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Vintage Bobcaygeon

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Vintage Bobcaygeon

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Vanessa Oliver

May 21 at 12:45 PM · 

I recently read in Toronto Life that the new owner of my father's house plans to tear it down and replace it with a new build. Since the house is one of the oldest in Bobcaygeon, I thought I'd share some photos with this group. The house originally belonged to Major George C.

About

a group dedicated to the history of Bobcaygeon and surrounding area

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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 the 1970s. From that time on, the house was my dad's pride and joy. He worked on it and its gardens day and night into his late 70s. When he was unable to continue, his wife, Isobel, took over much of the gardening. My dad lived there until the day he died in March of 2018. That house is so important to me and my family, but I also know that many Bobcaygeonites have fond memories of 100 Front St. E. It breaks my heart to think of it being torn down, but it heals it a little to know that so many others found joy in the house, its grounds, and my dad's life work.

Anyone can find this group.

- Bobcaygeon, Ontario
- General



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122

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[REDACTED]
James Row, how can we make it a Heritage Home? I am not sure anything can be done, only by the home owner?



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[REDACTED]
I'm saddened to hear this. I always marvelled at the gardens.

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[REDACTED]
This is a message from my daughter who restores old houses and grew up in Bobcaygeon. She always loved this house



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I am SO SORRY to hear it is going to be torn down! This is incredibly sad. If possible could someone take photos of each side of the exterior and then if possible go in and photograph the interior from every angle. Document it's proportions. Take photos of the stairs, banisters, door frames, skirting and floor boards etc and any other interesting features. Then there will be a record for future generations to enjoy and learn from. Vanessa Oliver if you could write a history of your memories of the house and garden it would be a in incredible gift to the Town. Thank You!

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Your Father loved that house Vanessa. Norm is missed by many. We need to work harder in Bobcaygeon to respect and preserve the old beauty.

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Vanessa Oliver replied · 2 Replies

I hadn't seen your dad in years and four or five years ago amazingly met him and his wife in a cruise ship swimming pool, I think in the Far East somewhere or I could be wrong about the country. He was one of my brother Keith 's best friends.

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Those gardens are amazing!

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It's absolutely beautiful. The home and gardens alone, tell the tale.

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So sad the new owner didn't recognize it for its beautiful charm...and feels a new build is better. Progress isn't always a good thing, we lose the past.

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  **replied** · 2 Replies



Absolutely beautiful. The garden is amazing.

Share · 2w



Once again another piece of Bobcaygeon history is slated for demolition. It's sad and it's heartbreaking that we don't have the balls to stand up and protect these historic buildings we keep losing them every year. Shame on those people who come in and buy up these properties only to demolish them and build a modern piece of crap. Our heritage is disappearing and the city is doing nothing to protect it. Shameful!

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██████████
I spent many days as a kid with your dad and grandfather chasing minnows up Hawkers Creek, gathering moss and working in the bait shop with him and Clayton. Norman was a gardener from day one and he worked on them continually with his mother at the family home. He obviously carried this onward and I remember when he purchased this property and had occasion to visit it. Yes, new is not always best as you cannot bring it back once you take it down. Indeed it was a treasure, as were a lot of homes that are no longer standing in the 'old' town.

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██████████ replied · 1 Reply

██████████
So sorry to hear that .Your dad was a wonderful person .



Share · 2w



██████████ replied · 1 Reply

██████████
Your dad was a great guy . I worked with him through the horticulture society over the yrs . He knew his stuff ! Picked up a few things from him myself. I can't imagine buying a home like his and not wanting it ! Beautiful place

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██████████
Thank you for sharing Vanessa.

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██████████ replied · 2 Replies

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██████████
Just wish we could do something to save it

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██████████
How sad!! Always loved your parents house. Never would I have thought it would be torn down. It's so sad to think they would allow heritage homes to be torn down when they are preserved so well. It was always kept so beautifully. 😞

Share · 2w · Edited



██████████
Awe this makes me very sad. I loved your house, it always felt very special. I have very fond memories of Melissa's birthday parties and watching Full House.

Share · 2w



██████████
This was the house I wanted to be mine.

