



MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

KENHTEKE KANYEN'KEHÁ:KA

COMMUNITY SERVICES

24 Meadow Drive, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, ON K0K 1X0
Phone 613-396-3424 Fax 613-396-3627

July 10, 2018

Chair and Members, Planning and Environment Committee
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario
N6B 1Z2

Via Email: PEC@london.ca

Re: Request for Demolition - 172 Central Avenue, London, Ontario

Dear Chair and Members,

It has come to our attention that a request has been put forward to demolish the house located at 172 Central Avenue in London, Ontario. As this house is protected by the Ontario Heritage Act, this request will be considered, and a decision made, by Municipal Council.

I am writing to express our deep opposition to the demolition of this home as it once belonged to Dr. Oronhyatekha, a man of great importance to our community, and Indigenous people in Canada. He had family ties to both Six Nations of the Grand River and to the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ). His mother was Lydia Loft of the MBQ and his father was Peter Martin of Six Nations.

Dr. Oronhyatekha had a great many accomplishments during his life; in medicine, sports, politics, business and in writing. He was one of the first Indigenous physicians in Canada and particularly served our own community for a period of time. He also set up a practice in the Oneida community while he was living in London, at the very house that is under the threat of being demolished. He was a Wimbledon rifle champion participating on both the Canadian team and the Ontario team.

Dr. Oronhyatekha was the first Indigenous person to attend Oxford University, and graduated from the University of Toronto, where he received his degree in Medicine. He was also the first non-white member of the Independent Order of Foresters, a company he successfully transformed financially, and eventually

became its Supreme Chief Ranger. Some of this work being done while he resided in London in the 1880's.

You may not be aware that Dr. Oronhyatekha is a Canadian Figure of National Historic Significance. This great honour was bestowed in 2005 with a plaque installed at Christ Church, Her Majesty's Chapel Royal of the Mohawks here in Tyendinaga, his burial place.

Dr. Oronhyatekha was a bridge between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous worlds and an incessant supporter of the Mohawk language. There is a wealth of information both published and not, surrounding his diligent work and remarkable accomplishments during his lifetime. It would be a shame to see this beautiful home so rich in history demolished.

I respectfully ask you to carefully consider this request to not demolish the home of Dr. Oronhyatekha and to keep our opposition in mind when coming to a decision in this matter.

Sincerely,



Chief R. Donald Maracle
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

cc. Tyendinaga Mohawk Council
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport
The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage
College of Physicians & Surgeons Ontario
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Chief Ava Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River
Keith Jamieson
Iroquois Caucus