

Lysynski, Heather

From:
Sent: Saturday, September 24, 2011 3:10 PM
To: Lysynski, Heather
Cc: Baechler, Joni; jbyrant@london.ca; nancy2@nanbran.com
Subject: 764 Waterloo Street and the Bishop Hellmuth Community

Dear Members of the Built and Natural Environment Committee,

My family and I live on Hellmuth Avenue, in the heart of the Bishop Hellmuth Community. We have owned our home for five years, and we have one child who attends St. George's Public School and one child who attends the Montessori House of Children, both on Waterloo Street. We consider every person living within the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District to be our neighbours, whether we know them or not; and we do know and are friendly with many of them. This is a small, warm and welcoming, beautiful section of London. Residents take great pride in their homes, and our family is proud to be living here in a house that has graced this street since 1901.

When we walk our children to their respective schools every morning, we pass the house on 764 Waterloo Street. We see a house with great potential, a house that needs protection and renovation, not demolition and eradication. We see the southern edge of a RESIDENTIAL district, not the northern edge of a commercial district. Most importantly we see children - many children, from pre-school to high school - walking to their schools with their parents or friends and back to their homes in the afternoon, crossing an already very busy intersection of Oxford and Waterloo. That intersection will only become busier, more chaotic, and more dangerous, if residential zoning is pushed to become commercial zoning.

As someone who is trained in architecture, studying at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, and finishing my undergraduate degree at the Southern California Institute of Architecture, I developed deep admiration and appreciation for older houses. I have found that most people who choose to live in an historic district, likewise, cherish their centenarian homes because they are strong and sturdy, handsome and exquisite - and they are unique because their numbers are FINITE. The Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District was formed chiefly "to provide a resource for property owners to assist in the conservation of their heritage buildings". 764 Waterloo is a heritage building in a distinct heritage district.

Allowing 764 Waterloo to be knocked down and the site commercially developed would be shameful, disrespectful, and not mindful of why Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District was created in the first place. Demolition sets a poor precedent for ALL historic homes and districts in London, obliterating noteworthy buildings that reveal and celebrate our city's past. It would put our residential neighbourhood at risk for elements not suitable or safe to be near schools. Please respect and protect our neighbourhood. Respect and protect our properties. Respect and protect our homes. Respect and protect our children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer and Daniel Goldman