

Old Post Office Restoration Project

Program: Canada's Gas Tax Fund

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2011, Richmond Hill used a portion of its Canada's Gas Tax Fund to assist in the restoration of the Town's historic post office.

Richmond Hill's original post office is located at the southwest corner of Yonge and Centre Streets in Richmond Hill's downtown. Constructed in 1936, the building is architecturally significant because it represents the first introduction of art deco elements on an official building in Richmond Hill. It was designated by the Town of Richmond Hill under the Ontario Heritage Act in 2001. In recognition of the historical importance of the building to the community and the heritage value of the building, in 2010 Council directed that the building should be saved and restored. Once complete, the addition of high-quality leasable space in the area will contribute to the economic revitalization of the downtown.



An architectural firm was hired to research and provide design information with the goal of restoring the building so that it would better represent its original look and to reinstate its heritage elements. In 2011, construction began to restore the exterior of the building, including reinstating the original window design and removing the paint from the bricks. Gas Tax funding was used for the installation of modern energy efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. The restoration also includes a modified ramp to the front door that meets accessibility and building code requirements.



Project Highlights:

Shared federal and municipal investment in preserving community heritage

Upgrades include:

- The restoration of the Town's original post office
- Gas Tax funding used to upgrade heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems

Project benefits include:

- Improvements to the downtown streetscape through the restoration of the Post Office's original appearance
- Modification of a front entrance ramp to meet accessibility
- Economic revitalization through the expansion of leasable space in the downtown



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

PROJECT FACTS



GAS TAX CONTRIBUTION: \$24 000
COMPLETION DATE: August 2012

PROJECT BENEFITS

The restoration of the old Post Office has had many benefits to the residents of Richmond Hill, consistent with the objectives of the Town’s 2009 Strategic Plan:

Responsible Heritage Stewardship

The old Post Office was a focus of community interaction, particularly in the time prior to the commencement of door-to-door mail delivery in 1957. The restoration of this building represents wise stewardship of an important part of the Town’s architectural and cultural heritage.

Environmental Benefits

The installation of modern energy efficient equipment in the restoration of the old Post Office has improved the energy conservation of the building.

Downtown Revitalization

The restoration of the old Post Office has created a tangible improvement to the Yonge Street façade in Richmond Hill’s downtown. The future use of this building will contribute to the economic revitalization of the downtown, consistent with the Town’s Economic Development Strategy.



Accessibility

The modification of the ramp to the front entrance brings the old Post Office up to current accessibility standards, improving access for those with disabilities.

In addition to the long-term benefits realized by this project, the restoration of the old Post Office provided short-term stimulus to Richmond Hill’s economy by creating construction activity.



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