

## The Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill

### By-law 2-18

A By-law to Authorize the Designation of  
41 Elgin Mills Road East  
**(The William Neal Property)**  
Under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

Whereas Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And Whereas the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as 41 Elgin Mills Road East, Richmond Hill, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, a Notice of Intention to Designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such Notice of Intention to Designate to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

And Whereas the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and the Description of Heritage Attributes are set out in Schedule "A" and attached to By-law 2-18;

And Whereas the Conservation Review Board in its Report dated December 24, 2014 made recommendations to amend the Description of the Heritage Attributes in the Reasons for Designation;

And Whereas Council at its meeting of February 25, 2019 adopted the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole Meeting in Staff Report SRPRS.19.039 pertaining to the historical designation of the William Neal House;

The Council of The Corporation of The Town of Richmond Hill enacts as follows:

1. That the real property located at 41 Elgin Mills Road East, being Lot 59, Plan 10030, Richmond Hill, Regional Municipality of York [PIN NO. 03171-0122 (LT)], is hereby designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. That the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of the By-law, together with a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property to be served on the owner of the property and on the Trust, and publish a Notice of the Passing of the By-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

3. That the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" in the Land Registry Office.
4. That Schedule "A" attached to By-law 2-18 is declared to form a part of this By-law.

Passed this 25th day of February, 2019.

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Dave Barrow  
Mayor

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Stephen M.A. Huycke  
Town Clerk

# **SCHEDULE “A” TO BY-LAW 2-18**

## **REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

41 Elgin Mills Road East  
**The William Neal Property**

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The subject property at 41 Elgin Mills Road East contains associative/historical value as the home of William Neal, the first mayor of the Town of Richmond Hill and a businessman who was closely associated with the rising significance of the automobile within Richmond Hill.

William Neal served in World War I, and returned to Richmond Hill after being wounded at the Battle of Petit Vimy. He served on Richmond Hill Council in the 1940s and later as Reeve of the Village of Richmond Hill from 1944 to 1947 and again in 1951. He became the first mayor of the Town of Richmond Hill in 1957 and served again in 1963. When he was elected mayor, Richmond Hill had a population of less than 8,500 residents. During his tenure he oversaw the addition of 164 houses in the Beverly Acres subdivision, developed plans for a new town swimming pool, and was significantly involved with the founding of York Central Hospital.

As a businessman, William opened one of the first Dodge dealerships in Canada in 1931, on the east side of Yonge Street, just south of Lorne Avenue. In 1934, he was appointed Richmond Hill's first and only motor vehicle licence issuer. The office was the first to open north of Steeles Avenue, in what was then a mostly rural area and continued to operate until its closure in 1997.

In the early 1970s, William and his family relocated north of Richmond Hill to 41 Elgin Mills Road East where he subdivided the parcel into three smaller lots to contain his dealership, licencing office, and personal dwelling respectively. He lived here until his death in 1979.

The property contains a unique historic mixture of automotive and residential uses that link directly to William Neal, the first Mayor of the Town of Richmond Hill.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

41 Elgin Mills Road East's heritage attributes relate to its direct association with William Neal:

- The location of William Neal's home from c1972 until his death in 1979;
- The location of William Neal's motor vehicle licensing office;
- The location of William Neal's business operations for his car dealership.