Request for Heritage Evaluation – 102 Wanless Avenue

SUMMARY

This report addresses the request of North York Community Council to report back to its meeting of June 13, 2012 regarding the potential of the property at 102 Wanless Avenue to be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its regular meeting of May 15, 2012, North York Community Council:

1. Authorized the Acting Manager, Heritage Preservation Services, City Planning, to evaluate and review 102 Wanless Avenue, and report to the June 13, 2012 North York Community Council meeting on the potential to designate the properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The property at 102 Wanless Avenue was nominated by the North York Community Preservation Panel for consideration for inclusion on the inventory of heritage properties at the Toronto Preservation Board meeting of April 27, 2012. The Preservation Board recommended that North York Community Council also endorse the nomination of the property.
The endorsement of a nomination gives it no formal or informal status under the Ontario Heritage Act, but rather indicates that staff of Heritage Preservation Services should understand the nomination to have the full support of the TPB or Community Council.

**COMMENTS**

The nomination of the property at 102 Wanless Avenue cannot be completed at this time due to the current demands on the limited resources of Heritage Preservation Services. While HPS endeavours to be proactive on the identification and protection of heritage properties, there is currently a large back log of properties to be evaluated and only a single staff person to undertake evaluations of individual properties for the entire City of Toronto.

It should be noted also, that the nominations put forward by the Community Preservation Panels should be completed to a high level with thorough historic research and documentation, given the mandate and resources of each panel. With the advantage of more thorough and documented research, it is possible to ease the research required by staff for each evaluation. The nomination for 102 Wanless Avenue does not meet this standard, in the opinion of staff.

Typically, nominations for the evaluation of potential heritage properties are submitted directly to staff who continually prioritize them based on a variety of factors including the level of threat, and current staffing and resource levels. The majority of the workload for listings and designations is currently focussed on ensuring the previously listed properties are designated as part of, or in response to, the development application process to ensure that they are conserved as part of a redevelopment.

With the current workload for heritage evaluations, it is estimated that this property may be evaluated on a priority basis and reported to Council by the end of the last quarter of 2012.

**CONTACT**

Mary L. MacDonald, Acting Manager  
Heritage Preservation Services  
Tel: 416-338-1079; Fax: 416-392-1973  
E-mail: mmacdon7@toronto.ca

**SIGNATURE**

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Robert Freedman  
Director, Urban Design  
City Planning Division