South Humber Park Pavilion

HERITAGE EVALUATION REPORT

BROWN + STOREY ARCHITECTS INC.

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Prepared for

CITY OF TORONTO, HERITAGE PRESERVATION SERVICES

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COVER
View of Pavilion (‘The Oculus’) from East Bank of Humber River, 1980.

FIGURE 1
View of Pavilion with original sculpture of Birds.
Panda Fonds, Canadian Architectural Archives, University of Calgary
PAN61464-2 Etobicoke Park Pavilion

Figure 1

Contents

1 Executive Summary

The South Humber Park Pavilion is a unique shelter and washroom building built in 1959 in ravine parkland adjoining the west side of the Humber River Valley in South Etobicoke. The Pavilion has become popularly known as the 'The Oculus', and its future became the subject of significant public interest and concern after renovation plans were announced for the structure in July 2016.

This Heritage Evaluation Report examines the South Humber Park Pavilion in terms of two interrelated aspects:

1. The Pavilion as an object (consisting of both the unique concrete disc, the complementary curved wall of the washroom building, and the flagstone surface)—the remarkable character and high quality of its architectural and engineering design, exemplifying the adventurous optimism of the modernist era in Metropolitan Toronto's early public buildings.

2. The emergence and development of the South Humber Park as a public landscape, and the Pavilion's place within both the physical environment of the park and the story of the site's development and conservation.

Through research and evaluation of both the Pavilion and its historical and present role in the park landscape, the report finds the following:

The South Humber Park Pavilion, consisting of the washroom building, large shelter, and pavement, merits inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register and Designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The Pavilion should be conceived as a whole, composed of its three parts that together create the uniqueness and significance in the public landscape of the City of Toronto. This evaluation finds that the Pavilion meets all three sections of criteria for significance, representing a site of significant design and physical value, historical and associative value, and contextual value.

The unique visual character of the Pavilion underlines an institutional history that makes it a significant landmark associated with the early advances brought by Metropolitan Toronto's Parks and Works Departments and with the planning upheavals that include the large-scale purchase of valleylands, construction of public works and development of parkland that followed the calamity of Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

South Humber Park in its original late 1950s form was closely related to and ultimately the result of the development of the Humber Treatment Plant by the Metro Works Department, which had been planned in the 1940's on land owned by the newly created conservation authorities by the Province of Ontario, and further developed as an idea in 1953 as part of a greenbelt strategy for both Humber and Don River valleys. The disaster of Hurricane Hazel accelerated these initiatives as part of the region wide reponse to the widespread destruction.

In its original state at the opening in 1958, South Humber Park and the Humber Treatment Plant shared a major entrance and parking lot, with equal prominence given to both important public facilities that shared a common boundary and landscape. South Humber Park was in fact known as Humber Sewage Treatment Park. The park landscape and the pavilion facility were initially the output of two separate contracts and institutions. The landscape of the park had been subcontracted to Dunnington-Grubb & Stensson via the engineering contract for Metro Works' Humber Treatment Plant project as a means of beautifying the surrounding site and improving its overall condition. The design of the Pavilion was contracted a year later to architect Alan Crossley by Metropolitan Toronto's Parks Department, which leveraged the newly acquired flood plain lands to create Toronto's first truly regional parks system.

Despite this disconnect in time, the Pavilion was clearly designed to integrate into and complement the park landscape. Not the crashed flying saucer often referenced in today's descriptions of the structure, the South Humber Park Pavilion had a highly intentional relationship with the picturesque remnants of the golf course, and with the sequence through which the park visitor would experience the park landscape and discover the Pavilion. Unfortunately, as the Humber Treatment Plant expanded, key elements of the park's original organization—its entrance, parking access and public wayfinding, and its active connection between high-ground and low-ground—were lost and generally not replaced.

While some of the original views and paths of discovery of the Pavilion remain available to the visitor in spite of the changes, new park infrastructure—first and foremost the Humber River Recreational Trail (c. 1980), which in many ways salvaged the public utility of South Humber Park after the treatment plant's 1970s expansion—has tended to avoid engaging with the pavilion site itself, contributing to the

isolation of the South Humber Park Pavilion and its present-day physical deterioration.

Given the finding that the South Humber Park Pavilion represents a structure of cultural heritage significance, it will be necessary to develop a strategy for conserving the Pavilion that renews not only its material component but also its context, perceived value and stewardship by park users, implicated municipal staff, and the South Etobicoke community. This report provides preliminary guidance for the conservation and restoration of the Pavilion including the following:

1. While its current condition, briefly described, is consistent with a highly vandalized and abused building, the washroom structure is an essential element in the sculptural impact of the pavilion; its shell materials of stone and brick are intact and could form the starting point for a reconstructed interior. The washroom building should be restored to its original use as a public washroom; its plan could be reconfigured to provide more visible entrances and provide accessibility as per AODA requirements without impacting its contribution to the Pavilion's overall visual effect;

FIGURE 2
Eastward View from beneath the Pavilion showing washroom, oculus, drinking fountain, and manicured landscape, Parks Fonds 22-, Series 35, 1970.

2. Full material restoration of the Pavilion's elements needs to be accompanied by improvements to its context in South Humber Park, to reduce the vandalism and abuse of the site and improve beneficial use and occupancy by park users. Figure 2 shows the Pavilion sited within an open landscape circa 1970.

Figure 2A is a photoshop rendering taking a 2017 view, removing the graffiti and clearing the dense vegetation that currently surrounds and obscures the approaches to the Pavilion. Mitigation measures are suggested as part of the report's conclusions.

FIGURE 2A
South Humber Park Pavilion
Existing view ca 2017 with photoshop rendering,
removing graffiti and more controlled vegetation

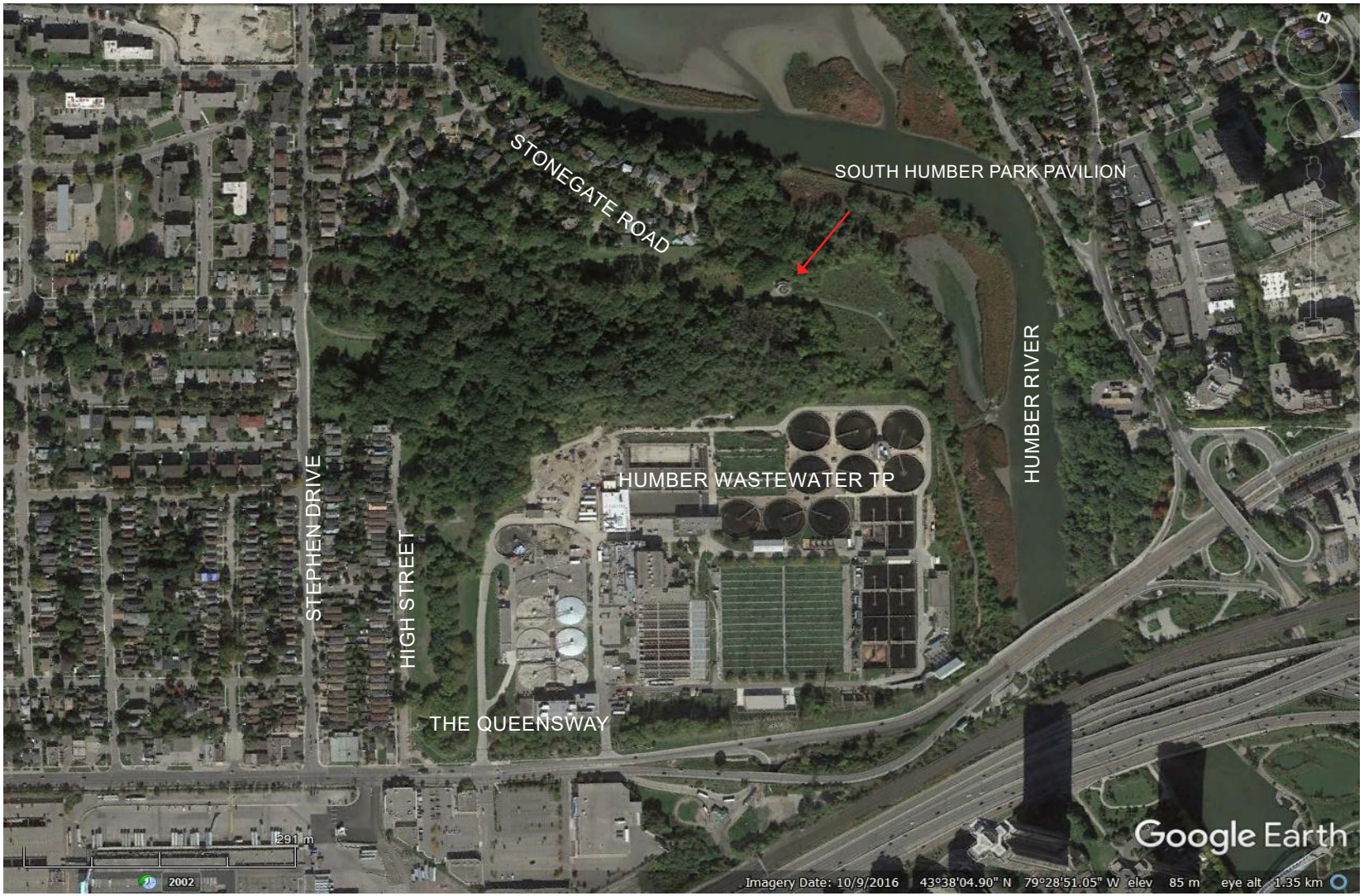

FIGURE 3
South Humber Park, as seen in this 2017 satellite image. The location of the South Humber Park Pavilion is indicated.

2 Introduction

In July 2016, renovation plans were made public for the South Humber Park Pavilion, popularly known as the 'Oculus'. [1] The announced plans, to be undertaken by City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, were stated at that time to include the complete removal of the washroom building, the replacement of the flagstone plaza with textured concrete, the reuse or replication of some of the building's stone exterior as a new cladding for the steel columns that support the pavilion's concrete canopy, and the retention and rehabilitation of the concrete canopy itself.

Prior to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division's announcement, complaints from the community were received about the abuse of the building and its surrounding site by undesirable activities, unauthorized access to the roofs of the Pavilion, and general vandalism. However, subsequent to the plan being made public, the Pavilion has been the subject of significant public and specialist concern and criticism, with multiple observers expressing their opinion that the plan would compromise the architectural integrity of a structure with design and heritage significance.

The Pavilion does not currently have a heritage designation. In consideration of the scope of public interest in the proposed modifications to the Pavilion, Toronto City Planning Division's Heritage Preservation Services retained Brown and Storey Architects Inc. to prepare a Heritage Evaluation Report (HER) for the South Humber Park Pavilion.

.1 RELEVANT HERITAGE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Brown and Storey Architects Inc. has prepared this HER having regard to the Province of Ontario's 2014 Provincial Policy Statement; Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990); Ontario Regulation 9/06; and the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

The 2014 Provincial Policy Statement defines a built heritage resource as:
"a building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured remnant that contributes to a property's cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community, including an Aboriginal community."

The Policy Statement goes on to state in Policy 2.6.1 that:
"Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved."

The 2014 Provincial Policy Statement defines 'conserved' to mean:
"the identification, protection, management and use of built heritage resources, cultural heritage resources and archaeological resources in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage value or interest is retained under the Ontario Heritage Act. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, archaeological assessment, and/or heritage impact assessment. Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches can be included in these plans and assessments."

