

Forge's future cloudy as residents fight to save century building

The fate of The Forge in Terra Cotta is unknown, but some area residents want to ensure it is not torn down.

A petition has been circulating in the Terra Cotta community calling for the preservation of The Forge which was closed about two months ago after engineering inspections were done and determined the building wasn't safe.

Dina De Jager, a member of the Terra Cotta Community Hall Committee, said she hopes Peel Region, which owns the 120-year-old building, will either sell it for a nominal fee to the committee or shore up the building and deed it to the community. She said then the community can raise the money to restore it and rent it out to artists and artisans.

"If we don't preserve these heritage buildings, soon there will be nothing left," said De Jager.

"I feel we're just to quick to tear down our history," said Art Rice, a committee member who also wants to assure The Forge remains standing.

The building, which for the past several years housed artists studios, is leased by The Town of Caledon from Peel Region.

"It needs structural work to meet today's requirements for loads," said Caledon's chief building official Bob Yaworski.

Terra Cotta area regional councillor Marolyn Morrison, who also said she didn't want to see The Forge torn down, estimated the cost to bring the building up to today's standards at \$150,000 to \$175,000. She said just to shore it up will cost thousands.

"Now where do you get those dollars from?" asked Morrison, who said no decision has been made on what to do with the building.

She said a public meeting is set for Thursday, December 13, at 7 p.m. in the Terra Cotta Community Hall to discuss options for the building with the community.

"The building was bought by the region 27 years ago because its on the regional road allowance," said Morrison.

The fact it's on the road allowance could pose a problem in selling it or deeding it to the community.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



Area residents Art Rice and Dina De Jager are hoping the Region of Peel will spare The Forge in Terra Cotta from demolition. Photo by Ted Brown

Tree lighting goes Tuesday

Georgetown Hospital Foundation hosts its annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, on Tuesday (Dec. 4), 7 p.m. at the William Osler Health Centre Georgetown Hospital Campus Courtyard.

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Congratulations Kelly & Shawn