



COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT

Founded in 1983, Incorporated in 1987 – Ontario 729493

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26 August 2008

Toronto and East York Community Council,
c/o Frances Pritchard, Acting Administrator,
12th floor, West Tower,
Toronto City Hall,
100 Queen Street West,
Toronto M5H 2N2
fax: 416-392-2980

re: Application No.: 08 169177 STE 27 OZ – 34-38 Hazelton Avenue

Dear Councillors,

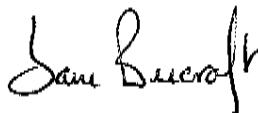
The above application should never have been made and should be dismissed without further discussion for the following reasons:

1. The subject property is within a Heritage Conservation District (By-law 622-2002) and is supposed to be protected;
2. As the building stands before any further changes are made, it has architectural merits which should not be sacrificed on the altar of "progress";
3. The subject property is an essential and prominent part of a heritage streetscape which would be negatively impacted by any and all of the proposed alterations;
4. The proposed alterations contribute nothing positive to the character of the immediate area;
5. The existing building, as it stands, has an exceedingly important social history related to the original character of the incorporated Village of Yorkville, and this history should be given primacy of place in all considerations about the building's future and protection. The only other building in the area which had the same power to speak to the city's social evolution (100 Yorkville) has been destroyed (despite the cutting-and-pasting of fragments of its former façade), thus heightening the importance of preserving fully intact the property at 34-38 Hazelton.
6. Except for houses on a few streets in the northern part of the incorporated village, and a very few commercial buildings surviving in one block of Yonge Street's west side, Council must recognize that historic Yorkville has been destroyed, and with it the tourism it once drew. Consequently, there have been unfair negative impacts on local businesses, increasing costs in efforts to draw tourism anew, and diminishing respect for a Council willing to trash public assets. Alteration is a form of destruction.

7. Inside or outside of Heritage Conservation Districts, it is grossly unfair that the interests of a single, non-resident party or non-resident consortium should ever be granted permission to intrude and take actions that are counter to the wishes of residents/taxpayers and out-of-character with the neighbourhood. Simply put: 1 is not equal to - or better than - 2, or 10, or an entire neighbourhood.
8. In the light of Council deliberations over the application of Section 37 monies to the costs of new Heritage Conservation District studies, Council must uphold and defend existing HCDs in order to be perceived as making meaningful, consistent decisions in the public interest, and so avoid criticism for arbitrary or inconsistent decisions in favour of private interests over the public good.

The present application must be dismissed, and Council should consider acquiring the property in order to provide a community centre for an area that really needs one.

Yours truly,



(Miss) Jane Beecroft, O.M.C.,
President