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January 19, 2012

Jim Leonard  
Registrar, Ontario Heritage Trust  
Heritage Programs and Operation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Jim Leonard,

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate a Property, Ontario Heritage Act**

The Council of the Town of Markham intends to designate the following property for reasons of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV:

Anthony Roman Centre/Markham Civic Centre  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2012** at the following address:

Clerk's Department, Town of Markham  
Attention: Judy Carroll  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3  
Fax, 905-905-479-7771

A statement of significance/reasons for the designation is attached.

Yours truly

Kimberley Kitteringham  
Town Clerk

For Heritage Designation By-Law for 101 Town Centre Boulevard

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Anthony Roman Centre/Markham Civic Centre**

**1990**

#### **101 Town Centre Boulevard**

The Anthony Roman Centre/Markham Civic Centre is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

#### **Description of Property**

The Anthony Roman Centre/Markham Civic Centre is located at the north-west corner of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue in Markham Centre. The building is set at an angle to face the intersection, set in a spacious landscaped area and mirrored in an artificial lake.

#### **Historical Value and Associative Value**

The Markham Civic Centre with its grounds has historical and associative value as a physical symbol of the municipal government and administration of the Town of Markham, as a focal point for public gatherings and special events, and as the most recent and largest Town Hall to serve the community to date. It was constructed in 1990 to replace the previous Town Hall in Buttonville, which served the community from 1954 to 1990. The Civic Centre has associative value as it was designed by the renowned Canadian architect, the late Arthur Erickson, who received world-wide recognition for his Modernist designs. It has further associative value, having been named after the late Anthony Roman, Markham's mayor at the time the Civic Centre was constructed and opened.

#### **Design Value and Physical Value**

The Markham Civic Centre has design value as a good example of a Modernist public building, with some elements of Post-Modern architecture, executed in precast concrete, green-tinted glass and copper. The building has a J-shaped linear plan, with a three storey administrative wing and a four storey secretariat wing containing the Council Chambers, public meeting rooms, and offices of the Mayor and members of Council. The building has physical and design value as a unique architectural expression, designed to meet the requirements of the Town of Markham and to relate to its prominent site at a major intersection in Markham Centre. The Civic Centre is set within a spacious landscaped area which provides a park-like setting which includes an artificial reflective lake, a peace garden, a fountain, an outdoor amphitheatre and a sculptural monument to Markham's early settlers.

### **Contextual Value**

The Markham Civic Centre has contextual value as a key component of Markham Centre, Markham's emerging "downtown." It is a landmark building defining the north-west corner of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue. The Markham Civic Centre is part of a grouping of public buildings that include the Markham Theatre and Unionville High School.

### **Significant Physical Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Markham Civic Centre Building include:

- J-shaped, linear plan, built into an artificial slope;
- Angled orientation to the intersection of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue;
- Form and volume of the building, combining rectilinear and circular shapes in a complex composition of pavilions;
- Exterior finishes including salmon and sand-coloured precast concrete blocks and panels, natural-coloured poured concrete, weathered copper, green-tinted glass and green metal door and window frames;
- Plate-glass windows in metal frames in a combination of curtain wall and punched forms;
- Rectangular concrete portico at the main entrance to the Great Hall, with paired rectangular columns and a gable-roofed glass canopy;
- Rectangular concrete porticos with rectangular concrete columns at the Unionville, Thornhill and Milliken entrances to the administration wing;
- Umbrage on the north side of the administration wing behind square concrete columns;
- Angled glass clerestory skylights on the north and south sides of the administration wing;
- Multi-sided, capsule-shaped wedding chapel within the artificial lake, clad in weathered copper, with glass panels in the floor;
- Greenhouse glazing on the south side of the Great Hall with its underlying tubular metal geodesic supports;
- Colonnade of round, poured concrete columns with square capitals supporting a poured concrete planter;
- Round-plan volume of the Council Chamber with its colonnade of round, poured concrete columns with square capitals and its rounded, saucer-shaped, weathered copper roof;
- Round-plan volume of the Mayor's office with its rounded balcony and poured concrete railing;
- Round-plan volume of the Councillor's lounge;
- Great Hall with inlaid Town of Markham coat-of-arms, suspended stainless-steel walkway on the third floor, and curving staircase to the lower atrium.

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Civic Centre grounds include:

- Artificial reflecting lake on the south side of the building;
- Circular poured concrete amphitheatre;
- Circular Peace Garden with its “eternal flame,” stainless steel railing and wood pergola;
- Circular poured concrete fountain;
- Steel and concrete “barn frame” monument to Markham’s early settlers.