

## Lysynski, Heather

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**From:** Carolyn Buck <cmbuck@...>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2011 2:32 PM  
**To:** Lysynski, Heather  
**Cc:** Baechler, Joni; nancy2@nanbran.com; Bryant, Judy  
**Subject:** Don't allow 764 Waterloo St to be demolished!

Dear Members of the Built and Natural Environment Committee,

My family and I live on St. James Street, practically within viewing distance of 764 Waterloo St. Both our young children go to St. George's Public School, and as a family we enjoy the benefits of living in our neighbourhood. Our kids play with their friends and go back and forth between houses knowing that they are part of the community and everyone local knows them. We chose to live in this area, the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District, because of this sense of community and to enjoy the streetscape and architecture. We and our neighbours love this area and are not appreciative that anyone, developer or otherwise, is threatening the essence of our community and trying to push the boundaries of the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District.

Entertaining the notion of tearing down 764 Waterloo Street and building a larger commercial development at our corner will result in more traffic, more cars and increased opportunities for pedestrian and vehicular accidents. Given that St. George's Public School is three doors north of 764 and that there are children walking north and south on Waterloo Street to attend and return from Lord Roberts, Montessori, Central High School and preschools and daycares in the area, it is unconscionable to consider demolishing 764 Waterloo Street to build a larger commercial building in an area that will increase pedestrian and vehicular interaction.

Contrary to prior reports from Mr. Farhi and the engineer he hired, photos clearly indicate that the interior of 764 Waterloo Street has retained the original woodwork, staircase and many leaded and stained glass windows. As someone who continues to work on maintaining and retaining the existing woodwork in our older home, I recognize the time, cost and effort involved, but also know that most families in our District have, will or are currently doing the same thing. Why should 764 Waterloo be treated differently because of the work involved there? 764 should be protected from demolition and renovated, not torn down because of financial inconvenience.

764 Waterloo is the southern residence in our district streetscape and it belongs there. To allow this heritage house to be demolished sets the tone that Heritage Conservation Districts in London are, when push comes to shove, meaningless. To cave in to this request sends a clear message that there is no respect for retaining and renovating heritage buildings, nor for district heritage areas. If 764 Waterloo is demolished, there will be little to stop the progression of the commercial district and requests to demolish the remaining two residences all the way to the property line of St. George's Public School.

At a time when cities are calling for residents to live in the core to stop urban sprawl, voting for 764 Waterloo Street to be demolished is senseless. The Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District celebrates the diversity of historic architecture in our neighbourhood. Please support this neighbourhood heritage house and our neighbourhood itself by turning down the request to demolish 764 Waterloo Street.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Buck and Brian O'Neill  
336 St. James St.  
London ON