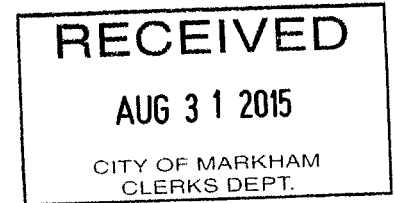


The Reesor Family in Canada

An incorporated body since 1989

August 26, 2015

Mayor and Members of Council
City of Markham
101 Town Centre Blvd.
Markham, ON L3R 9W3



Dear Mayor Scarpitti and Members of Council,

**Re: HERITAGE Designated Property of John Eby Reesor House
8402 Steeles Ave East Markham**

It has come to the attention of the Reesor Family in Canada that Infrastructure Ontario has requested a permit from Markham for the demolition of the house at 8402 Steeles Ave East.

We are extremely concerned over this request as this is a Designated Heritage Building.

We believe that the Reesor story including this homestead has a significant role in the City of Markham's heritage and Cedar Grove's early history.

This brick house appears to have been built in 1853 by John Eby Reesor (1806-1864), the second son of Peter Reesor (1775-1854).

The house was continuously inhabited for well over 150 years and during this time there has been an ongoing line of direct Reesor descendants living in the home and farming the land (Concession 11, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4).

In the early 1970's, this corner of Markham was expropriated by the Province for the purpose of developing a satellite city, Cedarwood which was intended to accompany the Federal expropriation of land for building an airport.

The expropriated homes in affected areas were then rented out to prospective tenants.

This included the property at 8402.

It continued to be rented until approximately 4 years ago when the Province discontinued the practice for this particular home. To date the house remains vacant.

Cont'd.....



The Reesor Family in Canada Genealogical and Historical Society Inc.,
PO BOX 1804, Locust Hill, Ontario, Canada, L0H 1J0

Barry Reesor
President

Dave Burkholder
Vice-President

Louise Pogue
Secretary

Paul Reesor
Treasurer

It was incredulous to learn that a building considered worthy of Heritage designation and protection could now, after a few short years, be deemed for demolition by permit, theft, and neglect or vulnerable to arson.

We, the Reesor Family in Canada strongly believe that the John Eby Reesor house has a significant and worthy role in the history of the City of Markham and that it should continue to be protected.

We have provided a short historical summary of relevant facts that may help to put the history of the property into perspective.

We are aware of Heritage Markham's recommendations from August 12, 2015 and we are truly grateful to Heritage Markham for their positive support and input on this issue.

We are writing today requesting your support to protect this significant historic home.

Thank you for your consideration of our earnest request.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty J. Luskholder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Reesor Family in Canada

The following quote from Macaulay was referenced at the 1980 Reesor Reunion and we believe that it has continued relevance to the issue at hand.

"A people that take no pride in the noble achievement of remote ancestors will never achieve anything to be remembered with pride by remote posterity."

Attachment

FACT SHEET re:

JOHN EBY REESOR HOUSE 8402 Steeles Ave East MARKHAM

Brief Background

- In 1796, Peter Reesor (1775-1854) journeyed on horseback from Franklin County, Pennsylvania to scout for land in Markham area
- in 1804 Peter, parents, siblings and their families made the arduous trek from Pennsylvania in five Conestoga wagons to settle hereand the story began.
- * John Eby Reesor (1806-1864) was the second son of Peter Reesor
- *the house at 8402 Steeles was part of Lot 1, 2, 3 & 4, Concession 11
- *the house was built in 1853 by John Eby Reesor
- * John EBY Reesor and wife Mariah Burkholder had five children
- Simeon (1829-1909) farmed Lot 7& 8 Concession 5 Scarborough 18 Reesor Road and owned and operated a local sawmill (Lot 1, Conc. 9), Raised 8 children
- Noah (1831-1909) farmed 7501 Steeles Ave E, Raised 5 children
- Christian (1833-1915) minister and bishop of Reesor Mennonite Church, as well farmed on Lot 1, Conc. 5, Scarborough 8327 Steeles Ave E , Raised 4 children
- Benjamin B. Reesor (1836-1917) youngest son was willed the family property where he farmed and raised 12 children, all born in the house at 8402 Steeles.
- Susannah (1839-1926) married John Diller farmed Lot 1 Conc.6 Scarborough, Raised 9 children.
- All descendents made significant contributions to the community.
- All are buried in the Reesor Mennonite Cemetery on the Markham Pickering Townline.
- *John Eby Reesor was a farmer and Minister in the Reesor Mennonite Church
- *John Eby donated a portion of his farm at the south/east corner of the property for log Church/School and Cemetery (where many descendants are buried).

***Later this log building was replaced by current Reesor Mennonite Meeting House on the Markham Pickering Townline (restorative renovations are currently in progress)**

***The remaining property & house at 8402 were willed to John Eby's fourth and youngest son Benjamin B. Reesor**

***Upon Benjamin B Reesor's demise the property and house were willed to his sixth son Abram L. Reesor, who farmed the land and lived on the premises until 1929**

- Abram L's one daughter was also born at 8402**
- At that time 5 acres was severed at the south/west side of the property and the house built (now 8328 Steeles Ave). House still occupied by Abram's granddaughter and family (6th generation on the original property).**
- Remaining property and house at 8402 were sold to nephew Willis B. Reesor**
- Willis B Reesor and his family of seven children born, raised and lived in the house at 8402 and farmed the land for over 40 years.**
- expropriation and tenancy prevailed until 2011**

***As outlined in the Reesor Family Genealogy in Canada -A Trail through the Centuries 2004 edition approximately 2000 Reesor Family descendents have a direct line to this homestead.**