

IntegrityTO

A New Civic Movement for A Better Toronto

36 Toronto Street, Unit 850 | Toronto, Ontario | M5C 2C6

March 24, 2026

Re: EY29.6 - 2125 Lawrence Avenue West - Inclusion on the Heritage Register

Councillors,

Weston Lions Arena is far more than a physical structure worthy of heritage preservation. It is a living community institution that has served as a gathering place and cultural hub for generations of Torontonians united by their shared love of skating and ice hockey.

Much like Maple Leaf Gardens, Weston Lions Arena can rightly be described as a cathedral of Canada's national sport – a place where tradition is honoured and passed down. Since 1949, one of Toronto's oldest arenas has provided children with a space to form friendships, build character, and learn a sport that teaches discipline, teamwork, coordination, and camaraderie.

This legacy of community pride and participation is precisely why Weston Lions Arena is in the running to win this year's Kraft Hockeyville contest, and why nearly 15,000 people have signed a petition calling for its preservation as an arena.

With respect to the proposed heritage addition, there is a crucial consideration that must be addressed: Weston Lions Arena must be added to the City of Toronto's Heritage Register specifically as an ice rink. The use of this building is inseparable from its physical form and historic significance. Registering it merely as a generic structure, without recognizing its function, would substantially weaken the intent and effectiveness of the designation.

Just as Maple Leaf Gardens retained its identity as an ice rink (now known as the Mattamy Athletic Centre), this heritage listing must explicitly recognize that the continued operation and maintenance of the ice pad is a defining heritage attribute of the building itself.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge City Council to include a special clause stating that the maintenance of the ice surface and rink use is foundational to Weston Lions Arena's inclusion on the Heritage Register.

In 1949, the Toronto Maple Leafs had just won a third consecutive Stanley Cup, and hockey-crazed children wanted a rink where they could play. With this dream and lots of ambition, they went door-to-door to raise the \$125,000 needed to build this arena, igniting a proud tradition of Weston hockey that continues to this day.

I trust the City Council will honour the spirit, sacrifice, and legacy of those children by ensuring Weston Lions Arena is protected not only as a building, but as the community rink it was always meant to be.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tate
IntegrityTO