

December 5, 2017



Mayor and Members Toronto City Council
By email: clerk@toronto.ca

RE: Council Agenda Item PG24.9 Heritage Conservation, Don Mills Crossing Project

Mayor and Council:

We are writing to offer our support to the position taken by the North York Community Preservation Panel regarding heritage conservation in the Don Mills Crossing redevelopment project.

The site contains two existing heritage properties, albeit neither property has yet been designated by Council, notwithstanding the position of Heritage Preservation Services and the Toronto Preservation Board regarding the significance of the properties.

The property at 844 Don Mills Road contains the former IBM head office and factory, designed in Classical style by Clare G. MacLean and completed in 1951 with an extension in 1954. The adjacent property to the west, 1150 Eglinton Avenue East contains the “Modernist” IBM headquarters building designed by John B. Parkin Associates in 1966-67.

While we recognize that some progress has been made in conserving some of the physical fabric we would prefer to see the project incorporate more and in a more respectful way.

We strongly encourage City Council to move ahead with designation of the two sites, as recommended to you by the Toronto Preservation Board. Designation gives City Council a strong role in ensuring the significant heritage attributes are conserved in an appropriate manner. Without designation City Council and Planning staff can only go cap in hand to the developer to achieve a positive outcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Nasmith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Catherine Nasmith, OAA, FRAIC, CAHP
President ACO Toronto

c.c. Geoff Kettel