

**Points for presentation to Planning Committee, Hamilton City Council, 17.01.2017,  
Heritage permit applications HP2016-027, HP 2016-028 18-22 and 24-28 King St E.**

**Personal background:**

- First visited Hamilton in early '60s. I lived in several cities with historical centres in US, Canada and Europe, have seen efforts at preservation and adaptive re-use – varying degrees of success.
- Examples: Kingston re-vitalization, Brampton and Oakville centres; Heritage Cons. Districts.
- To attract top business people and visitors essential for city to have a centre that is attractive and unique – Gore is centre of historical Hamilton.

**Gore today:**

- All agree the Gore area is in need of a facelift.
- You have seen the architectural and historical features of these buildings in original pictures.
- LRT to re-activate the core. The properties present ideal opportunity for a Gore focal point.
- 18-28 King St E. pre-Confederation properties showcase **Hamilton's commercial heritage**.
- **THEY ARE LEGACY BUILDINGS REPRESENTING OUR PAST**, as such they deserve to be part of a Heritage Conservation District. Hamilton already has 7, make the Gore the eighth!

**Downtown core:**

- Much adaptive re-use already taking place in downtown core, time for the Gore to be involved.
- I believe the owner **appreciates he is privileged to own** such unique historic properties. He has already done valuable work on the nearby Landed Banking and Loan Company Building.
- Recent complimentary Globe and Mail article re. King William Street restoration etc.

**Alternative to proposed applications:**

- Integrate the restored buildings into complex with access via covered area to proposed buildings behind. Options are endless: restaurants, shops, galleries etc. All will provide a focal point and entice business people and visitors to visit and explore.
- Seen such work in Hamburg – eating/shopping area – they are destination points.

**Current first impressions of downtown Hamilton:**

- On my return in late '90s I could not believe the number of buildings that had been removed and replaced with parking lots or nondescript towers! Photographs show what we have lost.
- How to explain the parking lots to visitors from both Canada and abroad? Impressions?
- **We have already lost so much unique and valuable architecture and must not be known in the future as the city that destroyed its heritage!**

**PLEASE DO NOT PERMIT DEMOLITION OF THESE ARCHITECTURALLY UNIQUE AND VALUABLE BUILDINGS. KEEP THEM INTACT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND DESIGNATE THE GORE AS A HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT – MAKE IT OUR SEQUICENTENNIAL PROJECT!**

Patricia Baker

