

## **NOTICE**

In accordance with procedure By-law 160-2004, and in the matter of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, and the matter of the lands and premises known as Wiley Bridge located at 0 Gorewood Drive in the City of Brampton, in the Province of Ontario:

### **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the City of Brampton intends to designate property situated at 0 Gorewood Drive (Wiley Bridge) in the City of Brampton, in the Province of Ontario, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. c. O. 18.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

The Wiley Bridge on Gorewood Drive is a reinforced concrete bowstring arch or rainbow arch bridge. The bridge is built on a bias and is a through bridge with overhead supports. It is located in the Claireville Conservation Area, a 2,100 acre parcel of conservation land on the west branch of the Humber River. The Wiley Bridge was originally constructed for vehicular traffic but is now being used as a pedestrian bridge.

### **SHORT STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR THE DESIGNATION**

The property at 0 Gorewood Drive is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value. The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design or physical value, historical value and contextual value.

The cultural heritage value of Wiley Bridge is related to its design or physical value as a rare example of a concrete bowstring bridge in Brampton. Along with the Bowstring Arch Bridge on Creditview Road, the Wiley Bridge is one of two examples of its kind in Brampton. The use of concrete in the construction of bridges became popular in Ontario at the turn of the century. Concrete bridges were typically designed in the simple arch form. They were favoured for their simplicity and the fact that they allowed for the use of local materials and labour.

As an excellent example of civic engineering, Wiley Bridge also demonstrates a technical and architectural achievement. Elements that reflect the structure's engineering technology include a continuous span deck, with two fixed, hinge-less "bow-string" arches, three concrete girders that tie the tops of the arches, concrete vertical hangers, and parapets. The bridge has all the classic lines of a concrete bowstring bridge with its graceful arches. It was constructed circa 1930 by Langton & Bartho of Toronto, from a design by N.L. Powell, a Peel County Engineer.

The cultural heritage value of Wiley Bridge also lies in its association with the history of the Claireville Conservation Area. Heritage bridges enabled the growth and development of communities across Ontario. Early settlers arrived in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and began to survey land for parcel allotment and allocation, and cleared much of the land for agricultural uses. Ontario's prevalent riverways were substantial obstacles to the safety and efficiency of these tasks. The first bridges were built using timber that had been cleared to create roadways. A few later structures were built with stone and cast iron (following European examples), however, the practice never became popular due to a limited amount of local materials and skilled craftsmen.

Shortly after the turn of the century, concrete challenged steel as the primary bridge construction material. Concrete bridges became popular because they offered simplicity in traversing the many creeks and streams that weaved through Ontario. By the mid 1920s, approximately 65 bridges of this type were built in Canada, most of which were located in Ontario. The Wiley Bridge reflects this period of bridge construction in Ontario. By World War II, the construction of concrete bowstring bridges had significantly declined, and several early concrete arch bridges have since been demolished and replaced with newer constructions. The Wiley Bridge has been able to survive by becoming a pedestrian footbridge in the scenic Claireville Conservation Area.

The Wiley Bridge reflects the work of local community members, including builders, engineers, and policy makers, and the use of local resources. The construction of the bridge was part of a flurry of bridge building and repairs directed by Peel County Council beginning in the 1920s. The agenda was likely a response to the economic depression that occurred in the late 1920s.

The site was named "Wiley Bridge" in honour of an important family of settlers that resided on a nearby farm. The Wiley family had occupied and farmed on the "River-view Farm" for over 100 years. John and Rebecca Wiley immigrated to Canada in 1836 and settled in Toronto Gore Township. Upon his death in 1864, John left fifty acres of the farm to his two sons, Leonard and William. The farm remained under the ownership of the Wiley family until the land was taken over by the Metropolitan Conservation Authority in 1962. Due to their importance and longevity within the Village of Castlemore community, the Wiley family was appropriately commemorated through the naming of the bowstring bridge.

The property holds contextual value due to its landmark status in the Claireville Conservation Area. As a unique manmade structure in the vast cultural heritage landscape, the Wiley Bridge is a striking and familiar site in the area. Furthermore, the bridge is physically and historically linked to its surroundings. While the area was once home to a community of settlers and farmers, today it is used as a recreational site for horseback riding, hiking, dog walking, etc. The contextual value of the Wiley Bridge also lies in its association with the Humber River. In 1999, the Humber River was designated a Canadian Heritage River by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) Board, as part of Canada's national river conservation program. The designation recognized the

Humber River's contribution to the development of Ontario and its importance with regards to First Nations peoples and early Euro-Canadian explorers and settlers.

## **DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

To ensure that the cultural heritage value of this property is conserved, certain heritage attributes that contribute to its value have been identified. They include:

- Rare concrete bridge construction – only a few examples survive
- Two fixed, hinge-less "bow-string" arches
- Three concrete girders that tie the tops of the arches
- Built on a bias
- Concrete balustrades
- Constructed by Toronto firm Langton & Bartho
- Designed by Peel County Engineer, N.L. Powell
- Reflects former human settlement and vehicular transportation of the area
- Associated with the Humber River, designated a heritage river by the CHRS Board of Canada
- Familiar landmark in the Claireville Conservation Area

The short statement of reason for the designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the detailed Heritage Report: Statement of Reason for Heritage Designation, constitute the "reason for heritage designation" required under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Please contact Stavroula Kassaris, Heritage Coordinator, at (905) 874-3825 to view this document, and for further information. Any objections to this proposed designation must be filed with the City Clerk no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2013 (within 30 days of the publication of this notice).

Date: January 3, 2013

Peter Fay, City Clerk  
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