Policies 3.1.5.2-5 of the Toronto Official Plan state that:
"2. Properties and Heritage Conservation Districts of potential cultural heritage value or interest will be identified and evaluated to determine their cultural heritage value or interest consistent with provincial regulations, where applicable, and will include the consideration of cultural heritage values including design or physical value, historical or associative value and contextual value...

3. Heritage properties of cultural heritage value or interest properties, including Heritage Conservation Districts and archaeological sites that are publicly known will be protected by being designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and/or included on the Heritage Register.

4. Properties on the Heritage Register will be conserved and maintained consistent with the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, as revised from time to time and as adopted by Council.

5. Proposed alterations, development, and/or public works on or adjacent to, a property on the Heritage Register will ensure that the integrity of the heritage property's cultural heritage value and attributes will be retained, prior to work commencing on the property and to the satisfaction of the City. Where a Heritage Impact Assessment is required in Schedule 3 of the Official Plan, it will describe and assess the potential impacts and mitigation strategies for the proposed alteration,

1 Because the 'Oculus' is also a specific element of the pavilion`s shelter, in this report we will generally refer to the structure/complex itself more formally, as the 'South Humber Park Pavilion' or 'Pavilion'.

development or public work."

Policy 3.1.5.27 of the Toronto Official Plan states that:
"Where it is supported by the cultural heritage values and attributes of a property on the Heritage Register, the conservation of whole or substantial portions of buildings, structures and landscapes on those properties is desirable and encouraged. The retention of facades alone is discouraged."

Ontario Regulation 9/06 provides the following criteria for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act:
"A property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest:

1. the property has design value or physical value because it,
i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
2. the property has historical value or associative value because it,
i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

3. the property has contextual value because it,
i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
iii. is a landmark. O. Reg 9/06, s. 1 (2)."

City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation division is responsible for managing approx. 8000 hectares of public parkland within the City of Toronto. While in select cases, properties managed by Parks, Forestry and Recreation include recognized heritage landscapes, buildings or landmarks and even have heritage-focused management plans (eg. the Guild Park and Gardens), it is notable that the current City of Toronto Parks Plan (2013-2017) does not provide direct instruction on the division's heritage conservation policies and objectives.

FIGURE 4
Historic Plaque commemorating discovery of Lake Ontario by Etienne Brule in 1615, located in the upper pathway along the north edge of the South Humber Park.

3 Description of the Property

.1 Location

The South Humber Park Pavilion is a unique shelter and washroom building located in the ravine land of South Humber Park, adjoining the west side of the Humber River Valley in South Etobicoke. South Humber Park is addressed as 120 The Queensway, and is bordered to the east by the Humber River, to the north by Stone Gate Rd and the small residential lanes that feed from it, to the west by Stephen Drive and High Street, and to the south by The Queensway and the City's Humber Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Originally developed in conjunction with the treatment plant, South Humber Park is a valleyland park and a segment on the city's Humber River Recreation Trail that has been the subject of several phases of reforestation and ecological restoration. Original ornamental plantings, including substantial tulip beds, have been superseded first by a reforestation program and more recently by efforts to restore native meadow ecologies to the park's open areas.

From South Humber Park, the Humber River Recreation Trail connects to the south via underpass to the Martin Goodman Waterfront Trail. From its position in the narrow corridor of land between the treatment plant and the river, the trail curves northwest, past the pavilion, to enter a narrow ravine that rises to Stephen Drive. From there, the trail is interrupted by 700 metres of residential streets before continuing north into Kings Mill Park.

While at its opening in 1958 South Humber Park shared the Humber Treatment Plant's vehicle entrance at The Queensway and was serviced with a substantial parking lot, [Fig. 4] this area was subsequently absorbed within the treatment plant and the public vehicle access to the South Humber Park was eliminated. Additional low-profile entrances to the park are available from The Queensway, High Street, and Trillium Terrace, although in most cases these entrances are unsigned or signed only with a bicycle route sign [Fig. 5].

Apart from the paved recreation trail, the South Humber Park Pavilion represents the main public facility within the park.

FIGURE 5
City of Toronto Archives: Fonds 220, Series 316, File 94 - New Parking Lot at Humber Treatment Plant Park, c. 1958-59 looking south east.

FIGURE 6 View of entrance into South Humber Park via High Street, 2016

.2 Pavilion Structures and Plaza

The South Humber Park Pavilion consists of three separate but conceptually linked elements, which form a singular sculptural assemblage or ensemble. [Fig. 9]:

.2.1 The Washroom Building:

The washroom is contained within a simple 4.57m (15'-0") wide curved wall structure that runs approximately to a 17.37m (57'-0") length outside perimeter that is subdivided in plan into three sections – Janitor's Stores, Men's Washroom, and Women's Washroom. The area of the building is noted as 74.32 square meters [Fig.7].

The Women's Washroom is entered through the end of the curved wall structure and shielded from view by an extended wall. It originally contained four w.c.'s and three sinks. The Men's Washroom is entered from the rear curved wall; a separate offset stone wall to shield views into the washroom shown in the original architectural drawings is noted as 'removed'. The Men's Washroom originally contained three w.c.'s, three urinals, and two sinks. Neither washroom has accessible entrances or fixtures.

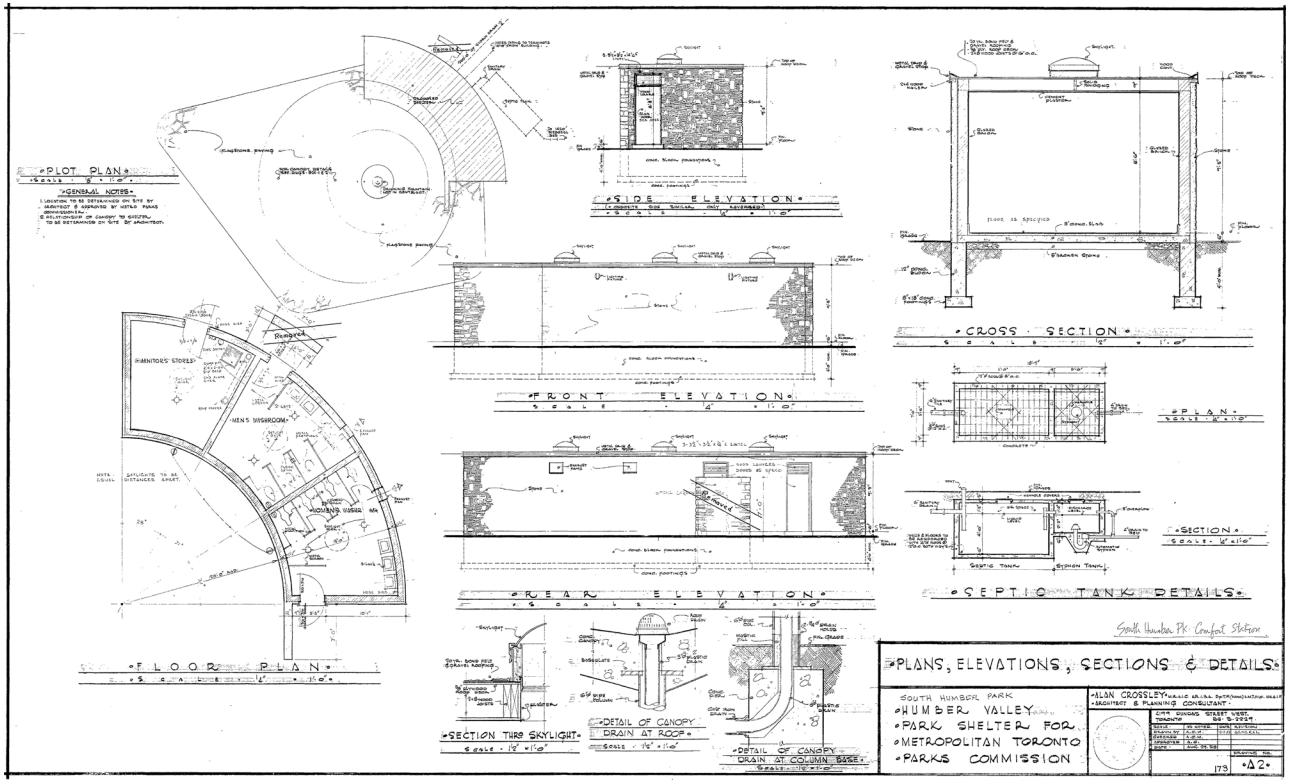

FIGURE 7
Original architectural drawing by Alan Crossley Architect

The Janitor's Storage is shown on the original architectural drawings with one utility sink [Fig. 7].

The exterior faces of the building are composed of a distinctive stone of varied sizes placed in a linear patterning with deeply raked joints that allow for each stone to be distinctly outlined [Fig. 8].

The actual identity of the stone is unknown and is not specified in the drawings. The stone is not set up from the asphalt and flagstone pavement but sits at grade level on a stepped concrete foundation wall. The top of the wall is capped with a metal flashing and gravel stop.

The interior finish of the washrooms and Janitor's Storage is a red glazed brick with tie-backs every sixth course. Ceilings are indicated to be cement plaster and the floor finish, although shown as a finish on top of a concrete slab is not specified.

The roof of the washroom building is a conventional flat roof on plywood on wood joists. Three skylights are shown -

FIGURE 8
View of South Humber Park Pavilion from south west.

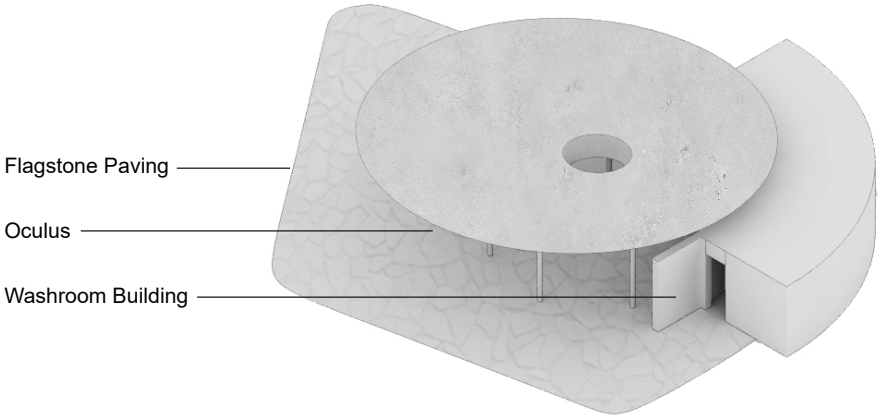

FIGURE 9
Main components of the Pavilion.

distributed one per washroom and janitor's room.

.2.1a Current Condition:

The washrooms and storage area have been closed for public use for more than twenty years, and have been badly abused by vandals breaking into the building [Fig. 10 - 15]. The interior brick walls, although covered in graffiti, are intact and in good physical shape, although considerable cleaning is required [Fig. 11]. The skylights have been replaced with new joists and plywood covering the original openings [Fig. 11]. All fixtures and partitions are not salvageable, and the interiors of the three sections have been strewn with garbage, including one area where a fire was set [Fig. 12].

The exterior stone is in good condition, although defaced with graffiti and requiring re-pointing. The condition of the roof was not reviewed. The doors into the washrooms and janitor's storage are badly damaged.

