

To: Mayor Matt Brown, all Councillors, Members of Planning & Environment Committee, City of London, Ontario

cc: Hon Eleanor McMahon MPP, Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Mike Bloxam, President Architectural Conservancy Ontario - London

Region

Sandra Miller, Communications Coordinator, Architectural Conservancy Ontario - London Region

Cathy Nasmith, President Architectural Conservancy Ontario

Rollo Myers, Manager, Architectural Conservancy Ontario

Elizabeth Quance, Branch Coordinator, Architectural Conservancy Ontario

from: Richard Longley, Past President (2013-2015) Architectural Conservancy Ontario

Re: WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SAVE CAMDEN TERRACE

Dear Mayor Brown, all Councillors, City of London, Ontario, Members of City of London Planning & Environment Committee,

I am sure you have seen the appeal to save **Camden Terrace** that is copied below. And I am sure that you understand better than I can, that London is an astonishingly beautiful city with a beauty that depends enormously on its wealth of remaining heritage assets, wealth that is at once historic, aesthetic, cultural *and* economic. (Economic? Where heritage is a leading attractor not only of tourists but of people - including young people, who yearn to live and work in heritage buildings and neighbourhoods and the companies that need to employ such people. You need proof of that? Ask the students of Western University.)

You must know also that London's heritage assets, its heritage buildings, structures, landscapes and neighbourhoods, have been eroded considerably in the past and with it, the quality of your city. And the process continues. (Google "demolish heritage London Ontario" to find a number of *present* threats to built heritage in your city, in addition to the threat to Camden Terrace.)

I urge you, please do all you can, to **save Camden Terrace** and when you consider the fate of that beautiful row of heritage buildings, mark the response of former Mayor Bob Bratina of Hamilton (when he was Mayor), to the demolition, in 2010, by the City of Brantford of 41 pre- and post-Confederation buildings on Colborne Street: *"That is the mark of a city that has lost its self-esteem"*.

Please do not allow that label be applied to the City of London. Your city has suffered abuse but it is still a beautiful city, in good part due to the presence of its remaining heritage assets, please do your best to keep it that way!

With regards,

Richard Longley, Past President

We Need Your Help to Save Camden Terrace!

[View this email in your browser](#)



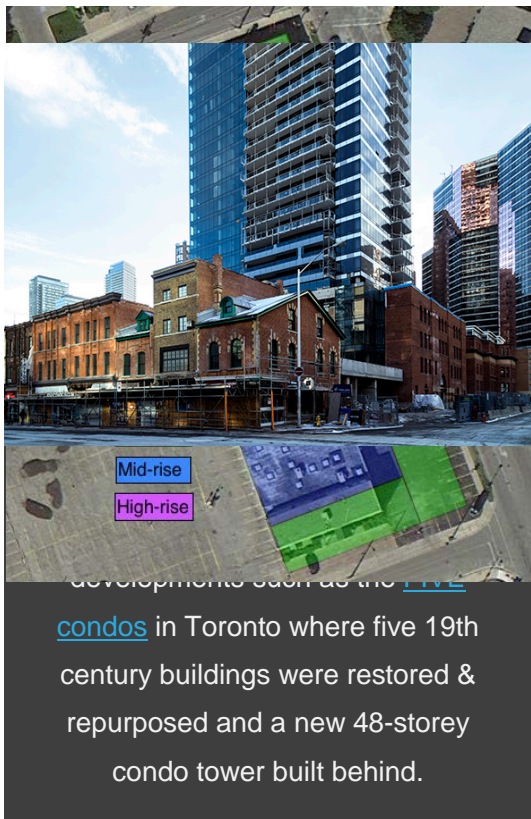
We need *your* help to save Camden Terrace!

Camden Terrace - a rare and historic Italianate terrace townhouse designed by prominent London architect / City Engineer [Samuel Peters Jr.](#) and the last remnant of 19th century residential architecture standing on the downtown stretch of Talbot Street North - is in **imminent danger of demolition by neglect.**

The development proposal coming to the Planning & Environment Committee on September 6th would see the **complete destruction** of Camden Terrace to build **two high-rises of 38 and 29 storeys** in its place.

Tell City Council that you want to see Camden Terrace conserved and creatively used as part of this project - [write or call councillors](#) with your support!

Show City Council that heritage must remain in the historic heart of London - JOIN US on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at the [Public Participation Meeting](#) where ANYONE can speak out in support.



Why this matters:

The [recent boom](#) in downtown high-rise development is bringing a welcome influx of residents and investment to the heart of our city but we *must* ensure that **new infill complements and respects the significant historic buildings**

we still have.

The City's own expert volunteer [Urban Design Peer Review Panel](#) unanimously called on the developer to **leverage Camden Terrace for its unique heritage value**, calling it “extraordinary” and “a real gem”, and comparing it to the upscale, [historic Yorkville district](#) of Toronto.

Conserving the main two-storey portion of Camden Terrace and demolishing the rear additions would still provide the developer with 85% of the lot to develop into multi-family, residential living.

The developer [still has approval](#) for a high-rise development at the South end of this block and **could begin building there tomorrow *without* destroying Camden Terrace.**

The developer is proposing a “commemoration” of elements salvaged from Camden Terrace. Such mawkish heritage tokenism towards our city's rich architectural history *cannot* be condoned nor encouraged.

[Coun. Phil Squire](#), Chair of the Planning & Environment Committee, made their position very clear [last November](#): “We were very strong saying **we expect a plan to come back and preserve those buildings.**” *Hold them to their word!*

Our competitors in nearby cities such as Kitchener/Waterloo and Hamilton are creatively incorporating heritage buildings into a wide variety of new developments. **We must demand better design for *our own city* instead of simply admiring others!**

Join us in calling for Camden Terrace to be fully designated under the

Ontario Heritage Act, and for the conservation and adaptive re-use of this historic building as a feature element in a landmark development.

Together we can save Camden Terrace for future generations.

Thank you for your support and your passion for London's heritage!