

Thornhill Historical Society

Heritage Markham Committee

c/o City of Markham – Planning & Urban Design
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

Subject: 6.2 Heritage-Sensitive Rear Addition and Garage at 33 Colborne St., Thornhill

Dear Members of the Heritage Markham Committee,

On behalf of the **Thornhill Historical Society**, we write in **support of the proposed 2-storey rear addition and garage** at 33 Colborne Street, Thornhill. Our review of the application, in conjunction with the staff memorandum, confirms that the proposal aligns with **heritage conservation principles** and represents a **considered approach to modern living within a heritage context**.

Heritage Considerations & Justification

Preservation of Architectural Integrity

- The proposed addition and garage have been **sensitively designed** to be **compatible in scale, form, materials, and detailing** with the **circa 1900 heritage home**.
- The architectural approach ensures that new elements remain **subordinate to the original structure**, preserving its **historic prominence**.

Maintaining the Historic Streetscape

- While the garage's siting is closer to the street than preferred, its placement is a **measured decision to preserve significant Norway Spruce trees**, which contribute to **Thornhill's historic tree canopy**.
- The proposed design respects the **varied setbacks along Colborne Street**, a defining characteristic of the district's **rural heritage aesthetic**.

Balance Between Heritage and Environmental Stewardship

- The project includes the **removal of a diseased Silver Maple**, which has posed a long-standing concern, while also proposing **replanting of three native hardwood trees** to maintain the site's heritage landscape.
- The addition has been carefully planned to **minimize impact on significant mature trees**, reinforcing a commitment to heritage preservation **beyond the built form**.

Conclusion & Conditions of Support

The **Thornhill Historical Society** supports this application as a **heritage-sensitive approach to responsible property enhancement within the Heritage Conservation District**, provided that no variances are required for approval.

We at THS appreciate the ongoing efforts of the **Heritage Markham Committee and City of Markham** in safeguarding Thornhill's built heritage and look forward to continued collaboration in preserving the **distinct historical character of our community**.

Sincerely,

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