



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Bell Telephone Company Building – Intention to Designate, Part IV, *Ontario Heritage Act*

Date:	May 10, 2007
To:	Toronto Preservation Board Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Policy and Research, City Planning Division
Wards:	Etobicoke-Lakeshore – Ward 6
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 80 Birmingham Street (Bell Telephone Company Building) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The property owner has requested the designation to recognize the significance of the site and to qualify for the Toronto Heritage Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

City Planning Division recommends that

1. City Council include the property at 80 Birmingham Street (Bell Telephone Company Building) on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties;
2. City Council state its intention to designate the property at 80 Birmingham Street (Bell Telephone Company Building) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;
3. If there are no objections to the designation in accordance with Section 26(6) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the solicitor be authorized to introduce the Bills in Council designating the property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;
4. If there are objections in accordance with Section 29(7) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the Clerk be directed to refer the proposed designation for which there is an objection to the Conservation Review Board; and

5. The appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report. The public Notice of Intention to Designate will be advertised on the City's web site in accordance with the City of Toronto Act provisions.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The owner has requested that the property be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to ensure that the site is recognized and protected. The proposed designation would also enable the property to qualify for the Toronto Heritage Grant Program. The owner has also provided research information to assist in the preparation of this report.

COMMENTS

The property at 80 Birmingham Street is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value or interest, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario. Located on the northeast corner of Birmingham Street and Sixth Street, one block east of Islington Avenue, the two-storey building was completed in 1926 as a switching station for the Bell Telephone Company of Canada. Designed with features of Edwardian Classicism, the Bell Telephone Company Building is a landmark on Birmingham Street in New Toronto where the neighbouring Boxer Building (222 Islington Avenue) and Hydro Building (124 Birmingham Street) are recognized heritage sites.

A location map (Attachment No. 1) and photograph (Attachment No. 2) are attached. The Reasons for Designation (Attachment No. 3) are intended to be posted on the City of Toronto's web site and served on the owner of the property and the Ontario Heritage Trust according to the provisions of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The Reasons for Designation include a statement of the cultural heritage value of the property with a description of its heritage attributes.

This report recommends that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 80 Birmingham Street (Bell Telephone Company Building) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1: Location Map
Attachment No. 2: Photographs
Attachment No. 3: Reasons for Designation