

Revised Agenda - Correspondence  
Recommended Cultural Heritage Action Plan – 2020-143

I urge members of this meeting to vote to adopt a motion to recognize Catholic Hill as our most important remaining Cultural Historic Landscape. Protection is required.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Macrae  
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To the Mayor, City Council and City Staff:

I will keep this brief. I understand you will be discussing the Cultural Heritage Action Plan. This plan has been previously rejected by Heritage Guelph because it does not include Catholic Hill and the Basilica of Church of Our Lady. Clearly a national historic site would almost without exception be included in a Cultural Heritage Action Plan in any city.

There are 2 reasons this obvious inclusion has been left out by City Staff:

- 1) The Diocese is resistant to any designations that may interfere or restrain their absolute autonomy related to decisions regarding Catholic Hill and the Basilica
- 2) There are development pressures from nearby sites that would be impacted if Catholic Hill and the Basilica were included in the Cultural Heritage Action Plan

It is incumbent on the City of Guelph to treat this National Historic Site ongoingly and always *as though it's already included* in the Cultural Heritage Action Plan no matter what happens. EVERY decision that comes before Council that could lead to a negative impact on this site should be rejected. ANYTHING you can do to protect this site should be aggressively undertaken.

The greatest cities in the world protect their finest historic architecture and the areas that encircle it. Development pressures, hierarchical cultural entities must understand their place in the hierarchy that is the City itself.

It is your job to protect and steward the City and always take decisions in terms of what's best for *all the citizens* of Guelph and *all the generations* to come.

My opinion? Don't fight the Diocese, but protect Catholic Hill and the Basilica of Church of Our Lady regardless. Reject insensitive nearby developments. Purchase 75 Dublin and put in a City Park that supports visitors to this historic site, supports the school next door, supports the Civic museum and adds to our green space needs downtown. That is leadership. That is stewardship. That would be good for all the citizens of Guelph and all the future visitors to our Royal City.

Mary Peirson  
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I address all of you with due respect,

The majority of the citizens who gave well documented presentations at the meeting regarding the proposed development of 75 Dublin St., were strongly opposed to said development. If indeed, we are living in a true democracy, surely the will of the people should prevail.

Please, as representatives of the people of Guelph, protect Catholic Hill and include it in the Cultural Heritage Action Plan. There should be no development on Catholic Hill.

Respectfully,  
Heather Daymond  
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Please include Catholic Hill and the Basilica of our Lady in any Cultural Heritage Plan.

I'm not Catholic or even religious, but that is an iconic building. It's a beautiful piece of architecture, a masterful example of what the masons in early Guelph were capable of crafting, and its prominent position overlooking the old city needs to be preserved.

Yes, we should densify, yes we want a vibrant downtown, but please don't overlook our heritage and the buildings in old Guelph that make it special.

Thank you for your kind consideration.  
Lillian Links

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Few Canadian cities have such iconic landmarks as our Catholic Hill, which displays one of the 18 Canadian Basilicas. It is a magnificent site that should be preserved and displayed in all its glory for many decades to come. No additional building should spoil the view of such a rare monument. To do otherwise would be an act of profound cultural insensitivity. I hope this administration won't be remembered for depriving its citizens of its cultural identity and for shortchanging it for financial and/or political interests.

Please protect Catholic Hill and include it in the Cultural Heritage Action Plan, as requested by both citizens and the Heritage Guelph committee.

Thank you,  
Sandra Parmegiani  
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It has come to my attention that in this plan, there is no recommendation regarding the designation and protection of this most important cultural landmark and historic site in the heart of Guelph. There are some things which cannot be replaced. Our

Guelph Heritage must be protected. This whole area is unique. It is a treasure. It must not be hidden by competing new buildings that might otherwise be permitted to obstruct the view of the Basilica.

Surely this is the time to have some vision for the city. Protect this Jewel from the possibility of being lost by development around it which could hide this important site.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Abbink  
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Hello,

Please protect Catholic Hill and the Basilica of Church of Our Lady and include them in the Cultural Heritage Action Plan, as requested by both citizens and the Heritage Guelph committee. The Basilica and Catholic Hill is the most beautiful landmark in Guelph, and deserves to be protected for all to admire and enjoy. Please include the Basilica of Church of Our Lady and Catholic Hill in the Cultural Heritage Action Plan.

Marvin Stemeroff and Shawna Geer  
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I wish to express my concern regarding the "Cultural Heritage Action Plan" coming before the Guelph City Council.

It is very important that the plan include the designation of our most prominent Cultural Heritage Landscape: Catholic Hill and the Basilica of Church of Our Lady.

This site is a symbol of Guelph and it's history that needs to be protected. It helps to make Guelph something more than just an area of urban development. It is a clear reminder that as we move forward the efforts of those in our past will not be forgotten, just as the efforts of those in our present and future will also be remembered.

We are an inclusive city and welcome all to ADD to our history. This cannot be done if we erase or obscure our past. We need to know who we were to decide who we will become.

Designate Catholic Hill and the Basilica of Church of Our Lady now. Once gone they cannot be brought back.

Malcolm G. Manford  
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Paula Manford

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