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For Immediate Release:

Chamber of Commerce Loses Fight to Retain Driver and Vehicle License Operation

The Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will see the closing of its Driver and Vehicle Licensing operation in just over one year from now, November 30, 2010. MPP Jeff Leal and Chamber General Manager Stuart Harrison met with Service Ontario officials on a number of occasions in an attempt to work out a compromise, identify the inappropriate parking challenges the move would create for our average 500 customers per day, and to save the jobs of our employees....Harrison says "We tried hard, Jeff Leal did his best lobbying for us, but in the end we were unable to work out a compromise that made any sense for the Chamber, our staff or our customers".

As a result the Chamber Licensing operation will close next November, 2010. Meanwhile we would like our customers to know that until next November it is business as usual and we will be offering full and friendly service throughout the coming year. During the next year we will be concentrating on two things;

1. Providing our customers with a number of alternatives. Harrison says, "Since this is an annual transaction for many people our staff would love to see everybody one last time over the next year, we'll be doing everything we can to smooth the transition, including offering a two year renewal to those who qualify, providing a list of alternate offices, and complete written instructions on how to obtain many of the services online."
2. Providing our Licensing staff with career counseling and training, and doing our best to find them jobs.

The Chamber Board has formed a Task Force to explore alternate uses for their historic building at 175 George Street. The Chamber of Commerce operation employs eight people and will continue in the same location.

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