

**Ward 15, Eglinton-Lawrence**

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February 25, 2014

North York Community Council  
North York Civic Centre  
Main Floor, 5100 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M2N 5V7

Dear Chair Augimeri and Council Members:

**Re: Request for New Stage 2 Assessment of 1100 Briar Hill Avenue**

The historically significant site that housed the recently demolished school at 1100 Briar Hill Avenue does not have a heritage designation. However, together with 2746 Dufferin Street (Fairbank United Church, Listed 2006) and 108 Stayner Avenue (Jacob P. Ross House, Designated 2004) this site forms part of the foundation for a 'campus' of historical landmarks in the Fairbank community.

Recently, new archival information was submitted to Heritage Preservation Services, after a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment was conducted at the site. This new information suggests that before the school was built in 1927, the site had a continuous 180 year history as a community, educational and religious centre. Artifacts of a predecessor 1863 Fairbanks School house may still be present on site and are a link to a York Pioneer farming community whose residents included 1837 Rebellion sympathizers.

According to the new research being reviewed by Heritage Preservation Services, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment conducted at the site in July 2013 by Archaeological Assessments Inc. may have missed the York Pioneer school remains because they were unaware of its existence. Although the July 2013 testing was conducted in a manner consistent with all required guidelines, it is believed that the location and depth of their trench work and the depth of their pit testing missed the site altogether.

In an effort to determine the historical significance of the site and retrieve any historical material, I am requesting that a follow-up Stage 2 reassessment be conducted at the 1100 Briar Hill site.

Recommendations:

1. Direct Heritage Preservation Services to:
  - a) conduct new and deeper trenching and pit testing on the site; and
  - b) report back to the Toronto Preservation Board with the results of the Stage 2 Archaeological reassessment.
2. Request the Toronto Preservation Board to report to the appropriate Committee with its advice concerning the results from the new Stage 2 reassessment.
3. Request that the Toronto Preservation Board conduct a review of the Fairbank Community to identify any sites of historical significance that have a connection to 1100 Briar Hill Avenue, 2746 Dufferin Street, and 108 Stayner Avenue.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and support of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Colle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Josh Colle  
Councillor  
Ward 15, Eglinton-Lawrence