

Heritage Register list causes dissension among homeowners

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building “may or may not be designated as a heritage building.” If it was designated, Johnson said, it would be much more onerous to demolish it.

She said the Town has only once designated a property against an owner’s wishes, and that was Barber Mill.

Eighth Line resident Sally Stull, whose property is proposed for the Register, said being listed is “basically an infringement on your right to finally decide maybe that old house has lived past its useful life.”



SALLY STULL

“Now someone else gets 60 days to decide whether or not you should lose (demolish) that house or not, that’s a problem for me,” said Stull.

She urged the residents to tell their councillors if they have a problem with the Register.

“Maybe the list should only have town-owned properties on it, or potentially churches of value, but perhaps private property should be best left to the owners, particularly the ones who have looked af-

ter them,” said Stull, to a round of applause.

Roscoe Petkovic, President of Community Heritage Ontario and also a member of Heritage Halton Hills, said “as citizens of this country it is our duty to protect and promote our history and our heritage.”



ROSCOE PETKOVIC

He said property owners “ought not to have the right to destroy that history and heritage because it belongs to all of us.”

One resident responded with a “No,” another shouted, “Buy it,” while some others booed, and others applauded.

One woman complained that her house, which had been built in 1990 was proposed to be included on the Register and another resident whose property was also included said he purchased the home in July and would not have bought it if he knew it would be listed on the Heritage Register. Another resident complained her barn should not be included.

Another resident said he was concerned that down the line there could be changes made and restrictions added that would impact those listed on the Register.

New Architectural Conservancy group forms here

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario’s Provincial Council approved the creation of their 25th branch in Halton Hills in January.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) was founded in 1933 by a group of architects working to save the Barnum House near Grafton. In the past 80 years, the ACO has helped save hundreds of heritage buildings across Ontario, and raised awareness of the importance of preserving built and environmental heritage.

The organization pressed for heritage legislation and was instrumental in the enactment of The Ontario Heritage Act in 1975. In 2005, changes were made to strengthen the Act and provide municipalities with significantly greater author-

ity to delay or prevent the demolition of heritage structures.

Members of the ACO’s Provincial Executive toured Halton Hills in November 2013 and were amazed by the number of significant heritage structures throughout our community. They were particularly excited to view landmarks such as, Norval’s Presbyterian Manse, Acton’s Olde Hide House and Georgetown’s Barber Mill.

The new Halton Hills Branch is headed by President Pat Farley, who recently won The Arts Alive Award for Heritage. Branch vice-presidents are Heritage Halton Hills member, Jim Walbusser, and Sharon Harrison, Chair of Acton’s Syndicate Housing Heritage District. The growing membership is open to anyone who resides or owns property in Halton Hills.

Local real estate agent Ray Chesher said by putting properties on the list “you are devaluing the property.”

“By being on this register buyers are scared away from these properties,” said Chesher.

Professor Robert Shipley of University of Waterloo, the Town’s consultant on the Register project, disagreed. He said there’s no research he’s aware of about the effect on properties that are on the Heritage Register, but he has done a great deal of research on designated historical properties and there is actually a “correlation between an increase in property

values and designation.”

Another real estate agent at the session, Katy Nuttall, agreed with Chesher. She said residents are, “having an issue with the fact their most significant investment in their lives is being decided by council,” which sparked applause from the crowd.

A copy of the staff report on Halton Hills Heritage Register Update and the list of properties proposed to be included can be found at <http://haltonhills.ca/calendars/2014/PDS-2014-0001.pdf>.

For full story, see www.theifp.ca

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