



Reimagining the Future of the former Ontario Science Centre

A report by Save Ontario's Science Centre (Save OSC), Moriyama Teshima Architects, Councillor Josh Matlow, and Councillor Jon Burnside



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Wikimedia Commons ([link](#)).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the hundreds of community members in Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park who participated in these consultations, as well as to those across the city who shared their feedback on the future of this important public site.

Thank you to the over 98,000 people who signed the Save Ontario's Science Centre (Save OSC) letter.

We acknowledge and appreciate the support of many community leaders, and elected officials from all three levels of government, who have expressed their support for this initiative.

Finally, the completion of this report would not have been possible without the leadership of Save OSC's Jennifer Alexander, and the support of Jason Ash, and Floyd Ruskin.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a community engagement process undertaken in Spring 2026 to reimagine the future of the former Ontario Science Centre site at 770 Don Mills Road. Informed by this public feedback, the report puts forward a community-informed vision for the site's return to public use.

This report and engagement process has been led by Save Ontario's Science Centre (Save OSC), Moriyama Teshima Architects, Councillor Josh Matlow, and Councillor Jon Burnside, and was carried out under the direction of motions approved by Toronto City Council.

In April 2023, the Provincial government announced its decision to relocate the Ontario Science Centre to the waterfront, and in June 2024 it abruptly closed the building. The province's own engineering consultants recommended repairing the building rather than closing it, and offers of professional and philanthropic support to fund the work followed. Despite several Council approved motions requesting provincial engagement on the site, the Province has yet to share details of its plans.

The purpose of the community engagement was not to revisit the relocation decision or to evaluate specific redevelopment proposals. Rather, the process sought to identify the public values, priorities, and principles that should guide the future of this significant public asset, and to consider how its educational, environmental, cultural, architectural, and civic contributions can continue to serve communities across Toronto and Ontario.

In this report, "the site" refers to the building and the broader table lands and ravine at 770 Don Mills Road, excluding the City's CreateTO housing project on the northern portion of the lands. The site is governed by a 99-year lease in force until 2064 with the possibility of an additional 99-year extension at the province's sole discretion. Under the lease, the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) own the land and lease it to the Province, which owns the buildings. No single level of government can determine the site's future alone.

Any future plans for the site must be grounded in community priorities. These consultations therefore engaged the residents of Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park directly, the communities closest to the site and most affected by its closure, along with residents from across Toronto, to hear their vision for a re-imagined 770 Don Mills Road. Key themes that emerged included continued public use of the site, multiple purposes including learning and discovery, access to the ravine and

surrounding green space, the architectural significance of the building, and priorities for community and cultural programming.

This report proposes next steps to help determine a sustainable future use of the site that ensures public benefit and access. It recommends that any process to determine the future use and vision for the site, including determining future governance and funding options, brings the province together with the City, federal government, community members, and institutional and philanthropic partners.

Critically, this will require the provincial government to engage on the future of the site in good faith. This report offers the province a positive, community-grounded starting point: a path forward shaped by residents, design professionals, and city-builders who share the goal of seeing this site thrive again.

The consultation findings ultimately demonstrate that 770 Don Mills Road is a significant public asset whose value lies in the intersection of learning, landscape, architecture, culture, and community. The message from participants is clear: the use of the site may change, but its public purpose should endure. The next chapter of 770 Don Mills Road should build on that legacy, creating a place where learning, discovery, and connection continue to shape Ontario's future.



Left to right: Brian Rudy (Moriyama Teshima Architects, Floyd Ruskin and Jason Ash (Save OSC), Councillor Josh Matlow, Councillor Jon Burnside.

HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE SITE

The 770 Don Mills Road site occupies a unique place in Ontario's history, including as the former Ontario Science Centre.

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the site in the Don Valley, and other watersheds like the Humber and the Rouge, had already been home to Indigenous populations for thousands of years.

From the 19th century onward, the site that became the Science Centre was dedicated to agriculture to support the growth of Toronto, most prominently by four generations of the Meagher family.¹²

In the early 1960s, as the new developments of Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park, and Don Mills and the Don Valley Parkway, began to replace farming in the area, Metro Council initially approved the site as the home of a new Metropolitan Toronto Zoo, and also created Ernest Thompson Seton Park.

Although the Metro Zoo eventually opened in Scarborough due to the Science Centre project, the proposal ultimately resulted in the Meagher Family selling their farm and long-time family home, addressed as 770 Don Mills Road, to the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto to be dedicated for public use.

Announced by Premier John Robarts in 1964 as a project celebrating Canada's Centennial, the Ontario Science Centre was intended to make science accessible, engaging, and relevant to people of all ages. One of the first interactive science museums in the world, it pioneered a hands-on "Please Touch Everything" approach that encouraged visitors to explore scientific concepts through experience rather than observation alone. Over the decades, the Science Centre became known for school programs, camps, demonstrations, workshops, lectures, and interactive exhibits that connected science and technology to everyday life.

The building is widely recognized as one of Canada's most significant examples of modern public architecture. Designed by Raymond Moriyama as his first major commission, the facility responds to the natural characteristics of its setting, with bridges, terraces, escalators, and interconnected pavilions that follow the contours of

¹ <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/ex/comm/communicationfile-181876.pdf>

² <https://www.edbrownwriter.com/post/my-flemingdon-park-historic-meagher-homestead>

the Don Valley. The City of Toronto listed the property on its Heritage Register in 2006, but it is not designated.³

In June 2024, the Provincial government closed the building abruptly, citing an engineering report on the condition of its roof panels. In response, Save Ontario's Science Centre (Save OSC) gathered more than 98,000 petition signatures calling for the building to be repaired and re-opened.

In October 2024, Toronto City Council approved a motion expressing "its support for the remaining City-owned lands at 770 Don Mills Road (Ontario Science Centre), not covered by the proposed Housing Now site, to remain solely for recreational and educational purposes."⁴

The building itself remains viable. Engineering documents obtained in 2025 showed that the province's own consultants had recommended routine roof repairs rather than closure. Following the closure, Moriyama Teshima Architects offered their pro bono design services to support immediate repairs, and private donors also pledged support. The Province has not taken up these offers to date.

