

From: [Franca Leeson](#) on behalf of [Respect Local Planning](#)
To: [City Clerks - Heritage](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Comments for 2023.PB4.3 on March 23, 2023 Toronto Preservation Board
Date: March 22, 2023 10:37:44 PM

Dear Toronto Preservation Board,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment regarding the long-awaited designation of the Foundry site on Eastern Avenue as a heritage property.

It should be no surprise that Friends of the Foundry are 100% in favour of confirming the Heritage Designation of the Foundry site (at least what remains of it).

The Dominion Wheel & Foundry complex has been listed on the City of Toronto's heritage register since 2004. Throughout nearly 20 years of revitalization of the West Don Lands initiated by Waterfront Toronto, planning documents have reflected the assumption that the heritage buildings on the Foundry site would be restored and preserved for modern use. They were recognized as the largest complex of heritage buildings to remain within the precinct, which has otherwise been cleared of almost all evidence of the important role its industrial activities played in the early growth of Toronto.

Your members will of course be familiar with the events of 2020 and 2021, in which the Province made a deal to sell the site into private hands, issued a supportive MZO, and then attempted to demolish all five buildings. Public protest and a court injunction limited the destruction. This was accomplished with the much-appreciated support of the City of Toronto, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, and many local politicians, prominent experts, and other community and heritage organizations.

Now that two of the five buildings have been demolished and the property has passed into private hands, the Foundry remains extremely vulnerable to destruction and/or degradation of its heritage characteristics. Heritage designation will help strengthen the protections we need to preserve its heritage value while adapting the site to modern use. Please proceed as quickly as possible.

With sincere thanks for your important work,

Friends of the Foundry:

Asif Hossain
Tim Hurson
Suzanne Kavanagh
Franca Leeson
Cynthia Wilkie