

City council OKs new Iraqi embassy, residence



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Iraq can build a new embassy on McLeod Street in Centretown and a new home for its ambassador on Birch Avenue in Rockcliffe Park, after a pair of city council decisions Wednesday. Both projects needed city council approval because they're in official heritage conservation districts. The residence – a second attempt for the Iraqis after they couldn't get permission to demolish the dilapidated former home of Bertram Loeb – was more controversial, with neighbours complaining it would be bad for traffic and will have an unsightly fence. It's within the property's zoning, though, which would actually allow five houses on the same land. Go build, council said.