

From: Colin Duck
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 2:32 PM
To: Saunders, Cathy <csaunder@london.ca>
Subject: re: 172 Central Avenue request to demolish

Dear Councillors,

As I am unable to attend the Planning Committee meeting tonight I thought I would tell you why I oppose the demolition request & support the heritage designation of 172 Central Avenue.

Too often heritage buildings in London are seen as having secondary importance to money & flashy new development. Often when people/developers buy heritage buildings all they see as important is the property, rather than the benefits of retaining the heritage building & incorporating it into a development. Bringing heritage buildings up to code can be costly but the benefits of doing so are countless. It is an easy out for owners to say it will cost too much to retain a heritage building, but heritage buildings often last much longer than newer buildings (that have a limited life span).

This house at 172 Central Avenue is a unique structure that has significant cultural and architectural heritage value (of local & national importance) that would be lost if it was destroyed.

When will we as a community start saying enough is enough and start indicating that heritage has an important part to play in the future of our city? We recently lost the Cedars heritage home to fire, due to neglect & the indication of no interest in restoring it. How long before the next important heritage building in London mysteriously catches fire? This is an ideal opportunity to show that heritage matters & that we must value retaining heritage buildings just as much as encouraging new development.

I trust you will make the right decision tonight & deny the demolition request for 172 Central Avenue, & support the heritage designation of the same address.

Thanks for your time,

Colin Duck
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