

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Scarborough Community Heritage Preservation Panel**

(Municipal Heritage Committee)

held at the Scarborough Archives  
Tuesday, April 8th 2008, 7:30 p.m.

**Present:** Rick Schofield, Don Allen, Joan Dolson, Sandy Grigg,  
Scott Woodland, Jeremy Hopkin, Bob Saunders ,  
Councillor Paul Ainslie

**Regrets:**

A quorum being present, the Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

S-080401

Amendments: It was noted that the location of the previous meeting should have read "Scarborough Archives, community meeting room" and minute item 4.1 should be revised to indicate that the proposed new seniors' residence in historic West Hill would be eight (8) storeys high rather than the four storeys noted in the minutes.

"Be it resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held March 18th be approved as amended."

*(Don Allen, Scott Woodland)*

Carried

**2. Correspondence:**

S-080402

- (a) re: Stinson's Scarborough Bluffs Refreshment Booth/Store
  - designation bylaw 256-2008 approved by Council March 31/08 (copy circulated)
  - awaiting City action to secure damaged porch roof
- (b) re: William Stonehouse Regency Cottage - Conservation Strategy (copy circulated)
  - designated structure move 100 feet west (temporarily) to allow for development
- (c) re: Scarborough Junction - proposed street names for new subdivision
  - Chairman has conducted required research and submitted suggestions in keeping with committee's policy of supporting the use of local heritage names
- (d) re: Toronto Archives research workshop scheduled for Aril 12 and 19
  - Chairman and Joan to attend April 12th and report back to the committee

"Be it resolved that the correspondence be received."

*(Don Allen, Joan Dolson)*

Carried

3. **Chairman's report on Pending items:**

S-080403

The Chairman reviewed the pending items not otherwise noted on the agenda:

- (i) ORC/TRAC properties in Hillside/Rouge Park area
  - info on ownership and maintenance responsibilities required
  - Joan agreed to replace Donald Smith and report back as required
- (ii) Stinson's Store , Stop 17 (Kingston Road @ Midland)
  - verandah collapsing, property standards contacted, City will stabilize
  - Sandy and Scott will monitor the site and report to the Chair as required
- (iii) Agincourt Conservation District
  - City Clerk's office no longer doing HCD community interest surveys
  - fund raising needs \$ 7,000 to top up Preservation's \$15,000 grant
  - landscapes can be important in HCDs and more information about landscape issues would be appreciated by committee members (Bob to report back)
  - Bob to set up another community meeting in May to discuss options
- (iv) Stonehouse family Regency cottage (5951 Steeles Avenue, w/o Markham Road)
  - building raised off foundation and moved for redevelopment
  - development plans call for restoration of the designated structure
- (v) Herb Duncan house (Old Kingston Road)
  - awaiting report from Councillor Moeser
- (vi) Russell Reesor House (Lot 7, Con. V, Reesor Road @ Steeles)
  - awaiting action from Preservation staff and/or owner

"Be it resolved that the Chairman's report be received."

*(Sandy Grigg Jeremy Hopkin)*

Carried

**ACTION: as noted above**

4. **Toronto Preservation Board**

S-080404

Bob reported that Preservation staff are facing a large backlog of proposed heritage designations and listings and still dealing with limited staff and personnel changes. Manager Denise Gendron has been seconded to the Union Station project for the next two years and has been replaced by Acting Manager Mary MacDonald. Scott Barrett is the new Senior Preservation Co-ordinator and responsible primarily for Policy and Research.

"Be it resolved that the report from the Toronto Preservation Board be received."

*(Bob Saunders, Jeremy Hopkin)*

Carried



5.1 **New Business - proposed listing of the Dominion Store, Parkway Plaza**

S-080405

The Chairman circulated a Preservation staff report dealing with a proposal to recommend the listing of 85 Ellesmere Road, noted as a Steinberg's Groceteria and being of cultural heritage value as a distinctive example of Modern design. The Chairman noted that the report contained a number of historical inaccuracies and that he had begun research on the site and structure. More specifically:

- (i) the municipal address should be verified, as records indicate the current Dominion store is located at 15 Ellesmere Road and that 85 Ellesmere is the address of the Mall's offices at the other end of Parkway Plaza;
- (ii) the structure was built in 1958 and opened that August rather than in 1966 as suggested in the report. It also began as a "Grand Union" store rather than a Steinberg's.
- (iii) more research is required to ascertain whether or not the staff report's suggestion that the design followed the "Marina" prototype created in 1959 for USA chain Safeway is still relevant since the Scarborough store was likely designed in 1957, at least two years earlier.

