

Lawrence Park Heritage Committee
24 Dinnick Crescent, Toronto, ON M4N 1L5

Toronto Preservation Board c/o Lourdes Bettencourt
City Clerk's Office
2nd floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

August 22, 2016

RE: **PB16.3 Authorization to Study Lawrence Park West as a Potential Heritage Conservation District**

Dear Jennifer Rieger (Chair, Toronto Preservation Board),

The Lawrence Park Heritage Committee would like to express its strong support for the authorization to study Lawrence Park West as a potential Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Lawrence Park Heritage Committee was formed in 2012 in response to local concern about the loss of the "garden suburb" character and heritage value of Lawrence Park due to the increasing number of demolitions of older homes. The Committee consists of local residents as well as several members from outside the area who serve in a consultative capacity. In addition to the Chair, there is an Archivist, a Historical Advisor and a Local Historian. Members-at-large include an architect and a real estate agent. The mandate of the Committee is to preserve the character and history of Lawrence Park.

In order to educate the community about its historical significance and to provide factual information about heritage preservation, the Committee has undertaken a number of initiatives:

- "Century Home" evenings, starting in the Fall of 2012 and advertised to the community by hand-delivered flyers, have provided speakers on diverse topics related to heritage, including steps to a HCD and how to restore your wooden stairs. A list of "Century Home" evenings is attached.
- **The History Nugget** is a two-sided sheet containing information about the history of Lawrence Park and upcoming events. Starting in the Winter of 2013, seven "Nuggets" have been distributed to the area. A sample "Nugget" is attached.
- A HCD Information Package was distributed to all homes in the area and members of the Committee and others were available on Tuesday evenings from July 8 to September 16, 2014 to answer questions and address concerns.
- A website (lawrenceparkheritage.com) was established to provide community heritage news and information on the Lawrence Park West HCD proposal. It includes links to many HCD-related sites and is publicized on the Lawrence Park Ratepayers' Association website.

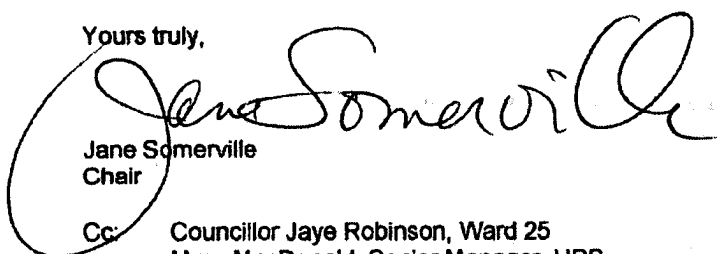
The Toronto Public Library first published *Historical Walking Tour of Lawrence Park* in 1994. It was followed by an updated and expanded version in 2007, co-published by the Lawrence Park Ratepayers' Association and the North Toronto Historical Society. Members of the Committee have been involved with various walking tours of the area over the years, including a special tour in 2016 for the US-based organization "The Cultural Landscape Foundation" which was holding a conference in Toronto.

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For its work in heritage advocacy in Lawrence Park, the Committee was awarded the North York Community Heritage award at Heritage Toronto's annual Awards and William Kilbourn Lecture event in October 2015.

In view of the increasing development pressures on the area, the Committee is strongly convinced of the urgent need for HCD protection and requests that immediate approval be given for authorization of a HCD study for Lawrence Park West.

Yours truly,


Jane Somerville
Chair

Cc: Councillor Jaye Robinson, Ward 25
Mary MacDonald, Senior Manager, HPS

THE HISTORY NUGGET

The history, development, planning and future of Lawrence Park
Published by the Lawrence Park Heritage Committee

January/February/March 2016

PB16.3.8

Ask An Octogenarian!

Mr. John Gillespie is a retired lawyer. He and his spouse, Win Barclay, live at 55 St. Edmund's, the unique house on the corner of Lympstone and St. Edmund's with the Spanish colonial-style tile roof. This house was designed by Breden Galbraith.



John Gillespie, resident, 52 years in Lawrence Park

Community in Wintry Lawrence Park

Interview by Vera DeWaaard

Gillespie bought his home, built in 1925, from A.R. Greene, the original owner. Gillespie came to the neighbourhood when looking for space to house his family, himself with his wife and four children. While retired, he continues to have a strong appreciation for the community,



Entrance to Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens, Yonge and St. Edmund's. Alexander Muir composed *The Maple Leaf Forever*

and the beautiful space of Lawrence Park where he says he enjoys walking in all seasons, particularly in the Alexander Muir Gardens, which is well known for its winter scenery.

While individual homeowners across Canada are known for creating their own personal skating rinks in the winter, Gillespie remembers the Bowles family, former residents at 49 Lympstone Ave, made an outdoor rink on their lawn that mem-

bers of the whole neighbourhood could, and did, use at their leisure. It was a fixture enjoyed by the whole community for many years.

