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February 9, 2015

Members of Barrie City Council  
 70 Collier St.  
 Barrie, ON

Distributed through – City Clerk’s Office

Dear Members of City Council,

I am writing to you regarding a matter of urgency and importance. As you are likely aware, the Simcoe County Home Builders’ Association organizes, and runs a very successful Ice Fishing Tournament each year. It is always held in February (on the Saturday of the long weekend) and draws 700-900 participants. We rent the Southshore Community Centre for the day preceding the Tournament as well as the day of the actual event. In total, the rental cost is almost \$2,500.00. We found out only a few weeks ago that parking was not included in our rental. When we investigated further – we were told that we could get a “break” in the parking for a number of cars – which would cost only \$7.50 per spot – as opposed to the \$15.00 max per day. Even this charge will reduce the amount given to the charity. The majority of our participants are from out of town and this will be an unexpected charge for them. I believe – the charge is also unfair. With the rental of a facility – it is a fair assumption that parking lot at the facility is included in the rental.

This Tournament, to date, has given over \$227,000 back to community groups such as Seasons Centre for Grieving Children, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice Simcoe, Gilda’s Club of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH Cancer Care Centre, Childrens Aid Foundation, Barrie’s Ribbons of Hope as well as Rotary Clubs, Kinsmen and Living Green Barrie. Proceeds from this year’s tournament are going to Barrie Out Of The Cold.

I respectfully remind Council that this facility was rented before the new parking policy came a reality. The parking requirements came up in an “incidental” conversation – a few weeks ago...

We are asking for our out-of-town participants to be given free parking at the South Shore Centre (also where most of our volunteers park) and along Lakeshore Drive.

Several of our Members are with the Rotary Club which meets at the Southshore Community Centre and we understand that they have been given parking passes for the full year for the same areas.

We sincerely hope that the contributions made to the City and its charities will be valued enough by Council to warrant the extension of the same courtesy as Rotary receives for our annual one day event.

Sincerely,

Sheila Hissa, Executive Officer

Member of the Canadian Home Builders’ Association



Member of the Ontario Home Builders’ Association