Rosehill Reservoir, Toronto

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BROWN+STOREY ARCHITECTS INC.

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Prepared for

CITY OF TORONTO, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Prepared by

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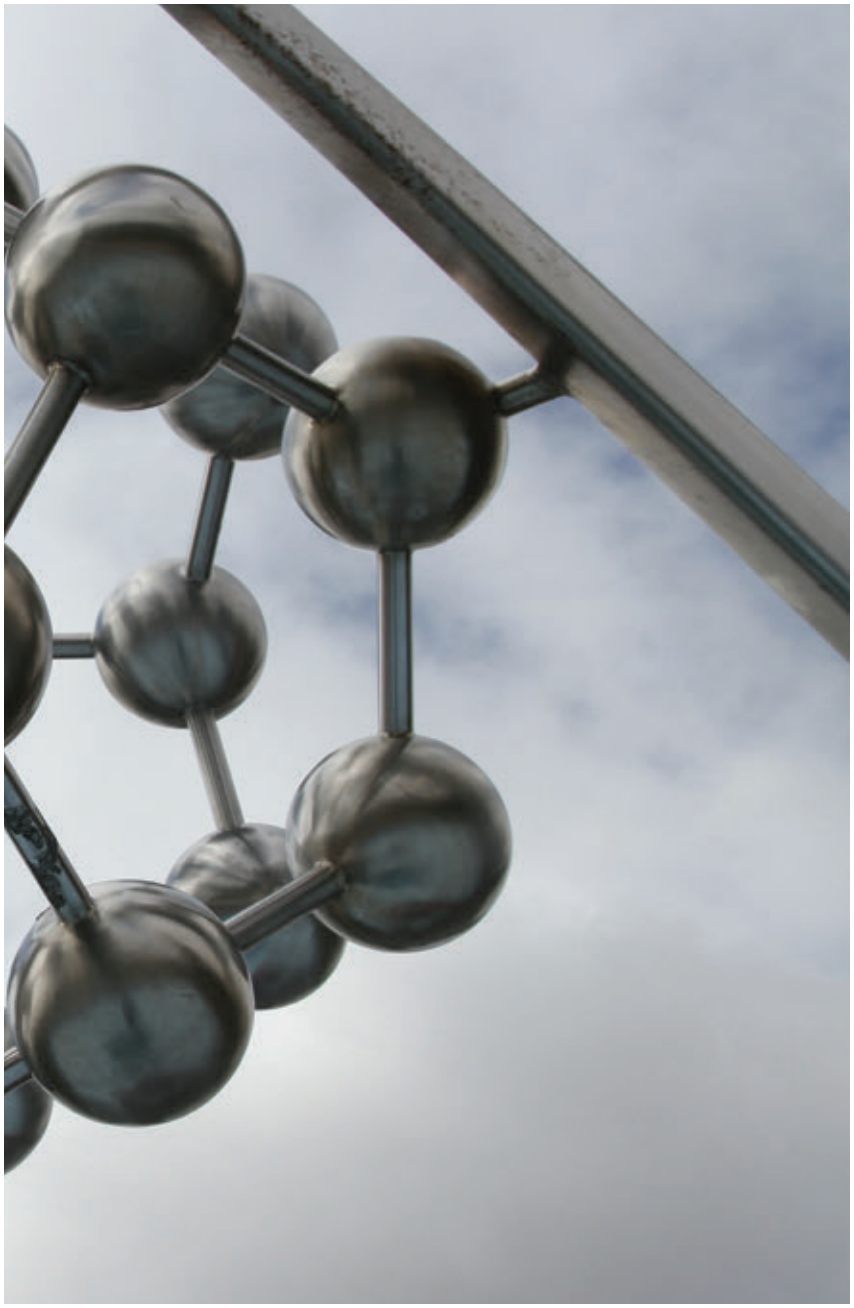
COVER
Aerial oblique photograph showing Rosehill Reservoir, 1975.

FIGURE 1
Detail of the stainless steel “Water Molecule” sculpture, a key component of the Centennial Monument at Rosehill Reservoir.



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executive summary

The Rosehill Water Reservoir is an underground reservoir located in the City of Toronto, east of Yonge Street and south of St. Clair Avenue East. A structural rehabilitation project planned to begin in 2017 will require the temporary removal of the reservoir's top surface, and the temporary or permanent removal of a number of existing elements of the public landscape presently located above the reservoir roof.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The exterior surface of the reservoir is landscaped and is contiguous with David A. Balfour Park, a large municipal park that includes the grounds surrounding the reservoir perimeter, a southern extension of those grounds to Summerhill Avenue, and extensive ravine lands. The relationship of the reservoir site with parkland dates to 1853, when an amusement park and pleasure garden was operated around the location. The original open-topped water reservoir was opened in 1874.

The reservoir site includes two infrastructural buildings: the Valve House and the Access House, as well as a public washroom building, all constructed between 1964-68 as part of the construction of the underground reservoir that operates on the site today. In this same period, an extensive designed landscape was constructed on the roof of the reservoir, executed as a 1967 Canadian Centennial Project.

The Centennial Landscape includes a large stainless steel sculpture ("The Water Molecule"), ceremonial plaza, fountain, reflecting pools, and landscaped cascade entrance, as well as access stairs on the west and south slopes of the reservoir. Additional amenities associated with this landscape include a children's splash pad and playground (subsequently relocated, the original footprint is reused in the current Rosehill Garden). All of these components appear to have been designed and executed by the Works Division of Metropolitan Toronto and their engineering consultant, Gore & Storrie Ltd.

The reservoir site and adjacent parklands also house a contemporary cultural landscape of public significance, including a community-developed garden and playground, and an extensive sequence of memorial trees and benches.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This report identifies the grounds of the Rosehill Reservoir as a significant cultural heritage landscape within the City of Toronto.

In addition to the status and continued role of the reservoir parklands as one of the city's oldest public recreational landscapes, the report outlines the cultural and civic importance of the site as a public landmark for the city's drinking water system. Since the opening of the reservoir in 1874, its water supply function and its public park landscape have been permanently entwined.

The three service buildings built on the grounds and roof of the reservoir in the 1960s are of significant architectural quality and clearly responded to the reservoir's status as a site of heightened civic and public interest, as did the Centennial Landscape constructed during the same period.

This landscape represented a clear public statement by the reservoir's engineers and public managers of the public value of the site and the ambition of Toronto's public water system. In 1981, the Rosehill Reservoir received a Landmark designation from the American Water Works Association.

CHALLENGES FOR CONSERVATION

It is recognized that the requirements of the rehabilitation project and present best practices in public water operations, supply safety and maintenance present significant challenges for the conservation of the Centennial Landscape as a physical feature of the reservoir site and one that is contextually supported and retains public meaning.

Current guidelines and best practices for the protection of stored drinking water (MOE 2008; AWWA 2015) require the permanent removal of water features and sanitary drains from the reservoir roof, meaning that the fountains, reflecting pools and landscaped cascade entrance cannot be reinstated following the rehabilitation project. It is noted that water that is available for public access has been a consistent feature of the reservoir landscape since its opening in 1874, and a subject of recurring public interest, memory and concern throughout the history of the reservoir's operations and improvement.

It is also recognized that many of the elements of the Centennial Landscape have been in poor condition for some time. In addition to the gradual termination of the water circulation system for the pools and fountains, the plazas at both the monument and the entrance cascade have deteriorated and in many cases have been replaced with inferior materials, lowering the perceived value and compromising the context of the remaining elements.

In undertaking to conserve certain elements of this Centennial landscape and monument for the future, it is important that this process does not perpetuate their gradual devaluing and decontextualization within the site. Instead, a successful conservation of elements like the Centennial monument requires investments in a new context for these elements that will renew their connection with the rest of the reservoir's cultural heritage landscape.

RECOMMENDED CONSERVATION ACTIONS

To address the above-noted challenges, each significant element of the Rosehill

Reservoir cultural heritage landscape is discussed in detail, and an approach to conservation suggested. The historic role of water supply engineers in the design and stewardship of the reservoir's public landscape is also discussed, and the current operator's continued relationship to and investment in the site's public landscape is encouraged. Major points are summarized below.

Historic Park Entrances and Pathways

Existing path alignments through the reservoir's perimeter parkland and the southern "Little Park" have heritage significance and should be conserved. Investment in renewing the intensity of the park's planted landscape is suggested. The restoration of a perimeter trackway or promenade on the roof of the reservoir is suggested as a functional callback to the pre-1960s landscape of the open reservoir.

Valve House and Access House

The rehabilitation project currently contemplated will maintain these two structures in place. Both structures represent significant examples of small service building architecture, and make important contributions to the visual quality of the reservoir parklands.

Both buildings have subsequently suffered from poorly considered retrofits, although luckily these have been modest in nature and have not significantly impacted the material quality of the building volumes and facades. The Valve House has received wall pack lighting and CCTV mountings and low quality replacement of what was originally copper roof flashing, while the Access House is presently surrounded by a barbed wire fence of low visual and material quality.

Both buildings should be conserved, future modifications to the building envelopes should be minimized, and existing negative impacts to the visual quality and intent of these structures should be ameliorated.

Centennial Monument

The complete stainless steel sculpture, including wings, parabolic arch and "water molecule", has been identified as a conservation priority, along with the precast terrazzo Centennial logo panel that accompanies it. The removal of the ceremonial plaza and the water features with which these elements were associated represents a significant loss to the public context and functional value of these pieces, but one that is necessary to the safety of the reservoir.

A successful conservation of the monument requires investment in a new public context for the sculpture at the reservoir. The report identifies contextual priorities for reinstatement of the monument as follows: continued association with the Rosehill Reservoir; a formal, hard surfaced plaza that communicates the public value of the conserved elements; a mounting that, through elevation and position (via a pedestal platform, terrace, stair-and-landing, or other comparable structures), preserves the designed views of the sculpture from below and from the interior of the parabolic arch; and the reinstatement of two original interpretive plaques that are presently missing.

Reinstatement of the monument close to its original location on the roof of the reservoir is not considered a priority if the above measures can be better achieved at another location of public prominence at the reservoir site.

Washroom Building

As a visually distinctive and unusual example of a small municipal service building, the Washroom Building represents the most difficult conservation challenge associated with the current rehabilitation project. The requirement that the structure be removed from the reservoir roof makes its conservation infeasible if not impossible. A variety of options for the future of the building and its function on the site are discussed.

South and West Stairs

These two access stairs include visually distinctive railings and cheekwalls that contribute to the aesthetic quality of the reservoir's perimeter parkland. The railings should be carefully conserved and reinstated following the work.

Fountain, Reflecting Pools, Cascade

All these elements once served to express the public value and ambition of the metropolitan water supply system and to provide an allusion to the open water of the original reservoir. Despite their generally poor present condition and functionality, the removal of water as an element of the public landscape and narrative of the site is a loss to the site's heritage. As it is inconsistent with present guidelines to reinstate water features on the roof of the reservoir, other opportunities should be considered to restore water—in a form with public significance and value—at a safe location within the landscape of the site.

Contemporary Cultural Landscape

The value and extensive community investment in the reservoir's contemporary cultural and social landscape is recognized. The park's memorial landscape of plaqued trees and benches, and the community-driven Rosehill Garden and present playground represent important contemporary expressions of the site's heritage as a public recreational landscape.

Their prominence and quality requires an enhanced duty of care from the rehabilitation project to ensure maintenance of public access and enjoyment, and to ensure that cultural elements are respected, conserved and reinstated where practical and desirable. Investments that align these elements more congruously with the park's heritage landscape are suggested.

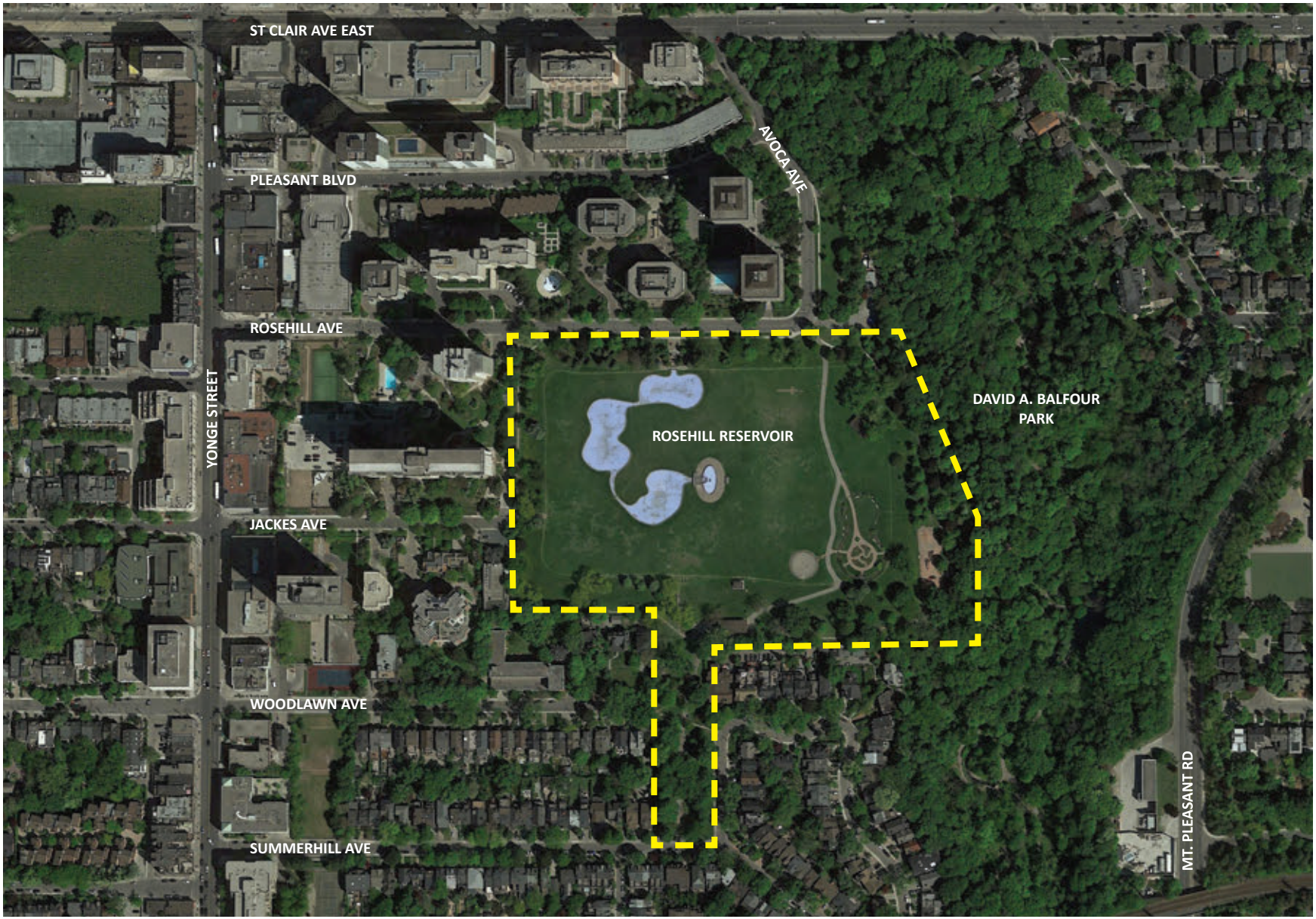


FIGURE 2
Rosehill Reservoir, as seen in this 2015 satellite image. The approximate boundaries of the site that is the subject of this report are outlined in yellow.

introduction

Toronto Engineering and Construction Services Division has retained Associated Engineering and Brodie & Associates Landscape Architects Inc. to prepare the plans for the rehabilitation of Rosehill Reservoir (75 Rosehill Avenue). Brown and Storey Architects Inc. with E.R.A. Architects Inc. have subsequently been retained to prepare the heritage impact assessment (HIA) for the reservoir site.

