

Ministry of Tourism,  
Culture and Sport

Ministère du Tourisme,  
de la Culture et du Sport



Minister

Ministre

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June 19, 2013

His Worship Joe Fontana  
Mayor  
City of London  
jfontana@london.ca

Dear Mayor Fontana:

*Your Worship,*

I recently learned about the efforts underway in London to protect 275 Thames Street from demolition and to document its history. I would like to express my sincere congratulations to you, the members of City Council and all the partners who have worked together to make this achievement possible.

An understanding of our heritage helps connect us to each other and to the people that laid the foundation for the society we live in. This admirable initiative demonstrates the value your community places on conserving its heritage and is a shining example of the remarkable things that can be accomplished through cooperation and a shared commitment to honouring our past.

I am truly inspired by the dedication and resolve demonstrated by the many people involved in this project, from the City of London and Aboutown Transportation to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants and the local archaeology and heritage communities. I am pleased that staff in my ministry also had the opportunity to contribute. Together, you have helped protect an important part of the history of London, the province and our nation with respect to slavery and the Underground Railroad.

Again, please accept my congratulations on this success story for heritage conservation in Ontario.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Chan".

Michael Chan  
Minister

c: Ms. Deb Matthews, MPP, London North Centre  
Mr. Don Menard, Heritage Planner, City of London  
Mr. Jim Donnelly, Aboutown Transportation  
Dr. Holly Martelle, Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants  
Mr. Darryl Dann, Archaeologist