

Inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register – 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West (Ontario Place)

Date: April 12, 2019
To: Toronto Preservation Board
From: Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services, Urban Design, City
Planning
Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina Fort York

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council include the property at 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West (Ontario Place) on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register. The property is located on Toronto's western waterfront, on the south side of Lake Shore Boulevard West opposite Exhibition Place.

Ontario Place, opened in 1971, was conceived by the former Premier, the Honorable John Robarts, as a showplace for the province's identity, culture and economic growth. Ontario Place was designed as an inclusive public entertainment, educational and recreational space and programmed to reflect the province's people, culture and geography, as well as a vision for the province's future. It featured innovative new landforms and structures built on Toronto's waterfront, reshaping the relationship between the urban landscape and Lake Ontario.

Ontario Place, a cultural heritage landscape, remains a rare and intact Modernist expression of integrated architecture, engineering and landscape architecture that honours and incorporates the natural setting of Lake Ontario. It was a remarkable and ambitious achievement of late twentieth century architecture, and holds an enduring influence in Toronto, the province and internationally. The recently completed Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail have also been evaluated and included in the Statement of Significance.

The inclusion of 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West on the City's Heritage Register would identify the property's cultural heritage values and heritage attributes. Properties on the Heritage Register will be conserved and maintained in accordance with the Official Plan Heritage Policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services, Urban Design, City Planning recommends to the Toronto Preservation Board that:

1. City Council include the property at 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West (Ontario Place) on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register in accordance with the Statement of Significance (Reasons for Inclusion), attached as Attachment 4 to the report (April 12, 2019) from the Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services, Urban Design, City Planning.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

On March 5th at the Public Consultation on Ontario Place, the Toronto East York Community Council Subcommittee on Ontario Place directed the Senior Manager, Urban Design/Heritage, City Planning, to evaluate and report on the potential inclusion of 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West (Ontario Place) to the City of Toronto's Heritage Register on the April 30, 2019 meeting of the Toronto Preservation Board and to the May 14, 2019 meeting of City Council.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.TW1.2>

COMMENTS

When it opened in 1971, Ontario Place, with its striking, white, High-Tech Modernist tridetic dome and series of five diamond-shaped pods suspended on pylons over Lake Ontario, became an instant landmark, attracting international acclaim and multiple awards. Connected by glazed bridges and surrounded by a cluster of man-made landscaped islands, the complex included the first permanent IMAX cinema located in the Cinesphere, the Forum amphitheatre with its hyperbolic paraboloid roof canopy, a children's play area and a marina. Its innovative design is representative of the post-war spirit of optimism founded upon the social, technological and economic renewal and growth that underpinned government investment in infrastructure as well as educational and cultural facilities. Inspired by the success of Expo '67, Ontario Place was initiated by Premier John Robarts and intended to be a 'provincial showcase' of the province's history, culture, economy and peoples. The complex was designed by the award-winning architecture firm of Craig Zeidler Strong, led by Eberhard Zeidler, Officer of the Order of Canada and Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) Gold Medalist and the landscape architecture firm, Michael Hough & Associates, led by Mr. Hough,

recipient of the 1991 City of Toronto Arts Award for Architecture and Design and 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architecture.

Over the past half-century, Ontario Place has undergone a series of transformations including the construction of Ontario North in 1980, the 1994 demolition of the Forum and its replacement with the Budweiser Stage, the creation of Ontario's first water park, and the transformation of the Pod exhibition spaces into private event facilities. The Province closed the waterfront park in 2012 except for the Marina, Budweiser Stage, and the parking lot.

New plans were set in place for its revitalization and potential redevelopment and the first projects completed under this initiative included the refurbished Cinesphere and the new Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail, designed by landscape architects LANDInc with West 8. The park and trail, occupying a former staff parking lot on the East Island of Ontario Place, opened in 2017.

The cultural heritage value of Ontario Place received international recognition in 1994 from the International Committee for the Documentation and Conservation of Buildings of the Modern Movement (DOCOMOMO International) and was listed on its inventory of significant international works of the Modern Movement. In 2014, the Province of Ontario recognized the cultural heritage value of the property by identifying it as a cultural heritage landscape of provincial significance on the List of Provincial Heritage Properties under Part III, Section 1 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The province has also added Ontario Place to the list of prescribed public bodies under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, making it subject to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties*. Ontario Place is to maintain the provincial heritage property through continuous care, guided by the property's Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Strategic Conservation Plan.

A substantial portion of the property is owned by the Province of Ontario and is therefore exempt from designation by the City of Toronto under the Ontario Heritage Act. However, the property as a whole can be included on the City's Heritage Register. As Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail were completed after the 2014 provincial heritage evaluation, City staff have researched and evaluated these new additions to Ontario Place and have determined that they also meet Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, which the City applies when considering properties for inclusion on its Heritage Register. The criteria recognizes and allows municipalities to conserve important twentieth-century places and in particular the heritage of the Modern era. This is an area of conservation where future and past intersect, where creator and conservator may come together, and where we have better access than ever before to firsthand knowledge of why and how places like Ontario Place were created.

As the owner of the adjacent Exhibition Place, the City of Toronto has a long-standing interest in the future of Ontario Place. Together, these facilities form an important component of the waterfront. The City's interests in and vision for the future of both properties are described in the Central Waterfront Secondary Plan (CWSP).

On January 18, 2019, the Government of Ontario announced the future release of an Expression of Interest (EOI) to seek development concepts for Ontario Place. The announcement outlined specific parameters for development. The provincial government's stated vision for Ontario Place is to create "a world-class year round destination that will attract local, provincial and international visitors - with potential landmarks such as sports and entertainment attractions and retail."

In advance of the EOI's expected issuance in the spring of 2019, the Toronto and East York Community Council established a Subcommittee on Ontario Place in order to solicit feedback from the public regarding their views and thoughts on the future of Ontario Place, and on the principles that should inform the redevelopment of the site. The Subcommittee's first public meeting was held on March 5, 2019. At the meeting City staff were directed to evaluate the site for inclusion on the City's Heritage Register, to consider opportunities for coordinated planning and urban design initiatives with Exhibition Place and to consult with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation on the development of principles for revitalization.

After assessing the feedback received from the public, and in consideration of Council direction, City staff are of the opinion that the current CWSP Core Principles remain an appropriate revitalization framework. It is recommended that these principles be refined and expanded to reflect Ontario Place's unique context, comments from the public, the results of Indigenous consultation and the cultural heritage values and attributes contained in the proposed Statement of Significance.

A location map (Attachment 1), photographs (Attachment 2) and the Province of Ontario Statement of Cultural Heritage Value (Attachment 3) are attached. Staff have completed the Research and Summary Report (Attachment 5) which includes the evaluation of Trillium Park and the William G. Davis trail for inclusion as they were both constructed after the Provincial evaluation of the property. Through this work it has been determined that Trillium Park with the William G. Davis Trail have design, associative and contextual value.

Winner of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Award of Excellence in 2018, Trillium Park has design value as an ecologically-based urban park whose principles of sustainability focus on diversity of indigenous species, a response to climate change, cultural inclusivity with an emphasis on the historic role of Indigenous peoples in the landscape as well as the social and physical well-being of all visitors. Completed in 2017, the park has associative and historic value in its representation of the diverse characteristics of Ontario's landscape, contributing to the original vision of Ontario Place as a provincial showcase. It is also associated with Ontario Premiers John Robarts, who initiated the project in 1968 and William G. Davis, who opened Ontario Place in 1971. It is associated with Michael Hough landscape architect (1928-2013), professor in the faculty of Environmental Studies at York University who founded the Department of Landscape Architecture at University of Toronto. He designed Ontario Place, Scarborough College, the University College Quad and Earth Sciences Courtyards at University of Toronto and numerous pioneering applications of ecologically based landscape design. It is also valued for its association with Walter Kehm of LANDInc, the senior landscape architect for Trillium Park, former Director of the University of Guelph's

School of Landscape Architecture and a passionate advocate for ecological urban landscapes which are responsive to local climate and culture.

Contextually the park is valued for the historic role of Indigenous peoples presence and involvement in shaping Southern Ontario's landscape with the Moccasin Identifier carvings, selection of Muskoka granite with its various striations and colours and the bridge which crosses the ravine and for its contribution to extending the original waterfront landscaped setting of Ontario Place and as it provides a richly designed and meaningful destination on the Martin Goodman Trail.

Based upon the Provincial Statement of Significance and this additional research and evaluation, staff have determined that the property at 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act that the City also applies when considering properties for inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register under all three categories of design, historic and contextual values.

The Statement of Significance (Attachment 4) for 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West comprises the Reasons for Inclusion.

CONTACT

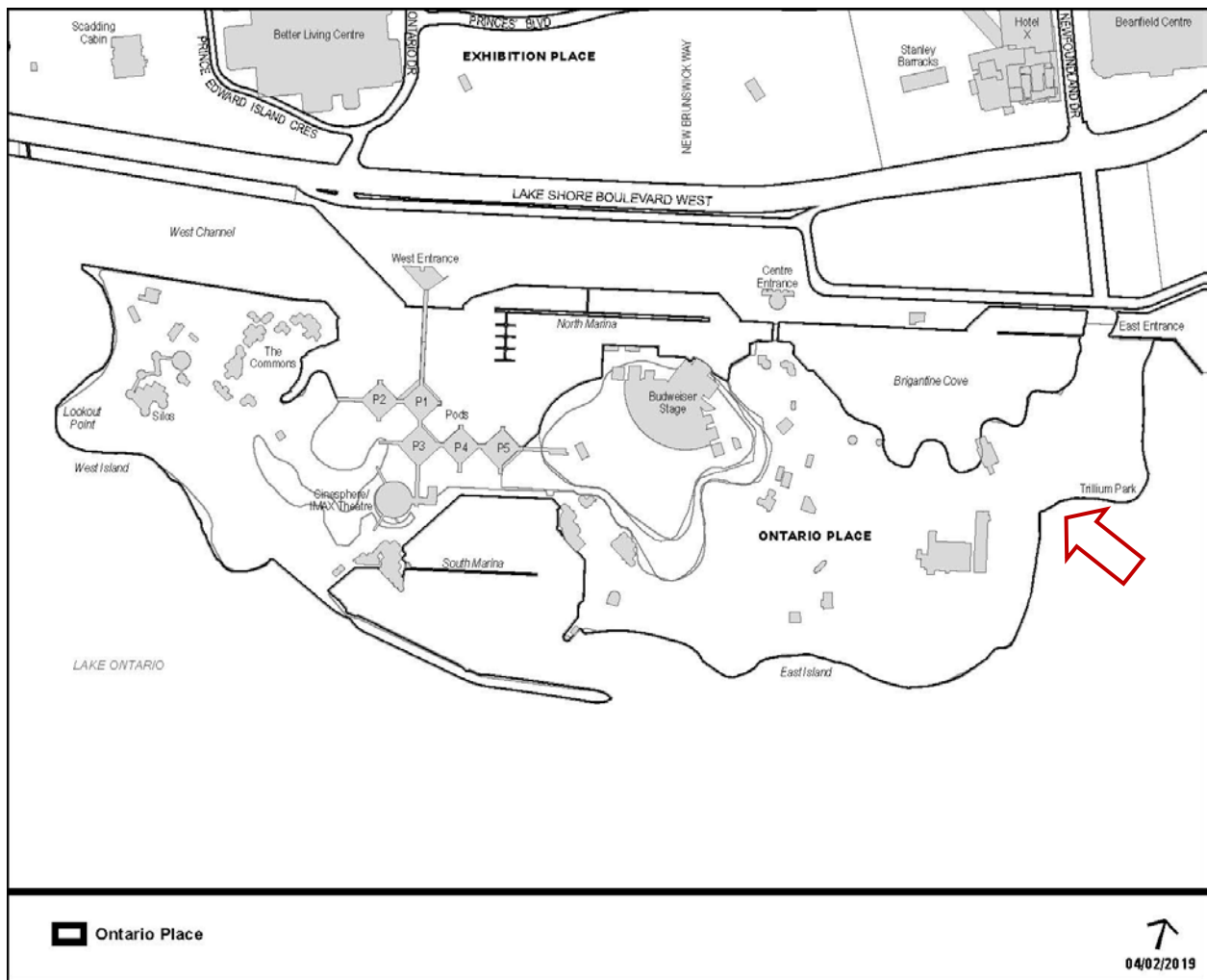
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SIGNATURE

