

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project

DECEMBER 2022

Since the last Community Update issued in September 2022, we are pleased to share recent highlights achieved on the Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project as we close out the year, bringing us another step closer to construction completion.

Recent Construction Activity

With demolition completed as detailed in the last Community Update, the project is progressing through the reconstruction phase, including heritage preservation.

A key component of this work is paying close attention to intricate details to restore any historical building elements. This includes bringing these elements up to modern standards without jeopardizing the integrity of the building or its original design.



Pictured: A look behind the tarp reveals details of the intricate limestone restoration.

The scaffolding and white tarps wrapping around the Hearst and Hepburn towers are

enabling crews to execute precise restoration work on the limestone exterior, similar to the work recently completed on the Ferguson and Mowat towers.

Coupled with installation of new, energy efficient windows, this exterior work will continue for both towers until next summer.

Mechanical and electrical work, framing, drywall and finishes are active in different stages throughout the interior of the four towers.

In addition, a new roof is being built on the two-storey podium that connects the four towers while the interior work progresses.

Recent Crane Activities

In collaboration with our partners, we undertake careful planning to minimize the impacts of construction on the neighbourhood, including the need for temporary road closures that are occasionally required to place large equipment and materials.

At the end of September, the construction team utilized a crane to hoist and place window crates on the roof of the Hepburn tower.

Since the lift was able to take place within the south lot of the complex, no road closures were required.

Pictured: A mobile crane lifts steel on the roof of the Ferguson tower on November 5, 2022.



In November, a portion of Wellesley Street West was closed to enable the safe operation of a mobile crane to lift steel onto the roof of the Ferguson tower.

Construction personnel and paid duty Toronto Police officers were onsite to help direct vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, enabling local traffic through to Whitney Block.

Enhancing Energy Efficiency

The Complex's HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system is being updated. This important work is being done to help enhance

and increase energy efficiency through the building.

Winter Site Heating

As shared in a previous update, temporary heating sources are required to maintain conditions for building materials and to conduct certain reconstruction work.

We remain committed to minimizing noise impacts for our neighbours by building enclosures around the heaters to muffle sound where we can, and pointing equipment with sound inward to the project, where feasible.

Happy Holidays

On behalf of the MBR project team, we would like to wish our readers a healthy and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

While the Macdonald Block construction site will be operational over the holidays, no planned work is scheduled to take place on the statutory holidays or over the December 24 and December 31 weekends.

More Information

If you have questions related to site construction activities, please contact: MBRproject@pcl.com. Information about the Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project is available on the [Infrastructure Ontario's website](#).

For questions or comments related to the reconstruction of the Macdonald Block Complex or the rehabilitation of the Whitney Block, please contact: QPRP@infrastructureontario.ca.

About the Project

The Macdonald Block Complex is the administrative hub of Ontario government operations. It consists of five buildings: four office towers connected by a two-storey podium. Completed in 1971, the Macdonald Block Complex has never undergone a major renovation. The reconstruction project is updating all core building systems, including electrical, water, cooling and heating, which have reached the end of their useful life and must be replaced. Office accommodations will also be enhanced for modern accessibility standards.

Each building in the complex is being taken back to its original building core, remediated and rebuilt using modern technologies, systems and materials while preserving the integrity of its many heritage features.

The newly reconstructed complex will meet current building, health, safety, and accessibility standards and will accommodate significantly more employees through more efficient use of this government-owned office space. Construction is expected to be substantially complete in the spring of 2024, with staged occupancy beginning soon after that.

