

**ADDITIONS MEMO NO. 1**  
**Council – February 11, 2008**

February 11, 2008

MEMO TO: Mayor Barrow and  
Members of Council

FROM: Donna L. McLarty  
Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Additional items to be considered at the February 11, 2008 Council  
Meeting

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Further to the preparation of the agenda for the above noted meeting, the Clerk's Office has received the following items to be added to the agenda:

**5.0 David Dunlap Observatory Property – 123 Hillview Drive – Cultural Landscape Designation – File No. D12-07228 – (SRPD.08.028)**

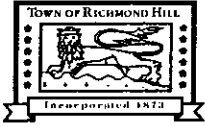
That SRPD.08.028 regarding David Dunlap Observatory Property, 123 Hillview Drive, Cultural Landscape Designation, File No. D12-07228, dated February 11, 2008 be received.

**6.0 Correspondence from David West, Chair, Government Affairs Committee, and Glenn Lott, Chair of the Board, Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce – dated February 6, 2008 – regarding the David Dunlap Observatory Property**

That the correspondence from David West, Chair, Government Affairs Committee, and Glenn Lott, Chair of the Board, Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, dated February 6, 2008, regarding the David Dunlap Observatory Property be received.

  
Donna L. McLarty  
Town Clerk





## TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

### COUNCIL

February 11, 2008

SRPD.08.028

Planning and Development

Planning

**SUBJECT: David Dunlap Observatory Property – 123 Hillsvie Drive  
Cultural Landscape Designation  
File No. D12-07228 (SRPD.08.028)**

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### PURPOSE:

To report back to Council concerning the cultural heritage landscape designation of the David Dunlap Observatory property as directed by Council at its meeting of January 28, 2008.

### RECOMMENDATION:

**That Staff Report SRPD.08.028 entitled, “David Dunlap Observatory Property – 123 Hillsvie Drive Cultural Landscape Designation” dated February 11, 2008 be received.**

Contact: Joanne Leung, Manager of Urban Design, extension 5498

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Ana Bassios  
Commissioner of Planning and Development

  
M. Joan Anderton  
Chief Administrative Officer

**BACKGROUND:**

At its meeting of January 28, 2008, Council directed that staff, in consultation with the Heritage Preservation Consultant, Andre Scheinman, continue the research of the cultural heritage landscape study for the David Dunlap Observatory lands with respect to the feasibility of including 100 per cent of the David Dunlap observatory lands in the cultural heritage landscape designation and report back to Council no later than February 11, 2008.

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff have reviewed the information received at, and following, the Council meeting of January 28, 2008 and along with Mr. Andre Scheinman met with Professor Tom Bolton of the University of Toronto. The meeting was held on-site on February 7, 2008 at the Observatory property.

During the meeting with Professor Bolton, much additional detail regarding the current situation on the property, information on events and personnel at the observatory, and some information in the nature of "oral history" known to Professor Bolton through his long tenure at the Observatory, was provided. For example, Professor Bolton clarified who the current occupant of the caretaker's house is, and identified that one of the smaller telescopes has been relocated. The conversation with Professor Bolton supplemented the information gathered earlier with richness and detail. The information from Professor Bolton and from correspondence received subsequent to the preparation of the last staff report will be included in the background study where appropriate.

The continued research that was directed by Council on January 28, however, provided supplementary detail, it did not provide any additional reason or evidence for alteration to the heritage attributes and/or extension of the area identified as the Cultural Heritage Landscape. Mr. Scheinman has advised Staff that these findings do not alter the conclusions of his original report and Staff support Mr. Scheinman's conclusions.

These additional descriptions will be added to the background document in support of the Cultural Heritage Landscape study and will be entered as evidence at the Conservation Review Board hearing.

It must be understood that the designation process is centred on *key cultural heritage attributes*. In this case, the attributes that make the site special are derived from the overlay of the observatory research presence on a 19<sup>th</sup> century farming landscape. The farm itself in isolation of the observatory, while of cultural interest, does not embody the complexity which defines the Cultural Heritage Landscape. The extent of the overlap on the landscape is as defined in Mr. Scheinman's report.

The Scheinman report recommends all of the property within a boundary described as (roughly) the western half of the existing DDO property extending from the CNR tracks in the west to the center line of U of T Forestry plantation in the east and from Hillview Avenue in the north to the fence line at the boundary of Lot 41 (not including the extended leg into Lot 41) at the south be identified as a cultural heritage landscape. This area is shown on Map 1, attached. This boundary delineation captures the significant cultural heritage landscape attributes.