.2.2 The Pavilion:

The iconic 'Oculus' of the South Humber Park Pavilion is made of a complex and sleek geometric shape. While its overall form is of a circle, its section is of an inverted and tilted concrete bowl that dips up in an off-centre focal point to form the opening that, 'pantheon-like', forms a spot of light travelling across the pavement surface with the course of the day. It is a poured-in-place form with a diameter of 15 meters and a circumference of approximately 50 meters, and is supported by seven steel columns encircling the offset round opening. The form of the Oculus was designed by engineer Laurence Cazaly, who is a recognized pioneer and expert in the development of concrete formwork and precast structures in Canada.

The concrete form is lifted above the roof of the washroom building so that it 'floats' as a separate piece. The difference in height between the roof of the washroom building and concrete disc is approximately 1.2 meters at the edge of the disc [see photograph in Appendix B].

FIGURE 10
Exterior view of masonry wall.

FIGURE 11
Under the Oculus.

.2.2a Current Condition:

The Pavilion / Oculus, while again defaced by graffiti, is nevertheless in reasonably good condition, although refinishing of both the concrete and steel surfaces is required. The condition of the roof was not reviewed.

.2.3 The Flagstone Pavement:

The Washroom Building and Pavilion are set within a trapezoidal ground plane of flagstone pavers. The flagstone is badly chipped in areas and poses accessibility issues because of its rough surface. [Fig. 15] It does not contact the asphalt trail but is set back from the trail by about 1 meter. Directly below the oculus, the architectural drawings indicate a drinking fountain, though shown as 'not in contract'. The drinking fountain appears to have instead been constructed to the west of the site in a cairn stone structure. One archival photograph shows a sculpture of birds in flight [Figure 1]. This sculpture was made by the architect Alan Crossley and his wife and partner Constance Burns Crossley. It was moved to be temporarily exhibited at the Canadian National Exhibition in the summer of 1959. From this exhibition, the sculpture was apparently returned to the ownership of the family, and unfortunately no longer exists.

.2.4 The Ensemble:

The washroom building, pavilion roof and pavement are skilfully placed together to create a non-symmetrical but carefully composed balance of objects that hover together to make a unique and remarkable ensemble. [Fig. 9] The ability to create asymmetrical yet balanced compositions is a trademark of the modernist movement, where traditional forms are re-interpreted to create dynamic flows and relationships to the landscape. The trapezoidal form of the pavement stretches the ground plane of the patio while the curved wall structure of the washroom building is spun off-centre of the Oculus, which is pulled more closely towards the curvature of the wall. Each element plays a critical role in the composition. While the Oculus is seen as the main identifier of the South Humber Park Pavilion, its placement in relation to the Washroom Building and the flagstone pavement is key to the significance of the overall ensemble.

FIGURE 12
Interior view of washroom.

FIGURE 13
Interior view of covered skylight.

FIGURE 14
Exterior view of oculus.

FIGURE 15
Flagstone pavement.

.3 Placement in the Landscape of South Humber Park

As a pavilion structure, the South Humber Park Pavilion's placement in what then was the new landscape of South Humber Park is also a key part of its composition.

The South Humber Park Pavilion is located at the mouth of a small ravine where it meets the Humber Valley. This ravine is formed by two raised spurs of land that project into the river valley, and which are each surrounded on three sides by lowland, marsh and river. Houses were built in the 1940s and 1950s on the top of the northern spur, while the spur to the south was mostly denuded of trees and substantially reworked as part of the construction of the Humber Treatment Plant in the mid-1950s [Fig. 16].

In 1959, the South Humber Park Pavilion was erected within a year-old park that consisted of the openly treed remnant fairways of the former golf course, and the reseeded grassy slopes of the new promontory, on the ridge of which ran a gravel path between a few trees that had survived the recent upheavals . New planting beds of shrubs and tulips had been established on the south side of the

FIGURE 16
City of Toronto Archives: Fonds 220, Series 316, File 282. Oblique Aerial Photograph of South Humber Park, looking North North West c. 1977, after expansion of Humber Treatment Plant.

FIGURE 17
City of Toronto Archives: Fonds 220, Series 316, File 277. South Humber Park promontory path and landscaping, including donated tulips, c. 1959-1960

FIGURE 18
Promontory path c. 2016.

promontory, where two improved routes included a long linear sequence of what appears in photographs to be concrete stairs ascended to the ridge path from a public parking lot to the southwest. [Figure 17] On the north side of the promontory, no improved paths descended to the new pavilion; only a sea of mown grass led the visitor down through a scattering of mature trees. A lowland path was also possible, skirting the foot of the promontory around its eastern termination, as the original footprint and boundary of the Humber Treatment Plant was set well to the south of its current location.

Key views of the structure include the two profile views from the east and west along the recreation trail, as well as the oblique view from above presented by the slope and promontory ridgeline to the south, along which ran a gravel path (apparently the only improved trail in the park at the time of its opening) [Fig. 17]. These views contextualized the Pavilion's placement deep within the park, out of sight and at some distance from both the original public entrance drive and parking lot to the south, and today's main trail entrance at the top of the ravine at Stephen Drive. The South Humber Park Pavilion was situated to be a destination and indeed a discovery or revelation for park visitors, and early photographs of the pavilion demonstrate how well it adapted the modernist concrete architectural style to contribute to a picturesque landscape.

Photographs taken post-construction show that the pavilion was originally surrounded on all sides by expansive open lawn, stretching for 10-15 metres not only on the front face of the complex—which has largely been maintained in a cleared state to the present period—but also on the wings and back face of the structure, where the washrooms are accessed [Fig. 19]. Underbrush had also been cleared

FIGURE 19
City of Toronto Archives: Pavilion c. 1989, view looking west across Humber marsh. New Humber Recreational Trail is visible through trees in foreground, and up the ravine in the far - background.

FIGURE 20
Approach to the Pavilion from the east.

FIGURE 21
Approach to the Pavilion from the north.

from beneath the closest trees, accentuating the openness originally provided around the structure. A consequence of subsequent naturalization plantings and changes to the park's maintenance regime has been to close in the north face of the Pavilion and its eastern and western wings, bringing dense underbrush to within a few meters of the washroom structure and contributing to maintenance and security issues. While this gradual enclosure may now enhance perceptions of mystery and discovery when a visitor first comes upon the structure, it inhibits the Pavilion's function as a key parat of civic infrastructure and an architectural landmark within the valley.

The 1980s installation of the Humber Recreation Trail brought new animation to South Humber Park, even though most trail users are now 'just passing through' rather than seeking this park out as a destination in its own right. Furthering the pavilion's initial isolation amidst a ravine of trail-free lawn, the design of the asphalt Humber trail bypassed the Pavilion and its flagstone plaza, leaving an approximate one meter ribbon of grass between the two hard surfaces.

While the absence of formal paths in the original park design had its own picturesque logic (and kept to the low-maintenance objectives of Metro Parks), the lack of contact and logical connection between the plaza and the popular regional cycling and walking trail does not serve the Pavilion well, and is a recipe for its irrelevance and decay. Symptomatic of this disconnect, grass and weeds have been allowed to establish themselves between the flagstones, lending the pavilion plaza an unkempt appearance [Fig. 15].

1942

1953

1956

1959

1962

1985

FIGURE 22
Reference Aerial Imagery Sequence, South Humber Park and Humber Treatment Plant

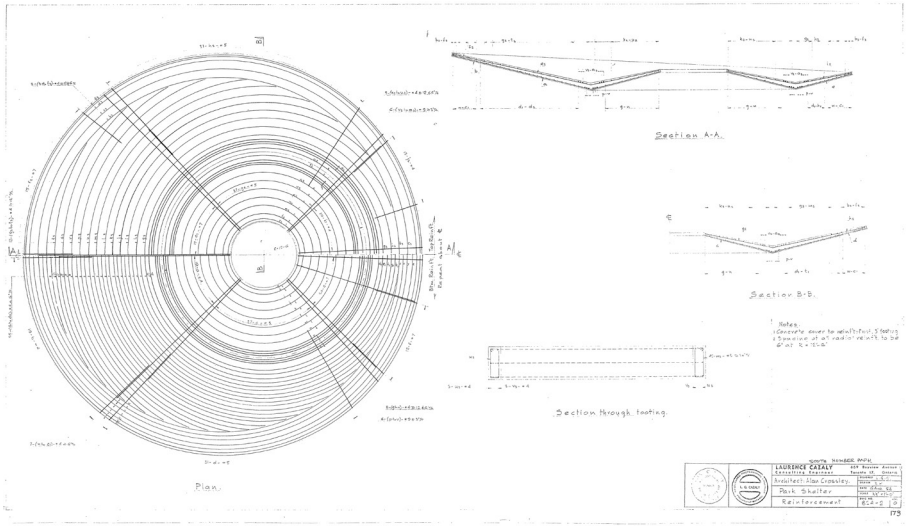

FIGURE 23
Plan and Section of Oculus - original engineering drawing

FIGURE 24
City of Toronto Archives: Fonds 220, Series 316, File 790. “Humber Sewage Plant Park - July 28, 1961”

.4 Existing and Potential Heritage Recognition

The South Humber Park Pavilion is currently undesignated. The Pavilion has recently attracted significant attention for its unusual modernist form. In response to the publication of renovation plans for the structure in Spring 2016, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario added it to its list of buildings at risk, and an online petition created by the ACO attracted more than 600 signees. The attention has been furthered by write-ups on the website of Spacing magazine and on UrbanToronto.com, and in Metro, the Etobicoke Guardian and NOW Magazine, where it featured on the cover of a recent issue.

The sculptural quality of the full ensemble, while unique as a pavilion in the City of Toronto, is nonetheless part of a generation of ambitious and optimistic public pavilions built in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s that can be found scattered through the parks system. The role of the sculptural quality of the roof shape is a constant theme and can be seen, for example, in the Venchiarutti & Venchiarutti-designed pavilions built on the Toronto Islands, where the folded roof plate creates an iconic form that identifies the building immediately while creating a balanced mixture of built and open spaces. In this era, public washrooms became public pavilions, capturing a ‘middle space’ between open and enclosed structures. This architecture transposed utilitarian structures into joyful and celebratory public objects.

While one of a generation of modernist and significant public amenities, this early commission by the Metro Parks division bears careful evaluation for its heritage significance and its potential for designation.

4 Research

.1 Development of the Site

Exploited for mill power and timber, from early on in the development of Toronto, the Lower Humber River was also an informal destination for public recreation. In addition to naturalist interest, archived photographs show crowds swimming and washing their cars at a shallow point in the Humber, likely just north of the Old Mill, in 1922 and 1927 [Fig. 25].

From the beginning of the twentieth century, the Humber became the subject of both formal civic planning and private development interest. A series of plans proposed first by advocacy groups and subsequently adopted by city planners sought the development of the Humber and Don River Valleys as greenbelt parkways, including pleasure drives and conservation reserve lands, as a parkland relief for the burgeoning city they surrounded, which underwent periods of accelerated growth first in the late 1900's and then again in the 1920's. These greenbelt plans went largely unrealized, save for sections of parkway on both sides of the Humber north of South Humber Park, developed by agreement between the City and the politically connected businessman Robert Home Smith as part of his development of the Humber Surveys (Baby Point, Kingsway Village, etc.).

