

**MUSEUM & ARCHIVES AND  
HERITAGE LANDS BOARD  
ADDENDUM**



**Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.  
Dufferin Room,  
229 Broadway, Orangeville**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**11. MUSEUM BOARD – February 22, 2012– Item #11**  
The Former Stanton Hotel

- 11.1. Correspondence from Gord Gallagher, dated January 30, 2012
- 11.2. Correspondence from Vic Snow, dated February 6 and 21, 2012
- 11.3. Correspondence from Susan and David Worts, dated February 21, 2012

**From:** [ken mcghee](#)

**To:** [Gordon Gallaughier](#)

**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 10:18 AM

**Subject:** Re: Stanton Hotel and Airport Rd intersection improvements

Thanks Gord for your comments.

At this time the County's action is on hold pending Mulmur Council decision on designation and the Museum Bd. recommendations.

Mr. Snow's comments as well as input from residents such as yourself will form part of any decision/solution.

Appreciated.

Ken

Chair Public Works

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Gordon Gallaughier](#)

**To:** [pmills@mulmurtownship.ca](mailto:pmills@mulmurtownship.ca) ; [warden@dufferincounty.on.ca](mailto:warden@dufferincounty.on.ca) ; [ken.mcghee@townofmono.com](mailto:ken.mcghee@townofmono.com)

**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 3:35 PM

**Subject:** Stanton Hotel and Airport Rd intersection improvements

While I understand the safety concerns at this corner, and applaud the county for attempting to make the required improvements, I too am concerned about the loss of a heritage building at this site. My grandfather used to tell me stories of returning by horse drawn wagon or sleight from alliston many years ago, and the Stanton \hotel was one of potentially 5 hotels to stop at on the way back to the Mansfield area. So there is historical value to this building and this site. I would encourage all involved to actively consider all options for preserving it. My personal choice would be for the building to be simply moved back on the current site - it is a large lot, there is lots of room to move it well back from the intersection. With the county now owning it, the building could be sited to provide for the upgrading of the corner, the roadwork performed, then sell the building again to recoup the investment. My understanding is that once it has been designated a heritage building, the building owners are required to maintain the building in a manner that preserves it appropriately. Indeed, the old Stanton store building might also be able to be placed on this lot, provide a potential owner with both a business building and a residential building. My guess is that there are lots of potential buyers who might jump at owning such a site on a busy tourist road, and the county could recoup most if not all of our investment in it, AND we get to preserve our heritage building.

Please add my views to your deliberations.

Gordon Gallaughier

Mulmur

**From:** Vic Snow  
**Sent:** February-06-12 12:41 PM  
**To:** mcgheegk@lincsat.com  
**Cc:** mayor.maciver@hotmail.com; paul@mills4mulmur.com; walter.kolodziechuk@everus.ca; Sonya Pritchard; Wayne Townsend; H. Kolodny  
**Subject:** Email # 1 - USES - The Pre-Confederation Stanton Hotel

Ken: I am sending you two self-explanatory emails on the above-noted. The first is from Harvey Kolodny, Professor Emeritus, U of T, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. The second is from myself to Harvey. He has also wisely suggested that I should not provide too much detail, just enough to let the ideas germinate in a lot of minds. Additionally, he mentioned that some may be adamantly opposed but there will be many who will be intrigued by the possibilities and further advised that he knows several architects that might make a pro bono donation of their time in respect to one aspect of the forwarded emails. I do not have time to either amend my email as he suggested or make it more tactful but it is for Council members and staff only, so I hope you recognize my human failings. I do not need or expect comment at this time. By the way, the Kolodnys live on the Adjala side of the Mono Adjala Town Line, but I know that they are socially and economically connected to Mono and Orangeville as well as the DCMA. Regards, Vic Snow

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**From:** Vic Snow  
**Sent:** February-06-12 12:56 PM  
**To:** mcgheegk@lincsat.com; mayor.maciver@hotmail.com; paul@mills4mulmur.com; walter.kolodziechuk@everus.ca; Sonya Pritchard; Wayne Townsend; H. Kolodny  
**Subject:** Email # 2 - The Pre-Confederation Stanton Hotel

FYI - Please read 3 emails in # order. Vic Snow

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Harvey Kolodny  
**To:** Vic Snow  
**Sent:** Sun, Feb 5, 2012 11:32 pm  
**Subject:** RE: The Pre-Confederation Stanton Hotel, 1863 - Win Hand

Hi Vic,  
Yes. I get the Citizen and I read the Wes Keller article.

