

Scarborough Community Council
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: SC32.5 Guildwood Village Neighbourhood Character Guidelines

Dear Chair and Members of Scarborough Community Council,

On behalf of the Masonry Council of Ontario (MCO), we are writing to express our support for the proposed Guildwood Village Neighbourhood Character Guidelines and to commend City Planning staff for preparing a thoughtful framework that recognizes and protects the unique architectural and landscape character of this important Toronto neighbourhood.

The guidelines appropriately identify the defining features of Guildwood Village, including its low-profile built form, horizontal architectural expression, mature tree canopy, generous setbacks, and use of high-quality, earth-toned masonry materials such as brick and stone. In particular, we appreciate the document's recognition that masonry materials contribute significantly to the cohesive and enduring visual identity of the neighbourhood.

As the City continues to accommodate growth and incremental intensification, these guidelines provide an important opportunity to ensure that new development respects and reinforces the established character of Guildwood Village. We encourage Council and staff to consider strengthening the language throughout the document related to masonry character and material durability wherever possible.

Masonry is not only foundational to the aesthetic identity of Guildwood Village and many of Toronto's historic neighbourhoods, but also delivers substantial long-term lifecycle benefits that align with the City's sustainability and resilience objectives. Clay brick and stone are durable, low-maintenance materials with service lives measured in generations rather than decades. Masonry buildings typically require fewer replacement cycles, contribute less material waste over time, and provide long-term embodied carbon advantages through longevity and durability. In addition, masonry construction offers excellent fire resistance, thermal performance, acoustic separation, and climate resilience — all increasingly important considerations for complete and sustainable communities.

Toronto's identity has long been tied to masonry construction and local brick manufacturing. The historic Don Valley Brick Works supplied many of the bricks that built Toronto landmarks including Massey Hall, Casa Loma, Osgoode Hall, the Ontario Legislature, and countless residential neighbourhoods throughout the city. This tradition remains alive today. Notably, 100% of the clay brick manufactured in Canada is produced in Brampton and Burlington, Ontario, meaning masonry products specified in Toronto continue to support local manufacturing jobs, regional supply chains, and the broader GTA economy.

In this context, we encourage the City to further emphasize:

- the use of authentic, durable masonry materials as primary cladding;
- the long-term environmental and lifecycle performance benefits of masonry construction;
- the importance of material permanence and quality in maintaining neighbourhood character; and



- the role locally manufactured masonry products play in supporting Ontario industry and reducing transportation impacts associated with imported materials.

We believe strengthening these elements within the Guidelines would further support the City's objectives around sustainability, design excellence, climate resilience, and neighbourhood compatibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important initiative. We appreciate the City's efforts to balance neighbourhood evolution with the preservation of Guildwood Village's distinctive architectural and landscape character.

Sincerely,

Andrew Payne
Executive Director
Masonry Council of Ontario