

Hello to all committee members.

Firstly, let me thank you for your work and attention to these issues during a time when so many other very important matters lay before every one of us.

To introduce myself, I am a co-founder of the Forked River Brewing Company. I have lived in London since coming to Western in 1991, proceeding through a graduate degree in Microbiology and Immunology, subsequently making this wonderful community a home for our family, and starting a small business here in 2013 with my two business partners.

Living for a number of years at the forks of the Thames, and in the area around Ann Street as well, I could not help but absorb the importance of some of the nearby landmarks, buildings and areas of historical note.

My partners and I wanted to name our brewery after something deeply identified with London. Our goal was to build the first microbrewery in London since the Glatt Brothers started their short-lived brewery in the mid-1990s and we felt that we must connect with our customers in a way that was relevant to both the future and history of brewing in Canada. We went through many names and finally settled on Forked River Brewing, as a nod not just to the gathering spot that Londoners would flock to during summer festivals but to also reflect the importance of the forks of the Thames on Canadian brewing history.

Many of our beers also reflect this attention to London's heritage. From our *Capital Blonde Ale*, referring to the vision of London as the future capital of Upper Canada, to *Lord Simcoe's Revenge* and *Queen's Ranger*, IPAs which celebrate the work and goals of John Graves Simcoe. The list goes on from there. We also celebrate the work and accomplishments of modern-day Londoners, collaborating with remarkable locals and working with them to shine light on causes and promote good in our community.

Tying our proverbial horses to the rich history in London, both in brewing and in other notable aspects of building our young nation, has given us a lot of pride. We have always felt that we, as Londoners, have a lot to commemorate and display to the world. In our short seven years of operation, I believe that we have done much to promote London as well as helping to support the other microbreweries that have followed in our footsteps in years since. Would we be here without the sense of pride and community spirit given to us by the local history and landmarks? Perhaps; however, we would be a different company and, perhaps, it wouldn't mean as much to Londoners. Taking the time and allocating the resources to preserve and honour the historically significant sites in London can reap rewards unseen at the outset. As a scientist at heart, I feel that the pursuit and value of curiosity and knowledge are rewarded in ways that can't be foreseen.

My partners and I feel deeply that supporting locally-produced goods is also inherently worthwhile. As connected as we may be, we remain in a world that can be cut-off from resources unexpectedly. Relying on our neighbours to produce our own food and goods is an important aspect often lost in our increasingly global society. I'd like you to support the preservation of touchstones that can show our residents what we used to do: live a life with a smaller circle in which our acts reflect back positively on our community.

By designating these sites as a valuable chapter in London's history you may not simply be shining a light back on our history, but that light may reflect back and inspire modern Londoners to undertake endeavours they hadn't considered before.

Thank you for letting myself, someone in the brewing industry with a keen interest in supporting our shared heritage, speak on behalf of these important sites.

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