



12 DIVISION

Toronto Police Service

Community Police Liaison Committee



November 20, 2020

The Council of The City of Toronto
 City Hall
 100 Queen St W
 Toronto, Ontario
 M5H 2N2

Dear Members of Council:

As part of the crime prevention strategy of Toronto Police's 12 Division Community Police Liaison Committee, we have endeavoured to develop a sense of belonging in all of our fellow citizens in this area. One of the ways we do this is through teaching them the history of our area and instilling them the sense that they are history in the making. We ask them what story they would like future generations to know about them.

We have told the story of the Carrying Place trail and the First Nations who lived on the shores of our Humber River. We have celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Etienne Brule expedition down the Carrying Place Trail from Orillia to Lake Ontario to show that we are part of a long line of immigrants. We have taught them that our people must protect our land and our heritage and leave a better place for our children and grandchildren.

In all of this, we have relied on physical markers: the river, the parklands along the Humber, and the one that seems to excite them the most: The Heritage Oak 'Marker' Tree at Coral Gable Drive. Imagine the power of the story if that tree was accessible to our community in a park with plaques telling the story of our First Nations and our immigrant ancestors who made this country their home.

We have been challenged to raise half the money to buy the property on which the tree sits. But we are not a rich community. In fact, we have one of the lowest average family incomes in the city. And yet, we have managed (with the help of people like Mark Cullen) to raise 60% of the money needed.

The deadline is fast approaching but our people have very little left to give due to the job losses from the pandemic. We have tried so hard. Even our children have worked to raise funds by selling lemonade.

Please help us save this highly relevant symbol of the history of our region by supporting Option B of motion MM26.9. Future generations will thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Spyropoulos
 CPLC 12 Division
 Toronto Police Service