

dear decision makers

I don't live in Guelph but have visited the university and city many times. Historic buildings define us. History matters. If this was England or Europe this would be a discussion with partners in agriculture, education, community, horticulture private business and government. Not a demolition.

We have so little regard for bulldozing over the past. Where are the creative thinkers? Have you thought about opportunities to use the space for community gardening projects for mental health or the elderly or children linked back to university programs? Have you reached out to Ontario horticulture society? Ever thought about being a North America Chelsea flower show location event? How about go fund me?

I watch bbc Gardeners world and there is a clear commitment to preserving history, repairing historic greenhouses, restoring old buildings, (and gardens) and inspiring the next generation of horticulturalists and agriculturalists. It is an important industry.

I for one am appalled at how few historic places there are to visit in Ontario related to our agricultural and horticultural history. If the university wants to ensure the next generation or agriculturalist and horticulturalist and home growers then this is an opportunity to preserve and improve upon the space and use there of.

Check out Gardeners world on BBC. Or on Hdclump. It was my lifeline during the pandemic and furthers my interest in agriculture. I have seen so many inspirational ideas that could be done in our country. At the same time travelled to many gardens, farms greenhouses, flower and agricultural shows. Learned so much about veg and flower gardening and its benefits as well as the history. Listened to those in the industry and the many entrepreneurs who have carved out new spaces and ideas.

Please find a way to keep the historical building and create opportunities Guelph can be proud of. If I was applying to go to Guelph the historical surroundings and the newest technology would both matter. My education would be defined by both.

Thanks Janice Gallant

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