

City of Vaughan Heritage District Signs

Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers'
Association Review

Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association

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November 28, 2011

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

The Kleinburg Area Ratepayers' Association (KARA) recently had our monthly Board of Director's meeting and there was considerable discussion on the many issues surrounding the installation of the Vaughan Heritage Conservation signs which we find to be unacceptable.

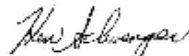
We are writing to express our dismay at the appearance of the signs. They are not heritage in visual design and the lime-green colour on the round metal posts (sunk in visible concrete foundations) is surprising in its selection for a "heritage designation sign". We recognize that the colours chosen on the sign are in fact the City's colours, however what might be appropriate on letterhead is not appropriate for usage in this application. A better sign choice that would identify with, and relate to, Vaughan's heritage might have been *modest* stone signs with brass plaques or beautifully carved wooden signs with suitable colours and construction materials.

We would like to ask if *Heritage Vaughan* reviewed, commented on, and approved these signs before they were installed, and ask if these signs fall in line with the heritage nature of the upcoming streetscape plans. We also are questioning why the City would place signs in our village without soliciting comments and feedback from KARA and other local organizations on the proposed signage design or permanent location.

There is also the concern over the current sign placement, particularly at the Major MacKenzie entrance, where our Kleinburg community has painstakingly selected beautiful, rural, and appropriate entrance features for our village doorstep, and now our City has erected a lime-green sign right next to our spectacular community stone for Kleinburg New Forest.

We are formally requesting to have the Vaughan Heritage District signs now in Kleinburg and Nashville removed. In addition, we are requesting that a formal review be completed about how the signs could have been designed and installed in Vaughan's historic villages without consultation, or a proper and thorough review through the Heritage Vaughan process. It is our hope that the next generation of signs will genuinely reflect and represent Vaughan's precious heritage.

Sincerely,



Ken Schwenger
President, KARA

Vaughan's Heritage Districts



Woodbridge Heritage District



- Islington Ave / Woodbridge Ave (west side of Islington)
- Visible to Southbound traffic
- Sign placement proximity to Community in Blooms sign?
- No sign placed on Islington Ave (north of highway #7) which would be visible to northbound traffic.

Woodbridge Heritage District



- Woodbridge Ave / Kipling Ave (eastbound view)
- Sign on south side of Woodbridge Ave
- Sign is lost in amongst the noise

Woodbridge Heritage District



- Kipling Ave / Villagewood Crt (northbound view)
- Placed on west side of Kipling
- Diminished visibility to northbound traffic?

Woodbridge Heritage District



- Kipling Ave / Porter Ave (southbound view)
- Across from the Woodbridge Fairgrounds
- The sign is lost in the railway crossing gates and lights



Woodbridge Heritage District



- Clarence St / Mouncey St. (southbound view)
- Placed on west side of Clarence
- One of the better placements due to the natural back drop

Maple Heritage District



- Major Mac / Avro St (eastbound view)
- Placed on south side of Major Mac
- Looks like a sign pertaining to the subdivision

Maple Heritage District



- Major Mac / Hill St (view eastbound)
- Placed on north side of Major Mac
- Sign placed in front of park

Maple Heritage District



- Keele St. / Fieldgate Dr. (northbound view)
- Placed on east side of Keele st
- Looks like a sign pertaining to the subdivision

Maple Heritage District



- Keele St. (southbound view)
- Placed on west side of Keele st



Kleinburg Nashville Heritage District



- Nashville Rd. / Huntington Rd. (eastbound view)
- Placed on south east corner
- No sign placed at the eastern gateway Stegman's Mill to Kleinburg Nashville Heritage District

Kleinburg Nashville Heritage District



- Highway 27. / Nashville Rd (Northbound view)
- Placed on east side of Highway 27

Kleinburg Nashville Heritage District



- Islington Ave / Highway 27 (southbound view)
- Placed on east side of Islington

Kleinburg Nashville Heritage District



- Islington Ave / Major Mac (northbound view)
- Placed on east side of Islington
- Additional Kleinburg Village sign on the west side of Islington (see next slide) makes for signage overload and redundancy





Village of
KLEINBURG
Settled circa 1848

Thornhill Heritage District



Issues

- No referral at all to Heritage Vaughan for review of mock-ups, placement location, etc.
- Cultural Services involvement was only to be asked to provide the heritage dates for Woodbridge, Maple, Kleinburg Nashville, 1855, 1852 and 1848 respectively.
- Seemingly little or no public consultation.
- Location approvals by local councillors?
- Thornhill Heritage District was left out.
- Existing signage seems not to have been taken into consideration, whether heritage or otherwise.
- Budget of \$28,900 for 13 signs - \$2,250 each?
- Is this a successful implementation in accordance with Council's direction and objectives? Was the intended outcome in spirit and intent achieved?
- There is a uniqueness to our heritage districts. Homogeneous, generic signs detract from and sterilizes that uniqueness