

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM24.18	ACTION			Ward:23
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Authorization to Release Section 45(9) Funds from the Development at 4726-4728 Yonge Street, to fund the creation and installation of two commemorative plaques in Ward 23 - by Councillor John Filion, seconded by Councillor Mary Fragedakis

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor John Filion, seconded by Councillor Mary Fragedakis, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2017 Operating Budget for Heritage Toronto, subsequent to the adoption of that budget, by \$6,500.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 45 community benefits obtained in the development of 4726-4728 Yonge Street, 9-31 Bogert Avenue and 2-28 Poyntz Avenue (Source Account: XR3028-4500139), for the production and installation of a plaque commemorating the location of the Dempsey Store (cost centre HG0001/9260).
2. City Council increase the approved 2017 Operating Budget for Heritage Toronto, subsequent to the adoption of that budget, by \$6,500.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 45 community benefits obtained in the development of 4726-4728 Yonge Street, 9-31 Bogert Avenue and 2-28 Poyntz Avenue (Source Account: XR3028-4500139), for the production and installation of a plaque commemorating the location of the Golden Lion Hotel (cost centre HG0001/9260).

Summary

This Motion seeks authorization to amend the 2017 Operating Budget of Heritage Toronto, subsequent to the adoption of that budget, to fund the creation and installation of two plaques commemorating the historical locations of the Demspey Store and the Golden Lion Hotel. Heritage Toronto has estimated the entire project to cost \$13,000.

Funds have been secured and received as a condition of approval of a minor variance (Section 45) application in relation to a development at 4726-4728 Yonge Street, 9-31 Bogert Avenue and 2-28 Poyntz Avenue (Committee of Adjustment file A615/13NY) for the purpose of funding appropriate community benefits.

As Heritage Toronto is a directly funded City agency and not considered an "outside party", no undertaking is required to be signed by Heritage Toronto governing the use of the funds and financial reporting.

The Dempsey Store

The Heritage building now on the east side of Dempsey Park originally stood on the northwest corner of Yonge Street and Sheppard Avenue.

The structure was built in 1860 in the Georgian style by Joseph Shepard II (1815-1899), who operated a store there. The store was built on a farm that Joseph II had inherited from his father Joseph Shepard (1767-1837). He was a Loyalist who came to Canada in 1784. He was one of the earliest settlers at York (Toronto) in the 1790s and received a crown grant of 210 acres of land on what is now Sheppard Avenue, stretching from Yonge Street to Bathurst Street, in 1805.

In 1888, the store was leased to Benjamin Brown (1861-1939). Brown bought the building in 1904 and it was known as Brown's Store until 1921 when George (1895-1970) and Bill (1889-1966) Dempsey bought it. The store was a general store and sold everything from groceries to farm implements. At various times the proprietors served as postmaster, druggist, butcher and grocer. In later years it was primarily a hardware store but carried a wide variety of items. It was a residence as well as a store and included six bedrooms.

George's sons James and Robert later took over and ran the store until 1989 when the property was sold to a developer. The store was a very familiar North York landmark. It was moved to its present location in Dempsey Park in 1996 and restored to its original appearance.

Despite being one of the best preserved of North York's heritage buildings, there are currently no signs explaining the long history of the Dempsey Store. This Heritage Toronto commemorative plaque will provide needed historical interpretation and enhance local understanding of the history of the Dempsey Park neighbourhood.

The Golden Lion Hotel

The Golden Lion Hotel was a landmark on Yonge Street at Sheppard Avenue for over a century.

Thomas Shephard bought the east part of lot 15, concession 1 West in 1824 and the hotel was likely built between 1824 and 1827 just south of Sheppard Avenue on the east side of Yonge Street. It was a spacious two story frame building with verandahs on the south and east sides. Large stables and barns were built to the south and driving sheds to the north. The hotel could accommodate up to 20 guests comfortably.

The hotel was a popular way station and social centre for many years. The Golden Lion Hotel played an important role in the 1837 Rebellion. Reformers had met there in 1834. In December, 1837 rebels rallied there before heading south and later William Lyon MacKenzie and others took refuge there after their defeat. MacKenzie was reportedly given the horse on which he fled the U.S. by Shephard. Many of Shephard's neighbours were reform sympathizers and a number joined the rebellion, although the neighbours on the west side of the lot 15, the Bales, were staunch Tories.

The Shephards owned the hotel until 1870 when Charles Shephard (son of Thomas) sold it to John Anderson. It was sold to James Thompson in 1883 and he passed it to his son in 1900. In 1910 it was sold to Reverend Thomas Pickett. In 1928 the hotel was sold again and in October 1933 it was demolished and replaced by a gas station. The golden lion that used to ornate its façade is now on display on the sixth floor of the North York Central Library.

As the neighbourhood is undergoing growth and development, this plaque will inform new comers to North York about its long history.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM24.18