

To: Members of the Town of Cobourg Community Services, Protection and Economic Development Standing Committee

Cc: Clerk, Town of Cobourg

Comment Regarding Downtown Parking

I note that the above Committee has on its agenda for a meeting on Wednesday February 7th a report from the Downtown Business Improvement Association with their suggestions regarding changes to downtown parking regulations. Unfortunately, although they partially address the issue of the two hours free parking in the lots, they only do this by suggesting adding a half hour grace period. I would like to suggest that the two hours be extended to three. For these reasons:

Back in the last century, when most of the food shops - grocers, butchers, fishmongers etc. - were right down town, not to mention the hardware store, two hours would likely have been sufficient. A housewife, with just a small fridge, would likely nip down two or three times a week to buy the essentials. Things are quite different now. We have super large refrigerators and we probably shop once a week, if that, at a large supermarket on the outskirts of town. And there are not many true housewives left! I may head downtown maybe once every two weeks. I usually go to browse around the length of the King Street downtown shopping area, without anything in particular in mind. Except lunch. I pretty well always stop for lunch somewhere - sometimes with a friend, sometimes on my own. Unfortunately lunch has to be a rushed affair because of the time limitation. I don't think I am unusual in my downtown shopping activities. I suggest, therefore, that the two hours free parking in the large lots could be slightly increased to three. This would, in my opinion, reflect the change in shopping habits whilst not opening the door to long term free parking by business employees.

I would have preferred to make my suggestion in person, but as luck would have it I am out of town on Wednesday. I would be happy to discuss this further with interested parties.

Gail Rayment

