

329 Victoria Street
London, Ontario
N6A 2C6

May 10, 2021

Members of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH)
through Jerri Bunn, Committee Secretary – jbunn@london.ca

Dear LACH members:

Re: Demolition Request for the Garage at 325 Victoria Street

We own, and live in, the heritage-designated property at 329 Victoria Street that abuts 325 Victoria Street on the east side.

We are writing to inform you of our concerns regarding the application to demolish the two-car garage that sits directly on the shared property line between 329 and 325 Victoria Street. In the interests of maintaining a good ongoing relationship with our neighbours, we have decided not to oppose the demolition application. However, we respectfully request that LACH recommend to the PEC and Council that conditions be placed on any demolition approval in order to mitigate – to the extent possible – the adverse impact that the demolition will have on our heritage-designated property.

As Ms. Dent's report points out, the garage is original to the property at 325 Victoria Street. It was built approximately 90 years ago. It is one car wide and two cars deep. Its stucco east wall, approximately 35 feet long, has always been our favourite part of our back yard.

Previous owners of 329 Victoria Street planted an extensive garden on the west side of our yard, in front of that garage wall. In that garden (with stems approximately 15 inches from the garage, and branches growing up the garage wall) are two large climbing roses that have been in place for decades. They were very, very large when we moved into our home in 1996. There are other rose bushes, rhododendrons, iris, and some smaller plants also in close proximity to the garage that – to us – are irreplaceable. They are part of the history of our home.

To mitigate the adverse impact of the demolition on our property, we respectfully ask that the following two conditions be placed on any demolition approval that may be granted:

- That our neighbours be required to give us sufficient and specific notice of the demolition schedule in order to permit us to make arrangements for our plants to be temporarily transplanted out of harm's way before work begins.
- That we be reimbursed for the costs associated with this transplanting and replanting.

We were disappointed that Ms. Dent's report did not acknowledge the proximity of the garage to our heritage-designated property. However, as noted above, we are not opposing the demolition application. We only ask that our neighbours be required to mitigate the adverse impact on our property as outlined above.

Given the importance of this issue to us, we would like to formally request delegation status so that we can speak to the LACH when this matter is discussed at your May 12 meeting.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Bruce Jones and Kelley McKeating
329 Victoria Street
London, Ontario N6A 2C6