I don't know if it sacrilegious to suggest this, since I am not knowledgeable about how historic sites are preserved, but since the Stanton Hotel was a hotel could it still be preserved as a historic hotel while offering commercial services? I am just speculating wildly here but if the Stanton Hotel were moved to the DCMA, it would be located in a highly desirable commercial location. On the opposite corner (kitty corner) the coffee shop that was there either closed down or was burned out. I suspect Imperial Oil owns the land and I have heard that it is contaminated from the gas station that used to be there so no one wants the expense of trying to resuscitate it (this is rumour and may not be true). There is not a coffee shop from Rosemont (actually from Alliston) to Primrose nor from Mono Mills to Creemore, despite that fact that Airport Road is a heavily travelled route as is Highway 89. If a clever restoration architect could think of a way of adding a coffee shop that still preserved the Stanton Hotel (it would have to be a drive in as well, which means pollution and lots of other undesirable aspects), there could be potential revenue for the DCMA. Probably not though, as for example the five Tim Horton's in the area are all owned by the same person and if it were to be another one of those I guess it would be a for profit endeavour for the owner. The real attraction would be if it brought visitors to see the historic Stanton Hotel. Probably a bad idea - just speculating.  
Harvey

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**From: Vic Snow**

**Sent:** February-06-12 1:27 PM

**To:** mcgheegk@lincsat.com; mayor.maciver@hotmail.com; paul@mills4mulmur.com; walter.kolodziechuk@everus.ca; Sonya Pritchard; Wayne Townsend; H. Kolodny

**Subject:** Email #3 - The Pre-Confederation Stanton Hotel

FYI - Please read emails in # order. Vic Snow

---- Original Message ----

From: beavermeadowfarm

To: kolodny

Sent: Mon, Feb 6, 2012 10:15 am

Subject: The Pre-Confederation Stanton Hotel

Harvey: After reading your email, it occurred to me that "great minds think alike, fools seldom differ". I have been pondering a similar idea for some time, a tea room and restaurant and someone else recently mentioned a tavern/bar and a restaurant. I don't think that a bar would be well received for many obvious reasons but you have come up with the best use by far, a coffee shop with a powerful rationale to support the idea. You have the greater mind but perhaps we are both fools! There is nothing sacrilegious from a heritage preservation standpoint because the Hotel would need to be restored to set criteria to preserve its historic integrity. There are the obvious issues needing to be addressed but if the will exists, I believe the issues are only opportunities and need not be insurmountable.

1.) A rear addition built in a matching and accurate period style with only minor compromises at the very back to meet the needs of a coffee shop with drive through capability is feasible. Also, the existing parking lot is large and cars are rarely parked at the northern end other than for very occasional events at the Corbetton Church. I recognize that because of the rather simple design (Georgian style) of any addition, it could be handled by an individual with a BCIN, particularly an architectural technologist and I know several who are highly competent, all being very much less expensive than an architect.

2.) The Hotel with its rear coffee shop could simply be positioned somewhat further up the slope so that the coffee shop was at the same level as the parking lot and could provide drive through capability since the circular drive essentially already exists. The Hotel proper when viewed from Airport Rd. would still retain its original 1863 appearance. In addition, there are several possible considerations on this concept, including where else the building might be positioned as well as how much space would be required by a coffee shop, etc.

3.) Also, the Museum may want some portion of the original structure for their own use, as they appear to have a space problem. In addition to the administrative offices and storage problems that may exist, in my view, the DCMA is quickly becoming a repository for the remnants of wrecked heritage and all the more so, if the Stanton Hotel becomes another parts donor.

3.) By the way, I understand that the "On Your Forks" restaurant at Mansfield recently closed because of the evident \$5,000 per month lease cost even though the restaurant proprietor told me that they were doing well, having developed a large local base of patrons along with many customers travelling past on weekends.

4.) Whether or not the Museum/County would want a commercial enterprise on their grounds will be an interesting topic. Certainly the coffee shop would be no further removed from the intersection of Hwy. 89 and Airport Rd. than the Tim Horton's at Hwy. 9 and Hwy. 50.

5.) To what extent such a shop would contribute to the capital costs/leasehold improvements is another matter, but obviously subject to negotiation.

