

Advocacy Report to the ACO Annual Meeting, February 20, 2020

- 1. Historic Hospital at 65 Ward St.** ACO's campaign to repurpose rather than demolish this building continued through a Social Media campaign; meetings with all new Councillors; concept drawings, both for a long-term care facility, or for affordable housing; presentations to Council; and interventions at the Conservation Review Board hearing. Despite, a favourable CRB report, Council decided to postpone Designation until acceptable plans from the owner, Southbridge Homes, might be reviewed by Planning Dept staff. Once Council deems such plans to be acceptable, a demolition permit will be granted.
- 2. Heritage Inventory.** Progress toward a complete Heritage Inventory proceeded at a glacial pace because, as both HPH and ACO argued, the Town was requiring a level of research more appropriate for a designation than a "listing" of properties of potential heritage interest. Council agreed and some progress is now being reported.
- 3. Rose's Cottage.** Interventions were made by ACO to save this much-loved landmark. The English-style cottage of white stucco with two eye-brow windows was built on the designated Penryn Park Estate around 1905 by the King family. At a meeting with interested parties arranged by the Mayor's Office, Stephen Henderson came forward to accept the building for \$1, committing to move it from its original site within a few weeks. Council agreed that it might be parked temporarily on a corner of King's Field, while a new location was purchased and approvals obtained. At the mayor's request, ACO distributed cards throughout the neighbourhood, informing owners of the plans. The move occurred over fourteen hours on a frigid day in mid-December. ACO contributed \$15,000 to the significant cost of the move to its new home on Pine St.
- 4. 31 Walton St.** The owner of this prominent building at the south-east corner of Walton and Queen applied to replace its large second and third storey windows with German-made vinyl windows. All the windows, except for a few on the south face of the building, had been replaced in the 1980's with modern wooden windows with the assistance of a provincial grant. As a result, a municipal lien was registered on the property. HPH voted to turn down the application for vinyl windows, finding them inappropriate for this important corner building in the Downtown Heritage District. After the owner's appeal, Council asked for a planning report about heritage window replacement. The Planning Dept and HPH recommended that inside storms

were the best heritage solution, one that was also comparable in cost. Council nevertheless voted to accept the owner's request. ACO's executive has addressed this matter, and fears that this exception quite easily could become a rule. The use of vinyl products to replace Heritage windows, we think, is inappropriate in this Heritage District.

5. **Penryn Park/Victoria St. Wood.** ACO has intervened twice in public (we had previously raised it in private meetings) that the wood of the Penryn Park estate along Victoria St. is a heritage matter - both as a cultural component of this historic property, and as a natural heritage feature itself. The wholesale destruction of this 3.15-hectare wood is simply unthinkable. ACO members are actively contributing to the citizen's campaign that is developing.