

From: Mary Dowds
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 4:41 PM
To: PEC <pec@london.ca>
Cc: Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for demolition - 954 Gainsborough Road

Dear Committee Secretary -

I am writing to express my objection to an application for demolition of buildings at 954 Gainsborough Road.

I am a resident of a property near 954 Gainsborough Road. 954 Gainsborough Road, located near the intersection of Hyde Park Road and Gainsborough Road, contributes in a valuable way to the disappearing cultural heritage of the area. The house at 954 Gainsborough Road is constructed in an architectural style known as Ontario Farmhouse. It is one of a limited number of such heritage buildings in the Hyde Park area and it is vital that these structures be preserved. Currently, farmland in and around the Hyde Park area is being converted into generic subdivisions, strip malls and, sadly, oversized residential towers.

The Ontario Ministry of Heritage website states: "Planning for the future of a strong, vibrant community requires knowledge of the past and an understanding of what we value in the present. Existing buildings, structures and landscapes often define a community's unique identity and give it a character and a sense of place." Buildings such as those at 954 Gainsborough Road, indeed, give our Hyde Park community a unique and irreplaceable identity; without them, our neighbourhood would be bereft of character and our heritage and history lost forever.

I urge your Committee to deny this request for demolition and see that this and other remaining heritage structures in the Hyde Park/Northwest London area are preserved. Once lost, buildings such as this, along with our heritage, will be gone forever. Please exercise wise stewardship and preserve these heritage structures, along with our community's unique character and history.

Sincerely,
Mary Dowds