The fiscal picture has also shifted since the relocation was announced. In December 2024, the Auditor General of Ontario found that relocation costs had already exceeded the government's projected savings, with the new Ontario Place facility now estimated at \$1.4 billion. Whatever the future of the relocation, these findings underscore the value of making full public use of the significant asset that already exists at 770 Don Mills Road.

The cost of leaving the site dormant and the buildings neglected grows each year. The surrounding Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park neighbourhoods are among the fastest-growing in the city, with thousands of new housing units planned, approved, and under construction alongside major public investments including the Ontario Line, the Eglinton LRT, and a CreateTO-led development with a planned TDSB school.

Currently, Metrolinx is building the new Flemingdon Park Station in the south parking lot at 770 Don Mills Road. The Loop Trail, a key pillar of the Toronto Ravine Strategy, is steps away from the site at E.T. Seton Park.

There is a critical opportunity for the site to be re-opened to serve both local residents and visitors from across the region. Existing and future residents deserve public

³ <https://secure.toronto.ca/HeritagePreservation/details.do?folderRsn=2434853&propertyRsn=425760>

⁴ <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.MM22.3>

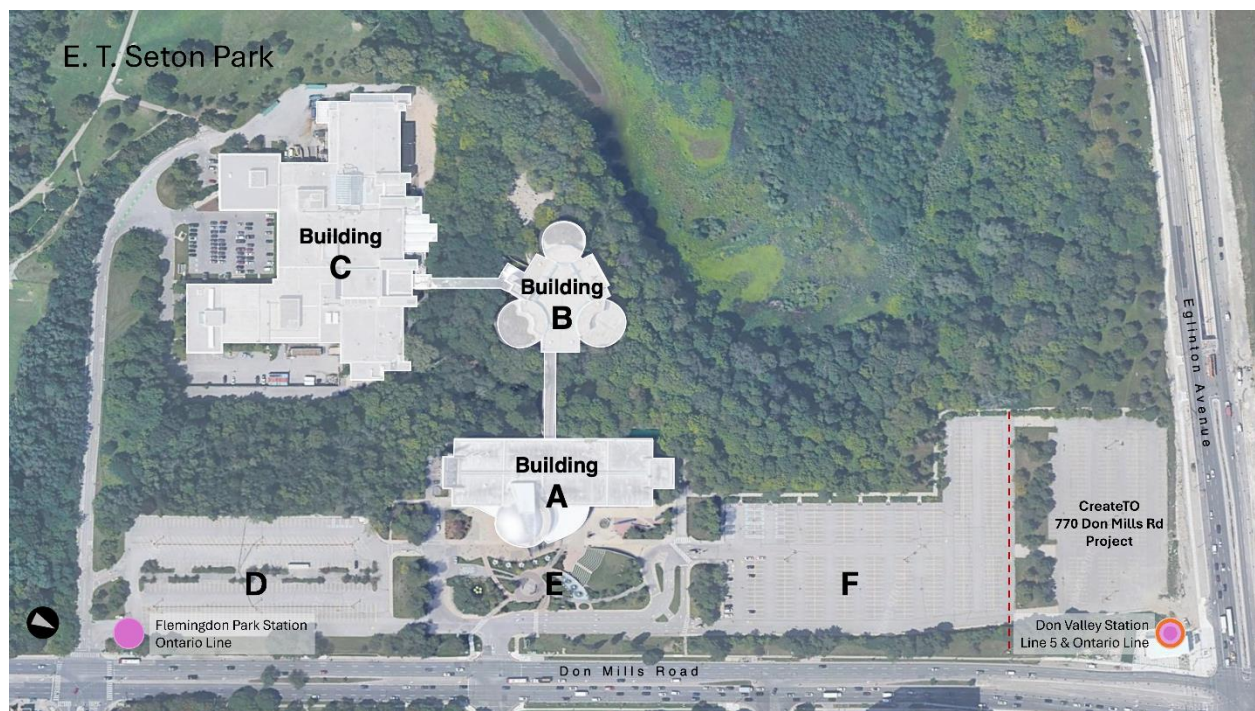
cultural, education, and recreation assets that keep pace with their growing community.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND COMPARISON

The 770 Don Mills Road site is approximately 50 acres (20.2 hectares), with a total gross floor area of approximately 568,000 square feet across all buildings.⁵

For comparison purposes, the destination Biidaasige Park recently opened in Toronto's Port Lands is 60 acres (24.3 hectares), and the landmark, new Etobicoke Civic Centre project on the Westwood Theatre lands will have a total gross floor area of 766,692 square feet.^{6 7}

770 Don Mills Road is a compelling civic opportunity for Toronto.



770 Don Mills Road Site

⁵ Infrastructure Ontario - Ontario Science Centre Modernization Business Case, March 8, 2023

