

Plus ça change...

Gentlemen:

I am directed by the Council of the Cobourg Chamber of Commerce to advise you we are greatly surprised to learn of the decision of the Town Council to proceed with the installation of parking meters in Cobourg despite the strongest opposition of this Chamber of Commerce.

At the last regular meeting of this Chamber, held on 17 May last, it was our understanding that the Retail Merchants Division were to meet with the Town Council to discuss the question of the installation of parking meters in Cobourg. Apparently no consideration has been given this proposal.

We feel that this matter had been dealt with in undue haste for the following reasons:

- a) The citizens of Cobourg most vitally affected by this measure, namely the retail merchants, have been utterly ignored.
- b) The installation of parking meters in Cobourg, we believe, will prove contrary to the wishes of the majority of the citizens.
- c) Cobourg is extremely well equipped with parking facilities and an adequate by-law, properly enforced, would solve all parking problems. In consequence, we believe the

installation of parking meters is absolutely unnecessary and quite uncalled for.

- d) The installation of parking meters will, we believe, prove extremely detrimental to the best interests of the town if only for the reason that farmers and people from neighbouring rural areas, who spend much money in town, will avoid coming to Cobourg. Furthermore, summer tourists will not stop but will pass on through.

- e) On the surface, this matter appears to have been dealt with in a manner open to the gravest suspicion.

In view of the foregoing it is suggested that before final steps are taken to have these parking meters erected, the entire matter be reconsidered and discussed.

In view of the fact that this entire question appears to have been rushed through without any opinion having been sought of the Cobourg Chamber of Commerce nor of the Retail Merchants' Division of this Chamber, we are, of necessity, constrained to forward copies of this letter to the Press. I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly

A.N.K Hobbs,
Secretary-Manager

The above letter is reproduced from the front page of the *Cobourg Sentinel-Star* of May 30, 1946. At the time the feeling was prevalent that Cobourg Council was not heeding the desires of the people regarding matters such as installing parking meters in the downtown. The City Council ignored the strenuous protests of the merchants and other groups and installed meters which were subsequently removed. Déjà vu all over again as Yogi would say?