

For the next meeting of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage

To help avoid another fiasco as has occurred with our national historic site at the old courthouse and gaol in London, an amendment to the *Ontario Heritage Act* is in order to protect the public interest.

An amendment whereby any municipally owned (including upper-tier municipalities such as Middlesex County) designated heritage properties cannot be sold without first consulting with the local heritage advisory committee (such as London's Advisory Committee on Heritage) and three (3) widely advertised notices for a public participation meeting being placed in daily or weekly newspapers, both online and in print.

The old courthouse was designated a National Historic Site under the federal *Historical Sites and Monuments Act* in 1955, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 1980 and the old gaol was designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 1986.

A heritage easement was registered on title of 399 Ridout Street North in 1981 by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Despite all this statutory protection, our national historic site at the river forks can still be compromised or worse, without constant monitoring in the hands of a private land developer. We've all seen it several times before.

Barry Wells

London ON

* Named to the Mayor's New Years' Honours List for Heritage in 2006

* Member, London Advisory Committee on Heritage, 1995-1998

* Board member, London Heritage Foundation, 1995-1998.