

January 1, 2022

**To: Cobourg Town Council Meeting of January 3, 2022
Council Members, CAO Vaughan and Planning Manager Rob Franklin**

From: Keith Oliver, Cobourg, ON

Re: Followup to my letter of December 30, 2021 concerning “demolition by neglect “ of Sidbrook, including my concern over the same process becoming evident at Brookside.

While the future of 93 Albert Street is being addressed at the January 3, 2022, meeting (according to the Agenda) and while the principle of concern remains the same, ie “demolition by neglect”, a more pressing concern is the future of Sidbrook and now Brookside. In these matters time is of the essence.

A) As noted in my letter to Council of December 30, and before a recent snowfall when the ground was bare, I walked the Sidbrook site and found many asphalt shingle roofing tabs littering the grass on the east and south sides of the building. This is a sure indication that the roofing shingles have reach the end of their life as an effective means of protecting the interior from rainwater.

When will Council act to stop the “demolition by neglect” of Sidbrook and at the least, ensure its preservation in its present state until its ultimate future is decided?

B) Today, Saturday, I walked the grassy area around Brookside and found 21 pieces of roofing shingles on the east and south sides. These were more than roof shingle tabs. These were significant pieces of whole shingles. The photo I hope to forward as part of this lettre shows the pieces laid out on the east porch floor in front of the east wall. The latter shows the extent of the black mold enveloping many areas of the buildings’ wooden exterior. There are areas that show wood rot and decay including at the base of the grand wood columns , window sills and eaves.

As of a month ago the Provincial Government has cleared out all remnants of the use of Brookside as the administrative office of a youth detention and treatment centre. The building is empty. Who is ensuring that the roof is in good repair? ... that water is not entering from anywhere else including the basement? ... that the interior heat is maintained to a minium of 58 degrees Fahrenheit? ... that after a power outage the electricity powering the furnace will come back on? ... that the water system has been effectively drained? ... that no one has gained unauthorized entry to the building? ... etc.

When will Council address the possible “demolition of Brookside by neglect”? ... hold its present owners, the Provincial Government to account ... or will Brookside be subject to the tragedy which has befallen Sidbrook ? If the above protective measures have been and are being carried out by the Province, the Town needs to receive a detailed a statement in writing to that effect!

Respectfully yours.

Keith Oliver

PS I will attempt to forward the photograph referred to in a separate e-mail.

CC: Cobourg Heritage Advisory Committee, MPP Puccini, John Draper.