

Georgetown heritage home facing demolition

By **Melanie Hennessey**
Special to the IFP



PATRICIA FARLEY

measures developers must take once they purchase a heritage building.

"I believe we must become proactive in order to prevent further losses," she said.

She also went on to recommend that while these heritage homes purchased by developers are still habitable, they should be offered to families in need of affordable housing, who could serve as custodial tenants in exchange for reduced rent.

She said the Hunter farmhouse is a classic example of a gothic revival cottage, which is considered unique to Ontario, and emphasized the importance of preserving local rural heritage.

"We encompass this old township with wonderful farms, and I think that really sets us apart," she said. "It would be shameful if our rural heritage was reduced to a few tree-lined laneways like we have on Eighth Line."

Laura Nobre from SmartReit noted the house has been

vacant for some time and is in rough shape.

"The house is beyond a state of reasonable repair and presents a major safety issue," she said.

She added the company has made repeated attempts to secure the buildings on the property to prevent vandalism, but despite this, they've been set on fire. A barn on the property has already been demolished.

SmartReit had a heritage impact assessment completed on the home by heritage planner Lashia Jones, who concluded it's not feasible to retain or relocate the house due to structural issues.

Ward 4 Councillor Ann Lawlor asked if the company would be willing to salvage materials of the house. Nobre told her they would be happy to donate any useable material to the Town.

Local and Regional Councillor Jane Fogal voiced her support for referring Brampton's Heritage Building Protection

Plan to staff and Heritage Halton Hills.

"I like that idea," she said. "I want people to take a look at it and see if it's got value for us."

Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson concurred it's high time for the Town to look at a policy to protect these heritage buildings.

"We really need to do better than what we're doing," she said.

Lawlor echoed the sentiment and said she likes the section of Brampton's document that says it "will not tolerate demolition by neglect."

"We should have a look at how we can enact some of these principles," she said.

The motion endorsed by the committee also stipulates that prior to demolition, SmartReit should consult with the Heritage Halton Hills to determine if any heritage attributes are in good condition and can therefore be salvaged.

The item will go before Town Council at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 11.

opment through a Heritage Building Protection Plan.

The document was brought to the committee's attention by Patricia Farley, president of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Halton Hills branch, who suggested the Town should consider such a plan that would set out preventative

Halton RIDE program reminds residents to party responsibly

The month of December is a time of holiday parties, work get-togethers, and family celebrations.

Most events include the consumption of alcohol.

The Halton Regional Police are well aware and ready to ensure people make the right decision through education and prevention or pay the price of being arrested for impaired driving.

The third week of HRPS's Reduce

Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) spot checks ran from Dec. 20-27.

More than 3,200 cars were stopped in RIDE checks and seven impaired driving arrests were made throughout the Region.

Milton/Halton Hills: 3
Oakville: 1
Burlington: 3

Halton officers will be out in full force the remainder of the month

working diligently to reduce impaired driving everywhere.

If you see a suspected impaired driver, please call 9-1-1.

Officers will respond immediately to ensure the driver is investigated and dealt with accordingly.

The advice and direction from the HRPS is simple:

"Don't drive impaired, party responsibly."



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