



June 1, 2016

The Toronto Preservation Board,  
City of Toronto,  
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
By email: [lbetten2@toronto.ca](mailto:lbetten2@toronto.ca)  
Attn: Lourdes Bettencourt

Re: PB 15.10 Authorization to Study Belmont-Hillsboro for a Potential Heritage Conservation District

Dear Chair and Members of the Toronto Preservation Board,

The ABC Residents Association fully support the staff report recommending the study and request City Council authorize a study be undertaken of the Belmont-Hillsboro Area as a potential Heritage Conservation District under Section 40 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

However we have questions regarding the proposed boundary and wish to point out the that history outlined in the staff report centres on the history century-long brick-making industry of the area.

The report notes:

*“Brickyards spread north to Yorkville in 1835, and gained prominence to the extent that a brick mold is featured in the Yorkville coat of arms. The clay found in the area between Yonge Street and Avenue Road north of Davenport Road was a*

*bluish white colour, leading to the popular nickname “The Blue Hill” for the stretch of Yonge between Belmont and St. Clair.”*

As we know those brickyards were located in Ramsden Park and we wonder why this study does not include the park and the two other streets - Pears Avenue and Gibson Street named after the two brickyard owners. This is an opportunity for the historians to study this important history in it's entirety and to insure the brick yard's full story is completely researched and recorded. For example, we know there is an original building which was perhaps a blacksmith shop responsible for the horses used in the transportation of the bricks still standing at the western end of Ramsden Park Road. As well, a former Davenport Road Toll house moved and is still standing at the west end of Pears Avenue and some homes build by Mr Pears for his family are still standing on Pears Avenue.

The ABCRA Board is requesting the Preservation Board to consider how the study boundaries could be adjusted to ensure the study reviews the complete history of the Brick Yards and the true historic boundaries of the Ramsden Brick Yard area. Minimally, Ramsden Park should be included in the study boundaries. Without it there would be no history to study.

Thank you for this consideration,  
John Caliendo and Ian Carmichael.  
Co Chairs, ABC Residents Association.