

Weston In Gear Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment

Meeting with Community Organizations

December 4th , 2025

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Weston Library Branch

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Cherri Hurst (President; Weston Historical Society); Mark Dos Reis (Secretary; Weston Masonic Temple Association)

City Planning Project Team: Gary Miedema (Project Manager, Heritage Planning); Lindsay Parsons (Heritage Planner, Heritage Planning)

Meeting Purpose

Heritage Planning hosted this meeting with representatives from Community Organizations to inform an understanding of the historical development of the Weston Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA) Study Area, including its social and community values. The focus of this meeting was on reviewing the draft Historic Context Statement (HCS), identified key themes, and the preliminary results of the heritage survey prepared by Heritage Planning.

Timeline

The meeting started at 6:00pm.

Gary Miedema welcomed members and opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

The meeting started with introductions, after which Gary introduced the purpose of the meeting.

Gary reminded the members about Weston In Gear Planning Study. This included an overview of the planning study process and how the Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment is integrated into it.

Gary provided an overview of what a Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment is and how a CHRA can contribute to a larger planning study considering future development. Gary explained what a Historic Context Statement (HCS) is and how an HCS can inform the survey of properties and identification of heritage potential and the recommendations of the CHRA.

Lindsay then reviewed the draft HCS for the Study Area, using a thematic framework to highlight the events, forces, and periods of development that helped shape the Study Area, along with the preliminary results of the heritage survey.

As a wrap up, Lindsay encouraged members to share the HCS with the community members and to provide any additional feedback, comments, or corrections to the draft HCS to her.

Following the presentation, Gary invited any questions or comments on the material presented and facilitated a discussion (summarized below).

Discussion and Comments from Attendees

The attendees expressed appreciation for the work of the CHRA and expressed general support for the properties identified as having potential cultural heritage value.

1. Are there properties identified on the draft list of properties with potential cultural heritage value that you think we should reconsider? If so, why?

- Members noted general appreciation for the draft list of properties with potential cultural heritage value.

2. Are there properties *not* identified on the draft list of properties with potential cultural heritage value that you think we should reconsider? If so, why?

- One attendee asked whether the property at 2026 – 2036 Weston Road had been reviewed as an intact commercial building. Staff confirmed that it had been reviewed and had not been considered to have potential cultural heritage value. Staff noted that the review of the property considered its diminished context outside of the commercial core of Weston.
- One attendee noted the property at 2088 Weston Road, known as the Trades Building, should be reviewed given its design overlooking the Humber River valley and potential associative connections.
- Attendees noted that the property at 2035 Weston Road, Wards Funeral Home, should be reviewed given the older age of the building and that Wards Funeral Home was an important institution in Weston.

- One attendee noted Weston Memorial School as an important building in Weston and had concerns over potential redevelopment of the site in the future. Staff noted that the property was outside of the CHRA and Planning Study boundary.

3. Staff presented a list of properties that required further research and asked attendees if they had any additional information about the properties shown.

- One attendee noted that a painter lived at the property at 2 Sykes Avenue.
- One attendee noted that 27 John Street was lived in by William Inch who owned Inch's Drug Store on Main Street.

4. General Feedback:

- Attendees expressed interest in the rehabilitation of Little Avenue Memorial Park, an important gathering place for the community. It was noted that the Humber River stone walls were poorly fixed recently and that the Cenotaph requires repairs. Attendees have expressed similar concerns through the Weston Loop project.
- Weston Masonic Temple recently celebrated its 100th anniversary and published a history of the Weston Lodge that could be shared with Staff. One attendee noted that the construction of the Masonic Temple was self-funded through members. The original architectural drawings, which the Temple has, shows a much grander entrance to the building which was never constructed likely due to limited resources after the First World War. It was noted that the Masonic Temple has been and continues to be an important gathering place in Weston.
- One attendee noted that the opening of Yorkdale Shopping Centre was an important "tipping point" for Weston's commercial main street as it was a major draw away from the area. The businesses on Weston's main street began to shift away from meeting every day needs of the small community.
- One attendee noted that the property at 2154 Weston Road was the original Mechanics Institute (c. 1885) before it was moved into the Town Hall. Prior to being the Mechanics Institute, it was the home of Dr. Cruickshank, a prominent Weston resident.
- One attendee noted that when Weston Road was widened in the mid-twentieth century, buildings were moved to accommodate the widening.

Prepared by:

Lindsay Parsons, Gary Miedema
(Heritage Planning, City of Toronto)

Date:
June 15, 2026