

City Council

MM44.99	ACTION			Ward:38
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Repairing of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority-owned heritage barn and dwelling at 6461 Steeles Avenue East - by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Neethan Shan

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.
* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Neethan Shan, recommends that:

1. City Council include restoration of the heritage barn and home at 6461 Steeles Avenue East, as part of the already approved 2018 Council Toronto and Region Conservation Authority capital budget allocation for the restoration project.

Summary

In February 2018 Toronto Council approved the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority capital budget which included a project known as Menno-Reesor Restoration Project, which supported the restoration of the 27 hectare site for the use of a new Toronto Wildlife Hospital.

The project is one of Toronto's largest restoration sites and work on the site includes converting a former corn field into a healthy renaturalized area that will be home to the largest wildlife hospital in Canada and will include numerous cages and pens to house hundreds of wild animals while they recover from injuries. The project includes protecting, restoring and expanding existing natural areas, regrading the site back to a more natural landscape, removing old tile drain, recreating a healthy stream onsite along with a significant amount of riparian habitat, reforestation of parts of the site, meadowland plantings throughout the site and provision of both perimeter and security fencing where appropriate.

While creating a work plan for the site, staff observed that the 100 year-old barn and 100 year old farm house is in need of repair in order to permit them to be used during restoration of the larger site and for educational use and a works/storage yard for the larger 27 hectare project. Due to structural issues with the barn, it cannot currently be used to store restoration equipment or materials and poses a workplace health and safety issue.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.99

