

Friday, March 13, 2009

To: Chair and Members of Toronto East York Community Council

Recommendations:

- 1. That City Planning staff initiate a rezoning for the Fort York lands (100 Garrison Road) to permit a public museum, Visitor Center and commercial and related uses for public service purposes by the City of Toronto.**
- 2. That staff be directed to schedule a community consultation meeting together with the Ward Councillor.**
- 3. That notice for the community consultation meeting be given to landowners and residents within 120 metres of the site.**
- 4. That notice for the public meeting under the Planning Act be given according to the regulations under the Planning Act.**

Discussion: The City's Culture Division, The Fort York Foundation and private sector partners propose to build a Visitor Centre at the Fort York National Historic Site that will include a museum gift shop and a restaurant to service visitors to the Fort. The need for a Visitor Centre has been recognized in numerous planning studies prepared for the Fort over the past 20 years and is part of the City's Capital Budget. The Visitor Centre will help to achieve the vision for the Fort to be "the most enjoyed National Historic Site in Canada". The Visitor Centre will be one of the legacy projects for the upcoming Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Commemoration (overseen by the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Steering Committee, which I co-chair).

The Fort is currently zoned G (parkland). The proposed gift shop and restaurant are commercial uses that are not permitted in a G zone. The public museum existed prior to the enactment of the Zoning Bylaw and is therefore a legal non-conforming use.

It is proposed to rezone the site to bring the existing public museum use into conformity with the Zoning Bylaw and permit a Visitor Centre and commercial and related uses (e.g a restaurant, gift shop)

for the purposes of the public service by the City of Toronto. Site Plan Approval for the Visitor Centre will be required following the rezoning.

The Chief Planner and Executive Director of City Planning is in support of this initiative.

I believe that it is most appropriate to bring Fort York in compliance with the Zoning By-law given the scope of activity planned for Fort York for the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 in 2012. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Joe Pantalone
Deputy Mayor
City of Toronto