

From: DIANE BERWICK

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 1:26 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

Subject: Development Services Committee - March 18, 2025, 9 a.m.

To: Members of Development Services Committee

9.6 Demolition Permit Application - Munshaw House, 10 Ruggles Ave. - Ward 1

What a terrible loss to our Canadian and local history this last heritage building in Langstaff will be if completely destroyed and lost to history. Page 2 of Peter Workral's summary report for this meeting says: "the subject dwelling is a protected cultural heritage resource." How hollow those words ring. This heritage building was not protected.

I feel very strongly that the best outcome would be for the house to be replicated to its 1854 appearance using salvageable materials.

My thoughts, which haven't changed, are best described in my letter to Heritage Markham Committee on October 7, 2024.

"To: Members of Heritage Markham

Demolition Permit Application - Munshaw House, 10 Ruggles Ave.

I support doing all possible to save the historic Munshaw House, circa 1854. It is the last house standing in the historic Langstaff area - one that was promised protection. There are many salvageable elements as outlined in the Facet Group report; other elements can be replicated. With the tools, expertise and knowledge of talented, highly respected restoration experts today, it could and should be undertaken. There are lots of examples of the amazing work such companies can do.

How sad and embarrassing that it took Munshaw descendants visiting this property to raise the alarm about the deplorable state of this historic home and that it was completely unsecured. Obviously long neglected. The house has stood for about 170 years, weathered so much, to come to this sad state. Was the house ever properly secured after the Munshaw descendants advised of its terrible condition?

It's my understanding that this house was promised to be protected and used in the development. In addition to plaques, that there should be a park ... parkette ... memorial circle ... whatever it is decided to be called, named after the Munshaw family. It should be located on or near the site of the Munshaw house. There should be streets named after them and other pioneer families in this new development. These families deserve remembrance and respect for their role in helping to build what is ours today in spite of the many hardships they must have endured.

When restored, this house will be an excellent example of something that Markham proudly stands for - protecting our heritage. And, I believe there would be respect and admiration for the developer and restoration experts who saved it. It might even be an award winner.

If there are other such properties in our city, Markham should consider ensuring by-law officers are made aware of and routinely do a quick check on them. I'm sure manpower issues will play a role in your thoughts on my idea.

I also want to add my heartfelt thanks to the fire department who fought this house fire.

The fate of the Munshaw house is in your hands. Please save this rare heritage building."

Sincerely,
Diane Berwick
The Robert Jarrott House
15 Colborne St., Thornhill