

Members of Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee

Regarding the Designation of 176 Wilson Street East, Ancaster

As the owners of 176 Wilson Street East, we would like to clarify our position on the Heritage designation of this property. In our conversation with the Heritage Planning Technician we raised issues above and beyond the possible influence on the value and insurance rates on our home and we are not contemplating the sale of our home anytime soon. We are seniors and hope to remain in our home as long as we possibly can. However, that is all that you chose to report from our conversation and thus leaving out some key points that we addressed that are far more important.

In our conversation with the Heritage Planning Technician we also stated that we are definitely in favour of Heritage Preservation and Heritage Designation of properties in our community. However, we firmly believe that when the rights to decision making involving homes and properties are taken away the owners of such properties should be compensated. There are a number of Municipalities in the Province that provide property tax relief for designated properties one being our neighbouring community of Burlington. Burlington provides a 40% rebate on taxes at the end of each year to properties with a Heritage Designation in their community. This is not something that the owners of designated properties in Hamilton should have to fight for. Your small grants and loans are of no interest. They do not add up to compensation for basic expropriation of properties.

Behind each of the Heritage properties in Hamilton there is a human factor. Think about it. Imagine yourself as the owner of one of these properties and your rights to decision making have been taken away and to also be told that not even a plaque, as small as it may seem, will be presented to you after all the hard work that went into restoring your grand old home. "It is not in Hamilton's budget". It is not the cost of that plaque to produce ourselves but the principal. Basically no recognition for what are giving up. Emotions Run High!! We messaged our Councillor Craig Cassar, and he is willing to provide us with such out of his budget something that we should NOT have had to ask for.

Margaret and Jim Hendricks

