

Helliwell Place Residents' Association

c/o Property Manager, Helliwell Place Office, 980 Broadview Avenue, Toronto ON M4K 3Y1
HelliwellResidentsAssociation@gmail.com

Comments for distribution to Councillors of the Toronto and East York Community Council – TEYCC Meeting September 7, 2016

Re: TE18.15 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 and the Toronto Preservation Board's recommendations to the Toronto and East York Community Council to designate the Chester Public School at 958 Broadview Avenue for its cultural heritage values and heritage attributes.

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 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.

We are very heartened that the Chief Planner and the City Planning Division concur in its *Heritage Property Research and Evaluation Report*, dated August 10th 2016, and its comprehensive and technical detailing of the heritage attributes and historical significance of the Chester Public School. One needs only to stand at 958 Broadview Avenue to immediately see that the 19th century building and its significant architectural character is intact.

HPRA respectfully urges that the TEYCC states its intention to designate the Chester Public School at 958 Broadview Avenue. This would assure 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,

Todd Ross
Peter Haidelmayer
Magda Wesolkowska
Executive Team
Helliwell Place Residents' Association (HPRA)

Copy: Councillor Mary Fragedakis