The area surrounding the mouth of the Humber, long constrained by railways and industry, received more active recreational development in the 1920's, after shoreline improvements, landfilling and the development of Lake Shore Boulevard were undertaken by the Toronto Harbour Commission (on which Robert Home Smith served for several decades). With the opening of the Humber Valley Golf Course (1920), the development of the Sunnyside Amusement Park (from 1922) and the development of Palace Pier (from 1927), along with the strip of hotels that accompanied them, the mouth of the Humber became a more formalized recreation and leisure destination.

In the 1940's, a conservation greenbelt encompassing the Humber and Don Valleys again became a concern of public planners representing the various local municipalities that today constitute Toronto. This time, efforts culminated in the mid-1940's creation of conservation authorities by the Province of Ontario, and the 1953 submission of a scheme for conservation of the two valleys as a greenbelt. However, funding and political consensus among area municipalities remained elusive that year and throughout much of 1954 to adopt the scheme and begin the principal work acquiring the substantial private landholdings in the two valleys.

The context of greenbelt planning, and the format of the recreational space at the mouth of the Humber would undergo seismic transformations in 1954. From 1954, geography and meteorological circumstance would make the Humber Mouth a key locus for the regional infrastructure development undertaken by the brand-new Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (est. 1953). By late 1954, this newly regionalized planning and investment regime had already advanced plans for the Humber Sewage Treatment Plant, a regional plant that would replace a half-dozen undersized and ineffective plants operated by the local municipalities to the north and west, as well as for the Gardiner Expressway, a high-speed automotive link from the existing terminus of the Queen Elizabeth Highway into downtown Toronto via the lakeshore. For the sewage treatment plant, Metro acquired the Humber Valley Golf Course, quickly proceeding from 1955 to level and rework much of its furrowed landscape of hills and dales to provide a flat site for the treatment process that was low enough to receive much of its waste inputs from the surrounding region directly by gravity sewer.

Meanwhile, a single extreme weather event would transform conservation planning within the valley and empower land managers to move ahead with an acquisition program driven by flood control objectives. Watershed-based conservation authorities had been created by the province to carry out planning, flood control and conservation efforts in river valleys, including the development in Toronto of the regional greenbelt that had long been a dream of municipal planners and concerned citizens. The Humber River Conservation Authority was established in 1946, and published an initial conservation plan for the river in 1948 (it would be merged with six other Toronto-area conservation authorities in 1957). However, without political consensus among area municipalities to fund the required land purchases, in the late 1940's and early 1950's, the work of the conservation authorities was stuck in the same holding pattern as the municipally-promulgated greenbelt plans.

The disaster of Hurricane Hazel (Oct. 16, 1954), in which 81 people lost their lives and hundreds of homes were washed out of the Humber valley and the mouth of Etobicoke Creek, provided institutional license and crucial provincial funding for an accelerated program of public valleyland

purchases throughout the Toronto region, reserving hazardous land from private development and providing the conservation authorities with a territory on which they could implement a system of flood control.

This rapid assemblage of land, some of which had previously been developed to disastrous results, but much of which consisted of agricultural fields and woodlands, placed intense demands on public institutions to develop management practices and public uses on thousands of hectares of newly acquired lands. Officially owned by the now merged Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, much of the acquired valleylands would be managed and developed by the better-resourced Metropolitan Corporation. Along with the convenience this provided to the development of regional sewage infrastructure, which could make use of the acquired valley lands as publicly-owned corridors for new trunk sewers, from 1955 Metro Toronto launched into planning a Regional Parks System.

At the same moment that Metro was creating a Parks Department and embarking on planning its regional parks system, it apparently became apparent to those involved with the design and execution of the Humber Treatment Plant that the property would require new landscaping to repair the cleared and reworked land around the plant and to make the property presentable in its high profile location at the mouth of the Humber. In 1957, James F. MacLaren Associates, the consulting engineer working on behalf of the Metropolitan Works Department to develop the plant, engaged landscape architects Dunnington-Grubb and Stensson, an early Toronto-based landscape firm, to prepare landscape and planting plans for the sprawling site. The plans, numbering at least 18 sheets, appear to have included not only areas within the plant site but also the remaining high ground promontory to the north and west of the plant, which following the plant's completion would be made available as parkland under the management of the new Parks department. As late as 1967, this parkland was actually known as the Humber Sewage Treatment Plant Park, or shorter, the Humber Treatment Park.

Metro Parks was working simultaneously to put its own stamp on this parkland, commissioning a design for a pavilion and washroom building in May 1958, for which it received and approved a preliminary design from Architect Alan Crossley in July 1958, as well as depositing tens of thousands of donated tulip bulbs on the south slopes of the park's promontory between 1958 and 1960.

The development of the tulip beds, incongruous as it now sits with today's vision of Toronto's valley and ravine parks, was in keeping with Metro Parks' operational philosophy under its first commissioner, Tommy W. Thompson, which he reported in 1961 was to provide "grass and trees....and sometimes flowers" (Report to the Parks and Recreation Committee of Metropolitan Toronto, January 1961). Thompson further detailed that the department's "first responsibility was to accumulate land in as large a quantity as possible at the most reasonable cost" [since most of the land was actually being purchased by other public institutions for flood control, this was an easily accomplished goal] and then, "as this is being done, simple development and basic facilities can be constructed to service people."

Before 1961, the Parks Department's early building program for shelters and pavilion facilities was surprisingly ambitious, and achieved exceptional pavilion buildings at both South Humber Park and its new metropolitan park on the Toronto Islands, along with more workmanlike structures at Marie Curtis Park in South Etobicoke and in its early Don Valley park developments. Despite Thompson's priority of "unencumbered surroundings," the early Metro Parks program was a commission onto which hired architects and engineers could stamp their own vision—and at a time when new ideas (in the form of architectural modernism) and new concrete construction techniques were emerging.

The pre-1960 Metro Parks Committee proved at least somewhat receptive to ambitious design ideas, though its minutes from the time reveal no formal commitment to pursuing high-profile or impactful designs, and that committee members were simultaneously driving a hard line on architectural fees. Throughout 1958 and 1959, Metro Parks pursued and succeeded in striking a hard bargain with both Crossley and the designers of the Island pavilions, Venchiarutti & Venchiarutti, on their fees during construction and for future reuse of their designs by the Parks Department (which never occurred), overruling its own staff's more generous recommendations for compensation. This focus on design fees reveals the Parks Department's lack of resources compared to other Metro infrastructure divisions, which would solidify within a few years

in Thompson's "grass and trees..." mantra (later in Thompson's 25-year tenure as Commissioner, he became more famous for "Please Walk on the Grass" signs, a more permissive construction of the mantra).

Briefly, staff and outside architects were given room to engage in more ambitious visions of what a Metropolitan parks system could represent and articulate through modernist design. The committee accepted Crossley's design for the South Humber Park Pavilion in July 1958, after Thompson himself described the "unique" structure as "extremely functional and... carefully calculated to render a facility which provides all services for which it was planned, at a low maintenance cost and with little if any opportunity for vandalism."

Designed in the months before the competition to design Toronto's New City hall selected as winner the now iconic design by Finnish architect Vijo Revell, the South Humber Park Pavilion stands as a very early landmark expression by local public managers and a local architect and engineer of Toronto's civic future as a modern metropolitan area.

.2 HISTORICAL TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
1615	FRENCH EXPLORER AND INTERPRETER ETIENNE BRÛLÉ IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BECOME THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO SEE LAKE ONTARIO FROM SOMEWHERE NEAR TODAY'S SOUTH HUMBER PARK, WHILE TRAVELING WITH A GROUP OF HURON PEOPLE.
1835	LANDS ON THE WEST BANK OF THE LOWER HUMBER RIVER ARE GRANTED AS PART OF AN EXTENSIVE GLEBE LAND FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISHES OF MIMICO AND ETOBICOKE. THE MIMICO GLEBE EXTENDS WEST TO MIMICO CREEK, FROM DUNDAS STREET SOUTH TO THE QUEENSWAY.
1905-1912,1929	SUCCESSIVE PLANS PROPOSED BY THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, THE GUILD OF CIVIC ART, AND THE CITY OF TORONTO'S OWN CIVIC IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE AND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION ENVISION A "CIRCUMAMBIENT LINE OF PARKWAYS" FOR PLEASURE DRIVES THAT WOULD ENCIRCLE THE CITY VIA THE HUMBER RIVER AND DON RIVER VALLEYS.
1920	HUMBER VALLEY GOLF COURSE OPENS ON MORE THAN 40 HECTARES OF HILLS AND RAVINES NORTHWEST OF THE HUMBER RIVER MOUTH.
1943	FIRST OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED PLAN FOR AN URBAN GREENBELT ENCIRCLING TORONTO, LEVERAGING THE HUMBER AND DON RIVER VALLEYS.
1943-1953	MOST AREA MUNICIPALITIES ADOPT SOME FORM OF GREENBELT PROTECTION IN THEIR OFFICIAL PLANS, BUT A COLLECTIVE SCHEME FOR FINANCING AND ADMINISTERING THE ACQUISITION AND LONG-TERM PROTECTION OF THESE LANDS REMAINS UNRESOLVED.
1954	THE ORIGINAL HUMBER VALLEY GOLF COURSE IS PURCHASED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO TO PROVIDE A SITE FOR THE HUMBER SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT; IN 1957 METRO PURCHASES ANOTHER GOLF COURSE UP RIVER IN REXDALE, WHICH IT OPENS UNDER THE NAME "METROPOLITAN HUMBER VALLEY GOLF COURSE" IN 1958.
OCT. 1954	HURRICANE HAZEL. 81 FATALITIES, MOST IN THE HUMBER WHERE HOUSES AND WHOLE STREETS ARE WASHED AWAY BY FLOODWATERS THAT AROSE OVERNIGHT. IN THE STORM'S AFTERMATH, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL FUNDING AND POLITICAL RESOLVE BECOMES AVAILABLE TO ACCELERATE THE PURCHASE AND CONSERVATION OF VALLEYLANDS FOR FLOOD PROTECTION.
1955	CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON HUMBER SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL HILLY TERRAIN EXPLOITED BY THE GOLF COURSE, AND THE REWORKING OF THIS EARTH AS A SINGLE SPUR OF HIGH GROUND EXTENDING EAST ACROSS THE NORTHERN EDGE OF THE TREATMENT PLANT SITE.
1956-67	INITIAL PLANNING FOR A METROPOLITAN PARKS SYSTEM SEES SOUTH HUMBER PARK AS A PART OF A LARGER REGIONAL PARK LEVERAGING MANY NEWLY PURCHASED VALLEYLANDS AND VARIOUSLY NAMED "SOUTH HUMBER", "HUMBER VALLEY PARK" AND "ETIENNE BRÛLÉ PARK". FOR REASONS OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY, THE VARIOUS PARKLANDS IN THIS AREA ARE NEVER TRULY LINKED AS A SINGLE RECREATION FACILITY AS CONTEMPLATED IN THIS EARLY PLANNING.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE (CONTINUED)

