



February 19, 2026

Secretariat
Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada
30 Victoria Street
3rd Floor (PC-03-M)
Gatineau, Quebec J8X 0B3
Canada

Re: Support for the Recognition of the Scarboro Community, Calgary, Alberta

Dear Members of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada:

On behalf of The Olmsted Network, we are pleased to offer our strong support for the nomination of the Scarboro community in Calgary, Alberta, for historic recognition by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Scarboro represents a significant and enduring example of early twentieth century residential planning shaped by the principles of the Olmsted firm, one of the most influential landscape architecture practices in North America. Designed in 1910 under the direction of John Charles Olmsted, the community reflects the firm's hallmark approach of adapting development to the natural topography, preserving views, and creating gracious residential environments distinct from the rigid urban grid.

Commissioned in 1910 by the Canadian Pacific Railroad during a period of significant growth in Calgary, the plan for what is now Scarboro formed part of an effort to shape the emerging city into an important commercial center supported by thoughtfully planned residential districts. John Charles Olmsted applied the firm's established design principles to the site, shaping streets to follow natural contours, preserving views, and organizing lots and open spaces to

create a cohesive neighborhood distinct from the rectilinear pattern typical of contemporary business development.

The Olmsted firm's suburban planning was characterized by careful attention to the "genius of the place," including topography, vegetation, and views, as well as the creation of residential lots of varied sizes arranged along curving, well-drained, tree-lined streets. This approach fostered a picturesque, park-like setting that balanced domestic privacy with a shared landscape identity and sense of community.

Scarboro stands today as an important Canadian example of this planning legacy. Its curving streets, carefully sited homes, landscaped boulevards, and cohesive spatial organization continue to convey the design intent established more than a century ago, illustrating the lasting cultural value of landscape-based community planning.

Recognition by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada would appropriately acknowledge Scarboro's historical significance as part of the shared North American heritage of planned landscapes and would align with other recognized Olmsted communities, including The Uplands in Victoria, British Columbia. Such recognition would honor the historic design and encourage ongoing stewardship of the character-defining features that make the community a meaningful cultural landscape.

For more than four decades, the Olmsted Network has advanced the legacy and principles of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and the Olmsted firm by promoting the stewardship of parks, landscapes, and planned communities that continue to enrich public life. Scarboro exemplifies these ideals and demonstrates how enduring design can shape both identity and quality of life across generations.

We respectfully urge the Board to give this nomination its fullest consideration and to recognize Scarboro as an important historic place within Canada's national landscape heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Breitkopf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sue Breitkopf
President
Olmsted Network