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For members of Toronto and East York Community Council

Item TE25.14, 21 April 2009 meeting – 5 Eireann Quay

York Quay Neighbourhood Association endorses the four recommendations made by the Toronto Preservation Board in item TE25.14a.

We understand that Councillor Vaughan has specifically recommended that Waterfront Toronto be included in the “other agencies” with which Heritage Preservation Services staff will work. We agree.

YQNA wishes to emphasize that it is eager to participate in consultations and to jointly host one or more consultations that would include residents, interested professionals, Waterfront Toronto representatives, and relevant City staff in exploring options about the future of the site.

Ireland Park, Little Norway Park’s “Little Norway Camp” from 1942, the Cosmic Maypole (with roots back to the first United Nations conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver in 1976 and for which a dedication ceremony is planned in June 2009) and the Canada Malting Silos all combine to create a rather unique heritage hub in Toronto. This is especially true when it is considered how close these sites are to Fort York. The City has a wonderful opportunity to focus on and develop these closely situated sites on, or before, 2012. The King of Norway and the President of Ireland both have considered this heritage hub significant enough to travel to Canada to participate in previous dedications. We also need to recognize this hub. This area can become an important draw for tourists.

The historic significance of the Canada Malting Silos to Canada and Toronto is well documented in the Staff Report prepared for the Council meeting. The report makes a compelling case for proper preservation of the Canada Malting complex.

The silos are highly visible along the whole waterfront. However, close-up from, for example, the Music Garden or Ireland Park it becomes clear that restoration is urgently required. It is also urgent to repair the east side of the complex to facilitate access to Ireland Park and provide continuity to the waterfront walk.

Millions of dollars are being spent and are planned to be spent by Waterfront Toronto to revitalize the waterfront. Our decision on the Canada Malting complex should be consistent with the overall clarity of vision given by the City to the waterfront.

The Canada Malting Silos are important to all citizens of Toronto - not just those who live in the area. They can also be important icons for tourism when properly promoted alongside the other heritage sites in this area.