

THE BEACH & EAST TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John Ellis, President; Three Cedars, 52 Rainsford Road, Toronto ON M4L 3N6, ellisjohn@rogers.com, 416-694-3288
Deborah Livingston-Lowe, Secretary; dlivingstonlowe@yahoo.com

Remarks to:

Planning and Growth Management Committee, Item PG25.4, January 15, 2018

Considering:

Prioritization of Outstanding Heritage Conservation District Studies and Interim Protective Measures

Chair Shiner, Fellow Committee Members:

Good morning!

Thank you for giving our Society the opportunity to comment on the item regarding the prioritization of HCD studies and interim protective measures.

My name is Uwe Sehmrau, Vice President of The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society (TBETHS), and I bring remarks which represent the position of the Board.

As one might expect from any prioritization exercise, those parties which end up at the top of the list would be very happy, and those that end up on the bottom to be very unhappy. Unfortunately, we find ourselves to be beyond 'unhappy'. When one ends up at the bottom of a prioritization list, the unhappiness is tempered by knowing that you at least made it on the train. However, when one finds out that after more than 10 years of having heritage interests being expressed by a wide range of parties, and one finds out that you didn't even make it on the train, it is demoralizing.

I'll go through a brief evolution of the HCD nomination submitted to Heritage Preservation Services (HPS) for Queen Street East in the Beach:

- On **August 20, 2008** this committee recommended approval of item Pg080050 – an Official Plan Amendment to Authorize Section 37 Funding of Heritage Conservation District in accordance with attached Appendix A. (a list of potential Heritage Conservation Districts, which included the Beach, naming Queen St. E. the heart of the Beach).
- In **November 2012** Council approved the Urban Design Guidelines for Queen Street East, stating as an introduction: *“The Beach is a neighbourhood rich with history, while at the same time has aspirations to be a modern sustainable community. Queen Street East is a street in which its small town charm and proximity to the eastern beaches and Lake Ontario makes it one of Toronto’s important tourist destination neighbourhoods.”*

- On **May 6, 2013** the Society made the submission of our nomination to Ms. Lauren Archer, Preservation Officer, Heritage Preservation Services.
- During **September 2015**, HPS and our Society held discussions with Councillor McMahon, and toured the area.
- In **November 2015**, HPS prepared a map of the study area which was accepted by our Society.
- In **February 2017**, we were advised in writing that a Heritage Planner would be assigned, that the review of our nomination would now proceed, and that it should not take more than 30 days.
- On **November 2, 2017**, during the Toronto Heritage meeting at Enoch Turner School, a Senior HPS staff recommended that a public meeting be held on our nomination in January of 2018.

So, it is understandable that after all of the interest expressed by the City, all of the work already conducted by HPS staff, and all of the effort by local volunteers into preparing a compelling nomination; we find great disappointment in being excluded from the prioritization process; essentially to be held in abeyance, only for consideration on “a case by case” basis, ineligible for interim protection measures, and unable to make requests for heritage considerations in development proposals along Queen Street East.

The Society is very concerned that not only the heritage assets in the Beach and East Toronto, but also all across the City are being lost and are under the threat of being lost because of the inability to quickly move the assets identified into the “authorized for study” phase.

Thank you for hearing us. We look forward to an opportunity for a productive case by case review.

Uwe Sehmrau

Vice President, The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society

Chair, HCD Committee