A historical research summary by the Chairman was reviewed by the committee and it was agreed to send the report to staff for information and necessary action. It was also noted that the surrounding community was named Maryvale, after Senator Frank O'Connor's famous farm on the west side of Victoria Park, just south of the Parkway Plaza site.

Be it resolved:

"That the committee support the proposed recommendation to include the former Grand Union/Dominion Store at Parkway Plaza on the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties and forward the Chairman's preliminary historical research report (see attached) to Preservation staff for inclusion in the final recommendations."

*(Bob Saunders, Don Allen)*

Carried

**ACTION: Chairman, Preservation staff**





**Dominion Store @ Parkway Plaza - proposed designation**  
**Chairman's report**

It has come to my attention that the Toronto Preservation Board will be asked to consider the designation of the Dominion Store at Parkway Plaza. Staff have produced a draft report outlining the reasons for designation and cultural heritage value. Regrettably, the Scarborough Community Preservation committee was not consulted prior to the research conducted by staff and as a result there are some historical errors in the draft report (attached).

Following is a more accurate report of the cultural heritage value based on archival data in the Scarborough Archives, operated by the Scarborough Historical Society.

The property, while part of the Parkway Plaza whose offices are located at 85 Ellesmere Road, would be best described as **15 Ellesmere Road** which is the municipal address associated with the Dominion Store. There is no plan to include the rest of Parkway Plaza as part of the designation.

The store opened on **August 20th, 1958 as Grand Union Supermarket** and boasted a Canadian first: the largest wooden arch ever built in Canada (at that time). The mammoth arch roof is the outstanding exterior feature of the building. It weighs over eleven tons and measures 188 feet.

Constructed by Timber Structures Limited in Peterborough, the arch was brought to Scarborough in two 94 foot sections. At the time, the Peterborough company claimed that the arch was the largest wooden arch in Canada to be constructed entirely without splices. Six companion arches complete the roof design, each with a span of 128 feet. The arch roof was a symbol of the progressive contemporary design favoured by Grand Union.

Grand Union began as the Jones Brothers Tea Company in 1872 and by the 1930s was one of the largest grocery chains in the United States. The name "Grand Union" was inspired by the desire to unite shoppers with low prices in a "Grand Union of Value", according to company spokesmen.

The American company expanded from its New Jersey roots in northeastern United States into Canada during the post war boom in competition with Dominion, A & P (Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company) and Loblaws. Its success would be short-lived.

The Scarborough, Parkway Plaza, supermarket is believed to have been the 40th and final Grand Union store built in the Toronto area but the first to have the massive, unique arch.

The Canadian stores of the Grand Union chain were acquired by Steinberg's Limited of Quebec in 1959 when the latter expanded into Ontario, although the Grand Union name was retained for a short time thereafter.

The surrounding neighbourhood was known as Maryvale community named after Senator Frank O'Connor's early farm in the area. O'Connor founded the Laura Secor Candy Shops in 1913. O'Connor Drive is named in his honour. Harry Hatch was a prominent horse breeder in the community, winning numerous King (Queen) Plate races. Maryvale farm bordered the Victoria Park-Ellesmere area and Hatch's farm was located further north at Sheppard and Pharmacy, now known as the Bridlewood community. When the supermarket first opened, the Parkway Plaza Grand Union Supermarket serviced both communities.

The "Grand Union", Parkway Plaza store was renamed "Steinberg's" by the mid 1960s and was acquired by the A & P group in 1989 with the store becoming one of its "Dominion" flagship supermarkets. It continues to operate today (2008) as Dominion.

The store will celebrate its 50th anniversary this summer and it would be an ideal time to promote its unique heritage.

researched April, 2008  
Rick Schofield  
Archivist