

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2016 May 26

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1650 01
*Reference: Heritage Interpretive
Plaques*

**SUBJECT: FREDERICK AND ALICE HART ESTATE "AVALON" –
HERITAGE SITE INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE**

PURPOSE: To authorize the design and installation of a replacement interpretive plaque for the Frederick and Alice Hart Estate "Avalon".

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council be requested to approve the design and installation of an interpretive plaque for the Frederick and Alice Hart Estate "Avalon", as outlined in this report.

REPORT

In 1992, Burnaby Council designated the Frederick and Alice Hart Estate "Avalon" as a protected City heritage site. As part of the initial civic restoration and development of this heritage building for the Hart House Restaurant, a small interpretive plaque was added by the front entrance to the building (see *Attachment #1*).

The Hart House is a popular destination within the Deer Lake heritage precinct for both local residents and tourists and the plaque provides a good opportunity to increase public awareness of the site's historical importance and heritage value. This plaque is due for replacement as it has become faded and deteriorated over time. As the primary intent of the interpretive plaque program is to provide the public with the opportunity to learn about the city's rich history and heritage resources, a renewed plaque is considered to be a priority at this location.

It is proposed to replace the plaque with a new interpretive panel using modern graphics and the new standard design utilized by the Community Heritage Commission. The sign will incorporate the historic information and photographs that were presented in the Commission's earlier publication, the Deer Lake Park Walking Tour (see *Attachment #2*).

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The final design and content of this interpretive panel will be developed and installed by City staff. Funding approval up to \$1,000.00 is requested. The City Clerk advises that sufficient funds for this project are available in the Commission's 2016 annual operating budget.

The design for the interpretive plaque will be subject to final review and approval by the Community Heritage Commission and Council.

This report is submitted for the consideration of the Community Heritage Commission.



Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

HL/sa
Attachments

cc: City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Clerk



Existing interpretive sign in front of Frederick and Alice Hart Estate 'Avalon' (Hart House Restaurant), 6664 Deer Lake Avenue

DRAFT

“AVALON” Frederick & Alice Hart Estate, 1912



Avalon, 1920

City of Burnaby Archives

“Avalon,” was built by local real estate agent Fredrick J. Hart and his wife Alice Hart. Born on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland, Frederick Hart came to New Westminster in 1890. He purchased this site on the shore of Deer Lake in 1904 as a summer retreat for his family. In 1912 the Harts decided to build an estate and they chose the talented Burnaby architect Frank W. Macey to design this mansion.

The British Columbian newspaper noted that F.J. Hart’s “beautiful home . . . will be one of the handsomest in Burnaby when completed, costing it is estimated, nearly \$50,000.” The home is designed in the Tudor Revival style and features a massive tower with mock battlements, corbeled chimneys, cobblestone foundations and decorative half-timbering. In 1917 Montague and Ethel Moore moved into the home they named Rosedale Gardens and developed a beautiful farm, planting many of the specimen trees and shrubs visible today.

Purchased by the City of Burnaby in 1979, the building was designated as a heritage site in 1992.