6.) There are many other interesting possibilities and potential benefits to the DCMA as you mention. By the way, air pollution would not be a problem as anytime I'm been at the DCMA the wind is blowing so strong out of the west that a wind turbine could generate much of the DCMA electricity requirements and certainly disperse exhaust emissions. Thanks again for your ideas. I'll be in touch further. Vic

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---- Original Message ----

From: Vic Snow

To: spritchard <[spritchard@dufferincounty.on.ca](mailto:spritchard@dufferincounty.on.ca)>

Sent: Tue, Feb 21, 2012 3:42 am

Subject: The Pre-Confederation Stanton Hotel - Informal Comments re the Museum Board Meeting & Heritage Preservation in Dufferin County

Sonya:

These are my informal comments related to the Museum Board Meeting on Feb. 22nd but they have bearing on all County Councillors. Would you please circulate the under-noted email (sent to many supporters) to the Museum Board and to all other members of Council. I hope every Councillor will take the time to read this as well as my Submission to the Museum Board contained in the Agenda. The Hotel is not just another old building as it is extremely important to the County and even more so to the entire Province. I know what I'm talking about and that is not intended as self promotion.

The Atkinson Log House, c.1848 from Melancthon, donated to the Museum by the Highland Co. (because of public pressure?) has rare and distinctive features that set it far apart from the log house inside the Museum building and from the large number of other log houses that survive in Dufferin County, many covered with siding and unrecognizable to the untrained eye. I'd like to write about my own failed attempt with Highland in trying to save/dismantle a single building for a client of the 31 evidently destroyed as well as saving/purchasing some important timbers from a barn but that narrative should be written on toilet paper and flushed. The Atkinson Log House is not only important to Melancthon Twp. but also to the County as it will serve as an important visible memorial to all the earliest pioneers of Dufferin who suffered extreme hardship, deprivation and "roughed it in the bush". (It could not have been saved without dismantling, as it was beginning to rot from the bottom up.) The Stanton Hotel is vastly more important for the many reasons that I have previously mentioned and it too will pay tribute to the countless early settlers and others who sought food, drink and temporary refuge, as well as at other Hotels like it all over the County. All Towns and particularly Townships should view it as a fine example of the multitude that once were in each of their locales. One of the finest and architecturally amazing Pre-Confederation Hotels stood in Marsville, East Garafraxa but it too is long gone. On the wall of my office just to my left hangs a reproduction of an early image of that hotel that I often study and admire. Some of these historical images should hang in the new addition to the Court House as important reminders of the past, lest we forget. By the way, I would protest if any funds are diverted from the reconstruction and restoration of the Atkinson Log House in favour of the Stanton Hotel but that would require a long rationale.

County Council deserves extraordinary recognition concerning the ongoing support for the Museum & Archives, one of the finest Museums of its type in Ontario. Likewise, Wayne Townsend is deserving of respect and accolades concerning his contribution to heritage and history in Dufferin. Perhaps it has already been forgotten that he was the first to recognize the importance of the Atkinson Log House in Melancthon and actually, while unstated, did likewise concerning the Hotel. I have failed to stress these two foregoing points to the media but I will do so in the near future. I won't fail now to suggest to Councillors the need for all municipalities to embrace heritage designation and preservation long before Dufferin County can celebrate the 200th anniversary of its first settlement by Abraham Hughson in Amaranth in 1819. I am thoroughly impressed by Jack Slater of Mono and Carl Tafel of Mulmur the only two Chairs of Heritage Committees that I have met. Surely, all Townships without Heritage Committees have individuals with similar commitment and talent, qualified to act as chair. I have offered to provide my heritage construction and architectural knowledge to assist them on a voluntary basis and I would extend that offer to others. Obviously, the complex situation at Stanton is unique and does not relate to the normal process of Heritage Designation and the function and mandate of a Heritage Committee.

My final point is my concern about what may happen at County Council on this topic. I am disturbed by the many comments that I have had heard from others and seen to a lesser extent, concerning a Council divided, divided on some well known matters and further concerned about the public perception that some voting on separate issues is retribution directed at a colleague who has voted contrary in the past. I have no doubt that I too would likely have this human failing and certainly it is common in politics but I hope that all Councillors can rise above such action when it comes to the Stanton Hotel. I hope Council

can unanimously share in the legacy of gifting this historic structure to the County, the Province and to Canada. Such a unified message would be important to the electorate and to posterity. Perhaps one day, the Pre-Confederation Stanton Hotel may, indeed, be recognized as a National Historic Site.

