



July 29, 2024

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and Council
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Road
PO Box 100
Virgil, Ontario
L0S 1T0

Re: Heritage Protection: Yes or No?

Dear Lord Mayor and Council:

At the July 30th Council meeting you will be asked to approve ZBA-05-2024/CDS 24-104, a severance application for 187 Queen Street. The property in question is:

- Designated under Part IV of the Heritage Act (land and building);
- Specifically mentioned in the Bray Estate Lot study as an estate lot of interest; and
- Arguably the best example of the cultural heritage landscape that Section 7 of our Official Plan is designed to protect.

At the same time, the Town has embarked on a process to consider expansion of the heritage district (as set out in the Strategic Plan and noted by the majority of Council as a key element of your election platforms) as well as encouraging a number of residents to consider heritage designation of their homes.

Why?

If the heritage protections in place at 187 Queen (since 2002), can simply be overlooked at the request of a subsequent owner, the effort to designate is meaningless. How will the Town assure a resident who might currently be considering designation, that these protections will remain in place? Further, what is the point of engaging resources to study an enlarged heritage district, a study that is soon to be launched, when existing and designated heritage resources are being forsaken? It seems a greater degree of consistency is needed with respect to heritage and a strong message needs to be sent if heritage remains as a key component of your Strategic Plan.

PRESERVING NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE'S
HERITAGE SINCE 1962
PO Box 790
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Ontario, L0S 1J0

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Council appears to have reached a Rubicon moment. When you meet on July 30th to render a decision on this application, please ask yourselves: Is heritage important to the community and should certain protections—meaningful, consistent protections—exist? Yes or No?

Thank you for your consideration

Yours very truly,

The Niagara Foundation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lyle Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lyle Hall
Chair