



January 15, 2019

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Homestead Hearing

In three weeks, on Feb. 4, a hearing starts on the Homestead appeal. Council in an in-camera session voted 9-4 in favour of approving the development, which now involves a 19 storey tower on Block 3, which backs on the Good Life Centre, and the LCBO, and also a 23 storey tower on Block 5 which backs on the S&R building. This is a ten day hearing, and we have been busily helping our four witnesses prepare for the hearing. We

are going against the City and Homestead this time, so the challenge is greater. We appreciate the donations very much which have been made to this cause, and we thank you for that. Also, the public is most welcome to sit in on the hearing – typically it will run from

about 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, and is held in Council Chambers in City Hall.



Challenge of the Capitol Decision

The lawyers for the developer are challenging the Capitol decision. There are two sections under the LPAT legislation that they are using to challenge the decision. This will mean

more work by our legal team, and some additional time before the decision is final.

Strategic Plan for the next Council Term

The Council agenda for Jan 8 included a report dealing with the Strategic Planning exercise (Report 19-027). Click [here](#) to see the [Report](#)

The 2019 report provides a link to a June 2015 report, (Report 15-245). Surprisingly, an item on page 59 entitled

'Foster Intensification in the city core' says **"Higher densities are also being encouraged, especially in the Downtown area and along the Princess Street Corridor. The development community has started to demonstrate an interest in building at higher densities than currently allowed in the**

Downtown and Princess Street Corridor...."

It is shocking to think that a major change in planning direction would be done through a Strategic Planning exercise, with no input from the public. Any such redirection to the planning framework should have

City's Strategic Plan: Don't miss your chance to speak up

had extensive public consultation under the *Planning Act*.

Over the next month or so, people will have the chance to let the council know what you think is important for the next

four years. Don't miss this chance to speak up. As heard recently at the Capitol hearing, the proposed Heritage District along Princess Street from Barrie Street lake has been in place since the

early 1990s. There are about twenty or so blocks that have heritage zoning. Council needs to hear that the historic core must be protected.



MURNEY TOWER
Photo by Graeme Watson

Upcoming Events:

The FHF is sponsoring an event on Tues., Jan. 22, 2019, 7 p.m. when Graeme Watson will explain what is happening at the Murney Tower. Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments.

Also, Mike Cole-Hamilton is inviting people to an event on Wed. Jan. 23, 2019. See the attached poster.