

Schneider, Melanie

From: David Faux [REDACTED]
Sent: June-15-15 9:24 AM
To: Graham, Cynthia; House, Meghan; Schneider, Melanie
Cc: Bill Young; Tom Nelson; Jennifer Ehmann
Subject: Daniel and Elizabeth Young Homestead Site - Illegal Destruction

Good Morning,

I am writing to first thank Cynthia Graham for her diligent and tenacious work to help bring the plaque and memorial stone at the Daniel and Elizabeth Young Home Site (Concession 8, Lot 13) to fruition, and for attending the dedication ceremonies on 13 June 2015. Also I know from the maps Cynthia gave me, which portray the plans for landscaping the area, that the site and surrounds were to be protected, and enhanced with for example a walkway and tall native grass.

Unfortunately so much went horribly wrong last fall. I am a resident of both California and Caledonia, Ontario. When I left to return to California in early July of 2014 everything was intact, and the Provincially registered site (Borden number AhGx-225) was untouched. Just prior to my departure I met with an archaeological team working on the north side of the homes at Trevere Place (P1 on the most recent Planning map I have in my possession dated 1 June 2015). They were unaware that the important and registered archaeological site was down the slope to the west, opposite 40 Trevere Place and northwest of the cul de sac. I provided a lot of the information to ensure that they knew where the site which required protection was situated. I know that local residents, as well as myself, have provided a link to an article on my website to representatives of the City of Hamilton and other key parties. This article gives exact dimensions of the site in relation to, for example, the two springs that emerge(d) from the ground west of the cul de sac.

Upon arriving back to my home in California I began receiving photos and a video from local resident Jennifer Ehmann which showed excavation being done in the area proximal to the protected site, and excavation that clearly was impacting at least the north aspect of the site (subdivision 25T-86008) where DiCenzo was apparently placing a home on land which, it was my understanding, was to be traded for City land in order to protect the northern aspect of the site. Then, to make matters worse, the excavation moved to City owned parkland (P4 on the above Planning map). My circumstances did not permit my return to the Hamilton area until the spring of this year. After the ceremonies on 13 June 2015 a group of participants asked me to show them the exact spot where the home site was located, since the plaque and stone are far removed from the homestead (something I did not know until I arrived for the ceremonies). Once our troop arrived a feeling of sheer horror beset me. The registered Borden site was scraped flat, thereby removing all archaeological artifacts. In addition there was a pile of about 12 feet of fill situated on top of the former mound. To add insult to injury, the area paralleling the last home on the north side of Trevere Place (Number 40), immediately north of the cul de sac, had been deeply excavated and both springs were now under two manhole covers. To further rub salt into the wound, old tires and debris were strewn about the site.

I trusted that the City of Hamilton would protect the Homestead site and surrounding environment in what is zoned as parkland. Never did I think that I would be betrayed, and that illegal destruction would occur within a few days of my leaving the Province - and thus being unable to do a site visit to verify the damage. I believe I can prove that the site has been illegally disturbed, and both the cultural and environmental heritage has

been destroyed. The local residents and others from heritage groups who were present were in complete agreement.

I had planned to call the Ontario Provincial Police and the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, as well as Paul Wilson of The Spectator, to report the crime. One of my particular concerns is that I saw a rectangular area and depression on the mound surrounded by black plastic, which was the size of two graves. I have a picture of this spot as it was in 2014 before the mound was scraped. However some family members were adamant that first I talk to the City employees who might have a reasonable explanation as to what happened. Perhaps, they said, the artifacts from the true site (not those from behind the houses at Trevere) have been stored for analysis by professional archaeologists, and that the apparent grave pit is actually another feature.

I would appreciate a written response pertaining to why the site was destroyed, and what steps if any will be taken to mitigate circumstances.

In summary, since 1981 I have worked to preserve the site where my ancestors lived and died. Then in July 2014, within days of my returning to California, everything was undone and the homestead site eradicated. This is completely unacceptable, but again it is only right and proper to obtain a response from City of Hamilton representatives before I proceed in other directions.

Kindly review my article which provides my pictures, survey notes and maps from 1981, 2013 and 2015 which show the exact position of the site in relation to what exists today via Google mapping, and the plans I was given showing the zoning and the plans for the parkland around the Trevere Place cul de sac as seen here: <http://www.davidkfaux.org/files/YoungDanielHouseSite14June2015.pdf>.

Hopefully this matter can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction without involving other parties.

Yours sincerely,

David

Dr. David K. Faux, U.E.

Schneider, Melanie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: June-12-15 8:10 PM
To: Schneider, Melanie
Subject: Zoning By-law Amendment for Lands Located at 61, 65 and 69 Aquasanta Crescent

Dear Melanie,

I just received a letter regarding the above mentioned application from DiCenzo Construction.

I would like for my name and address and other personal information to remain confidential.

In the summer, my husband and I expressed concerns about the preservation of an archaeologically important site in the proposed construction area.

We were pleased with the prompt response from your department and pleased to see further archaeological review take place.

In speaking with the archaeological team, I understand that significant findings resulted from that survey.

My husband and I are very interested in preserving the cultural heritage landscape and would be disappointed to see 3 additional homes in that area.

We believe that natural grasslands are natural heritage treasures and that this important site helps to tell stories of interactions of historically important events, namely of Daniel Young. WE believe that natural features have cultural value. Also, this is close proximity to the sacred Aboriginal burial grounds. Given the density of the development nearby, we believe it is important to preserve this particular cultural heritage landscape. Preserving it would preserve views of surrounding open spaces and landmarks including the Ryckmans park plaque and the Aboriginal burial grounds.

Can you please explain to me if and how an agricultural designation is different than an archaeological one. What kind of input is being gathered in consideration of the refusal of Dicenzos request
Is it possible or at all likely that the city would consider preserving the cultural heritage landscape rather than changing the zoning to residential or is this just a formality and a done deal.

This is timely. Tomorrow we will celebrate the new plaque at Ryckmans park with Bill Young, a descendent of Daniel Young and his family. Another descendent, Dr. Faux has conducted significant professional studies in the area which are of great historical interest to us.

Thanks so much for considering my questions and input.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2015

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Planning and Economic Development Department
Development Planning Heritage and Design - Suburban
71 Main Street West, 5th Floor
Hamilton, ON
Canada L8P 4Y5
(www.hamilton.ca)

Dear Melanie Schneider,

Re: ZAR - 15-032
Request for Zoning By-Law Amendment for lands at 61, 65 and 69 Aquasanta
Crescent, Hamilton, ON, by DiCenzo Construction Company

We request that the City of Hamilton:

Re-examine the plan for this location. Your current choice of path into Ryckman's Park is below grade for the area, and I think the City has said you will not pave it.

A preferable plan would be to use the AA Agricultural Land as an entrance into the park, (#65AA). It is in a straighter stretch of higher road on Aquasanta, and children will not be at risk in a curve of the road as they are, in the City's present plan. Also, it is less of a drainage issue on the proposed pathway, and, it could be paved. The present plan, and elevations are on a downward, (WET!) path!

I have only met one neighbour in this new neighbourhood to the west, but he agrees with me.

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I will try to get new neighbours into the conversation. But, crossing the street, on a curve, will never be an acceptable entrance to our park.

But, yes, a meeting is required!

Ideally, off street parking is the safest choice in an area of curving roads. But, Mr. DiCenzo has not been great at offering anything! How nice it would be for all of us, if he changed his mind, and gave us parking on site.

I will be available for any meeting regarding these issues. Please inform me of time and place. When I know the date I will assiduously attempt to inform the neighbourhood, and, ask them to accompany me.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]