

From: Gino Nicodemo
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Mercier, Betty <bmercier@London.ca>
Subject: Regina Mundi College

Good Morning, Betty-

Last evening I attended Heritage London's AGM, at which Kyle Gonyou gave a presentation. Afterwards I spoke with him regarding my specific concern, and he indicated that you are the person to whom it should be presented. But I have been aware of London's heritage for many years:

Our first home upon returning to London in 1987 was on Albion Street, which runs south from Blackfriars. We quickly grew to appreciate the character and location of the area (including Blackfriars Bridge), and had the extensive modifications required to our home in anticipation of a second child not necessitated a move to our current dwelling, we would have preferred to remain there.

Also, and perhaps because of hearing the Lombardo band perform one summer evening across the river, soon after arriving in London I joined the Board of Directors on what was then the Guy Lombardo Museum. A few years later I took over as Chair of the Guy Lombardo Music Centre, initiating fundraising efforts such as a collection of Greatest Hits put out by Quality Records. I served in that capacity until the Centre's unfortunate demise (which, I daresay, was "orchestrated" by certain individuals).

After supply teaching there in the fall of 1987, in January, 1988 I began teaching full-time at Regina Mundi College, where I remained until my retirement in 2012. As you may (or may not) know, Regina Mundi has an extensive history. Originally founded as a Catholic Seminary in 1963, it served in that capacity until 1967. For the next twenty years it functioned as a boys' boarding school, providing accommodation and education to students literally from around the world. In 1987 it began the change to its current designation, i.e. co-ed secondary school.

For some reason(s), the London District Catholic School Board has never seen fit to acknowledge the school's legacy. The only contact maintained with former boarding-school students (including the son of a billionaire, which certainly could have facilitated fundraising efforts) has been an informal one, set up by these students, themselves. And the history of RMC was only brought to others' attention after I asked one of my English Media students to research this, for inclusion in a yearbook.

As Kyle mentioned during his presentation, certain buildings from the mid-20th century are now eligible for consideration as heritage facilities. RMC- especially the original structure, including its chapel- is not only worth preserving because of its architecture, but even more so because of its unique history. It is for this reason that I am requesting that Regina Mundi College be considered for designation as a Heritage site.

As for the manner in which the School Board has behaved, I have attached a letter which outlines my concerns in this regard. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gino Nicodemo