Brown and Storey Architects Inc. has prepared this HIA having regard to the Parks Canada Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada; the Province of Ontario's 2014 Provincial Policy Statement; Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990); Ontario Regulation 9/06; the City of Toronto's Heritage Impact Assessment Terms of Reference; the City of Toronto's Yonge-St. Clair Secondary Plan; and the ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites.

PROPERTY LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Rosehill Water Reservoir is a two-cell underground water reservoir, storing 270 million litres of drinking water for Toronto's municipal water system, and is operated by Toronto Water. Located east of Yonge Street, north of the CPR railway corridor and south of St. Clair Avenue East, the reservoir site is addressed as 75 Rosehill Avenue and is accessible via four east-west streets: (from north to south) Rosehill Avenue, Jackes Avenue, Woodlawn Avenue East and Summerhill Avenue [fig 2].

The exterior surface of the Rosehill Reservoir is landscaped and is a contiguous component of the City of Toronto's larger David A. Balfour Park, which also takes in extensive public ravine lands (the Vale of Avoca / Yellow Creek Ravine) and a small southern extension of the reservoir grounds that connects to Summerhill Avenue. These same properties were historically known together as "Reservoir Park," and the connection of the reservoir to parkland dates to 1853, two decades prior to the original reservoir's construction, when an amusement park operated on and in the ravine below the present property.

The reservoir site includes two infrastructural buildings—the Valve House and Access House—and a public washroom building. All three buildings were constructed from 1964-1968. A fourth structure, the Parks Workshop and Storage Building, is located northeast of the reservoir, beyond the boundaries of the rehabilitation project, and was constructed in 1947. None of the buildings are designated.

The reservoir site includes extensive park landscapes both on the roof of the reservoir and within the surrounding grounds. The landscape elements on the roof of the reservoir were installed following construction of the covered reservoir, and were conceived and executed as a 1967 Centennial project by the Works Division of Metropolitan Toronto. These included a large stainless steel sculpture ("The Water Molecule"), ceremonial plaza, fountain, reflecting pools, landscaped cascade entrance, splash pad, extensive irrigation system, and playground (now the Rosehill Garden), as well as new access stairs on the west and south faces of the reservoir. All the water features on the top of the reservoir have been non-functional for some time.

The surrounding parkland includes a number of additional elements, including extensive memorial tree plantings, a modern children's playground, memorial benches and ornamental plantings.

The reservoir is associated with a municipal pumping station, Rosehill Pumping Station, located at 240 Mount Pleasant Road, on the opposite side of the Yellow Creek Ravine. This pumping station is located outside of the boundaries of the reservoir site and, although constructed at the same time as the 1960s covered reservoir at Rosehill, it does not share a similar architectural identity with the buildings at the reservoir.

PRESENT OWNER

City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

EXISTING HERITAGE RECOGNITION

The Rosehill Reservoir site, buildings and landscape are not presently designated by the City of Toronto, and are not located within an existing Heritage Conservation District.

The Rosehill Reservoir has been recognized with landmark status by the American Water Works Association. The AWWA's Landmark Awards recognize sites that meet the following criteria:

1. A tangible, physical property that has or has had a direct and significant relationship with water's supply, treatment, distribution, or technological development. It should be of a permanent and nonexpendable

FIGURE 3
AWWA Landmark Recognization Plaque on site at Rosehill Reservoir.

nature, such as a building, dam, reservoir, tower, etc., and not machinery or a natural water resource.

2. At least 50 years old and be recognized within its own community or region as a popular, valued, or historically significant property. (Evidence of this recognition must be provided.)

3. Has been and will continue to be maintained in a manner appropriate to the status of an American, Canadian, or Mexican Water Landmark.

The Rosehill Reservoir was so recognized in 1981. A bronze plaque bearing this designation stands on the site's Rosehill Avenue frontage, approximately 20 m east of the Cascade Entrance [fig 3]. The site is one of four AWWA-recognized locations in Toronto, together with the John Street Pumping Station (1981), the Island Filtration Plant (1983), and the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant (2014).

The Rosehill Reservoir contains significant examples of postwar municipal service architecture and public sculpture, and is a landscape that has held cultural significance and public interest for more than 150 years. However, the extension of heritage recognition both to modern structures and to significant landscapes has been slow. Infrastructure and its associated architecture and landscapes has been particularly underappreciated as a domain requiring heritage conservation and designation.

Recognition of Canadian Centennial Projects, of which the park's 1967 centrepiece sculpture, water features and landscape elements is an example, has also been slow to materialize. There is irony in this situation, as the 1967 celebration marked the initial arrival in Canada of heritage conservation as a national concern, and produced critical institutions such as the Ontario Heritage Trust and important conservation projects such as the restoration of Toronto's St. Lawrence Hall. There is some cause to think that recognition of Centennial projects is now on the upswing—in April 2015, the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown, PEI was recognized by the National Trust for Canada with the 2015 Prix du XX^{e} siècle for its "enduring excellence and national significance."

Rosehill Reservoir has been identified by a number of authors as an important site in the historical development of Toronto's safe public water supply, and of the social and cultural negotiation of that supply's methodology, value and presence in the urban landscape. The story of the wartime guarding of Rosehill Reservoir, and of its postwar covering, was featured in *Pipe Dreams*, an influential 1995-1997 exhibit on the history of Toronto's municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, curated by Michael McMahon for the City of Toronto Archives. The story of the park and reservoir has also been covered in print, featuring in several chapters in *HTO: Toronto's Water from Lake Iroquois to Lost Rivers to Low-flow Toilets* (Coach House Books: 2008).

The site is located adjacent (as defined in Toronto Official Plan 3.1.5) to two heritage-registered properties on Woodlawn Avenue: 84 and 87 Woodlawn Avenue East. 87 Woodlawn Avenue East is listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties. 84 Woodlawn Avenue is listed and also designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) by City of Toronto By-Law No. 86-1999. 84 Woodlawn Avenue is designated for architectural and historical reasons, and the contemplated reservoir rehabilitation works are not expected to impact the qualities outlined in its designation.

The reservoir site is also adjacent to the Area 4 designated in the Yonge-St. Clair Secondary Plan, which consists of 35 Jackes Avenue (a designated property) and 49 Jackes Avenue (undesignated). Area 4 includes under its policy "the walkway immediately east of 49 Jackes Avenue" (the park walkway below the western edge of the reservoir). Respecting this policy, care must be taken in the proposed rehabilitation works to conserve this park walkway.

The reservoir is adjacent to the Summerhill Heritage Conservation District Study Area (and the "Little Park" is located within it), as identified by City Council April 23-24, 2007. At present, the HCD study has not yet been undertaken for this area.

City of Toronto Official Plan Site and Area Specific Policy No. 305 identifies Deer Park as a Potential Heritage Conservation District. The Rosehill Reservoir property would be expected to fall within or in close proximity to this Potential Heritage Conservation District.

RELEVANT HERITAGE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

A number of heritage policies and guidelines are relevant to the rehabilitation and future use of the Rosehill Reservoir Site, among them the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement, the Toronto Official Plan (Consolidated, June 2015), Ontario Regulation 9/06, and the Yonge-St. Clair Secondary Plan (2010).

Policy 2.6.1 of the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement states that:

> "Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved."

The 2014 Provincial Policy Statement further defines a cultural heritage landscape as:

> "a defined geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements, which together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts."

Policy 3.1.6.14 of the Toronto Official Plan states that:

> "Potential and existing properties of cultural heritage value or interest, including *cultural heritage landscapes* and Heritage Conservation Districts, will be identified and included in area planning studies and plans with recommendations for further study, evaluation and *conservation*."

Policy 3.1.6.43 of the Toronto Official Plan states that:

> "Potential cultural heritage landscapes will be identified and evaluated to determine their significance and cultural heritage values. Significant cultural heritage landscapes will be included on the Heritage Register and/or designated under Part IV or Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act."

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)."

Policy 2.2 of the Yonge-St. Clair Secondary Plan declares that, among the purposes of the secondary plan, is to:

> "(c) retain, protect and enhance the special physical character and public spaces of the Yonge-St. Clair Secondary Plan area."

Policy 3.1.3 of the Yonge-St. Clair Secondary Plan states:

> "Landscapes and a built form which preserve and enhance the gateways and views shown on Map 6-1 including the Rosedale [sic] Reservoir, are encouraged. This policy is not to be interpreted as support for increases in permitted height limits."

* note that, given the boundaries of the secondary plan area, the intention was clearly to refer to the Rosehill Reservoir in this policy.

FIGURE 4
Photograph showing the original, open-topped reservoir at Rosehill while drawn down in July 1936.
[City of Toronto Archives (COTA) s0372 ss0072 it1181]

statement of significance

The grounds of the Rosehill Reservoir constitute a significant cultural heritage landscape within the City of Toronto.

The reservoir site is historically significant within Toronto as one of the city's oldest public recreational landscapes, as a site of public interest where the importance of the city's drinking water network intersects with public life, and as a key early recreational access point to the system of ravines adjacent to the Don River Valley. It fulfills the criteria for designation established under Ontario Regulation 9/06.

The reservoir grounds presently include:

- Designed parklands on the reservoir perimeter and in the southern "Little Park" originally executed between the 1870s and 1920s, including walking paths, mature trees, ravine accesses and topographic remnants of the Lake Iroquois shoreline;
- service and washroom buildings of architectural significance, constructed 1964-1968;
- a 1967 Canadian Centennial monument and designed landscape; and
- contemporary landscape elements of cultural significance, including a continuous perimeter of memorial trees and benches, a children's playground, and an ornamental garden, each initiated and maintained through the significant investments in the park that have been undertaken by local residents.

The grounds of the Rosehill Reservoir have undergone significant evolution over time. The primacy of Rosehill's public service mandate as a water reservoir has required that the surrounding elements of its landscape be adaptive and malleable to periodic reconstruction; concurrently, the resilience of the social value and memory attached to Rosehill's public open spaces has always served as a check on the managerial imperatives of securing and regulating the reservoir as an infrastructural space.

The reservoir landscape's continuing significance thus rests not on any one temporal grouping of individual elements, which have been periodically disrupted in order to assure the serviceability of the water reservoir. Instead, Rosehill's significance derives from the ongoing recontextualization of elements that express and facilitate its constellation of public roles as a key public service infrastructure, a civic monument, and a social recreational landscape.

The contemplated structural rehabilitation of the Rosehill Reservoir necessitates consideration of how best to conserve its significance as a cultural heritage landscape. It is clear that the simple stasis maintenance of all aspects of its present landscape design, including elements such as the water features that are presently in considerable disrepair, is impossible given the engineering requirements, and would be contextually inappropriate given the significant community investments in the cultural landscape of the reservoir that have occurred over the last two decades.

Instead, the landscape of Rosehill Reservoir must continue to evolve over time, an evolution which may include the permanent removal of certain landscape elements, and the recontextualization of other features and programs, in order to assure the functional maintenance of the water reservoir. However, the importance of the site as a significant cultural heritage landscape requires that all such moves be carefully considered and intentional, and that the deletion of significant features should be mitigated by new investments that ensure the contextual value of the elements that are retained and support the park's civic and social functions.

Commentary on the Significance of the Rosehill Reservoir

Three elements that contribute to the significance of Rosehill Reservoir require additional discussion. These are (i) the 1967 Canadian Centennial monument and landscape presently situated on the roof of the reservoir, (ii) the site's continuous use and value as a public landscape over the course of its extended history, and (iii) the public placement of water in the reservoir landscape.

CENTENNIAL MONUMENT AND CENTENNIAL LANDSCAPE

The public landscape at Rosehill Reservoir includes a significant assemblage of elements (hereafter referred to as "the Centennial Landscape") constructed in celebration of Canada's Centennial of Confederation in 1967 [fig. 5].

The Centennial landscape at Rosehill Reservoir has not attained the same recognition (during the Centennial year, or in retrospect) as accrued to major building and park development projects undertaken in Toronto, Montreal and various other cities for the Centennial. However, the landscape at Rosehill appears unique in that it was undertaken by a municipal works department (Metropolitan Toronto Works) and it appears to have been conceived and designed primarily by engineers (at Metro Works and their consultant, Gore & Storrie Ltd.) whose normal line of work was in the planning and design of major underground water and wastewater services.

Much as with other Centennial projects and undertakings, which reflected the forward-looking hopefulness of Canadians at the time, the ambition of the 1967 landscape at the Rosehill Reservoir, with the monumental "Water Molecule" sculpture at its centre, can be read as an expression of the esprit de corps and public values of its authors. In this case, those authors (see sidebar on authorship, next page) were the municipal engineers in both the public and private sector who had spent the preceding decade reconstructing the insular water and wastewater systems of Toronto and its suburbs to service a metropolitan community stretching to the boundaries of today's amalgamated city and beyond. The reconstruction of the

FIGURE 5
Centennial Monument at Rosehill Reservoir. Photographed 2016.

Rosehill Reservoir as an expanded, underground facility was a crowning moment in this expansion, as until the 1960s it had been operationally impossible to remove the reservoir from service in order to effect substantial repairs or upgrades of the facility.

While portions of the Centennial landscape have proven to be unmaintainable and even detrimental to the reservoir's primary purpose as a component in the supply of safe drinking water to the city, the most important interpretive elements of the assembly (the "Water Molecule" sculpture and the Centennial logo panel) have endured and should be conserved for future generations.

The Centennial Landscape is particularly interesting in the current context of the reservoir renewal project, because as laid out in greater detail below, the Centennial work represented a second instance in which the Works department of the time invested in the public park landscape of the Rosehill Reservoir.

At other properties of heritage significance in its system (e.g. the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant and the High Level Pumping Station), Toronto Water has embraced its contemporary role as steward and conservator of both the buildings and public grounds as exemplars of its organizational history and of the public importance of its engineering mission.

The history of investment by Works managers and engineers in the public park and interpretive landscape of the Rosehill Reservoir should spur additional discussion of the future role of Toronto Water as a steward and investor in the public landscape of the reservoir site alongside the Parks, Forestry and Recreation division.

CONTINUOUS USE AND VALUE AS A PUBLIC LANDSCAPE

The history of the reservoir's public landscape is unexpectedly extensive. The grounds of the Rosehill Reservoir and the adjacent ravine lands of David A. Balfour Park have together seen near-continuous public use as a recreational landscape since 1853, more than twenty years prior to the construction of the original, open-topped reservoir.

