



February 19th, 2015

To: Toronto Preservation Board

From: Richard Longley, President, Architectural Conservancy Ontario

Re: **PB 2.7 Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Study Prioritization Report**

Dear Chair, members, Toronto Preservation Board,

I write in support of the nomination of Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District, Phase 3.

The creation of the first phase Harbord Village Heritage Conservation (from first conversation with Heritage Preservation Services in August 2003 to passage by Council in April 2005) required just 20 months of hard but interesting work on the part of heritage architect Cathy Nasmith and the nascent HCD's team of volunteer researchers. At the time, that was a record. Phase 2 took somewhat longer. Phase 3 which would complete the "HCDing" of the remainder of Harbord Village is taking much longer. Its nomination was placed on hold during the years required to write and publish *Heritage Conservation Districts in Toronto: Procedures, Policies and Terms of Reference*, which makes the entire process much more complicated.

It is now determined that Harbord Village Phase 3 will not be studied in 2015 or in 2016. This is a decision that is, to me, regrettable, if not incomprehensible. The architectural and cultural heritage values of HVHCD3 are abundantly described and illustrated in its nomination document. Those values are reinforced by the human history embedded in the recently completed Harbord Village Laneway Naming Project: <http://www.harbordvillage.com/lanenames>, which celebrates neighbourhood heroes and heroines of the past, the Harbord Village History Project which describes, through photography and oral history, life as it was lived in Harbord Village prior to 1975: <http://harbordvillage.com/hvhistory> and the *Harbord Village Directory for Conservators and Restorers of Heritage Properties*: <http://www.harbordvillage.com/heritagedirectory>, an invaluable and widely distributed dispeller of the mystery of living with heritage in Toronto that is now in its 16th, 74-page edition. Like the Harbord Village History Project, the Harbord Village Directory is a recipient of awards from Heritage Toronto.

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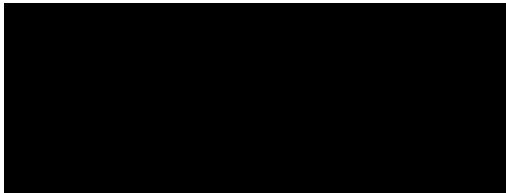


Meanwhile, Harbord Village is a neighbourhood under siege by proposed developments (a condo that would require demolition of the historic Hotel Waverly and Silver Dollar Room, a student residence that would obliterate the Ten Editions Bookshop at Spadina and Sussex, a giant sports dome that would block views of Central Technical School for several months of the year and, soon, the re-development Honest Ed's) all of which will affect the heritage value of Harbord Village, in some cases badly, if they are allowed to proceed without community intervention that will be more robust if the whole of Harbord Village is an HCD.

Finally, the nominators of Harbord Village HCD3 are fatigued. Approximately five years have passed since they began what is now a magnificent piece of research. Two of those years were spent waiting for the completion of *Heritage Conservation Districts in Toronto* and renewal of the HCD process. I am afraid that if their waiting continues for much longer, the energy required of the community to complete that work may no longer be available.

For all of these reasons, I hope the Toronto Preservation Board will reconsider the nomination of Harbord Village HCD Phase 3 that it might be studied as soon as possible.

With regards,



Richard Longley, President
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Co-Founder, Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District, Phase 1
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