

Eyer Homestead Historical House Restoration

Funding Program: Infrastructure Stimulus Fund

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Between 2009 and 2011, Richmond Hill used a portion of its Infrastructure Stimulus funding to renovate the Eyer Homestead Historical House.

The Eyer Wideman House was built in 1828 and remains Richmond Hill's earliest known example of a Pennsylvania-German Mennonite dwelling. In recognition of its unique historical significance both the exterior and the interior were historically designated by Richmond Hill in February 1994. The 3800 square foot Eyer Wideman House sits on the grounds of the larger Eyer Homestead Park, and is readily accessible by transit and multi-use trail systems.

Although the Eyer Wideman House is an important part of Richmond Hill's history, the condition of the facility had deteriorated over the years to the point where significant capital investment was required to rehabilitate the house for continued use. The assistance of the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund allowed the Town of Richmond Hill to undertake a comprehensive restoration program of both the interior and exterior of the house. This restoration project was designed to respect the historical features of the building while bringing it in line with current building, fire, and accessibility codes. The restoration measures included a renewable energy component in the form of geo-thermal heating installed under the parking area, as well as energy efficient doors, windows, insulation, heating, and air conditioning systems. A general upgrade of the site works around the building was also undertaken. In terms of future use, the restored Eyer Wideman House was designed to serve as a venue for the delivery of youth programs for ages 12 to 18, including leadership, self-defense, creativity, and video editing courses.



Project Highlights:

Shared federal, provincial and municipal investment in restoring heritage properties

Upgrades include:

- Restoration of interior and exterior of building
- Installation of energy efficient equipment
- Installation of renewable energy equipment

Upgraded site to be used for the delivery of youth programming



“ Thanks to the support we've received from the Federal and Provincial governments, we've been able to build a one-of-a-kind park for our community. Eyer Homestead Park not only preserves our historic past through the restoration of a heritage home into a youth centre that offers a variety of programs, but also offers our vibrant and active community of today a unique ropes challenge course, among other great activities. ”

Mayor Dave Barrow



Richmond Hill, where people come together to build our community.

PROJECT FACTS



PROJECT BUDGET: \$3 060 000
COMPLETION DATE: June 2011

PROJECT BENEFITS

The restoration of the Eyer Wideman House has had many benefits to the citizens of Richmond Hill, consistent with the objectives of the Town's 2009 Strategic Plan:

Investing in Richmond Hill's Heritage

The Eyer Wideman House is an important part of Richmond Hill's early history. Restoring this historic building represents a significant investment in preserving and showcasing the Town's unique heritage.

Opportunities for Youth

The Eyer Wideman Youth Centre provides a space where youth can come and take advantage of specialized programs and facilities geared specifically towards their age group.

Resource Management

The renovation of the Eyer Wideman House includes a sustainable energy component, thereby increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to the long-term benefits realized by this project, the restoration of the Eyer Wideman House provided short-term stimulus to Richmond Hill's economy through direct infrastructure investment and job creation.



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This project received financial assistance from the governments of Canada and Ontario through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund.