NAME AND ATTRIBUTION OF THE SCULPTURE

Confusingly, some writers appear to have conflated the Rosehill Reservoir's stainless steel "Water Molecule" sculpture with "Galaxy," a bronze sculpture by Jack Culiner located in the driveway of the 70 Rosehill Avenue apartment tower, across the street from the reservoir. The confusion appears to stem from John Warkentin's *Creating Memory*, a book-length survey of public sculpture in Toronto that does not make this error but which does, in transitioning between the two works, allude to the "Water Molecule" sculpture as "another form of galaxy." The similar street addresses of the two sculptures (the Rosehill Reservoir has a nominal address of 75 Rosehill Avenue) has also likely contributed to the ongoing confusion among writers and internet posters.

There is no stylistic, material, contextual or authorial relationship between the two sculptures, and indeed Jack Culiner's "Galaxy" was only installed in 1984, 17 years after the "Water Molecule" at Rosehill. The "Water Molecule," documented in 1967 engineering drawings by Gore & Storrie Ltd. appears to have been an internal project of Metro Works and their engineering consultant, and may have been primarily conceived and designed by engineers. This provenance with public water engineers is extremely interesting, and enhances the sculpture's importance to the reservoir's public landscape and interpretive system.

FIGURE 6
Rosehill Reservoir, seen in aerial orthophotograph, 1947.
[City of Toronto Planning Board]

There are only a very small number of chronologically comparable examples of continuous-use civic and recreational landscapes in Toronto. Queen's Park (opened in 1860), High Park (developed by J.G. Howard from the late 1830s and opened to the public after its conveyance to the City in 1876) and Mount Pleasant Cemetery (developed by the Toronto Trust Cemeteries and also opened in 1876) stand today as the prominent examples. Although the reservoir site and surrounding grounds have been highly modified in the ensuing decades, their public recognition and maintenance as a recreational landscape—including the link between ravine and tableland as a contiguous recreational landscape—has been a continuous feature of the site since the 1850s.

Aspects of the site's layout today may be largely unchanged from the early grounds of the public "Reservoir Park," and even from the paths and gardens of the "Summer Hill Pleasure Grounds"—whose extent and history is detailed below in the discussion of the site's evolution. The pathways around the eastern perimeter, between the reservoir and the ravine edge, are present largely unaltered in photographs made in 1913. The vehicular trail in the southern "Little Park" also dates to this time or earlier. Many of the paths within the adjacent ravine lands of David A. Balfour

Park were likely originally developed for the 1850s pleasure garden.

The open-topped reservoir [fig 6] which operated on the site from 1874-1964 was a beloved aspect of the neighbourhood that developed around Rosehill after the original reservoir's construction. Strengthened by the public promenade that had been developed on the top of the surrounding berm and the public paths and lawns in the adjacent ravine, Reservoir Park became a destination for Victorian-era outdoor leisure. Despite being closed off for security reasons during two world wars, the public appetite to use and enjoy this space, including the 'lake views' of the reservoir [fig 7], continued unabated into the 1950s. The community's attachment to the Rosehill Reservoir posed a strong and recurring challenge to public health efforts to keep the reservoir fenced and off-limits, and rose again in 1962 for a final battle against the planned covering of the reservoir.

Even with the concrete enclosure and covering of the reservoir in 1964-66, that public memory of the reservoir as a public park landscape survived, and appears to have strongly influenced the conception and design of the Centennial landscape developed on the top of the new reservoir in 1967. The reflecting pools with their embedded pebble edges [fig 8] seem to have been clearly meant

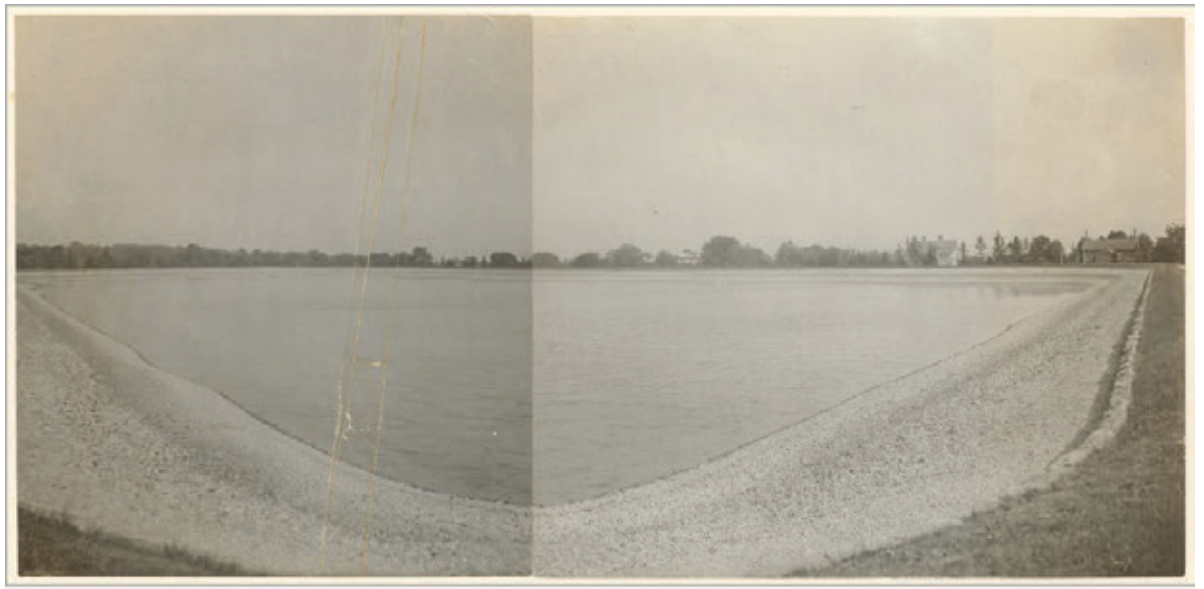


FIGURE 7 (TOP)
Panorama of Rosehill Reservoir c. 1890. [COTA s0376 f0005 it0105]

FIGURE 8 (BOTTOM)
View of Centennial Landscape from apartment tower, c. late 1970s. [https://www.flickr.com/photos/toriwil/15425031363/]

to invoke directly the rubble shoreline and aqueous serenity of the previous reservoir, even as their meandering layout attempted to soften the mechanical landscape of water transmission and storage into something more picturesque, something more in the mode of the Victorian-era pleasure garden.

As a result, the Centennial design at Rosehill threaded an awkward line between serving as a civic or social landscape. The playful mood of the fountain and reflecting pools is undermined by their illegibility and dysfunctionality from the ground—they were not furnished with improved pathways, and it is unclear to the visitor how to approach and tour them while walking on the undifferentiated and frequently waterlogged lawn.

Careful study of the original plan drawings reveals that there had been an intention to allow the desire lines cut by the park's initial visitors to determine the location of pathways to be constructed later; the failure to follow through on this intention left the reflecting pools and fountain as a giant geoglyph with little in the way of human scale and social infrastructure at ground level. This situation has been made worse through the slow depreciation of the constructed landscape, including the removal of the original quarry tile plaza and the present inoperability of the water system.

In recent years, the park community has asserted its own role in the maintenance and improvement of the Rosehill Reservoir's parkland, rebalancing the site's social landscape with the civic features that had been established in 1967.

The commissioning of memorial trees and benches has over the last two decades produced a continuous sequence of young trees and places to sit around the reservoir perimeter in areas denuded by the construction of the covered reservoir.

The community has also organized twice since 2001 to invest financially and organizationally in enhancements to the park's program: first to have the children's playground moved off the unsheltered top of the reservoir to shadier ground on the eastern perimeter, and then to establish a new garden on the former playground footprint.

These all represent clear statements from the community about the site's present social and cultural value, they exist in continuity with a history of public interest and enjoyment of the site that dates to 1853, and together they establish an enhanced duty of care in the future maintenance and renewal of the Rosehill Reservoir and its public landscape.

WATER IN THE RESERVOIR'S PUBLIC LANDSCAPE

Water, as a visible and interactive element, has been significant to the public landscape of Rosehill since its first development as a recreational garden and pleasure grounds in the 1850s.

The link between the Rosehill Reservoir's public water service function, and its public landscape, has been forced to repeatedly adapt to changing security expectations and public health and engineering best practices. The reservoir was declared off-limits during two world wars, and remained fenced in the years following 1945. With the construction of the covered reservoir, its former 'lakeside' vistas were reinterpreted in an expressive sequence of artificial water features.

Today, it is no longer considered to be an acceptable risk to accommodate water and wastewater services on the reservoir roof and other structurally adjacent locations. The rehabilitation project will remove existing services for the fountain, reflecting pools, cascade entrance and washroom building, and will not reinstate such features and their accompanying mechanical services on the reservoir.

While few will likely mourn the loss of a set of water features that were never functionally integrated into the park's social and recreational landscape, the loss of what could prove the last vestige of 'public water' in the landscape of the reservoir parklands should not be underestimated.

Toronto's water supply system was built as a public-facing institution, and accessible water was often an important element in constructing the system's visual quality and public interest. R.C. Harris, the Commissioner of Works who built out this and many of the city's other public infrastructures from the 1900s to 1930s, is revered today in part because of his intentional focus on the public face and quality of infrastructure, which manifested at the water purification plant at Victoria Park that now bears his name, at the St. Clair Reservoir, and at the pumping stations and other visible sites built during his tenure.

At the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant, the water fountain and grotto provide a well-known and highly intentional moment where the public can interact *with* the public water supply *at* the site of the public water supply. While interpreted through the different public managers, design sensibilities and social expectations of the 1960s, the water features built as part of the Centennial Landscape at the Rosehill Reservoir served a similar function, in this case *restoring* the opportunity to interact with the water supply at a site where it had been first fenced off and then encased underground.

site evolution

ORIGINAL PROPERTIES AND ORIGIN OF THE PARK

The Rosehill Reservoir is situated on land that was originally developed as two, 200-acre estate lots fronting onto Yonge Street: Summer Hill (Lot 17), from Woodlawn Avenue south to approximately what is now the CPR railway corridor, and Rose Hill (Lot 16), from Woodlawn Avenue north to St. Clair Avenue East [fig 9]. Although the original 200-acre lots extended east across the Yellow Creek ravine to Mud Creek and today's Bayview Heights Drive, both estate houses were located close to Yonge Street, and their names each came to be associated with the geography of this section of Yonge Street north of the Village of Yorkville.

Summer Hill was developed in 1842 by Charles Thompson, a stagecoach and steamboat operator who operated the connections between Toronto and various ports on Lake Simcoe. After railway development ruined the stagecoach business, from 1853 Thompson developed a portion of his property as an amusement park, including swings and other amusements, landscaped paths and gardens leading down into the ravine and crossing Yellow Creek [fig 10], and a dance pavilion located within the former drawing room of Thompson's house. The public took to calling the attraction "Thompson's Park;" Thompson later had the name changed to "Summer Hill Spring Park and Pleasure Grounds."

The estate was sold in 1866 following Thompson's death; the purchaser, Larratt William Smith, sold a portion to the City of Toronto in 1872 for the construction of the Reservoir. According to Lucy Booth Martyn's *Aristocratic Toronto* (1980), the land was sold with the stipulation that it must always be maintained as a public park; however the 1890 edition of the Goad's Fire Insurance Plans labels this property as "Expropriated by City for Entrance to Reservoir & Park" [fig 12] This subdivision is the current southern extension of the park, also known as "Little Park," and facilitated the extension of transmission water mains to the site.

The reservoir itself was located on land from the adjacent Rose Hill estate, including both a piece of the main parcel and two additional parcels to the rear that had been previously subdivided from the estate when Walter Rose died in 1865.

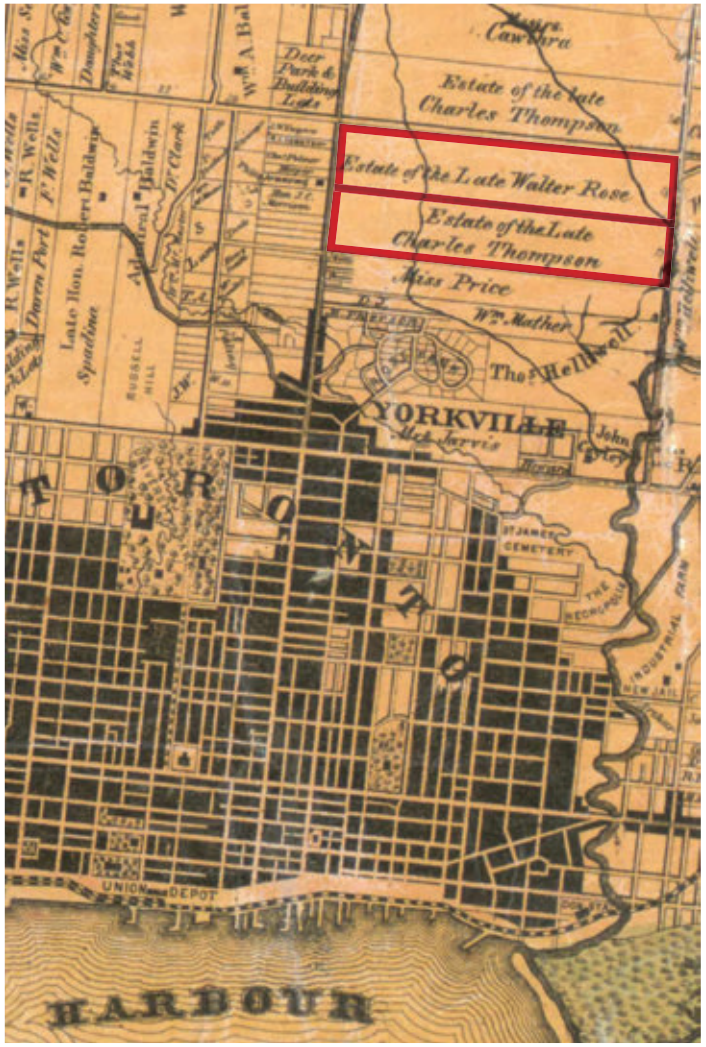


FIGURE 9
Tremaine Map of the County of York, 1860. The original 200-acre property lots on which the reservoir now sits are annotated in red.

