



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada

Chief Executive Officer

Directeur général

RECEIVED

NOV 26 2009

TOWN OF MARKHAM  
CLERKS DEPT.

*Joni Baur  
L. Hutchinson*

NOV 23 2009

Ms. Kimberley Kitteringham  
Town Clerk  
The Corporation of the Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham ON L3R 9W3

Dear Ms. Kitteringham:

Minister Prentice has asked that I respond on his behalf to your letter of October 19 regarding the protection of the David Dunlap Observatory.

The Minister of the Environment designates places, people and events of national historic significance on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC), the advisory body on historical matters. The Board evaluates a nominated subject by considering whether it has had a nationally significant impact on Canadian history or represents a nationally significant example or illustration of Canadian human history.

When a place, person or event is declared to be of national historic significance, Parks Canada, which supports the Board in the conduct of its business, carries out the Government's direction with respect to designation, for which the standard form of commemoration is the installation of a bilingual bronze plaque.

While the David Dunlap Observatory may be of interest to the HSMBC, the Board will require the permission of the site owner, Metrus Development, before it may proceed with an evaluation of the historical significance of the property. Furthermore, a designation of a national historic site does not constitute protection, as these matters are the responsibility of the provinces and territories under their respective heritage legislation.

.../2



The activities and mandate of the Board, as well as how to proceed with a submission for designation, are described on the Parks Canada Web site at [www.pc.gc.ca/clmhc-hsmhc/index\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/clmhc-hsmhc/index_E.asp). If, upon review of this information, you believe that the David Dunlap Observatory merits consideration by the Board, you may submit an application, including the owner's consent, to Ms. Julie Dompierre, Executive Secretary of the Board, at the address provided on the Web site.

I trust this information is helpful and appreciate your interest in preserving Canada's heritage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Latourelle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alan Latourelle  
Chief Executive Officer  
Parks Canada

c.c. The Honourable James Moore, P.C., M.P.