

January 24, 2022

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West, Suite B31  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Email: [councillor\\_thompson@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_thompson@toronto.ca)



**RE: West Ellesmere United, 37 Marchington Circle M1R 3M6**

Dear Councillor Thompson,

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Toronto Branch (ACOTO), has been engaged in preserving Toronto's architectural heritage since 1933. Not all of Toronto's heritage buildings are legally protected; yet nonetheless, those that are not still deserve consideration to ensure that future protection remains an option.

Community members have notified us of their concerns over the property currently listed for sale at 37 Marchington Circle in Scarborough. Constructed in 1958, West Ellesmere United Church was designed by Eberhard Zeidler, the internationally-acclaimed architect behind many commercial and institutional buildings in Toronto, and beyond. Zeidler's work has shaped much of Toronto's built environment in the last 60 years, his oeuvre includes landmarks such as Ontario Place and the Eaton Centre. This unique modernist structure at 37 Marchington Circle is among his earlier works, and one of only two churches that Zeidler built in Toronto.

The ACOTO is recommending that the City evaluate West Ellesmere United's heritage value. The building is not currently Heritage Listed or Designated, however this does not discount its historic value. The City should work with the current and future owners to encourage its reuse or incorporation into any future development, and unlock its potential. Not only would the demolition of the building be a loss to the community and the City as whole, it contributes to further building demolition waste and loss of quality materials.

Our recommendation comes on the basis that there is an opportunity for the site to be incorporated into a development in a manner that could appease both the developers and the wider community. We believe this is an opportunity to expand, progress, and diversify our definition of and processes for heritage conservation of cultural places and spaces in Toronto.

Thank-you,

Amanda Large  
ACO Board Member

Matthew Zambri,  
Toronto Branch President