

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM28.26	ACTION			Ward:All
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Saving Toronto's Built History - Heritage Building Survey - by Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Planning and Growth Management Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to report, as part of the forthcoming report to the Planning and Growth Management Committee in September 2017 on the review of procedures and prioritization for the inclusion of potential heritage properties on the City's Heritage Register, on creating a City-wide survey to identify all buildings with potential heritage value and list them as per the Ontario Heritage Act, such report to include:

- a. a jurisdictional scan of best practices in other jurisdictions, including but not limited to the City of Hamilton and the City of Ottawa;
- b. a public consultation plan;
- c. strategies for prioritizing buildings and neighbourhoods under immediate development pressure;
- d. consideration for using volunteers and local heritage organizations to help identify appropriate buildings to include in the survey;
- e. a timeline for implementing the survey; and
- f. the resources needed to implement such a survey.

Summary

Heritage preservation is an important City of Toronto priority. The Ontario Heritage Act has two levels of protection: "listing" and "designation". A building that is listed cannot be demolished legally without heritage preservation staff having a chance to review it and determine if it merits formal designation.

The Heritage Preservation Services Unit in the Planning Division has worked diligently within the framework we have provided them to maintain these important assets. However, given development pressures there has been increasing frustration with the City's ability to protect heritage buildings. Some of the buildings now forever lost to us include the former Bank of Montreal building at 2444 Yonge Street. The number of other architecturally and culturally significant buildings that have not been listed by the City, and are therefore unprotected, is concerning.

Other cities in Ontario, including Hamilton and Ottawa, are using a city-wide survey approach using staff and community volunteers to identify all the historic, interesting or culturally-significant structures in order to list them so as to afford them some protection under the Ontario Heritage Act. Many local heritage experts are calling for the City of Toronto to adopt a similar approach.

Such an approach would likely work well in Toronto. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Toronto Branch currently has built online tools to help volunteers survey buildings and the TO Built listings already contains over 13,000 property listings.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM28.26