



October 30th, 2024

Dear Mayor Olena, Council and Municipal Staff,

I am writing once again on behalf of the ACO Port Hope Advocacy Committee with regard to the revised Draft Property Standards By-Law. As I said in my first letter sent last April, we are very grateful for a strengthened by-law that also includes a special section on designated heritage properties. This should do much to help protect Port Hope's heritage assets in the future. We also appreciate the inclusion in the revisions to the by-law of several of the recommendations made in our April letter.

Of the ACO recommendations which were not adopted in the revised by-law, we believe that adding a provision requiring periodic inspections of vacant or damaged heritage buildings, if not all vacant or damaged buildings, is most important. Such a provision would prevent issues such as water or other damage, from becoming so severe that they lead to such events as roof and wall collapse, which occurred at the File Factory or pervasive deterioration which is occurring at 65 Ward Street. Periodic inspections are necessary not just to preserve heritage attributes but, more importantly, to help forestall public safety issues. While the Municipality's current Protective Services Department seems to be on the lookout for issues that might begin to compromise the structural integrity of Port Hope's abandoned buildings, we would still strongly recommend that a requirement for such scrutiny be added to the Property Standards By-Law.

We hope that you will consider amending the new by-law to include periodic inspections of the Municipality's vacant or damaged buildings.

Sincerely,
Susan Layard
Co-Chair, ACO Port Hope Advocacy Committee