



GMB 411 RR 2
Zurich ON N0M 1N0

To: The Facilities Review Committee, Municipality of Bluewater
Re: Facilities Review Report
Date: October 16, 2009

The Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association appreciates having the opportunity to comment on Bluewater Council's review of its facilities.

Positive aspects of the review:

- The *Building Stock Profile* report contains detailed information about Bluewater's facilities that are under review: their physical condition, operating costs, remedial costs and upgrade costs.
- The report provides Council with a comprehensive study of its facilities and enables Council to avoid a "piece-meal" approach to reorganizing, combining, repairing, and upgrading its facilities
- Consolidation among some facilities is being encouraged so that cost savings can be realized
- User groups/ratepayer organizations/citizens are being requested to provide input on this issue.

Concerns about this report:

- The recommendation that the Municipal Offices be consolidated in the Stanley Community Complex raises concerns:
 - While consolidation of the Bluewater Administration into one facility is a laudable goal, what are the detailed costs associated with retrofitting the Stanley Complex to accomplish this? Other jurisdictions operate multiple offices to accommodate their staff and, thereby, utilize their existing publicly-owned facilities efficiently and without added expense for taxpayers.

- Bluewater's Council Chamber would serve its citizens more effectively if it were located in a more central location. Have other options for relocating the Municipal Office been considered? Could an expansion of the Zurich Arena and Community Centre accommodate Bluewater's Administration? [Availability of parking would not be a problem there.]
 - Will a retrofitting/relocation of the Council Chamber allow for state-of-the-art computer setups and presentations? Will there be an adequate public gallery? Will the Council Chamber become a showpiece in Bluewater?
 - Is locating the Municipal Office in Varna, at the northern edge of Bluewater, advisable? A more central location would serve Bluewater residents better and would match more closely Bluewater's expected growth area along the shoreline.
 - Has the economic impact of moving the Municipal Office out of Zurich been considered? How will businesses and community life in Zurich be affected?
- While it is necessary to address issues related to the Zurich Library, are there other solutions to finding a new location for this facility? Could a site within the Zurich Elementary School be considered? (This happens in other jurisdictions.) Could the Zurich Library become part of the Zurich Community Centre, through renovation/addition?

Recommendations:

- That the current Bluewater Council makes the required decisions about the Municipality's facilities and not defer this to the 2011 Municipal Council.
- That more options for relocating Bluewater's Administration offices in a more central location be considered.
- That facilities extraneous to the operation of the municipality be sold so that optimum use of the remaining facilities is realized.

Respectfully submitted

The Board of the Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association