

DEVEREAUX HOUSE – VISION STORY

Original Vision:

Devereaux House is a pretty 19th-century farmhouse named after the family that lived there spanning 140 years. In deteriorating condition, the building was slated to be torn down. In December 2004, however, the Town of Halton Hills Council supported a proposal "to secure and maintain the site to prevent further deterioration of the house/site," as requested by Heritage Halton Hills and the Esquesing Historical Society. A citizens' committee, the Friends of Devereaux House, formed in January 2005 to develop a strategy to secure, preserve and maintain the Devereaux farmhouse as a rural heritage property and public resource.

Strategies & Resources:

The Friends of Devereaux House have raised almost all of the considerable funds needed for the restoration. The organization is more than a fundraising body, however; its members are active in all aspects of the project. They also are investigating the incorporation of modern technologies, such as the use of geothermal energy for heating and cooling, into the project. "One of the ideas in restoring the house," according to architect Marina Huissoon, "was to demonstrate that even a very old house could be very energy-efficient."

Achievements:

Architecturally the farmhouse is a patterned-brick treasure, from its original interior finishes (such as wainscoting and milk paint) to the finial on the roof. The Friends of Devereaux House have quite reasonable expectations that the house will be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, and have asked Heritage Halton Hills to begin the nomination process.