DATE	EVENT
1957	ARCHITECT ALAN CROSSLEY ENTERS PRIVATE PRACTICE IN TORONTO, AFTER WORKING FOR THE CANADIAN MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION.
1957	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS DUNNINGTON-GRUBB AND STENSSON LTD. ARE HIRED BY JAMES F. MACLAREN ASSOCIATES, CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR THE HUMBER SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, TO DESIGN LANDSCAPING FOR THE NEW PLANT AND THE ADJACENT PUBLIC PARKLAND TO BE CREATED ON THE PROPERTY.
1958	"HUMBER SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT PARK" OPENS. THE LAND REMAINS NOMINALLY THE PROPERTY OF THE METROPOLITAN WORKS DEPARTMENT, BUT IS MAINTAINED AS A PARK BY METROPOLITAN PARKS DEPARTMENT. THE PARK INCLUDES A FEW OF THE OLD FAIRWAYS OF THE HUMBER VALLEY GOLF COURSE, AS WELL AS A NEW PROMONTORY TRAIL ALONG THE RESHAPED SPUR OF HIGH GROUND NORTH OF THE TREATMENT PLANT.
1958	ARCHITECT ALAN CROSSLEY IS HIRED BY METRO PARKS TO DESIGN A PAVILION FOR SOUTH HUMBER PARK.
1958-1960	METRO PARKS ACCEPTS DONATIONS OF AT LEAST 74,000 TULIP BULBS AND HAS THEM PLANTED IN SOUTH HUMBER PARK, ON THE SOUTH FACE OF THE PROMONTORY SPUR SOUTH OF THE PRESENT PAVILION SITE.
1959	SOUTH HUMBER PARK PAVILION IS BUILT, BASED ON DESIGN BY ALAN CROSSLEY ARCHITECT AND LAURENCE CAZALY P.ENG.
1967	MONUMENT TO ETIENNE BRÛLÉ IS INSTALLED WITHIN SOUTH HUMBER PARK BY THE ETOBICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ON THE PROMONTORY ABOVE THE PAVILION.
C.1970	PARK ACCESS STAIRS LEADING TO THE PROMONTORY TRAIL FROM THE SOUTH ARE REMOVED TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXPANSION OF THE HUMBER TREATMENT PLANT.
C. 1974	PUBLIC PARKING LOT ADJACENT TO HUMBER TREATMENT PLANT IS REMOVED TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXPANSION OF THE TREATMENT PLANT.
C. 1980	HUMBER RIVER RECREATION TRAIL ESTABLISHED FROM WATERFRONT THROUGH SOUTH HUMBER PARK, ADJACENT TO THE PARK PAVILION. THE TRAIL RE-ESTABLISHES A FORMAL PUBLIC ACCESS INTO SOUTH HUMBER PARK, ALTHOUGH NOW AS A THOROUGHFARE RATHER THAN DESTINATION.
C.LATE 1980'S	SUBSTANTIAL REFORESTATION PLANTINGS ARE ESTABLISHED ON SOUTH HUMBER PARK'S SOUTHERN PROMONTORY, ERASING OR SUBSUMING ANY REMNANTS OF THE DUNNINGTON-GRUBB LANDSCAPE DESIGN.
C. 1990	WASHROOM BUILDING IS CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE.
2016	**CITY OF TORONTO PARKS, FORESTRY AND RECREATION PROPOSES RENOVATIONS TO THE SOUTH HUMBER PARK PAVILION, INCLUDING DEMOLITION OF THE WASHROOMS AND RECLADDING OF THE STEEL SUPPORTS USING SALVAGED MATERIALS FROM THE DEMOLITION. THIS PROPOSAL BECOMES SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC CONCERN.**

FIGURE 25
City of Toronto Archives Fonds 1244, Item 1237: Area residents washing their cars in the Humber River in 1922.

5 Community Engagement

The South Humber Park Pavilion has garnered widespread interest and support for both its architectural significance and striking character, but also as an informal venue for musical performances. As its existence becomes more widely recognized, chiefly through the recent attention it has received in support of its restoration, its role as a musical performance space could be enhanced as a strategy for 'more eyes' to monitor its use and discourage further vandalism [Fig. 26]. Part of this enhancement could entail a community engagement strategy for finding uses of the space, combined with the restored use of the public washrooms, lighting, and possibly the establishment of a grass amphitheatre on the other side of the asphalt path facing onto the Pavilion. These actions, taken with a new appreciation and enhancement of entrances and pathway networks into the parks would be key elements in ensuring that any future work in the restoration of the South Humber Park Pavilion would be sustainable – not leading back into the original causes for its current state of deterioration.

FIGURE 26
The South Humber Pavilion in use as a community concert venue, 2016

6 Heritage Evaluation

The following evaluation applies Ontario Regulation 9/06, a regulation made under the Ontario Heritage Act which provides 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 this criteria 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, and "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

Rare, representative and early example – The South Humber Park Pavilion has cultural heritage value for its nearly unique implementation of modernist architectural and engineering principles to achieve a singular object or ensemble of sculptural and aesthetic quality within a park landscape. Early photographs of the pavilion demonstrate its success in adapting modernist concrete architectural style to contribute to the picturesque valley landscape in which it was embedded. One of the earliest commissioned examples of public architecture by the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, the pavilion differs from other examples of park pavilion constructed in Toronto during this period (e.g. the Venchiarutti & Venchiarutti-designed pavilions on Toronto Island, the Marie Curtis Park pavilion) by leveraging architecture and engineering to create a pavilion that is first and foremost an open and unprogrammed space to be animated by park users.

By contrast, the Toronto Island pavilions, which represent important aesthetic achievements in their own right, are facilities (washrooms, change rooms, snackbars) first and spaces second. The Marie Curtis pavilion, though it leverages similar shapes to the South Humber Park Pavilion (a circular shelter roof supported on narrow steel columns) achieves none of the Oculus' sculptural grace and impact, because these elements simply adorn the snackbar and washroom. At the South Humber Park Pavilion, the facilities program is shifted backwards, to form a backdrop to park users' own occupancy of the pavilion and the site, which is allowed to animate the stage established beneath the concrete canopy.

Craftsmanship + Technical Achievement

The sheer persistence of the South Humber Park Pavilion, in spite of the high levels of abuse and vandalism to both its exterior and interior spaces, is a testament to its high level of craftsmanship and technical achievement. The Oculus is a true engineering marvel, created by an engineer known for his pioneering concrete construction techniques. The exterior and interior finishes of the washroom building have held up equally to years of vandalism, and the shell of the building is intact and worthy of restoration. The architectural features well recognized in the modernist vocabulary are not always well-known for their sturdiness; however the 'staying power' of this iconic assemblage of washroom building, pavilion, and surface is highly indicative of its excellence in design and implementation.

Engineer and Architect – The South Humber Park Pavilion is emblematic of the distinctive work of the modernist architectural era, where very often architects and engineers were able to work in a more collaborative method as the skills of both disciplines were needed to explore and build the ambitious geometric shapes that were conceived. The presence of both the architect, Alan Crossley, and the engineer, Laurence Cazaly, can be recognized in the iconic design and skilful composition of elements.

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	N/A
III. DEMONSTRATES OR REFLECTS THE WORK OR IDEAS OF AN ARCHITECT, ARTIST, BUILDER, DESIGNER OR THEORIST WHO IS SIGNIFICANT TO A COMMUNITY	X

The South Humber Park Pavilion represents the best known public work of architect and town planner Alan Crossley, who in May 1958 received the commission to design the 'shelter and comfort station' for South Humber Park. Mr. Crossley, who recently passed away at the age of 97, was residing in a seniors' residence in Whitby, Ontario. He emigrated from Great Britain in 1948, and worked initially for the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Crossley left the CMHC in 1956 to open a private architectural and town planning practice in Toronto with his wife Constance Burns Crossley, before retiring to Erindale where the Crossleys became well-known artists. Mr. Crossley's daughter recalls a fire station designed in Etobicoke, town plans for Wallaceburg, Cooksville and Belleville, and numerous residential commissions as part of their architectural practice. One of the Crossleys' subsequent sculptural commissions 'Homecoming' can be seen in the lobby of the Applewood Place apartment tower at 1333 Bloor Street in Mississauga.

While not the work of one of the more well-recognized Canadian architects of the period, the South Humber Park Pavilion remains a gift to Toronto and the country in its revelation of the visual impact and legacy that can be achieved by an architect in private practice.

The South Humber Park Pavilion is also of significant historical value as a landmark example of the work of Laurence Cazaly, professional engineer, only recently retired, who was heavily involved in advancements in concrete construction engineering in Toronto in the post-war period. Cazaly is known to have consulted on the engineering of a number of landmark concrete towers in Toronto's core, including the new City Hall, as well as an extensive portfolio of parks and recreation projects, including footbridges throughout Toronto's parks system and those built for the Expo 67 complex in Montreal. With its floating concrete oculus, in which engineering achievement is at the forefront of the public view and experience of the structure, the South Humber Park Pavilion is an accessible monument to Cazaly's work. [Figure 27]

Institution – The South Humber Park Pavilion is a significant constructed product of the first decade of regional infrastructure works undertaken by the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, and of the rapid acquisition and development of a regional park system that occurred in response to the calamity of Hurricane Hazel.

Today, the early work of Metro Toronto generally returns to public attention for its controversial expressways program, its development of regional water and sewer infrastructure (including the adjacent Humber Sewage Treatment Plant, as well as the constellation of modern water reservoirs that dot suburban Toronto), and its establishment of new planning programs and priorities for housing and social services at a regional scale. The Metro government's role in the expansion of Toronto's park network and in shaping the floodplain lands acquired after Hurricane Hazel is much more rarely acknowledged or scrutinized, even as the ravine system over the last several years became a renewed subject of public interest and municipal planning.

As the most visually ambitious and challenging of a small number of modernist buildings constructed by the Metropolitan Parks Department in its first decade, the South Humber Park Pavilion is a distinctive interpretive datum for the city's ravine system, and a window into the institutional and social context of this natural wonder. The pavilion's distinctive architecture and singular placement in a ravine park today makes it a valuable resource in interpreting the institutional heritage and public future of Toronto's ravine system.

Surroundings – The design and siting of the South Humber Park Pavilion was highly intentional and crafted to tie into and reinforce the picturesque landscape into which it was embedded. While changes to the park's facilities and maintenance regime have over time made the pavilion's contribution to the park's designed landscape less apparent, its value to the overall aesthetic quality and program of the park is still visible, for instance, in the revealed views of the structure that occur as one travels east or west towards it on the Humber trail. The Pavilion remains a key physical and visual contribution to the legibility of the site as public park, and is important in marking South Humber Park as a part of the original Metropolitan system of valley parks.

Landmark – A park pavilion is naturally a public gathering place, landmark and point of human shelter within its surrounding park landscape. Already a destination for park visitors, as South Humber Park's southern promontory trail (with its Etienne Brule monument and former landscape elements) was gradually de-emphasized, informalized and reforested, the Oculus Pavilion became a landmark of greater significance within the park.

CONTEXTUAL VALUE	
I. IMPORTANT IN DEFINING, MAINTAINING OR SUPPORTING THE CHARACTER OF AN AREA	N/A
II. PHYSICALLY, FUNCTIONALLY, VISUALLY OR HISTORICALLY LINKED TO ITS SURROUNDINGS	X
III. LANDMARK	X

While an interpretive station was recently installed in the replanted meadow sites to the east (consisting of a gravel circle with some seating stones and a set of short-lived interpretive panels that have since been vandalized and removed [Fig. 28]), the Pavilion retains significant contextual value as the principal constructed landmark within the park [Fig. 29].

As a constructed landmark, the South Humber Park Pavilion serves to contextualize the surrounding renaturalized parklands as civic space of a somewhat higher order—one that is appropriate to the park's position adjacent to mixed-density residential neighbourhoods, a major municipal service facility, and the active recreation parklands on the waterfront.

