

## **37/39 Centre Street West Designation Consideration (03/24)**

**My name is Liz Bick and I am the owner of 37/39 Centre Street West. #39 Centre has been in my family since 1912. My husband and I moved here in 1980. In 1987, we purchased 37 Centre so as to retain control of both properties. Our daughter & her family now reside in #37. It is our wish and intent to preserve this property and to hand it down to future generations of our family.**

**Since we have moved here, we have strived to maintain the properties in their original format as much as possible, within reason.**

**While the home itself was built in 1891, many of its original features have been replaced as a result of wear and tear over the years. Some of the historical features are no longer in existence. For example, the side porch on #37 is no longer the porch built by John L. Innes for William Proctor. The stained glass transoms over the round top windows are no longer all original. The attic windows on the north exposure are not original. The front facade of the building is vastly different from its original build.**

**While my family and I honour the history of the home, unfortunately over the course of many years, both the design and some of the significant historical features have been altered. A designation of the property as a historical home will create a vast number of difficulties for us and place us in a highly prejudiced predicament.**

**Sadly, a historical designation automatically reduces the number of contractors whom are qualified to work on the home and further automatically increases the cost for many reasons; many contractors use designation as a tool to gouge homeowners with no other choice but to retain their services; many contractors are not equipped with knowledge, materials or tools to tackle such a project.**

**Additionally, the cost and time required to apply for permits to do any types of renovations or repairs to the property will have an adverse effect on our ability to maintain the property in a reasonable and cost effective manner. The grant offered to designated properties requires time to pursue and is not significant given the high costs of materials in 2024.**

**My family and I love our home and honour its history. However, we are not in favour of the designation of our property, as it will cause a great deal of undue hardships and stress to us and may ultimately force us to give up ownership of our beloved family home as a result.**

**We respectfully ask that the committee consider our years of dedication to maintaining and preserving the integrity of our home without creating an added burden in allowing us to do so.**