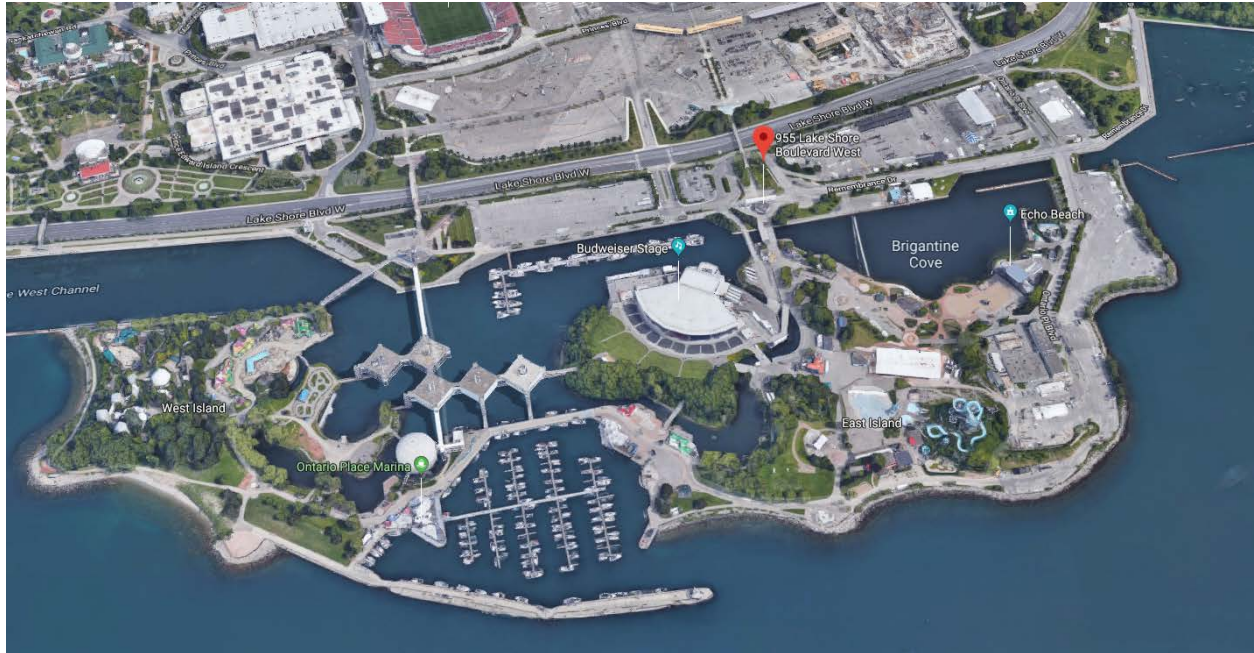
Mary MacDonald, MA, CAHP
Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services, Urban Design
City Planning

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Location Map
Attachment 2 – Photographs
Attachment 3 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value - 2014 (Reasons for Inclusion on the List of Provincial Heritage Properties) - 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West
Attachment 4 – Statement of Significance - 2019 (Reasons for Inclusion) - 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West
Attachment 5 – Heritage Property Research and Summary Report



This location map is for information purposes only; shows the extent of Ontario Place including the West Island, the 5 diamond shaped pods and the Cinesphere, the Marina, Budweiser Stage, East Island and Echo Beach. The arrow marks the location of Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail. (City Planning, 2019)



Aerial View of Ontario Place prior to the completion of the William G. Davis Trail and Trillium Park, showing the West Island, the five square exhibition pods, now known as the Atlantis Entertainment Centre, the Cinesphere, the Marina, Budweiser Stage and East Island with Echo Beach. (Google Chrome, 2019)



Ontario Place looking south-east and showing the Pods (centre) set over the water, linked by bridges and the Cinesphere contained in the triodetic dome. (HPS, 2015)



Entry to the park with the "Ravine" and the Moccasin Identifier" (Left, HPS, 2019)
Pavilion and Romantic Garden looking south-east towards the Toronto Islands
(Right, HPS, 2019)



Campfire Circle with fire pit looking south along the shore line (HPS, 2019)
Wildflower species and monarch butterflies (Right, HPS, 2018)



View of the waterfront trail and the moraine bluff looking south (HPS, 2019)



View of Trillium Park, with the Pavilion, Romantic Garden looking north-east towards the City. (LANDInc, 2018)



Photograph showing the variety of tree species (HPS, 2018)



View of the Summit and the distant downtown core (HPS, 2018)

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE (2014)
955 LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD WEST (ONTARIO PLACE)
REASONS FOR INCLUSION ON THE LIST OF PROVINCIAL HERITAGE
PROPERTIES (Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport)

Description of the property

Ontario Place is located off the shore of Lake Ontario on Toronto's western waterfront. The 63 hectare land and water lot property (28 hectares land, 35 hectares water) is located directly south of Exhibition Place. The site consists of two artificially-made islands linked to the waterfront via a network of structures (entry plazas, pedestrian bridges and pathways) and the public entry gates from the waterfront trail. The core area features the iconic Cinesphere and Pavilion, as well as the crystalline forms of three village clusters set within the prominent naturalized landscape, canals, lagoons and a centrally-located marina. The property boundary extends 330 metres west and 25 metres east from the edges of the islands into Lake Ontario, north to Lake Shore Boulevard and south to the end of the marina breakwater.

Ontario Place was listed in 1994 by the International Committee for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings of the Modern Movement (DOCOMOMO International) on its inventory of significant international works of the Modern Movement.

Vision statement

Ontario Place, opened in 1971, was conceived by former Premier, the Honorable John Robarts, as a showplace for the province's identity, culture and economic growth. Ontario Place was designed as an inclusive public entertainment, educational and recreational space and programmed to reflect the province's people, culture and geography, as well as a vision for the province's future.

Ontario Place featured innovative new landforms and structures built on Toronto's waterfront, reshaping the relationship between the urban landscape and Lake Ontario. Ontario Place, a cultural heritage landscape, remains a rare and intact Modernist expression of integrated architecture, engineering and landscape that honours and incorporates the natural setting of Lake Ontario. It was a remarkable and ambitious achievement of late twentieth century architecture, and holds an enduring influence in Toronto, the province and internationally.

Heritage Value

Ontario Place is a cultural heritage landscape of provincial significance.

Contextual and Historical Value

Ontario Place, a significant provincial public works project of the Canadian Centennial era, reflects a time of prosperity and social development in Ontario which began after the Second World War. The development occurred at a time of dynamic economic expansion and urbanization, of optimism and confidence, of new intellectual and cultural

life within the province. Ontario Place is a response to the success of the temporary Ontario Pavilion at Expo' 67 in Montreal, as well as a reflection of the provincial government's commitment to investing in cultural identity through public entertainment and educational facilities and public agencies including but not limited to the Ontario Science Centre and Fort William Historical Park.

The site in its entirety — integrating innovative approaches to planning, landscape, architecture, engineering and educational programming — represents a bold visionary statement of its time realized at a scale and quality that earned international recognition and admiration. Ontario Place has strong associations with the politicians and civil servants who shaped the idea and provided the resources, and with the designers who translated those ideas into reality. Associations are held with former Premier, the Honourable John Robarts, and provincial civil servant Jim Ramsay, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada gold medalist architect Eberhard Zeidler, landscape architect Michael Hough and play structure architect and pioneer Eric McMillan.

As an entertainment, educational and recreational centre serving the entire province, Ontario Place has attracted millions of visitors since its opening in 1971 and has remained a familiar and iconic landmark for many Ontarians and visitors. The site was intended as a place for a diverse and multi-generational audience experience.

Design value

Ontario Place is a rare surviving example of a designed cultural heritage landscape within the international modernist movement of the late twentieth century. The site created a uniquely integrated environment for entertainment, education and recreation. The core area of Ontario Place (see map) remains relatively intact and embodies the modernist design vision of interconnected geometries. This is demonstrated in the megastructure forms of both the Cinesphere and Pods with their interconnecting walkways, as well as the more modest crystalline modular forms of the three village clusters, designed as gathering places for visitors. These structures are set against an ecological landscape of naturalized landforms, a range of water features, including canals, lagoons and a marina, offering various intimate and compelling views within its designed space.

This particular combination of elements constitutes one of the most important expressions of late twentieth century modernism in the history of the province — the naturalized landforms, on the cutting edge of new ecological design interests; the Cinesphere with its triodetic dome and pioneering IMAX technology; the Pavilion, comprised of five interconnected pods with their tensile structural arrangement; the Forum and the Children's Village play area with their new forms of public engagement (both no longer in existence); and the overall programming designed to change the public perception of Toronto's waterfront.

Heritage Attributes

There exist a number of contextual and design attributes on the site that individually and collectively contribute to the provincial cultural heritage value of Ontario Place. The historical values are woven throughout the site and landscape, and expressed in the attributes described below.

