

November 2, 2014

D. Menard
Heritage Planner
Planning Division
City of London

Dear Mr. Menard,

As a resident of the old Stoneybrook community, I would like to express my concerns regarding the request for demolition of the residence at 420 Fanshawe Park Road East.

This heritage property has much history attached to it as it has been owned by influential Londoners such as the Poole family. There have been many equally influential artists and area business people who have frequented the house and have enjoyed the beauty of the property. To demolish this residence would be to lose a part of our local history and the richness of a property that is unlike others in the city.

As our city grows, develops and expands, the ability to preserve such rich properties is challenged. In the search for expansion and development, local history and appreciation for trees and wildlife are often cast aside. This property, which honours our local history and enriches the surrounding neighbourhood, must be preserved.

The trees that reside at 420 Fanshawe Park Rd. include white pine and a type of birch that is less common in London. These mature trees that embellish the neighbourhood have become a rarity in our city. London is known as the "Forest City" and as such, the preservation of such trees should be a priority. If this heritage residence is demolished, the mature trees that surround it become equally at risk for destruction in favour of further development. This would be a significant loss to the surrounding area as well as to London's Urban Forest Strategy.

It should also be noted that the application for demolition has been submitted on behalf of York developments. This development company's current properties include commercial strip malls, and big box stores, as well as apartment complexes. The request to demolish the residence at 420 Fanshawe Park Rd. will inevitably be followed by a request for re-zoning. As a resident of the Stoneybrook community, I do not wish to see a historically significant property that enriches the landscape of the surrounding neighbourhood and city, be converted into a commercial or high density housing complex that enriches the profit of a development company.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask that the property at 420 Fanshawe Park Rd. East be preserved and treated in accordance with the heritage designation it has received.

Sincerely,

Linda Barbon
Resident, Stoneybrook Community