

My name is Donna Kuehl and I'm the current Chair of the Olde Berlin Town Neighbourhood Association in the Civic Centre Heritage Conservation District. The Heritage District is 99% within our neighbourhood borders, one of the oldest part of Kitchener.

SOME BACKGROUND:

- When I first moved to the Civic Centre neighbourhood in the 1970's it was complete with gracious older homes; many residents had lived there for generations – descended from prominent citizens of Berlin (now Kitchener).
- The neighbourhood was beginning to experience issues, and over the next 20 or so years, many heritage houses were lost
 - o Queen St → several gracious homes, now **the Centre in the Square**
 - o Ahrens Street → formerly a through street, now **Region of Waterloo** building
 - o **Queen St** → another **high-rise** And yet another at the **Queen & Lancaster**
 - o **Margaret and Queen** → now **2 large apartments**
 - o College Street → now a **high-rise seniors residence**
 - o Ahrens Street → 2 elegant homes, now a **row a townhouses**
 - o Mansion Street → now has many **town houses**
 - o **Margaret Ave** → **in the 1980's most of the houses were torn down**
- in the 1980s neighbours were very involved in the Secondary Plan consultations that lead to a PRESERVATION designation in the Official Plan;
- By the 1990s preservation of the character of original homes was challenging; clearly, more protection was needed
- **the formation of our Civic Centre Heritage Conservation District Plan was on Heritage Kitchener's agenda as a potential HCD for many years.**
 - o The neighbourhood supported the creation of a Heritage District
 - o It was a long drawn-out experience, with stops and starts, over many years to see the HCD through to completion in 2010 and some aspects were only completed in 2016 !

The Civic Centre Neighbourhood and surroundings have long been a beacon for developers and intensification.

New development should be sensitive to the historic scale and features of the surrounding streets and nearby homes and historically significant buildings.

The impacts of the 30-40 Margaret Ave., development create vital and significant concerns for 3 nearby neighbours:

- those across the street (on Margaret Ave),
- those beside the new building ... and
- those residents living behind on Ellen St.

BUT, the whole neighbourhood our Heritage District will be impacted !

There is a critical balance at play. Our Old Berlin Town neighbourhood is facing current developments and several pending ones. We care about all our neighbours, now and those who will live here in the future.

We want the best solution for all our neighbours.

Is there a tipping point to:

- preserving our heritage
- preserving our unique features
- preserving the walkability for pedestrians
- preserving our residential character
 - o our streetscapes, our trees & green boulevards

The Civic Centre HCD plan is a vital document to preserving our city's history and this 'jewel' in the centre of the city.