

Nov 17/23

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Corporation of the Town of Cobourg
Tax Office, Victoria Hall
55 King St., W.
Cobourg, ON K9A 2M2

Copies to Mayor Lucas Cleveland, Council Members Miriam Mutton, Randy Barber

To Whom It May Concern:

On Wednesday, Nov 15/23, I attended an event under the acronym WHAM at Victoria Hall. It began at 12 noon; it ended shortly before 4 p.m. I am partly crippled because of a faulty knee replacement in 2008 which subsequently resulted in a further knee replacement to the same knee (2009), cancer with 35 radiation treatments (2010), and scoliosis (a curvature of the spine), which is on-going. It is difficult for me to walk any distance without a cane or a walker. Therefore, for the above event, I parked across from Victoria Hall in a handicapped parking spot at approximately 5 minutes to 12. I put money into the meter provided with change I had available. I am 82 years old, and though I have some ability with the computer my tech knowledge with cell phones and apps is extremely limited to non-existent, typical for people my age. I therefore was unable to use my phone to pay money for parking. I heard one has 2 hrs of free parking on the main street. Apparently this is unknown to the meter because at 1:51 the ticket-happy constable McMurtry gave me a ticket for \$40 the second my meter ran out of payment though I had paid for just under two hrs of parking.

Was I supposed to leave the event in Victoria Hall to feed the meter part-way through the event? If one is disabled it is difficult to manage quietly leaving an event in a crowded room, going down the elevator and crossing a busy road to pay for parking. Cobourg miscalls itself the 'feel good town' and yet it typically mistreats seniors and people with disabilities at every turn. Unlike most Ontario communities, parking for the disabled is charged the same as for the able-bodied. Toronto, NOTL, and Stratford, and even Port Hope, do not charge parking fees to the handicapped. I know as I have parked in all of them. I have shopped in all of them, dined in all of them. In Cobourg, I avoid the downtown because of the parking difficulties. Cobourg is a community of seniors. How many other seniors, many of whom have mobility issues, do the same? How does that affect the many small businesses still trying to eke out a living in Cobourg's downtown core? Cobourg has greed and nastiness, small-mindedness and short sightedness at its core, not a feeling of well-being and welcomeness.

I will not be paying the \$40 ticket. I will go to court. I will state my case. Perhaps I will lose at that time as the 'law' has no more heart, consideration or empathy for seniors or the handicapped than Cobourg's by-law officers. If possible, I will appeal to the next level. The

town of Cobourg made Victoria Hall available to WHAM under the aegis of Ken Prue who has brought countless cultural events to Cobourg over the years, first at the mall theatre, then at the Loft building, and now at Victoria Hall. Yet Cobourg has treated this largess, these wonderful draws to Cobourg's beleaguered downtown with disdain and dismissal by never considering his requests for parking easements and ignoring the fact that most of these events are attended by seniors, many of whom are handicapped and on fixed incomes. How could any of us feel welcome or appreciated in a community that behaves with such churliness towards us? Yet these same seniors have been volunteers at the hospital, local museums, in civic events, in schools, at local theatres and libraries and are tax-payers as well! Shame on the town of Cobourg. Such behaviour needs to stop. I will support no politician who continues to back such ludicrous by-laws and fines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane McCaig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jane" and last name "McCaig" clearly legible.

Jane McCaig, B.A., M.Ed.