

December 5th, 2024

Re: 2.3: 37 Christie Lane - Application to Deconstruct a Cultural Heritage Resource - 2024-514

Mayor Cam Guthrie and members of Guelph City Council,

Since 1964 the University of Guelph has stood as a pillar of our community and a driver of our local economy. It is vital that we are working to ensure that the University of Guelph is successful, and we are enabling them to continue to be a catalyst for the progress of all of Guelph.

The University of Guelph has done their best to conduct the required tests and assessments to determine the viability of reconstructing and maintaining the Rutherford Conservatory. These tests have proven that, in its current state, the Conservatory is a threat to public safety.

With a growing demand on the investment into academics, the University of Guelph should not be burdened by costs that are not related to the success of their institution. Due to tuition freezes and the limiting of financial support, the University of Guelph has projected its 5th consecutive operating budget deficit. If the University is required to allocate a portion of its limited financial capacity to the maintenance of the Conservatory, there will be negative impacts for the overall success of the University, and by proximity, all of Guelph.

We support the University of Guelph and their plans to salvage materials from the Rutherford Conservatory to establish a commemorative garden that honours the University and City's deep agricultural history.

Sincerely,



Jason Kalbfleisch
Advocacy & Policy Coordinator, Guelph Chamber of Commerce

For over 195 years the Guelph Chamber of Commerce has been a leading champion for the Guelph business community and the issues affecting it. We have built a diverse membership of over 750 businesses by ensuring they have the resources and connections to succeed, by exemplifying community leadership, and through our advocacy work promoting the conditions that enable business success.