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[REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 8:05 PM

To: Ostrander, Brian <[ostranderb@northumberland.ca](mailto:ostranderb@northumberland.ca)>

Subject: 310 Division Street - Save Our Beautiful Historic Downtown

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**CAUTION:** External E-Mail

Dear Warden Brian Ostrander,

I've lived in the downtown area now for 2 years. I bought my house in February 2022. As a resident on [REDACTED] Street, I've experienced some of the craziest horrible things I've ever seen or witnessed in my life. I thought I would move to a beautiful neighborhood, where I could walk to all the local businesses and enjoy the waterfront. I have a beautiful, picturesque view of historic Victoria Hall from my living room and front porch. Unfortunately instead, I've watched the endless train of individuals, leave Transition House to head over to the creek behind The Blue Box to do drugs. Or the many individuals who flock to Transition House only to find the rules don't allow them to get in. Or they don't want to make the necessary changes to adjust, leaving them hanging around the downtown core and our neighborhood. We all have pictures, videos, etc., of these characters, so intoxicated they can barely walk. Screaming, fighting with each other and anyone they come across. Lighting fires, building fire pits on private property. Businesses having to lock their doors, because of the intimidation. (video can be provided) The list goes on and on. My neighbor [REDACTED], (see picture attached) had to cut down all the trees beside the creek because these individuals were hanging out there, using this area as a shelter, as well as an entry point to get into the back of the Blue Box to steal items. I've watched numerous times how they have loaded up shopping carts and wheeled out of this area in the night. Leaving their trails on the streets and in the neighborhood.

Of all the places...Transition House should have been moved out of Cobourg's beautiful downtown waterfront area. Not expanded to 7 times it's current size. All the people who are moving to Cobourg or who have lived their entire lives in Cobourg, do so because of this beautiful preserved historic downtown and waterfront. As property owners we cannot change a window with the approval of the historic committee. I agree that's great. It is brilliant to protect the history of this town. But why then would allow this to happen? A low-barrier emergency shelter for Northumberland County right here in the downtown core.

I was told that Cobourg's third largest source of revenue is tourism. I am not sure if that is correct. First was industrial, second agriculture, and third tourism. I don't think too many towns or cities in Ontario can say this. Cobourg's historic downtown and waterfront community is unique and beautiful. All the forefathers and previous town councils should be proud of what they've built and carried on all these years. Including everything you, our current Mayor and councillors are continuing to do. But this is your time to step up and shine and to protect this great town and everything it has stood for over the years. Transition House and the location in the downtown area is not working as it was. Please do the right thing and fight this and have it moved outside of the downtown core. Additionally, why does Cobourg have to carry the burden for Northumberland Counties mental health, drug addictions, and low-barrier emergency shelter at 310 Division St. Why not share it with the other towns? Port Hope, Grafton, Colborne, Brighton, Campbellford, Roseneath, and Bewdley. Even Campbellford has a hospital.

We all know that most of these individuals have substance abuse issues, and mental health issues. Yes, the local individuals need help. If this gets any worse than it is, residents and tourists will stay away. The businesses will close, the residents will sell and move, and this beautiful historic downtown we all know, and love will cease to exist as we know it.

My sincerest and deepest regards.

Brett Newell