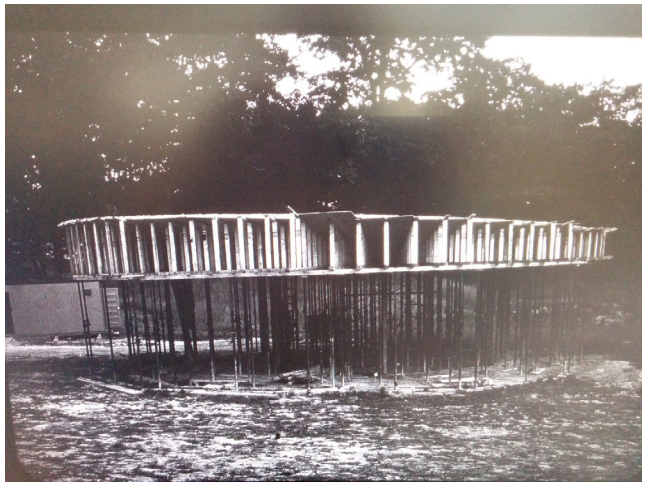

FIGURE 27
City of Toronto Archives: Construction of the Pavilion, 1959.

FIGURE 28
Site of the the now abandoned interpretive station with gravel circle and seating stones, c. 2016

FIGURE 29
Eastward view of the South Humber Park Pavilion with original manicured landscape, 1970, Parks Fonds 220, 1970

7 Conclusion

Following research and evaluation according to O. Reg. 9/06, it has been determined that the South Humber Park Pavilion at 120 The Queensway has design, associative and contextual value as an important mid-century public pavilion defined by its singular sculptural composition, its important contribution to the experience and value of the surrounding public park landscape, and its connection to the initial phase of regional planning and development under Metropolitan Toronto, which produced, among a variety of legacies, the city's famed network of ravine and valley parks.

.1 Significance

The South Humber Park represents a significant visual and structural achievement by its designers—architect Alan Crossley and engineer Laurence Cazaly—and is an important visual and infrastructural legacy of Toronto's early Metropolitan period, when regionalized planning transformed the city's public and civic landscape, environment and services.

The adventurous asymmetrical composition of forms – the trapezoidal flagstone 'mat', the raked stone crescent walls of the washroom building, and the still-futuristic concrete disc with its compressed positioning of its oculus have formed a physical confluence that are artistically and deftly separated yet simultaneously connected. Perhaps the most remarkable part of this ensemble is the shaft of light that the oculus directs through every day. Although modest in scale, the South Humber Park Pavilion remains an iconic landmark of the sculptural dynamic that is indelibly associated with the modernist architectural style.

As Graeme Stewart and Michael McClelland wrote at the outset of Concrete Toronto, their 2007 edited guidebook to the city's modernist concrete architectural heritage, "at the time, concrete must have seemed incredibly liberating to architects, allowing them to move beyond many of the limitations of earlier construction materials. Concrete could be compressive and tensile and could be made into almost any form imaginable… [it] was inexpensive, locally produced and readily available, and it broke from established practice."

Among the South Humber Pavilion's most surprising aspects is how successfully its modernist concrete forms were integrated into the picturesque ravine landscape that was a legacy of the golf course that had previously occupied the site, and into the visitor's sequence of experiences as they traversed the site. While subsequent transformations have disrupted the original patterns of park use, the Pavilion's contribution to the park's perceptual landscape remains accessible to travellers on the Humber Trail, a happy accident that has preserved an important component of the Pavilion's original picturesque function and which informs today's strong public interest in the Pavilion.

While a small number of other structures now managed by Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation division share the South Humber Park Pavilion's association with the early years of Metropolitan Toronto, none represent this association with such singular visual effect or stand as such a clear landmark and expression of the ambitions and possibilities of this period. This report finds that the South Humber Park Pavilion has significance as defined under the Ontario Heritage Act, and steps should be taken to secure its designation and conservation.

.2 Suggested Conservation Approach

For long term conservation, there is a need to restore both the physical quality of the South Humber Park Pavilion and to provide measures for increased security and surveillance.

The issues of vandalism and abuse appear to be largely due to the isolation of the Pavilion within the context of the South Humber Park. The conservation and restoration of the Pavilion, then, partially rests with the re-evaluation of the South Humber Park, its network of paths, its lost entrances and potential public programming that could bring a more constant stream of visitors to the Pavilion. A number of measures are suggested in the following list, but these measures are not exhaustive and could be evaluated along with other suggestions that could be made by the many new 'friends' of the 'Oculus'.

.a Pavilion Structures Restoration and Security:

- Provide lighting leading up to the Pavilion and in its surroundings;
- Development of more programming, like musical events and performances;
- Security cameras (solar powered) mounted on the washroom building walls;
- Reorganization of washroom building interiors to create more visible entrances; [Fig 31, 32]
- Reorganizing / renovation of washroom building interior to provide full accessibility; [Fig 31, 32]
- Physical measures to discourage access to roofs of both washroom building and pavilion – i.e. fine mesh at rear of washroom building
- Anti-graffiti coatings on exterior and interior materials (to aid in removal)
- Re-surfacing / restoration of the flagstone pavement to be coordinated with a secondary material that connects the pavement 'mat' with the asphalt pathway.

.b Park Features

- Reinstatement of new entrance points to replace what was lost through earlier Humber Treatment Plant expansion;
- Elaboration and enhancement of the current trail system connecting the south edge of the park pathway (leading to Discovery Point monument) directly north to the Pavilion, with signage and mapping for information, creating looping path networks;
- Clearing of naturalized growth around Pavilion to restore openness and visibility [Fig. 33]
- Potential establishment of green amphitheatre for seating directly opposite Pavilion to support musical performances / events [Fig. 30]

FIGURE 30
Southern approach coming down from promontory path could be developed into grass amphitheatre to open up access and visibility and promote performances.

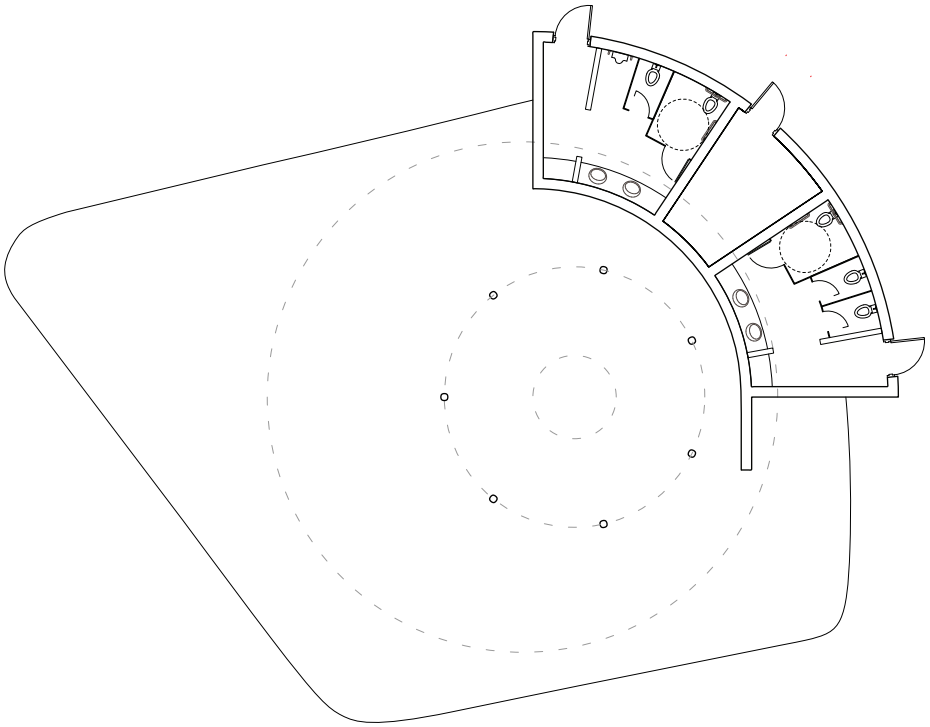

FIGURE 31
Washroom Building Optional Layout 1

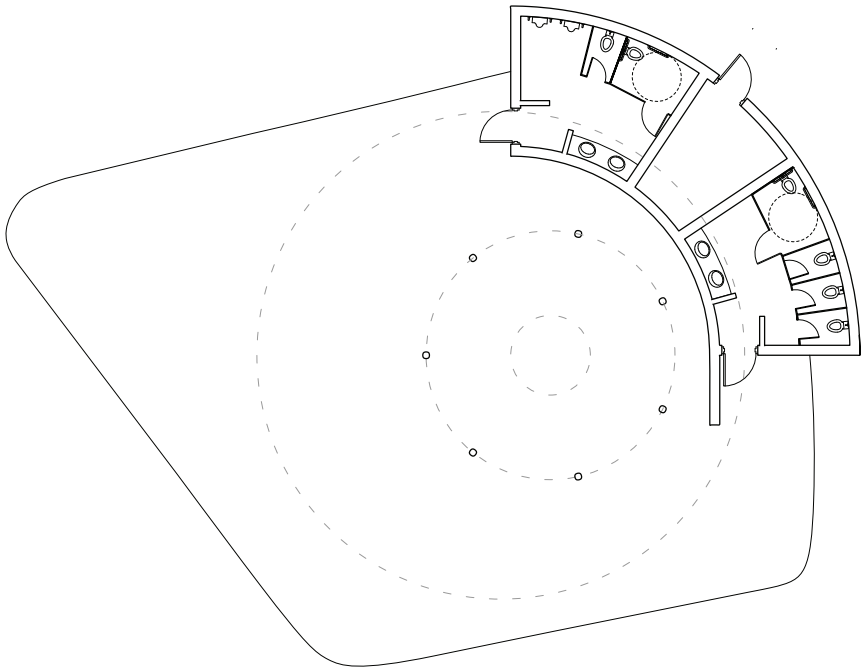

FIGURE 32
Washroom Building Optional Layout 2

Option 1 suggests shifting the men's and women's washrooms to the ends of the curved building, placing a storage area in the middle. The storage area could be used both for janitorial uses and modest storage as event supports. The washroom entrances are shifted to the building corners, which would provide increased visibility that would be further supported by clearing the landscape underbrush that currently obscures the current entrance locations. The washrooms are laid out to provide barrier free accessibility. In this layout, additional pavement would be required to provide smooth access to the rear of the building.

Option 2 also suggests moving the men's and women's washrooms to the ends of curved building, with storage area placed in the middle. In this layout, the washroom entrances are shifted to the building corners facing the sheltered pavilion, which provides a further increase in visibility. The washrooms are laid out to provide barrier free accessibility. Both options support the recommendation of maintaining / restoring the use of the building as a public washroom as an important support for people using the Humber Trail, and also as a support for an increased visibility and use of the Pavilion as a community event venue.

FIGURE 33
South Humber Park Pavilion
Existing view ca 2017 with photoshop rendering. The rendering suggests improvements in lighting, controlled landscaping, graffiti removal and building restoration, new seating and public presence to support the Pavilion as a community event and performance venue.