Contextual attributes

The following attributes are expressed throughout the site, and continue to represent the original ideas behind the creation of Ontario Place:

- Bold redefinition of the relationship between city and lake, with an integrated approach to architecture, engineering, landscape and waterscape
- Innovative integration of design and programming – the landforms, structures and plazas that reflect the vision of Ontario Place as a centre for recreation, education, entertainment and public gathering
- A public works project dedicated to the people of Ontario as commemorated in a plaque at the main entrance
- A geometric and technologically innovative series of interconnected structures, including buildings, bridges and pods set against the naturalized surroundings of mature trees and native plant species
- The shaping of the landforms to create an integrated series of lagoons and canals, as well as naturalized shorelines open to the larger expanse of Lake Ontario, creating both close-range and distant relationships between land and water
- Pathways with constructed views into and out of the site, to and from the urban landscape to the north and to the open expanse of Lake Ontario
- The views within the core area, as part of the various pathways for movement on land, on water and within the megastructure components

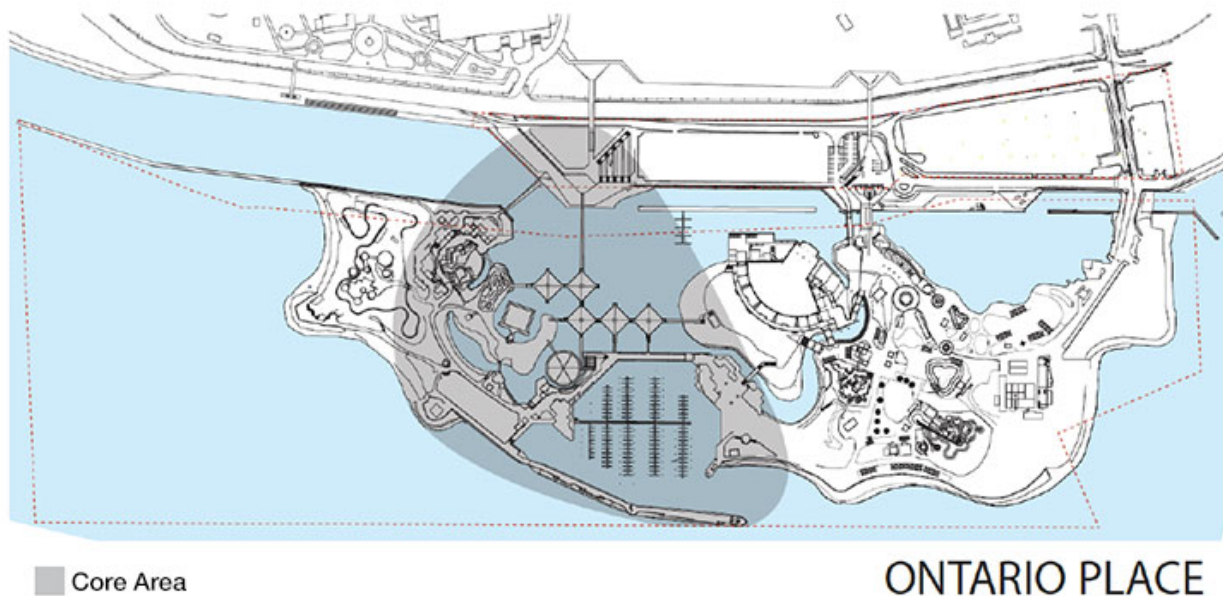
Design attributes

The following attributes are located in the core area of Ontario Place and represent the innovative and iconic elements of the site as reflected in the structures, the integration of the architecture with the landscape and the water features:

- The highly geometric architecture of the Pavilion, the Cinesphere and the connecting walkways and bridges, composed of glass and steel detailing (such as columns, beams, braces) in modern architectural style
- The triodetic structural system of the Cinesphere with its iconic spherical shape and screen design to host the innovative IMAX projection system
- The Pavilion, with its five mast-hung pods, each projecting up out of the open water and connected by long-span suspended walkways
- The flexible interiors and usable roof spaces of the five pods
- The public gathering spaces connected to the three village clusters, with their modernist crystalline modular forms
- The varying scale of the complementary built structures — from the prominent Cinesphere to the more modest village clusters

- A public entrance with a connection to two west bridges and the presence of Ontario Place branding/wayfinding signage
- Designed localized microclimates, using landscaping, trees and indigenous plant materials
- The walkways, trails, lagoons and the two west bridges (linking to the west island and the Pavilion) that connect discrete activity areas throughout the site and encourage a pedestrian experience
- The design of the breakwaters, fashioned from sunken lake ships
- The water features— the marina, the pavilion bay, the inner channel — that help shape entirely new landforms, and that provide a setting for the movement of small watercraft

Map of Heritage Place



Note: For illustrative & discussion purposes only

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 2019
955 LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD WEST
(ONTARIO PLACE INCLUDING TRILLIUM PARK/WILLIAM G. DAVIS TRAIL)
REASONS FOR INCLUSION

ATTACHMENT 4

Ontario Place with Trillium Park with the William G. Davis Trail, located on the property at 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West (Ontario Place) is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, which the City applies when considering properties for inclusion on the Register, under all three categories of design/physical, historical/associative and contextual values.

Description

Ontario Place is located off the shore of Lake Ontario on Toronto's western waterfront. The 63 hectare land and water lot property (28 hectares land, 35 hectares water) is located directly south of Exhibition Place. The site consists of two artificially-made islands linked to the waterfront via a network of structures (entry plazas, pedestrian bridges and pathways) and the public entry gates from the waterfront trail. The core area features the iconic Cinesphere and Pavilion, as well as the crystalline forms of three village clusters set within the prominent naturalized landscape, canals, lagoons and a centrally-located marina. Trillium Park with the William G. Davis Trail is located on a 7.5 acre long strip of land on south-east edge of the East Island at Ontario Place and opened in 2017. The property boundary extends 330 metres west and 25 metres east from the edges of the islands into Lake Ontario, north to Lake Shore Boulevard and south to the end of the marina breakwater.

Ontario Place was recognized by the Government of Ontario as a cultural heritage landscape of provincial significance and included the property on the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's List of Provincial Heritage Properties in 2014.

Ontario Place was listed in 1994 by the International Committee for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings of the Modern Movement (DOCOMOMO International) on its inventory of significant international works of the Modern Movement.

In 2018, the Trillium Park received the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects' Award of Excellence and in 2017, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and the National Trust for Canada awarded the Prix du XXe siècle for the Ontario Place – Cinesphere and Pods for being a landmark of national significance and an enduring work of Canadian architecture.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Ontario Place is a cultural heritage landscape of provincial significance. Opened in 1971, it was conceived by former Premier, the Honorable John Robarts, as a showplace for the province's identity, culture and economic growth. Ontario Place was designed as an inclusive public entertainment, educational and recreational space and programmed to reflect the province's people, culture and geography, as well as a vision

for the province's future. Ontario Place featured innovative new landforms and structures built on Toronto's waterfront, reshaping the relationship between the urban landscape and Lake Ontario. Ontario Place, a cultural heritage landscape, remains a rare and intact Modernist expression of integrated architecture, engineering and landscape that honours and incorporates the natural setting of Lake Ontario. It was a remarkable and ambitious achievement of late twentieth century architecture, and holds an enduring influence in Toronto, the province and internationally.

Ontario Place is a rare surviving example of a designed cultural heritage landscape within the international modernist movement of the late twentieth century. The site created a uniquely integrated environment for entertainment, education and recreation. The core area of Ontario Place (see map) remains relatively intact and embodies the modernist design vision of interconnected geometries. This is demonstrated in the megastructure forms of both the Cinesphere and Pods with their interconnecting walkways, as well as the more modest crystalline modular forms of the three village clusters, designed as gathering places for visitors. These structures are set against an ecological landscape of naturalized landforms, a range of water features, including canals, lagoons and a marina, offering various intimate and compelling views within its designed space.

This particular combination of elements constitutes one of the most important expressions of late twentieth century modernism in the history of the province — the naturalized landforms, on the cutting edge of new ecological design interests; the Cinesphere with its triodetic dome and pioneering IMAX technology; the Pavilion, comprised of five interconnected pods with their tensile structural arrangement; the Forum and the Children's Village play area with their new forms of public engagement (both no longer in existence); and the overall programming designed to change the public perception of Toronto's waterfront.

Located on the East Island of Ontario Place, Trillium Park has high design value as an ecological urban park based upon principles of sustainability which are evident in its design to prevent flooding contributing to Toronto's resiliency, in the use of indigenous species which will promote the return of wildlife, birds, bees and butterflies and in its integration of community in achieving the design, most importantly as it consulted with Indigenous community representatives. The design is also valued as it contributes to the original purpose of Ontario Place, which was to be a showcase of the province, through its representation of typical Ontario geological landscape features, ravines, moraine bluffs, drumlins as well cultural heritage landscape features which acknowledge the long historic presence of Indigenous people through Moccasin Identifier carvings, marker trees, sassafras and other plants which had traditional use and a floating dock for arrival by canoe.

Trillium Park displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit in its design and layout of the William G. Davis trail which within a small area manages to lead both cyclists and pedestrians through a diversity of landscape experiences representative of Ontario including, broad expanses of open space, enclosed and sheltered glades and paths, summits, outcrops, caves, ravines and shorelines, with a variety of species attuned to seasonal variety, colour and texture through 1,240 native trees, 15,000

shrubs and wildflowers and 1,700 tonnes of rock, combined with a range of views of the City and Lake Ontario.

The park displays a high degree of scientific achievement in its construction of an 85m long rock wall representing a moraine bluff which was designed and constructed with local masons in a quarry in Dwight Ontario and then, through the use of topographic surveys and GPS markings, accurately reconstructed to within a millimetre at Trillium Park.

Contextual and Historical Value

Ontario Place, a significant provincial public works project of the Canadian Centennial era, reflects a time of prosperity and social development in Ontario which began after the Second World War. The development occurred at a time of dynamic economic expansion and urbanization, of optimism and confidence, of new intellectual and cultural life within the province.

Ontario Place is a response to the success of the temporary Ontario Pavilion at Expo' 67 in Montreal, as well as a reflection of the provincial government's commitment to investing in cultural identity through public entertainment and educational facilities and public agencies including but not limited to the Ontario Science Centre and Fort William Historical Park.

The site in its entirety — integrating innovative approaches to planning, landscape, architecture, engineering and educational programming — represents a bold visionary statement of its time realized at a scale and quality that earned international recognition and admiration. Ontario Place has strong associations with the politicians and civil servants who shaped the idea and provided the resources, and with the designers who translated those ideas into reality. Associations are held with former Premier, the Honourable John Robarts, and provincial civil servant Jim Ramsay, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada gold medalist architect Eberhard Zeidler, award winning landscape architect Michael Hough and play structure architect and pioneer Eric McMillan and landscape architect, Walter Kehm, who with LANDInc and West 8, as the senior landscape architect, designed Trillium Park located on the East Island of Ontario Place. In the naming of the trail, it is also associated with William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario (1971-1985) who opened Ontario Place in 1971.

