

London City Council

Re: Public Partition Meeting, March 1, 2021
Proposed Demolition of 93-95 Dufferin Avenue

Dear London Council Members

I write this letter in support of the North Talbot Neighborhood Association who oppose the demolition of 93-95 Dufferin Avenue.

My wife and I came to London in 1969 and found a city kind to our plans to locate in this city and to establish a business.

In 1969 we rented a Victoria era building/storefront at 451 Dundas Street and opened Ann McColl's Kitchen Shop. We rented the property, but that didn't stop us from making repairs inside and outside the building, even purchasing and installing wooden storm windows from a wreckers. A building that looked dilapidated and rundown began a new life as our shop and residence. My wife and I are proud to say that that building continues to supply life to that part of town as a retail store. There was a mini-complex of supportive shops in that area including Anderson's Art Store and the Auberge du Petit Prince. A little village developed. We had many artists visit our place of business because of its proximity to Beal and the art store. Paterson Ewen Greg Curnoe, Ron Martin, Brian Jones and many others were frequent visitors.

We next moved in 1972 to 623 Richmond Street. Richmond Row came later, but we were part of the catalyst that gave birth to that shopping street. 623 Richmond, again a 19th century building (we have the original plans), was purpose-built as a storefront/residence. Its attractive architecture reminded us of similar small stores we saw on a yearlong trip to Europe and the UK. Especially appealing was the corner entrance supported by a post which had a distinctive Victorian look. Our business made its name for itself at 623. We soon found other buildings along Richmond Street were being renovated by small business/entrepreneurs and Richmond Row was born.

Next we moved to 350 Talbot Street, a three story former industrial building that formerly housed the Massey-Harris farm machinery company. The building was in sad disrepair, but only cosmetically. It was a good solid building and took well to our repairs. It is a building that would have been torn down as a result of negligence, but it stands solidly today, a reminder of a past time, but still able to continue on and offering an unique architectural style. That area around Talbot Street did not develop as Richmond Row did, but it still had an ambiance and character that the buildings and shops, including the market, gave.

Heritage has been kind and given an opportunity to my wife and myself. We designated 623 Richmond Street and 350 Talbot Street. Talbot, as the former Massey-Harris location has a descriptive plaque outside. We also designated

our present residence at 510 Princess Avenue and, a house we briefly owned across the street, 507 Princess Avenue.

My wife and I came to London and found wonderful opportunities to found a business and find a place to live, all made possible by the existing affordable buildings available. We tapped into a fondness and interest in Victorian architecture for the ambiance it provides and it gave us an uniqueness which contributed to our success.

Heritage proved meaningful and useful to us and still does.

Yours sincerely,
David Lindsay
510 Princess Avenue
London ON