Dear Ms. Adamo

Attached is a letter from the North York Community Preservation Panel in regard to this item.

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Geoff Kettel
Chair NYCPP
North York Community Preservation Panel  
c/o Geoff Kettel  
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North York Community Council  
North York Civic Centre  
Main floor, 5100 Yonge St.  
Toronto, ON M2N 5V7  
Attention: Francine Adamo

RE: February 16 2011 Meeting: NY4.42 - 85 Laird Drive, Canadian Northern Railway Eastern Lines Locomotive Shop, Alterations to a Designated Heritage Property and Authority to Enter Into A Heritage Easement Agreement

Dear Councillor Augimeri:

I am writing on behalf of the North York Community Preservation Panel in support of the proposed adaptive use of the building, and the associated measures to protect the cultural heritage values of the structure as part of the redevelopment of the subject property.

The locomotive shed is a massive brick structure that is the sole remaining built heritage remnant of Leaside’s proud rail-related industrial past. In that regard the facility was featured in Heritage Toronto’s 2009 Building Stores photography exhibit which had industrial-commercial buildings as its focus.

The Canadian Northern Railways locomotive shed located on the eastern part of the property was first listed for inclusion in the Inventory of Heritage Properties in 2006 and then designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 2008. According to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value approved by Council the heritage attributes of the Locomotive Shop are “related to its design and contextual value as a surviving example of a building associated with both the transportation history and industrial development of Leaside”.

The heritage report includes the comment that "the applicant is proposing to provide heritage interpretation of the site with the assistance of Heritage Toronto" (page 6). There is no question that the industrial past of Leaside is badly in need of commemoration and remembrance and the NYCPP supports the idea of heritage interpretation. We would recommend that this commitment (including a financial commitment) to heritage interpretation on the part of the applicant be secured, perhaps by making it part of the easement agreement.
The NYCPP would appreciate to be advised of any consultations for heritage interpretation for the property and its surroundings in future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Kettel
Chair, North York Community Preservation Panel

c.c. Councillor John Parker
    Karen Carter, Heritage Toronto
    Mary Macdonald
    Brian Athey
    Derek Boles