

15 August 2013

To: Mayor Joe Fontana – Mayor of London
Judy Bryant – Ward 13 Councillor
Members of the Planning and Environment Committee
Councillor – Bud Polhill
Councillor – Nancy Branscombe
Councillor – Dale Henderson
Councillor – Paul Hubert
Councillor – Sandy White
Don Menard – London Advisory Committee on Heritage

**RE: London, Ontario (Blackfriars Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation Study By-law)
89 Wilson Avenue, London, Ontario**

I am writing to you as a concerned mother and resident of London for 55 years. Both of my children currently reside in their fathers home (Michael Horley) at 89 Wilson Avenue, London, Ont. He himself lives in Kincardine, Ontario. The roof at 89 Wilson was in dire need of repair, while these repairs were being done a dormer was being added. The work at 89 Wilson Ave has now been halted (for weeks) due to the by-law pertaining to the heritage study currently being conducted in the Blackfriars area. As I understand it, no work requiring a permit is allowed to be done on any house in the area for the next year and a half while the heritage study is being performed by Don Menard, the heritage planner for the city of London. While I understand that perhaps the start of this was ill-timed by the owner (my ex) what you must appreciate is that there are 3 people whose lives have been turned upside down by the absolute standstill of this project. My son, his girlfriend and my daughter, so as you can see this hits me close to home. They have had to leave their home and have become pretty much homeless and live out of a backpack wandering from home to home wherever they can lay their heads at night. They all work full time and this is affecting an enormous amount of pressure on them – financially and emotionally; this is also causing everyone around them pain and anguish – all of us taxpaying residents of London! I find it inconceivable that everyone responsible for the work being halted does not seem to give a hoot or care about the personal consequences that they have inflicted upon the tenants at 89 Wilson Avenue. No one seems to be willing to work with the owner of the home to expedite a solution so these young adults can get on with their lives and become productive and taxpaying citizens of this fair city. Is it in the London Heritage mandate to make people homeless because someone didn't follow protocol? Is it really **SO** difficult for any of you to assist us so life can get back to normal for my children.

Work on the dormer has been halted at 89 Wilson Ave, and the owner has been ordered to return the house to its former condition under threat of legal action. However, he also been informed by several building inspectors that the house does not meet current building codes and that we must continue with our renovations in order for the house to be livable and safe. My ex-husband, the owner of 89 Wilson Ave, is perfectly willing to take on these renovations in order to protect and improve his house and investment, as well as the lives of his children. Astonishingly, he has been told, without exception that he is not allowed to. I don't even think Mr. Menard came to the house to look at it and apparently he believes that 'the process' is the most important thing in all of this. Yes – please protect the past but there are people in the present who need their City Hall to work for them right here and NOW.

I am asking you all too please reconsider your decision regarding the work being done at 89 Wilson Ave. Let the work continue with the desperately needed renovations so that the home is improved and 3 people lives can continue. At the very least can someone use some common sense and come to a solution whereas the residents of that home can live there and not have to beg, borrow a place to 'crash' every night. Can you please find some way to put PEOPLE before the by-law?

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