

From: Daniella Horley

Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2013 10:02 PM

To: Bryant, Judy

Subject: 89 Wilson Ave, London Ont

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of 89 Wilson Ave. As you may already be aware, the construction of a dormer that was being undertaken at 89 Wilson Ave has been forcibly halted due to the existing 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.

In addition to being a resident of the Blackfriars area I am also an archaeologist. Since 2002 I have been employed at D.R. Poulton & Associates Inc., a cultural resource management firm that conducts archaeological surveys and excavations in southern Ontario. As an archaeologist, I completely sympathize with the need for a heritage study of the Blackfriars area, it is probably well over due. I will also be the first to defend any preservation efforts of historic London areas. However, as a resident of a house that is in desperate need of repairs and renovations, I cannot fathom how no one has tried to reach a solution that allows both the heritage study and the construction on 89 Wilson Ave to continue with limited interruption.

In addition to being a resident of 89 Wilson Ave, I am also the daughter of the owner and landlord (Michael Horley), and the sister of the tenant (Christopher Horley) who lives in the upper unit of the house. This entire incident has left all of us feeling very angry and frustrated. Worst of all, it has left my brother and his girlfriend (Katie Norman) without a home in which to live. Everyone who is responsible for the work being halted does not seem to care about the personal consequences that they have inflicted upon the tenants. No one seems to be willing to work with us to find a solution, it seems that the only thing anyone is willing to do is threaten us with legal action and homelessness.

In the next year and half, there will be residents in the Blackfriars area who need to have work done on their houses. Most likely there will not be many, but for those requiring work I think there should be an expedited review process that would enable them to declare their house as a non-heritage home and allow them to obtain any permit they might need. As an archaeologist who has done vast amounts of historical research I would even be willing to volunteer my services in order for these expedited reviews to occur in a timely fashion. Instead of serving a PROCESS you should be serving the PEOPLE of this ward.

Work on the dormer has been halted at 89 Wilson Ave, and we have been ordered to return the house to its former condition under threat of legal action (regardless of the fact that it is possible to judge the heritage status of this house without those drastic measures being enforced). However, we have 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 father, 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. Unbelievably, you have told him, without exception, that he is not allowed to do these things.

89 Wilson was built in 1903 and an addition was added in 1928, with major renovations being done to both the interior and exterior throughout the years since then. I do not believe it to be a heritage home, and I am sure if the heritage planner was willing to take the time to visit our house in person he would agree with that assessment. If that were the case, all that would be left would be for you to issue a permit allowing for the necessary renovations to take place in order to make our run-down and decaying house a truly wonderful home.

I would ask you to please reconsider your decision regarding the work being done at 89 Wilson Ave. Please let us continue with our desperately needed renovations so that we may improve our home and our lives, you cannot imagine how horribly inconvenient and burdensome this entire debacle has been to our family. I would also ask you to please consider how this hugely restrictive by-law is negatively effecting the citizens of this wonderful neighbourhood. A home is not an artifact to be locked behind glass in a museum, it does not exist in stasis, it is an ever-changing and continuing piece of history, where people create memories and build lives together. Please help and allow us to do so.

Thank you,

Daniella Horley

PS. I have attached pictures of 89 Wilson Ave and the dormer in question.