Appendices

Appendix A: Primary and Secondary Sources
Appendix B: Maps, Drawings and Images

Appendix A - Primary and Secondary Sources

Primary Source Material

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Appendix B - Mapping, Drawings & Images

1. Historical Mapping and Drawings and Images

Region	SOUTH HUMBER PARK	Building #
SOUTH HUMBER	WASHROOM	HS-A-F1

FILE PLAN:	# 173	**CONTRACT:**	6-59
DESIGNER:	Alan Crossley Architect & Planning Consultant		
DATE DESIGNED:	August - December 1959		
CONTRACTOR:	n/a		
DATE CONSTRUCTED:		**CONSTRUCTION COST:**	$ 9,500

BUILDING SPECIFICATIONS

BUILDING PROGRAM:	washroom with storage area and covered patio shelter		
WASHROOM CAPACITY:			
MEN:	3 W/C + 3 urinals + 2 sinks		
WOMEN:	4 W/C + 2 sinks		
FULLY ACCESSIBILE:	no	**WINTERIZED:**	no
DATE:	n/a	**DATE:**	n/a
GROSS FLOOR AREA:	74.32 m²	**NO. STORIES:**	1
WATER:		**HYDRO:**	
GAS:		**SEWER:**	
BELL:			

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

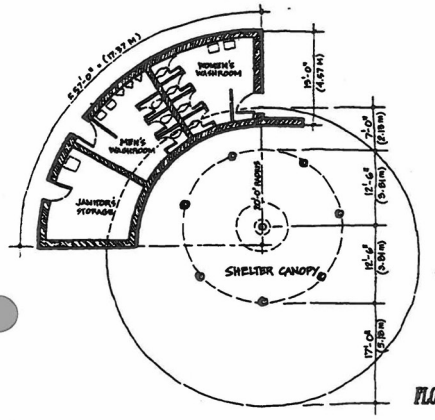
FLOOR:	
EXTERIOR WALLS:	stone masonry
ROOF:	
STRUCTURE:	reinforced concrete slab/ load bearing walls

BUILDING SYSTEMS:

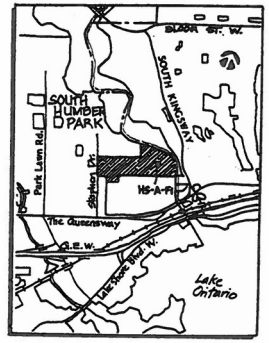
HISTORICAL DESIGNATION:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: _____

Region	SOUTH HUMBER PARK	Building #
SOUTH HUMBER	WASHROOM	HS-A-F1



FLOOR PLAN



KEY MAP

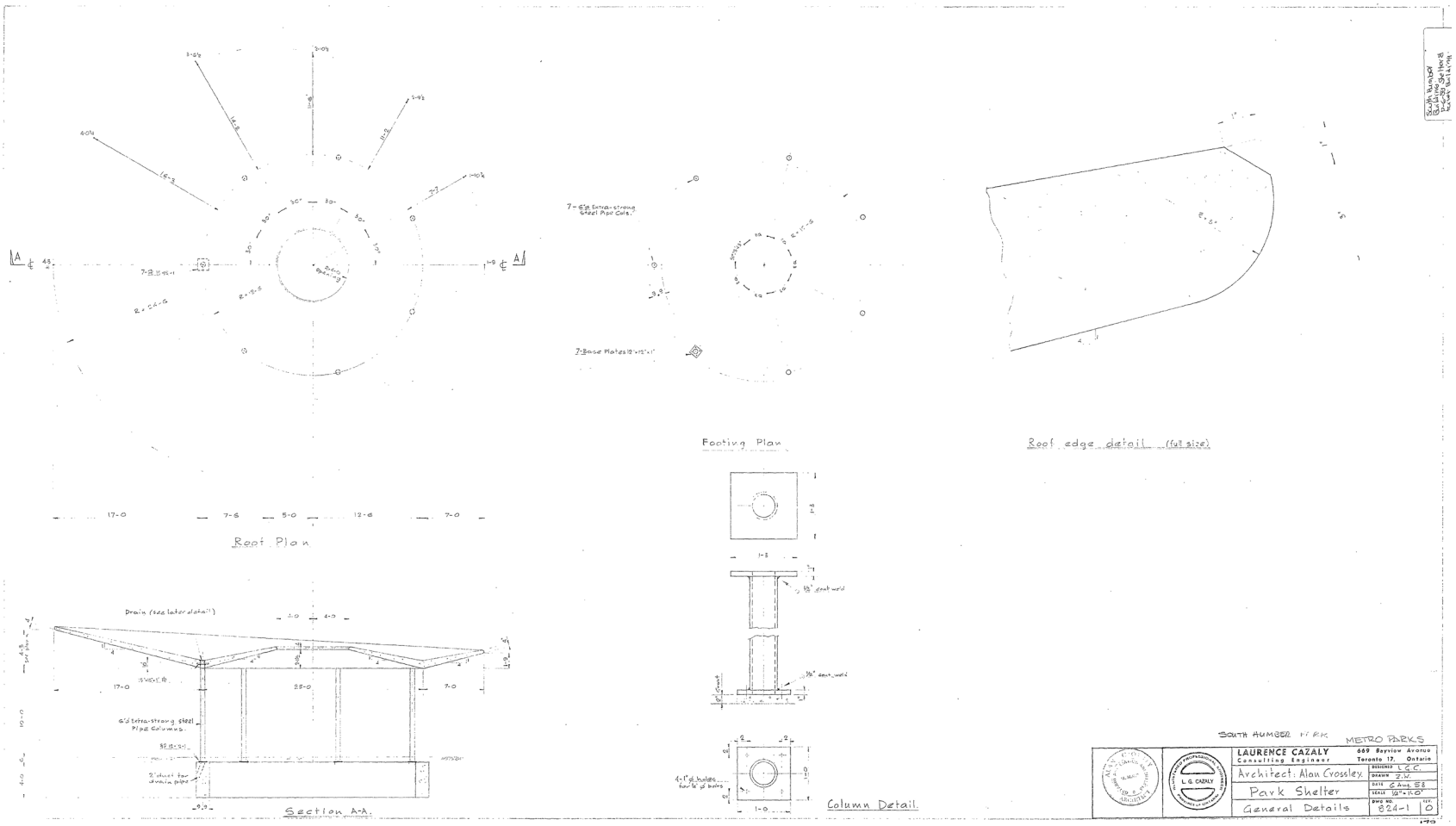


FIGURE B-2
Engineering drawing - General Details -
by Lawrence Cazaly, P.Eng.

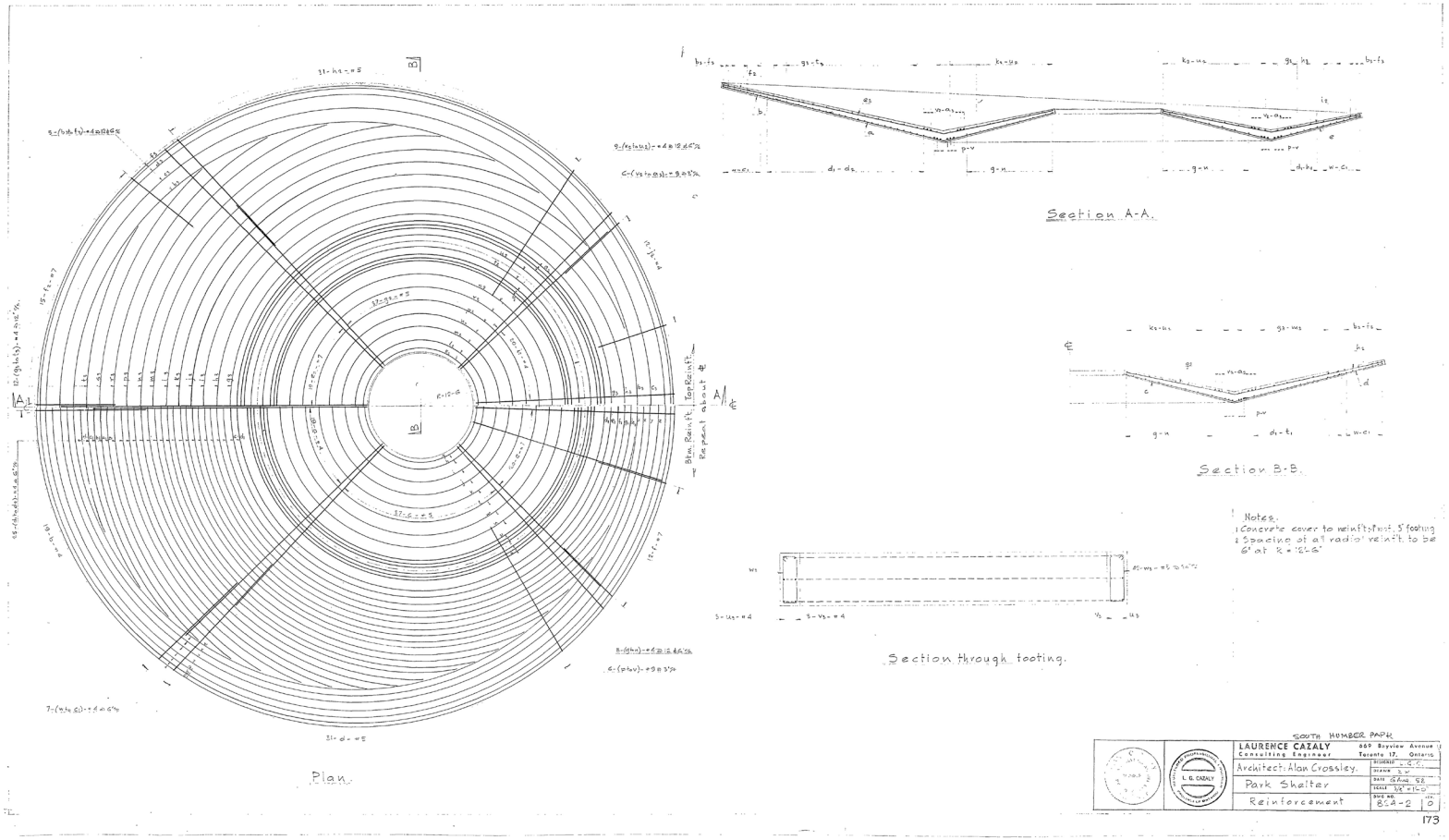


FIGURE B-3
Engineering drawing - Reinforcement - by Lawrence Cazaly, P.Eng.

