

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

March 12, 2004

To: Toronto Preservation Board
Toronto South Community Council

From: Joe Halstead, Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

Subject: Expansion of the Fort York Heritage Conservation District
Trinity Spadina - Ward 19

Purpose:

To recommend that Toronto City Council expand the existing Fort York Heritage Conservation District to reflect the boundaries of the National Historic Site designation with the exception of Victoria Square.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) In accordance with Section 41 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, Council designate the area shown on Attachment No. 2, save and except those properties which have been designated under Part V of the *Act*, as the Fort York Heritage Conservation District; and
- (2) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

In May of 1985 Toronto City Council passed By-law 420-85 designating Fort York and the Garrison Common a Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act. The

Heritage Conservation District includes the grounds of Historic Fort York and a portion of the remaining undeveloped Garrison Common to the west of the Fort (Attachment 1).

The Fort York Heritage Conservation District was the first Heritage Conservation District designated by the former City of Toronto. Designated status recognizes the site's historical and archaeological significance and at the same time allows staff to effectively monitor the site. However, the boundaries of the original Heritage Conservation District did not take into account the significant archaeological and heritage features of several important adjacent sites. Not included in the 1985 designation was the mouth of the former Garrison Creek, the Fort's eastern battery, a section of the original north rampart, the original Lake Ontario shoreline, undeveloped parcels of the Garrison Common and the architecturally and contextually significant Fort York Armouries listed on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Between August 1996 and January 2002 the City of Toronto purchased six parcels of land in the vicinity of Fort York. These purchases have created an opportunity for Toronto City Council to expand the Fort York Heritage Conservation District to include archaeological and heritage features not included in the original designation.

In November 2001 Council adopted Clause 24 of Report No. 8 of the Toronto East York Community Council requesting Culture Division staff to review the boundaries of the Fort York Heritage Conservation District.

In May and October 2003 the City of Toronto worked with Parks Canada and Fort York stakeholders, including the Friends of Fort York, the Fort York Management Board and local neighbourhood representatives, with the goal of writing a Fort York Commemorative Integrity Statement. As part of the process stakeholders debated the merits of extending the boundaries of the 1985 Heritage Conservation District. As a result, in July of 2003 the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada extended the National Historic Site designation to include the properties noted in Attachment 2. Fort York stakeholders have asked that the City of Toronto extend the boundaries of the Fort York Heritage Conservation District to match those of the National Historic Site with exception of Victoria Square, a separate property northeast of the site.

Comments:

Staff are in agreement and recommend that the Fort York Heritage Conservation District be extended to include the land designated by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada with the exception of Victoria Square. Expanding the boundaries of the District will allow Culture Division Staff to monitor historically significant and archaeologically sensitive property and make recommendations to Council based on City policy. At the same time designation will allow Council to recognize this historically and archaeologically significant site.

Stakeholders have specifically asked that the separate property known as Victoria Square, the first cemetery associated with Fort York, not be included in the expanded Fort York Heritage Conservation District. Stakeholders feel that Victoria Square should one day be included in a separate Heritage Conservation District in association with Clarence Square and Draper Street. Staff feel that this position will have no negative implications for the site as the property is

currently owned by the Government of Canada and is leased to the City of Toronto. All of the property recommended for inclusion within the expanded boundaries of the Heritage Conservation District is owned by the City of Toronto.

Conclusions:

Staff recommend that, with exception of Victoria Square, the Fort York Heritage Conservation District be expanded to correspond with the boundaries of the Fort York National Historic Site designation. Extending the boundaries of the Heritage Conservation District will add archaeologically and historically significant property not included in the current designation and address a request from Fort York stakeholders.

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Joe Halstead
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List of Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 - Existing Fort York Heritage Conservation District
Attachment No. 2 - Proposed expanded Boundaries of the Fort York Heritage Conservation District