

From: Genet Hodder
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 8:40 AM
To: PEC <pec@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ridout Restoration Buildings

Dear Mayor Holder and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee,

The restoration on Ridout Street of historic buildings that formed London's original financial district has been a multifold blessing. It demonstrated that a development can be adapted to contemporary needs without ignoring its historic base. It shone a spotlight on our city's historic heart--including the old courthouse, the Forks of the Thames, and Eldon House-- and energized a movement to put a halt to development at the expense of heritage.

During what was known as the Labatt Restoration because of the largesse and wisdom of the John Labatt company to restore and build its executive offices there, three original historic buildings were placed on new foundations, the old floor structures replaced by reinforced concrete, and the exterior bricks restored. A large functional four-story office building was built, dropping down the hill behind, but totally invisible from the street.

The magic is that the development did not call attention to itself but adapted to the landscape and honoured the underlying history. In what universe would anyone think that a 40 story building rising behind the existing buildings and next to the Thames River would be appropriate?

I encourage you as political leaders to honour our city's history and vote against this proposed development.

Genet Hodder