

# Petition circulates to stop proposed redevelopment of the McGibbon Hotel

By Kathryn Boyle  
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SilverCreek Commercial Builders Inc. has been asking for community feedback regarding its proposed 11-storey condominium to take place above the McGibbon Hotel. And one group is giving it to them.

On Facebook, they are known as Honour The McGibbon's Heritage, and their message is pretty clear: they are not in favour of this proposal.

All the people going to (the information sessions) seem to be in favour of everything. Katie Downes, the petition organizer, said.

They're supporting it. People like us are just sitting at home going, oh, I don't like this. But nobody is speaking up.

We're hoping the petition will give these people that voice and will allow us to show town council how many people really, truly are against this.

When SilverCreek came forward with its first sketches of the condominium, Downes considered it a monstrosity. When the construction company hosted an information session on Feb. 4, Downes took her opinions and offered some sug-

gestions, such as constructing the building in brick to blend with the downtown theme. Unsatisfied, she started the petition, Save the McGibbon Hotel, and as of Feb. 24, has over 250 signatures.

Syl Carle, who owns property along the main strip, signed the petition with concerns regarding the future of the downtown should the condominium be built.

**Let your views be known**  
Tuesday, March 1  
Town of Halton Hills  
Statutory Public Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Halton Hills Council Chambers

I think it's going to take away the quaintness of the downtown, Carle said. I think as a community, we need to look at that and make sure that's where we want to go.

I don't think, as a community, that is where we want to go, Downes added.

The two discussed multiple worries about the two-year construction period, including the visibility of the building from different areas in town, the traffic that will occur, what effect the vibrations from construction could have on neighbour buildings, and how the project could affect downtown businesses.

It's just going to become easier to go to the mall and the outlet mall or Georgetown South than downtown to do their shopping, she said.

On Feb. 16, the Architectural Conservancy of



**Downtown Georgetown businessman Syl Carle and native Georgetown resident Katie Downes have a set up a petition opposing the Silver-Creek Commercial Builders proposal for the McGibbon Hotel site.**

Photo by Kathryn Boyle

Ontario Halton Hills branch, which initially supported the project, withdrew its support after learning the hotel would be removed due to structural concerns.

One thing Honour The McGibbon's Heritage group wants to make clear is they are not against development on the McGibbon Hotel, but they are against the construction of something that doesn't look like it belongs.

We're not opposing development, and that's been a common misconception, Downes said, adding some people in favour of the project think the group wants to keep the pub open. There's nothing wrong with growth, but I think we have to honour our heritage and honour the historical buildings in that growth.

On March 1, the Town of Halton Hills will be hosting the statutory public meeting where the developers will present more details on the project. Downes and Carle plan to be there with a five-minute presentation of their own, and encourage everyone sharing their concerns to attend.

We're not opposed to change, it's not that, Carle said. The scope of the project is now such that it is opposable. It's offensive.

The Town's public meeting will take place at the Civic Centre, in council chambers, at 6:30 p.m.

Unfortunately, not a lot of people will stand up and say anything. They'll just go along with it, Downes said. If they're not informed, they can't make an informed decision and they will support whatever council supports because we trust our council.

The project should be part of downtown, Carle said. Not an island.

To sign the group's petition, or to state your opinion, visit [www.ipetitions.com/petition/SaveTheGib](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/SaveTheGib).

**Time Out** Sports and Taps

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