As an entertainment, educational and recreational centre serving the entire province, Ontario Place has attracted millions of visitors since its opening in 1971 and has remained a familiar and iconic landmark for many Ontarians and visitors. The site was intended as a place for a diverse and multi-generational audience experience. The later addition, Trillium Park has historic value for its association with Ontario Place whose creation as a showplace for Ontario's history, cultural and economic growth and to reaffirm provincial identity was initiated by Premier John Robarts in 1968. The park has value as it extends the original goal through yielding information about the landscape of Ontario, its geographic formations, plant and wildlife species and the role of Indigenous peoples within that landscape.

Trillium Park is important in supporting the naturalized landscape character and use of indigenous Ontario plant species at Ontario Place which was initiated by Michael Hough and Associates in the original 1969 design. In representing the historic presence of Indigenous Peoples in the Province and especially on the waterfront of Lake Ontario and adding a landscaped park to the Eastern Island of Ontario Place the park is historically linked to its surroundings. With its various landmark landscapes, the ravine with its bridge, the moraine bluff and Hough's Glade, the Park is a landmark on the waterfront Martin Goodman Trail.

There exist a number of design and contextual attributes on the site that individually and collectively contribute to the cultural heritage value and provincial significance of Ontario Place. The historical values are woven throughout the site and landscape, and expressed in the attributes described below.

Design Attributes

The following attributes are located in the core area of Ontario Place and represent the innovative and iconic elements of the site as reflected in the structures, the integration of the architecture with the landscape and the water features:

- The highly geometric architecture of the Pavilion, the Cinesphere and the connecting walkways and bridges, composed of glass and steel detailing (such as columns, beams, braces) in modern architectural style
- The triodetic structural system of the Cinesphere with its iconic spherical shape and screen design to host the innovative IMAX projection system
- The Pavilion, with its five mast-hung pods, each projecting up out of the open water and connected by long-span suspended walkways
- The flexible interiors and usable roof spaces of the five pods
- The public gathering spaces connected to the three village clusters, with their modernist crystalline modular forms
- The varying scale of the complementary built structures — from the prominent Cinesphere to the more modest village clusters
- A public entrance with a connection to two west bridges and the presence of Ontario Place branding/wayfinding signage
- Designed localized microclimates, using landscaping, trees and indigenous plant materials
- The walkways, trails, lagoons and the two west bridges (linking to the west island and the Pavilion) that connect discrete activity areas throughout the site and encourage a pedestrian experience
- The design of the breakwaters, fashioned from sunken lake ships
- The water features— the marina, the pavilion bay, the inner channel — that help shape entirely new landforms, and that provide a setting for the movement of small watercraft

Contextual Attributes

The following attributes are expressed throughout the site, and continue to represent the original ideas behind the creation of Ontario Place:

- Bold redefinition of the relationship between city and lake, with an integrated approach to architecture, engineering, landscape and waterscape
- Innovative integration of design and programming – the landforms, structures and plazas that reflect the vision of Ontario Place as a centre for recreation, education, entertainment and public gathering
- A public works project dedicated to the people of Ontario as commemorated in a plaque at the main entrance
- A geometric and technologically innovative series of interconnected structures, including buildings, bridges and pods set against the naturalized surroundings of mature trees and native plant species
- The shaping of the landforms to create an integrated series of lagoons and canals, as well as naturalized shorelines open to the larger expanse of Lake Ontario, creating both close-range and distant relationships between land and water
- Pathways with constructed views into and out of the site, to and from the urban landscape to the north and to the open expanse of Lake Ontario
- The views within the core area, as part of the various pathways for movement on land, on water and within the megastructure components

Trillium Park attributes

The following attributes are expressed throughout the park, and continue to represent the original ideas behind the creation of Ontario Place:

- The modified landscape on the 7.5 acre strip of land with its raised levels and constructed forms including the ravine, the moraine bluff, Hough's Glade, the summit and the elevated portions of the William G. Davis trail
- The shoreline with its line of boulders acting as a protective breakwater along the edge
- The Hough's Glade with its circle of sitting-height rocks and surrounding planting of indigenous species to create the glade
- The "ravine" with its Moccasin Identifier carvings, selection of Muskoka granite with its various striations and colours and the bridge which crosses the ravine
- The two large boulders just south east of the ravine and bridge carved with the words "Walk Gently On The Land" and "Marche en douceur sur la terre"
- The grass lawn and open-air pavilion located at the Romantic Garden
- To the north-west of the pavilion, the terraced slope with the amphitheatre-style seating creating by long granite boulders of diverse size and colour
- The campfire circle with its metal dish fire pit, circle of sitting boulders, and ground surface of rocks with finer-grained stones indicating pathways around the circle
- The tall boulders adjacent to the campfire circle including "Observation Rock" which is drilled to have a telescopic view of the CN Tower

- The "moraine bluff" constructed of granite boulders with caves, grottos, perches and outcrops and passways
- The layout of the William G. Davis trail as it circulates from the northern entrance, along the eastern and southern lakeshore edge and returning along the western edge of the park including the smaller trail loops to the bridge and pavilion and to the Hough's Glade
- The Summit - a long grass covered hill which represents the highest point in the park
- The planting which includes 1,240 indigenous coniferous and deciduous trees, 15,000 shrubs and wildflowers
- The 12 marker trees of oak, basswood or sugar maple
- The West Gate with its sliding gates of triangular-shaped solid and perforated panels
- Adjacent to the causeway at the northern entry, the floating dock and its link to the shore
- At the entry, the 52-ton stone with the carving of the park's name: "Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail"
- Adjacent to the west gate, the large Georgian Bay rock on which a bronze plaque is fixed commemorating the dedication of the trail to William G. Davis in 2015

RESEARCH AND SUMMARY: 955 LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD WEST



Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail photograph showing the "Ravine" with the Moccasin Identifier carvings and the walls composed of Muskoka granite blocks. (HPS, 2019)

i. HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

Key Date	Historical Event
1968	Ontario's Premier John Robarts announces the project to build Ontario Place, south of Exhibition Place, on Lake Ontario with a sequence of man-made islands and lagoons and breakwaters, with five exhibition pods hanging from pylons buried in the lakebed, a triodetic dome containing the first permanent IMAX cinema, an open air forum and a children's play area.
1969	Ontario Place receives a Canadian Architect Award of Excellence for projects in the design stage
1971	Ontario Place is opened by Premier William G. Davis
1973	Ontario Places receives the American Iron and Steel Institute Design in Steel Citation for Excellence in Engineering
1975	Ontario Places receives the American Society of Landscape Architects Merit Award and the American Society of Interior Designers International Design Award

1976	Ontario Places receives a Design Excellence Award from the Ontario Association of Architects
1980	Ontario North - a series of pavilions focused on northern Ontario is constructed on the West Island
1994	The International Committee for the Documentation and Conservation of Buildings of the Modern Movement. (DOCOMOMO International) lists Ontario Place on its inventory of significant international works of the Modern Movement.
1994-5	The local community and DoCoMo Mo Canada oppose the demolition of the 3,000 seat forum. It is demolished and replaced by the 16,000 seat Molson Amphitheatre (as of 2017, the name was changed to Budweiser Stage) The children's play area is redeveloped with the first water park in Ontario
1999	The Ontario Association of Architects recognized the Cinesphere and the Pods with its 25 Year Award (now known as the Landmark Designation Award)
2010	Ontario Place Corporation embarks on a series of remediation projects to improve and revitalize the park including upgrading the Cinesphere
2011	Echo Beach, the open-air concert venue with a seating capacity of 5,000 is constructed to the east of the Budweiser Stage
2012	The provincial government announces the closure of the Ontario Place closed pending revitalization and redevelopment. A few facilities including the Budweiser Stage, the Atlantis private events facility and the marina remain open.
2012	Heritage Canada lists Ontario Place on its Top 10 Endangered Places List
2013	The Provincial Government announces LANDInc in partnership with West 8 as the design team for the new urban park and trail on the east island as part of the revitalization of Ontario Place
2014	The new provincial government announces its intentions to keep Ontario Place as a publically accessible park, retaining the Cinesphere and the pods and determining that condominium development will not be part of the future development. Ontario Place is recognized by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport to be a cultural heritage landscape of provincial significance.
2015	Premier Kathleen Wynne dedicates the Trillium Park Trail to William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario (1971-1985)
2015	The Pan American and Parapan American Games hold several competitive events at Ontario Place
2016	Atlantis closes its private event facility in the pods
2017	The National Trust for Canada in partnership with the Royal Architectural Institute announces Ontario Place Cinesphere and Pods and the CN Tower as recipients of the 2017 National Trust Prix du XXe Siècle
2017	Trillium Park and the William G. Davis trail open

2017	The Cinesphere re-opens with a new sound system and dual-format projection technology
2018	Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail receive the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Award of Excellence
2019	In January, the Provincial Government announces its intention to issue an Expression of Interest for proposals for the redevelopment of Ontario Place
2019	5 March, amidst public concern about the future of the Ontario Place, the Toronto and East York Community Council Subcommittee on Ontario Place holds a public consultation

As Ontario Place has already been listed as a cultural heritage landscape of Provincial significance no further research will be added here. The following research and summary will focus on an evaluation of Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail which were constructed on the East Island of Ontario Place between 2016 and 2017, after the Provincial Listing for the property was completed in 2014.

ii. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Toronto's Waterfront

When it was completed in 1971, Ontario Place fit within a long tradition of claiming the shores of Lake Ontario for the recreational, cultural and physical well-being of its people. Before European settlement, the lakeshore, the islands and the harbour they enclose was of significance as an Indigenous Peoples shoreline route between the ravines of the Humber, Don and Rouge rivers. The Anishinaabe recognized the islands as a place of well-being and brought their sick to recover there. In the late 18th century, the British selected a location on Lake Ontario with an adjacent protective harbour as a favourable site for Fort York and the Town of York. The waterfront was essential for military defense and early commercial development which saw wharves and industries line up along the shoreline and as the 19th century turned into the 20th century, railway lines, Lake Shore Boulevard and then the Gardiner Expressway reinforced the concept of the lake front as the place for transit.

