

## CNCL-24-120

From: Kim de Gannes <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>.

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 1:46 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>; \* Council <council@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Please do not remove Windfields Farm Mural from Memorial Park - (ref. Report ED-=24-112)

You don't often get email from <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>. Learn why this is important

Good Afternoon Oshawa Council and Oshawa Clerks Office.

I would like to add my voice to the many that have written with the request that Windfields Farm Mural in Memorial Park not be removed. Windfields and E.P. Taylor are a big part of the rich history of Oshawa, a place where I grew up. My father was the resident veterinarian at Windfields from 1973-1986 and I had the good fortune to spend my early years on the farm, a wonderful place.

So much history is wrapped up in this mural. I feel it would not be a good decision to remove it from its current location and request that you leave it in place for future generations to enjoy the work of artist David Yeatman and the history of Windfields and the Taylor family.

Thank you for considering this request.

Kind regards,

Kimberley de Gannes

From: Donna Baydak <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>.

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 8:17 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Windfield Farms/Northern Dancer downtown mural

You don't often get email from <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>. Learn why this is important

To Oshawa City Council

It has been brought to the public's attention that there is a move by city council to remove the mural referred to as ED- 24-112, reflecting the important contributions made to the history of Oshawa by Windfield Farms, the Taylor family and especially Northern Dancer.

This would be a terrible mistake for several reasons, not the least of which is that to remove it removes a beautiful piece of artwork that residents and visitors alike enjoy looking at as they go by the area.

Rather than take it down, a small plaque should be added beside it explaining the history.

I am not sure if you are aware, but the trend over the past couple of decades throughout Ontario and beyond is to save as many of these works of art that depict important moments in the city or town's history as possible. I encourage you to do the right thing for the city and history. Please do not remove the mural

Thankyou

Sincerely

Donna Baydak

From: dotmcfarlane2 <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 1:25 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Murals

You don't often get email from <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>. Learn why this is important

To Whom it may Concern,

I was dismayed to read of your recent decision to consider removing the murals. Please do NOT do so. My favourite is the Memorial Park Bandshell mural. These murals showcase the city's history. Let's not erase them.

Dorothy McFarlane

<M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

From: Alex Boyd <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 11:48 AM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Northern Dancer mural.

You don't often get email from <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>. Learn why this is important

Please do not erase this beautiful piece of history. Windfields farm and Northern Dancer are such a big part of not only Oshawa but the whole country of Canada. So please do not get rid of this beautiful piece of Canadian history. We need to keep our history not erase it

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From: Lynn Johnson <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 2:00 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Northern Dancer and Winfield Farms Memorial

You don't often get email from <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>. Learn why this is important

Sorry, but I just do not understand why you want to destroy symbols of our country's history and accomplishments?

Personally I enjoy seeing this and other memorials. Please do not remove it. If you do our young people will never be made aware of the accomplishments made in the past.

Thank you

M. Lynn Johnson

From: Desiree Nelson <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 3:02 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Oshawa History and Tourism

You don't often get email from <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>. Learn why this is important

I have recently learned that you are looking to remove the beautiful mural of Northern Dancer in the City of Oshawa, and I strongly object to this decision. Sixty years ago, Northern Dancer put Canada and Oshawa area on the map by being the first Canadian-bred horse to win the Kentucky Derby, news of which you are likely familiar. What you may not know is that his name has left a lasting impact on equestrians, the racing industry, and horse enthusiasts alike. Growing up on the prairies and in the horse world, I always knew his name, but there was additional pride by anyone who had a horse with Northern Dancer in their pedigree. It didn't matter if it was as a sire, grandsire or great grandsire, his name has always carried tremendous weight, and still does.

In 2008, I had the privilege of touring Windfields Farm, visiting the stallion barn with horses present, and seeing the grave of Northern Dancer. I spent hours there in awe at this rich horse history. I am forever grateful that my cousins from the area took me there on a tour prior to the farm being closed to the public. I understand that development is necessary, but so is history. The fact that this has not been promoted and turned into a tourist destination by the City of Oshawa is a heartbreaking and missed opportunity.

If this happened in Europe, the farm would be part of tourism. You could have accommodations on site or at least charge to visit these historic buildings, including an on-site museum. There are many people who worked at Windfields Farm who could be great resources of knowledge or offer first-hand experience of working with these legends. I understand there are plaques honoring the history and that Doors Open Oshawa has one day per year that it can be visited, but this year was the first year the public could visit the grave of Northern Dancer in ten years. I do not understand why this hasn't been embraced, as people would come to tour. I strongly encourage you to look up the Irish National Stud Farm (<https://irishnationalstud.ie/>) to give you an idea of how the horse industry there has embraced tourism. While it has continued as a working farm, perhaps this could give you some ideas of how Windfields Farm could be better utilized and financially supported by tourism. This would also mean more tourism for the City of Oshawa.

To add to that experience could be a visit to the very mural that you are considering removing. At this time, this mural is one of the few publicly accessible places that Northern Dancer is promoted in the City of Oshawa, unless I'm mistaken. I had to specifically search on your website for Northern Dancer, rather than have it as a proud connection to your area, especially with this being a milestone year (60th since winning the Derby, Preakness, and Queen's Plate). He was also inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in both Canada and the United States in 1976. Considering many people connected to Windfields are still alive at this time, there are plenty of resources that may not be there in the future and I encourage you to embrace what you can, while you can. Please do not destroy a beautiful piece of artwork, particularly one that highlights the history of Oshawa and area, by a horse that not only won historical horse races and sired generations of horses, but one who was valuable enough to be included in a Canada Post stamp and books all over the world.

I strongly urge you to reconsider and keep this mural, along with embracing the rich and beautiful history that you have before you. I would certainly return to see it, as I know of many others who would join in that too.

Sincerely,

Desiree Nelson