

## **A Chronology of St Mark's Church Site The Durand Neighbourhood Association & the City of Hamilton 1988-2018**

**1988** – The Association supports in principle the mixed use redevelopment of the St. Mark's Anglican Church property at Bay and Hunter provided the site plan conforms to the revised Durand Plan with respect to scale, density and parking and retains as much as possible the existing open space.

**1989** – City Council rejects the St. Mark's (Hamilton) Non-Profit Housing Inc. application to rezone the former church site for a high-rise residence and offices; the St. Mark's Housing group appeals to the OMB.

**1989** – The Parks and Recreation committee recommends that the City's Co-ordinating committee endorse in principle use of the 5% Parks Dedication Fund for purchase of St. Mark's Anglican Church site, if needed for a cultural or recreation facility.

**1990** – The OMB overrules the City's refusal to allow a housing development on the former St. Mark's Church site.

**1991** – Site plans are received by the City for redevelopment; no start date for construction of the proposed high-rise office and residential building.

**1994** – Council approves a proposal to designate the former St Mark's Anglican Church as a site of architectural and historical significance under the Ontario Heritage Act.

**1994** - The City purchases it, as open space for \$425,000 from the Diocese of Niagara eliminating the immediate prospect of a high-rise development; the Association and City seek ideas for appropriate use of the building and grounds.

**1995** - St Mark's is designated as a heritage site.

**1996**- Public Meeting to discuss possible uses for the St Mark's Church site

**1997**- City is reluctant to make an additional investment in the building; the search continues for private funding or partnership with a community group to rehabilitate the Church combined with a suitable use.

**1998** – Damage to the roof of the Church; the Association recommends the site become a “Secret Garden” incorporating the architectural features of the former church in a natural setting; it later agrees to another attempt to find a suitable use for the building and grounds; Council approves the repairs to the roof and authorizes the Planning and Culture and Recreation departments to begin a search for public/private use of the site.

**1999** – The City renews its efforts to find a suitable owner or renter, who will adapt it for cultural, institutional or religious purposes compatible with the surrounding neighbourhood.

**1999** – Several proposals were received.

**2000** –The Durand Neighbourhood Association, its members and CAPIC asked Council to deny the sale and support the Planning and Development Committee's recommendation to sell to the CEC and also requested Council to look for alternative use(s) for the site, which was originally purchased by the City in 1994 for public use and open space. However, Council agrees to sell to the Charismatic Episcopal Church for \$350,000. Council passes a by law rezoning the St. Mark's property from E3 ( high – density, multiple dwelling to A ( conservation, open space park and recreation); the only permitted uses will be for building to be a place of worship and to house outreach programs and for the grounds to be public open space. LACAC supported Councils decision to sell to the CEC.

**2001-** CEC decides not to purchase the St. Mark's Church site because of the length of time for the Rezoning from E3 to A (OMB Appeal) and further deterioration to the building(s).

**2002** – City to begin work on developing a Master Plan for sale of heritage properties

**2004** - Corporate Management Team requests that the Planning and Development Departments prepare an analysis for the property in order to facilitate the sale, since internal circulation had failed to identify a viable use. Options explored including development of the property for a local area park; retention of the existing building or redeveloping the entire site through demolition of the existing heritage building

**2005** – Structural Report Prepared by S.P. Design Inc. including costs at the request of the Planning and Development Department. **Appendix A is missing.** (Costs for electrical, heating etc.) Appendix B shows costs of \$175,000 for the Parish Hall and \$325,000 for the Sanctuary and Chapel.

**2006** – Heritage Permit Application to permit demolition of the Sunday school requested by LACAC subcommittee. Status of permit unknown.

**2007** – Durand's Position?????

**2008** - Planning and Development Department and Real Estate Division of the said department proposes a **rezoning** of St. Mark's Church site from "A" to "D3" (**Modified Downtown Mixed Use.**) The intent is to dispose of the property with a limited number of uses considered appropriate, while maintain the existing heritage building. The Parish Hall would be demolished, 6 storeys would be allowed and **onsite parking would take up the open space.**

**2008** - DNA does not support the potential rezoning of St Marks and possible sale. Planning and Economic Department recommend rescinding motion to sell. Council removes property from market and will try to find funds in the 2009 Capital Budget for heritage improvements

**2011- Staff is asked to prepare a Feasibility Study on the potential use of St Marks as a cultural facility for programming for Whitehern to expand capacity and use a community space the Durand Neighbourhood. Work begins to stabilize St Marks.**

**2012-** Demolition of Sunday school, rear wall stabilized, iron fence repainted black, and front door refurbished.

**2012** – City Staff recommend renovating church site for a Cultural Programming Space to be administered by Whitehern Historic House and Gardens.

**2013** – Culture and Tourism Staff host a very successful Public Open House in June to showcase the potential of St Marks to the city and community.

**2014 – GIC (General Issues Committee) requests financial and operating plan and a motion put forward by Council Chad Collins to prepare another Request for Proposal for the best and highest use!**

**2014** – DNA submits proposal for \$100,000 for roof repair of St Marks during PB 2014. This project receives the most votes of any project that were submitted on the ballot sheet.

**2015-** Culture and Tourism and volunteers from Durand Neighbourhood Association and its members take part in Doors Open at St Marks once again to showcase its potential. Display Boards, entertainment, short films and art displays make for a wonderful weekend May 2 and 3, 2015 with positive comments to encourage our city leaders to move forward and create a public space for all to enjoy!

**2015-** Council directs staff to complete a funding Strategy.

**2016** – Council approves Capital Budget to begin Phase 1 Exterior Improvements.

**2017** – St Mark's receives \$280,000 from Canada 150. Council approves funds from sale of Charlton Hall be directed to St Mark's (\$1million).

**2017-2020** –Exterior Phase 1, Phase 2 Interior and Phase 3 Fit-up.

End! Congratulation to all those DNA members from 1988 to present who stayed the course.

