

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 7, 2001

**THOREAU MACDONALD HOUSE
(BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 1, 2001)**

Recommendation

The Budget Sub-Committee recommends:

That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Manager of Urban Design and the Director of Recreation and Culture, dated May 1, 2001, BE APPROVED, subject to the inclusion of the phrase “following the public consultation meeting” after the word “Budget” contained in Clause 1.

Report of the Manager of Urban Design and the Director of Recreation and Culture

The Manager of Urban Design and the Director of Recreation and Culture, in consultation with the Director of Reserves and Investments, recommends:

That in order to restore and revitalize the Thoreau MacDonald House property to its original 1920's state, \$85,000.00 be included in the 2001 Capital Budget and, further,

That the source of the funding be the Heritage Reserve Fund.

Background

The J.E.H. Mac Donald/Thoreau MacDonald House and surrounding property is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act and considered a significant heritage site in the City of Vaughan. The property was owned by Group of Seven artist, J.E.H. MacDonald and the inspiration for this famous painting “Tangled Garden”, presently hanging at the National Gallery in Ottawa.

The property was willed to Thoreau MacDonald, J.E.H. Macdonald's son and then to the City of Vaughan in 1974. Although the site is a point of pride in the Thornhill community, it has never been totally restored.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 11, 2000, Dr. John Sabean came on deputation with respect to the preservation and use of the Thoreau MacDonald House. Following a number of meetings with Dr. Sabean, Susan MacDonald (niece of Thoreau), the Ward 5 Councillor and City staff, it was determined that the restoration project would be phased in with the first phase focusing on the restoration and revitalization of the 1920's gardens and grounds surrounding the house.

The Urban Design Department, in consultation with Cultural Services, reviewed the existing file material and determined that the cost of the garden restoration and revitalization would be \$85,000.00 (Attch. #1). This project was not included on the list of 2001 Urban Design capital projects.

The source of funding would be \$75,000.00 from the Heritage Reserve Fund and a \$10,000.00 grant from the Friends of the Environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. DiVona
Chair
Budget Sub-Committee



March 29, 2001

Re: City of Vaughan Application to Friends of the Environment
for The MacDonald House Heritage Rehabilitation Project

The City of Vaughan, in conjunction with Bruce MacDonald, the principal of LEIJ MacDonald, is committed to carrying out the restoration and rehabilitation of the MacDonald House grounds. These efforts will be concentrated on the central location of the heritage residences prior to commencing the 4-acre site. The following areas will be included as part of the program over a scope of years:

Heritage Garden-Feeder program Program

- research into the history of the location of the site, and understand gardening habits of that era to develop a design vernacular (considering design styles, not to be slavish to such style).
- develop heritage garden plans and identify the specific heritage plant material which was present during that era.
- conduct a site visit to augment existing hard data information which will include existing features. Also a detailed site survey will be conducted to identify all trees, especially those trees which have a significant impact to the design and be surveyed and monitored (species, canopy, condition and comments).
- an Orientation and Survey will be prepared to carry out the operation of survey information which will include mapping of existing information.

- Slightly modify the existing site conditions to accommodate a fire access route and parking for a minimum of (2) vehicles. These items, once final, shall be incorporated into the overall design.
- The overall Landscape Master Plan and construction working drawings will focus on the landscape restoration and reestablishment of this 4-acre site (see Site). These areas will include: clearing, preserving and maintaining the existing vegetation and natural topography of the site, creating a heritage streetscape, ornamental columns and fountains; thus allowing the site to be unique the perimeter of the house including heritage garden and the introduction of hard landscape features (footpaths & natural stone raised paths), the implementation of proposed pathways along the existing creek bed & river providing of connectivity throughout the site.

From a construction perspective, the following summary will define the works and their related components:

Site Work

- removal of unwanted existing vegetation which requires removal
- regrading of specific areas to ensure retention of drainage
- re-establishment of native vegetation between plants

Hard Landscape

- existing concrete vehicle pathways to be retrofitted with non-slip screening material & curbsides to support vehicle weight.
- proposed landscape footpaths around perimeter of Heritage Shedding to be deep pour concrete use pavers
- curbside and pavers to "Heritage Streetscape Appearance" (aspirational materials, forms and ornamental metal fittings) will be introduced in the proposed line along Green Street.

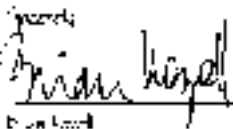
Soft Landscape

- revegetation planting along stream to reinforce stream bank
- softland landscape to promote reestablishment of existing native vegetation. The additional planting of native grasses will be introduced in ecologically scarred areas around the site. Also, these plantings will function as screening walls from adjacent residential.
- landscaping at perimeter of Heritage Shedding to include footpaths and foundation planting. This will be achieved through the use of permeable and permeable raised paths of materials of the era.
- the introduction of additional species of native plants, trees of heritage Plant Material. To include Palmyra & Common Fennel, to include information on particular species.

Preliminary Cost Estimate

Item	Est. Cost
Site clearing & grubbing	\$15,000.00
Curbs to be raised positive drainage	\$6,000.00
Site restrip on slope bank	\$9,500.00
Site grading - driveway for service path	\$4,000.00
Site preparation - concrete walk pavers	\$2,500.00
Site preparation - masonry walls	\$5,000.00
Site preparation - metal fence	\$12,000.00
Site planting trees	\$0,000.00
Site purchase furniture	\$0,000.00
Site purchase signage	\$5,500.00
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	\$69,000.00

Note: Scope of work and prices may vary in accordance with the final construction drawings.



Brian Kinney
Landscape Planner

City of Montclair, Commissioner of Planning and Urban Design
Jouze Eppstein, Commissioner of Recreation & Culture
Sue Montanari, Manager of Landscape and Open Space Development