It should be noted that the designation of a cultural heritage landscape does not prevent or 'freeze' future development opportunity. Rather, the designation of this cultural heritage landscape allows the Town to manage and protect the heritage resources and require a sensitive approach to development activity.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

The recommendation does not have any financial, staffing or other implications.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Under the goal of enhancing and expanding the economic opportunities of the Town, the Strategic Plan includes the objective to encourage preservation and restoration of heritage areas and buildings.

**CONCLUSION:**

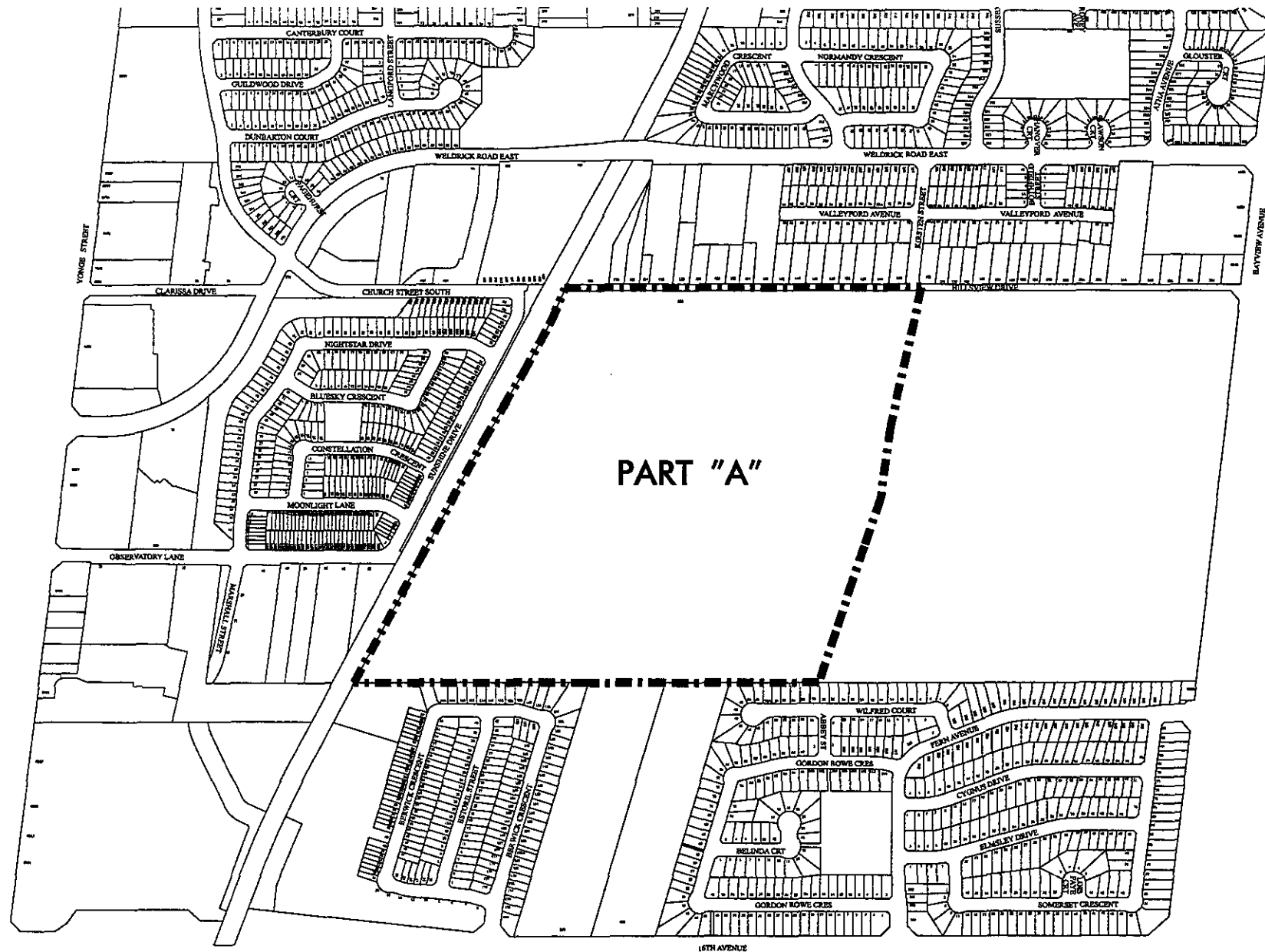
Based on the direction from Council at its meeting of January 28, 2008, staff in consultation with Mr. Scheinman, have undertaken additional research of the cultural heritage landscape study for the David Dunlap Observatory lands with respect to the boundaries of the cultural heritage landscape designation. The additional information will be included as background to the statement of cultural attributes and will be included in submissions to the Conservation Review Board. The additional information has not led to recommendation of any alteration of the cultural heritage landscape delimitation as defined in Mr. Scheinman's report.

