

January 26, 2010

CITY OF TORONTO COUNCIL TO VOTE ON THE FUTURE OF HISTORIC MACLEAN HOUSE

Toronto City Council will vote this week on the unanimous recommendation from the Toronto Preservation Board to designate John B. Maclean House a historic site.

The province of Ontario issued a stop order in December 2009 to prevent a developer from further altering or damaging the 100-year old house while the City evaluates its cultural and historic significance. The developer began gutting the property while the City was conducting its review, specifically targeting important architectural details such as windows, doors and window trim.

Earlier this month, Toronto's Heritage Preservation Services issued a report saying Maclean House fits the criteria for historical designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Located at 7 Austin Terrace, Maclean House is one of the four grand old ladies on the hill adjacent to the Pellat's Casa Loma, Austin's Spadina House, and E.J. Lennox's own home. It was designed by notable Canadian architect John M. Lyle for John B. Maclean, founder and publisher of Maclean's magazine. The Maclean House is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Lyle is considered a pioneer in establishing a unique Canadian style of architecture. Other prominent buildings include Toronto's Union Station and the Royal Alexandra Theatre. Maclean House is an expression of the Georgian Revival style applied by Lyle early in his career.

The fight to preserve Maclean House has drawn some prominent support including Toronto City Councillor Joe Mihevc and local MPP Dr. Eric Hoskins.

"Joe and Eric have led the charge to preserve this important piece of Toronto's identity. We are grateful for their hard work and passion," said Robert Levy, President of the Casa Loma Residents' Association.

Council is expected to consider this matter on January 26 or 27.

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