

June 10, 2009

POLL REGARDING THE KINGSWOOD ROAD SOUTH HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dear Property Owner:

On June 24, 2004 Toronto City Council passed a By-law authorizing the study of a part of Balmy Beach to determine whether the area has a heritage character and, if so, if designation of the area as a Heritage Conservation District would be appropriate to maintain and enhance the heritage character.

The process of forming a Heritage Conservation District in the City of Toronto is usually an initiative undertaken by local residents. To determine the level of support in the area for the initiative City Council directed the City Clerk to undertake two polls of the property owners. The first poll asked property owners if they were in favour of their property being included in the Study. This poll was taken in early 2005 and as a result eight of the fourteen subdivisions that made up the Study area did not continue. Kingwood Road South voted to continue with the study and this second poll.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT PLAN ON WEBSITE

Over the past four years, residents of the proposed Kingwood Road South Heritage Conservation District have worked actively with E.R.A. Architects and the City of Toronto to develop a plan that addresses the specific heritage values and character of the Kingwood Road residential area between Queen Street East and Bracken Avenue. The completed plan is available to view in our office or at the following website: http://www.toronto.ca/heritage-preservation/heritage_districts.htm.

The plan has been thoroughly reviewed and City of Toronto heritage preservation staff has concluded it meets the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act. However, staff believes that the plan requires one revision to strengthen the protection of contributing heritage buildings within the district. As a result, City staff will recommend to the Toronto Preservation Board and City Council that the district be designated and the district plan be adopted by bylaw subject to the following revision:

- That section 8.5.1 that reads: "Contributing buildings should not be demolished," be revised to read: "Contributing buildings shall not be demolished."

BALLOT ENCLOSED

The ballot for the second poll is included in this package. It asks property owners whether they would be in favour of the proposed designation of Kingswood Road South as a Heritage Conservation District, based on the Guidelines in the District Plan for their subdivision. The results of the poll will be included in the staff report to the Toronto Preservation Board and City Council to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the community's support for the bylaw. Each owner in the proposed district will be notified of the meetings of the Toronto Preservation Board and Toronto East York Community Council, where deputation or correspondence regarding the bylaw and recommendations of staff will be welcomed.

If Kingswood Road South becomes a Heritage Conservation District, proposals for demolition, some types of alterations to the appearance of the exterior part of the building that can be seen from the street and the construction of new buildings would be governed by the Guidelines within the plan.

POLLING PROCEDURES

The poll is conducted through the mail. The ballots will be mailed to all property owners on June 10, 2009. The ballots must be returned and in the City Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m. on July 9, 2009. If a property is jointly owned by more than one person, each owner will receive a ballot. An owner must be 18 years of age by the end of the 30 day polling period to vote.

The names of the property owners are preprinted on the ballots. If a property owner does not receive a ballot in the mail, or the name is incorrect, the owner(s) may come to City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Main Floor, West Rotunda, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday during the polling period. They will be asked to show photo identification and swear an affidavit that they are the property owner. A ballot will be provided at that time. Ballots received by the City Clerk where the preprinted name has simply been struck out and the new owner's name substituted will not be accepted.

Only the City Clerk's official ballots will be counted. Letters or any other communication will not be accepted as a vote. As the ballots must be signed, only the City Clerk's staff will be present when the vote is counted. This is in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and is done to protect the privacy of the voters.

Your participation in this process is appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns about this process or the heritage conservation district, please contact Scott Barrett, Senior Coordinator at 416-338-1083 or sbarret3@toronto.ca

Yours very truly,

Mary L. MacDonald, Acting Manager
Heritage Preservation Services

