

**6. CORRESPONDENCE FROM RESIDENT – FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE STRUCTURES - WARD 1**

**Recommendation**

Cultural Services staff recommends:

1. That Heritage Vaughan receives the correspondence from the owner at 9986 Keele Street attached to this report.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, Objective 4.1:

- To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

**Economic Impact**

N/A

**Communications Plan**

All agenda items and minutes relating to Heritage Vaughan committee meetings are circulated to relevant City departments, applicants and their representatives.

**Purpose**

To receive the correspondence from the resident at 9986 Keele Street.

**Background and Analysis**

**Analysis**

Please refer to the correspondence included in attachment 1.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:  
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:  
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and the necessary resources to implement this program have been allocated and approved.

**Regional Implications**

N/A

**Conclusion**

Please refer to recommendation section of this report.

**Attachments**

1. Letter from resident.

**Report Prepared by**

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Dear Councillor Marilyn Iafrate,

My family and I live on the corner of Keele and Major Mackenzie (9986 Keele Street). We purchased the property in the summer of 2007 and have since been renovating and revitalizing the once falling apart 1880's house.

We believe in investing in the community and helping it grow so have made a commitment to a Designated Heritage property on a main street. We're consistently looking at new projects to improve the efficiency of our home whilst enjoying our space and living in Vaughan. Last year, we received the "Vaughan Heritage Preservation Award" for 2011 and were very pleased with the recognition of our hard work. Also, we recently had our property reassessed by MPAC and the value has increased significantly from 2008 (which is great) causing our property taxes to increase significantly as well (not so great).

Through some research, I've learned that most surrounding municipalities of Vaughan (Markham, Brampton, Toronto) have programs in place which provide grants for homeowners who are undertaking the restoration of a historic property and also tax relief and exemptions for those same owners. Since the cost of keeping up such an old property is quite exhausting I ignorantly assumed that perhaps the City of Vaughan would provide similar assistance to us for our home. I've now learned that no such programs, grants, exemptions are available in Vaughan. This is the reason I'm reaching out to you - we really need your help.

We absolutely love our home, our community, but believe that we should have the same opportunity as other historic home owners in the province of Ontario. With all the work that goes into our home (fragile brick, drafty windows, etc.), what encouragement is there to own a historic property? With some financial assistance or tax relief, the maintenance of a historic home is possible. Since it was developed in 2006, 30 Ontario municipalities have adopted the Heritage Tax Relief Program, Vaughan is not one of them. Also, many municipalities participate in refunding of permit and planning based municipal fees for owners of designated properties, but not Vaughan. The list of grants, relief, loans, etc. goes on and on but Vaughan's participation is absent in all of these incentive giving programs.

I called your office earlier today and left a message hoping we could have a chat. I understand that many issues arise that may seem more important and pressing than my request for your attention but please let me know your thoughts on what you think could help get this rolling. Thanks for taking a few minutes to read my e-mail and I hope to hear from you soon.

Regards,  
Victoria

Victoria Karanfilovski