

To Wellington North Council and staff,

It is encouraging to see a number of properties on Main Street getting a facelift; it certainly improves the sense of a thriving downtown.

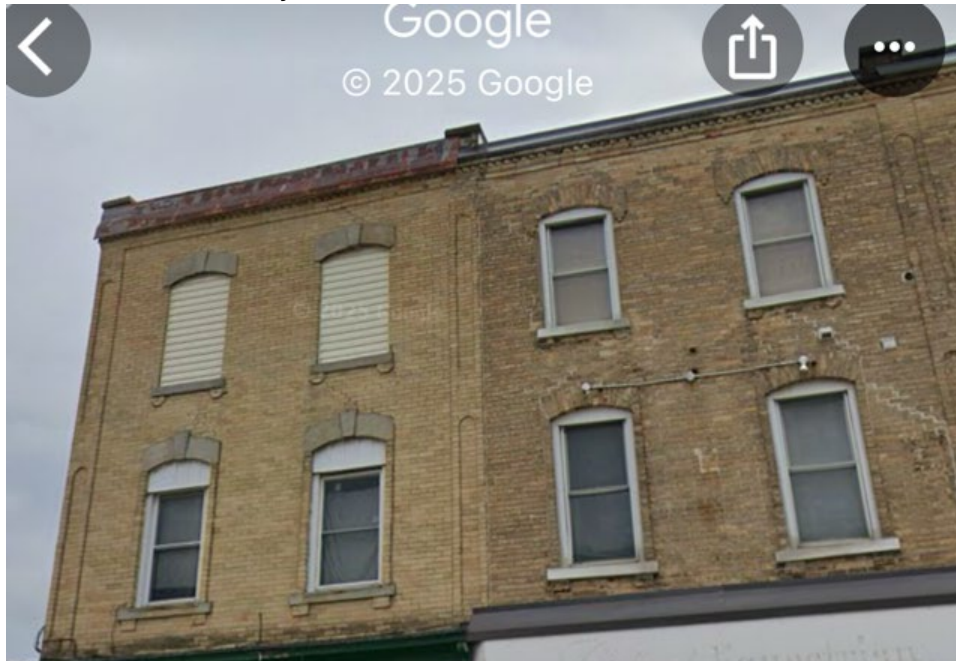
It however concerns me that there seem to be no guidelines in place to attempt to preserve the historic façades that give our downtown its unique charm and character.

Going forward, I would request that property owners be greatly incentivized to retain those façades that literally are a window on our heritage as the town of Mount Forest.

A case in point is 130 Main St N, which had beautiful accents around the windows, along with the iconic local yellow brick, seemingly well preserved.

By applying stucco, obliterating the window details (and in fact the windows entirely on the upper level), it affects the look of the entire row of buildings. Although the workmanship of the renovation looks to be extremely good, and it's attractive enough, it has destroyed the link to the past, and could be a generic building anywhere.

If there had been guidelines in place, and some financial incentives, could this have been a case where the side and back of the building were renovated as has been done, but the front addressed with some TLC that would most likely not have cost any more? If insulation was part of the project, alternatives are readily available.



I urge you to seriously consider the implications of the lack of policy about this matter in the future. I know not every business owner/ landlord can afford a restoration on the scale of MNP or Coldwell Banker, but when the façade is in good shape, it should be highlighted, not covered up!

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daphne Rappard, not a Mount Forest native, but one who treasures its history.