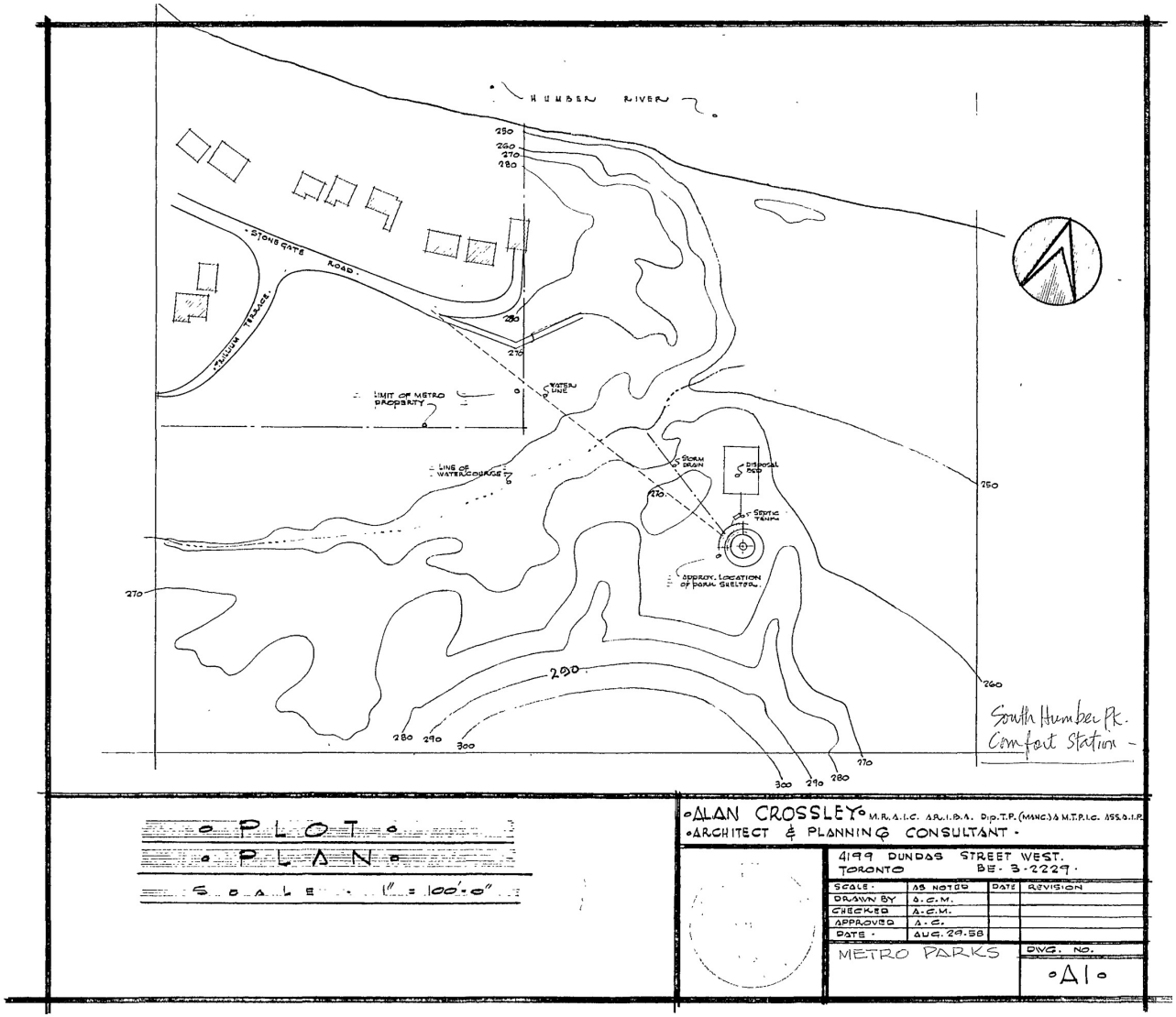
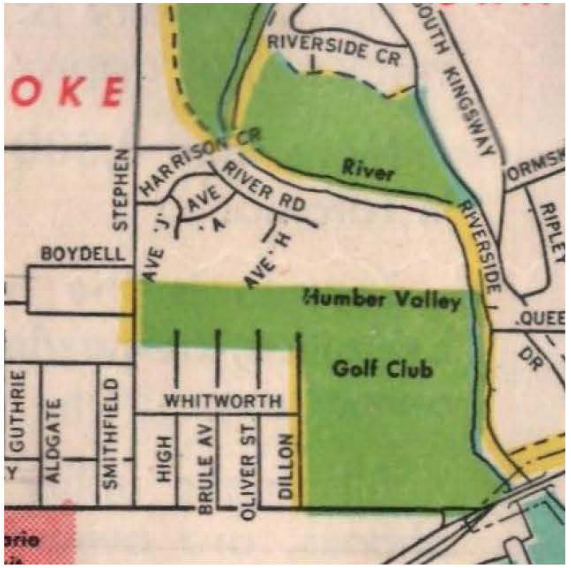


FIGURE B-4
Plot Plan - Alan Crossley, Architect

1860

1916



1948

FIGURE B-5
Mapping of Context 1860, 1916, 1948

FIGURE B-6
Fonds 220, Series 316, File 282. Oblique Aerial Photograph of South Humber Park, looking North East c. 1977, after expansion of Humber Sewage Treatment Plant

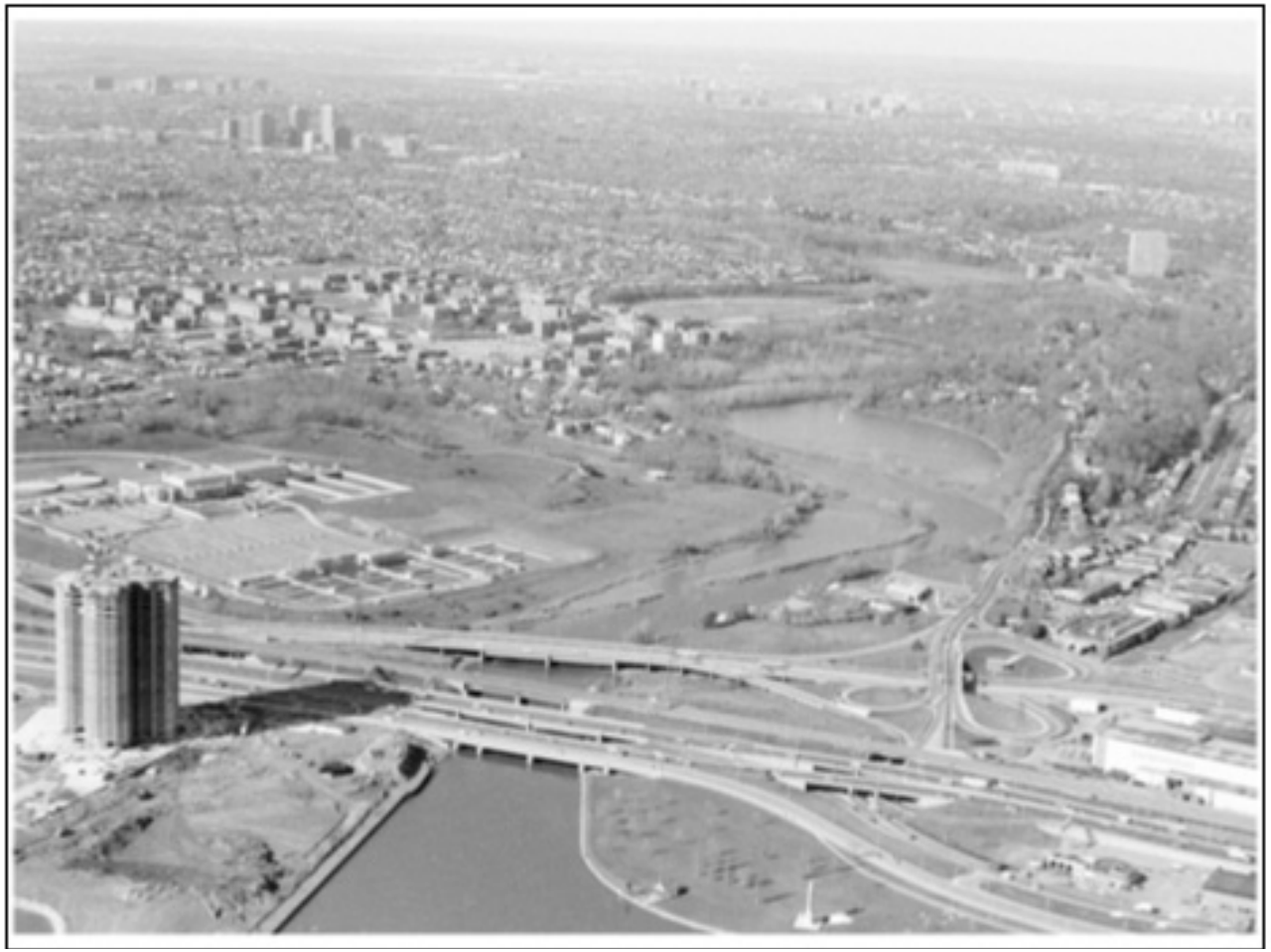


FIGURE B-7
Fonds 220, Series 316, File 282. Oblique Aerial Photograph of South Humber Park, looking North West c. 1977, after expansion of Humber Sewage Treatment Plant

FIGURE B-8
Fonds 220, Series 316, File 277. South Humber Park promontory landscaping, including donated tulips, c. 1959-1960

FIGURE B-9
Fonds 220, Series 316, File 94. Promontory c. 1957-1958, prior to installation of gravel path and additional landscaping. Looking West (Humber Bay School in background).

FIGURE B-10
Fonds 220, Series 316, File 94. New Parking Lot at Humber Treatment Plant Park, c. 1958-1958. Looking South East.

FIGURE B-11
Fall 1961
City of Toronto Archives

FIGURE B-12
Undated photo from South Humber Park
ca 1955 - 1985

FIGURE B-13
Fonds 220, Series 316, File 277

FIGURE B-14
Fonds 220, Series 316, File 790.
Humber Sewage Plant Park - July 28, 1961

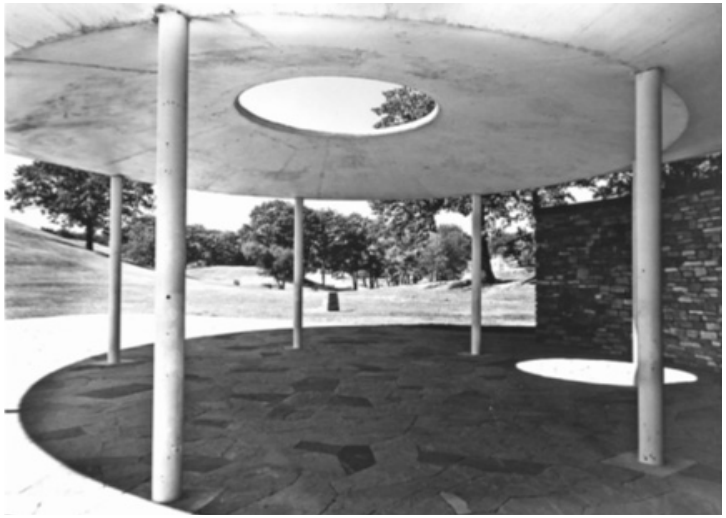


FIGURE B-15
Fonds 220, Series 35, File 76

FIGURE B-16
Fonds 220, Series 316, File 789.
Humber Sewage Plant Park - July 28, 1961

FIGURE B-17
View looking north

FIGURE B-18
The Oculus

FIGURE B-19 View looking northeast

FIGURE B-20 Washroom building south wall

FIGURE B-21 View looking north from promontory approach

FIGURE B-22 Washroom building east wall, women's entrance

FIGURE B-23 Washroom building , rear wall, Men's entrance

FIGURE B-24 Underside of oculus

FIGURE B-25 Underside of oculus at column support

FIGURE B-26 Detail at underside of oculus at washroom building south wall

FIGURE B-14 -17
August 2016

FIGURE B-27 Flagstone pavement detail at column support

FIGURE B-28 Pavilion with graffiti

FIGURE B-29 Detail at washroom building rear wall

FIGURE B-30
Promontory path approach

Alan Crossley, Architect
with his daughter Beryl Dorey
August 2016

Laurence Cazaly, Engineer
with his wife Millie
September 2016

STUDY TEAM

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This study was done with help from
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Marybeth McTeague
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South Humber Park Pavilion

HERITAGE EVALUATION REPORT