

Summary of Deputation to Town of Georgina Council on May 8, 2024 concerning Reinstatement of Heritage Advisory Committee

Reasons to support the reinstatement of a Heritage Advisory Committee now:

- It would be advantageous to pool resources which already exist in our local community. There are great benefits to drawing on the wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience of residents who already possess an extensive, collective knowledge about significant landmarks and history of early residents, the growth of industries, establishment of businesses, and other important historical events which have helped to shape the development of Georgina.
- A functioning Heritage Advisory Committee would be able to support the work of the newly hired Heritage Consulting team in order to expedite the process of evaluating the list of properties currently on the Heritage Register. As you are aware, we have a very brief 8-month window in which to complete this important work before Bill 23 comes into effect. There is an urgent need to get this work done quickly and efficiently, and having more people working on this project, rather than fewer people who are not familiar with our community, makes the most sense so that we are able to achieve the best possible outcome before the January 1, 2025 deadline.
- The prioritization of designation needs to be informed by the knowledge of the community through its residents. There are several residents in our Town who are passionate about the preservation of our heritage, and stand ready to share their knowledge and expertise on these matters so that current and future residents might benefit from the collaborative efforts that could be undertaken over the next eight months.
- There is a *need* and a *desire* for community input into this process. Therefore, we respectfully request that this Council begin to advertise, interview and appoint prospective members who will invest their time and energy to work with the new Heritage Consultant in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration in order to help identify the best way forward regarding Heritage concerns in Georgina.