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Corporate Services  
Michael de Rond  
Town Clerk

905-727-3123 ext. 4771  
[mderond@aurora.ca](mailto:mderond@aurora.ca)

Town of Aurora  
100 John West Way  
Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

February 28, 2019

Via Registered Mail

Ms. Erin Semande  
Ontario Heritage Trust  
Heritage Programs and Operations  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

FEB 28 2019

RECEIVED

Dear Ms. Semande,

**RE: Notice of Intention to Designate a Property to be of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

**50-100 Bloomington Road West**

**"De La Salle College"**

PT LT 71 CON 1 (KING) AS IN K114654, EXCEPT PT 2 R679438, PT 10 65R10971, PTS 1, 3, 4 & 6, 65R14658, B77201B, A54471A, PTS 1, 2, 3 & 4, 65R29662 & EXCEPT PTS 1,2,3,4,5 & 6, 65R33118; S/T EASE OVER PT 1 65R1643 AS IN R186508; S/T EASE OVER PTS 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19, 65R18188 EXCEPT PT 4, 65R29662, EXCEPT PTS 3,4 & 6, 65R33118 AS IN R495580; S/T EASE OVER PTS 4 & 17, 65R18188 AS IN R554169; S/T EASE OVER PTS 4 & 17, 65R18188 AS IN R556196; S/T EASE OVER PTS 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 18, 65R18188 EXCEPT PTS 2 & 3, 65R29662, EXCEPT PTS 2,4 & 5, 65R33118 AS IN R685895; Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, being all of PIN 03671-0060 (LT)

Please find attached a Notice of Intention to Designate, which includes a statement explaining the Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and a description of the heritage attributes of the above-noted property.

Pursuant to Section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, this Notice will be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality (The Auroran) on February 28, 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Michael De Rond  
Town Clerk

Attach.

c. Adam Robb, Planner, Heritage Planning

**NOTICE OF INTENTION  
TO DESIGNATE A BUILDING OF  
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora intends to designate the following property as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest pursuant to the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended. A brief statement of reasons is included.

50-100 Bloomington Road West

De La Salle College

PT LT 71 CON 1 (KING) AS IN K114654, EXCEPT PT 2 R679438, PT 10 65R10971, PTS 1, 3, 4 & 6, 65R14658, B77201B, A54471A, PTS 1, 2, 3 & 4, 65R29662 & EXCEPT PTS 1,2,3,4,5 & 6, 65R33118; S/T EASE OVER PT 1 65R1643 AS IN R186508; S/T EASE OVER PTS 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19, 65R18188 EXCEPT PT 4, 65R29662, EXCEPT PTS 3,4 & 6, 65R33118 AS IN R495580; S/T EASE OVER PTS 4 & 17, 65R18188 AS IN R554169; S/T EASE OVER PTS 4 & 17, 65R18188 AS IN R556196; S/T EASE OVER PTS 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 18, 65R18188 EXCEPT PTS 2 & 3, 65R29662, EXCEPT PTS 2,4 & 5, 65R33118 AS IN R685895;

Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York

**Description of Property**

The property known municipally as 50-100 Bloomington Road West contains a 4 storey institutional building built in 1916, as well as associative heritage features that include the 0.75 kilometre Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk along the northern boundary of the property and the front garden directly east of the primary building. 50-100 Bloomington Road West is located at the north west intersection of Yonge Street and Bloomington Road West.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The Cultural Heritage Value of the property derives from the visual character of the primary structure; being a fair example of Collegiate Gothic architecture, and the landscape features on the property; which include the Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk with its numerous religious tree carvings, and the front garden with its circular walkway leading to the original building entrance. The property has historical association; being the former De La Salle College and Pine Ridge Centre, and has contextual value; for its location on a highpoint within the Oak Ridges Moraine at the prominent corner of Yonge Street and Bloomington Road.

**Physical Design Value**

Built in 1916, the existing building can be described as a 4 storey structure designed in a Collegiate Gothic architectural style. The building was designed by renowned architect J.P Hynes, who is notable for building several churches, hotels, hospitals, schools and various residential and commercial buildings in Toronto and across Canada.

