

St. Marys Heritage Committee
P.O. Box 998
St. Marys, ON
N4X 1B6

February 22, 2017

Town Council
Town of St. Marys
P.O. Box 998
St. Marys, ON
N4X 1B6

Re: Sign By-law Enforcement in the Central Commercial District

It has come to our attention that the Town's Sign By-law is not being enforced. While many property and business owners do what is right by applying for sign permits as required by the by-law, there are numerous instances where signs are erected without permits or are not removed when businesses are no longer operating. It is not fair to the many property and business owners who make the effort to comply with the by-law requirements when other property and business owners flaunt the by-law. Lack of enforcement undermines the effectiveness of the by-law, which is intended to ensure that signs are not an eyesore and are not a safety hazard.

Now that Downtown St. Marys is a heritage district and has an attractive new streetscape (thanks to the excellent work carried out last summer), our advice to Town Council is that it is time to enforce the Town's Sign By-law. Property and business owners in the central commercial district should be reminded of the specific requirements of the Sign By-law and, in addition, should be reminded that they may be eligible to apply for Town grants with respect to the maintenance and repair of building heritage attributes and for facade improvements.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,


Paul R. King
On behalf of the St. Marys Heritage Committee