

# HTG-23-43

From: AnnMarie Snider <M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>  
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 9:21 PM  
To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>  
Subject: Please add to correspondence section Heritage Oshawa Agenda

Dear Heritage Oshawa Committee

This letter is in regards to item HTG 23-33 on the agenda for May 25th 2023

As a huge heritage supporter I am concerned for the fate of yet another Oshawa Heritage building up for demolition in the city of Oshawa.

Whilst I recognize that not all Heritage can be saved, I am a firm believer that the former Robert McLaughlin house has strong merit to be partially re-constructed and that some of its Heritage attributes SHOULD be preserved .

Full demolition and a similar reconstruction/appearance to the original structure is simply NOT good enough and further investigation into the viability of some of its remaining heritage attributes should be seriously re-considered.

This owner has deliberately over time ignored any repairs to this house after the fire , and has simply let it rot away. failed attempts to band-aid the roof after the fire have gone untouched and prolonged neglect is apparent. This is why we are where we are today. Should the proper action in regards the preservation of the houses' heritage attributes post-fire had been taken and promptly addressed in conscience to preserve any remaining intact parts of the structure, surely we would have been in better position today. More of the house could have been saved.

I support Dean Hickeys' HTG 23-42 rendition of a possible reconstruction of the house facade and I urge Heritage Oshawa committee members to DENY the owner's / Nantucket Investments recommendation to fully demolish the house TODAY.

Please recommend to Economic and Development Services Committee and Council:

“That, pursuant to HTG-23-33 dated May 19, 2023, the Section 34 application to demolish the Robert McLaughlin House at 195 Simcoe Street North be recommended for denial under Section 34 of the Ontario Heritage Act.”

Please find it on your heritage hearts to give the Robert McLaughlin house one last chance to be partially saved, and thoughtfully review and consider the correspondence and drawings proposed by Dean Hickey.

Thank You

AnnMarie Snider

## HTG-23-43

From: Margaret RODGERS <M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>  
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 8:19 AM  
To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>  
Cc: Jocelyn Shaw <M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>; Marg Wilkinson <M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>  
Subject: McLaughlin house

Offering my concerns about the demolition of yet another piece of our collective history. Watching this property deliberately degrade over many years has been a blight on the neighbourhood and a disgrace at many levels.

I urge council to deny the demolition permit.

Please forward my protest.

Thank you

Margaret Rodgers

# HTG-23-43

From: Ramona McDonald <M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>  
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 9:36 PM  
To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>  
Subject: Robert McLaughlin House - Simcoe Street, Oshawa

Good evening,

It is my understanding that

Dean Hickey has submitted correspondence in regards to the Robert McLaughlin house on the Heritage Oshawa agenda for Thursday May 25th.

It is also my understanding that the owner of McLaughlin House, along with Nantuck Investments is proposing FULL DEMOLITION of the Robert McLaughlin house.

The excuse for demolition is due to the extent of the fire damage and that the entire facade can NOT be saved and that the whole thing must be demolished.

I believe that neglect and disrepair (as well as the fire) has directly caused the building's state.

However, Dean Hickey's renditions of how partial house facade could be redesigned should be considered and a second option should be sought.

Please reconsider fully demolishing the structure of McLaughlin House.

It holds great history for this city.

In an era of quick and disposable, let us remember and celebrate our history.

Let us be different this time. Let us celebrate our heritage.

Sincerely,

Ramona-Lisa McDonald  
Oshawa resident and concerned citizen

<M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>, Oshawa  
Email: <M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>

# HTG-23-43

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

To: Heritage Oshawa MHC

Re: HTG 23-33 — Robert McLaughlin House

Dear Heritage Oshawa Committee Members:

I am writing to support your Committee's decision to reject the proposal to demolish Robert McLaughlin House at 195 Simcoe St. N.

After years of evidence being submitted, I hope that Heritage Oshawa has been fully apprised of the value of this property to Oshawa and well beyond. It is the only remaining residence of Robert McLaughlin, the father of Colonel R.S. McLaughlin and arguably one of the main reasons for the growth and success of this city. Numerous reports, books, articles, talks, etc. confirm this fact.

Also incontrovertible is the fact that Mr. Chhangur, the current owner of Robert McLaughlin House, has been planning its demolition for many years; this is only his latest application to that effect. The City's previous response was, appropriately, to designate the property under Part IV of the *Heritage Act*. Unsurprisingly, Mr. Chhangur appealed this designation to the Ontario Land Tribunal, where he has repeatedly delayed all attempts at a hearing to resolve the matter.

Meanwhile, his lack of maintenance and evident neglect of the home led directly to the fire in April of 2019, and hence to its current condition. Mr. Chhangur was issued several orders under the municipal Property Standards by-laws, orders that he ignored or barely met; these are now before the courts. Meanwhile, the house has been left to rot and further degrade, the large hole in the roof only occasionally covered by a flimsy tarp; although the assessment report states restoration would be expensive, it does not rule it out as an option. Again unsurprising that Mr. Chhangur would not choose that option.

Heritage Oshawa and the City have heard from many upset citizens over the years—including Mr. McLaughlin's great-granddaughter—who are appalled at the state of the house, what its ongoing neglect says to residents and visitors about the City's attitude to our irreplaceable heritage properties, and the fact that its owner shows no interest in maintaining it, let alone preserving or restoring it. Several have made thoughtful proposals for its use and restoration, including Mr. Hickey (HTG 23-42). We appeal to you again now to keep these options open and to compel Mr. Chhangur to live up to his responsibilities to this key property and to the city it represents.

To permit the demolition that Mr. Chhangur has been actively seeking for years is to confirm that this pattern of demolition by neglect and the attendant disrespect of local heritage and the concerns of Oshawa's residents is a viable solution for owner-developers whose only interest in their properties is profit. They just want to clear the land of inconvenient obstructions so this can be accomplished. This would be an extremely dangerous precedent for this City to set. Demolition by neglect is already a

## HTG-23-43

scourge in many historic areas; to reward this behaviour is to guarantee more of the same.

Oshawa is currently planning for its centennial. No one can deny the importance of Robert McLaughlin to the city's history and to this event. I cannot be the only person to wonder how this municipality can claim to support and celebrate its heritage and the citizens that created it by organizing a centennial to mark that heritage and by designating the Robert McLaughlin House— while contemplating tearing down that same house and heritage.

Therefore, I call upon the Committee to avoid setting such a dangerous precedent and to fulfill its role of advising Council on properties of cultural heritage value by denying this developer permission to demolish a property that is highly significant to both the City and its centennial.

Thank you,

J.A. Clark