



Toronto & East York Community Preservation Panel

Councillor Mike Layton, Chair
Toronto and East York Community Council
2nd floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

June 8, 2016

Dear Councillor Layton and Members of the Toronto and East York Community Council,

RE: TE17.27 Intention to Designate Under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act - 43 Millwood Road

The Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel (TEYCPP) strongly support the vote by the Toronto Preservation Board and the Heritage Preservation Services' recommendation that the City Council include the property at 43 Millwood Road – the Davisville Junior Public School – on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register and also supports the recommendation that City Council state its intention to designate the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

As TDSB and the neighbourhood consider their options to address their community needs, the Statement of Significance (Attachment 3) is timely and welcomed in clarifying the cultural heritage value and heritage attributes of the building.

The Davisville Junior Public School is not only an excellent example of the Modern Expressionist architectural style and the work of noted architect Peter Pennington, but also physically reflects a fundamental change in thinking by the Toronto District School Board – one that recognizes that architecture and a well-designed environment can positively transform a student's learning experience and enhance the potential of their education. The cultural heritage value of this school is further reinforced by the official recognition of other schools from this architect and era, such as the Lord Lansdowne School which has been listed since 1983.

The continued occupation of this site by the Davisville School for 156 years (circa 1860) further adds to the historic significance not only to the site, but to the whole Davisville neighbourhood. The Panel understands and recognizes the community's desire for updated educational facilities and looks forward to the innovative, creative and sensitive solutions that arise to restore and adapt this great structure for 21st century educational practices, student needs and community use.

With consideration for the above, it is the opinion of the TEYCPP that the building meets not just one, but all three criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest – Design/Physical Value, Historic/Associative Value, and Contextual Value – as set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

On a personal note, as a neighbouring Millwood Road resident, I enjoy walking past the school every day on my way to and from work. The playful and contemporary nature of the building – particularly the roof line, fenestration and contrasting brick – are refreshing against many of the other banal and lacklustre buildings that make up our streetscape. Also, considering the level of development proposed for rest of the south corner of Yonge Street and Millwood Road and the opposite northern corner, the preservation of the Davisville Junior School will be an important character anchor and consistent point of reference for the neighbourhood.

Kind regards,



Sarah Hill
Vice-Chair Midtown
Toronto & East York Community Preservation Panel
Email: s.hill@teycpp.ca

CC: Councillor Josh Matlow (Ward 22); Ellen Devlin, Secretariat, Toronto and East York Community Council; Janette Gerrard, Secretariat, Toronto Preservation Board; Marilyn Toft, Secretariat, Toronto City Council; Yasmina Shamji, Support Assistant, Toronto Heritage Preservation Services; Susana Miranda, Secretariat, Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel