Office of the City Clerk  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON  L8P 4Y5  

Attention: Alexandra Rawlings  

Subject: Waterdown Library  

Dear Alexandra,  

The Report to Waterdown on Library Board Consultations with Residents and Affected Organizations and Agencies states that “the residents of Waterdown deserve a good library”. No one disagrees with that statement. However, it is unfortunate that the report appears to conclude that the only reasonable location for the library is the former Town Hall, located on the north side of Highway #5 between Waterdown and Clappison’s Corners. This unfortunately moves the library away from the social and commercial centre of the town. It also proposes to demolish a perfectly good building, the former Town Hall, in order to provide a site for the new library.

While the proposed site would have worked harmoniously with planning solutions between 1950 and 1990, when the automobile was still paramount, it is completely out of sync with the current ecological and environmental planning.

For those who support good environmental planning, the destruction of a perfectly sound building to make way for the proposed library is ecologically wasteful. I have reviewed both the exterior and interior condition of the former Town Hall and can state that it is quite capable of lasting, with proper maintenance, for a number of decades. There are several organizations who would like to stay in the Old Town Hall. In addition, there are other organizations who would like to occupy additional space within the building.

Just as important, a library needs to be within walking distance of the centre of town or as near as reasonably possible, with easy access to shops and services for senior citizens, children and adults. Ideally, the public library should be located in an area that reduces the necessity of travel by car, preferably in the centre of town where there are other viable options. The proposed library plan ignores the will of Canadians to reduce their carbon footprint. Travel by car should not be encouraged, as it would be, if the proposed library is built away from the centre of Waterdown on the existing Town Hall site.

We all need to be more cognizant of our collective responsibility to make sound ecological decisions. Bulldozing a perfectly sound, functional building, while at the same time building new expensive space for a library is both irresponsible and wasteful of the earth’s limited resources.

Sincerely,  

T. P. Garwood-Jones  
Dipl. Arch., RIBA, FRAIC, OAA