

Dreary?

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How Eric Arthur (*Scraping the Bottom of the Toronto Barrel?* — March 11) can assert that **85 Spadina** Road is a worthless "dreary old house" and then conclude: "As I see our architectural heritage, it lies in whole areas of Toronto like . . . the Annex," is mystifying to residents of the Annex including those of us in the Annex Residents' Association.

After Metro foolishly decided on what will undoubtedly be an uneconomical route for the northwest subway, the Annex Resi-

dents' Association went to the Toronto Transit Commission with some serious suggestions as to how the route might better serve taxpayers. Notably, we suggested the deletion of the redundant and costly (maybe \$8-million) Lowther station (now called Spadina Station); the preservation of six houses south of Lowther over the subway curve toward Madison and the St. George station; and **85 Spadina**, north of Lowther.

Lo and behold, from a total of five proposals we made, the preservation of No. 85 was the only one accepted by the TTC. We did not advocate its use as a subway station.

We asked for the preservation of No. 85 (and of the other houses) for straightforward reasons: we should not destroy good housing, nor should we disrupt the streetscape. Despite the deterioration of Spadina Road dating from its widening in 1949, we

felt then, and do now, that preservation of the streetscape was essential as a first step toward making the street more habitable.

That house, even if used only as an entrance, is a part of the "whole area of . . . the Annex". Most of the building, we presume, will be used for purposes congenial to the area—not solely for collecting fares. If this "dreary", unhistorical house, with its fine stained-glass windows, is at the "bottom of the barrel"—as Mr. Arthur says—then why bother saving any houses in the Annex or anywhere else?

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