

June 4, 2021

Dear Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee,

I am writing to you today in regard to the historical home that currently stands at 100 Front St. E. in Bobcaygeon. Until October of 2018, the house belonged to my family, and, in particular, to my father, Norman Oliver. I recently read in Toronto Life magazine that the new owner of the house plans to tear it down and replace it with a new build. Since the house is one of the oldest in Bobcaygeon, I would like to request that the committee consider heritage designating the property. It is my belief that the house is the oldest remaining house in Bobcaygeon, and, for that reason alone, should be preserved. I regret that my family did not heritage designate it when we were the owners of the property. When we sold the house in 2018, it was my understanding that the new owners loved the historical character of the property and intended to preserve and restore the house. In fact, before the house was even listed, we had several more competitive offers from developers that we did not take because we so wanted the house to be loved and cared for rather than demolished.

The house originally belonged to Marjory Sterne St. George Boyd, whom my dad always called Monnie. Growing up in Bobcaygeon in the 1940s my dad used to deliver papers to her house, and he said, even as a child, he knew he wanted to live there. My parents, Norman and Susan Oliver, bought the house from Monnie in 1971. From that time on, the house was my dad's pride and joy. He worked on it and its gardens day and night, well into his late seventies. My dad lived there until the day he died in March of 2018. A few weeks ago, I wrote a post to this effect on the Vintage Bobcaygeon Facebook group. The response and outpouring of support from the community has been overwhelming. It has been a great joy to read the stories of Bobcaygeon's citizens: elders who grew up with my father and who remember Monnie's house from their childhoods; locals and tourists alike, who have visited, admired and appreciated the house and its grounds; people of my generation who grew up swimming on the river like the generations before them; my fourteen-year-old niece who represents the new generation of children who want to remember where they came from. Community, its shared memories, and its collective history are what make Bobcaygeon so special.

It breaks my heart to think of the house being torn down. I understand that evolution and development are a part of the fabric of a small town's economy, but I strongly believe that progress and preservation can occur simultaneously. I hope that in this balance lies a compromise that maintains Bobcaygeon's history while still keeping an eye toward the future. My dad was a great lover of history, and, as a founding member of the Boyd Heritage Museum, he was especially committed to the preservation of Bobcaygeon's heritage. I write this letter in his honour, since I know he would have written it himself were he here today. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vanessa Oliver". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline.

Vanessa Oliver

From: James Row <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 9:45 PM
To: Ann Adare <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 100 Front St East Heritage

Hello Emily, I'm writing to you to bring forward a historic building that I have loved seeing my whole life. 100 Front St East is a very old gothic revival building along the narrow street also in view of the most frequently travelled and oldest section Trent Severn waterway.

I've been noticing since the newer owner purchased, the property has been a constant project state (which isn't a bad thing) but the historic buggy shed was recently demolished and the historic boathouse is rotting away. Recently I read in a Toronto life article the owner plans on tearing the historic landmark home down. I was devastated to hear this as it's my favourite preserved home and boathouse in Bobcaygeon, also admired by the rest of the community.

I believe it was built in 1858 with log timber frame construction. Only two sides of the logs were apparently ever sawn because that's all that was needed. (likely sawn at the second Boyd sawmill in front canal lock doors, as it was connected to the Boyd family at one point.) Though it is a gothic revival building, apparently it was only made gothic revival in the 1890s when the middle high pitch dormer was added. There are additions added throughout time that add to the story of the building and a timeline of architecture. The original wooden wavy glass windows are remarkably still in place. This is very uncommon in Canada with window companies claiming they're "very bad" though not many people know if maintained with storm windows (like this building) they can be just as efficient as new ones. The boathouse though a bit rough with a crumbling foundation and peeling roof, it's also very important. It is built with unusually sized lumber and also has additions added over time. Historic boathouses like this are a very important part of Canadian culture, heritage and Canadian identity. The presence of this boathouse adds tremendously to the historic feel of the busiest and oldest section of the Trent Severn waterway. The community along with myself, a 26 year old local love the heritage, historic aura and mystique this property has. We feel it's very important both house and boathouse along with the windows and general historic property appeal are heritage designated and protected.

Thank you for reading and considering what I have brought forth.
Sincerely: James Row and Community

From: theboydmuseum
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Ann Adare
Subject: Re: Norm's house

Sorry Ann got involved in stuff here and having read Vanessa's note re Norm's house that should do it.

However it would be a shame to lose another century home in Bobcaygeon. We do not want visitors to see McMansions row on row instead of original homes on our streets. The history lost is cannot be retrieved.

It is always interesting to drive along streets and see the various shapes, sizes and building materials used in the past. That alone can give you a history lesson in itself.

- Barb McFadzen

Boyd Heritage Museum