

April 26th, 2016,

Karen Stiege

Newmarket, Ontario

Mayor and Council,

I have been a resident of Newmarket for 27 years and my husband was born and raised here. We live in close proximity to Main Street. I have worked in three different locations on Main Street over the past 27 years. All of the stores were very inviting and had character and charm however the buildings were a nightmare. Structural problems, out dated electrical work and plumbing and a never ending problem of leaky roofs and flooded basements. Years of neglect and absentee landlords have taken their toll especially on the block of buildings south of the Clock Tower Inn.

I personally leased the unit right beside the Clock Tower for 10 years. I faced a great number of health and safety issues undisclosed at the time I leased the building. I encountered faulty wiring, waterlogged ceilings which collapsed at least once a year. Black mould and asbestos are common in these buildings. The giant stone chimney collapsed and fell to the pedestrian sidewalk below. Water was always seeping through the fieldstone walls in the basement creating 3 inch mud pools on the dirt floors and causing the furnace to stop working. The Fire Department visited regularly. The apartments above have been condemned for years however that did not stop squatters, transients and drug addicts from breaking in and living there. I have witnessed drug deals, people urinating at the backs of the buildings, and garbage being dumped in between the buildings. I know of at least one sexual assault that occurred in the abandoned apartments upstairs.

This does not paint a very pretty picture of Main Street but then some parts of Main Street are not pretty. I would welcome complete demolition of the buildings from The Clock Tower down to the old Lemon Lime store. These buildings are derelict and in complete disrepair. The Street will always hold treasured memories but these buildings must go. They are unsafe and dilapidated and of no historical value. If they aren't taken down soon they will fall down a good wind would blow them over. They are an eyesore and detract from our Historical Main Street.

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