can’t move into the former Flamborough town hall when other not-for-profit agencies – like Flamborough Information and Community Services (FICS), the Waterdown East Flamborough Heritage Society and even Toast Masters – are current tenants. After all, the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce is a federally incorporated not-for-profit agency.

Notwithstanding the above, the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce is fully prepared to work with you and your administration in facilitating a move into the Flamborough municipal service centre. We are prepared to work with the Audit and Administration Committee that will see the relevant bylaws revised.

Frankly, moving the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce into the local municipal building will send a clear message to potential investors that the business community is partnering with the city in sending out the message that Hamilton ‘is open for business.’

Please accept this letter as our official expression of interest. If there is anything else we can do, don’t hesitate to contact us. Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

SUSAN CETINSKI
President, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce