

Mr. Mayor & Members of Council
Town of Newmarket
c/o Town Clerk

May 6, 2016

Dear Mr. Mayor & Members of Council:

As you are well aware, the plans for redevelopment of the Clock Tower on Main St. have been met with mixed reactions in our community. While I fully support each individual's right to their own opinion, I must strongly urge Council to look at this issue based on *fact* and not *emotion or personal bias*.

To not move forward with the redevelopment of the Clock Tower would be an irresponsible decision that will gravely impact our wonderful town. You are well aware of the undeniable benefits that this new development would bring:

- Improving the vitality of Main St. which will attract new business and tourism for Newmarket
- Addressing Newmarket's serious lack of housing accommodation for young residents and the desire for housing availability in Old Newmarket
- Architectural plans to maintain Newmarket's downtown heritage character and add additional parking spaces

As a recent university graduate, I would like to stress the importance for Council to come up with a viable solution for all individuals like myself who are committed Newmarket residents, yet are unable to afford to live in our town because of a lack of dwelling space for unmarried individuals (i.e. lack of non-traditional condo housing). The redeveloped Clock Tower would be a perfect solution to this problem.

Additionally, speaking as an Historian (however, in no way representing the Newmarket Historical Society), I see absolutely *no threat* to Newmarket's history, heritage, or culture by redeveloping the Clock Tower. On the contrary, I believe a revitalization will draw more residents and visitors to our Historic Main St. who will engage in local heritage initiatives and visit the Elman W. Campbell Museum.

Additionally, to claim that redeveloping the Clock Tower will result in a loss of "four blocks of history...of national importance," is merely a biased opinion, in no way representing historical fact. In its current state, the footprint of the Clock Tower does not represent the history of the first female pharmacist, the outbreak of the 1837 Rebellion of Upper Canada, or the Robinson Treaties. In the same way that revitalizing the Old Town Hall has (and will) result in more of Newmarket's history being shared, redeveloping the Clock Tower will provide an opportunity for Council to work with the Newmarket Historical Society and A.R.C.H. to create important historical plaques to capture this history and educate the Town of Newmarket.

I trust that as public servants representing our wonderful town, you will think logically and make the best decision for Newmarket.

Sincerely,



Erin Cerenzia
Ward 1