

Attention: Town of Newmarket Heritage Advisory Committee

I attended your meeting of November 5, 2019 and would like to share my thoughts with you regarding items on your agenda.

The third floor addition of the building housing the Little Brew Hops at 209 Main Street South could be problematic due to its foundation and this question was posed by Gordon, one of the committee members. The foundation is rubblestone, which is very delicate and most of the buildings on Main Street have this very old style, which was used up until around 1905. Not only could 209 Main suffer difficulty but it could also impact on adjacent buildings. You may want to have an architect or engineer specializing in heritage buildings address your committee or request that the Town consult one.

The concern over the properties on the west side of Main Street is the same. When the developer removed the building adjacent to the Clocktower without Town permission or a demolition permit, it endangered the other buildings in that block, once again buildings with very delicate rubblestone foundations. There are a few issues around what Bob Forrest, the developer, did and I was hoping that you would raise your concerns to the Town. There is also a great deal of information on this controversial failed development.

What actions will the Town take against the developer to make sure that consequences are severe enough that other developers will not repeat this? Is this an illegal act, is it criminal, have the proper legal authorities been involved? What safeguards are in place to protect the adjacent buildings? Why does Mr. Forrest have his properties for sale even though there is an investigation by the Town and there is a Stop Work Order in place?

The Liberty Tree is designated as a heritage site. It is important for it to be protected or it will die. The paved parking lot should be removed as soon as possible. Has an arbourist been consulted on what needs to be done? Will the weight of parked cars negatively impact on its roots?

Members of the Newmarket branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario were in attendance last night. We hope that you will be a proactive voice to request and make recommendations to the Town in order to safeguard our rich local heritage.

Elaine Adam