

Alternate Approach to B Properties/Heritage Register

Jan. 15, 2020

I have been thinking a lot about our situation with regard to getting properties back on the Register before they are demolished.

We all agree that we are not qualified to judge the heritage value of the properties that were taken off the Register and that it is a massive undertaking. I think the reason for this is because we are trying to assess their value in terms of designation. There are no real guidelines for putting properties on the Register. See info below in red.

I think there is a very simple, acceptable course of action.

To my thinking, any property over 100 years has potential heritage value to the community. I would like to suggest that we recommend to Council that every property over 100 years be added to the register.

The benefits of this:

- **It is completely impartial.** No one has to justify to the home owner why one property was added over another – it's just a matter of age. I should add that I am putting my money where my mouth is as my home was built in 1912.
- **It is expedient** – ERA recommended the benefits of a robust register before Bill 108 passes.
- **It is fiscally-responsible** – does not require spending what could be over \$100,000 of taxpayers' money on an extensive study and allows us to keep that money to use for other heritage matters.
- **It is justifiable** – putting a property on the register does not restrict the homeowner from making any changes to his property. It just gives the city notice if it is to be demolished. We are maintaining our register with the minimum amount of public money spent.
- We can put this issue, outstanding from since 2012, to bed and move on to other issues.

When a demolition permit is requested, the heritage value of the property can be assessed **at that time**, and if there is none, the permit issued. Rather than trying to assess the heritage value of over 200+ properties at one time, we focus directly on the ones at risk of demolition, if and when it comes up.

Why should a municipality include properties that have not been designated in its municipal register?

Including non-designated properties in the municipal register is a means to identify properties that have **cultural heritage value or interest** to the community. The municipal register is an important tool in planning for the conservation of heritage properties and **provides interim protection from demolition**.

A comprehensive register of cultural heritage properties:

- Recognizes properties of cultural heritage value or interest in the community.
- Demonstrates a municipal council's commitment to conserve cultural heritage resources.

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- Enhances knowledge and understanding of the community's cultural heritage.
- Provides a database of properties of cultural heritage value or interest for land use planners, property owners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public.
- Should be consulted by municipal decision makers when reviewing development proposals or permit applications.
- Provides interim protection from demolition.