

North York Community Preservation Panel

Toronto Preservation Board
c/o Lourdes Bettencourt
City Clerk's Office
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Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
email: lbetten2@toronto.ca

August 23, 2016

RE: PB16.3 Authorization to Study Lawrence Park West as a Potential Heritage Conservation District

Dear Chair Jennifer Rieger,

This is to convey our strong support for the Authorization to study Lawrence Park West as a potential Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Lawrence Park was developed as a planned Garden Suburb, and includes a community of architecturally varied but significant homes nestled within the natural beauty of the Don watershed lands. It is this combination of designed landscape and built form that presents Lawrence Park West as an architecturally significant cultural heritage landscape within the City of Toronto.

Today that cultural heritage landscape of restrained dwellings set on large lots amid generous landscaping is threatened with erosion by demolitions and replacement by new and generally much larger homes which frequently are at odds with the existing built form character of Lawrence Park. Now is the time for the City to authorize a comprehensive Study and Plan for a Heritage Conservation District in Lawrence Park West.

We note that the Panel has been active in supporting the Lawrence Park Heritage Committee's HCD nomination and has submitted several nominations for individual houses (e.g. 1 St. Edmund's Drive, 35 St. Edmund's Drive, 24 Dinnick Crescent, 40 St. Leonard's Avenue, 50 Dawlish Avenue and 110 Dawlish Avenue).

Finally, we would congratulate the Lawrence Park Heritage Committee, lead by Jane Somerville, for its diligent efforts over several years to recognize and promote the cultural heritage values of Lawrence Park, and advance the case for action through a multi-faceted program of research, community awareness (talks, tours, walks), and advocacy.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Kettel
Chair

c.c. Councillor Jaye Robinson, Ward 25
Mary MacDonald, Senior Manager, HPS
Joe Nanos, Director, Community Planning, North District
Jane Somerville, Chair, Lawrence Park Heritage Committee