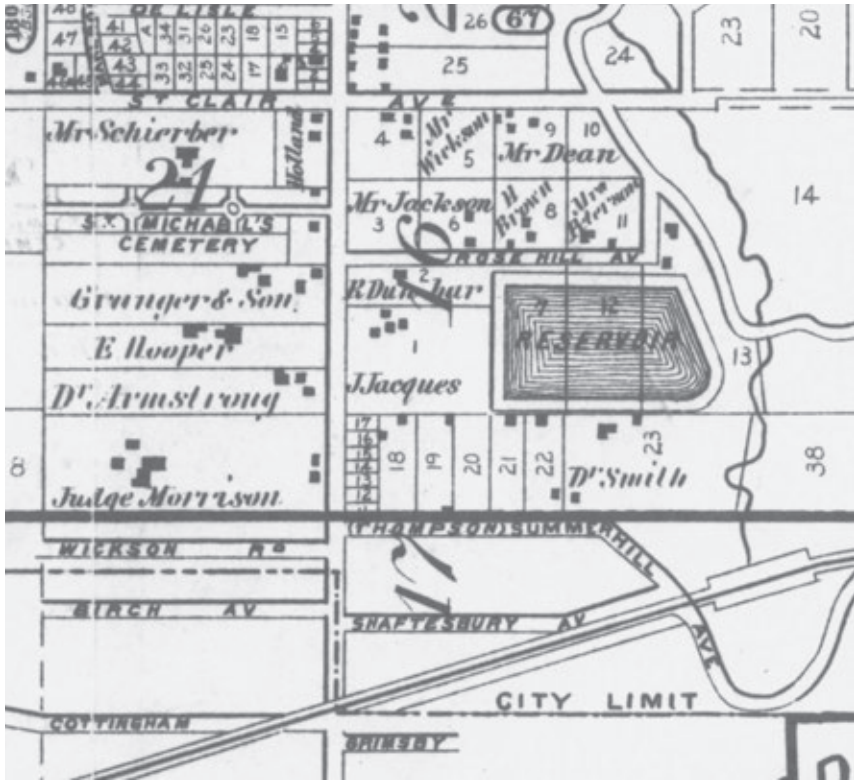
FIGURE 10
Stereogram of the ravine gardens in Reservoir Park, 1890 or earlier, showing elements of the original Summer Hill Pleasure Gardens. [Toronto Public Library r-2355]

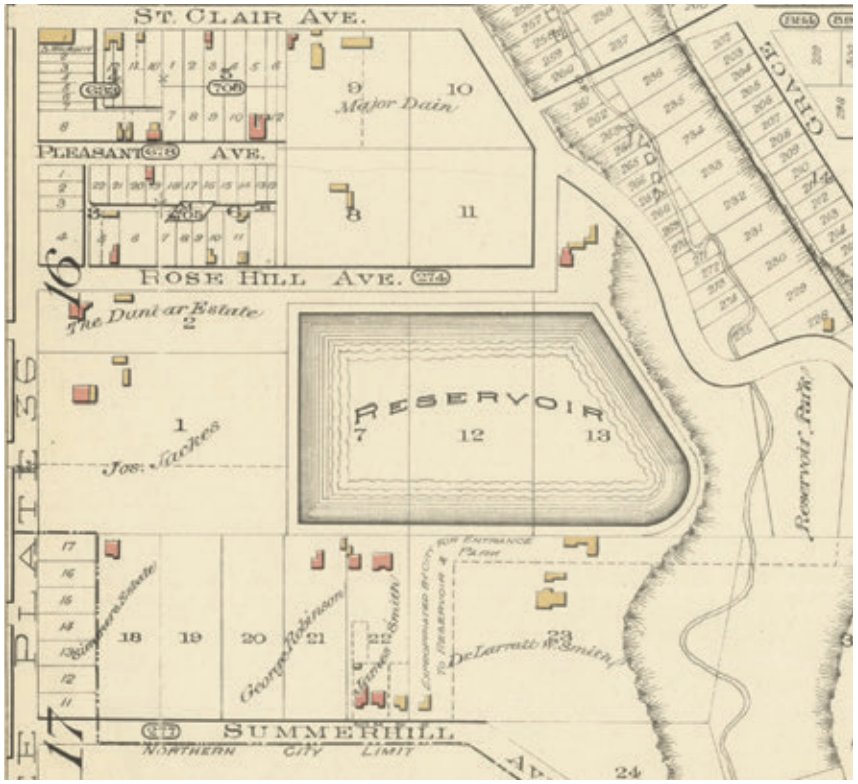
RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT AND RESERVOIR PARK

Positioned on the lip of the Lake Iroquois Shoreline, also known as the Davenport Escarpment, the site presented a favourable topography for providing stored water by gravity pressure to a city that was at that time spread out below it. The establishment of a public water commission in 1872, and the purchase the following year of the privately developed and inadequate Furniss Water Works (which began operations in 1841), triggered an initial phase of capital investment in public water infrastructure, which included the development of the Rosehill Reservoir. With the completion of the reservoir in 1874, water was pumped from a filtration basin on Toronto Island by pipe to a pumping station at John Street, and from there to Rosehill. Later the High Level Pumping Station would be constructed to the west, improving pumping capacity from the core area to Rosehill and beyond.

A photograph of the reservoir immediately after construction [fig 13] shows key details already in place, including the rubble 'beach' where the reservoir's rock lining extended above the water surface, and a perimeter pathway on the crest of the earthen berm. The Summer Hill house, including its long parlour or dance pavilion, is visible beyond the reservoir in the centre-left background of the image.

It is unclear at what point the reservoir grounds and adjacent ravine lands were formally adopted as a public park. The previously noted Goad's 1890 atlas is the first edition to label the area as "Reservoir Park" and note the entrance on Summerhill Avenue. The park is





FIGURES 11 AND 12 (ABOVE)
Goad's Fire Insurance Plans, Plate 37, 1884 (above left) and 1890 (above right), showing the Rosehill Reservoir and surrounding properties, structures and ownership.

FIGURES 13 (RIGHT)
Rosehill Reservoir, immediately after completion. [Reproduction of foldout panorama in Toronto Water Works 1875 Annual Report, COTA s0372 ss0072 it1140]

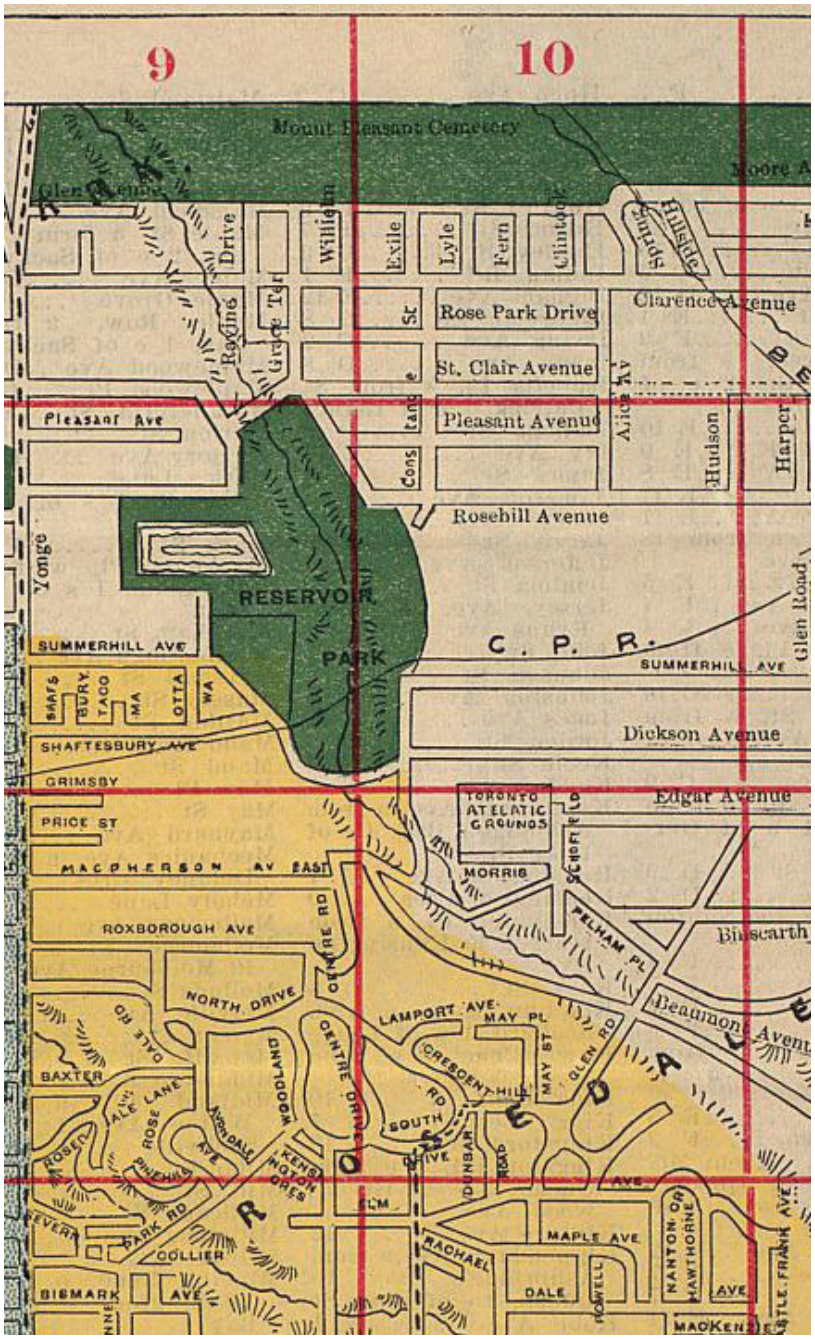


FIGURE 14
The Rosehill Reservoir and Reservoir Park, as shown and labelled on the 1895 Foster's Vest Pocket Map of Toronto.

also shown and labeled, showing continuous green around all four sides of the reservoir and the ravine from St. Clair Avenue south to a road crossing at approximately what is now Douglas Drive, on the 1895 Foster's Vest Pocket Map of Toronto [fig 14]. However, it is likely that, given the site's recent previous history as an amusement park, it attracted immediate public notice and recreational visitors. Photographs and postcards held in the collection of the City of Toronto Archives and the Toronto Public Library depict the park some years later, from 1890 through the 1920s, showing the landscape paths, planting beds and other ornamental features that were maintained both around the reservoir perimeter and in the adjacent ravine [fig 15-19]. The perimeter pathway around the top of the berm remains present, and photographs from 1913 and 1924 show it to be an extremely well-manicured promenade, lined with benches [fig 20]. An additional series of images produced by *Globe and Mail* photographers show Reservoir Park in the late 1920s.

The path entrance at the corner of Rosehill Avenue and Avoca Avenue, and the pathways present today in the parklands around the reservoir's eastern and southern perimeter and in the "Little Park" that links the site to Summerhill Avenue, were all originally installed and formalized during this early phase of municipal park development. They are pictured on their present alignments in 1913 photographs, and depicted on Parks Department blueprints prepared in 1924.

JURISDICTION AND OPERATIONS OF THE OPEN RESERVOIR

This original parkland appears to have been developed by Toronto's Works Department as a beautification project and public facility at the reservoir, and managed by the Works Department's Superintendent on the site, Douglas Robertson. A stereo photograph made in 1905 or earlier shows a floral clock, ornamental beds and manicured paths [fig 21]. Only in 1913 were the parklands surrounding the reservoir, and their superintendent, placed under the jurisdiction of the Parks Commissioner, per a report adopted by the City Council March 27, 1913. Robertson continued as the superintendent or foreman at

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Keystone View Company
Manufacturers and Publishers
Meadville, Pa. St. Louis, Mo.
10630—Sun Dial, Reservoir Park, Toronto, Canada.

Reservoir Park into the early 1930s. Robertson and other parks employees were responsible for gauging the reservoir (taking hourly readings of the water level) and watching (guarding) it, and payment for their services was periodically made by the Works Department to the Parks Department, accounts which are documented extensively in correspondence held by the City of Toronto Archives.

The parks workshop and storage building adjacent to the northeast corner of the reservoir property housed the parks staff and supported an adjacent greenhouse operation. The original building on that site, erected in 1874, burned in 1946; the current building was constructed in 1947.

Parks Department employees continued to watch and gauge the reservoir on behalf of the Works Department until the reservoir was transferred from City of Toronto Parks to Metropolitan Toronto Works on July 13, 1956. The parks workshop and storage building was also transferred to Metro Toronto Works shortly thereafter, along with the ravine lands of David A. Balfour Park, and the greenhouses were demolished. At some point in time following the enclosure of the reservoir in 1966, the workshop building was likely transferred to Metro Parks, and was carried from there to the unified City of Toronto Parks upon amalgamation in 1998.

Operationally, there were challenges maintaining the open-topped reservoir. Plant growth would gradually foul pipe connections and reduce capacity, as well as providing a habitat for the fish that repeatedly succeeded in colonizing this "artificial lake."

High public drinking water demand restricted the city's ability to empty the reservoir for cleaning [fig 22], let alone to take the facility offline for more significant maintenance and upgrades. Installation of an expanded pair of water mains (two 36" mains, replacing one original 24" main) to feed the reservoir, first planned in 1905, was finally carried out in 1922 [fig 23]. Planned cleanings that would have included the installation of the new mains had to be

FIGURES 15-20
Various views of Reservoir Park and the Rosehill Reservoir, c. 1913.

FIGURE 21
Stereogram of circular planting bed and early floral clock in Reservoir Park (at today's northeast entrance) c. 1905 or earlier.

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FIGURE 22 (TOP RIGHT)
Cleaning the Rosehill Reservoir, c. 1922.

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FIGURE 23 (BOTTOM RIGHT)
Excavation through the south berm of the reservoir for installation of new 2x36" watermain connections, 1922.

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FIGURE 24 (TOP)
Newly installed barbed wire fencing surrounding the perimeter of the reservoir during the Second World War. After the war, this fencing was left in place.

FIGURE 27 (ABOVE)
Newly completed Valve House for the underground reservoir, 1964.

postponed or called off early in 1911 and 1921, on account of water shortages, and 36" pipe that was originally ordered for the purpose was said in newspaper coverage to have sat unused on the reservoir grounds for 18 years. The single-cell design of the open-topped reservoir meant that the entire facility had to be taken offline and drained for these works, leaving the city with only what water could be pumped in real-time from the John Street and High Level Pumping Stations. Completion of the St. Clair Reservoir in 1934 improved the flexibility of the system, but when official opinion consolidated on the need to cover the Rosehill Reservoir in the 1950s, system constraints again meant that it was only in 1964 that Rosehill could be taken out of service and replaced with a two-cell underground structure.

The reservoir was also the subject of security concerns during both world wars [fig 24], and subsequent to the Second World War remained off-limits at the request of Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, much to the dismay of the surrounding neighbourhood for whom it was first and foremost a public landscape. Residents' letters and deputations failed to sway the Commissioner of Works, who had Public Health's backing in the matter. Archival records and newspaper reports document numerous 'intrusions' into the reservoir's drinking water, including recurring incidents with roving dogs and the 1936 forced landing of a floatplane on the reservoir surface. From 1938 until its covering, water in the reservoir was direct-chlorinated to counteract the various vectors of contaminations introduced by Rosehill's open top.

ENCLOSING THE RESERVOIR

At least as early as 1949, and with the St. Clair Reservoir as a nearby example of an underground facility, concerned letter writers and public health authorities began calling for the Rosehill Reservoir to be placed underground. Some accounts have stressed the threat of nuclear fallout as a predominant concern in efforts to cover the reservoir; the more prosaic daily threat of contamination from sources such as roving dogs, waterfowl, and illicit night-time swimming and fishing by local residents are much more strongly attested to in archival sources and newspaper accounts from the time. Enclosure of the reservoir also facilitated the facility's expansion – the capacity of the new, enclosed reservoir would be nearly double that of the open-topped reservoir.

With the assumption of responsibility for the reservoir and other facilities within the City of Toronto's water trans-

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FIGURES 25 AND 26
East (above left) and west (above right) compartments of the new underground reservoir, during construction in May 1964 and May 1965 respectively.

mission system by Metropolitan Toronto Works in 1953—as part of a massive investment program to modernize water delivery and wastewater treatment to Metro's suburban municipalities—the permanent enclosure of the reservoir became inevitable. Despite last-ditch efforts in 1961 by residents of surrounding neighbourhoods to avert the reservoir's covering, Metro Works approved the project in 1962, and construction of the new, enclosed reservoir was completed in 1965.

