

June 3, 2008

To: Scarborough Preservation Panel

From: Bob Saunders

Subject: Agincourt Heritage Conservation District proposal

At a meeting on May 28, 2008, the Agincourt Heritage Conservation District Steering Committee decided that it did not wish to go forward at this time with a study to establish a district.

The consensus decision was that I would advise the Scarborough Preservation Committee, and through them the Toronto Preservation Board, of this decision. It was also decided that I should request that the Panel undertake an assessment of the cultural heritage value individual properties in the proposed area with a view to researching and identifying those which might be considered for placement on the city's heritage inventory either for listing or for designation.

Two members of the group were not present, but because one was in favour and one opposed, their absence did not affect the decision. The local councillor, Chin Lee, attended and has been a regular participant in the meetings. He has been supportive of the district because it would anchor the west end of his vision of a renewed Sheppard Avenue East through his ward. He did say to me, however, after the meeting that he was relieved by the decision because he has received negative comments from a number of residents.

I have already sent a confirming memo recording this decision to members of the steering committee and have thanked everyone who served for their time and work in connection with this exploration of the possibilities of the Paterson subdivision area as an Agincourt Village conservation district.

If there is a lesson to be learned here, it is that the initiative for the creation of a heritage conservation district has to come from the community itself and there has to be broad local support for the establishment of a district.

Recommendations:

1. That the panel advise the Toronto Preservation Board that at this time no study be undertaken for the establishment of a heritage conservation district in the old village of Agincourt.
2. That the Scarborough Preservation Panel undertake a review of individual properties in the area with a view to identifying any that are of cultural heritage interest and value for potential listing or designation on the Toronto Heritage Property Inventory.