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Owner wants Whitehall in Cobourg

Ford dealership to set up shop on vacant property after house moved

BY MIKE JOHNSTON
Staff editor

The new owner of one of Cobourg's oldest houses says he would love to have people tour the home to take in its history after it is moved.

"I would be open to that. In fact, I would like to get old pictures to help in restoration of the building," said Andrew Brown, who recently purchased Whitehall.

At a press conference in front of the century-old home Friday, it was also announced Robert Fraser, owner of Fraser Ford located west of Whitehall, has purchased the 2.4 acres of land the house now

sits on and will move his car dealership to the property.

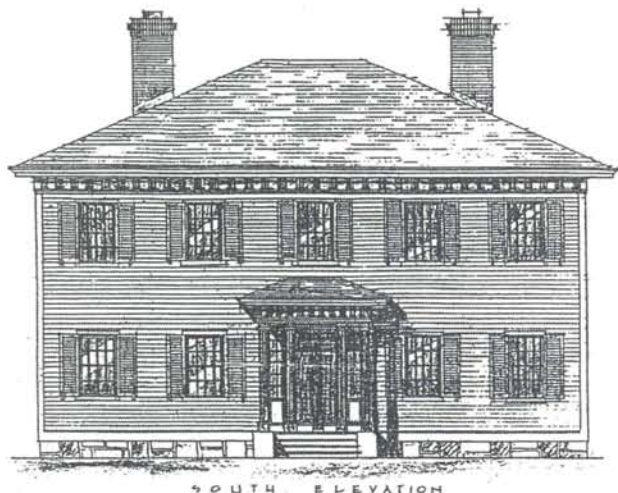
Mr. Fraser said his original plan was to buy the property and the house and use the house as part of an office. That would have meant modernizing the home, which he said "would not do the house any justice."

Mr. Brown said he plans to restore the house to its original state and have it moved to another location.

"Ideally the house could stay here but it is not feasible. I have admired this home for a number of years and I'm doing my best to make this work out of a bad situation. I'm strongly committed to this," said Mr. Brown.

Sometimes called Cobourg's oldest house, Whitehall was built by the Burnham family in 1815 in

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SOUTH ELEVATION

This architect's drawing by Phillip Carter is based on the original building which had a balanced front entrance facade (bottom two windows on each side of the front doors were replaced with large plate glass windows), and shows the decorative details of eaves and columns.

Whitehall owner open to having tours of home

what was then New Amherst, and features a two-story vertical plank frame box. Located across from the Northumberland Mall on County Road 2, Whitehall has been called one of the few remaining examples of neo-classical Georgian structures in the province by local heritage groups.

Mr. Brown said he would like to see old pictures of the home and has called renowned architect Peter Stokes to help restore the home.

"I'm glad there is a lot of interest in the house. The priority now is to get the home down and make sure everything is documented."

Once the home has been removed, Mr. Fraser said he will move some of his dealership to the property.

He said the new dealership will be three to four times the size of his current operation.

"We are anticipating growth in the Cobourg area. It could take five years to make this move but people will see some changes this summer," said Mr. Fraser.

Cobourg Deputy Mayor Bob Spooner said he is glad to see someone purchase the home with the intent to restore it.

"When the owner of a heritage building says it is gone, there isn't too much a



ANDREW BROWN
The priority now is to get the house down.



ROBERT FRASER
New dealership will be three times the size.

municipality can do. There is a plan in place for this house and that's good news."