

City Clerks - Heritage

From: Amanda Large <amanda@doublespacephoto.com>
Sent: April 21, 2023 11:30 AM
To: City Clerks - Heritage
Subject: [External Sender] Toronto Preservation Board Meeting - 817 Mount Pleasant Road - Inclusion on the Heritage Register

Categories: Communication

RE: St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Toronto

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing as a board member of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Toronto Branch (ACOTO), which has been engaged in preserving Toronto's architectural heritage since 1933, and as the author of the photobook "Fifty50: Fifty modernist Churches", in which St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church is featured.

Community members have notified us of their concerns over the potential sale of St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church to a real estate developer, and that this will lead to its subsequent demolition.

The ACOTO is recommending that the Toronto Preservation Board include St Peter's in the Heritage Register. The fact that the building is not currently Heritage Listed or Designated does not discount its historic value. Mihkel (Michael Bach) was an esteemed architect, and St Peter's is an architecturally unique and significant Modernist structure in the city. This building plays an important role in the fabric of the Estonian diaspora, and is worthy of protection.

The City should work with the current and future owners to encourage its reuse or incorporation into any future development, should it not be able to continue as a religious facility, and unlock its potential. Not only would the demolition of the building be a loss to the Estonian community, the Davisville Community and the City as whole, it contributes to further building demolition waste and loss of quality materials.

We believe this is an opportunity to expand, progress, and diversify our definition of and processes for heritage conservation of cultural places and spaces in Toronto.

All the best,
amanda large

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