⁶ <https://www.waterfrontoronto.ca/our-projects/biidaasige-park>

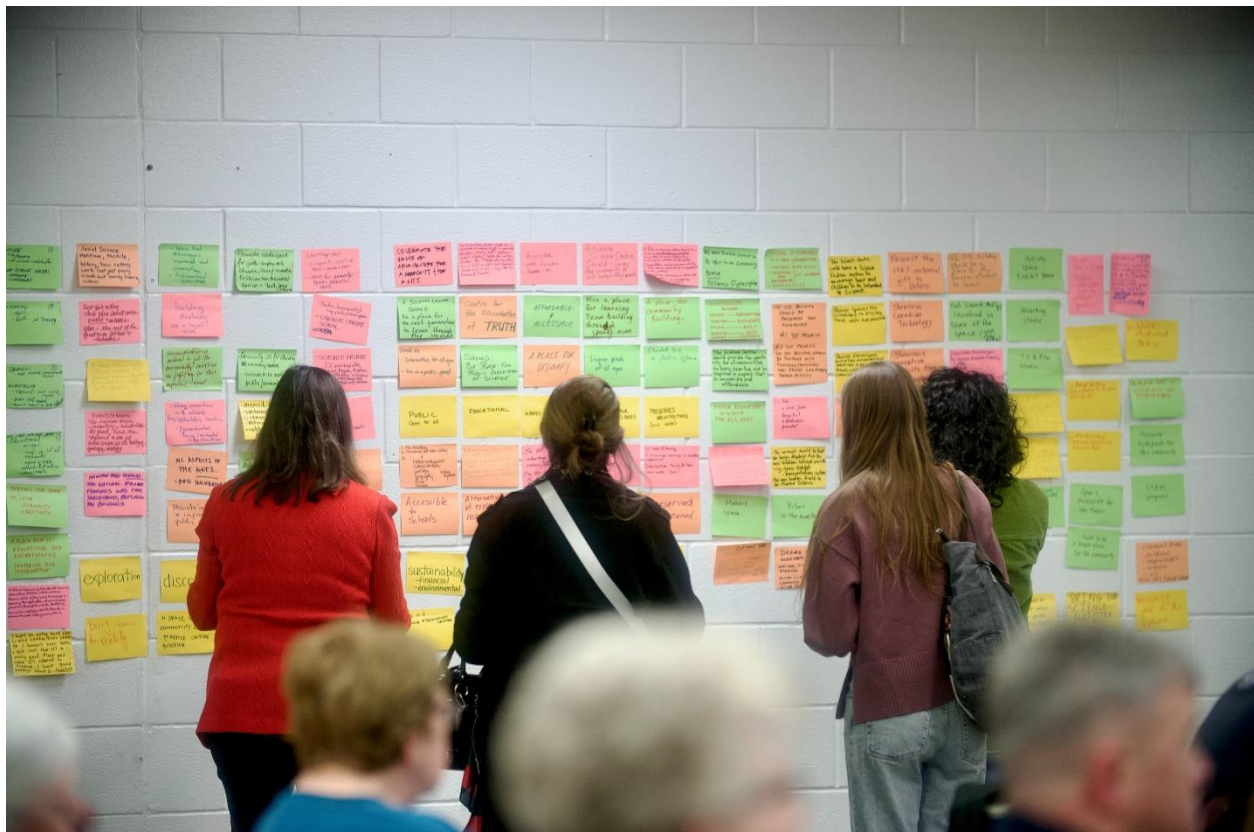
⁷ <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/venues-facilities-bookings/booking-city-facilities/new-etobicoke-civic-centre-project/>

ENGAGEMENT METHODS

The community engagement process was designed to gather ideas, perspectives, and aspirations for the future of the former Ontario Science Centre site. Through in-person engagement sessions, an online survey, and written submissions from organizations and community members, participants were invited to share what they value about the site and how they envision its future.

A total of 411 participants took part in the consultations during Spring 2026. Participants came from the local Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park communities, the surrounding Don Valley area, and across Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.

The process focused on identifying common themes, priorities, and opportunities for the site based on public feedback. The findings presented in this report reflect the perspectives shared through these activities. Further details on the engagement methods are provided in *Appendix A*.



Flemingdon Park public consultation, April 2026, courtesy of Save OSC.

WHAT WE HEARD

The engagement process generated hundreds of ideas, stories, and reflections from participants representing a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. While individual perspectives varied, clear patterns emerged across survey responses, community workshops, and written submissions.

Survey responses demonstrated a strong consensus around the values that should guide the site's future. The findings are organized into five themes: the site as a public centre for everyone, a multipurpose destination, a place for learning, the building and its ravine setting, and community and culture. Each theme combines survey findings with comments and workshop discussions to illustrate both what participants said and the broader significance of those ideas. Together, they present an emerging community vision for the future of one of Ontario's most significant public sites.

Theme 1: A Public Centre for Everyone

"It was built for the public, for community, and for education. Its overall purpose must remain the same." (Survey respondent)

"Keep the building, preserve and appreciate the nature. Take advantage of public transit to allow the place to be accessible to more residents." (Survey respondent)

"Whatever it is, it should be made public." (Survey respondent)

The most prominent theme across all engagement activities was the site's identity as a public institution, and the expectation that it remain one in the future. The public role operates at three scales. Locally, the site is a gathering place where communities connect through education, culture, nature, and shared experience. Regionally, it is one of the city's major public destinations. Provincially, it is a shared institution that generations of Ontarians have experienced through school trips, family visits, camps, and special exhibitions. The site also serves as a tourism asset for visitors to Toronto that sits outside of the downtown core.

Participants expressed a strong desire to be able to experience the centre's grand spaces again. For example, to gaze out into nature from the bridge, to stand in the Great Hall, to descend into the valley on the escalators, and to enter the rainforest. The idea of being able to enter the Centre from Don Mills Road, walk freely through it on a designated path, and emerge in E.T. Seton Park in the ravine appealed to many participants.

Separate from the former OSC's science programming, participants differentiated these features of 770 Don Mills Road as shared, public moments that were enjoyed by visitors of all interests, backgrounds, and generations.



Photo by James Brittain, courtesy of Moriyama Teshima Architects.

Theme 2: A Multi-Purpose Destination

"Something like Evergreen Brick Works, public events, greenspace and learning opportunities." (Survey respondent)

"Community garden, meeting spaces, workshops, courses, arts and crafts, performance space, recreation." (Survey respondent)

"Use the theatre spaces for live music or other events." (Survey respondent)

Programming and activities were central to the experiences of visitors to the former Science Centre.

A common theme across all engagement activities was that it is logical for 770 Don Mills Road to evolve into a multi-purpose destination, given the Ontario Science Centre would not be returning to the site.

Participants recognized 770 Don Mills Road, both the Centre and the site, as a tremendous opportunity, not a challenge, for high-quality programming, because it is a large property.

