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**City Clerk's
Department**

150 Borough Drive
Scarborough, Ontario
Canada M1P 4N7

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Drew Westwater, A.M.C.T., C.M.O., C.M.C.,
City Clerk

Barbara A. McEwan, A.M.C.T., C.M.O., C.M.C.,
Deputy City Clerk
Refer to: Frank Edwards
Telephone: (416) 396-7281

SEP 18 1997

September 12, 1997

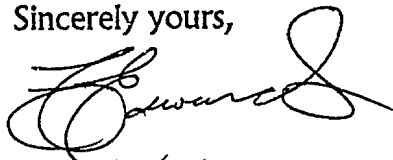
Municipality of Metro Toronto
Treasury Department, Consolidated Accounts Payable
Station 1131, 13th Floor
Metro Hall
55 John Street
Toronto, ON M5V 3C6

Dear Sir:

Re: Designation of R.C. Harris Filtration Plant
Under The Ontario Heritage Act

Enclosed, please find a copy of the revised advertisement to be published in the Scarborough Mirror on September 17, 1997 regarding the R.C. Harris Filtration Plant under The Ontario Heritage Act.

Sincerely yours,



Frank Edwards
Director of Administration

FE/mcs

att.

c.c.: Ontario Heritage Foundation ✓
77 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1M2



REVISED

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O.
1990 CHAPTER 0.18**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS MUNICIPALLY KNOWN
AS THE R.C. HARRIS FILTRATION PLANT, 2701 QUEEN STREET
EAST, CONCESSION A, PART LOT 35, PLAN 1085, LOT 1, 6-9,
16 PART LOT 2, 10, 11, 15, PLAN 1117, LOT 17, PART ROAD
ALLOWANCE CLOSED NOW, REGISTERED PLAN 64R12780,
PART 1, IN THE CITY OF SCARBOROUGH IN THE PROVINCE
OF ONTARIO.**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Scarborough has decided to designate the plant, known as The R.C. Harris Filtration Plant, as a property of historical value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

SHORT STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION:

THE R.C.HARRIS FILTRATION PLANT AND SITE are recommended for historic and architectural reasons. The plant is named after R.C. Harris, Commissioner of Works and City Engineer for the City of Toronto from 1912 to 1945 who began planning for it in 1913. The plant is the largest water treatment and supply facility in Metropolitan Toronto. When the plant opened in 1941 it was one of the largest water filtration plants in North America and applied leading-edge technology. Its construction is a central part of the story of Michael Ondaatje's novel, *In the Skin of a Lion*. In 1992, the plant was declared a National Historic Civil Engineering Site by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering.

From the beginning in the plant's planning, it was intended to be architecturally attractive with the surrounding grounds to be a public space for leisure. It is now a scenic landmark on the Toronto waterfront. Engineering design was done by William Gore and William Storrie and, for pumping and electrical systems, by H.G. Acres. The architectural design was by Thomas C. Pomphrey, a member of the staff of the Gore, Nasmith & Storrie firm. The R.C. Harris Filtration Plant is an excellent example of classically inspired Art Deco design and is the largest ensemble of Art Deco buildings in Metropolitan Toronto. At the time when it was constructed, Art Deco and Modern Classicism were popular styles for large buildings. The buildings are characterized on the exterior by simplified pediments and pilasters and flattened geometrical Art Deco ornamentation in stone, brick and metal. There are also complementary Romanesque features, e.g. rounded arches over the door and window openings. The interior of the Filter/Administration building has notable Art Deco marble decor and a striking staircase leading to the upper level from the main (south) entrance.

There are three buff brick and Queenston limestone buildings of architectural interest on the site: the Filter/Administration building south of Queen Street, the west wing of which was completed in 1935, the east wing in 1956 in sympathy with Pomphrey's original design. The Pumping Station set closest to the lake was built in 1935-1937 as was the Service Building to the north of the Pumping Station. In addition, there is an important architectural landscape feature, the Terrace and fountain completed in 1935 south of the Filter/Administration Building. North of the Filter/Administration Building to Queen Street is a large flat open lawn area and south of the buildings to Lake Ontario a sloping lawn.

Notice of objection to designation may be served on the City Clerk within thirty days of September 17, 1997.

DATED at Scarborough this seventeenth day of September 1997.

W.D. Westwater
City Clerk
150 Borough Drive
Scarborough, Ontario
M1P 4N7