The building was constructed using the "Hennebique" system of construction, which comprised of 14 inch thick reinforced concrete walls, clad with red brick. Concrete foundation walls extend approximately 4 feet above grade at the base of the structure. A stone trim was implemented on the walls and window openings of the building. The roof is a flat roof, lined with a brick parapet. At the centre of the front elevation (facing Yonge Street), a steel screen was installed which was decorated to match the original stone decorative parapet. The windows, emphasized by sawtooth art stone, are a common feature to Collegiate Gothic architecture. The main entrance (facing Yonge Street) features cast stone with a decorative parapet.

To the east of the main structure lies a front garden, comprising of mature trees, park benches and a flag pole. A circular walkway is located in the center of the

garden. The garden once served as the main entranceway to the De La Salle College.

Along the northern boundary of the property is Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk, which is a 0.75 kilometre trail that features numerous religious tree carvings, which date back nearly 100 years.

#### Historical /Associative Value

50-100 Bloomington Road West contains a rich history over the past 200 years. The lands were originally settled by Joseph Minthorn in 1808. Another notable early settler includes William Mair, who held the land until 1878. In 1914, the Christian Brotherhood purchased the property. By 1916, the Brotherhood built the De La Salle College, a school for young men destined to pursue religious services. During this time, the Brotherhood established a walking trail at the north end of the property known as Monk's Walk. This trail comprises of religious carvings in trees along the route, used by the Brotherhood for meditation. The Christian Brotherhood would continue to operate the school until 1949 where at that time; the school was moved back to Toronto.

The Government of Ontario purchased the property in 1950. The building was converted into a residential facility operated by the Ministry of Health. The building would house over 300 men and boys suffering from mental illnesses, developmental delay or physical disability. The facility was re-named "Pine Ridge" in 1974 and would continue to operate until 1984.

After the closure of Pine Ridge, the Government of Ontario retrofitted the building to contain office uses. The building would become an office for the Ministry of Natural Resources and an Ontario Registry Office. The building continues to operate as government offices to this day.

#### Contextual Value

The property is situated on a large parcel of land at a highpoint of the Oak Ridges Moraine at the north east corner of Yonge Street and Bloomington Road. Once set isolated amongst agricultural land uses, the surrounding landscape has evolved around the property, which is now surrounded by other institutional buildings and suburban residential developments.

The former De La Salle College structure overlooks Yonge Street, the major north-south historical transportation corridor between the urban centre of Toronto to the south and Lake Simcoe to the north. Under the ownership of the Christian Brothers and due to the school's symbolic presence, the intersection at Yonge Street and Bloomington Road became known as De La Salle College Corners in recognition of the historic importance of the institution locally (Aurora Banner, 1925).

The historic educational and agricultural importance of the property is reflected through the remnants of orchards, gardens, and the Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk and its multiple carved trees.

#### Description of Heritage Attributes

Important to the preservation of the property are the original key attributes that express its value, which include:

#### Exterior Elements

- Collegiate Gothic Architectural Style
- Exterior walls constructed from interlocking tile and faced with brick
- Low brick parapet with a moulded stone coping and overhang drips
- Rectangular window openings with sawtooth art stone surrounds and simple lintels and sills

- Classical main entrance with cut stone
- Four-storey structure with a flat roof, red brick cladding and stone detailing

#### Cultural Heritage Landscape Elements

- Approximately 0.75 kilometre Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk at the north end of the property
- Paper Birch, Basswood and American Beech trees along the Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk, including carved trees
- The Front Garden at the east of the property, leading from the original entryway to Yonge Street, including the walkway and circular garden
- The visual presence of the building, located at the northeast corner of the property and on a hilltop, as a discernable landmark for the area
- The 0.3 hectare Kettle Lake at the southern end of the property

DETAILED REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE UNDERSIGNED.

Pursuant to Section 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, any person may, before 4:30 p.m. on the **1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2019** (within 30 days of the publication of this notice) send by registered mail or deliver to the Town Clerk, Notice of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Town of Aurora will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and a report.

Further information respecting the proposed designation(s) is available from the Town Clerk's Office upon request.

DATED at Aurora this February 28, 2019

Michael de Rond, Town Clerk, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1