There were also ideas about how the Great Hall, the former Imperial Oil Auditorium, and the site's other open spaces like the former Teluscape Exploration Plaza could be utilized in the future. Participants noted that weddings, citizenship ceremonies, even raves had all been popular uses in the past, and that it is also a challenge for theatre groups to find space in Toronto.

Food was also an important consideration, including: being able to share a meal with a local connection at the Centre, the opportunity to introduce community gardening, and to return urban beekeeping and honey harvesting to the site.

Many participants also expressed a desire that the Centre's IMAX theatre be retained, including for the occasional blockbuster film.

This suggests that there is an expectation that governance options, funding models, and programming ideas will be explored for the future of the 770 Don Mills Road site.



An evening gala held in the Great Hall of 770 Don Mills Road, courtesy of Moriヤマ Teshima Architects.

Theme 3: A Place for Learning

"There are very few places where families of different ages can spend an entire day learning together." (Workshop participant)

"Fix It clinics, Maker festivals for beginners, hackathons for beginners, all of the previous for individuals with every ability." (Survey respondent)

"Access to the ravine means an ideal spot for nature education especially given TDSB closure of outdoor education centres." (Survey respondent)

Participants identified learning as the site's central purpose, and described it as something shared across generations. While children were often at the centre of these reflections, the site was equally understood as a place for families, caregivers, educators, and older adults to learn together. Many responses reflected personal histories spanning decades: participants described visiting as children and later returning as parents or grandparents.

There was also strong recognition of the site's role in supporting formal education through school visits, camps, and after school programming. Across these ideas, participants emphasized hands-on, shared learning as the quality most worth carrying forward.

Several participants suggested integrating a new district library into part of the site, to complement existing neighbourhood branches in Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park, improving local access to the full breadth and depth of Toronto Public Library's learning experiences and programming for residents in this region of the city.



Oodi Library in Helsinki, Finland. Photo by Bahnfreund via Wikimedia Commons ([link](#)).

Theme 4: Reimagining the Building, the Site, and the Ravine Together

"The Science Centre is a beautiful building deserving of saving. When you go there, you feel transported to the future, but also back to nature." (Survey respondent)

"It is very important that this building be saved. No building like this can ever be built again that engages the ravine in this way." (Survey respondent)

A key theme was the building itself, and its relationship to the natural environment. Participants described it as part of Toronto's architectural and cultural memory, a rare example of public architecture intentionally integrated with a natural ravine landscape, and central to how people experience and remember the site.

As a result, there is strong public interest in approaches that prioritize adaptation over demolition, and reinvestment over replacement.

Participants identified several broad directions:

- adaptive reuse of existing structures to support new programming while retaining architectural integrity
- enhancement of the building's relationship with the ravine and natural setting
- heritage interpretation that communicates the site's architectural and civic significance

There was recognition that the Loop Trail, a key pillar of Toronto's Ravine Strategy, will be steps away from the site, offering an opportunity for a community trail hub.

There was interest whether the City's ModernTO program to optimize civic office locations could be integrated into 770 Don Mills Road, as well as other hybrid uses.



Walking tour of the former OSC and E.T. Seton Park, for Jane's Walk Toronto, courtesy of Save OSC.

Theme 5: Community and Culture

"Learning is strengthened when people see themselves reflected in the stories being told." (Workshop participant)

"Offer lots of hands-on ONTARIO based learning. Culture, Industry, and History." (Survey respondent)

"I think the nature of the building being rather intertwined with nature makes it a good location for indigenous education programs." (Survey respondent)

Participants emphasized that it is not only a site of scientific learning, but also a place of culture and heritage. There was a strong and recurring view that its future should reflect diverse cultural perspectives, Indigenous knowledge systems, arts-based interpretation, and community histories and lived experiences, so that the people of Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park, Toronto, and Ontario see themselves in the site's future.

Storytelling was highlighted as a powerful tool for learning, making scientific concepts more accessible, meaningful, and memorable, with participants noting that storytelling traditions vary across cultures and knowledge systems. Participants envisioned a public institution where science, culture, heritage, and diverse ways of knowing come together, creating deeper connections between people, ideas, and the world around them.



Save OSC co-chair Jason Ash, and local residents Hamida Begum, Eshrat Meshkoti, Anjum Fatima and May Massijeh at the Flemingdon Park public consultation, April 2026, courtesy of Save OSC.

MOVING FORWARD

This report set out to identify the public values and priorities that should guide the future of 770 Don Mills Road. The consultation findings documented in these pages have done that. The site must remain public. Learning must remain central to its purpose. The existing building and its ravine setting must anchor the future vision. The communities around the site, and across the city and province, should see themselves

reflected in what comes next. And the public wants the building in use, not sitting vacant and at risk of deterioration.

The future of the site is significantly impacted by the 1965 lease. Under the lease, the site may only be used as a science centre and related facilities, though the Province is not obligated to operate one. The lease is also silent on the Province's obligations should it seek to end the agreement early, which would require a termination agreement negotiated between all three parties. In practice, this means the Province cannot repurpose the site without the City and the TRCA, and the City cannot repurpose it without the Province. Resolving the site's future requires all three parties to work together, and its funding and governance should reflect that shared responsibility. To date, the Province has not shared its plans for the future of the site.

This report is an invitation to change that. It offers the Province a positive, community-grounded starting point: a path forward and vision shaped by residents, design professionals, and city-builders who share the goal of seeing this site thrive again. If the Province is willing to come to the table, there is a clear path to reopening the building.

This report requests that the Province commit to meeting with City, the Federal government, the TRCA, and institutional and community stakeholders, through a process that is both transparent and collaborative. This group should dedicate itself to developing a plan for the site's reopening.

Many Canadian public institutions operate through collaborative, multi-sectoral models, where the land stays in public hands and a dedicated non-profit operator runs the site with support from governments, earned revenue, and philanthropy. A framework for 770 Don Mills Road should draw on these models while reflecting the site's shared ownership, its ravine setting, and its educational purpose. There is widespread public support for this approach.

