



LONDON REGION

Architectural Conservancy Ontario, London Region

LACH Committee

City of London

Re: Springbank Park as a Cultural Heritage Landscape

Dear Committee:

Next year ACO London Region will be celebrating 50 years of protecting, conserving and saving heritage architecture in London. The group started in 1966 when the historic and irreplaceable Ridout St buildings were threatened with demolition by an extension of Queen St as a major thruway. Since then the ACO has been involved in many such 'interventions' and has had many other activities and programs which have promoted London's heritage architecture, streetscapes, places and spaces to the visual and cultural benefit of the City.

We would like to include in our celebrations some permanent reminder of our mandate and activities with a request to commemorate Springbank Park as a Cultural Heritage Landscape.

London has only one other such area and we think that Springbank Park would be an ideal candidate for such a designation, combining so many categories of the city's cultural history:

Military history – site of battle/skirmish during War of 1812.

Economic – London's first piped water supply from the springs. Early mill sites.

Recreational – destination, via tramway, for dances, picnics and excursions. Opposite is London's first golf course. Storybook Gardens and train.

Architectural – Flint cottages, unique in London and Victorian Pumphouse.

We feel that as this is a City Park, with no contesting ownership, and that considerable study and research has been carried out on the Park already. We would be glad to help with future work in any way we can. This is an ideal opportunity to make a significant contribution to the landscape of cultural history.

Thank you for your consideration and we do hope you will look on this request kindly!

Maggie Whalley, President, ACO London Region