#### EMAIL SENT TO MANY SUPPORTERS

FYI. The under-noted is a condensed version of a letter I sent last Fri. to Richard Vivian, Editor of the Orangeville Banner. He has advised me that he will do his utmost to publish it in this Thursday's edition. Also, Signe Ball, Publisher/Editor of "In The Hills" will run a special article in the March edition by Ken Weber (writer of "Historic Hills") on Win Hand, first owner of the Hotel. Much additional fascinating information was recently uncovered about his life. He is one of the most colourful individuals in the history of Dufferin County (a phrase I coined in early Jan.) and perhaps the most colourful. Surprisingly, in the latest research his obituary in 1913 mentioned that "he was the most colourful person" in the locale where he then lived. Win Hand will be forever linked to the historic Hotel and in Ken's words, "His true legacy is the gift of the Hotel". I am certain that Ken has done a brilliant job in telling an amazing story. Richard Vivian has my thanks and I am very grateful to Signe Ball, Kirsten Ball and Ken Weber for an extraordinary commitment on short notice in making this story known to 43,000 readers. I hope that Councillors will take notice. Please feel free to circulate this to others, as usual.

Mr Vivian: I have been asked why I am committed to the preservation of the Stanton Hotel. For the benefit of your readers, especially the many supporters, I'll tell my story. My earliest recollections as a boy are of my father often shouting out in the night and in the morning sitting on the side of the bed sobbing with his hands covering his eyes. I asked Mom, "What's wrong with Daddy" and she replied, "Oh, he's just had a bad dream." I never again asked that question. It was very upsetting to me, but I came to understand that his torment related to World War II. He served with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders from Normandy to Holland before he was wounded in action. He never spoke about the War nor the traumatic events that affected him to the depths of his soul. I looked forward to weekends, Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, as we would travel to my grandparent's cottage on Georgian Bay and those times gave Dad temporary release from the terrible memories. He liked to take various routes but came to favour Airport Rd. At a time when I started to notice girls, I began to notice the Stanton Hotel. I looked forward to studying every fascinating aspect of the building (near original then), twice each weekend for the few moments it took to drive past. The Hotel became the source of my lifelong interest in heritage architecture. Last Nov. 27th, after removing the neoclassical entrance for the Dufferin County Museum, I had a sleepless night as dormant memories flooded back, the Hotel and its link to the trips that gave my father some peace and calmed his soul. At 3:00 AM, knowing it faced demolition in 4 days, I got up and wrote the email to you that started my crusade, as destiny demanded. If the Hotel is saved, in my serene soul, it will be a tribute to my dad, a good man and a good father. You can imagine why I shed tears as I finish this. Regardless of the outcome, I stress how much I appreciate your quick action.

Best regards, Vic Snow

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**From:** Susan Worts  
**Sent:** February-21-12 5:41 PM  
**To:** Sonya Pritchard  
**Subject:** Fwd: preserving the Stanton Hotel

Hello Sonya,

I was given your email address by Vic Snow, who suggested going through you to reach the councilors voting on the future of the Stanton Hotel. I would be so grateful to you if you could see that my message gets passed on to them before Feb. 22. Thank you so much.

Regards,

Susan and David Worts

To Whom It May Concern,

On the subject of the Stanton Hotel's survival:

Compared to other countries,(Europe, England) or even Quebec, most of Canada seems to have very little regard for it's own history. In North America, it seems that the developer reigns supreme. Our connection to the past and the soothing aspects of continuity in our lives, exist only because of the diligent work of a passionate few who have been able to save a building here or a house there or through the creation of pioneer villages. Poor town planning and few regulations have destroyed a good deal of Southern Ontario's prime agricultural land and left us with urban sprawl of such mediocrity and poor quality that these houses and buildings are being repaired even as the new owners move in.

What is the legacy you want to leave your children? Your grandchildren? Are you content to show them a coffee table book with the sepia photos of the grand buildings that once dotted the landscape of former Ontario villages? Once they are gone, they're gone. You are representing the voters and are charged with the responsibility to look to the future, not just to develop but to protect our history. We've lost enough, it's time now to save what we can from the wreckers ball.

Remember, tourism is a trillion dollar business in this country. Tourists don't come to admire the suburbs or 4 lane roads. Esthetics matter, 'quaint' attracts, history speaks to our souls, culture sustains and civilizes us. We only have a hundred plus years of history, while Europe has thousands, why are we in such a hurry to destroy what little we have?

My grandmother's people were Empire Loyalists from Pennsylvania, settled in Markham. The Ontario government thought we needed another airport. Not much left of those farms and still no airport.

Save the Stanton Hotel on February 22. There are no reasonable arguments to destroy it, only a lack of vision for where there is a will, there is a way. Your citizens will carry the day in the end, they always do when there is something worth fighting for and in a recent poll, 68% agreed that saving historic buildings are 'very important'. Please heed the voters.

Sincerely,

David and Susan Worts,  
Mono, Ont.