

GYRA

THE GREATER YORKVILLE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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27 February 2015

City of Toronto
Executive Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON

Dear Executive Committee:

Re: 2015 Capital & Operating Budgets: City Planning Budget

The Budget Committee's recommendation to eliminate new staffing positions intended to enhance Area Studies and Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plans/Studies will further slow-down the huge backlog of heritage properties waiting designation. These added delays will increase the number of heritage properties already at the mercy of developers eager to reduce these assets into piles of rubble, and will undoubtedly result in increased loss of many heritage properties during the protracted wait-time for protection.

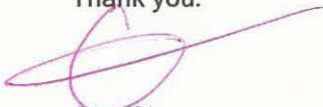
We understand there are over 1,600 new properties coming onto the Inventory of Heritage Properties within the next 12-16 months, from HCDs currently under study. We also understand Heritage Preservation Services continues to operate at pre-amalgamation staffing levels while inventory has doubled.

We understand the recommended budget reduction will reduce the number of new HCDs in 2015 and 2016 by one-half, and furthermore the sixteen (16) nominated HCDs and the ongoing assessments/studies undertaken by community groups will be subject to inordinate delay upon delay.

The future of our past is in great danger of disappearing before our very eyes, while we helplessly endure long waits for heritage designation due to inadequate staffing. Surely Toronto's heritage, a source of civic pride, is worth more than the \$250,000 annual staff costs to speed up the designation process. An example of such tragic loss is the shocking demolition of the Stollery 114-year old building at Yonge & Bloor this past January, while the property included in the 2013 Historic Yonge Street HCD Study, is waiting in line for life-saving heritage designation.

Executive Committee, the responsibility for the protection and preservation of Toronto's heritage built form rests on your shoulders. For the sake of this generation and for future generations, vote in favour of retaining budget levels and dismiss budget cuts.

Thank you.



Gee Chung
President

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c.c. Councillor Kristyn-Wong-Tam
Councillor Josh Matlow