Share · 2w



██████████ replied · 1 Reply

██████████
Grew up in bobcaygeon and love that house

Share · 2w



██████████
I walk by the house often.. the exterior is wooden and it is definitely showing it's age.. unfortunately it's not always practical to try and save an old house.. speaking from personal experience, it can be very very expensive to preserve an old house. Even if you spend a ton of money, in the end it's still an old house..

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██████████
He would be more upset with the fact his flower beds are gone, over grown and unmanaged

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██████████
It is quite a shame that it can't be moved.

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2

██████████
If Norman was still alive there would be nothing wrong with the house it's a beautiful spot. Inside and out

Share · 2w



7

██████████
It don't need fixing

Share · 2w



1

██████████
Having this house in my family and basically growing up in it for 11 years until it was sold was a life time opportunity it's heartbreaking to hear it's being torn down. The house is gorgeous especially the entrance on the water with the staircase and the French doors to the dining room. The yard is huge the gardens are beautiful every time I tell one of my friends that was my papas house they are always so surprised. We should speak up for what's right and make sure the house isn't torn down.

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██████████ [██████████](#) replied · 1 Reply

██████████
I can't believe someone would even consider tearing it down

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██████████

When my mother passed away my brother & I put her house for sale , after it sold it was torn down & I believe a condo was built in its place . The house belonged to my Grandfather & Grandmother, my parents bought it after my Grandparents passed , the house was on Queen Street behind the church . The neighbors were not very happy about this . It is sad when an older house is torn down because it has so many memories!

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██████████

Call the Historical Society, and council. They can push to have it designated as historical protecting it from being torn down.

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██████████

This same scenario almost happened in Lakefield. The old mill house just before the bridge was bought by Habitat, they were going to tear it down and build housing. When the historical society and town got wind of those plans those people went into action to stop it and had it designated. Habitat then recently had to put it up for sale as they could no longer tear it down for housing . The outcome is now that my employer has purchased it, winning the bid, and it is now undergoing cleanup and restoration and will be a beautiful flower shop and garden centre and bridal boutique business! Hoping to open this summer!

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Perhaps it's time to get some homes in the town designated. This area is being targeted by investors right now from the city. The town is in jeopardy of losing its charm if the homes from yesteryear are just discarded. I will be on board to sign a petition and to work with anyone that needs help working with the town to have it and others designated.

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  replied · 2 Replies

Sorry this is rated a tear down. It is a lovely home and has been well kept and the gardens have been spectacular. Hard for you Vanessa

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  replied · 2 Replies

History and preserving it means nothing to people now a days. How sad the amount of historic buildings we have lost in Bobcaygeon.

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  replied · 1 Reply

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For those wondering about historic homes in Bobcaygeon. Here is the link to the COKL heritage page. <https://www.kawarthalakes.ca/.../heritage-designated...> It explains the difference between heritage designated (registered) and heritage listed properties and also includes a list for both. In Bobcaygeon the library/museum building at 21 Canal Street is designated and the Edgewood Dry Stack wall (28 Boyd Street) has just recently been heritage designated. The Heritage committee has worked over the last year to identify and list properties in the COKL, including Bobcaygeon. 15 properties have been added for Bobcaygeon this year with more to come.

Bobcaygeon
35 Bolton Street
90 Bolton Street
46 Boyd Street
3343 County Road 36
20 Front Street East
40 Head Street
4 King Street West
49 King Street East
1 Main Street
48 Main Street
49 Main Street
51 Main Street
55 Main Street
43 Sherwood Street

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replied · 2 Replies

Ever since we started coming up to visit, I've always loved that house and always wanted to buy it myself !! I'm so sad to hear it's being torn down. It should be designated as heritage.

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██████████
What can be done to designate this house as a heritage building? The Boyd House across the river was demolished before any one knew what was happening. At least we are preserving the "dry" stone wall. My heart goes out to you as family, sincerely.

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██████████ replied · 2 Replies

██████████
In 25yrs BOBCAYGEON will not have a past it's completely changed now & who care' s progress

Share · 2w



██████████ replied · 1 Reply

██████████
I remember as a child going there for tea with Vicky Macintosh I believe it was her grandma we would sit out on the porch I always loved that property

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██████████
Vanessa Oliver I'm curious.. did you and your siblings sell the house to Roberto?

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██████████ replied · 1 Reply