

Dear Ms. Bunn,

Please find pasted below a message I sent to Heather Lysynski this evening.

RSemmens

Dear Ms. Lysynski and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee,

I write to convey my strongest opposition to the above proposal, before you on August 24, 2015. Perhaps the feature of downtown London that makes it unique among Canadian cities is its wonderful mixture of historical buildings and modern edifices. That confrontation is in many ways a perfect celebration of our reverence for the London of old, and our excitement about the future. Compromising either player in that confrontation, it seems to me, renders the celebration quite imperfect. That is precisely the compromise at issue here. But there is more: one of the the buildings proposed for demolition has a Priority 1 Heritage designation, and two have Priority 2. That wonderful row of buildings (former homes) has been recognized as historically significant! That fact cannot be argued, nor should it be ignored. It is simply a fact.

What on earth is the point of having Heritage designations if they can be overturned in an instant?

Across from my condominium complex is a rental building of fairly recent construction (I'd estimate it is ten to twelve years old now.) It is quite an attractive complex. Since its units became available for rent, it has never been fully occupied. There are several vacancies as I write. So why is a 28-storey new apartment complex, just a block away, so critical that it can result in the demolition of a fine specimen of heritage row housing?

I urge Committee members to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Richard Semmens, PhD

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