The site also needs a business case to achieve this vision, developed collaboratively. It should document the condition of the building, cost its repair and adaptation, evaluate options for reuse, estimate the revenues different uses could generate, and compare all of this against the cost of leaving the building vacant. All three levels of government and philanthropic partners have a role to play.

This report sets out the foundation for that work, grounded in the principles the community has articulated. The next phase belongs to the partners, across governments, institutions, and community, who are willing to build on it.



Building B reimaged, courtesy of Moriyama Teshima Architects.

APPENDIX

A. CONSULTATION METHODS

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The engagement process consisted of multiple opportunities for participation between April and May 2026.

In-person Sessions

Community Engagement Session #1

Date: April 1, 2026

Location: Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute, Flemingdon Park

The first engagement session brought together local residents, community members, and individuals with a direct connection to the former Ontario Science Centre and surrounding neighbourhoods. Participants were invited to discuss the site's significance, identify priorities for its future, and explore potential opportunities for educational, environmental, cultural, and community uses.

Community Engagement Session #2

Date: May 23, 2026

Location: Metro Hall

The second engagement session expanded participation to a broader audience from across Toronto and neighbouring municipalities. Participants shared perspectives on the site's regional importance and contributed ideas regarding future programming, partnerships, and public uses.

Public Survey

An online public survey was launched in April 2026 to provide residents and stakeholders with an additional opportunity to participate in the engagement process.

The survey invited participants to share:

- Their connection to the Ontario Science Centre
- Values and principles that should guide the site's future
- Ideas for future programming and uses
- Additional comments and recommendations

The survey remained open throughout the engagement period and received responses from individuals representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and geographic locations.

Community and Organizational Submissions

In addition to workshop participation and survey responses, community organizations, advocacy groups, educators, professionals, and interested residents submitted ideas and feedback throughout the engagement process.

These submissions provided additional perspectives regarding educational programming, environmental stewardship, heritage preservation, community uses, and potential partnership opportunities.

Who Participated

Participants represented a diverse range of perspectives and experiences.

Geographic Distribution

The engagement process attracted participants from across Toronto, the Greater Toronto Area, and neighbouring municipalities.

The April 1 engagement session at Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute primarily attracted residents from the local area, including Flemingdon Park, Don Mills, Thorncliffe Park, and surrounding communities.

The May 23 engagement session at Metro Hall attracted a broader audience from across Toronto and neighbouring municipalities, reflecting the site's significance as a regional destination and public institution.

Survey responses similarly reflected participation from a wide geographic area, demonstrating that the future of the former Ontario Science Centre is of interest not only to local residents but also to individuals and families across the region.

Participant Backgrounds and Connections to the Site

Participants included:

- Local residents
- Former and current visitors
- Families and caregivers
- Educators and students
- Community advocates
- Professionals in planning, heritage, architecture, and environmental fields
- Individuals with long-standing personal connections to the Science Centre

Many participants shared personal memories of school visits, family outings, camps, educational programs, and community events, illustrating the important role the site has played in the lives of multiple generations.

Demographic Overview

Participants represented a range of age groups and life experiences.

The diversity of respondents contributed to a broad discussion about the site's educational, environmental, cultural, heritage, and community value.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

Feedback was collected through:

- In-person engagement sessions

- Online survey responses
- Written submissions from individuals and organizations
- Facilitated discussions and participant feedback exercises

Together, these engagement activities generated both quantitative and qualitative data.

Open-ended responses from surveys, workshop discussions, and written submissions were reviewed and analyzed using a thematic coding approach.

Responses were grouped according to recurring topics, ideas, values, and priorities. As themes emerged, responses were categorized and reviewed to identify patterns that appeared consistently across multiple engagement activities.

This process helped identify both areas of broad consensus and topics that generated significant interest among participants.

Analysis Approach

The analysis combined quantitative and qualitative methods.

Survey results were reviewed to identify trends and priorities, while open-ended comments and workshop discussions provided additional context and insight into participants' perspectives.

The findings presented in this report are intended to reflect the collective themes and ideas that emerged throughout the engagement process rather than the views of any individual participant or organization.

B. PUBLIC CONSULTATION MATERIALS



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

WELCOME!

Reimagining the Future of the Former Ontario Science Centre

You can scan the QR code to take our survey —>
or visit
www.savesciencecentre.com/survey



Today's Goal



Share your ideas about the future of public STEAM education & recreation programming at the former OSC (770 Don Mills Road)!

Building A	Building B
Building C	D - South Parking Lot
E - Teluscape Exploration Plaza	F - North Parking Lot

The Idea



The former Ontario Science Centre was a pioneer in science education, inspiring generations to:

"Please Touch Everything."

The Premier



The former OSC was conceived by Ontario Progressive Conservative Premier John Robarts as a Centennial project, a gift to Ontarians to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday in 1967.

Premier Robarts believed in public education and wanted science to be fun and interactive to encourage children's development.

Ontario, Toronto, and TRCA have a 99-year lease; the City & TRCA own the land, Ontario owns the buildings.

The Architect



Raymond Moriyama, then only 33 years old, was selected to "design an institution of international significance."

Moriyama's site and facility design was sensitive to the natural features of the Don Valley and built as part of the new Flemington Park community.

The Legacy



Designed to last for over 250 years with proper maintenance, Raymond Moriyama believed the OSC's programming must change over on a regular cycle.

Moriyama said, "If it didn't change, it would die."