The reconstruction of the site as a covered, underground reservoir entailed a substantial disruption of the previous terrain and landscape of the open-topped reservoir. While writers covering Rosehill's history have referred to the reservoir as having been 'deepened' and 'covered over', the reality entailed the removal of the existing reservoir and berm and the construction of a completely new, two-compartment concrete reservoir on a modified footprint, with brand new earth slopes surrounding it [fig 25 and 26].

New access stairs were constructed on the west and south slopes of the new reservoir, providing access to the rooftop greenspace from Jackes Avenue and Summerhill Avenue respectively. These concrete stairs were recessed into the slopes between concrete cheekwalls, and framed by architecturally striking metal railings that advertise their presence from a distance.

Two new structures were built to service the underground reservoir: the Valve House [fig 27] and the Access House, both located on the south side of the reservoir where it connects to major watermains. As detailed below, these were handsomely designed service buildings that have aged gracefully and provide architectural distinction to the surrounding parkland.

1967 CENTENNIAL LANDSCAPE

In connection with the completion of the new underground reservoir at Rosehill, Metro Works and their engineering consultant Gore & Storrie Ltd. undertook the design and construction of a monumental fountain and a variety of other landscape elements on the reservoir's new roof. Organized under the auspices of Canada's 1967 Centennial celebrations, these landscape elements offered a visible expression of

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the reservoir's public role in the supply of drinking water to Toronto.

Despite its considerable ambition, the Centennial Project at Rosehill appears to have flown largely under the radar, and has generally not been included in official accounts of the Centennial celebrations in Toronto, which have focused on major buildings and the large park and recreation projects undertaken by some of the city's suburban municipalities. Beyond a partial selection of the original construction drawings, it has not been possible to locate contemporaneous source material describing the planning and intent of the Centennial Project. Aerial record photographs show that construction of the landscape project had commenced in the autumn of 1965, and was only completed in the late summer or early autumn of 1967.

The features in the Centennial Landscape represent an eclectic mix of the architectural styles of the time. In the civic heroism of the monument [fig 28], the expressive curved shoreline of the reflecting pools, the bucolic naturalism of the entrance cascade, and the swoon of the washroom building's upturned roof, the 1967 landscape project on the newly covered reservoir reflects the modernist inflection in multiplicity. However, this eclecticism complicates any effort to establish a unified intent of the landscape design.

An undifferentiated lawn was left to mediate these diverse elements [fig 29]. The landscape design intentionally omitted reinforced pathways on the top of the reservoir, with the intention stated in the concept plans that paths would be laid out and constructed later, once public use had revealed the desire lines of the new site [fig 30]. However, with

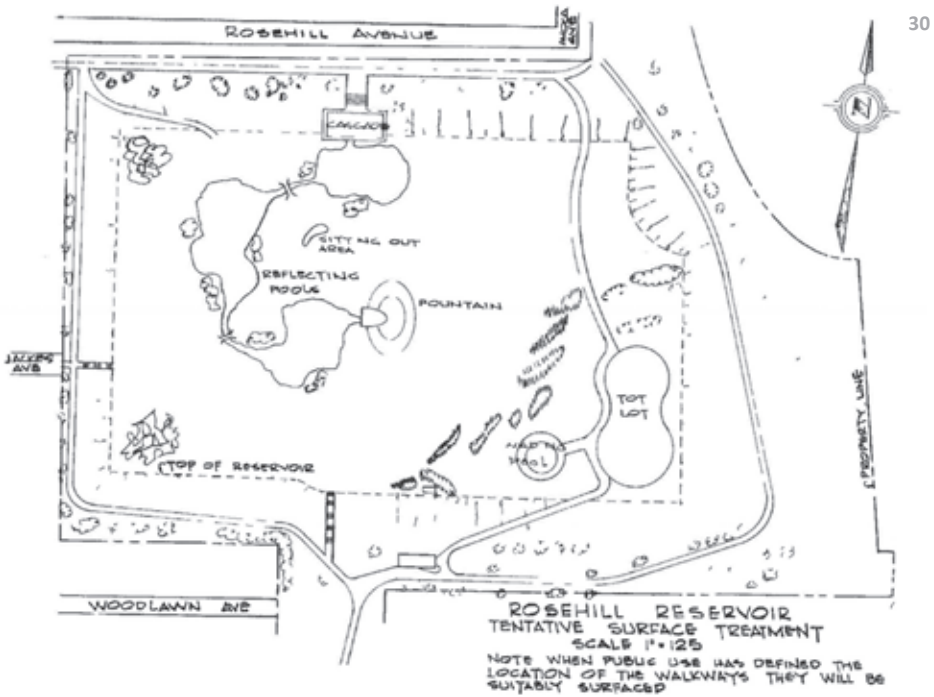

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FIGURE 28
Fountain and Centennial Monument, 1967.

FIGURE 29
Aerial oblique photograph of Rosehill Reservoir and the Centennial Landscape, 1975.

FIGURE 30
Concept plan sketch for the Centennial Landscape. c. 1965.

the exception of a paved pathway crossing the eastern part of the reservoir adjacent to the washroom building and playground (now the Rosehill Garden), no additional paths were subsequently installed to link the various stair access points to the monument and the amenities on the eastern side.

Positioned on top of critical infrastructure requiring periodic, highly disruptive renewal, the future of the Centennial landscape features must now be carefully considered, as the rehabilitation of the reservoir requires their removal.

WASHROOM BUILDING

The Washroom Building on the Rosehill Reservoir was planned and designed concurrent to the installation of the Centennial Landscape, but appears not to have been constructed until late 1967 or sometime the following year. In any case, it shares and extends the exuberance and eclecticism of the other landscape elements. Modest in scale, the pavilion is given an outsized presence in the park thanks to an uplifted roof, distinctive curled vertical element, and its placement near the reservoir edge, enhancing its position when viewed from the perimeter pathways below it. The bright stucco exterior (originally white) was accented by warm, tongue-and-groove wood planks used on the anterior of the roof eaves and the interior ceilings of the two washrooms.

The future of the washroom building is constrained by the same sunset condition as the rest of the Centennial project—it sits on the roof of the underlying reservoir.

RECLAIMING THE RESERVOIR PARK'S SOCIAL/CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

While the Centennial Landscape was an exuberant expression of the civic value of the Rosehill Reservoir and a response to the public's dismay at the loss of the site's 'artificial lake', the failure to follow through on path construction and to otherwise maintain and integrate the Centennial Landscape with the park means that it cannot be read as a sustained investment in the park's social landscape and program. Over subsequent decades, the public had to be repeatedly reminded that

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the ponds were not meant for swimming, skating or any other envisioned use; meanwhile a complaint was registered as early as 1968 in the letters section of the Toronto Daily Star about the poor drainage and general condition of "Mudpuddle Park."

In recent decades, the park community has asserted itself as a significant collaborator with the City of Toronto in the future of the Reservoir's landscape.

The reservoir's perimeter has been inscribed by park users and their families with a large number of memorial trees, memorial benches, and other markers [fig 31]. In 2001 and 2008, community organizing and fundraising repeatedly addressed major shortcomings in the park's design and amenities, succeeding first in having the playground moved from the top of the reservoir to a more sheltered location on the east perimeter [fig 32], and then in creating a new garden on the roof of the reservoir to replace the scar left by the playground's transplantation [fig 33].

This contemporary cultural landscape is a keen demonstration of the continued public enjoyment and value of the Rosehill Reservoir parkland, and of the public interest at stake in the renewal and disposition of the landscape elements impacted in the structural rehabilitation of the reservoir.

Chronology of Development of the Rosehill Reservoir Site

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1836	Rose Hill House built.
1842	Summer Hill House built.
1853	Charles Thompson establishes an amusement park and pleasure garden on the grounds of Summer Hill, including the grounds of “Little Park” and the adjacent ravine
1872	Lands are acquired by the City of Toronto from multiple private owners for construction of the reservoir
1874	Construction of the open-topped reservoir, with capacity of 125 million litres (33 million gallons)
1913	Responsibility for the parklands, and for gauging and watching the reservoir, is transferred from the City of Toronto’s Works Department to the Parks Department
1914	Reservoir guarded by national militia after onset of First World War and reports that German agents intended to destroy Toronto water works. In 1915, militia is relieved by a new Toronto civic guard.
1922	Water supply to the reservoir is upgraded to twin 36” mains (from single 24”)
1940	Reservoir is fenced as a security measure during Second World War. After the war, fence remains, justified by Toronto Public Health’s concerns about contamination of the reservoir by dogs and other recreational uses.
1956	Reservoir and parklands are transferred to Metropolitan Toronto
1962	Metropolitan Toronto Works approves replacement of the open reservoir with a twin-compartment underground concrete reservoir.
1964-66	Construction of the underground reservoir.
1967	Canadian Centennial monument and water features are installed.
c. 1968	Washroom building constructed
1969	Metro Works abandons controversial plan to construct an access road from the Valve House to the end of Woodlawn Avenue, after residents petition against it.
1980s-1990s	Practice of establishing memorial trees becomes prevalent in the Rosehill Reservoir parklands; a number of existing trees and plaques date to this period.
c. 2002	With private fundraising by community, the children’s playground is moved from the top of the reservoir to a new site on the east perimeter of the reservoir, immediately below its former location
2007	The reflecting pools, no longer serviced with water, are painted blue to improve the appearance of the park, particularly when viewed from neighbouring apartments
2008	Rosehill Garden established on former playground footprint
2017	Anticipated start of construction works for Rosehill Reservoir rehabilitation

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assessment of existing condition

HISTORIC PARK ENTRANCES AND PERIMETER PATHWAYS

Paved walking paths and vehicular trails and entrances in the reservoir parklands are in generally good condition, with some site-specific issues with erosion and surface deterioration (eg. around the Valve House). Much of the eastern and southern length of the perimeter path and the pathway through Little Park appear to follow the original alignments of the Reservoir Park path system, as established decades before the construction of the modern, underground reservoir. The presence of a flag pole near the northeast entrance to the parklands is another element with historical continuity, as a flag pole is present in roughly this same location in photographs from 1913 [fig 34].

The 'ravine edge' concrete walking path below the eastern face of the reservoir formerly connected to the paved entrance to the Workshop Building at the corner of Rosehill Avenue and Avoca Avenue, however the last few meters of the walkway were removed sometime after 2005. The path now terminates in lawn, with a trodden dirt path still making the connection to the driveway and lot of the Workshop Building [fig 35].

These perimeter pathways today lack the ornamental flower beds that were maintained throughout the early park; however, since the late 1980s or early 1990s, memorial trees have been extensively planted along all four perimeters of the park, maintaining a loose formality within the perimeter landscape [fig 31].

VALVE HOUSE AND ACCESS HOUSE

The Valve House is located below the reservoir, and features concrete pilasters and projecting concrete eaves that shelter garage and personnel doors at each end of the structure [fig 36]. The north and south faces of the building are finished with splitface granite field stone between the pilasters [fig 37], while the east and west ends are spare concrete [fig 38 and 39]. The inside walls of the structure are finished in brick. The Valve House exterior is in generally good condition, although the concrete faces at the east and west ends of the structure have been marred by the addition of poorly placed and selected wall pack lights and CCTV cameras. The roof and flashing have been replaced with unattractive brown material that does not match the original copper materials on the adjacent Access House.

The smaller Access House is located above the Valve House, on the edge of the reservoir roof [fig 40]. It consists of a simpler rectangular design, topped with a spare but attractive flat roof with copper flashing (possibly original),

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and faced in splitface granite on all four sides [fig 41 and 42]. The Access House is surrounded by disintegrating concrete slabs and an unattractive and deteriorated 8' (2.4 m) frost fence and barbed wire that is a modern addition to the site.

CENTENNIAL MONUMENT AND FOUNTAIN

The Centennial Monument is located at the geographic centre of the reservoir. It consists of a central ovoid fountain surrounded by an oval plaza surface, a raised concrete platform from which projects the stainless steel monument, and opposite the monument a low concrete equipment enclosure with an integral bench [fig 43 and 44]. The stainless steel monument consists of a parabolic arch cantilevered above the fountain, inside whose pinnacle is mounted a representation of the molecular structure of water, in the form of a spherical matrix of stainless steel spheres and connecting rods [fig 45].

The top surface of the concrete platform at the base of the sculpture is now paved with dark stone slab tiles in a diamond weave pattern (replacing the original heather brown quarry tile surface), which surround the original inset mosaic of the 1967 Centennial logo, precast in white and rose-coloured terrazzo. Some of the surrounding surfaces are embellished with mortared pebbles, packed more tightly but otherwise similar to the treatment of the reflecting pool edges. The parapet overlooking the fountain is faced with splitface granite field stone coherent with the retaining walls surrounding the landscaped cascade [fig 5].

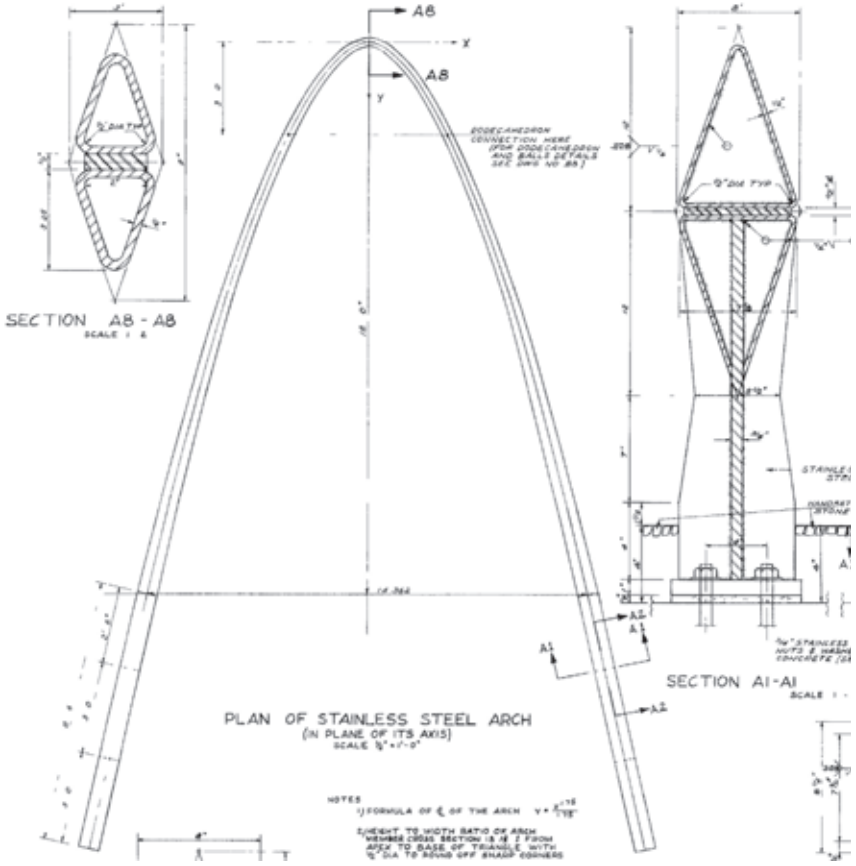
At some point, possibly as late as 2006, the original quarry tile surface of the oval plaza [fig 47-48] was removed and replaced with an interlocking concrete unit paver surface of inferior quality and appearance [fig 48]. The removal of the original tiles also meant the loss of the coved surface coping around the fountain pool, leaving the backing wall which was formerly hidden to now stand as the exterior face of the pool.

