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Village of Anmore

December 31, 2012

The Major and Council
Village of Anmore
2697 Sunnyside Road
Anmore, BC V3H-5G9

Dear Major and Council:

It is with great regret that we hear that the Village of Anmore is contemplating the destruction of the old building that we refer to as the Murray "Homestead".

The land was cleared and the house was built by a family that became a household name and an icon in the development and history of the Province of British Columbia.

George and Margaret "Ma" Murray began their lives together in Anmore and raised their two children Georgina and Dan. The story of the two Murray's is detailed in the book, *The Newspapering Murrays* by Georgina Murray Keddell, a copy of which is enclosed.

George Murray went on to become an MLA in the province and later an MP. He was the driving force behind the construction of the PGE railway to Fort St. John and beyond which bound the rich Peace River Region to the rest of the Province.

Margaret Murray remained in the newspaper business with her husband where they established a weekly in Lillooet, Fort St. John and Fort Nelson. The Fort St. John paper was eventually turned over to their children, Georgina and Dan.

Margaret and George returned to Lillooet where Margaret gained notoriety and was soon to become known as "Ma". She was outspoken, unafraid and ready to "take on" government leaders over issues that concerned all Canadians, even if it meant going against her own party and its leader Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Her views and character took her to the national stage where "Ma Murray" became a household name.

This is history and the Murray's are a key component of the overall heritage of the Province of British Columbia. They need to be remembered as such. If any site deserves being established as a Provincial and/or National historic site, it is the Murray Homestead.

There are many markings around the property made by George, its builder. There are also family members that lived many years in the house and whose remains are laid to rest on the property.

The writer of this letter, Margie Graham, is the daughter of Georgina and granddaughter of George and Margaret "Ma" Murray. In our home are countless articles of history of my grandparents in which we would gladly contribute to such a site.

Please reconsider your ideas and focus your energies on preservation and not destruction.

Thank you for your time to read this and the history contained in the book.

Yours truly,

Margie Graham

