August 5th, 2010

City Clerks Office
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Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4YS

Dear City Clerk, Mayor and Councillors,

Summary: Why would Waterdown be the only community in the city of Hamilton not to have a library in its core – taxpayers deserve better - it just doesn’t make sense.

We are asking 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.

It is essential that a new library, similar to Turner Park Library, be built for Waterdown. We all agree the growing population needs it. This library can be a legacy for our citizens, however it needs to remain located in the core of Waterdown and not be moved to the busy five lane highway location at the Flamborough Municipal Service Centre on highway #5/Dundas St – it isn’t safe or easily accessible for many of the current library users. Highway #5/Dundas is a designated truck route and one of the main routes for hundreds of transport trucks that use it daily. It isn’t safe for children, young families, students and seniors to access.

There are potential locations available in the core which has not been fully explored by Hamilton Library. They have been dismissed as not suitable. There is opportunity to enter into meaningful discussions regarding these locations. Waterdown core has already lost several important service providers and businesses to the big box power centre at Clappison’s Corners (hwy #6#5) with the library gone it will experience more decline.

A library is an essential service located in every core area/downtown’s of Hamilton, Stoney Creek, Ancaster, Dundas and currently Waterdown. Even Locke Street community has one. Why would Waterdown be the only community in the city of Hamilton not to have a library in its core – taxpayers deserve better – it just doesn’t make sense.

The 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. We would also ask that over the next two months staff be asked to have initial meetings to thoroughly investigate the potential locations of Memorial Park (city owned park) and Mary Hopkins School (4 acres will be available in 2012). If there is political will, a better location and deal can be negotiated ie; perhaps a land swap with school board for parkland at Mary Hopkins School located in the core to compliment Memorial Park.

A new Waterdown Library needs to be built 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, Hamilton St. 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.

Core Location Benefits: The core area is accessible to the new homes being built on either end of Parkside Drive 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 two blocks 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 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 and to allow time for staff to follow through on discussions concerning the other sites.

Yours truly,