

DS-14-69

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From: Robert T Bell

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:27 AM

To: Margaret Kish; Laura Davis; Diane Stephen

Subject: Heritage Oshawa Correspondance

Correspondence for Heritage Oshawa Meeting

I am writing to express concern about something I saw today. The stone pillars at Windfields Farm on Simcoe Street North have been partially demolished. It was my understanding that the gates would be moved due to development. I understand & accept that due to their mass they would have to be taken apart to be moved.

What I saw alarmed me. It appeared that someone has used cables or something similar to pull down the pillars breaking them at various points above ground. The pillars broke into many pieces which are laying about the area and in the drainage ditch beside the road.

See attached sample photos. Additional photos are public at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/robertbell/sets/72157642575463243/>

I am not a mason but have worked with stone in the past. My approach would have been something like this:

- photograph existing pillars in detail
- number the face stones with removable media (as an aside as expected the pillars are composed of face cut stone covering a rough stone & concrete core)
- knock down the pillars
- carefully & immediately clean concrete debris off the face stones
- store the face stones in a Secure location
- at a proper time rebuild the pillars in a similar manner to the original construction, rough core covered by original face stones. Some missing stones would have to be replaced with similar.

My concerns:

1. The stones are laying scattered beside a busy road. This is prime picking for souvenir hunters.
2. The visible results of the demolition gives me grave concern regarding the quality of the reconstruction.

I would ask that all do what they can to ensure all appropriate measures are taken to ensure that these significant reminders of our past will be preserved & restored in a proper & timely manner.

Sincerely Yours
Robert T Bell

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Robert T. Bell

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