

NY21.14.1

North York Community Council - NY21.14 Request for Heritage Evaluation - 68 Parkhurst Boulevard (Ward 26)

From: Geoff Kettel <gkettel@gmail.com>
To: "Augimeri, Councillor Maria" <councillor_augimeri@toronto.ca>, Shelley Carroll <Councillor_Carroll@toronto.ca>, Councillor John Filion <Councillor_Filion@toronto.ca>, Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong <Councillor_Minnan-Wong@toronto.ca>, David Shiner <Councillor_Shiner@toronto.ca>, "Stintz, Karen" <Councillor_Stintz@toronto.ca>, "Perruzza, Councillor Anthony" <Councillor_perruzza@toronto.ca>, "Robinson, Jaye" <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, "Parker, Councillor John" <councillor_parker@toronto.ca>, Councillor James Pasternak <councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca>, Councillor Josh colle <councillor_colle@toronto.ca>, "Adamo, francine" <nycc@toronto.ca>
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Subject: NY21.14 Request for Heritage Evaluation - 68 Parkhurst Boulevard (Ward 26)
Attachments: 68 Parkhurst - NYCC Jan 12 2013 lette FINALr.pdf

Dear Councillors and Clerk

Attached is a letter from the NYCC in this regard. We will be attending to speak to the matter.

Regards

Geoff Kettel

North York Community Preservation Panel

c/o Geoff Kettel

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January 22, 2013

North York Community Council
North York Civic Centre
Main floor, 5100 Yonge St.
Toronto, ON M2N 5V7
Att: Francine Adamo Committee Clerk

Re: **NY21.14 Request for Heritage Evaluation - 68 Parkhurst Boulevard (Ward 26)**

Dear Councillor Augimeri and Members of North York Council

We are writing to express our strong support for Councillor Parker's proposed Motion recommending the consideration of Parkhurst Boulevard from Bayview Avenue to Rumsey Road as a Heritage Conservation District.

We are very disappointed with the Heritage Preservation Services's report in this case, recommending receipt, rather than recommending the property's inclusion in the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties. That the staff report does not rate the properties as significant in any of the three major categories/nine specific criteria is shocking.

Firstly, the evaluation does not attach any significance to heritage values at a neighbourhood level¹. It appears to reflect a lack of appreciation of the cultural heritage value of Leaside as an early suburban neighbourhood. Secondly, the evaluation does not positively rate the properties under the "context" despite there being obvious contributions to the streetscape by this property.

The underlying issue here is how to move forward with preservation of the heritage character of inner suburban single family neighbourhoods, such as North Toronto, Lawrence Park, Leaside, and Don Mills which are nominally "heritage-eligible" by virtue of being over 40 years old. Given their accessibility and adjacency to good transit and quality public services these

¹ This concern was identified by Michael McClelland in his comments on the Official Plan Review – Draft Heritage Policies, September 2012. He suggests a goal that "The City of Toronto will recognize and protect not only its landmarks and icons but more modest places that contribute to the character and livability of neighbourhoods and streetscapes across the city. To do this it will employ a range of measures to identify places with heritage value."

areas are facing tremendous development pressure for “massification”, if not intensification. Single family houses in these areas are being demolished at a rapid rate and frequently reconstructed with houses with a quite different character.

There is continuous erosion of the cultural heritage resources of these neighbourhoods as a result of developer-compliant Committees of Adjustment, lax demolition laws and variable OMB chairs. If communities attempt to develop a Heritage Conservation District under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act, due to the extended time frame and costs involved, there is the real concern that in the meantime, the ongoing losses of individual properties would make the eventual result moot.

Despite our misgivings we are pleased that this Motion to move forward with a Heritage Conservation District on Parkhurst Boulevard will kick-start the saving of a street.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,

Geoff Kettel
Chair, North York Community Preservation Panel

c.c. Robert Freedman, Director, Urban Design
Mary MacDonald, Acting Manager, HPS
Scott Barrett, Senior Preservation Coordinator, HPS