

Dear Heather Lysynski:

Please make sure that the following comments are made available to the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee to be held on Monday, July 18, 2016. I will not be at the meeting, but do wish to express my concerns regarding the request from the property owner of 129 Langarth Street East for the demolition of the building located on this listed heritage property.

Hear the concerns of a longtime resident of the block of Langarth Street between Wortley Road and Cathcart Street:

--the house at 129 Langarth East figures on the heritage list: the house is listed as an Ontario cottage; just next door to the west, at 127, is another Ontario cottage, also on the list; kitty-corner across Langarth Street, at 128, is another Ontario cottage on the heritage list. These three homes, with their charm, their pleasing situation on their respective lots, their mature trees (and a thriving newer tree in the front yard of 129: the City planted the tree to replace the massive old tree which went down in the big November windstorm of 2003) add to the harmonious feeling of what neighbours here call "our corner of the world."

--the Ontario cottage at 128 Langarth East has been my home for the last 37 years; the very thought that the attractive, well-maintained Ontario cottage kitty-corner across the way could be torn down is extremely distressing. Other neighbours as well are very upset: why should a comfortable home, a house for which many buyers seeking a place in Old South London would be happy to offer a very handsome price be threatened with demolition? The question is all the more pertinent because 129 is a listed heritage property.

--surely, the onus has to be on the supplicant to show solid reason why the house at 129 should come down. In no way should a property owner's plan to haul down a building on a listed heritage property with the intent--expressed or disguised--to put up a disproportionately large structure to try to sell for big bucks qualify as anything like sufficient reason for the City to grant a demolition permit.

--everyone involved with the request for the demolition of the Ontario cottage at 129 Langarth Street East needs to recognize what neighbours around here observe: homes in Old South that sit nicely on their lots and fit in with their surroundings sell very well; by contrast, houses that are outsized, with prices to match, may have that "For Sale" sign out front or that listing on kijiji for an uncomfortably long time. The builder may end up living in the huge structure by default when the dream (perhaps more of a nightmare now) languishes on the market for three years and more: look around--that's part of recent history in Old South London.

Thank you for your attention,

Nancy Moss  
128 Langarth Street East