



To: Mayor Bentley and Members of Council

Wednesday December 13, 2017

I am writing regarding Planning Report PA 17-33 concerning property at 314 Main St. East, along the "Main St. East Cultural Heritage Landscape" of the Town of Grimsby.

I was saddened, shocked, and disappointed to read this report and its recommendation this morning, and was sorry to have missed attending the Planning Committee Meeting last evening where presumably it was discussed.

It is my understanding that there is a preponderance of associative and contextual significance with this property, not only from an agricultural perspective, but also from the earliest beginnings of municipal government in Upper Canada. Captain John Moore UEL, was not European, as the report says, he was a politically astute, participating, well to do, influential, American. While still residing in the Thirteen Colonies, he was one of the original framers / delegates of what would later become the American Constitution.

It is not at all surprising that when he left America with his family to be loyal to the Crown and flee as a refugee to "The Province of the Canadas", his political activism came with him. His beautiful daughter Elizabeth was not a small consideration of why Robert Nelles chose to settle in Grimsby.

Over the past two centuries this property on the "Road to Newark" in the "gore between Clinton and Grimsby" has seen a lot of agriculturally based activity, including the Koorneef business that was there significantly for almost half a century maintaining the Main St. East streetscape of a lovely old farmhouse dwelling on a large lot.

Development has flourished around this property. To the east of this property, along the Main St. route, the "Kitchen Family" home stands beautifully preserved on the escarpment hill, also a testament to the early settlers to this area. Mid-way between timelines these farms stretching between Bartlett Road and Thirty Mountain Road were said to have been the site of experimental scientific agricultural research which yielded new varieties of fruit more durable for export, and thus were part of a business incubator for Grimsby. Why is all this information so absent from this report as it is so very important to an understanding of the context of this site?

The "Grimsby Main Street Scenic Highway Heritage Route" Cultural Heritage Landscape here is given short shrift in this Town Planning Report, and in my view much more detailed analysis and examination of the true cultural significance of this part of Main St. East needs to be emphasized. We are losing far too much of what is meaningful and significant on Main St. East because of a lack of Main St. Urban Design Guidelines and other heritage protection measures that could and should be in place in one of the oldest towns in province.



I respectfully request that an outside independent Statement of Heritage Significance be prepared by an unbiased independent registered heritage professional for review by Council before this building is demolished.

I also find it curious that a demolition permit can be issued on a building on the Municipal Register that has not yet been removed from that Register by an act of Council. There is no reason Grimsby should be losing yet another piece of our Main St. East cultural heritage just as we just did trees that could and should have been protected by a Town By-Law that was requested in 2012 , and the Nelles-Grout home at the corner of Nelles Road and Main Street East.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Gonnsen", written over a horizontal line.

Karl Gonnsen MCIP, RPP, P.Eng.