

North York Community Preservation Panel

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August 6, 2014

Planning and Growth Management Committee
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
10th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Re: PG 35.12 844 Don Mills Road and 1150 Eglinton Avenue East - Official Plan
Amendment Application - Preliminary Report

Dear Councillor:

The North York Community Preservation Panel (NYCPP) provides this correspondence to request that urgent attention be given to evaluation and protection of the heritage values of each property - 844 Don Mills Road (Celestica HQ) and 1150 Eglinton Ave East ("Celestica West"). The two adjoining properties are physically separate and architecturally distinct from each other.

Both properties were included in the 1997 North York Inventory of Modernist Architecture. The IBM/Celestica property at 844 Don Mills Road was included in the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties in 2006 but 150 Eglinton East was not included at that time. A heritage nomination for 1150 Eglinton was submitted to the Toronto Preservation Board by the NYCPP in 2010 and was referred to staff for assessment. However, the assessment has not been carried out and the property is still not included in the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties.

A quote from "A Hilltop Fortress for IBM", (Toronto Modern, 2009) gives a sense of the important built form and landscape values of 1150 Eglinton East:
"From Eglinton Avenue, the IBM building reads as a sprawling, ground-hugging megastructure of Louis Kahn-ish cubic modules, overlapping and interlocking as they step down the hillside. The influences of Kahn and Alvar Aalto are also apparent in the walls of solid brick, a sharp divergence from Parkin's glassy transparency of a few years earlier; the fortress-like impenetrability is only partially relieved by narrow vertical strips of bronze-toned glass in black anodized frames. Most interior spaces are oriented to the southern light, a benefit in Toronto's often grey and wintry environment, and to views over the ravine..."

The Panel requests that

- PGMC recommend to City Council that staff report to the Toronto Preservation Board concerning heritage listing/designation of each property.

Sincerely,

Geoff Kettel
Chair

c.c. Councillor John Parker
Mary MacDonald, (A) Manager, Heritage Preservation Services