



THE FRIENDS OF FORT YORK
AND GARRISON COMMON

TE23.5.16

21 April 2017

His Worship John H. Tory and Members of Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, M5C 1S6

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillors,

On behalf of my board of directors I wish to report The Friends of Fort York & Garrison Common wholeheartedly support the recommendations of Toronto & East York Community Council, meeting April 4, to rezone the lands at 28 Bathurst Street, (Ward 19) as 'OR' (Open Space) and 'G' (park). Our reasons are as follows:

Need

As the populations of the Fort York, King-Spadina and Niagara Neighbourhoods have swollen beyond original expectations during the last twenty years, a serious need for more open space has emerged from the high density model adopted for development throughout this area.

Cost

The cost of acquiring land for parks in the vicinity of 28 Bathurst is extremely high given its alternate uses. The circumstances that saw the City of Toronto acquire and hold the land at 28 Bathurst for thirty years now work in favour of creating new open space for little more than the expense of remediating the ground for park use and reimbursing Build Toronto for its sunk planning costs.

Timeliness

The availability of 28 Bathurst for immediate development as a park fits with the emerging necklace of open spaces around Fort York (see plan attached) as the City tries to keep up with the pace of nearby residential development, and relieves the pressure of need sooner than complementary initiatives like Rail Deck Park.

Sincerely,

Don Cranston, Chair

28 Bathurst Site Surrounding Developments

28 Bathurst

The Well

**Future
Rail Deck Park**

Minto Westside

Block 36 North

**The Coffin Factory
89-109 Niagara St**

**Bathurst Bridge
Rehab**

**Lower Garrison
Creek Park
(Formerly Mouth of
the Creek Park)**

2 Tecumseth

**Future
Multi-Use Trail**

**Wellington
Destructor**

Fort York

**Stanley Park South
Extension**

Future Park

**Link to
West Toronto Railpath**

**Fort York Pedestrian &
Cycle Bridge**

**Garrison
Point**

The Bentway

