

Proposal to Designate St. Luke's Church, Graveyard, and Church Avenue

While the church recognizes the significant cultural heritage value of the property, we do not believe this designation and the restrictions that it entails are needed and, in fact, threaten the long-term viability of the site. What we have today is the result of the parish, over the last 190 years and many changes, carefully balancing the heritage responsibilities with the need to keep the church facilities changing to meet the needs of a vibrant community.

The staff proposal accurately reflects our other concerns about abdicating responsibility for maintaining the character of the church property to an outside, narrowly focused authority. The biggest danger to the long-term heritage value of the property would be if St. Luke's church community was no longer functioning. With many churches closing these days, this would not only impact the heritage of the property but would result in the loss of many important community outreach activities that contribute to Burlington. What would happen to the property then? We firmly believe that the parishioners are the best decisionmakers to determine what may need to change over the next 190 years to maintain **both** the viability of the church community and the heritage value it represents.

Some Specific Comments:

- 1) We are very surprised that the Map attached does not include the portion of Church Avenue that the City owns, ie Elgin St. right of way and the hydro right of way. If maintaining a clear line of sight and other features described are not required of the City along historically church avenue, why does this apply only to church property?
- 2) Listing a clear view to the lake is one thing but designating the old trees that are within a few years at best of their end of life seems very short sighted from a heritage perspective, a safety issue, and unnecessary with the current tree bylaw in place.

St. Luke's has been very involved in this process from the start, thanks to Chloe Richer, and she has done a great job of keeping us informed and listening to our input. We remain concerned that this designation and the delegation of approvals for any future changes to a group solely focused on the preservation of the present will restrict the parish from making changes needed to keep the parish the vibrant and contributing community necessary for its survival.

There is a successful record over the last 190 years that has given us what we have today.

Richard Reycraft - Chair, St. Luke's Heritage Committee