



March 4th, 2016

**Mayor Lehman and Members of Council:**

**Re: Proposed Declaration of 60 Worsley Street as Surplus Lands  
Staff Report BDD006-16**

On behalf of the Barrie Public Library Board of Trustees, I am writing to express concern with Staff's recommendation that 60 Worsley Street be declared surplus, and to provide you with additional information to assist in your review of this matter.

The Staff Report recommends that the 60 Worsley Street parking lot next to the Downtown location of the Barrie Public Library be declared surplus to support the City's goal to maximize Barrie's downtown residential and employment density. The Report includes a motion passed by the Barrie Public Library Board strongly opposing the parking lot being declared surplus as it will have a negative impact on the Library's ability to offer library programs and access to Barrie citizens. In representing the library service needs of the citizens of Barrie, the Barrie Public Library Board would like to provide Council with some additional information for consideration before deciding to declare the library parking at 60 Worsley Street surplus.

The Downtown Library provides services to approximately 250,000 patrons each year and while public transit and walking provides access for some of our patrons, many access the library by vehicle – particularly given our lack of branch locations to service a population the size of the City. We note that in Clause 15 of the Report, Staff note that “sufficient parking supply exists to proceed with the surplussing of 60 Worsley Street.” The Board is not in a position to debate the amount of parking available in the Downtown; however, we do request that General Committee consider the accessibility of that parking.

Through the use of car pools, parents and caregivers bring approximately 35 children each morning to the Library during the week. This rises to 80 on Saturday (Baby Goose Program) and close to 100 each morning during the summer. The programs are offered in the morning because contrary to the parking lot survey results in points 13 and 18 in the Staff Report, our staff and patrons have observed that fewer spots are available next to the library later in the day. Parents and caregivers commonly bring 3 children each, so we feel it is essential that a parking area be maintained close to the Library for the safety of these parents, care givers and children.

The Barrie Public Library Board would like City Council to recognize the role played by the Downtown Library and the need for special family parking next to the Library. The Barrie Public Library Board respectfully requests that General Committee election Alternative 1 in the Staff Report, which is not to declare 60 Worsley Street as surplus.

We appreciate your consideration of our request, and if you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Duhamel', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ray Duhamel, Chair  
Barrie Public Library Board