

From: [Li Preti, Ida \(Trustees' Services\)](#)
To: [Ebhricke Community Council](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Marian Shrine of Gratitude
Date: October 15, 2023 10:22:33 AM

During the Toronto Catholic District School Board Meeting on August 24th, a motion was presented to have the TCDSB Board of Trustees send a letter in support of the designation of the Marian shrine and Basilian house located at 3100 Weston Road as a heritage site and be protected under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Following the approval of the motion,

Director Browne and Chair Crawford sent a

letter to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford,

and Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow, all city of Toronto councillors and all Members of Provincial Parliament advocating for the protection of the site. Please find the letter attached



Office of the Chair of the Board

September 5, 2023

SENT BY EMAIL

Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building, Queens Park Toronto

ON M7A 1A1

premier@ontario.ca

Her Worship Olivia Chow

Mayor-elect, City of Toronto

100 Queen St. West

City Hall, Second Floor, West

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

mayorto@toronto.ca

Dear Honourable Premier Ford, Her Worship Mayor Chow, Respected Members of the Ontario Provincial Parliament, and Respected Members of Toronto City Council,

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has always strived to teach our students through the Catholic Graduate Expectations, the importance of being a collaborative contributor who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all, while contributing to the common good.

One such institution that has been contributing to the common good for decades is the former Gardiner Family Summer Resort (Basilian Fathers House), which includes the Marian Shrine of Gratitude. Located at 3100 Weston Road in Toronto, this property was initially purchased by Toronto philanthropist, Percy Gardiner and his wife Gertrude in the early 1920s. In 1950, the property was purchased by Jethro and Audrey Crang. Mr. Crang came from the turn of 20th century Toronto builders and was related to the Goulding and Boake families, who were pioneer families in Downsview.

This historical site was purchased on October 31, 1958, by the Order of Ukrainian Catholic Basilian Fathers and was the former site of St. Basil-The-Great High School which has produced

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many distinguished alumni who have contributed to the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario. The Marian Shrine of Gratitude created by Fr. Basil Cymbalisky, was a thank you gift to the community who supported him during the recovery from an eye accident. The significance of the Shrine is not only for residents of the local community, but also residents of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, as well as the countless international visitors who walk through the gates. Visitors include people of diverse ethnic origins, various nationalities, denominations, and cultures who visit the Shrine throughout the year to find peace and to give thanks.

The site is also important to many as a place of healing, especially for those who lost loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. The former Gardiner Family Summer Resort (Basilian Fathers House), including the Marian Shrine of Gratitude is also located on pristine conservation land.

During a Board of Trustee meeting on August 24, 2023, a motion was passed requesting that both the Government of Ontario and City of Toronto, designate the former Gardiner Family Summer Resort (Basilian Fathers House), including the Marian Shrine of Gratitude located at 3100 Weston Road in Toronto as a heritage site protected by the Ontario Heritage Act.

We look forward to your consideration of the above request. As always, we are available to discuss this matter with you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education



Nancy Crawford
Chair of the TCDSB

CC: Trustees
All MPPs
All Toronto City Councillors