



The Hepston-Sheard house at 7232 Airport Rd.

Malton family's determined to tear down heritage house

Mayor Hazel McCallion says she's mystified that a Malton family wants to tear down a heritage home without having any specific plans for the property.

"I find it very difficult to understand why you wish to demolish this house now. It baffles me," McCallion told descendants of Harold Sheard, four of whom jointly own the Hepston-Sheard house at 7232 Airport Rd., just south of Morning Star Dr.

The owners applied for a demolition permit for the house last April but agreed to hold it in abeyance while discussions continued with City officials, who want to designate it for preservation under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee recently reconfirmed its opinion that the house should be saved, and recommended it to councillors.

In a deputation, lawyer John O'Kane told planning committee Monday the family doesn't believe the house is worth protecting, because of the many alterations which have been made to it over the years. The potential widening of Airport Rd. to six lanes through the area means the house will either have to be moved, in an expensive and risky job, or the road will have to be realigned at a cost of up to \$1 million.

McCallion noted that the owners will "one day be before the City for an application to redevelop" the 1.58 acres of land, which could be combined with another acre of land owned by William Sheard, the late Harold Sheard's brother. "This needs co-operation. It's a two-way street" McCallion said, offering to

hold off on the heritage designation if the owners would hold off on demolition. After a quick consultation among the owners present, the offer was rejected.

Ward 6 Councillor David Culham pointed out that if the owners cooperate in saving the house, the City will be more likely to approve a higher density of development, perhaps townhouses, on their lands.

Malton councillor Frank McKechnie said the Sheard farm once covered 100 acres of surrounding land. The family has lived on Airport Rd. since 1904. "But no one will ever know that," he said. "The Sheard name is disappearing. We should be working together to have something that's outstanding."

Planning committee ended up referring the issue to council without any recommendation to allow McCallion and McKechnie to meet personally with the Sheard family to discuss the matter.

Although Mississauga can delay the issuance of a demolition permit, the owners still have the ultimate right to decide if they wish the building to come down.

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