



MEMORANDUM

TO: Heritage Markham Committee

FROM: Regan Hutcheson, Manager-Heritage Planning

DATE: July 13, 2022

SUBJECT: Potential Introduction of Wheatsheaf Symbol on Road Surface
Thornhill Heritage Conservation District

Project: Potential Introduction of Heritage Identifier Symbol in Thornhill Heritage Conservation District

Background:

The proposal:

- Engineering Staff was recently contacted by the Ward 1 Councillor regarding the potential introduction of a heritage symbol on the road surface at or near the entrance points to the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District. It was suggested that a traditional wheatsheaf symbol that is used on street name signs and entry signage be considered.
- The purpose would be to further promote the heritage district and help to further define the boundaries (external entry into the District).
- An example of this type of logo/icon project is the Moccasin Trail symbol that has been introduced in Mississauga in collaboration with the local aboriginal community. See Attachment 1.
- Engineering staff has reached out to Heritage Section staff seeking additional information and feedback on this potential project.

Other Markers in the District

- There are granite markers within the sidewalk at the Colborne/Yonge intersection (north and south boulevards). The markers indicate “Village of Thornhill”, “Circa 1794” and the street name. See photo below.



- In 2019, Heritage Markham indicated it had no objection to the introduction of granite sidewalk markers at the corner of John/Yonge and Thornhill Summit/Yonge. These markers feature the wheatsheaf and the date c. 1794. See photo below.



Status/ Staff Comment

- Heritage Section has noted that if the proposed work is within the boundaries of the heritage conservation district, review by Heritage Markham Committee would be required given this type of work was not contemplated in the District Plan. It was suggested that preliminary feedback be obtained from Heritage Markham at this time.
- As these markings would not be regulatory in nature (which are permitted in all heritage conservation districts), but decorative, a heritage permit would be required (an alteration in a District (private or public) requires heritage approval to ensure that heritage attributes and character is preserved - or not negatively impacted).
- Heritage Section staff has confirmation from the City staff responsible for public art that this is not considered public art and would not have to be addressed through their processes.
- If the project is supported, it was suggested that the same wheatsheaf logo design used elsewhere in the community (street name signs and entry signage) be used for consistency purposes (see Attachment 2).
- To install these logos on Yonge Street ROW road surface, permission would be required from Region of York.
- Excluding Yonge St, there are approximately eight 'external' entry locations where this logo could be introduced. If internal street intersections were included, there would be an additional seven locations. See Attachment 3.
- Staff has also identified the following potential issues or matters to be considered:
 - On-going maintenance requirements (ie. fading or flaking of paint over time).
 - Should the logo be introduced within a walkway (similar to Mississauga) or adjacent to the walkway? (most Heritage District intersections do not have a defined walkway and those that do are white striped) Would there be one logo in each travel lane or only the travel lane leading into the District for entry intersections/ or where the District boundary starts when it does not start at an intersection?
 - Would it be one wheatsheaf or multiple logos per entry point?
 - Is this road surface feature appropriate for a heritage conservation district?
 - Would this generate interest from the other heritage conservation districts? (Buttonville, Markham Village and Unionville).
 - Would this require Council approval?

- Heritage Section staff is seeking feedback from Heritage Markham Committee on this concept.

Suggested Recommendation for Heritage Markham

That Heritage Markham Committee has no objection to the potential introduction of the wheatsheaf logo on the road surface at entry points to the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District.

Or

That Heritage Markham does not support the introduction of the wheatsheaf logo on the road surface at entry points to the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District.

Or

That Heritage Markham offers the following comments on the potential introduction of the wheatsheaf logo on the road surface at entry points to the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District:

- XX

Attachments

1. City of Mississauga – Moccasin Identifier Project
2. Wheatsheaf Design and Use in the Heritage District
3. Potential Locations

File: Q:\Development\Heritage\SUBJECT\thornhill\Streetscape Features\HM July 13 2022 wheatsheaf logo on street surface.doc

Attachment 1
City of Mississauga – part of the Moccasin Identifier Project

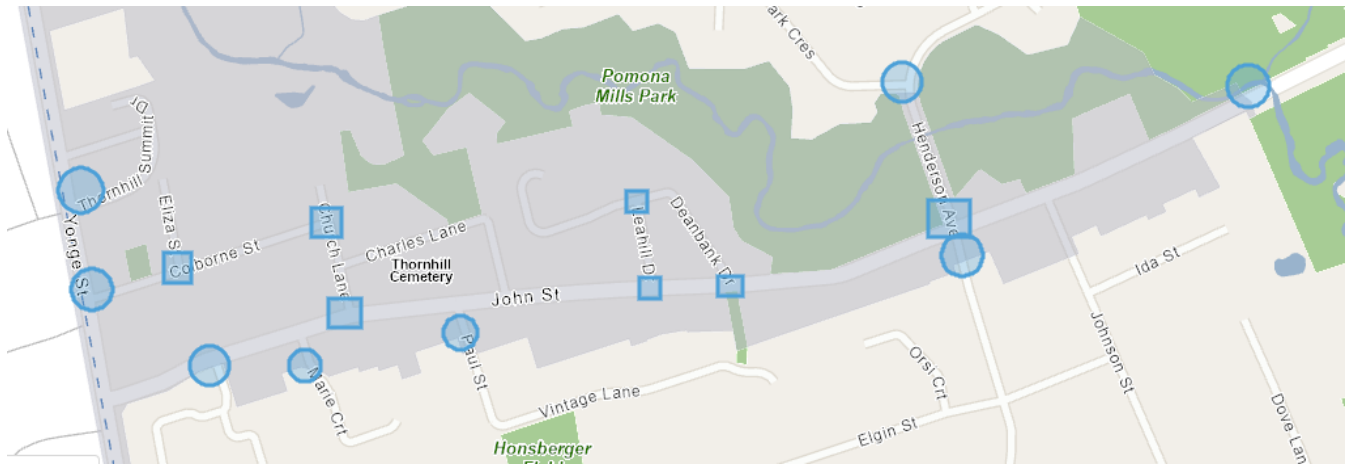


Attachment 2
Wheatsheaf Design and Use in the Heritage District



Attachment 3

Potential Locations (entry and internal)



Circles – External Entry Intersections or Locations

Square – Internal Intersections