The idea of the lakeshore as a place for recreation and social well-being persisted too. In 1833, York's New Town extended beyond Bathurst Street with grand avenues (Wellington Street) and squares intended for large estate homes and government institutions. The waterfront to the south was intended for leisure until the advent of the railways in the 1850s. From the 1860s the Toronto Islands were occupied by resorts, cottages and amusement parks. The Toronto Commissioners Plan of 1912 also sought to balance the requirements of industry with opportunities for recreation and health on the waterfront. The construction of breakwaters and the board walk to the west of the city promoted Sunnyside Park with the Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion and Amusement Park. In 1968, the Toronto Harbour Commission completed the Waterfront Plan for Metropolitan Toronto Planning Area which favoured increased public recreational and residential development over industrial uses on the waterfront. Ontario Place was "the first cultural parkland development to initiate the new waterfront revival by bringing

people back to celebrate the water's edge and lake, with cultural events, music, open-air amphitheatre, shops and restaurants."¹

Exhibition Place

Exhibition Place (originally known as Exhibition Park) was established in 1879 on the lakeshore and included in its grounds a waterfront promenade. The exhibition initially focused on farm products and livestock, and retains that focus at both the annual Canadian National Exhibition and the Royal Winter Fair. The exhibition evolved becoming a showcase for industry, inventions and innovations as well as arts and culture. Originally having commercial and educational purposes the exhibition evolved to include amusements, the midway, sporting competitions, music performances, military displays and the air show. In her study of exhibitions in Canada, E. A. Heaman noted that whereas in England exhibitions represented either agriculture or the entire world, in Canada exhibitions were a representation of national identity.² In 1912 the Ontario Government would emphasize provincial identity with the construction of the Ontario pavilion. The first building was replaced in 1926 with a grander building with a prominent dome that faced the west towards Lake Shore Boulevard and is known today as the Liberty Grand entertainment complex.

Ontario Place: Architecture and Landscape Design

Premier John Robarts announced the intention to create Ontario Place at the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) in August 1968. Following the successful reception of the Expo'67 Ontario Pavilion, Ontario Place would also combine innovative modernist architecture with a dramatic water setting on Lake Ontario and become a permanent showcase for the province.

Premier Robarts explained the purpose of Ontario Place: *There was a need for a place where we could examine our history, look at our cultural and economic growth and contemplate the challenges of the future. In short, we wanted a place to re-affirm our identity as Ontarians and Canadians. With all this in mind it was determined that a provincial showcase should be not only a place to reflect, but a place which reflects us the way we are. It should be an exciting place, just as Ontario is an exciting and dynamic province, a place brimming with activity and vitality. It should be cosmopolitan, to match the cosmopolitan personality of the people of Ontario.*³

Initially the program was intended to include one exhibition pavilion set on the water, however concerns about lake wave action on the structure resulted in a number of protective measures. Three lake freighters were grounded on the south side of the site to create breakwaters and construction landfill was used to create two artificial islands.

The exhibition pavilion, designed by architects, Craig Zeidler Strong, with the engineers Gordon Dowdell and Associates, appeared a series of five futuristic high-tech pods set on pylons rising out of the protected lagoon to the north of the islands and linked together by glazed bridges. With the additional area provided by the two islands, the

1 Hough, 1990, p. 196.

2 Heaman, p. 85. This is also signalled in the name "Canadian National Exhibition," and differs, for example, from the "World's Fair" held in New York.

3 John Robarts, Premier of Ontario, remarks made at the Ontario Place Countdown Reception, November 3, 1970.

program expanded adding the Cinesphere housed in the geodetic dome with the first permanent IMAX Cinema, the Children's Village, an innovative play area, designed by Eric McMillan and the 3,000 seat Forum amphitheatre with its tent-like hyperbolic paraboloid roof and on the south between the two islands, a 300-slip marina. The white clad Cinesphere and pods emerging from the lake on pylons were a dramatic landmark viewed from Lake Shore Boulevard, the Gardiner Expressway and the CNE. Ontario Place became one of the iconic features of Toronto's waterfront.

The landscape design for Ontario Place was undertaken by Michael Hough and Associates. Hough had studied at the University of Pennsylvania under Ian McHarg (1920-2000) who was opposed to the subjugation and destruction of nature and became a leading exponent for an ecological and ethical approach to landscape design and environmental planning. McHarg's influence spread through his course, 'Man and the Environment' as well as his CBS television show, started in 1960, "The House We Live In." Hough integrated these principals in his own work, favouring a sensitivity to the qualities of context through an ecological lens which promoted native species and wildlife. When Hough received an award for his work, former Toronto mayor David Crombie encapsulated his approach as follows, "He loves cities, he loves nature, he insists on a link between the two, and he'll tell you, every day if you ask him, that the regeneration of one is the salvation of the other."⁴

While the architecture of Ontario Place with its emphasis on innovative structural technology seen in the pavilion set above the water on pylons, the geodetic Cinesphere and the hyper-paraboloid roof of the Forum represented a futuristic vision, the landscape of the artificially created islands designed by Michael Hough and Associates presented not only a naturalistic approach but one which enhanced the various natural qualities of the site. For example on the southern shores, exposed to the lake winds and waves, berms and planted trees such as conifers, poplars and aspen were planted to withstand and provide shelter from the south-westerly winds and were combined with hard paving materials and concrete walls and benches. Areas around the protected lagoons featured willows and used softer material like wood for walls and benches. The plantings featured species of trees, bushes and flowers that were native to Ontario and would provide a variety of colour and blossoming throughout the year.

The design of the architecture and landscape architecture focused on a sense of discovery and the experience of the user. This is evident in the diverse means of accessing the site across the bridges over water and through a sequence of landscapes which provided constantly changing views and a series of settings which ranged from urban to natural in their materials. A confidence in the future of culture and society combined with a renewed emphasis on the importance of nature and ecology was a characteristic of architecture and landscape architecture during the 1960s and early 1970s and this quality is especially evident in Ontario Place as it was completed in 1971.

4 Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, Obituary for Michael Hough.

Ontario Place Closure 2012

After a series of alterations to Ontario Place outlined in the Timeline above and a decline in the number of visitors, the Provincial Government closed Ontario Place in 2012 with the intention of developing a strategy for its revitalization and redevelopment. At this time only the Budweiser Stage (then known as the Molson Amphitheatre), the marina and the parking lot remained open. In 2014 the newly elected provincial government under the leadership of Premier Kathleen Wynne stated their intention to keep Ontario Place as a publically accessible park which would retain the Cinesphere and the Pods and marina while seeking to revitalize the site. The Pods were under management by Atlantis as a private events venue but closed in 2016. The Cinesphere was re-opened in 2017 with upgraded dual projection technology. In 2017, the Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail located on the East Island of Ontario Place was opened to the public.

Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail

An important element of the plan for Ontario Place's revitalization was the redevelopment of the East Island former staff parking lot as a new urban park with a waterfront trail that would connect with the Martin Goodman Trail which extends along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Named for William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario from 1971-1985, who opened Ontario Place in 1971, the new trail would connect with the Martin Goodman Trail which extends along the Lake Ontario shoreline from the Humber Bay to Balmy Beach. *(Images 1-2)*

In November, 2013, the Government of Ontario announced the design team who would undertake the project as LANDInc in partnership with West 8. The project lasted for three and a half years. The first 18 months were devoted to stakeholder and community consultation which included representatives from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and involved design workshops to identify shared goals and objectives that would be captured in the design. The resultant design of the new park included the original aim of Ontario Place to showcase the province and extended it in new ways by creating a park which captured and recreated the essential geological elements of Ontario's landscape. Hough's conviction that the regeneration of nature was the salvation of the city, was given renewed meaning in the phrase that drove the design "where nature meets culture and culture is inspired by nature."⁵ In terms of culture, the project also provided a timely historical perspective which included the significance of First Nations peoples to the province and the shoreline, adapting as a mantra for the project the concept of "walk gently on the land."⁶ The particular location of Ontario Place on the waterfront which has had historic significance for First Nations as well as for contemporary experience merged in the mantra, "where land meets water."⁷ Another timely aspect of the park are its measures to address climate change through raising the level of the island and the creation of shoreline breakwaters to provide flood protection as part of the measures to make Toronto a more resilient city and to extend the palate of indigenous plant species to include those which will respond to global warming. In June 2015, Premier Kathleen Wynne officially dedicated the trail to William G. Davis. Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail opened in June 2017.

5. LANDInc, "Trillium Park Project Description"

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

The park site on the East Island is a 7.5-acre, long, narrow strip of land stretching from a causeway to the mainland in the north to a narrow terminus in the south. Along its western edge are several Ontario Place service areas and buildings and beyond, Echo Beach. The eastern edge is favoured with an extensive curvilinear shore line and Lake Ontario. The strategy for the park was to maximize the variety of experiences for pedestrians and cyclists by creating two levels - a lower level along the shoreline with a variety of narrow and wide open spaces, and upper levels that partially screened the park from the paved service areas and buildings on the west side of the island through dense plantings. The William G. Davis trail doubles through the length of the park as it circulates along both the east and west edges of the site encountering a variety of views, and different places related to Ontario's culture and geological typology.
(Image 3)

The park's design incorporated elements from the history of Ontario's landscape - the features created by the glaciers, moraines, drumlins and eskers and the shoreline of Lake Iroquois which survives most dramatically in the Scarborough bluff and ravines which are symbolic of the Toronto Carrying-Place Trails used for centuries by First Nations people.

Explaining the goals of the park design to capture Ontario's landscape, Walter Kehm, the senior landscape architect for the park provided these notes:

When we were awarded the project I started to reflect on what it means to live, grow up and work in Ontario. How would a person in Thunder Bay envision a park at Ontario Place? Or Niagara Falls.....or Kingston.....or Parry Sound.....or Goderich and Huntsville and Moosonee and..... on and on as the unique geography of the province and its peoples played out as a video in my mind. In meetings I would begin to sketch out ideas of how these myriad thoughts could be portrayed and made into 3-d reality. I envisioned native people 10,000 years ago discovering and living with nature. I wondered at their capacity to survive and thrive in our cold climate. They learned to live with nature. Nature was food.....nature was shelter....nature was medicine and nature was transportation by means of lakes and rivers and trails. A profound realization that we have lost so much of their indigenous knowledge.

The concept evolved from the landscapes that Ontarians and the native peoples learned to live in. Hudson Bay lowlands, escarpments, dunes, bluffs, drumlins, eskers, valleys, plains, beaches islands,landforms! Trillium Park is a metaphor for all these conditions as represented in the entrance ravine valley with moccasins engraved into the native granite...enframed by the placement of the natural stone with vividly coloured striations. Then the pebble beaches with erratic rocks and the expansive views over the lake.....the moraine rock bluffs with Canadian Shield rock, the upper level esker walkway and then the drumlins....lands' end.

The trails....paths.....along them three marker trees of red oak, sugar maple and basswood. Before the age of print trees shaped with right angles pointing the way to food, shelter and safety. Ceremony.....so absent from our lives today symbolically expressed by the campfire circle with markers denoting the cardinal directions. Pointing east, the stone marks where we can face the rising sun and celebrate the new day with song and ritual around

the central fire. First nations or new nations.....a place to celebrate and honour life and living.