The two etched plaques, believed to have been stainless steel, that originally interpreted the monument site and sculpture are no longer present at the site. The "landscape plaque" [fig 50] was mounted above the precast concrete bench on the equipment enclosure, while the "sculpture plaque" [fig 51] was located on a small podium on the platform [fig 49].

REFLECTING POOLS

The reflecting pools consist of three broad concrete basins [fig 52], linked in sequence by narrow connecting chan-

PENTAGONAL DODECAHEDRON SCHEMATIC LAYOUT



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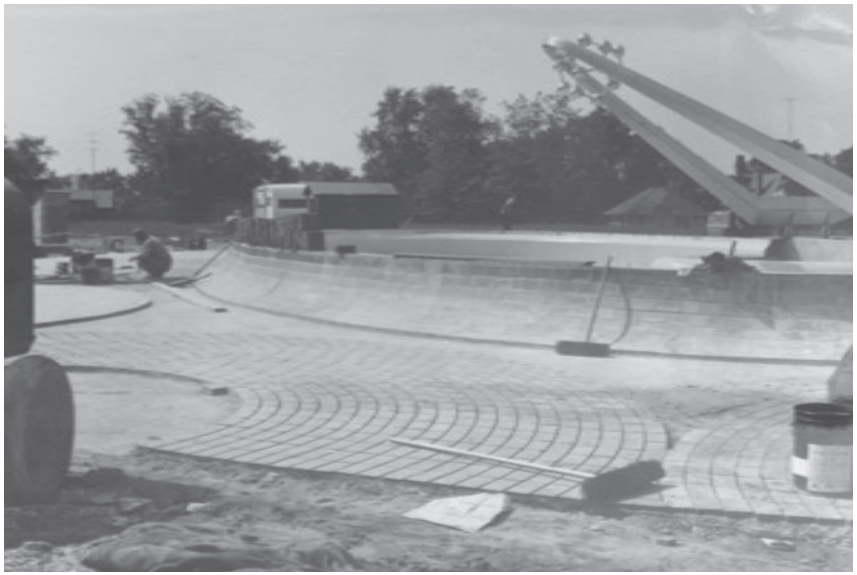

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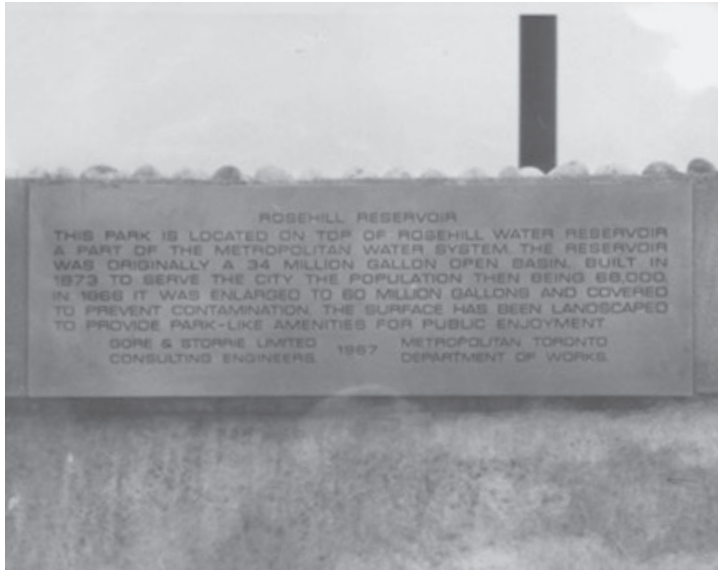

ROSEHILL RESERVOIR

THIS PARK IS LOCATED ON TOP OF ROSEHILL WATER RESERVOIR A PART OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER SYSTEM. THE RESERVOIR WAS ORIGINALLY A 34 MILLION GALLON OPEN BASIN. BUILT IN 1873 TO SERVE THE CITY THE POPULATION THEN BEING 68,000. IN 1966 IT WAS ENLARGED TO 60 MILLION GALLONS AND COVERED TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION. THE SURFACE HAS BEEN LANDSCAPED TO PROVIDE PARK-LIKE AMENITIES FOR PUBLIC ENJOYMENT.

GORE & STORRIE LIMITED CONSULTING ENGINEERS 1967 METROPOLITAN TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF WORKS

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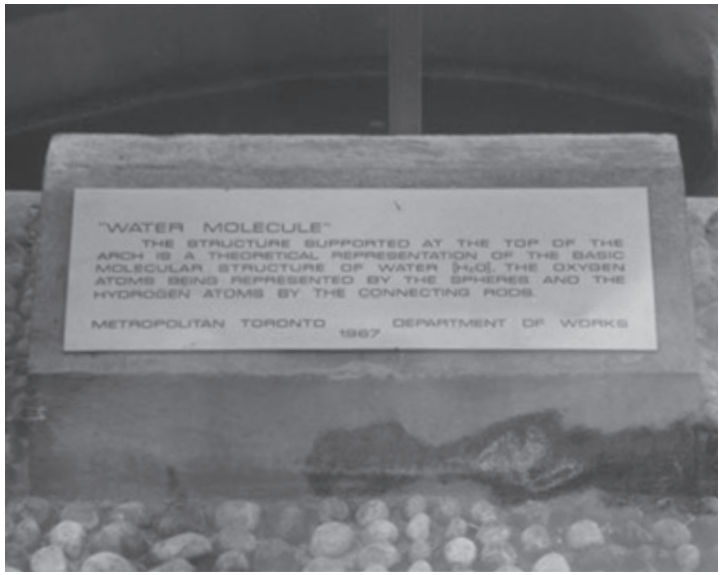

"WATER MOLECULE"

THE STRUCTURE SUPPORTED AT THE TOP OF THE ARCH IS A THEORETICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE BASIC MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF WATER (H_2O). THE OXYGEN ATOMS BEING REPRESENTED BY THE SPHERES AND THE HYDROGEN ATOMS BY THE CONNECTING RODS.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF WORKS 1967

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nels [fig 53] and terminating at the ornamental bridge [fig 54] that separates the pools from the Cascade. Together, the three shallow basins and their connecting channels occupy an area of approximately 3550 m^2. The sequence is laid out to provide an inferred visual connection from the fountain pool located beneath the water molecule sculpture, through the reflecting pools, to the cascade, although in practice each component was a separately pumped water feature. Above the former water's edge of the reflecting pools, a border of handset cobbles (large, multicoloured riverstone pebbles) in two distinct orientations are embedded in the concrete [fig 55].

Apart from the temporary accumulation of rainwater and snowmelt, the reflecting pools have been dry since the mid-2000s. Complaints about their empty appearance, which is particularly noticeable from the surrounding apartment towers, led them to be painted a pale blue colour in 2007. Exposed to sun, water and foot traffic, this type of painted concrete surface deteriorates rapidly. As can be expected, a number of the embedded pebbles in the concrete edges of the pools have also come loose over the half-century and been lost.

Two concrete slab footbridges, perched on masonry footings, originally crossed the reflecting pools at the channel locations. One of these footbridges is missing, while the other has been damaged and appears to be sitting loosely on its footings [fig 56].

CASCADE ENTRANCE

Descending the north face of the reservoir, the landscaped cascade consists of a central, multi-tiered water feature embraced on either side by tiered access stairs and terminating in a small paved plaza adjacent to the Rosehill Avenue sidewalk [fig 57]. The twin staircases structure a series of enclosed garden beds containing Eastern whitecedar and a number of ornamental, deciduous shrubs, as well as what appear to be more contemporary ornamental grass infills and other planted perennials [fig 58].

The planter retaining walls that enclose the mirrored staircases employ the same splitface granite field stone used on the monument parapet, completing the visual motif established by the field stone on the two service buildings on the reservoir's opposite, southern edge. Additional granite boulder walls stand around the cascade, while the cascade itself is comprised of piled stone.

A pair of tree specimens with a weeping form visible in 1967 photographs [fig 59 and 60] of the original landscape installation are not present at the cascade today. The original photographic prints are not well enough resolved to determine if the cedars that now play such a prominent part in the material structure of the cascade garden were included in the original design or represent a later replacement.

The two staircases that enfold the cascade appear to have been paved

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in quarry tile similar to that used in the original coved plaza that wrapped around the monument, and the western cascade staircase is still surfaced in this material, though it is deteriorating [fig 61]. On the eastern stairs, the tile has been removed, leaving the bare concrete steps [fig 62]. The split-face granite walls are cracked and broken in a number of locations [fig 63], and recessed lighting incorporated in these walls appears inoperative. The water cascade is understood to have not been operational for a number of years.

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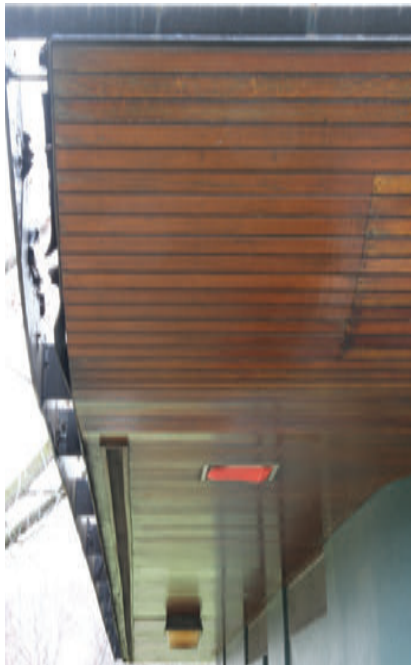
SOUTH STAIRS, WEST STAIRS

The two sets of concrete stairs built c. 1966 as part of the construction of the covered reservoir are in fair condition [fig 64 and 65]. Much of the original tile nosing on the steps has been replaced using inconsistent styles and colours of tile [fig 66]. The twin metal railings, the signature architectural feature of each stair set, are in good condition, although the waterproofing of their anchor points in the concrete cheek walls of the south stairs should be renewed [fig 67]. Each railing consists of three or more longitudinal sections which are fit together by way of lap joints [fig 68]. The concrete steps and interior surfaces of the cheek walls are in generally good condition, although marred by the inconsistent replacement tiles that have been installed on the stair nosings.

WASHROOM BUILDING

As with the reservoir's service buildings, the architectural intent of the washroom building remains largely intact [fig 69 and 70]. The roof line and structure, with its signature, uplifted curves at either end and tongue-and-groove anterior on both eaves [fig 71], and interior ceilings [fig 72], is the most important element of the structure and remains intact, although there appear to be issues with roof drainage on the rear side of the building. Other important elements, such as the custom aluminum push plate signage on the exterior of the washroom entry doors, are also intact [fig 73-74].

In recent years, the building's exterior stucco has been repainted at least twice: first in a building-wrapping mural with First Nations and landscape motifs, artist unknown but present in photographs shot in the park in 2007 and 2008, and then in a teal wash,



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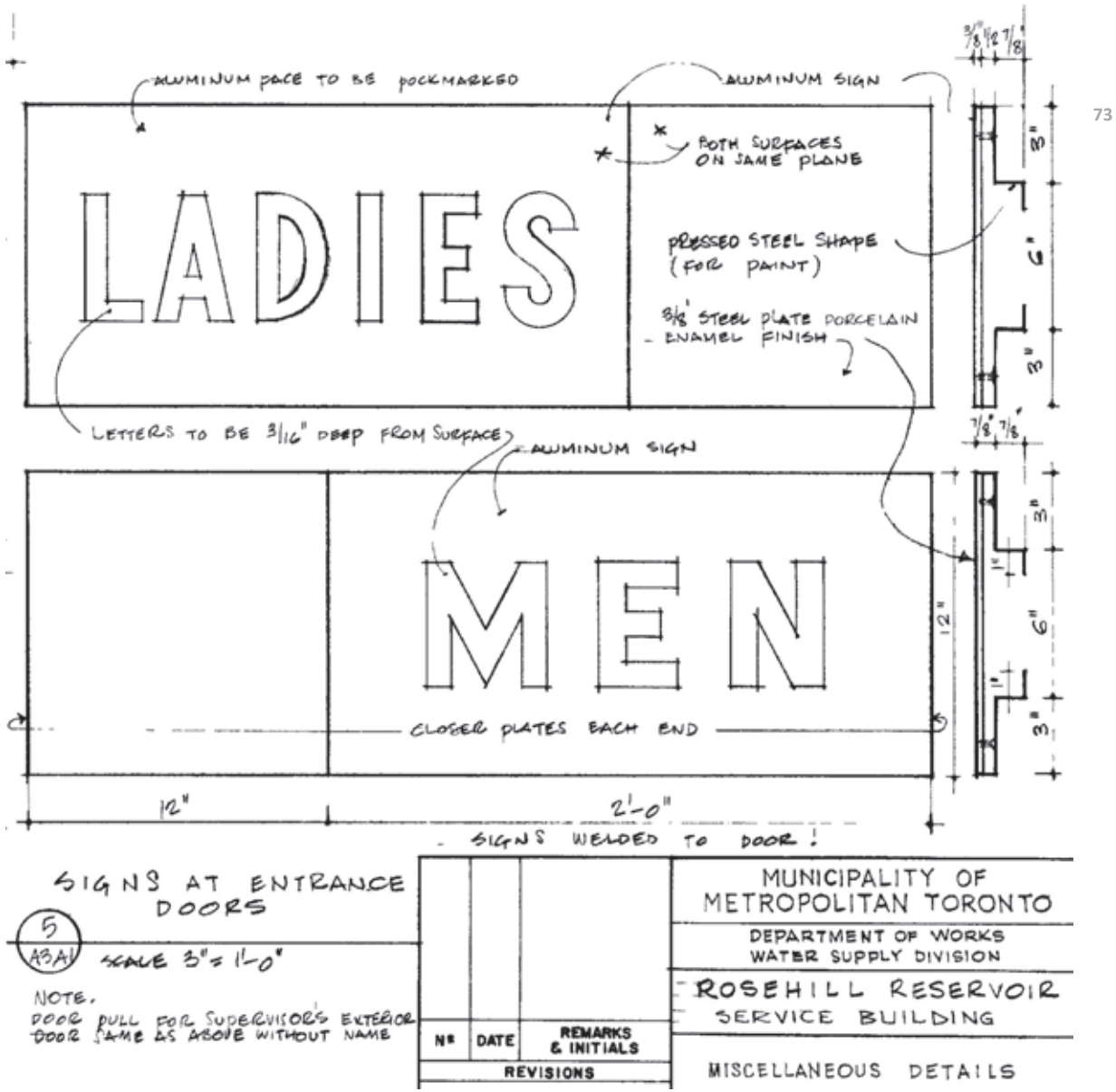
bearing a new mural consisting of several freehand human faces completed by local street artist *Anser*.

CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The contemporary cultural landscape of the park includes an extensive sequence of memorial trees and memorial benches stretching along on all sides of the reservoir perimeter, as well recreational facilities (the Children's Playground and the Rosehill Garden) that have been established or renewed in recent years through the collaborative efforts and investments of the park community and the City of Toronto.