The Heritage



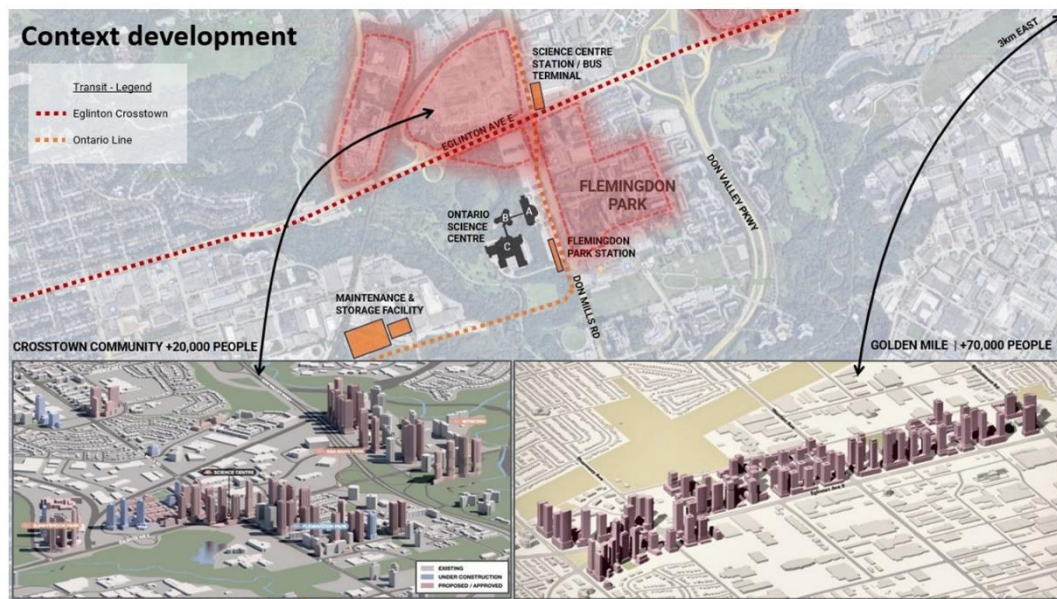
The City of Toronto heritage-listed the Ontario Science Centre facility in 2006.

However, it is not designated.

This means it is not protected from demolition.

Demolition by neglect is a real danger if we do not create a new plan for its public use.

The Future



Flemington Park is already one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Toronto.

Over 30,000 new residential units are being added to the community.

In October 2024, Toronto City Council passed:

"City Council express its support for the remaining City-owned lands at 770 Don Mills Road (Ontario Science Centre), not covered by the proposed Housing Now site, to remain solely for recreational and educational purposes."

Reimagining the former Ontario Science Centre

Share Your Ideas with Save OSC

Over the past few weeks, we've been bringing supporters together through our "Reimagining the former Science Centre in Flemingdon Park" events by creating space to share memories, ideas, and guiding principles for what comes next for the former Science Centre buildings.

This short survey is part of that same "Reimagining" process giving everyone the opportunity to contribute, wherever you are.

Importantly, Toronto City Council has expressed its strong support for ensuring the site continues to be dedicated to serve the public through education and recreation uses, not housing.

This is a chance to help shape what that looks like in practice.

Whether you visited as a child, brought your family, or simply care about the future of this space, we want to hear from you.

Your input will directly inform a public report being prepared for release in June and will support ongoing advocacy to ensure the site remains a vibrant, accessible public asset.

Thank you.

You can scan the QR code to take our survey →
or visit
www.savesciencecentre.com/survey



1. Share a memory of the Science Centre. Why is the building meaningful to you?

2. What guiding principles should guide the future of the site?

Guiding principles are the key values and priorities that should shape decisions about how the site is used, designed, and operated over the long term. These principles help ensure the space continues to serve the public in meaningful and lasting ways.

Select up to 3 guiding principles:

- ☐ Public access
- ☐ Education (including STEAM) *
- ☐ Community use (including recreation)
- ☐ Environmental protection
- ☐ Heritage preservation (including Architecture)
- ☐ Affordability
- ☐ Accessibility (physical, social)
- ☐ Innovation and creativity
- ☐ Local community benefit
- ☐ Other: _____

* STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics education.

3. Tell us why these principles matter to you.

4. What specific ideas would you like to see happen at the site in the future?

About You (Optional)

The following questions help us to understand who we're hearing from and ensure a wide range of voices are reflected in our work.

5. What was your connection to the Science Centre?

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I have visited in the past
- ☐ I visited as a child
- ☐ I have brought children/youth
- ☐ I live nearby
- ☐ I work or have worked there
- ☐ I have never visited
- ☐ Other: _____

6. First 3 characters of your postal code.

7. What age group do you belong to?

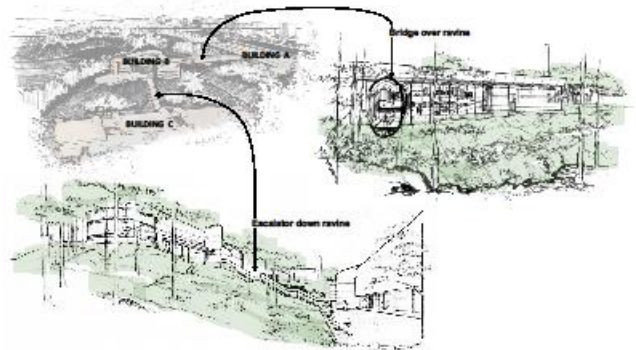
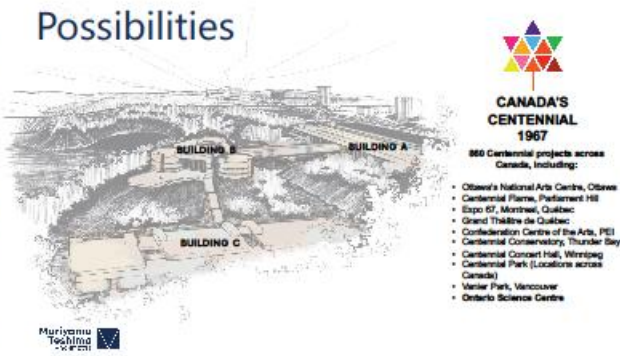
- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 – 24
- ☐ 25 – 39
- ☐ 40 – 54
- ☐ 55 – 64
- ☐ 65+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

