

**From:** [Adam G. Wynne](#)  
**To:** [Heritage Planning](#); [City Clerks - Heritage](#)  
**Cc:** [Teycpp Info](#); [info1@northrosedale.ca](mailto:info1@northrosedale.ca); [info@northrosedale.ca](mailto:info@northrosedale.ca)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] Re: E-mail Letter — Re: PB4.11 - 5 Whitehall Road - Demolition of a Structure within the North Rosedale Heritage Conservation District and Approval of a Replacement Structure  
**Date:** March 23, 2023 12:08:34 PM

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Chair and Members of the Toronto Preservation Board,

A brief addendum:

- Queen Elizabeth Way connected Toronto with the Niagara Peninsula / Buffalo.
- Queen Elizabeth Way was also the first illuminated highway in North America.

Regards,

Adam Wynne  
[adam.g.wynne@gmail.com](mailto:adam.g.wynne@gmail.com)

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 4:52 PM Adam G. Wynne <[adam.g.wynne@gmail.com](mailto:adam.g.wynne@gmail.com)> wrote:

**Re: PB4.11 - 5 Whitehall Road - Demolition of a Structure within the North Rosedale Heritage Conservation District and Approval of a Replacement Structure:**

Chair and Members of the Toronto Preservation Board,

I am writing to you in regards to 5 Whitehall Road.. 5 Whitehall Road is a designated (yet unrated) building within the North Rosedale Heritage Conservation District. 5 Whitehall Road is a 1-storey bungalow constructed in 1948/1949. The owners have sought to demolish the building and replace it with a larger 2.5 storey house.

5 Whitehall Road was first home to Robert Melville Smith (1887-1950) — a significant figure in the history of North American urban planning. Smith

served as the Chief Engineer and Deputy Minister of the Ontario Department of Highways from 1928 until 1943.

Robert Melville Smith designed and constructed the Queen Elizabeth Way — the first intercity divided highway in North America, connecting Toronto and Hamilton — which opened in 1937. The intercity divided highways were modelled after the German autobahn system. Smith also played a major role in the development of Northern Ontario, including the linking of communities by modern highways. During World War 2, Smith directed the construction of the Alaska Highway linking Alaska and the Yukon. The Alaska Highway was originally an all weather military route that became public following the war.

Smith also played a consulting and contracting role in the development of the Grand River Conservation Commission — the oldest watershed management agency in Canada — which was established near Cambridge in 1934 to address problems resulting from industrialization.

In 1942, he won the Julian C. Smith award for achievement in the development of Canada.

In 1943, during the construction of the Alaska Highway, Smith suffered a heart attack and subsequently stepped down from public office. Smith died at 5 Whitehall Road in 1950.

**Given that 5 Whitehall Road is a designated property situated within the North Rosedale Heritage Conservation District, can a requirement be made that a heritage plaque detailing the historical significance of Robert Melville Smith be erected at this site as part of the demolition / development approval?**

Thank-you,

Adam Wynne  
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