

# Heritage Vaughan Committee Report

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**DATE:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022

**WARD(S):** 3

**TITLE:** CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE HALL ADJACENT TO VELLORE TOWNSHIP HALL (9645 WESTON ROAD)

**FROM:**

Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

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**Purpose**

To provide information to Heritage Vaughan Committee regarding the proposed construction of a new Fire Hall adjacent to the Vellore Township Hall, a designated property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

**Report Highlights**

- The project was initiated in 2020
- The proposed Fire Hall is to be located on the existing parking lot, which is a former residential property and not included in the designation
- A new parking lot will be located behind the new Fire Hall

**Recommendations**

THAT the information outlined in this report and the consultant presentation on the Vellore Fire Hall be RECEIVED.

**Background**

Based on the number of fire trucks available nearby and the growing needs of the City of Vaughan, the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) is facing a gap in response times in the Weston Road and Rutherford Road area.

In 2020, upon reviewing the area for possible locations, the subject site was identified and selected as the site for the new Vellore Fire Hall (Fire Hall 7-12). The site is

currently used as the parking lot for Vellore Heritage Park, known municipally as 9541 Weston Road. The Vellore Town Hall and the Vellore Schoolhouse was designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* through By-Law 26-83 as shown in Attachment 1.

The existing parking lot is not part of the original designated property. It was previously a residential property purchased by the City of Vaughan in the 1990's. The residence and assorted buildings were demolished circa 1999 and the parking lot was installed in 2001- 2002. As the designation by-law was never updated to include the former residential property or formally merge them, it is not part of the designation by-law.

The site is subject to the adjacency policies set out in Section 6.2.2.9 of the Vaughan Official Plan 2010 (VOP 2010) which were provided to the Infrastructure Development Department by Cultural Heritage staff.

The new parking lot will be partly located on the designated property but does not impact the identified contributing heritage elements of the site. An archaeological assessment is in progress, along with indigenous consultation. Once the archaeological report and Letter from the Ministry of Tourism, Heritage, Sports and Cultural Industries is issued, Cultural Heritage staff will issue a Heritage Permit for the parking lot work.

### **The Consultant Team**

Thomas Brown Architects Inc was retained to design the new Fire Hall Station and will be presenting the design to Heritage Vaughan Committee in support of this report.

### **Previous Reports/Authority**

None.

### **Analysis and Options**

The construction of the new Fire Hall at Vellore Hall Park will continue the history of civic buildings at Vellore and will create a faster emergency response time for the Vellore Village community. The proposed design is appropriate in scale, form and materiality as a “good neighbour” and its design is representative of its time.

This report is intended for information to the Heritage Vaughan Committee, and to solicit feedback as applicable.

### **Financial Impact**

The City has approved budget to cost share the new enhanced streetscape elements that qualify for municipal streetscape partnership program with York Region.

## **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

There are no broader Regional impacts or considerations.

## **Conclusion**

The Vellore Fire Hall conforms with requirements for proposed buildings adjacent to designated heritage properties. The proposed new construction will not detrimentally impact the existing and identified attributes of the Vellore Town Hall and Vellore Schoolhouse, known together as Vellore Hall Park.

**For more information**, please contact: Nick Borcescu, Senior Heritage Planner, Development Planning, ext. 8191

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – 9645Weston\_Location Map

Attachment 2 – 9645Weston\_Designation By-law 26-83

Attachment 3 – 9645Weston\_3D renderings

## **Prepared by**

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