

# Helliwell Place Residents' Association

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HelliwellResidentsAssociation@gmail.com

TE18.15.10

September 27, 2016

Attn: Marilyn Toft  
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

## **Comments for distribution to Councillors of Toronto City Council**

**City Council Meeting: October 5, 2016**

**RE: Agenda item TE 18.15 - Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act - 958 Broadview Avenue**

Dear Councillors,

Helliwell Place Residents' Association (HPRA) fully supports City Planning Division's, the Toronto Preservation Board's, and TEYCC's recommendations to the Toronto City Council to state their intention to designate the Chester Public School at 958 Broadview Avenue for its cultural heritage values and heritage attributes.

As per our September 6, 2016 letter to TEYCC, and as identified in the Staff Report and Attachment 3 (Statement of Significance), the Chester Public School at 958 Broadview Avenue is "the oldest surviving school of the former municipality of East York and is valued for its 135 year association with the historic villages of Chester and Todmorden, East York and the current Broadview-Danforth neighbourhood". Designating the Chester Public School would be a significant step in ensuring that the future planning vision of our neighbourhood, as established through the over 2 years public consultation process of the Broadview Avenue Planning Study, becomes reality. This vision includes preserving the remaining and unique tangible links to our City's early industrial and urban history and heritage, such as the historical Chester and Todmorden Villages linked to the Don River Mills.

History and heritage connects people to their urban spaces and creates livable places.

Helliwell Place is its own multicultural and multi-generational community of residents with long standing roots, over 50 years, or who have just recently put down their roots in this Broadview neighbourhood. For more than 2 years, our residents, as well as those from across our broader community, have actively participated in the Broadview Avenue Planning Study consultation process and have steadfastly voiced their concern that the few remaining heritage buildings in the Broadview area of East York be identified and protected.

The City Planning Division's comprehensive and technical detailing of the heritage attributes and historical significance of the Chester Public School lists the extensive inventory of architectural features which designation would preserve. One needs only to stand at 958 Broadview Avenue to immediately see that the 19th century building and its significant architectural character is intact. We are appreciative of the thorough enumeration by City Planning professional staff of the history and architectural features of this building which merit designation.

HPRA respectfully urges that City Council states its intention to designate the Chester Public School at 958 Broadview Avenue. This would ensure that any potential redevelopment of the site respects the established guidelines derived from the Broadview Avenue Planning Study and our Official Plan, while reclaiming this well established and enduring community landmark for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Magda Wesolkowska  
Todd Ross  
Peter Haidelmayer

Executive Team  
Helliwell Place Residents' Association (HPRA)

Cc:  
Councillor Mary Fragedakis  
Francis Kwashie  
Kyle Knoeck  
Gregg Lintern  
Mary MacDonald