These investments have to some extent served to anticipate the requirements of the rehabilitation project. The present life and program of the park have been reconcentrated towards the reservoir perimeter, away from the depreciated Centennial Landscape and back onto the areas of the site that are congruent with the original 1874-1962 reservoir parklands.



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SIGNS AT ENTRANCE DOORS

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A8A1

SCALE 3" = 1'-0"

NOTE.
DOOR PULL FOR SUPERVISORS EXTERIOR DOOR SAME AS ABOVE WITHOUT NAME

Nº	DATE	REMARKS & INITIALS
REVISIONS		

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO

DEPARTMENT OF WORKS
WATER SUPPLY DIVISION

ROSEHILL RESERVOIR
SERVICE BUILDING

MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS

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proposed reservoir rehabilitation works

The rehabilitation project consists of overall rehabilitation and upgrade works required to bring the Rosehill Reservoir facility to a state of good repair. The work includes structural rehabilitation of the reservoir, and the installation of a new waterproofing membrane on its roof.

To inspect and replace the reservoir's waterproof membrane and other elements of the reservoir structure and equipment, it will be necessary to remove all soil, vegetation, and independent structures and surfaces from both the top and sides of the reservoir. This constitutes the complete removal of nearly all elements of the Centennial Landscape (fountain and monument, reflecting pools, landscaped cascade, washroom building), and may require the temporary removal and reinstatement of elements of the surrounding cultural landscape in order to facilitate the work.

As a result of an improved understanding of the environmental and structural conditions required to ensure State-of-Good-Repair at the reservoir, the proposed rehabilitation works will not restore the water features or structures to their original locations on the roof of the reservoir. Because the relocation and reconstruction of many of these elements would represent such a transformational change in their design and composition, it is impossible to recommend the conservation of the Centennial Landscape as a complete piece. Instead, the Conservation Strategy provided below selects the most distinctive elements of public interest and heritage value within the Centennial Landscape for conservation, prioritizing those elements which can be contextually supported and reinforced by renewed investment in the cultural and civic landscape of the Reservoir and Park.

conservation strategy

INSET
Figures 17 and 18. For larger reproductions, see pages 21-22.

HISTORIC PARK ENTRANCES AND PERIMETER PATHWAYS

Existing path alignments through the reservoir's perimeter parkland and the "Little Park" represent 140 years or more of contiguous experience for park visitors, and the conservation of these alignments should be prioritized as an important cultural heritage feature of the park landscape. The perimeter parkland and "Little Park" should remain open to all visitors, the imposition of new fencing or built program that substantially changes the organization of this space should be avoided, and investment in the renewal of path surfaces, plant material and park lighting should be prioritized.

The 'ravine edge' concrete walkway to the east of the reservoir (distinct from the asphalt, vehicular trail is another important heritage aspect of this path system. Material renewal of this pathway, and the restoration of its eastern linkage through the Workshop driveway to the northern parkland adjacent to Avoca Avenue should be pursued.

Consideration should be given to restoring formal entrance treatments to the two pre-war entrances to the reservoir parklands. The northeast entrance was originally embellished with a floral clock [fig 18] and other planting beds, and the "Little Park" entrance at Summerhill Avenue was pictured in 1913 with gates and a line of mounded beds parallel to the entrance road [fig 17]. Returning more extensive garden beds to the perimeter landscape and the "Little Park" would restore the park's original character of a promenade garden, and it is suggested that opportunities be explored to engage interested community members to participate in curating and maintaining plantings in these areas, in coordination with Parks, Forestry and Recreation division.

The original berm that surrounded the open reservoir from 1874 to 1962 featured a looping promenade pathway lined with benches, and connecting to access stairs at the Little Park entrance and at the corner of Rosehill Avenue and Avoca Avenue. The removal of the formal landscape elements in the middle of the reservoir roof suggests an opportunity to restore a looping perimeter pathway / promenade / track on the edge of the reservoir roof, recalling the original reservoir promenade and providing definition for the unprogrammed space that will now occupy the roof interior. The development of this perimeter trackway or promenade is recommended in order provide a renewed public context for being on the roof of the reservoir, and for the spectacular views the reservoir still affords towards the valley to the east and Toronto's downtown to the south.

VALVE HOUSE AND ACCESS HOUSE

The reservoir's two service structures are prime examples of one of the more unusual styles of modern service structure implemented by Metro Works during the 1960s at locations with public prominence. The style uses stone facings to soften the hard facades of service structures whose rectangular envelope, material efficiency and lack of windows would otherwise tend to present a harsh or 'ugly' appearance. This is an unusual treatment for service buildings [fig 75], and is better known from this period as a methodology for softening the appearance of modernist apartment towers and institutional buildings such as public schools.

Splitface granite was used in at least two other similar Metro Works

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structures from the period—the New Toronto Sewage Pumping Station (31 Lake Shore Drive, built 1964), a small rounded building faced in granite on three sides [fig 76], and the Valve House at the Keele Water Reservoir (4995 Keele Street, built 1966-1967), where it is used in a more limited fashion as a surround for the entrance, with the rest of that building finished in brick [fig 77]. The Valve House at Rosehill, with its blend of 'country' stone and modern precast concrete pilasters and panel facings is arguably the most interesting and successful example of the style within Toronto Water's system, and certainly the most publicly prominent.

The façade, structure and roof details of the two buildings contribute to softening and integrating their presence in the park, and are unusual and well-realized examples of the service buildings erected by Metropolitan Toronto Works during its expansion in the 1950s and 1960s. Future modifications to these two buildings should be minimized, and new penetrations of the building envelopes and new mounting of equipment or infrastructure to the exteriors must be carefully handled to avoid detracting from the

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elevation and form of the structure.

Original copper roof flashing and gutters were an important material element of both structures, linking these modern service buildings to the organization's architectural history and unifying their materials with the pinnacle structures at the R.C. Harris Filtration Plant. Copper flashing and gutters should be maintained on the Access House, where the original material is still present [fig 78], and should be restored to the Valve House, where the original material was removed at some point in the building's maintenance history.

The low-quality and poorly considered placement of existing wall pack lighting and CCTV installations on the two structures are instructive [fig 79], and steps are to be taken to improve on these installations during the current rehabilitation project. Exterior lighting should be of architectural quality, and should be placed with care to complement the building when viewed in elevation. CCTV and other exterior equipment must be similarly positioned with care to avoid detracting from the building's form and elevation.

CENTENNIAL MONUMENT

The complete stainless steel sculpture, including wings, parabolic arch and "water molecule", is a conservation priority [fig 80]. The reservoir rehabilitation work will include the demolition of the existing concrete platform and parapet to which the sculpture is anchored, requiring that the sculpture be carefully separated from the concrete and relocated prior to the commencement of demolition. It may be necessary as part of this work to remove and replace the four stainless steel anchoring bracket footings for the sculpture. The removal, transportation, conservation, and restoration of the sculpture to the site should be undertaken by specialists with prior experience in the relocation and conservation of stainless steel public artworks.

The precast terrazzo Centennial logo panel is another element of significant public heritage interest [fig 81 and 82]. Prior to demolition of the concrete platform, it should be careful removed from the underlying concrete and the surrounding tile surface and relocated. The removal, transportation, conservation, and ultimate restoration of the Centennial logo panel should be undertaken by specialists with prior experience in the relocation and conser-

vation of heritage tilework, including terrazzo.

The two missing plaques installed on the monument in 1967 should be located, if they remain in the possession of the City of Toronto, or if they are lost they should be refabricated using similar materials and reinstated in the new location of the stainless steel sculpture and Centennial logo panel. The text of the "sculpture plaque" can be refabricated as-is; if a new version of the "landscape plaque" is manufactured its text should be updated to reflect the half-century of subsequent developments in the park and reservoir and its reinstatement as part of the Rehabilitation Project.

Reinstatement of the sculpture, logo panel, and interpretive plaques should be accomplished in a manner that clearly groups these features as elements of a Centennial monument, and that reinstates their context as defining elements of a hard-surfaced public plaza or public facing of the Rosehill Reservoir.

The raised orientation of the sculpture, and the two principal views of the molecule—from below front and from the back (inside of the parabolic arch)—are critical elements of its original design intent [see fig 88, page 53], and it is essential that this orientation and these views of the molecule be maintained in the sculpture's new location.

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While important to the original context of the sculpture, the fountain jets and fountain pool are secondary to the conservation of the sculpture itself, which was the clear focal point of the original plaza. The size of the fountain and pool makes its reinstatement off the reservoir roof impractical. Such a reinstatement would likely require the sculpture to be moved so far from the reservoir as to negate the contextual benefits of the fountain by robbing the sculpture of its close contextual linkage and interpretive value as an expression of the water stored beneath the site. The focus for conserving the Centennial Monument should be the restoration of the conserved features in a strong, public plaza context as close to the reservoir as engineering considerations can permit.

REFLECTING POOLS

The reservoir rehabilitation project re-

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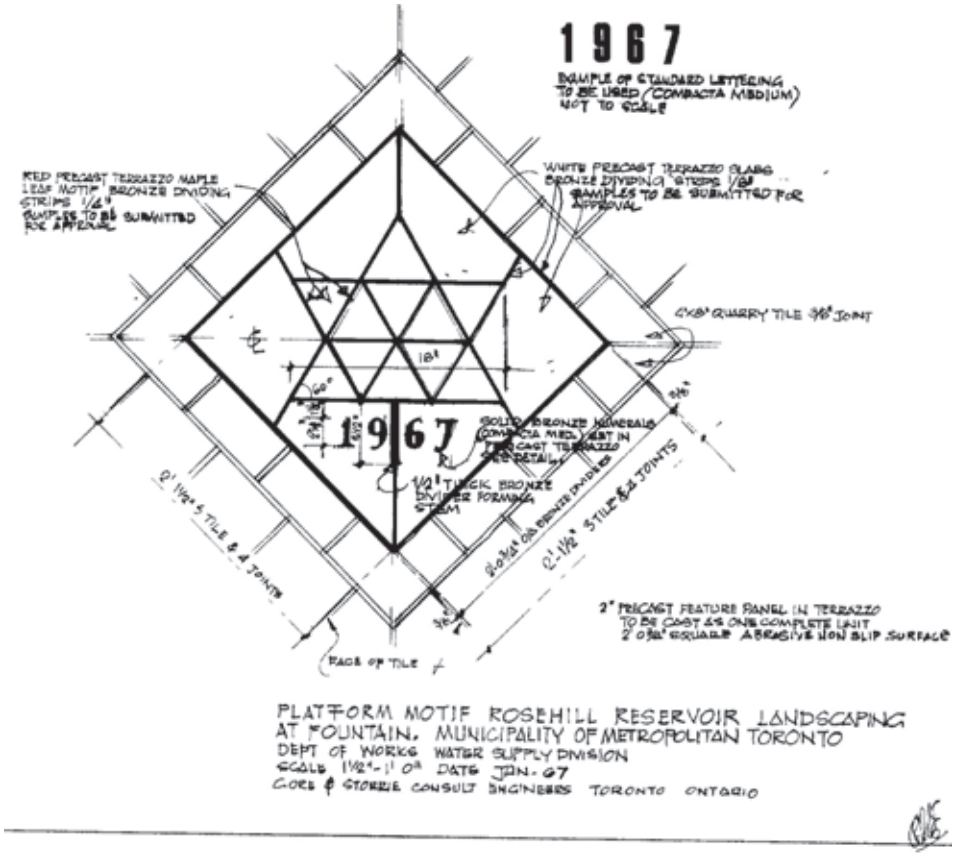

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quires the complete removal of the reflecting pools, including concrete liner, decorative handset cobble borders, footbridges, pump equipment and water lines. Due to state-of-good-repair requirements, water features will not be reconstructed on the roof of the reservoir.

To reconstruct and re-service the existing reflecting pools at another location in a contextually appropriate manner is impractical, and is not suggested. However, the significance of visible and interactive water in the public landscape of the reservoir is recognized here, and opportunities to establish a new format and context for a water feature at Rosehill Reservoir should be explored.

CASCADE ENTRANCE

The entrance cascade on the reservoir's north facing [fig. 83] along Rosehill Avenue is an example of the naturalistic garden cascade style that enjoyed a revival across Canada and the United States in the 1960s.

In contrast to the architectural control realized in modernist water gardens built during the same period (such as the Sasaki, Strong and Associates-designed plazas of the MacDonald and Whitney Blocks at Toronto's Queen's Park), the cascade at Rosehill Reservoir represents a more traditional and vernacular approach to staging and contextualizing a constructed water feature. The twin staircases reflect the Italian tradition of garden cascades, a tradition that in this cascade is interpreted through the rough-hewn granite and cedar shores of the Canadian landscape. Other examples of the naturalistic cascade in Toronto include the widely celebrated J. Austin Floyd-designed waterfall garden at the Sheraton Centre (123 Queen Street West, constructed 1972).

The reservoir rehabilitation project requires the near-complete removal of

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the walls, stairs, water pump equipment and landscape plantings that comprise the Cascade Entrance. Because of the nature of the materials and the present condition of the water feature equipment, restoring this feature following construction would likely require its complete reconstruction with only partially salvaged material, and would be expected to trigger modern accessibility requirements and the need to effect a full redesign of the feature's layout and elevation. For this reason, and to meet the state-of-good-repair objective of removing water features from the roof of the reservoir, the loss of the original cascade water feature is unavoidable and it will be removed permanently.

While the cascade is to be eliminated, restoring of a formal public entrance to the park at this location, on the Rosehill Avenue face of the reservoir, is a priority. This entrance establishes a formal, 'front' face for the reservoir, and with the planned removal of the Centennial fountain is its most public, civic location. The cascade entrance sits across from a modernist apartment tower, making this the most appropriate location for a higher profile, plaza entrance and ascending stair/ramp to the top of the reservoir. A new entrance and any connecting walkways should be fully accessible, should reflect the spirit of the previous terraced entrance, and should use spatial design, high-quality materials and vertical elements to establish the public presence and value of the Rosehill Reservoir and to interpret the site's history and function.

A reinstated entrance at this location offers an opportunity to establish a contemporary context and purpose for the Centennial monument on the site, a key conservation objective discussed above. It is recommended that this location should be considered for the reinstatement of the monument.

