



Tom Rakocevic

MPP / Député, Humber River—Black Creek

Queen's Park

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October 9, 2023

City Planning Division
Heritage Planning
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
17th floor, East Tower
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Attn: Matthew Green hertpb@toronto.ca

RE: PB10.8 - 3100 Weston Road - Amending Listing Statement

As the Member of Provincial Parliament representing Humber River – Black Creek, I am writing to you with regards to the property located at 3100 Weston Road which is the site of the Rivermede Cottage and its grounds which includes the Marian shrine of Gratitude, a place where people have been gathering for many years to pray and seek a connection with their spirituality.

I am writing in support of the recommendation made by the Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning, which recommends that: *City Council amend the Listing Statement for the property at 3100 Weston Road on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register in accordance with the Listing Statement (Reasons for Inclusion), attached as Attachment 1 to the report (October 5, 2023) from the Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning.*

I will not reiterate the technical features of the site as the report prepared by City Staff clearly identifies the cultural, historical and architectural significance of the site as an important landmark in our community and I wholeheartedly agree. Furthermore, the northwest part of our City has a large lack of protected historical and cultural sites, and as such, this site as one of the longest standing in our community should be protected.

Adopting the recommendation will help protect and preserve the site and its grounds from deterioration and destruction. Many members of the community and beyond have contacted my office to inform me of their strong wishes to see the site preserved. They are concerned with the potential threat of alteration, and further damage to the site which has been ongoing since the summer.

The Marian Shrine of Gratitude, as part of the Rivermede Cottage, has been a destination for countless individuals and families as a place of prayer and spiritual growth for many years. Over 20,000 individuals have signed various petitions seeking to have this shrine preserved and accessible to members of the public, which strongly speaks to the public significance of the site and the urgent need for its preservation.



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It is my hope that this recommendation will be adopted to preserve and protect the site so that it can remain for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Rakocevic".

Tom Rakocevic
Member of Provincial Parliament
Humber River-Black Creek