

# The Devereaux House renovations under way

The Friends of Devereaux House are under way with renovations of the 150-year-old farmhouse on Trafalgar Rd. within the Trafalgar Rd. Sports Park.

The house, owned by the Town, has been boarded up for seven years, and was slated for demolition. However, several residents convinced council that the house should be saved as a heritage site and reminder of our rural history. Two heritage architects have assessed the building and recommend its designation under the Heritage Act.

Joined by the Georgetown Soccer Club, which plans to occupy the second storey with its administrative offices, the group has raised over \$250,000 to preserve the building. The main floor will be restored and decorated to the late 1800s and used for public meetings and receptions.

The first phase of work involves stabilizing the structure, and ensuring that it meets building code requirements for office uses on the second floor and public assembly on the main floor.

Bert Zonneveld, a member of the Friends' construction committee, commented, "While the structural and foundation work involves heavy machinery, steel and concrete, the work must be done with great care. To gain access to the foundation, for example, the floor boards of the kitchen will be gently taken up, and numbered for exact replacement in their former position. The walls, with the original plaster and milk paint, dating from the 1850s will be protected."

While the major structural work is being completed by paid contractors, volunteers will work on the interior, doing jobs such as finishing carpentry, trim repair, painting and wallpaper.

Brenda Sisnett, the Friends treasurer, says that local firms have been very generous in supporting the project.

"We have received pledges of steel, concrete and roofing materials. Many people in our building industry recognize that heritage properties add to the character of our Town. They are glad to help wherever possible."

The structural rehabilitation is expected to be complete in the fall, and then work will commence on the interior. Anyone interested in helping out the volunteer Friends of Devereaux House is invited to contact Ann Lawlor at 905-877-5662.

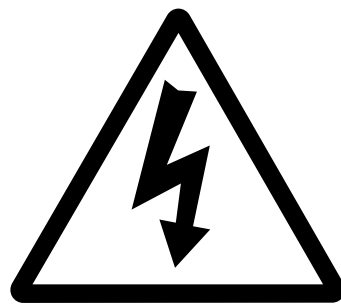


Friends of Devereaux House mark the commencement of renovations in front of their new sign at the property on Trafalgar Rd. From left, Marty Hughes, Bert Zonneveld, Sandy Mackenzie, Brian Clark, and Brenda Sisnett.

Submitted photo



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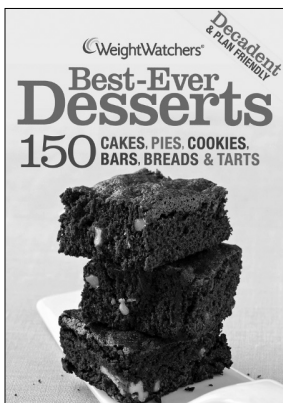
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