8. Would you like to receive updates? Please provide your name and email address here.

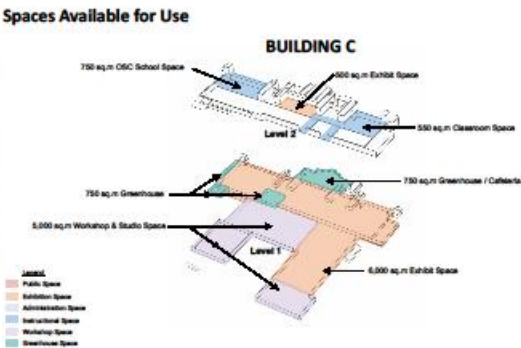
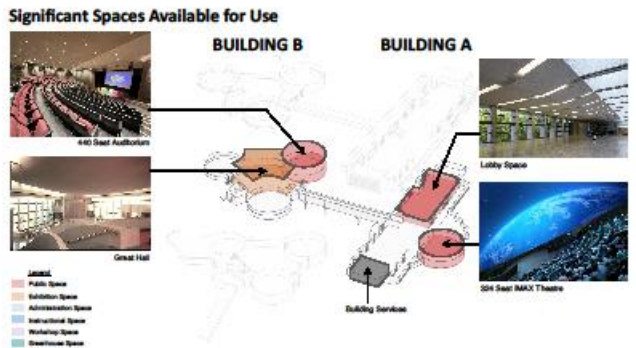
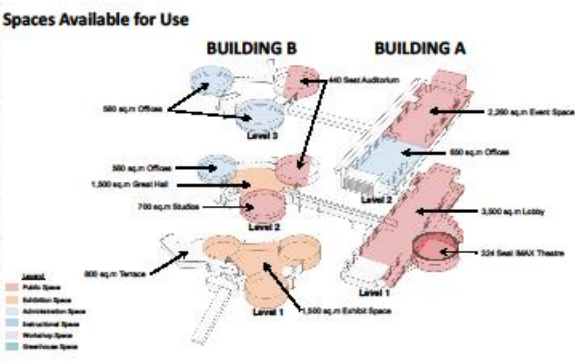
Name: _____

Email: _____

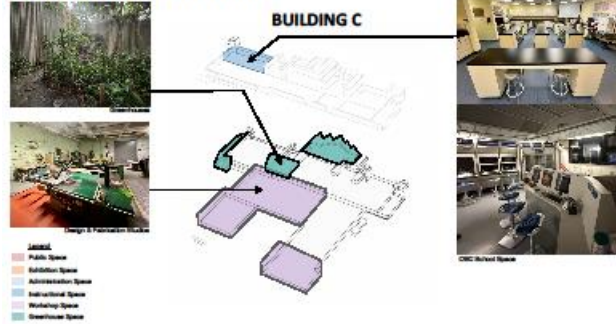
9. Any additional ideas or comments? Please share them here.







Significant Spaces Available for Use



Principles Considered

- A. Rooted in the Community
- B. Focus on Nature - Connecting to our Ravine System
- C. Grounded in Indigenous Knowledge

Principles Considered

- A. Rooted in the Community
 - Amenities, services, culture, recreation, education
 - Most importantly, involves a robust community engagement process from the start
 - Supports Neighbourhood Improvement Area at this location
 - Develops in stages, scaling up in tandem with investments



Principles Considered

- B. Focus on Nature - Connecting to our Ravine System
 - Opportunities for science, learning, play, sports, recreation, urban farming
 - Links to 8,000 years of Indigenous presence on this site, and more recent settler history as the site of a farm run by a former slave who escaped to Canada via the underground railway
 - Ties into 30,000 acres of ravines and a 72-kilometer loop trail connecting 22 Neighborhood Improvement Areas





Urban Plaza / Intergenerational Amenities



New Accessible Valley Connections



New Access Points to Buildings



Community Hub Spaces



Community Hub Spaces





Incubator, Studio, Research Hub



Indigenous Centre / Truth and Reconciliation space

Events Spaces





Ravine Centre

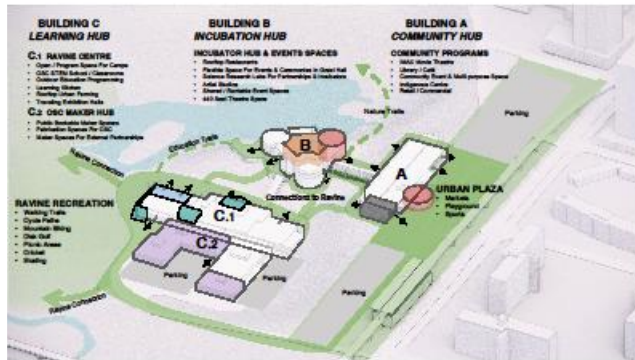


Ravine Centre



Sports and Recreation





C. DECISION HISTORY, TORONTO CITY COUNCIL

[2026.MM42.60](#) - June 25, 2026

Advancing a Redevelopment Strategy for the Toronto Builds site at 770 Don Mills Road - by Mayor Olivia Chow, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

[2026.NY33.3](#) - June 25, 2026

Don Mills Regeneration Area Study - Final Report (Ward 16 - Statutory: Planning Act, RSO 1990)

[2025.MM35.4](#) - December 16, 2025

Protecting the Ontario Science Centre Building and Preserving Recreation Assets for Flemingdon and Thorncliffe Park residents - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

[2024.MM22.3](#) - October 9, 2024

Ensuring a Complete Community in Don Mills by Having Places to Play, Visit, Work and Study - by Councillor Jon Burnside, seconded by Councillor Parthi Kandavel

[2024.EX16.5](#) - July 24, 2024

Ontario Science Centre Update

[2024.PH14.11](#) - July 24, 2024, [2024.RA12.2](#) - June 19, 2024

770 Don Mills Road - Memorandum of Understanding with Toronto Lands Corporation

[2024.MM19.25](#) - June 26, 2024

An Update on Work to Protect the Science Centre and Support Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

[2024.MM19.38](#) – June 26, 2024

Review of Traffic Impacts of Ontario Place Redevelopment and Proposed Ontario Science Centre Relocation – by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks

