

Lawrence Park West Heritage Conservation District Study

In recent years, a volunteer group called the Lawrence Park Heritage Committee (LPHC) has studied the planning framework used by the City of Toronto to create Heritage Conservation Districts. The LPHC is independent and not a committee of the Lawrence Park Ratepayers Association (LPRA). The LPHC developed a plan to nominate the west part of Lawrence Park (from Yonge St to Mt. Pleasant Road, including the Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens) as a Heritage Conservation District (HCD).

The first step of the official planning process was a hearing by the Heritage Preservation Board (HPB), which occurred on 25th August. The HPB recommended the application to the North York Community Council (NYCC) but also entertained a motion from the floor to expand the study area to Lawrence Park East, which was not a part of the original LPHC application. Several residents, realtors, developers and architects have reacted strongly and negatively to the inclusion of Lawrence Park East.

The NYCC hearing was on 12th September but the City clerk determined that the amendment to expand the study area was out of order. The NYCC referred the request for Authorization to Study Lawrence Park West as a Potential Heritage Conservation District to City Council without recommendations.

The Lawrence Park Ratepayers Association has expressed the following position to the NYCC:

- The LPRA recognizes the need for proper study, resident consultation, and transparency prior to any consideration of Lawrence Park East as a potential Heritage Conservation District. The LPRA also embraced these principals in response to the City's current Infrastructure proposals for Lawrence Park by undertaking studies and surveys to get accurate data and to understand residents' views.
- Without such a process for Lawrence Park to the East of Mt Pleasant Rd, and with no prior notice of this issue, the LPRA does not support the inclusion of Lawrence Park East as a potential Heritage Conservation District.
- LPRA finds no cause to support a study of Lawrence Park East as a potential Heritage Conservation District at this time.

While we aim for consensus in decision making, in many instances we have to settle for a rigorous process, supported by reliable information. These values carry over to other activities of the LPRA as it advocates for our ratepayers, especially to the City of Toronto.

Valentine Lovekin, LPRA Board Chair