

Deputation to Newmarket Council re: Clock Tower Development

I am in favour of the Clock Tower development. Main Street, Newmarket has the potential to be a true main street but it needs more people living in the downtown core to make that happen. When we chose to move to Newmarket we chose to live within easy walking distance of Main Street. We were gambling that Main Street was going to become a true main street as it once was; a main street with enough variety of businesses so that we would not have to use our car to meet our needs. So far, that gamble has not paid off but the Clock Tower development has the potential to make Main Street into a living main street. Bringing 150 units to the downtown core and offering some really nice new retail space the Clock Tower development would help to revitalize Main Street.


People choosing to live in the downtown want the lifestyle offered by a main street. They want to walk whenever possible. They will support the Main Street existing businesses and provide a larger customer base to attract new businesses of greater variety than already exist. This revitalized Main Street will attract more people who already live in the area. In other words, Main Street will get to be more like the Main Street of old. That's a real legacy. Preserving buildings without ensuring vitality isn't much of a legacy. The Clock Tower development preserves the Clock Tower, improves the streetscape immediately to the south in keeping with the heritage look and brings much needed residents to the downtown.

I know there are concerns about parking if more people live on/near Main Street but I don't believe the Clock Tower development will cause any greater problems than already exist. I am sure the Town Council already knows about the parking issues and is searching for solutions. (Killing Main Street would solve the parking problems but that solution makes no sense.) I believe that the parking provided by the Clock Tower development will be more than adequate for the new residents. As I said before, people choosing to live near Main Street will be people like me. We want to walk. We aren't looking for the quick dash to the 400 series highways. We can manage just fine with only one car. Proximity to the Go Train Station is a plus for us too. It's just a nice walk and then a pleasant trip to Toronto. It was certainly a factor in our decision to move to the Main Street area of Newmarket.

The Clock Tower development will help the town in many other ways too. Aside from the obvious increase in tax revenues the residential units will help Newmarket reach its intensification targets. Also, the Clock Tower development on Main Street protects/enhances the heritage goals while, at the same time, helps to achieve the sustainability goals of the town. I don't even like to think what will happen to Main Street if the Clock Tower development doesn't go through. There is already too much empty and/or run down property on/near Main Street.

The history of Newmarket is important. Newmarket's heritage is important. But, history and heritage don't mean nothing should change. Main Street has changed a lot since my grandmother attended Newmarket High School in the early 1900s. A lot of those changes were for the better and were needed to suit a newer time. Unfortunately, more recent changes have not been for the better and Main Street doesn't now suit the times. We have a real opportunity to preserve Main Street by making it vital. Let's not miss our chance.

Sincerely,



Peggy Stevens

, Newmarket