

From: Ben Benedict

Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:50 AM

To: Dent, Laura <ldent@london.ca>

Cc: Fleming, John M. <JmFlemin@london.ca>; Bunn, Jerri-Joanne <jbunn@London.ca>; Saunders, Cathy <csaunder@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Urgent: Please Read: Request for designation for 197 Ann Street

Importance: High

Dear Ms. Dent:

I live in the North Talbot Community on John Street, the oldest and most historically significant community in London. Many of us have been waiting patiently to have our community recognized as a Heritage Conservation District only to have it bypassed for heritage designation over and over again. While we wait, we lose more and more buildings of historical value undermining its very history. We are once again fighting to preserve some of the most significant heritage buildings that define not only this neighbourhood but London's history as a significant industrial area.

York Development is proposing to build a 28 story housing complex on the SE block of Ann and St. George St. (a former swamp next to very active train tracks, and designated for student use only – wreaking havoc on the local economy with over intensification for eight months and no local business support for the four summer months – how is this in our community's interest?). Therefore, I support the heritage designation of 197 Ann St. the site of the last remaining brewery in North Talbot - Kent Brewery. I also support the heritage designation of the 179 and 183 Ann St. - the homes of John and Joseph Hamilton - owners of Kent Brewery.

This end of North Talbot was home to Carling Brewery and Kent Brewery as well as a host of other mills along Carling Creek. The creek and adjacent pond provided both a source of energy, water and waste disposal for these industries - hence the street Mill St. Just south and west of this area were the mansions of these entrepreneurs and south of this site were the homes of the many employees of these industries.

The entire area tells a complete story and we no longer support preserving a tiny remnant of history here and there. Instead we want complete histories preserved so people can place faces to places and spark a true appreciation for the history of the city. We want the whole story told and preserved. **It is unique that the Hamilton Family lived next door to their business, whereas many other entrepreneurs chose to live in more affluent neighbourhoods. It is noteworthy that the "History of the County of Middlesex" first published in 1889 by Goodspeed states:**

W. A. & C. L. GOODSPEED, PUBLISHERS (p. 373) says of Kent Brewery:

"The premises form one of the oldest landmarks in the city, and are located on Ann Street.... The premises form one of the oldest landmarks in the city, and are located on Ann Street."

That comment was made in 1889. Therefore in 1889 Kent Brewery was already considered a historical landmark.

https://archive.org/stream/historyofcountyo00torouoft/historyofcountyo00torouoft_djvu.txt

The residents of North Talbot want the history of the community preserved as a whole. Time is running out.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this vital historical space.

Sincerely,

Ben Benedict

Benedict Creative Communications

188 John Street, London, ON, N6A 1P1

W: www.bcreative.ca

W: www.benbenedict.ca

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