Gillespie's dog was famous for making his home in the snow. Bobby, a mischievous Siberian husky, was most comfortable outside, even in the winter, and would burrow into the snow to spend the night, with only the tip of his nose left to be seen. Gillespie knew his dog was familiar to all in the neighbourhood, but did not actually realize how much so until after the dog's death, when a fireman came to the door looking for Bobby. The fireman explained that the dog had been visiting the firehall every Sunday for years to join them in their bacon and egg breakfast.

For Mr. Gillespie, winter in Lawrence Park is special for the warm memories of tobogganing and the many other winter activities that bring neighbours together.



Tobogganing in front of 55 St. Edmund's

Vera DeWaaard is a Toronto-based freelance writer and editor. Former Managing Editor of the literary magazine Descant, she is the Web-Mistress for the Heritage Committee web page at <https://lphheritage.wordpress.com>.

On March 10, Kathryn Anderson, Heritage Preservation Services, the City of Toronto, will introduce "researching the history of your own home."

To contribute content to the next Nugget, please contact: Jane Somerville (somer@sympatico.ca, 416-486-6434), Lynda Moon (ptriovc@gmail.com), or Pat Main, Archivist (p.main@utoronto.ca). Design: C. Chu. Editors: L. Moon, A. Grenzsbach, J. Somerville. Visit the Lawrence Park Heritage Committee website at <https://lphheritage.wordpress.com>.

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51 Dawlin Ave

12 Weybourne Cres

1 Weybourne Cres

1 St Edmund's Dr

50 Dawlin Ave

24 Dinnick Cres

22 St Leonard's Ave

4 Clengowan Rd

Please join us for the next

at the home of Lesley & Robert Allen

56 Dinnick Crescent

see page 25 of the *Historical Walking Tour of Inverness Park*

RSVP to Jane Somerville, somer@sympatico.ca

*All the homes pictured here are
100 years or older!!!*

37 St Edmund's Dr

12 Lawrence Cres

110 Dawlin Ave

77-79 St Edmund's Dr

35 St Edmund's Dr

9 Weybourne Cres

114 Dinnick Cres

113 Dinnick Cres

1357 Mt Pleasant Rd

**Lawrence Park Century Home Celebrations
2012, 2103, 2014, 2015 and 2016
A History**

Written by Jane Somerville; updated August 2016

October 25, 2012—home of Jane Somerville and David Caspari. 24 Dinnick Crescent. William Greer, internationally-known heritage consultant and architect

February 13, 2013—home of Pat and Jimmy Main, 2 St. Leonard's Avenue. Lynda Moon was the key-note speaker concerning her sleuthing about the Lawrence farmhouse

April 25, 2013—home of Jennifer Ivey Bannock, 51 Dawlish Avenue. Mary MacDonald, Manager, Heritage Preservation Services was key-note speaker

June 06, 2013—home of Cathy and Helmut Hock, 114 Dinnick Crescent. Jennifer Keesmaat, the City's Chief Planner was key-note speaker. With introduction by Terry Mills, Planner, Arris Ltd

October 16, 2013—home of Isabel and Alan Jackson, 1351 Mt. Pleasant Rd. Scott Barrett, Heritage Preservation Services, was key-note speaker.

February 20, 2014—home of Adrienne Alison, 37 St. Edmund's Drive. Murray White, author of *The effect of Heritage Conservation District Designation on Residential Prices in Toronto*.

May 15, 2014—home of Janet and Peter Holmes, 12 Weybourne Crescent. Panel discussion moderated by Lynda Moon. Panel included Charles Bunker, Architect; John Detwiler, local resident who has restored his Century Home; Richard Longley, one of the founders of the Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District and President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

October 23, 2014—home of Valentine Lovekin. Andrew Pruss, Architect, ERA, Architects Inc. was the key-note speaker (regarding the preservation and reconstruction of 79 Dawlish Ave.)

April 30, 2015—home of Christine and Cam Mingay, 49 Weybourne Crescent. Ray Murakami, architectural designer and Mr. Bruce, the builder, were the key-note speakers. In addition, Tamara Anson Cartwright and Sharon Hong, Heritage Planner, both of Heritage Preservation Services, outlined the steps towards an HCD.

October 20, 2015—home of Jane and Stephen Beatty. Mr. Charles Bunker was the key-note speaker. Woodwork Workshop by John Detwiler and Jane Somerville

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March 10, 2016—home of Lesley and Robert Allen, 56 Dinnick Crescent. Kathryn Anderson, Heritage Planner, Heritage Preservation Services, spoke on “Revisiting the Past – Tips and Techniques for Researching Heritage Properties in Toronto”.

June 23, 2016—home of Jane Somerville and Dr. David Caspari. Moise Bensimon, Bensimon Design and Custom Carpentry, presented a workshop on how to repair and reinforce a century old staircase.