The trees.....the plants.....representing native species found throughout the province recognizing their importance for food, habitat, and water. Shrubs with fruits and flowers recognizing the importance they have to preserve butterflies, birds and insects. Wildflower meadows with an invitation for other plants to have their deeds land there, grow and inhabit the site. The black locust have already started. I call this "conservation by design".

And now. The park is on its journey. It is there to greet and provide comfort to people every day. It has therapeutic value as one can feel daily stresses dissolve.....heart beats slow down....pulses lower.....natural fragrances and colours bring out smiles. The park is a happy place.....comforting place to sit and rest away from 600 sq./ft. condos, raging streets, busy concrete sidewalks and exhaust fumes.

After hundreds of interviews this is not a fanciful dream on yellow sketch paper, but a dream come true."⁸

The park is designed to greet the visitor travelling along the trail with a series of landscape types and experiences. Entering from the mainland to the north and crossing a causeway to the East Island, the visitor is greeted with a large 52-tonne stone carved with the park's name: "Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail." (Images 4-30) Just beyond and adjacent to the causeway is a floating dock to permit visitors travelling by canoe to land. The first representative of a characteristic element of Ontario's landscape is the Ravine which, with its sloping stone walls and bridge, acts effectively as a gateway to the park. (FIG> X) The walls are composed of tall narrow blocks of granite from Muskoka, carefully cut and matched to represent the variety of colour and striations found in pre-Cambrian Shield granite. The walls are carved on both sides with giant moccasins, as part of the provincial Moccasin Identifier Project. The etchings were developed in collaboration with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation "providing a visual reminder to celebrate and honour the history and culture of Indigenous peoples"⁹ who for thousands of years travelled along Ontario's ravine systems. Through the gateway, Lake Ontario and the Toronto Islands are glimpsed in the distance as the next steps bring the visitor to two large boulders proclaiming "Marche en douceur sur la terre/Walk gently on the earth."

The route proceeds along the Shoreline Trail which follows the water's edge and encloses on the land side a broad, grassy, open space known as the Romantic Garden, which with its shelter of "wooded lot" trees to the north and west focuses views to the south and east and will be illuminated by the rising sun. The broad lawn is occupied by the open-air Pavilion with zig-zagging copper roofs designed by West 8. To the north, the land rises upwards with a series of terraced long stone blocks creating an informal amphitheatre. The variety of colour, shape and size is meant to reflect the diversity of Ontario's population.¹⁰ To the east is a low wall of boulders providing a protective edge

8 Walter Kehm, email 30 March 2019.

9 LANDInc, Ontario Place Rep Sheets, 7 August 2018

10 LANDInc, Ontario Place Rep Sheets, 7 August 2018

along the shoreline. As the path swings around to the west, the rocky shoreline broadens out with a surface of small rocks and finer stones laid out to create pathways leading to the Campfire Circle with its large metal fire pit surrounded by large boulders for sitting. The "Observation Rock" allows visitors views through of the CN tower.

At this point on the route, the "Western Gateway," a large timber and metal structure marks an access point between Trillium Park and the rest of Ontario Place. The next Ontario landform feature is the 83 metre-long rock wall representing a moraine bluff. The bluff was designed and assembled in a quarry in Dwight Ontario, and then transported to the park where, with the use of topographic surveys and GPS markings and it was accurately reconstructed to within a millimetre. The bluff includes caves, passages, crevices, ledges for sitting and outcrops and is intended for play, and "a place of fantasy"¹¹ and exploration which can be accessed from both the upper and lower pathways.

Two more features occupy the southern tip of the park, the Hough's Glade and the Summit. The glade was designed in memory of Michael Hough, the original landscape architect for Ontario Place, who died just as Trillium Park was initiated. The glade is set at a high point, accessible by foot only and provides views of the rising sun, the lake and the city. A small circle of sitting rocks, representing Mr. Hough's immediate family, surrounded by a glade of indigenous species is meant to provide a quiet place of repose and reflection.¹² The Summit is the most southern and highest point of the park, which is symbolic of the glacially-formed drumlins found in southern Ontario. Here, visitors have a "place to sit and gather, surrender themselves to the power of the lake, the waves and the weather."¹³

Circling around the base of the summit, the path makes a hairpin turn and heads north along with western edge with upper level access to Hough's Glade and the moraine bluff providing different views especially to the north and west. This part of the path is known as the Woodland Trail which is planted with conifers and deciduous trees and a variety of shrubs which provide a sense of enclosure and canopy. As the Woodland Trail is at a higher level it provides occasional views over Ontario Place to the north and west as well as across Trillium Park to the south and east where the City, lake and Toronto Islands can also be viewed. The path takes the visitor to the bridge crossing the ravine at the entrance and then finally heads northward as it winds down to the shore providing new views of the downtown and the Toronto Islands and airport.

Along with a variety of landscape features and 1,700 tonnes of rocks that are typical of the geological features of Ontario, the park also includes 1,240 native trees and 15,000 native shrubs, grasses and ferns as well as an abundance of wildflowers including trilliums, Ontario's provincial flower. Representatives of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation contributed on the selection of plantings. Several species were included to reflect First Nations traditions; sassafras for tea, and Osage orange trees whose exceptionally straight branches made them useful for arrows and, most spectacularly, the "marker" trees which were planted along trails to indicate places of

11 Walter Kehm, site visit, 22 March 2019.

12 LANDInc, Ontario Place Rep Sheets, 7 August 2018

13 Ibid.

water, food and shelter. Walter Kehm, has said that only 63 marker trees survive in the province and 12 new ones have been planted in this park.¹⁴ Many of the species are typical for the Toronto Islands, such as poplars, or native to Ontario and include red maples, lindens, silver birch, spruce and white pine. Other species included are the rare Kentucky coffee tree, burl oaks, the blue magnolia or cucumber tree, tupelo, buckeyes, beech and hemlock which are grouped in eco-systems according to wind, location and exposure. As with Michael Hough's design for Ontario Place they are also planted to provide colour, texture and seasonal variation for the experience of the visitor.

In talking of the planting, Kehm speaks of increasing wild life species and attracting birds, butterflies and bees. Tommy Thompson Park, an earlier project of LANDInc which has informed Trillium Park's design, has seen a return of animals including beavers, mink and otters and 370 bird species. At Trillium Park, "the choice of plant species was to provide food for birds and medicine for people."¹⁵ Kehm's understanding of Ontario Place, as the 1970s version of the 1920s Sunnyside Park as an inexpensive and accessible place for people to come which offered cultural events, access to a park setting on the waterfront is underscored by a new urgency for park space created by the intensive condominium development at the adjacent Liberty Village. Beyond culture, recreation and entertainment, in a society where loneliness, alienation and displacement are increasing, Trillium Park is significant for mental and physical health. During the construction process and since the park opened in 2017, Kehm is a regular visitor himself and frequently interviews other park users on the significance of the park for them. Their answers reinforce his conviction that parks are essential for a psychological sense of well-being. Benches are planted along the routes through the park at points of special interest and adjacent to them is a minimalist bike rack. Lighting design integrates safety requirements, was designed to blend with the context and is night-sky compliant to protect migratory birds.

Landscape Architects - LANDInc and West 8

LANDInc was formed in 1999 by Patrick Morello who with his partner Walter Kehm were the lead designers on the Trillium Park Project. LANDInc is a multi-disciplinary practice combining the fields of landscape architecture, urban design, architecture, environmental planning, ecological restoration, wayfinding and immersive media that undertakes commissions around the world. Patrick Morello graduated from the Landscape Architecture program at the University of Guelph and is the principal and founder of LANDInc.

Walter Kehm studied forestry and landscape architecture at SUNY and then acquired a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from Harvard. There he was awarded the Weidenmann Fellowship to study abroad which resulted in his studying the relationship of vernacular hill towns of southern Europe and their relationship to nature and agriculture. Returning to Canada, Kehm joined Project Planning Associates, where he was a Director and undertook the master plan and landscape for the University of Guelph and several international projects in Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia and the Caribbean. It was during this time that Kehm developed his particular ecological

¹⁴ Trillium Park site visit, 22 March 2019.

¹⁵ Ibid.

approach to planning and design in relation to different climate and cultural contexts and also began work on Tommy Thompson Park. From 1986-2002 he was Director of the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph where he was also instrumental in establishing the Centre for Canadian Landscape Architecture Archives in 1998. Walter Kehm has been working on the provincial waterfront since the 1970s including Tommy Thompson Park. Following his partnership with Patrick Morello and LANDInc, Kehm has been involved with the Humber Bay Community Recreation Plan. His experience with the Tommy Thompson Park helped to inform the vision for the new urban park at Ontario Place in terms of promoting a local ecology with a diversity of wildlife and plant species that would be of benefit to visitors.

West 8 is an urban design and landscape architecture firm founded in Rotterdam in 1987 by partners Adriaan Geuze and Paul van Beek with additional offices in Belgium and New York. The firm has won numerous international commissions as well as awards. In Toronto they designed the Queen's Quay Boulevard in the Central Waterfront in joint venture with DTAH which has received numerous awards including the Toronto Urban Design Award of Excellence (2009) and the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects National Merit Award (2014) for East Bayfront Water's Edge Promenade.

CONTEXT

Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail, are located at the eastern edge of Ontario Place's East Island. To the south and east the park is surrounded by Lake Ontario. To the north and west, is the rest of Ontario Place with its landmark Cinesphere and pavilion with five pods, the Budweiser Stage, Echo Beach and the marina. The Ontario Place property includes the two man-made islands and a portion of lakeshore frontage on the south side of Lake Shore Boulevard primarily occupied by parking lots.

To the east of the property are the Toronto Islands and the Island airport, Inuksuk Park and Coronation Park, while the Humber Bay Park and Sunnyside extend to the west. To the north is Lake Shore Boulevard West, Exhibition Place, Fort York, the Gardiner Expressway, Liberty Village and the traditional low and mid-rise neighbourhoods north of the Gardiner.

Trillium Park provides a waterfront park for these neighbourhoods to the north. The William G. Davis Trail is linked to the Martin Goodman trail which provides a continuous waterfront pedestrian and cycling trail stretching from the Humber Bay in the west to Balmy Beach in the east. Trillium Park is part of a series of new and revitalized waterfront parks extending along the city's lakeshore.

3. EVALUATION CHECKLIST

The following evaluation applies Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the Ontario Heritage Act: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. While the criteria are prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, the City of Toronto uses it when assessing properties for inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties. The evaluation table is marked “N/A” if the criterion is “not applicable” to the property or X if it is applicable, with explanatory text below.

