

The North York Historical Society

5845 Yonge Street, Willowdale ON M2M 4C3 416-222-3485
Spokesperson Geoff Geduld geoff.geduld@sympatico.ca

Mayor Ford urged to ask the Government of Canada to preserve the Canadian Air and Space Museum's home in Parc Downsview Park

(Willowdale Ontario, December 4, 2011) -- The Toronto Preservation Board is calling on Toronto Mayor Rob Ford to petition the Government of Canada to preserve the WWII structure known as 65 Carl Hall Road, the decade-long home of *the Canadian Air and Space Museum*.

Present plans by Canada's Parc Downsview Park Corporation (PDP) are to demolish 65 Carl Hall Road for other uses, rather than to continue to celebrate the men and women who volunteered to serve in the air and on the ground in Europe, Asia, and North America.

The property at 65 Carl Hall Road is associated with both the former air base and with the building of aircraft during WWII.

During WWII, Canada trained 73,000 Canadian pilots at 231 locations across the country and tens of thousands of pilots from member nations of the British Empire, costing Canadians \$1.6Bn.

At its meeting of September 21/22, 2011, Toronto City Council adopted the following resolution:

"...City Council calls on the Federal Government to recognize the contributions of Canadian aerospace and aviation innovation; grant the Canadian Air and Space Museum (CASM) located on the site of the former military base in Downsview a long-term reprieve; and, provide assurances of its preservation on the Downsview lands..."

The North York Historical Society is asking the Mayor to 1) request that the federal government re-designate the property on its own historic register, and 2) respect the City of Toronto's demonstrated interest in ensuring its protection as directed in the Downsview Secondary Plan and on the City heritage inventory.

-30-

Contact: Geoff Geduld at 416-222-3485 or geoff.geduld@sympatico.ca

Enclosure: Heritage Protection of 65 Carl Hall Road (Parc Downsview Park)