November 1, 2005

City of Hamilton Council
71 Main St. E
Hamilton ON
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor DiIanni and City of Hamilton Council,

First off, congratulations to the City of Hamilton for recognizing the important contribution of our Canadian Veterans. Council’s May 2005 resolution enabled complimentary parking in municipal parking areas for all holders of the veterans licence plates. This clearly reflected Council’s recognition of the Canadian Veterans living in our community. Thanks for your leadership!

As you know, 2005 has been proclaimed the Year of the Veteran by the Government of Canada. Like many of you, I have been involved with several events recognising Canada’s war heroes. I feel strongly that these men and women should continue to receive the respect and recognition they deserve. It is in this spirit that I respectively propose a permanent exemption from parking fees on municipal parking areas be granted for all veterans who proudly display these unique licence plates.

Given that the average age of WW I vets is 103 years, the WWII vet 83 years and the Korean vets 73, a permanent parking fee exemption for those with veteran’s licence plates would be the right thing to do. Each November 11th we repeat the words ‘we shall remember them’. I hope that you will agree one good way to give ongoing, outward and visible expression to our remembering would be to treat every year as the ‘Year of the Veteran’.

It is my sincere hope that Council might move swiftly to consider and endorse this acknowledgement of service rendered in the defence of freedom. Given that Remembrance Day 2005 is imminent, it would be particularly appropriate to attend to this request in a timely fashion.
I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Kindest regards,

Ted McMeekin MPP
Ancaster Dundas Flamborough Aldershot