

To: The Executive Policy Committee,

My name is Jason Morin and I live with my family at , in the Cresentwood Neighborhood of Winnipeg. I am writing to this committee to express my support for the creation of the Cresentwood Heritage Conservation District.

This neighborhood is a community of generously-spaced, large residential lots with mature treelined streets. The value in our neighbourhood is that the homes remain within their original context, allowing for an important rare glimpse into Winnipeg's historic past. The precedent of demolishing original heritage homes to build larger buildings, taller structures, and/or new multi-unit buildings that allow for multiple variances will promote land speculation and encourage additional developments, which will most certainly threaten and erode the value of Crescentwood's heritage appeal. Heritage preservation: maintaining the look and feel of historic Crescentwood, can ensure that this neighbourhood doesn't lose its identity while still allowing for maintenance, repairs, upgrades, and renovations.

We are a young family and first-time home buyers who moved to Winnipeg from Vancouver only a few years ago. One of the reasons we chose to move to Winnipeg is because it is a beautiful city with neighbourhoods full of heritage homes and tree-lined streets. We fell in love with the charm and character of Crescentwood and knew we wanted to settle down and raise our family in this area. We purchased 59 Kingsway with the goal of preserving its historical features and, over the last few years, we have worked hard to restore and maintain it.

We moved away from Vancouver because we saw, first hand, the damage and destruction developers were having on our neighbourhood there. The year before we moved, there were half a dozen historic houses, on our street alone, being torn down and rebuilt into multi-unit income suites. We watched as the neighbourhood changed. Trees were cut down, greenspaces were removed, new larger buldings blocked the view and light for neighbors, and parking became increasingly difficult, if not impossible. By the time we left, we could barely recognize our old neighbourhood. All of the original historic features and charm of the neighbourhood were gone. We are asking that you please do not let this same thing happen to our new neighbourhood in Winnipeg.

We take great pride in maintaining and restoring our period home in Crescentwood. We put a lot of thought and consideration into every restoration and renovation to ensure that we maintain the character and feel of the original house. From paint colour, to choice of materials used, we want to make certain that we are preserving 59 Kingsway for the future. We love walking around our neighbourhood, admiring and enjoying the beautiful heritage homes, mature lots, and treelined streets. We take great pride in our home, and in our neighbourhood, and we want to make sure that its historic charm and unique characteristics are maintained for future residents of Winnipeg to continue to enjoy.

Members of our neighbourhood are also working very hard to maintain the look and feel of the original Crescentwood neighbourhood landscape. We have worked diligently to protects the green spaces and trees we have, as well as refurbish and add additional green spaces and trees. Residents of the neighbourhood formed a committee and created a non-profit association called “Friends of Peanut Park” to restore Peanut/Edgerton Park, the physical and cultural hub of our neighbourhood. This group has worked hard to beautify the neighbourhood with trees, shrubs, and other landscaping to bring it back to its original state. We previously received two grants from the Manitoba Hydro Reforestation Program to plant trees where mature trees had died or where there was room for new trees to grow. After all of this work, the unnecessary removal of any trees or green space in this neighbourhood is a huge loss and shame.

Maintaining the look and feel of a neighbourhood can go a long way in preserving its appeal for homebuyers like us. We love our new home at 59 Kingsway and we love living in historic Crescentwood. We do not want to see the character of this neighbourhood destroyed. For all of these reasons, we are very supportive of the creation of the Cresentwood Heritage Conservation District and hope that you see the value of preserving and protecting this heritage as well.

Sincerely,

Jason Morin

The Executive Policy Committee
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB

My name is Jason Morin, and I live at . I am a resident of the Cresentwood Neighborhood of Winnipeg, and I am writing to this committee to express my support for the creation of the Cresentwood Heritage Conservation District.

I view this 130+ year old neighborhood as one of Winnipeg's most well-preserved examples of its rich and storied past. Not only do the vast majority of the unique and classic homes within this proposed HCD remain untouched by time, but the entire neighborhood's landscape remains much as it was conceived and planned by C. H. Edgerton in 1905. This neighborhood is thus, not just simply a collection of well-preserved historic architecture, but an entire community of generously-spaced, large residential lots with mature treelined streets, back alleyways containing many of their original coach houses, centred on well preserved park. In point of fact, Edgerton Park, (more often referred to as Peanut Park), forms the geographic and cultural hub of this tight community and such has been refurbished and maintained by the neighbourhood's "Friends of Peanut Park".

This neighborhood's unique turn of the century homes therefore remain within their original context, allowing for an important rare glimpse into Winnipeg's historic past.

By choosing to preserve this unique neighborhood, the City of Winnipeg will be assuring that its citizens are able to visit, wander through and better appreciate the historic nature of the city we are proud to call our home. As the North American film industry has proven with the many movie shoots it has staged within this unique neighborhood, there is a strong desire for people to relate to their past. Without preserving this community as a singular, all-encompassing identity, there is a real and present danger that this historic snap shot in time will be eroded beyond recognition in the years to come. We only need look at the recent demolition of 'Gordon House", located at 514 Wellington Crescent, to understand how quickly and definitively this erosion can, and will occur, without the protection afforded by an HCD.

In closing, my support for the creation of the Cresentwood HCD is born out of my tremendous pride for the city I chose to live in. I trust that you, as fellow citizens of this great city, see the value of preserving our heritage and further making Winnipeg the world class city it deserves to be.

Sincerely,
Jason Morin