

## **Appointment of Public Members to the North York Community Preservation Panel**

**Date:** March 28, 2022

**To:** North York Community Council

**From:** Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning

**Wards:** Ward 6 - York Centre; Ward 8 - Eglinton-Lawrence; Ward 15 - Don Valley West;  
Ward 16 - Don Valley East; Ward 17 - Don Valley North; Ward 18 - Willowdale

### **REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

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This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the North York Community Preservation Panel.

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends the appointment of 8 public members to the North York Community Preservation Panel.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning recommends that:

1. City Council appoint the following candidates to the North York Community Preservation Panel for a term of office ending April 25, 2025 and until successors are appointed:

- Eli Aaron
- Anne-Marie Branch
- Mitchell Bubulj
- Alex Grenzebach
- Sharon Mourer
- Seyed Mohammad Reza Safavi
- Sam Ghose
- Rosanna Iaboni

2. City Council direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential as it relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the North York Community Preservation Panel.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial implications arising from the adoption of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting held, February 10 and 11, 2015, City Council appointed 7 public members to the North York Community Preservation Panel for a term of office ending November 30, 2018 and until successors are appointed:  
Agenda Item History - 2015.NY3.34 (toronto.ca)

## **COMMENTS**

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### **Role of the Community Preservation Panels**

- Recommend properties within the local community which should be considered by the Toronto Preservation Board for inclusion on the Heritage Register
- Monitor existing heritage properties, including those properties at risk
- Research into properties being proposed for inclusion on the Heritage Register, public programs and other conservation-related issues
- Provide for public awareness and promotion of issues relating to heritage properties, in co-operation with Heritage Toronto and other heritage groups
- Promote neighbourhood heritage and history
- Provide for local community activities recognizing the efforts of citizens to protect, preserve or promote heritage properties
- Co-ordinate related heritage activities with local museums, societies, the Toronto District School Board and similar organizations within the community
- Advocate, in co-operation with Heritage Toronto and other community heritage organizations
- Report to the Toronto Preservation Board

### **Composition of the Community Preservation Panels**

The Community Preservation Panels each consist of a minimum of 5 and a maximum 15 members of the public. One panel is established for each Community Council district:

- Etobicoke York Community Council
- North York Community Council

- Scarborough Community Council
- Toronto and East York Community Council

Due to term limits there are currently 15 positions under consideration. The application process remains open and additional candidates may be considered should applications be received.

### **Public members should meet specific qualifications**

In addition to the general eligibility requirements set out in the Public Appointments Policy, members should collectively possess skills in or have an interest in:

- Local history
- Heritage research
- Architecture
- Planning and engineering
- Other knowledge that will assist the Panels in their responsibilities

### **Term of office**

Members of the Community Preservation Panels are appointed for four years. Panel members can hold office for a maximum of two consecutive terms. Members appointed in this process will serve a term of office ending April 20, 2025 and until successors are appointed.

### **Staff led a process to recruit and nominate candidates**

Although the Community Preservation Panels (CPP) are not recruited through Public Appointments, but rather through the efforts of City heritage staff guided by Article 2, Chapter 103 of the Municipal Code, Heritage Planning received critical recruitment assistance from the Public Appointment Secretariat of the City Clerk's Office. City Clerk's staff promoted the opportunity to various professional and community organizations, including making best efforts to reach out to organizations whose participation would help to ensure that the composition of the CPP better reflect gender, diversity, and geographical representation. City Clerk's staff also advertised the opportunity on the Public Appointments website between April 2021 and July 2021 and received and organized the applications by District. Applications were forwarded to the Senior Manager, Heritage Planning and the Clerk's Office continued to provide helpful advice throughout the remainder of the recruitment process.

Applications were screened against the City Council-approved qualifications and eligibility criteria, and consideration was given to the number of available appointments within each panel district. As the number of eligible, qualified applicants did not exceed the number of available spaces in this district's CPP, no interviews were conducted.

## **Staff are recommending 8 candidates for appointment to the North York Community Preservation Panel**

Heritage Preservation staff are recommending 8 candidates for appointment as public members to the North York Community Preservation Panel. These candidates cover the range of City Council approved qualifications with the relevant skills and interest (Attachment 1).

### **CONTACT**

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### **SIGNATURE**

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Mary L. MacDonald, MA, CAHP  
Senior Manager, Heritage Planning  
Urban Design, City Planning

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 - Names and Biographies of Recommended Candidates  
Confidential Attachment 1 - Applications and Summary of Confidential Voluntary  
Diversity Information for Recommended Candidates

**Recommended Candidates and Biographies for the North York Community Preservation Panel**

**1. Eli Aaron**

Eli is passionate about heritage preservation in Toronto. He currently works as a planner at the Lytton Park Residents' Organization. In 2019 Eli graduated from Ryerson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. From 2018 to 2021 he served on the Leadership Team of the Toronto Youth Cabinet, the City's official youth advisory body. Eli has significant experience reviewing development applications and extensive knowledge of municipal governance.

**2. Anne-Marie Branch**

Anne-Marie is a long-time volunteer in the City of Toronto: Nuit Blanche, Doors Open, Harbourfront, HOT DOCS Cinema and film festival.

**3. Mitchell Bubulj**

I am an east ender by birth. I am a high school history teacher and a built heritage fan who has even led Jane's Walks of Leaside, I have written articles on our local history and am a defender of preservation and adaptive reuse of significant structures to ensure they stand for all of us, even those not yet born, to be able to enjoy and appreciate. I have actively participated in efforts to halt demolition of significant sites such as the Dominion Foundry and have a love of our city.

**4. Sam Ghose**

I am called Sam. I was born in a South East Asian Nation and obtained my B.Com and M.Com (Master of Commerce) in Finance from the Dhaka University, Bangladesh. I also obtained LL.B degree from Central Law College, Dhaka. I worked with the United Nations for 26 years in different countries in Africa and Asia. I took voluntary retirement from United Nations in the year 2009 and returned to Toronto. I have been living with my wife and two children in North York, Toronto, for the last 25 years.

**5. Alex Grenzebach**

Alex is a lifelong resident of Lawrence Park, and attended local schools and later graduated from the University of Toronto and the University of Waterloo. He worked in the field of information technology before joining Seneca College in the late 1970s. He has been involved with local heritage issues through the North Toronto Historical Society for many years and has also served on municipal heritage committees and boards.

**6. Rosanna Iaboni**

I have lived in Downsview since 1967. When I moved here, the Bombardier runway was fully operational and it was quite the sight to watch planes land. Canadian Forces Base Downsview was in full operation and it was normal to see military jeeps and soldiers everywhere. We have 3 designated heritage properties, including one of the oldest churches in Toronto. I want to share these stories and what I have learned through my research with others so they can be as proud to live here as I am.

7. Sharon Mourer

Sharon is the Heritage Chair for the South Eglinton Ratepayers and Residents Association and a historical advocate with the North Toronto Historical Society.

8. Seyed Mohammad Reza Safavi

I am proud to be a hard-working and successful supporting member of my community for half a decade. My academic education and continuous study of the required skills and current advanced technologies kept me up-to-date and familiar with the required knowledge and skills of the time. I have had top management positions and practiced skills in planning, supervision, team working, negotiation and legal affairs. I also have innovative ideas and plans for the improvement and development of the Seniors Housing Corporation activities and services.