



Re: Designation of 3377 Bayview Ave under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Dear Members of Council,

I am writing you in my capacity as **President of the Bayview Cumber Neighbourhood Association (BCNA)** which has represented the interests of residents bordering the 3377 Bayview Ave property for over 45-years. On March 28, 2022 our Association and two other neighbourhood associations and the North York Historical Society put forward an application to designate the site a heritage site under the Ontario Heritage Act.

On behalf of our association, I would like express our thanks for the heritage and city planning staff for taking the time to review this site, colloquially known as “**Morrow Park**” and appreciating its unique significance with their recommendation. The BCNA would like to **reaffirm our support for the designation of this property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.** The property, its buildings and landscapes are irreplaceable; they are of historical, religious, cultural and architectural significance that have shaped the lives of strong female leaders in our community for the last 70-years.

Morrow Park was named after, Fredrick Keenan Morrow, a devout Roman Catholic and one of Canada’s most prominent businessmen who was awarded the Order of the British Empire for “Patriotic and Philanthropic Work” in Toronto, most notably for his work expanding our healthcare system. Prior to his death, he donated the land and property which became known as “Morrow Park” to the Sisters of St. Joseph to which the new purpose-built motherhouse and school are built. The motherhouse itself was built by British-born designer Robert S. Morris (1898 – 1964) who in his own right was a brilliant unique architect, and one of only two Canadians ever to win a Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1958. In short, in our view it is unconscionable for these buildings to be demolished.

As you may be aware, the designation of ‘**Saint**’ in the Roman Catholic religion is reserved only for a person who is recognized as having an exceptional degree of holiness, likeness, or closeness to God. As noted in the staff report, Pope John Paul II, now **Saint Pope John Paul II** stayed at the motherhouse while presiding over the 17th World Youth Day in Toronto praying in the chapel which was subsequently renamed the “Papal Parlour”. The landscape itself is part of the built form and architecture, it was designed in a way to allow for ceremonial entry sequence, is integrated as a whole into the built landscape and circulation components of the former Motherhouse.

We firmly believe that this is a site of significant built, cultural and its landscape needs to be conserved, protected and managed as part of planning for future growth in a manner consistent with the *Provincial Policy Statement (2020)*. We believe that the motherhouse, school and landscapes are a testament to over 70 years of humanitarian assistance provided before our public health care system, ongoing spiritual practice and religious education. To ignore the architectural, historical and religious significance and permit its destruction would be a travesty.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Nathan Gomes, President, Bayview Cumber Neighbourhood Association