



Monday August 14, 2023

Premier Doug Ford
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Queen's Park
Legislative Building
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Minister Kinga Surma
Kinga.Surma@pc.ola.org
Ministry of Infrastructure
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Room
5E200
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Mayor Olivia Chow
mayor_chow@toronto.ca
Office of the Mayor
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

To Premier Ford, Minister Surma and Mayor Chow:

Re: Ontario Place

The Bay Cloverhill Community Association represents 18,000 individuals in the Yonge/College/Queen's Park/Charles neighbourhood in University Rosedale Ward 11 and Toronto Centre Ward 13. Our residents are concerned about that the provincial government's plans to redevelop Ontario Place are not in the best interest of anyone who lives, works or visits the City of Toronto.

The proposed Therme spa is an inappropriate use for prime waterfront property. The 13 storey glass building will be a death trap to the thousands of migrating songbirds who pass by the site every spring and fall. The building will also block the sightlines of hundreds of thousands of Torontonians. It does not seem environmentally or fiscally responsible for taxpayers to fund \$650M to build over 2,000 underground parking spaces for a commercial business, whose 95 year lease has been kept secret from the public. The spa is in direct contravention of the City of Toronto's Central Waterfront Secondary Plan to remove barriers, create spectacular waterfront parks in an environmentally responsible way.

The loss of almost 850 mature trees which is a wildlife habitat for over 185 bird species is an insult to environmental efforts and disrespects the land which was occupied by the Petun, the Huron Wendat, the Haundenosaunee, the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Chippewa peoples for thousands of years.

Ontario Place was designated a Provincial Heritage Property of Provincial Significance in 2013 and was added to the City of Toronto's Heritage Register in 2019. It is an innovative architectural gem of the late twentieth century modernism style that is unique and became a travel destination for locals and tourists alike. Individuals and families alike mourn the closing of the Ontario Place amusement park in 2012 and the Cinesphere in 2022. Fitness enthusiasts were surprised by the sudden barriers to the parklands in 2023 that blocked access to valuable and rare green space in the urban city core. Music lovers at least continue to enjoy concerts at the Budweiser Stage.

Ontario Place is an extraordinary jewel that should be available to all Ontarians, not just wealthy spa customers. A spa can be located anywhere and it should not be at Ontario Place. It should be parklands, alongside the concert venue. The legacy of Ontario Place should be a place for free fun, fitness and music for residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,
Bay Cloverhill Community Association Executive

Christine Dingemans, President
Marilyn Tait-McClellan, Vice President
Cathy Carnevali, Secretary

Norman Waite, Treasurer
Kathryn Holden, Ex-Officio

cc: Councillor Dianne Saxe, Ward 11, City of Toronto Councillor_Saxe@toronto.ca
Councillor Chris Moise, Ward 13, City of Toronto Councillor_Moise@toronto.ca
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A Strong Voice for A Strong Community