[2024.BA77.1](#) – May 1, 2024

Award of Doc4110457678 to The Centennial Centre for Science and Technology operating as the Ontario Science Centre for Design Build Services at Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre Indoor Play Space for Parks, Forestry and Recreation

[2024.MM16.31](#) – March 20, 2024

Request for Updates on Northern Segment of the Ontario Line – by Councillor Jaye Robinson, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

[2023.PH7.3](#) – November 8, 2023

City-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendments to Implement Ontario Line – Final Report

[2023.MM8.4](#) – July 19, 2023

Protecting the Science Centre to Support Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

[2023.PH3.24](#) – May 10, 2023

770 Don Mills Road, Ontario Science Centre – Heritage Request

[2022.PH34.2](#) – June 15, 2022

Housing Now – 770 Don Mills Road – City Initiated Zoning By-Law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision – Final Report

[2019.GL6.17](#) – July 16, 2019

Land Exchange with the Toronto District School Board – City Acquisition of 200 Poplar Road in Exchange for Stratified Ownership at 770 Don Mills Road

[2019.PH4.1](#) – April 16, 2019

Don Mills Crossing – Final Report

[2018.NY32.25](#) – July 4, 2018

Preliminary Report – Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment Application – 770 Don Mills Road and 805 Don Mills Road

[2018.PG30.6](#) – June 26, 2018

Don Mills Crossing – Proposals Report

[2017.PG24.9](#) – December 5, 2017

Don Mills Crossing: Community Building at Don Mills and Eglinton – Phase 2 Report

[2017.PG17.7](#) – January 11, 2017

Don Mills Crossing: Community Building at Don Mills and Eglinton – Phase 1 Report

[2012.NY17.10](#) – July 11, 2012, [2012.NY12.42](#) – January 10, 2012

A New Multi-Pad Ice Arena Site to replace Don Mills Civitan Arena

[2008.ED13.2](#) – May 14, 2008

Ontario Science Centre

D. TRCA RESPONSE TO OSC RELOCATION ANNOUNCEMENT

TRCA RESPONDS TO ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE ANNOUNCEMENT

04/24/2023

HOME » NEWS » TRCA RESPONDS TO ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE ANNOUNCEMENT

SHARE:  

April 24, 2023, Toronto, ON — Last week, the Province of Ontario announced its intention to move the Ontario Science Centre to Ontario Place. The Province's further communications noted that they will work with the City of Toronto on realizing a housing opportunity on the existing Ontario Science Centre lands and their intention to demolish the Science Centre buildings.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Toronto jointly leased the property to the Ontario Science Centre for a 99-year term, expiring on June 30, 2064, which allows for the maintenance and operation of the Science Centre.

To date, no conversations have been held between the Province, City of Toronto, and TRCA regarding the Province's desire to move the Science Centre, build housing on the lands, and/or cancel the Science Centre lease agreement.

TRCA owns 81 acres of land at the southwest corner of Don Mills and Eglinton, which are under management agreement with the City of Toronto.

Select the image below to view the full-sized map.



These TRCA lands include portions of the Science Centre, the Don River and West Don Trail, Seton Park, and are home to ravine lands, valuable greenspace, and sensitive habitats.



Image of map courtesy of the Ontario Science Centre website.

As visible in the images above, TRCA-owned lands include:

- Portions of both the North and South parking lots, due to the proximity to the slope of the ravine;
- The back portion of the front entrance building, which overlooks the ravine below; and
- The entirety of Ontario Science Centre lands beyond the front entrance building, which includes (from left to right) the bridge, additional portions of levels 1 and 2, and all of levels 3 to 6 of the Science Centre, which are located exclusively within the ravine.



The ravine lands are considered hazardous lands due to the steep slopes and floodplain associated with the West Don River. Natural features on site include mature deciduous forests and a large marsh home to multiple bird and mammal species, turtles and amphibians. Provincial, municipal and TRCA policies require that future development be directed to areas outside of the hazardous lands.

TRCA has reached out to the Province for clarification on the matter and we look forward to learning more about the Province's proposed plans.

About Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

Since 1957, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), as enabled through the provincial Conservation Authorities Act, has taken action to enhance our region's natural environment and protect our land, water, and communities from the impacts of flooding and increasingly extreme weather events – Ontario's leading cause of public emergencies.

As the region's first line of defence against natural hazards, TRCA maintains vital infrastructure and provides programs and services that promote public health and safety, protecting people and property.

TRCA mobilizes a science-based approach to provide sound policy advice, leveraging its position as a not-for-profit operating in the broader public sector to achieve collective impacts within our communities and across all levels of government.

TRCA's jurisdiction includes nine watersheds and their Lake Ontario shorelines, spanning six upper-tier and fifteen lower-tier municipalities and representing almost five million people, approximately 10% of Canada's population.

To learn more about TRCA, visit trca.ca.

Media Contact

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afiya.jilani@trca.ca

E. A WORD ABOUT THE SCIENCE CENTRE FROM ITS ARCHITECT MORIYAMA

Published in The Toronto Star, May 3, 2023:

As the architect and planner for the original Ontario Science Centre, I recall a few facts on the project and additionally some comments.

First, the science centre was a provincial project to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Canada. It opened to grand success in 1970, 53 years ago.

It was conceived by under the brilliant, legendary foresight of Conservative Premier John Robarts, who requested “an institute of international stature.”

Robarts directed an absolutely new cultural institution outside the downtown core, giving a cultural focus to the neglected north east sector of the city. It became a grand global tourism centre and its informal “hands-on” approach made it a famous education centre for the young and the old.

As architects we were instructed to use concrete to last far beyond 100 years. We guaranteed that with proper maintenance the life of this project will last far beyond 250 years.

More than 3,000 new and old science centres and museums worldwide have acknowledged they owe a debt to the Ontario Science Centre and its hands-on learning.

Once COVID-19 is over and with the new subway terminal at its doorstep, visitor numbers will increase – especially when new attractive programs and exhibits are added.

Raymond Moriyama, Toronto