

Gail Donald

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Wellington North Township Council

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Dear Councillors,

I am writing in support of Councillor Renken's proposed motion to preserve the historical facades of businesses in Wellington North.

Especially in current times, rural-based communities such as ours benefit from capturing the attention not only of our own citizens, but also of those who are passing through. Often, the appearance of the businesses on the main streets can convince tourists and others to stop and explore. The business that presents a façade reflecting an interesting history can be an immediate attraction.

As well, community members can see their history not just in houses around the town or village, but as they go about their activities on the main streets. New arrivals can more easily become part of the community if they learn of its history all around them, not just in one dedicated space.

It is admirable simply to express support for maintenance of historical facades of businesses. However, past experience shows that it is not enough. Some store owners are dedicated to retaining their storefronts, others are not. And the shoddy results do not encourage Wellington North's visitors to stop or residents to feel pride in their main streets.

A zoning bylaw to protect the visible history on Wellington North's commercial buildings would go a long way to averting further losses. I hope that Councillor Renken's motion will gain your support.

Regards,

Gail Donald