



MEDIA RELEASE

Heritage agreement reached for the Nelles House at 133 Main St. East

Grimsby, ON – Sept. 12, 2018 – The Town of Grimsby, along with current property owners Movengo Developments Inc., are pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached by all parties regarding the heritage status of the home located at 133 Main St. East.

The home, known as the James Wilson Grout Nelles House, was built circa 1865 and represents an important part of Grimsby's culture. The heritage designation, which was agreeable to all parties, protects the home while still allowing for further responsible development on the property.

A large, mature beech tree at the southwest corner of the property is also being protected as part of the agreement.

As a significant part of the Grimsby's heritage, town staff made both the restoration and protection of the property a top priority. When the previous owners had let the home fall into serious disrepair, Town staff took all possible actions, including obtaining a court order to enforce by-law standards on the property and hiring consultants to undertake the repair work at the owner's expense. These steps were both assertive and innovative.

In complete contrast, the new owners have worked closely with Town staff to establish an expedited timeline to complete the repairs. Work to be completed by the new owners include roof restorations, grading around the building, remediation of the wooden porch and general refurbishment.

The property owners have hired well-respected heritage planner Leah D. Wallace to liaison with the Town's consultants, ERA Architects. These parties are working together closely to ensure the repairs are completed to specification and preserves this significant piece of Grimsby's culture.

Town planning staff would like to thank the new property owners for their keen interest in the protection of this property and willingness to complete the repairs. Preservation of heritage is an important part of any community and the working relationship that has been struck between the Town and new owners is an example of how this type of work should be accomplished.

The Town of Grimsby has just begun developing a more detailed plan for the area located between Nelles Road and the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. By reaching a heritage agreement for this property, the Town has illustrated its commitment to protecting its culture, while responsibly planning for the future. Residents and business will have an opportunity to provide comments and feedback on this secondary plan in the coming weeks.

Quotes:

"This agreement with the current owners represents a new standard for how heritage designations should occur in the Town of Grimsby. By all parties working closely together, we have been able to both provide protection for a significant piece of our heritage, as well as responsibly manage the growth that is coming to our community. I would like to thank Movengo Developments for their constructive cooperation, as well as Town of Grimsby staff for their tireless work on this file."

- Alderman Nick DiFlavio, Chair, Planning and Development Committee

“As chair of the Grimsby Heritage Advisory Committee, I would like to recognize both town staff and the current owners for their collaboration on the heritage designation for this property. The Nelles House is over 150 years old and with this agreement the property will be preserved for generations to come.”

- Alderman John Dunstall, Chair, Grimsby Heritage Advisory Committee

“We have been meeting and working diligently with Town staff for the last few months to address their concerns about the current state of the Nelles House. Together with our consultants, we and the Town have worked out an ideal approach that we trust ensures the appropriate protection of this heritage home, which can be utilized for a future community benefit - this is a positive outcome.”

- Fernando Puga, Director of Land Development, Movengo Developments Inc.

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