

**North York's Built Heritage:
Challenges and Opportunities**

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**Toronto Preservation Board
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Outline

1. North York Heritage Context

- a. **What make up the cultural heritage landscapes of North York?**
- b. **What are the threats to North York built heritage?**

2. NYCPP - how it contributes to heritage preservation in North York

3. Lessons Learned

1. North York Heritage Context

a. What make up the cultural heritage landscapes of North York?

- Pre-Settlement
- Agricultural/ Railways/Industrial/Military related Settlement
- Early Planning/Development (e.g. Lawrence Park garden suburb, Leaside model town plan)
- “Modern” suburban development
 - Planned “complete” communities e.g. Don Mills, Flemingdon Park, Thorncliffe Park
- Recent and Contemporary Development
 - Centres
 - Yonge Eglinton, North York Centre
 - Avenues
 - Yonge, Sheppard, Eglinton etc.
 - Neighbourhoods
 - Demolition and Infill development
 - Conversion of edges of industrial parks to highway commercial

b. What are the threats to North York heritage?

- Rapid pace of development in North York district – closely behind Toronto and East York District

2014	Development applications	Committee of Adjustment applications
Toronto and East York	84	1281
North York	46	1138
Etobicoke	41	875
Scarborough	33	389

Source: 2014 Annual Report, City Planning Division
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/pg/bgrd/ba ckgroundfile-77566.pdf>

- City Planning is key to Heritage. Almost all development in North York is infill which means demolition of earlier cultural landscapes. Therefore Heritage needs to be a partner on all land use developments
- The City's Inventory of Heritage Properties increasingly lags behind the pace of development.
- City should consider requiring heritage impact assessments as part of development applications (per San Francisco) even where no listed buildings involved (e.g. 25 Ballyconnor)

2. North York Community Preservation Panel: how it contributes (1)

- Currently 12 members including Councillor Augimeri
- Recommends properties which should be considered by the TPB for inclusion on the Inventory
- Monitors heritage properties including those at risk, for review by the Board
 - Monitor local news media and North York Community Council
 - Track NYCPP interventions
- Researches properties for inclusion on the Inventory, public programs and other preservation related issues
- Provides for public awareness, and promotion of issues in cooperation with Heritage Toronto (HT) and other heritage groups
 - Plans and manages special events and publications i.e.
 - “North York Modernist Architecture Forums”, 2010, 2011, 2012
 - North York Modernist publications in partnership with ERA Architects, 2010, 2011
 - “50 years of Medical Progress – Dr Fitzgerald and Connaught Labs in North York”, Nov. 13, 2014 in partnership with North York Historical Society

NYCPP: what it is and how it contributes (2)

- Promote neighborhood heritage and history
 - Participates in public consultation/engagement e.g. Eglinton Connects, Downsview Park
 - Supports local heritage events, e.g. Leaside 100
 - Promotes events like Jane's Walks, Doors Open
- Provide for activities to recognise citizen efforts re heritage protection or promotion
 - Nominations for Heritage Toronto community awards
- Coordinate with local museums, societies, TDSB etc.
- Advocate, in cooperation with HT and others as required
 - Write letters/depute to NYCC on heritage issues of concern
- Researches and recommends historical names for streets further to requests from Engineering and Construction Services and others.
- Other
 - Continuing education of members
 - Maintain linkages with heritage organizations like CCO, ACO

3. Lessons Learned

- Use all avenues available to us –
 - Active nomination process
 - Policy role – letters, deputations to committees and planning projects
 - Education – workshops, walks
 - City-wide role through chair's membership on TPB
- Where can limited resources best be directed?
e.g. shift focus to heritage conservation districts rather than individual properties
- Collaborate/partner with others e.g. Historical Societies, Resident Associations in advocacy and special events
- Need for regular collaborative meetings with HPS and/or TPB
- Specific concerns:
 - Information on demolitions is no longer provided to Panels
 - Street naming – descendant tracing/support requirements

ETOBICOKE YORK

41

DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS

875

COMMITTEE OF
ADJUSTMENT APPS

NORTH YORK

46

DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS

1,138

COMMITTEE OF
ADJUSTMENT APPS

SCARBOROUGH

33

DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS

389

COMMITTEE OF
ADJUSTMENT APPS

TORONTO & EAST YORK

84

DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS

1,281

COMMITTEE OF
ADJUSTMENT APPS

2014 development
applications

The following pages highlight our Division's development review work over the past year, showcasing best practices from each of our four Planning Districts.