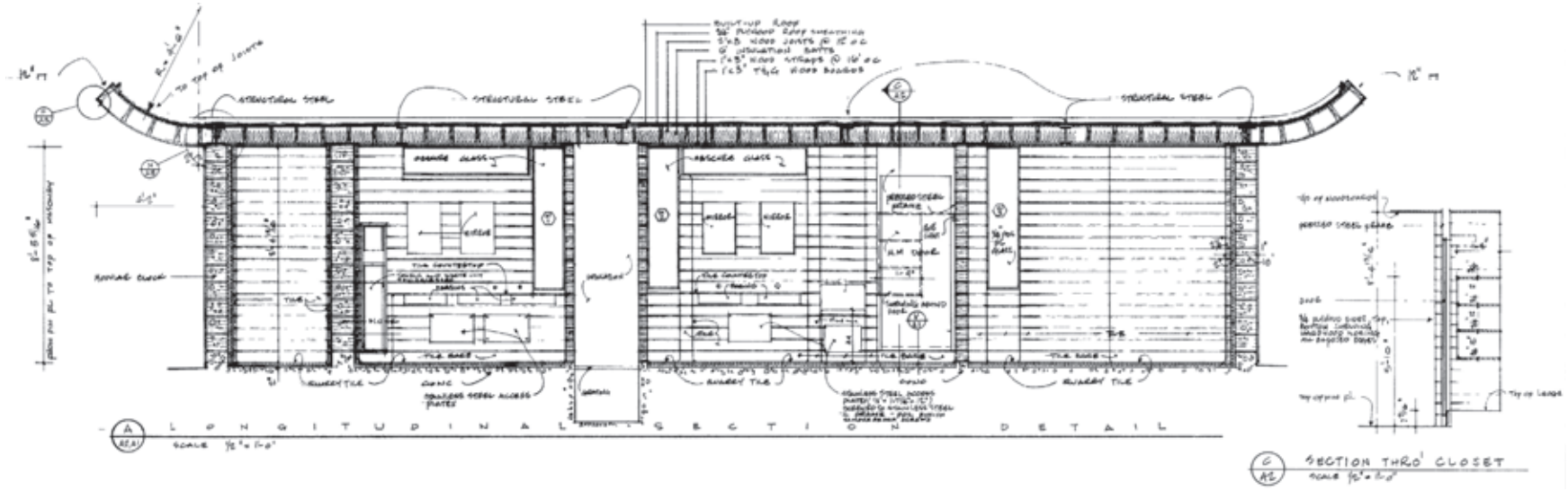
SOUTH STAIRS, WEST STAIRS

The metal railings of both the west and south stairs are architecturally distinctive and considered to be of significant value to the visual experience of the perimeter parklands around the reservoir. These railings, and their placement on concrete cheekwalls enclosing a sunken stair set, should be conserved.

If rehabilitation work requires removal and subsequent reconstruction of all or a portion of the concrete cheekwalls and steps, the railings should be removed with care at the existing section joins, and reinstated during reconstruction of the stairs. New cuts should not be made in the railings. Any retrofits to the stair sets deemed necessary to comply with contemporary accessibility standards must be undertaken to the inside of the concrete cheekwalls and physically separate from the existing railings, in order to avoid altering the visual form of the railings when viewed from along the perimeter slope of the reservoir.

WASHROOM BUILDING

The Washroom Building is a visually distinctive and exuberant example of a modernist public park pavilion, crafted of functional but high-quality materials with a form that rises above the structure's utilitarian purpose [fig. 84]. Exhibiting nods to the Googie and Scandinavian-tinged, mid-century modern design



styles, the Rosehill Washroom Building is an unusual 1960s public service building in the context of Toronto and the surrounding region. Key architectural and material elements include the distinctive curved roof line and structure, the tongue-and-groove wood ceiling and eave planks, the building form and proportions, and the original steel push plate door signage.

Rehabilitation of the Rosehill Reservoir requires the removal of the Washroom Building from its location on the roof of the reservoir. State-of-good-repair considerations for the reservoir going forward require that the building not be reinstated at its current location.

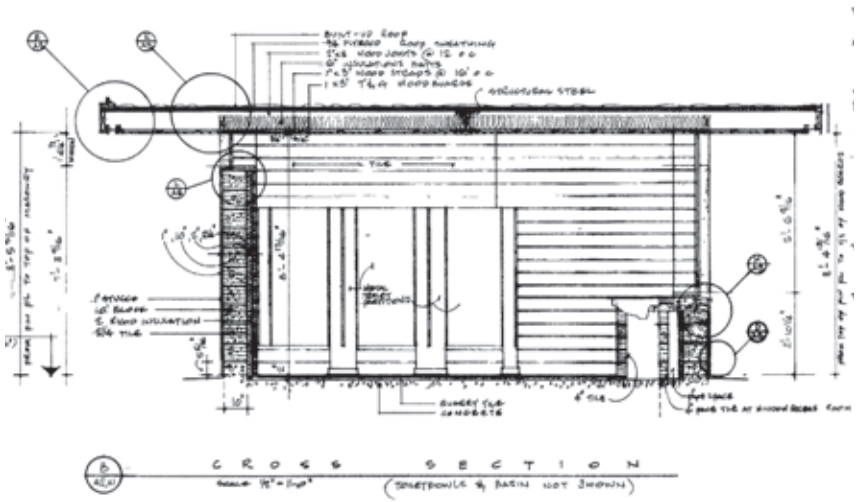
While it is difficult to consider the building either as an essential representative element of the Rosehill Reservoir's Centennial Landscape or an integral component of the surrounding parkland, it is an unusual and visually distinctive example of small-scale public architecture, and consideration should be given to the feasibility of its conservation.

There is precedent in the region for relocating and conserving small structures of architectural distinction in connection with public parks. The last surviving example of the Joy Oil chain of service centres, built in a unique Château style in the 1930s, was relocated and conserved in parkland on Toronto's western waterfront. A number of small railway station buildings, often not much larger than the Rosehill Washroom Building, have been relocated and conserved in Toronto and surrounding municipalities, often in public park locations.

The necessity of permanently removing the Washroom Building from its existing location, the fact that the existing building layout and fixtures would not meet present-day accessibility standards, and the building's block wall structural composition [fig 85] all create challenges for the conservation of the structure. The cost of overcoming these challenges, and the impacts that such a move and modernization would have on the contextual significance of the structure would need to be carefully studied and considered.

Provision of an accessible, modern washroom facility at the park may require the construction of a new structure. A new building that meets current accessibility standards could be designed to make reference to the distinctive elements of the existing washroom – its roof profile and the intersecting vertical element – and to reuse and incorporate its unique material details, including the customized door plates and the tongue-and-groove plank ceiling.

If retaining a public washroom facility within the park is deemed a priority, either in the form of the relocated Washroom Building or a new structure, care should be taken in determining a new location within the public lands surrounding the reservoir. A new or relocated washroom structure should not be located in such a way that it displaces or substantially impacts the visual and environmental character of the reservoir's perimeter pathways and the two historic entrances identified in this report. Identifying a location that is sufficiently



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public to provide surveillance and security of the structure, while not impacting the historic entrances, will require considerable care.

CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

This report recognizes the park community as key agents and stewards of the park's contemporary cultural landscape and recreational program. While the rehabilitation project poses significant impacts to the civic heritage elements of the park and reservoir landscape (as detailed above), it also entails significant disruption to the contemporary program and facilities that have been achieved largely through the community's own engagement and investment in the park.

Major community-initiated facilities, such as the current children's playground [fig 86] and the Rosehill Garden, are key aspects of the park's contemporary cultural landscape. Priority in conservation/restoration of these facilities should be granted to their spatial scale, infrastructure and program attributes, including the agency of community members in their design and maintenance.

The playground's present location was the result of community advocacy and represented a functional improvement over its original location—these are important aspects of its contemporary context and significance in the reservoir parklands. However, the park and reservoir are a living landscape, and in the case of other contemporary park infrastructure some physical attributes may be less essential to conserve than their functional presence and priority. For instance, the physical shape, layout and location of the Rosehill Garden is an accident of the footprint left by the removal of the original 1960s playground. The Rosehill Garden is a public infrastructure of community significance at the site and should be conserved and reinstated in a feasible and functional location, however the present footprint, location and format of the garden need not be preserved unchanged unless these are identified as priorities by community stakeholders.

To the extent that is technically feasible, the extensive perimeter of memorial trees, benches and other monuments must be respected, conserved and reinstated by the project.

As the rehabilitation project completes the move of much of the park's permanent program off the reservoir's rooftop, additional investments should be made in aligning and integrating today's community-driven park programming with the heritage walking landscape of the park. As noted above, one opportunity would be to engage the community's gardeners in the reestablishment and maintenance of formal beds throughout the perimeter parklands; other opportunities will undoubtedly be identified by park stakeholders and staff.

Summary of Conservation Approach

The Rosehill Reservoir, its perimeter parkland and relationship with the adjacent ravine represent a significant cultural heritage landscape within the City of Toronto. A number of distinctive built and landscape features of the site have been identified as significant components in this cultural heritage landscape.

As expressed in the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement, the significance of a cultural heritage landscape is derived from the grouped relationship of a variety of individual features, which together define the cultural heritage value of the site. In this relationship, the value of individual features is derived largely from their contextual meaning and functional participation in producing the larger shared landscape. In living or working landscapes, such as urban parklands and downtown commercial districts, this is particularly true. In these landscapes, the context and relationships between elements must be continually evolved and reproduced in response to current cultural values, expectations and needs, even as the overall shared significance, meaning and visual form of the landscape may remain remarkably consistent over decades.

The fact of this endurance clearly holds true for the Rosehill Reservoir. Despite 140 years of service as a reservoir, with pulses of new investment and periods of material depreciation, and despite the evolution of its residential surroundings from farm estates to Victorian homes to modern towers, the public significance and qualities of the reservoir parkland remains remarkably intact.

Given this, it is important that conservation efforts do not reify a static snapshot by preserving all elements of the landscape—particularly those that have deteriorated, that are non-functional or that do not service the contemporary relationships and program of the place. Instead, after defining the most essential and functional heritage features, and identifying both their fundamental components and the key contextual relationships that they serve within the landscape, a successful conservation plan will invest in a supporting infrastructure that will reinstate their contextual value and contribution to the cultural heritage landscape as a whole.

This approach is particularly necessary given that the strict conservation and maintenance-in-place of all present elements of this cultural heritage landscape is simply not an option. In addition to the requirements of the present rehabilitation project, the essential public infrastructure that underlies or borders the parklands can be anticipated to continue to require periodic maintenance and renewal over the forthcoming decades.

It is not recommended that conserved elements of the Centennial landscape be replaced as-is at or near their original locations on the top of the reservoir. Investments in restoration should instead be made to resituate and contextualize the conserved elements in order to ensure that they are properly scaled and anchored in a landscape of value somewhere on the site. This approach would focus on restoring the conserved elements' public meaning and legibility, and their value as interpretive infrastructure for the reservoir, aspects which have slowly been eroded as elements of the original landscape have failed or been replaced with elements of lower quality. In reinstating these elements, contemporary contextual value and function should be prioritized over faithfulness to the original layout and function of the Centennial landscape, which cannot be restored as-is.

Commemorative and Interpretive Strategy

The Rosehill Reservoir rehabilitation project presents an opportunity to reassess and renew the commemorative and interpretative infrastructure of the reservoir parkland. The project can serve to direct and facilitate new investments in the parkland's interpretive infrastructure, and to better relate those interpretive elements to the contemporary social and cultural landscape of the park, including its daily use, the agency and investments of the park community, and the collective memory and interpretation of the reservoir and park landscape by park users.

The project also represents an opportunity for Toronto Water, the reservoir's operator, to embrace a continued role alongside the Parks, Recreation and Forestry division in stewardship of the reservoir's public landscape and in the maintenance of an interpretive landscape for the site. The reservoir's historic and contemporary role in the provision of public water to Toronto and the region, the involvement at various times of works departments and water engineers in developing the site's parkland, and the reservoir's status as a central public site in which the role and vision of water engineers is publicly commemorated, has been documented here. The Rosehill Reservoir has a public profile, history and value as a cultural heritage landscape comparable to the High Level Pumping Station and the R.C. Harris Water Filtration Plant, two sites at which the Toronto Water division has adopted and embraced a role in stewardship and public interpretation.

GENERAL COMMEMORATIVE AND INTERPRETIVE STRATEGY

The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Culture Heritage Sites recognizes that a variety of experiences and understandings of a cultural heritage landscape may exist and have simultaneous value and currency. The charter states "interpretation and presentation should encourage individuals and communities to reflect on their own perceptions of a site and assist them in establishing a meaningful connection to it. The aim should be to stimulate further interest, learning, experience, and exploration."

Interpretive infrastructure to achieve this aim may take a number of forms, from the most direct— commemorative plaques— to those that offer supplemental information, that provide an expressive or metaphorical interpretation of the site, and to the most indirect interpretation in the form of elements that communicate the general public value of the site and thus support visitors in their desire to form their own personal interpretation of the environment from the range of information that is available. Particularly in a living and working landscape like that of the Rosehill Reservoir and its surrounding parkland, much of the interpretive infrastructure must be indirect – staying out of the way of the park's daily program, but communicating the value and heritage of the site through high quality materials, intentional spatial design and active maintenance that support carefully considered and well-scaled moments of more direct commemoration and interpretation.

It also must now be recognized that the interpretive and commemorative landscape of Rosehill Reservoir now has multiple authors. The sequence of memorial trees and benches that line the perimeter parkland are an expression of community memory and an interpretation to the importance of this open space to the surrounding neighbourhoods and those that have resided there. The site has played a prominent role in the rise and life of many community groups, including not only the residents' associations representing the neighbourhoods around the reservoir, but also broadly focused civic groups such as the Toronto Field Naturalists. Many of the memorials attest to these links, as well as to more personally-focused relationships to family and to the city that have nevertheless been narrated by and entrusted to the reservoir parkland.

Recognizing this, and in addition to renewal of the public interpretation of the reservoir as civic infrastructure, the commemoration and interpretation strategy for the Rosehill Reservoir and surrounding parklands will continue to support and honour the multiple authors and stakeholders who are involved at various levels in programming, valuing and interpreting this landscape.

CENTENNIAL MONUMENT

The 1967 Centennial Landscape was an unusual effort to create an expressive interpretive landscape for the civic function of the reservoir and for its metaphorical heft as a component in the natural and built water system on which Toronto depends. The ambition of the project was distinctive, as was the fact that it appears to have been organized and executed effectively in-house by Metro Works and its engineering consultant.

However, the Centennial Landscape cannot be described as a success. A variety of deficiencies in the design of the Centennial Landscape, and its slow material deterioration (including failure of the water pump system, loss of the original plaques and other markers, and decay and removal of the original plaza surface), meant that it interacted poorly with the rest of the site's cultural and programmatic landscape and that, over time, much of its interpretive value was lost. Moreover, even if the design of the Centennial Landscape had been more functionally successful, the apparent failure to anticipate or plan for periodic physical rehabilitation of the reservoir and a toughening of state-of-good-repair requirements makes it all but impossible to attempt to restore and conserve the 1967 landscape in whole.

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The most distinctive and functional elements of the Centennial Landscape, including the stainless steel monument [fig 87] and the Centennial logo panel will be conserved and restored to the site at a location and in a context where they can provide the core of a new interpretive infrastructure for the reservoir. The monument's

DESIGNED VIEW #1:
VIEW FROM BELOW FRONT

DESIGNED VIEW #2:
VIEW FROM PARABOLIC INTERIOR

original metal plaques should be reproduced and placed in concert with these conserved elements.

To be successful, the conservation and relocation of these interpretive elements of the Centennial Landscape must be supported with a public context of sufficient material and programmatic formality (as in a hard-surfaced plaza or gateway), and which, in the case of the monument, continues to provide the key designed views of the sculpture [fig 88]. Providing too informal, incidental or unintentional a setting for these key retained elements will impede their contribution to the commemorative and interpretive aims for the site. An informal placement can also be anticipated to further degrade their public legibility, their contextual relationship with the rest of the cultural heritage landscape at Rosehill, and will ultimately jeopardize their long-term physical conservation at the site.

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