

Norval residents to protest building's planned demolition

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

Several Norval area residents were expected to be gathered in front of The Carpet Palace on Adamson St. this morning (Friday) to protest the business owners' plans to demolish the building.

The owners of the business—Steve Klintsaris and George Kanichis— want to tear down the building and construct a new one on their property (a little to the south of the current building and at the rear of their lot.)

Kathy Gastle, President of the Norval Community Association (NCA) and former Halton Hills mayor, said Thursday the association is opposed to the demolition of The Carpet Palace building because it is historical.

"The historic building is part of the historical landscape of the village of Norval, and the demolition of this historic building will ruin the heart of the village," said Gastle.

Gastle, whose parents were former postmasters in Norval but not in The Carpet Palace building, said it was built in approximately 1846 and served as the community's general store and post office. The post office was the second one to open in Halton and it was located in The Carpet Palace building from 1846 to 1956, she said.

She also said the post office was a significant building in the journal of *Anne of Green Gables* author Lucy Maud Montgomery and stressed several tourists are expected to visit Norval this year for the 100th anniversary of "Anne."

"It's the oldest building in Norval," said NCA member and former Halton MP Juilan Reed, who plans to take part in the protest.

The Carpet Palace owner and manager stress the building is not designated historical and that

safety is a key reason they want to tear down the old building and build a new one farther back from the intersection. They say over the past 15 years the building has been struck four times by vehicles, including tractor-trailers, at the intersection.

Kanichis said the accidents have damaged the structure of the building and extra support beams have had to be installed to keep the frame from collapsing.

"I am shocked they are trying to save something that's not save-able, something that's ready to fall down," said Kanichis.

"We're not doing something illegal here," said Klintsaris. "We're trying to improve things. This is 2008, not the 1800s."

They say with the new proposed building, their goal is to improve service to their customers.

"We need the space. We have families to feed," said Klintsaris.

They added they decided to move forward with their plans for the demolition and construction of the new building after receiving notification from the Town's Heritage Halton Hills Committee last May that although there isn't a demolition permit application before the committee, it would not oppose a request for demolition of the property.

Kanichis said they are shocked by the reaction of the Norval residents but they have received a lot of support for their plans from the Georgetown community.

Gastle said the building the Carpet Palace owners are proposing isn't in keeping with the flavour of the village.

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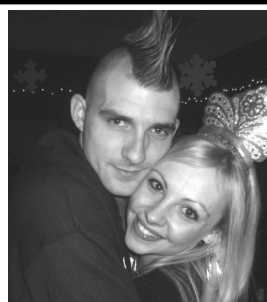
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