



# TORONTO STAFF REPORT

---

October 28, 2002

To: Toronto East York Community Council

From: Joe Halstead, Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

Subject: 100 Queen's Park (Royal Ontario Museum) – Designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and Request to Demolish the Portion of the Building known as the Terrace Gallery.  
Trinity-Spadina - Ward 20

Purpose:

To recommend that the property at 100 Queen's Park (Royal Ontario Museum) be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and consent be given under Sections 33 and 34 of the Ontario Heritage Act for the demolition of the portion of the Terrace Gallery building.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) City Council state its intention to designate the property at 100 Queen's Park (Royal Ontario Museum) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and
- (2) if Council adopts recommendation 1 above, Council consent under Sections 33 and Section 34 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to the demolition of the portion of the building known as the Terrace Gallery (constructed 1980-1984) as illustrated on Attachment No. 3 of this report on the condition that:
  - (a) prior to the issuance of a demolition permit under the Building Code Act, 1992, the owner provide an undertaking in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor:
    - (i) to repair and restore each of the facades of the West Wing, Centre Block and East Wing affected by the demolition of the Terrace Gallery to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and

Tourism, in accordance with the Restoration Plan referred to in (b) by December 2005, or such later date as is approved by Council;

- (ii) to comply with any other conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor to protect the City's interests;
  
  - (b) prior to the issuance of a demolition permit under the Building Code Act, 1992, the owner provide a Phase One Restoration Plan that details the repair and restoration work to be undertaken to the facades of the West Wing, Centre Block and East Wing affected by the demolition of the Terrace Gallery to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism;
  
  - (c) prior to the issuance of a demolition permit under the Building Code Act, 1992 the owner provide a letter of credit of a type and in a form and amount satisfactory to the Commissioner, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to secure the repair and restoration of the facades of the West Wing, Centre Block and East Wing affected by the demolition of the Terrace Gallery in accordance with the Phase One Restoration Plan referred to in (b) above;
  
  - (d) the demolition of the Terrace Gallery has, in the opinion of the Commissioner, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, seriously commenced by April 30, 2004; and
- (3) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

The Toronto Preservation Board at its meeting held on October 9, 2002 endorsed the staff recommendations as noted above.

The property at 100 Queen's Park (Royal Ontario Museum) was included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties by City Council on June 20, 1973.

The City has recently received an application from the ROM to amend the Site Specific Zoning By-law 1997-0275 to permit a major new addition. This proposal is the result of an international design competition earlier this year, and the selection of the winning submission by Studio Daniel Libeskind. The actual proposal will be the subject of a separate report to the Toronto Preservation Board in 2003. However, prior to any undertaking or agreement pursuant to Section 41 of the Planning Act, pertaining to any portion of these lands for construction of more than 500 square metres of non-residential gross floor area beyond the walls of the existing building, the University of Toronto Area Part II Official Plan (Section 5.1.5) requires that the property be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. This report recommends the designation of the historic core of the ROM building.

In addition, to accommodate the proposed addition, the ROM proposes to demolish the Terrace Gallery on the north side of the property. The limit of the structure to be demolished is illustrated with a dashed line on Attachment No.3 of this report. Department staff have no objection to the demolition of the Terrace Gallery to make way for the new addition, as this does not affect the historic core of the building that is mentioned in the Reasons for Designation. The ROM is currently in the process of formalizing the demolition application for the Terrace Gallery.

A Short Statement of Reasons for Designation is outlined below. A Heritage Property Report (Long Statement of Reasons for Designation), including visuals, is available for viewing from the City Clerk. Both the Long and Short Statements constitute the Reasons for Designation and will be included in the designating by-law. A location map (Attachment No. 1), photograph (Attachment No. 2) and key map (Attachment No. 3) are attached.

#### Reasons for Designation (Short)

The property at 100 Queen's Park is recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. The H-shaped composition, with the West Wing, the East Wing, the Centre Block linking the East and West Wings, and the Office Building at the south end of the West Wing, is included in the Reasons for Designation. On the interior of the East Wing, the entrance Rotunda and the main staircase are identified for designation.

Founded in 1912, the Royal Ontario Museum began as a facility specializing in natural history and human civilization and developed into the largest museum in the British Commonwealth outside of London, England. It separated from the University of Toronto in 1968 and became an independent institution.

The original building, now known as the West Wing, was completed in 1914 according to the designs of the important Toronto architects Darling and Pearson. Above a stone base, the three-storey building is clad with brick, and trimmed with brick, stone and terra cotta. The flat roof with a parapet covers the rectangular plan. The principal (north) façade has round-arched door and window openings, with Roman stone balconies at the second floor. Two-storey round-arched window openings and a trio of three-storey bay windows distinguish the west wall. The pattern of round-arched windows continues on the east elevation, while the south wall abuts the Office Building.

The Toronto architectural firm of Chapman and Oxley designed the East Wing and the Centre Block, which were completed in 1933, and the upper floors of the Office Building at the south end of the West Wing dating to 1937. The Office Building was designed by Darling and Pearson and completed by Chapman and Oxley in 1937. The East Wing has brick facing on the rear (west) wall, and limestone cladding and trim on the principal (east) façade and side (north and south) elevations. The copper-pitched roof covers the three-storey rectangular plan. The symmetrically organized east façade has a centre block flanked by wings with end pavilions. A frontispiece contains the entrance, a monumental round-arched opening and an elaborate sculptural program that is described in the Heritage Property Report (Long Statement of Reasons

for Designation). The remainder of the façade has flat-headed and round-arched window openings. The oversized round arch introduced on the frontispiece is repeated on the end walls.

The Centre Block connecting the East and West Wings features brick cladding and regular fenestration. Rising four stories above a stone base, the Office Building has brick facing and a mixture of round-arched and flat-headed window openings. The Terrace Gallery and the Curatorial Block, the most recent additions completed in 1984, are not included in the Reasons for Designation.

The property at 100 Queen's Park is located at the southwest corner of Queen's Park and Bloor Street. The boundaries of the property recommended for designation are Queen's Park (east), Bloor Street West (north), Philosopher's Walk (west), and the pedestrian passage to the south of the museum complex. The property does not include the McLaughlin Planetarium. The East Wing is set back from Queen's Park on landscaped grounds. The original landscape setting along Queen's Park adjacent to the East Wing was important in defining how the East Wing was viewed from and related to Queen's Park.

The Royal Ontario Museum is historically significant as a cultural institution of international renown. Architecturally, the original building and the additions identified in the Reasons for Designation are well-executed designs by notable Toronto architectural firms that represent the evolution of the complex. Placed near a prominent intersection in a neighbourhood of important educational and institutional buildings, the Royal Ontario Museum is a landmark in the City of Toronto.

#### Conclusions:

It is recommended that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 100 Queen's Park (Royal Ontario Museum) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and consent to the demolition of the portion of the building known as the Terrace Gallery under Sections 33 and 34 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

#### Contact:

Rita Davies, Managing Director of Culture  
Tel: 416-397-5323; Fax: 416-395-0278; e-mail: rdavies@toronto.ca

Joe Halstead  
Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

#### List of Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 – Location Map – 100 Queen's Park  
Attachment No. 2 – Photograph – 100 Queen's Park  
Attachment No. 3 – Key Map – 100 Queen's Park