

NY 23.11.2

**North York Community Council**

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**From:** Geoff Kettel <gkettel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** Francine Adamo; North York Community Council; Councillor Jaye Robinson; Councillor Burnside; Councillor Colle; Councillor Shiner; Councillor Filion; Councillor Minnan-Wong; Councillor Carroll; Councillor Augimeri; Councillor Carmichael Greb; Councillor Pasternak; Tom Rakocevic  
**Cc:** Joe Nanos; Mary (Planning) MacDonald; Sherry Pedersen; Cathie Ferguson  
**Subject:** NY23.11 Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence west  
**Attachments:** NYCC June 13 2017 901 Lawrence Ave West columbus centre.pdf

Dear Ms Adamo

Please find attached a letter to NYCC regarding the Columbus Centre.

regards

Geoff Kettel  
Chair NYCPC

## **North York Community Preservation Panel**

June 13, 2017

North York Civic Centre  
Main floor, 5100 Yonge St.  
Toronto, ON M2N 5V7  
Attention: Francine Adamo, Council Secretariat

Dear Chair Councillor Maria Augimeri and Members, North York  
Community Council,

**RE: NY23.11 Request for Direction - Zoning By-law Amendment  
and Draft Plan of Subdivision Applications - 901 Lawrence  
Avenue West, 3050 and 3010 Dufferin Street and 40 Playfair  
Avenue (Ward 15)**

The NYCPP provides this correspondence to express its concern that loss of Heritage values is not included in the list of issues on page 11 of the report.

The report acknowledges that at its meeting of April 28, 2017, City Council adopted Item No. MM28.55 directing the Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services to "research and evaluate the property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West for potential inclusion on the City's Heritage Register and to report back to the Toronto Preservation Board and the North York Community Council with the conclusions of the evaluation". However the Request for Direction report does not indicate the status of this direction.

The Panel's earlier communication (May 2, 2017) in regard to the Preliminary Report on this application (Item NY22.9) noted the following in regard to the heritage values of the property:

*"The Columbus Event Centre has been producing extraordinary events with distinct Italian flair in the city of Toronto... situated on 4 acres that boasts Mediterranean gardens, water fountains, gazebos and ample parking". (Villa Charities web site)*

This application proposes to "revitalize" the Columbus Centre complex by demolishing and replacing the Columbus Centre, the Carrier Art Gallery, the Dante Alighieri Academy, a day care facility, and other services on the site. The Columbus Centre's main building and rotunda, unique in many ways, were built between 1978 and 1980 as

an extension to the old St Mary's School for Girls which was built in 1949 as a reform school for "fallen girls".

The Columbus Centre has served as the heart of the Italian Canadian community for two generations. It has hosted events for numerous celebrity visitors to Canada, from the Italian President Alfano in 1996, to the coach of the 1982 World Cup champion Italian soccer team in 1982-83, and several Canadian Prime Ministers including most recently, Trudeau in 2015, and Harper in 2011.

The Panel remains concerned that this project proposes "revolutionary" change that would extinguish the cultural heritage values of the existing property; it has not considered evolutionary change that would celebrate and potentially re-purpose some of the existing cultural assets of the property.

Respectfully submitted,

*Geoff Kettel*

Geoff Kettel  
Chair

c.c. Joe Nanos, Director, Community Planning, North York District  
Mary MacDonald, Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation  
Services  
Sherry Pedersen, Program Manager, Development Review,  
Heritage Preservation Services  
Cathie Ferguson, Planner, Community Planning, North York  
District