*APPENDIX CONTENTS*

“A” Extract from Council meeting C#06-08 held on January 28, 2008.



Map 1 – David Dunlop Observatory Area of Cultural Heritage Landscape (Part A)



PART "A"

David Dunlap Observatory  
Area of Cultural Heritage Landscape (Part A)



Subject Lands

JL/HL - SRPD.08.028

MAP 1

BLOCK 23

FILE NO.

TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT





# Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce

376 Church Street South, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 9V8  
Tel: (905) 884-1961 Fax: (905) 884-1962 E-mail: info@rhcoc.com Website: www.rhcoc.com

February 6, 2008

RECEIVED

FEB 08 2008

RICHMOND HILL  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

**DIRECTORS**

Chair of the Board  
**Glenn D. Lott**  
*Lott & Company,*  
*Chartered Accountant*

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
**Earl Sky**  
*The Advertising Store*

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
**David West**  
*West Photo*

Treasurer  
**Brenda Murray**  
*BMO Bank of Montreal*

Past Chair of the Board  
**Vince De Angelis**  
*Scher & De Angelis*  
*Professional Corporation,*  
*Barristers & Solicitors*

**Tom Barker**  
*RBC Dominion Securities*

**John Burns**  
*SRM Media*  
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**Maureen Koziel**  
*Northern Alarm*  
*Protection*

**John Oliveira**  
*Richland Academy*

**Michael Ruskin**  
*Microdea Inc.*

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

**Brenda Hogg**  
*Town of Richmond Hill*

Mayor Dave Barrow  
Town of Richmond Hill  
225 East Beaver Creek Rd., P.O. Box 300  
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 4Y5

Dear Mayor Barrow,

On behalf of the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our concern regarding the sale, by the University of Toronto, of the Dunlap Observatory Lands in Richmond Hill, and how this sale might impact our community. It would seem from the many reports in the local media and the concern expressed by our members and the general public, that the preservation or at least wise use of a large portion of these lands is of prime concern and importance to the citizens of the area.

Whenever we survey our membership traffic gridlock always appears as the number one concern for businesses in Richmond Hill and surrounding area. Any future use that would cause an increase in traffic in the area would exacerbate an already significant problem with traffic congestion in Richmond Hill and add a good deal to a problem that impacts the livelihood of many businesses in the area already.

Our members have also expressed to us that a clear commitment to a green, natural, and livable environment in Richmond Hill is important for business. A wise and sustainable use for this area would add value to the community and make attracting new investments to our community by major corporations a good deal easier. The "livability" of a town and its surrounding manmade and natural amenities play an important role when new businesses decide to locate in a given area. Increasing the number of major employers in Richmond Hill will provide a welcome addition to our tax base. This fact must be considered carefully in any and all of our future development plans.

After attending the Council Meeting where the decision to designate a part of this land as culturally significant was made, it certainly seemed appropriate to try to protect these culturally significant features. Having heard the excellent presentation made to council regarding the cultural and historic significance, that the Dunlap Observatory and the astronomical discoveries made there and how these contributions have played in the community, province, country and indeed the world make the reasons for protecting part of this land obvious. As such firm action should be taken to protect its present features by all levels of government.

The challenge as it stands at the moment will be to balance the needs of the citizens and businesses of Richmond Hill in deciding the fate of such a large parcel of land located in the very centre of our community. The options that the Town would have at its disposal would be significantly greater if the Provincial and Federal Government all worked in concert to ensure that the maximum benefit from these lands (and this opportunity) can be realized. The Chamber asks that all levels of government take an active interest in this situation and lend any support that may be needed, in order for a positive outcome be realized before and after this land is sold. We would like to congratulate our politicians on the work that has been done up to this point on this issue, but we also realize that a clear commitment and unified vision will be needed in the near future by all levels of government to work through the remainder of this process.

As a Chamber we would ask to be involved in this process, and we would be pleased to provide any support that is needed in order to produce a positive outcome for our business community and the citizens of Richmond Hill. Time is of the essence in order to solidify this opportunity and we ask for immediate, swift and decisive commitments and cooperation between levels of government.

Sincerely,

David West  
Chair, Government Affairs Committee

Glenn Lott  
Chair of the Board



**Mission Statement**

To Foster a Business Environment that Enhances the Success of our Members and Improves the Quality of Life in Richmond Hill

