



September 27, 2016

Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
clerk@toronto.ca

Re: Support for NY16.49 Authorization to Study Lawrence Park West as a Potential HCD

Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Branch of *Architectural Conservancy Ontario* to offer our wholehearted support for the study of Lawrence Park West as a potential Heritage Conservation District.

The unique character of Lawrence Park as a planned Garden Suburb, dating back to the early 20th century, is well known. Its homes include Arts and Crafts and Tudor Revival styles among others. They are situated on roads that deviate from the City's prevailing grid, and instead follow the natural landscape contours of the surrounding Don watershed. It is this combination of designed landscape and built form that make the neighbourhood culturally significant.

The character of the nominated area, which contains many well-maintained older homes, is under threat. In increasing numbers, these homes are being demolished and buildings erected that do not conform – in design, scale or setting – to the original plan. This is of great concern to members of the Lawrence Park Heritage Committee, which won a Heritage Toronto Community Heritage Award in 2015 for its advocacy work.

With a proposed development at Weybourne Crescent and Lawrence Avenue set for a January hearing at the Ontario Municipal Board, there is some urgency to authorize a Study for an HCD in Lawrence Park West. Therefore, we wish to add the voice of ACO Toronto to those in support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Janet Walters
Treasurer