Design or Physical Value	
i. rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method	X
ii. displays high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	X
iii. demonstrates high degree of scientific or technical achievement	X

Located on the East Island of Ontario Place, Trillium Park has high design value as an ecological urban park based upon principles of sustainability which are evident in its design to prevent flooding contributing to Toronto's resiliency, in the use of indigenous species which will promote the return of wildlife, birds, bees and butterflies and in its integration of community in achieving the design, most importantly as it consulted with Indigenous community representatives. The design is also valued as it contributes to the original purpose of Ontario Place, which was to be a showcase of the province, through its representation of typical Ontario geological landscape features, ravines, moraine bluffs, drumlins as well cultural heritage landscape features which acknowledge the long historic presence of Indigenous people through Moccasin Identifier carvings, marker trees, sassafras and other plants which had traditional use and a floating dock for arrival by canoe.

Trillium Park displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit in its design and layout of the William G. Davis trail which within a small area manages to lead both cyclists and pedestrians through a diversity of landscape experiences representative of Ontario including, broad expanses of open space, enclosed and sheltered glades and paths, summits, outcrops, caves, ravines and shorelines, with a variety of species attuned to seasonal variety, colour and texture through 1,240 native trees, 15,000 shrubs and wildflowers and 1,700 tonnes of rock, combined with a range of views of the City and Lake Ontario. In 2018, the park received the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects' Award of Excellence.

The park displays a high degree of scientific achievement in its construction of an 85m long rock wall representing a moraine bluff which was designed and constructed with local masons in a quarry in Dwight Ontario and then, through the use of topographic surveys and GPS markings, accurately reconstructed to within a millimetre at Trillium Park.

Historical or Associative Value	
i. direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community	X
ii. yields, or has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	X
iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community	X

Trillium Park has historic value for its association with Ontario Place whose creation as a showplace for Ontario's history, cultural and economic growth and to reaffirm provincial identity was initiated by Premier John Robarts in 1968. The park has value as it extends the original goal through yielding information about the landscape of Ontario, its geographic formations, plant and wildlife species and the role of Indigenous peoples within that landscape. In the naming of the trail the park is also associated with William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario (1971-1985) who opened Ontario Place in 1971.

It is also valued as it demonstrates the work of the landscape architect Walter Kehm of LANDInc. A graduate of landscape, forestry and urban design programs at Syracuse University New York and Harvard Graduate School of Design, Walter Kehm was Director of the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph (1986-2002) and since 1999 a partner in LANDInc. Throughout his career as both practitioner and teacher he has been an influential leader and advocate for in an ecological approach to landscape architecture that integrates the specificities of culture and climate. At Trillium Park this is manifest not only in the numerous indigenous plant species and in the integration of Indigenous People's culture but in the social importance of the park to encourage play and fantasy in children, as well as physical and psychological renewal in adults, recognizing the role of the park as a part of a sequence along the waterfront Martin Goodman Trail, but also as a local destination for the numerous populations in the dense condominium developments of the adjacent Liberty Village.

The Hough's Glade with its circle of sitting-height rocks and surrounding planting of indigenous species to create the glade is associated with Michael Hough, landscape architect (1928-2013) who founded the Department of Landscape Architecture at University of Toronto and was a professor in the faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. He designed Ontario Place, Scarborough College, the University College Quad and Earth Sciences Courtyards at University of Toronto and numerous pioneering applications of ecologically based landscape design. He was the recipient of the 1991 City of Toronto Arts Award for Architecture and Design and 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architecture.

The associative values of the iconography and features referring to the First Nation presence and involvement in shaping Southern Ontario's landscape including the twelve marker trees, references to the Indigenous traditional practice of shaping tree growth in such a way that the trees function as directional guides for navigation. In another important gesture to living heritage, most of the plants used throughout the park are indigenous to Ontario's various ecosystems.

Contextual Value	
i. important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area	X
ii. physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings	X
iii. landmark	X

Trillium Park is important in supporting the naturalized landscape character and use of indigenous Ontario plant species at Ontario Place which was initiated by Michael Hough and Associates in the original 1969 design. In representing the historic presence of Indigenous Peoples in the Province and especially on the waterfront of Lake Ontario and adding a landscaped park to the Eastern Island of Ontario Place the park is historically linked to its surroundings.

Contextually the park is valued for the historic role of Indigenous peoples presence and involvement in shaping Southern Ontario's landscape with the Moccasin Identifier carvings, selection of Muskoka granite with its various striations and colours and the bridge which crosses the ravine and for its contribution to extending the original waterfront landscaped setting of Ontario Place and as it provides a richly designed and meaningful destination on the Martin Goodman Trail.

SUMMARY

The 7.5 acre Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail located on the East Island of the Ontario Place property has been evaluated according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act that the City also applies when considering properties for inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register.

Following research and evaluation it has been determined that Trillium Park with the William G. Davis Trail has design, associative and contextual value. Winner of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Award of Excellence in 2018, Trillium Park has design value as an ecologically-based urban park whose principles of sustainability focus on diversity of indigenous species, a response to climate change, cultural inclusivity with an emphasis on the historic role of Indigenous peoples in the landscape as well as the social and physical well-being of all visitors.

Completed in 2017, the park has associative and historic value in its representation of the diverse characteristics of Ontario's landscape, contributing to the original vision of Ontario Place as a provincial showcase. It is also associated with Ontario Premiers John Robarts, who initiated the project in 1968 and William G. Davis, who opened Ontario Place in 1971. It is associated with Michael Hough landscape architect (1928-2013), professor in the faculty of Environmental Studies at York University who founded the Department of Landscape Architecture at University of Toronto. He designed Ontario Place, Scarborough College, the University College Quad and Earth Sciences Courtyards at University of Toronto and numerous pioneering applications of ecologically based landscape design. It is also valued for its association with Walter Kehm, partner of LANDInc, the senior landscape architect for Trillium Park, former Director of the University of Guelph School's Landscape Architecture and a passionate

advocate for ecological urban landscapes which are responsive to local climate and culture.

Contextually the park is valued for the historic role of Indigenous peoples presence and involvement in shaping Southern Ontario's landscape with the Moccasin Identifier carvings, selection of Muskoka granite with its various striations and colours and the bridge which crosses the ravine and for its contribution to extending the original waterfront landscaped setting of Ontario Place and as it provides a richly designed and meaningful destination on the Martin Goodman Trail.

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Province of Ontario Provincial Heritage Properties

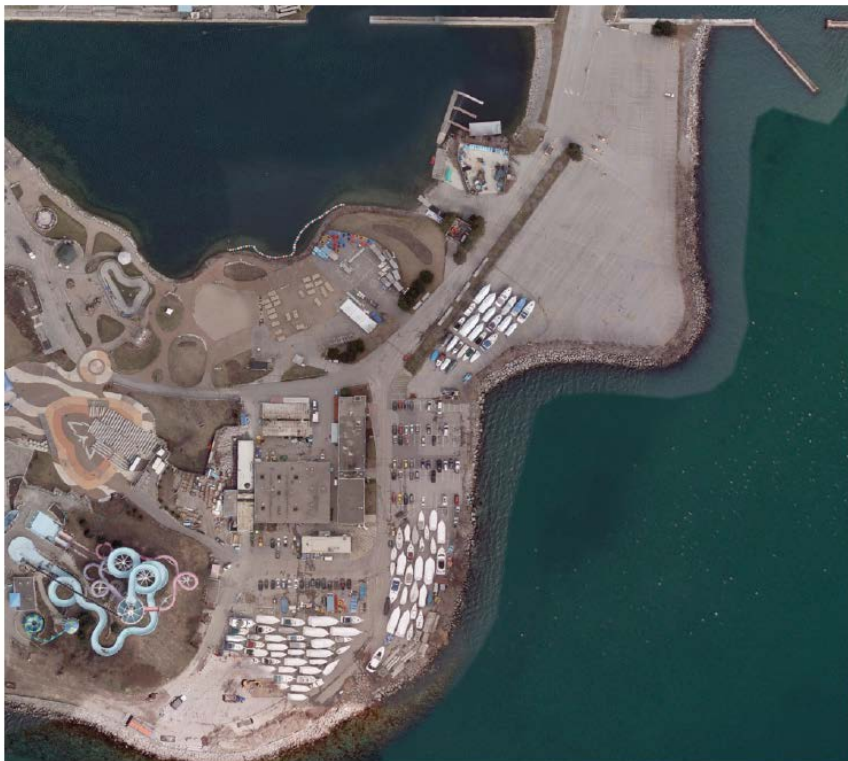
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IMAGES: The arrows mark the location of the property at 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West. Please note: all maps are oriented with north at the top, unless otherwise indicated.



1. Aerial view of the context surrounding Ontario Place with the Trillium Park site highlighted in red and marked "site" (LANDInc, 2018)



2. Aerial View of the site before Trillium Park construction, showing the south-eastern waterfront and parking lot occupied by cars and boats on the eastern side of the East Island where Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail would be constructed with Echo Beach to the north at the lagoon and the waterslide in the former Waterpark (LANDInc, 2018)



3. Site Plan for the Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail (LANDInc, 2018)



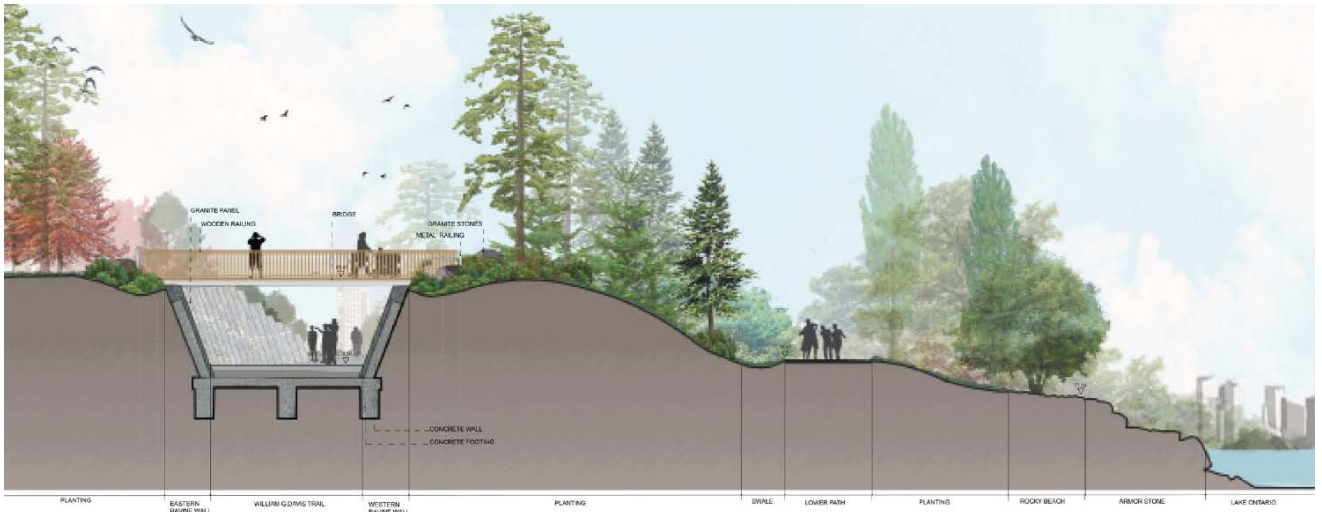
4. North Entry to the Park from the Martin Goodman Trail with the 52-tonne stone chosen to mark the entrance with the park's name: Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail (LANDInc, 2018)



