

February 26, 2023

To Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

We are residents within the Bayview Woods neighborhood, and we both support the City's intent to designate 3377 Bayview Avenue as a heritage property in accordance with the Statement of Significance outlined in their detailed report.

We would first like to thank city staff and the Toronto Preservation Board for their careful assessment of this important property, which has been a landmark in our community for over 60 years. It is a rare example of a site which meets most if not all the criteria for heritage designation under the Ontario Heritage Act – having exceptional historic, design, and contextual value.

This property has special significance for me personally. We had two daughters that went to, and graduated from, the former school at St Joseph Morrow Park which is still located at the Tyndale University site. We also recall that Pope John Paul II stayed here for World Youth Day in 2002 which was a historic event that will forever be linked with this property. We enjoy walking along Bayview Avenue, and appreciate the impressive architecture and the landscape vistas from the street. We enjoy walking within the campus and appreciate the craftsmanship that went into the brickwork, porticos, and windows. We enjoy walking in the greenspace within the site and we forget we are in the city – the views of the buildings with the large mature trees amid the ravine landscape are worth preserving.

While we acknowledge the importance of more rental housing to the city, this should not be at the expense of compromising a significant heritage asset such as this.

Great cities protect their landmarks - of which 3377 Bayview Avenue is clearly one – and this is why we support designation of this property.

Sincerely,

Tom Koehler, Maria Markos