



February 26, 2023

Dear Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

The Bayview Woods Neighbourhood Association (BWNA) represents a community of residents within the Don Valley North. Our members reside within the street boundaries of Steeles Avenue, Leslie Street, Finch Avenue and Bayview Avenue. Our community members have worked tirelessly over the last two and half years to draw attention to the importance of the property that is now known as Tyndale University. We have worked with the City's staff to ensure that the proposed project fits within the community in a sustainable manner. And we would like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for the designation of 3377 Bayview Avenue as a Cultural Heritage Site. This property holds significant historical and cultural value, and its preservation will greatly benefit the community and future generations.

The buildings and the surrounding landscapes at 3377 Bayview are not only considered to be the cornerstone the Catholic community in this part of north Toronto, but have been the home of countless family gatherings, community activities, and a space for serenity and peace within our fast-paced and beloved city. The property is certainly one of a few remaining heritage green spaces left across Toronto.

In addition to its architectural presence and significance, 3377 Bayview also has a rich cultural history. Numerous members of our community fondly recall the Pope's stay at the St. Joseph campus and take great pride in having been present during the Pope's only visit to our city. Some of our neighbours remember walking the grounds with their parents who have now passed away and some recollect attending school at the site, while others talk about sitting under the mature trees and reveling at the impressive architecture or irreplaceable vistas of the landscape. The history of this land is interwoven in the memories and lives of many residents of Don Valley North and without your help to preserve it, we will lose it forever.

Designating 3377 Bayview Avenue as a Heritage Site will ensure its protection for future generations. This will not only preserve its physical and cultural significance, but also provide opportunities for education and community engagement. It will become a valuable resource for residents and visitors alike, who can learn about the history and architecture of the area, how our community was first settled, and appreciate the beauty and craftsmanship of this unique property.

We all understand that the nature of our city is to grow and the future certainly has to accommodate more housing options. The good news is that there are many projects in the development pipeline within the near vicinity of this site that are situated in places with access to more appropriate transportation infrastructure for high density and represent thoughtful redevelopment that fits the planning vision for the City. But we also need to strike a balance between today's needs and preservation of irreplaceable elements of our heritage. Without many places left that allow a glimpse of the past, how do we teach the history of our home to future generations. **In conclusion, we humbly request that the Committee votes in favor of designating 3377 Bayview as a Heritage Site, as recommended by the Toronto Preservation Board.** The preservation of 3377 Bayview will not only benefit our broader community, but also help to ensure that our collective cultural heritage and history are protected and valued for years to come.

With my sincere thanks for your time and consideration.

Grace Gu, President