5. Floating dock for canoes and kayaks. (HPS, 2019)



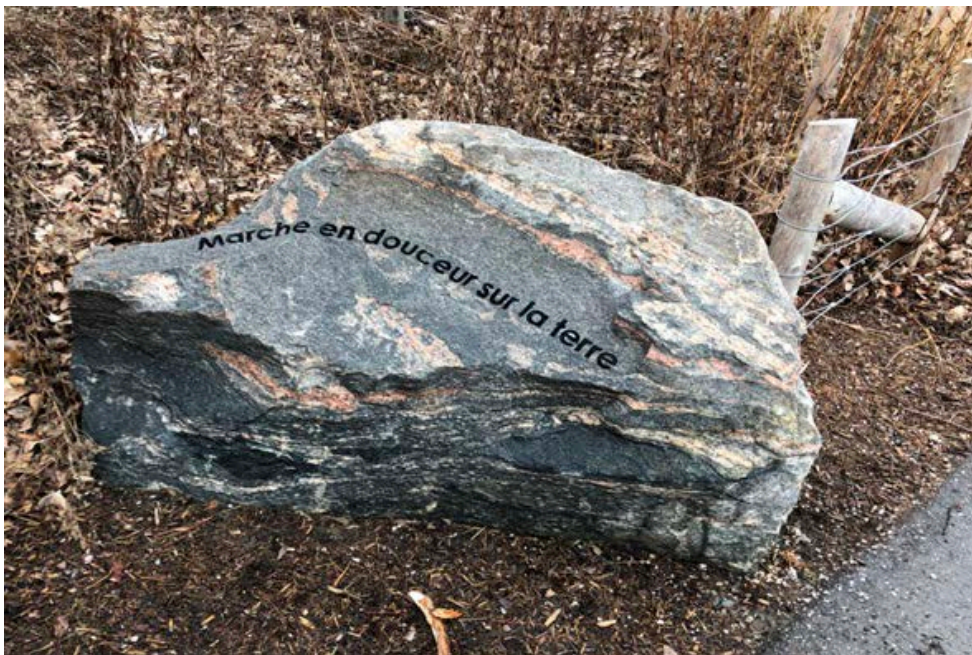
6. Ravine entry with bridge and Moccasin Identifiers looking south-east towards the lake with the Toronto Islands in the distance (HPS, 2019)



7. Section through the site showing the change in levels to create the ravine entrance with bridge (LANDInc, 2018)



8. View of the stone with the words "Walk Gently On The Land," with a view of the Romantic Garden and Pavilion beyond (HPS, 2019)



8. View of the boulder proclaiming, "Marche en douceur sur la terre" (HPS, 2019)



9. View of the Romantic Garden with the Pavilion designed by West 8 looking south east towards the Toronto Island airport (HPS, 2019)



10. View of the Romantic Garden looking north west towards the amphitheatre with its various stone benches, the upper woodland trail and the ravine bridge (LANDInc, 2018)



11. Looking south, the shoreline edge with its raised level and boulders to provide effective breakwater against rising water levels and flooding. The variety in stone sizes was designed to create pathways. (HPS, 2019)



12. Campfire Circle looking east towards the City and the Toronto Islands (HPS, 2019)



14 and 15. Observation Rock with its peephole to allow visitors to look through and see the CN Tower (HPS, 2019, 2018)



16. Western Gateway and typical bench designed by LANDInc for Trillium Park (HPS, 2019)



17. The moraine bluff assembled in a quarry in Dwight, Ontario, with its outcrops, perches, caves, passageways and crevices (HPS, 2019)



18. Detail of the bluff with elements to invite exploration and fantasy (HPS, 2019)



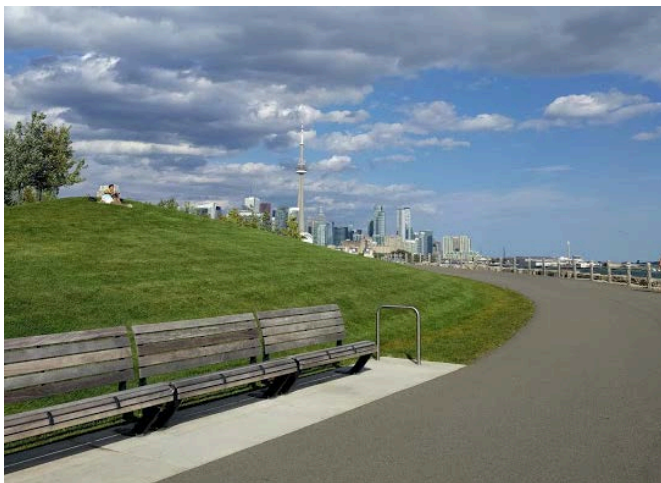
19. Upper level of the woodland trail looking through a passageway in the moraine bluff in August (HPS, 2018)



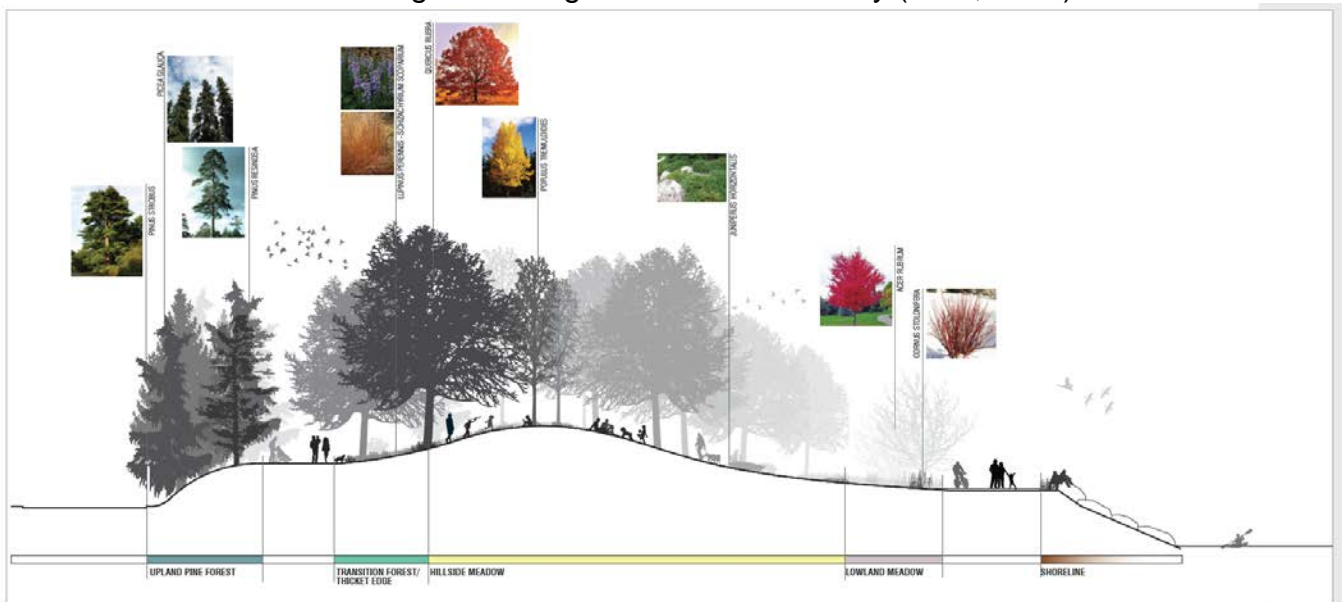
20. Rock staircase leading up to the Michael Hough Woodland Glade (HPS, 2019)



21. View of the Summit in March at the southern-most point of the park and trail with the spiral staircase in the distance which is a remnant of the Water Park. (HPS, 2019)



22. View of the Summit in August looking east towards the City (HPS, 2018)



23. Landscape planting section illustrating the characteristic Ontario landscape/planting types: Upland Pine Forest, Transition Forest/Thicket Edge, Hillside Meadow, Lowland Meadow, (Path), shoreline. (LANDInc, 2018)



24. "Marker" tree traditionally used by Indigenous Peoples on trails to indicate the location of food, water or shelter (HPS, 2019)



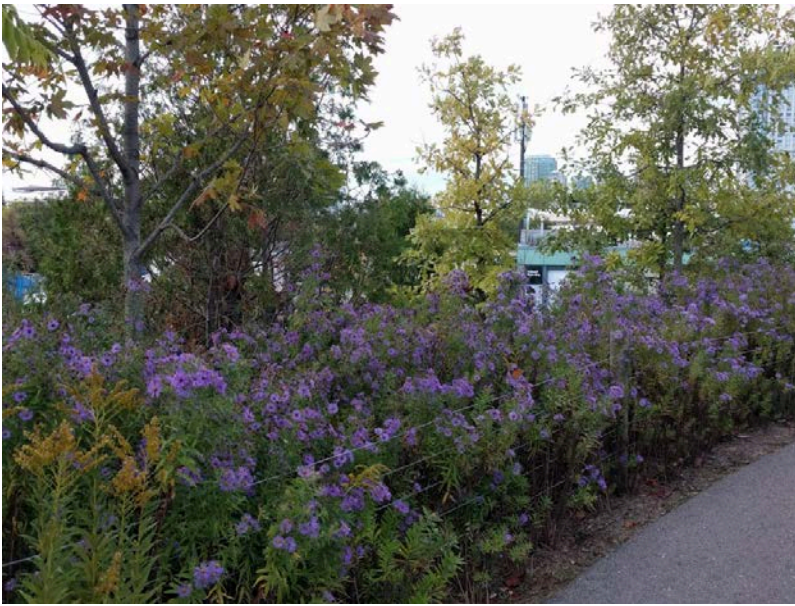
25. Variety of species of trees as seen in August (HPS, 2018)



26. On the upper Woodland Trail in March an indication of the variety of trees and shrubs as well as varied enclosure and views. (HPS, 2019)



27 and 28. Upper woodland trail, variety of wildflowers in August (HPS, 2018)



29. Upper woodland trail with partial view to the north-west of the City and Exhibition Place (HPS, 2018)



30. August: wildflowers, butterflies and CN Tower - Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail (HPS, 2018)