

Council agrees to demolition of century home

By Lisa Tallyn
ltallyn@theifp.ca

Despite a plea from an area resident to save it, Town Council gave the go-ahead Monday evening for a 100+-year-old farmhouse on Eighth Line to be demolished.

The red-brick vacant home is located at 10114 Eighth Line (west side) just north of 10 Sideroad on lands that are to be developed as

part of the southwest Georgetown urban expansion known as Vision Georgetown.

The house is known as Reed House, or Huffman House, and was added to the Municipal Heritage Register in 2007.

A structural review was done on the house last April, which revealed it has significant structural damage caused by vandalism and the 2013 ice storm. A third of the home has

collapsed and reconstruction or relocation isn't advised, the report stated. The review recommends timely demolition to protect public safety.

At its March 18 meeting Heritage Halton Hills Committee approved a recommendation to support the demolition of the house, remove the house from Heritage Register, salvaging the bricks to be used on the Vision Georgetown lands, and

all other salvageable material for use by committee and community.

Patricia Farley, president of the Halton Hills branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, spoke Monday night against the demolition of the home.

"The Huffman House is critically wounded but not dead," said Farley. "It belongs to Mattamy Homes, a multinational company, with the financial resources to do the right

thing by saving an important piece of heritage for the residents of Halton Hills under the Ontario Heritage Act."

Farley said Council has the power to save the house by issuing a Notice of Intent to Designate and direct Mattamy Homes to "find a solution that doesn't involve the destruction of a much-loved piece of local heritage."

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