

# Heritage group okays demolition of Norval store

**LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Heritage Halton Hills has given its official okay for the demolition of The Carpet Palace building in Norval.

The committee approved signing off on the demolition application for the Adamson St. building at its meeting Wednesday evening, reconfirming the decision it made last May without an application for demolition of the building before it.

Building owner Steve Klintsaris said yesterday (Thursday) he was pleased.

"We know a lot of people support this decision," said Klintsaris. "Safety is number one. The building is not as safe as some people think."

Former Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle, president of the Norval Community Association (NCA), who at the meeting attempted to get the committee to reconsider its earlier decision not to oppose the demolition and recommended the building— Norval's former post office and general store— for historical designation. was upset the "decision (Wednesday) was made behind closed doors."

The committee made its decision on the demolition application following the delegations from the public in another room at the Civic Centre.

However, Ashley Mancuso of the Town of Halton Hills Clerk's Department, said that portion of the meeting was also open to the public, but held in the room at the Civic Centre where the Heritage committee meetings are usually held.

She said only the delegation portion of the meeting was held in the council chambers because of the number of people

expected to attend. She also said only the committee members attended the portion of the meeting where the Carpet Palace recommendation was made.

Gastle said she had the impression from the discussion in the council chambers that the committee would wait to make its decision until the matter went to council and was shocked yesterday when she learned a decision had been made.

Carpet Palace owner George Kanichis was not bothered by the fact the decision was made without the public present and said they knew the committee "had to deliberate."

Gastle said it appeared heritage committee members "weren't engaged" in the presentation she made about the building's historical significance.

Prior to the meeting The Carpet Palace owners provided the committee with an engineering report that noted the building was leaning towards the south-west by as much as a foot and had settled on the west side by as much as 16 inches.

"It is our opinion that the structure has shifted laterally, floors have settled badly, structural framing has been compromised in the basement by rot and by numerous renovations over the years and currently supported and braced by temporary shoring in the basement until extensive work can be done," said engineer Daria Khachi in the report.

"Although extensive work can be done for a full structural retrofit (with some economic hardship), the proximity of the building to the major intersection cannot be



**KATHY GASTLE**

altered unless the intersection is redesigned and/or the building is moved away from the intersection," said Khachi.

Gastle said it was unfair The Carpet Palace owners dropped an engineering report on the building on the table Wednesday.

Heritage committee member Roscoe Pekovic said if he was a tourist in Norval he wouldn't know by looking at the building it had been a post office.

Gastle said the NCA would be happy to look at grant opportunities for the building owners or help them fundraise to repair the building.

"That footprint has been there for over 150 years," said Gastle and that the "building is part of the core as pointed out in the Norval Secondary Plan."

She said the design The Carpet Palace owners presented at the recent Committee of Adjustment meeting where their minor variance application was turned down "was not in keeping with the character of the community" as laid out in that plan.

At the meeting Wednesday Klintsaris said they plan to appeal the Committee of Adjustment decision to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Heritage committee member Al Rode said he had visited the Carpet Palace building.

"I was concerned for my own safety when I was in it. In the interest of public safety that building needs to come down."

Heritage committee member Ann Lawlor wondered aloud if the "discussion was moot" because the matter was going to the OMB.

She later said the "viability of the build-

ing and the business go hand-in-hand."

"If that building is unsafe I don't think we should be holding up any remedial action," said Lawlor, adding that the best thing for the building is likely the owners and NCA to sit down together in good faith to work something out.

Other committee members agreed and encouraged discussion between the owners and NCA.

Heritage committee member and Halton Hills Councillor Dave Kentner said he felt uncomfortable making a decision Wednesday because of all the material he had been presented with and wanted time to go through it. He was considering a deferral, and wondered about "throwing it back to council because this is going to go to council."

At the meeting the owners showed a new plan for their building they say is more in keeping with the heritage aspect of the village and includes details such as reclaimed brick.

Klintsaris said Thursday they met for about an hour after the meeting with Gastle and other Norval residents and "it seems like they liked it (the new plan for the building)."

Gastle intends to speak on the issue at Halton Hills council Monday.

She said if the Carpet Palace owners came up with a building "in keeping with the approved policies of the Norval Secondary Plan" on the same footprint as the current building "it would open the doors for us to working with the owners."

The Heritage Committee recommendation to approve the signing off on the demolition permit will be on the agenda for council approval June 18.

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