
From: Karl Frank
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 9:55 AM
To: Robert Bader
Subject: Leslie Street/Eglinton Ave E. electronic sign

Dear Mr. Bader,

We appreciate the information of the public meeting last Monday at Thorncliffe Park Library.

On behalf of the NYCPP (North York Community Preservation Panel) I am petitioning against the installation of an E-Sign at this location. The reason: We are nominating, as of the moment that I am writing, the section of Eglinton Ave.E plus the Don Mills Road intersection as one of Toronto's most important CULTURAL LANDSCAPE HERITAGE CORRIDORS.

More precisely it is the section of the Eglinton Corridor between the east-facing slope of the Don River West Branch and the west-facing slope of the Don River East Branch. It's width, measured 75 meters from the centre-line of the Roadway north and south. This corridor must not be Inundated by obstacles that serve as un-natural distractions to all users of the corridor.

Our submission will indicate that:

This section of the Eglinton corridor is **the only remaining significant natural feature along the dense wall of urban structures of the future Public Transit.**

This Corridor contains the only **significant geographic features** along the whole Eglinton Ave route of the Public Transit, essentially the two branches of the Don River, whose West Branch already serves Toronto as a significant recreational resource with its three major pathways multi-purpose in nature and interconnecting a

series of important parks while converging at the intersection of Leslie Street and Eglinton Ave E. then leading south to the mouth of the Don River. The east branch of the Don River is in the process of becoming another major recreational resource similar to that of the west branch.

This Corridor will ensure that **Toronto's central, major storm-water channels** will be accessible, especially in emergency situations such as Hurricane Hazel in 1956, a storm that may happen any time but at least once every 365 years.

The Corridor will ensure that **significant views of the natural landscape** of the River Valleys will be maintained and fostered.

This Corridor between the two branches of the Don River must be maintained to **remind us of our past civilizations** where the rivers played a significant role in their lives. It has been the habitat of our Native People and more recently European Settlers.

This Corridor between the two branches of the Don River also contains yet unrecognized a part of **the front gates to Don Mills, Canada's first postwar planned community, (a potential Heritage District in itself,) two significant Toronto heritage structures.**

Just east of the modern Railway bridge, on the north side, designed with great skill to blend into the slopes of the natural landscape, exists the modernist Building Complex known as 1150 Eglinton Ave E. Further east, just around the corner with the Street address of 844 Don Mills

Road is the second post-modern building, well known as the former IBM building, now Celestica. IBM with this two-phase manufacturing plant was one of the first employers of Don Mills. Both Buildings already on the list of Heritage buildings of Toronto will be part of this Corridor. The future of the IBM building can be guaranteed through its use as an Arena and recreational Complex.

The builders of **the railway in 1882 recognized already, in part by its sheer size, to respect the river valley.**

The bridge structures themselves heritage structures complement rather than detract from the history and functions of the River. The Rail overpass however is a modernist structure constructed in the early 60's as part of the Eglinton Ave connection to the East.

All Landscape features framing the roadway, such as ground covers, shrubs and trees planted on the slopes and embankments are **important to the visual enhancement of the corridor**, hence any un-natural intrusion would be detrimental.

Karl Frank,
BLA OALA CSLA EMERITUS
NYCPP member

CC: Geoff Kettel, Chair NYCPP