

HERITAGE WALK 2021

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST AMHERSTBURG HERITAGE WALK

I HOPE THE FIRST GROUP ENJOYED THEIR TOUR

AND THE SECOND GROUP THINKS THE SAME.

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR TOUR GUIDE MEG REINER OF THE
MARSH HISTORICAL COLLECTION

MARSH IS JUST ACROSS THE STREET

IF YOU HAVEN'T VISITED MARSH YOU SHOULD

THEIR PURPOSE IS AN IMPORTANT ONE

“TO COLLECT , PRESERVE AND ENCOURAGE RESEARCH
INTO THE HERITAGE OF AMHERSTBURG AND THE LOWER
DETROIT RIVER DISTRICT”

MEG WAS A HUGE HELP TO COLLEEN AND I WHEN WE WERE
RESTORING 135 YEAR OLD BUILDING NEXT DOOR

OUR HERITAGE TOUR IS DONE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LATE
JANE JACOBS

YEARS AFTER HER DEATH SHE IS STILL VIEWED AS ONE OF
THE MOST INFLUENTIAL URBANISTS OF OUR TIMES

YEARS AGO SHE FOUGHT FOR MORE LIVEABLE CITIES IN
NEW YORK AND TORONTO

SHE PROFOUNDLY CHANGED THE WAY WE SHOULD THINK
ABOUT TOWNS AND CITIES TODAY

AND HER INFLUENCE CAN STILL BE FELT IN DISCUSSIONS
ON WHAT MAKES GREAT COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE
WORLD

THERE WAS A GREAT STORY ABOUT HER INFLUENCE IN THE
GLOBE AND MAIL JUST YESTERDAY.

NOW I HOPE YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE NEW INITIATIVE
CALLED THRIVE

ELEVEN OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS HAVE COME TOGETHER TO
CHAMPION INITIATIVES THAT CONNECT TO THE DNA OF
JANE JACOBS

THINGS LIKE

STREETS ARE FOR PEOPLE - NOT CARS

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION - LIKE CYCLING

LOWER - SAFER SPEED LIMITS

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF ART

THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTHY PARKS

ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

AND THE PROTECTION AND INVESTMENT IN HERITAGE

HENCE TODAY'S FOCUS

INTERESTING THAT RESEARCH INDICATES THAT HERITAGE IS THE THIRD MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT THE RESIDENTS OF AMHERSTBURG VALUE

#1 OUR LOCATION DOWN BY THE RIVER

#2 WE'RE FRIENDLY LOTS OF TOWNS CAN CLAIM THAT

AND #3 - OUR HISTORY

HERITAGE IS DEFINITELY A REAL POINT OF DIFFERENCE FOR AMHERSTBURG VERSUS ANY OTHER TOWN IN THE COUNTY

UNFORTUNATELY WE ARE NOT TREATING IT AS IMPORTANT

WE ARE REALLY NOT PROTECTING IT ENOUGH

WE NOT INVESTING IN IT ENOUGH

PROBABLY THE MOST INFLUENTIAL URBANIST IN CANADA. BRENT TODERIAN SAID IT BEST

“THE TRUTH ABOUT A TOWNS OR CITIES” ASPIRATIONS ISN’T FOUND IN ITS VISION

IT’S FOUND IN IT BUDGET”

AND IF YOU CHECK OUR THE EXPENSE LINES IN OUR 2021 BUDGET YOU WILL FIND VERY LITTLE DEDICATED TO OUR HERITAGE

NOW I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE BUDGET INCLUDED THE HIRING OF CLINT ROBERTSON TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TOWN’S HERITAGE FILE

I AM VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT CLINT WILL DO A GREAT JOB
A GREAT JOB IF

IF WE SUPPORT HIS IDEAS IN THE 2022 TOWN BUDGET
FOR EXAMPLE

MAKING SURE PREDICTABLE, AND SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL
INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE TO ENCOURAGE BUILDING
OWNERS

BOTH BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL
0
TO HISTORICALLY RESTORE THEIR PROPERTY

CLINT WILL DO A GREAT JOB IF COUNCIL SUPPORTS HIS
CHAMPIONING MORE BUILDING TO BE CLASSIFIED AS
HERITAGE PROPERTIES

AND THUS PROTECTING THEIR FUTURE

COLLEEN AND I RECENTLY WENT BEFORE THE HERITAGE
COMMITTEE AND WERE DELIGHTED THAT THEY
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED OUR RIVER BOOKSHOP
BUILDING AS A HERITAGE PROPERTY

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO INSTALLING THE HERITAGE
PLAQUE AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE

MEG TOURED YOU BY A NUMBER OF PROPERTIES OF
HERITAGE INTEREST TODAY

YES THEY ARE ON THE TOWN'S OWATCH LIST

BUT DONT' CONFUSE THAT WITH PROTECTION

THEY ARE STILL AT RISK

AND IF WE LOSE ANY OF THOSE GREAT HERITAGE
PROPERTIES. IT WEAKENS AMHERSTBURG'S POINT OF
DIFFERENCE

I ALSO HOPE THEY SPPORT CLINT WITH MORE FUNDING
FOR MARKETING AND RECOGNIZING OUR HERITAGE

WE HAVE SO MANY GREAT STORIES TO TELL

LET'S SPEND SOME MONEY TELLING THEM

AND I HOPE THEY SUPPORT CLINT WHEN HE BRINGS FORWARD HIS HER8TAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECOMMENDATION .

OTHER ONTARIO COMMUNITIES WITH DOWN TOWN HERITAGE CORE'S HAVE PROTECTED AND DEVELOPED THEIRS

ITS TIME AMHERSTBURG CAUGHT UP

NOW AS LOVERS OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS

I HAVE TO BELIEVE YOU ARE LOVERS

AFTER ALL YOU SIGNED UP FOR MEG'S TOUR

YOU ARE PROBABLY LEAN TO SUPPORTING THESE IDEAS

BUT AS THEY CALL OUT IN ART AUCTIONS JUST BEFORE A BUYING DECISION IS MADE

“FAIR WARNING”

ACTIONING THESE HERITAGE PLANS WILL COST SOME MONEY

AND SOME OWNERS WILL OPPOSE THEIR BUILDING HAVING A HERITAGE DESIGNATION

UNFORTUNATELY TOO OFTEN IN AMHERSTBURG THE
REFLEX ACTION OF SOME RESIDENTS TO ANY NEW
INVESTMENTS

OR ANY NEW IDEAS

IS.

NO

WE LIKE THE STATUS QUO

WE DON'T LIKE CHANGE

WE DON'T LIKE SPENDING MONEY

NOW THRIVE WILL BE TABLING A WHITE PAPER ON
HERITAGE TO COUNCIL IN EARLY OCTOBER

WE WILL BE COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT AND IT WILL BE A
AVAILABLE FOR ALL TO SEE

WHEN IT IS PUBLISHED AND IF YOU THINK IT MAKES
SENSE

AND YOU THINK THAT COUNCIL SHOULD APPROVE IT

THEN SPEAK UP

LET COUNCILLORS KNOW YOU WANT TO INVEST IN THE
HERITAGE OF AMHERSTBURG

ACTUALLY IF YOU WANT TO BE A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE
HERITAGE WHITE PAPER STOP ME LATER AND LETS TALK

THANKS FOR COMING TODAY