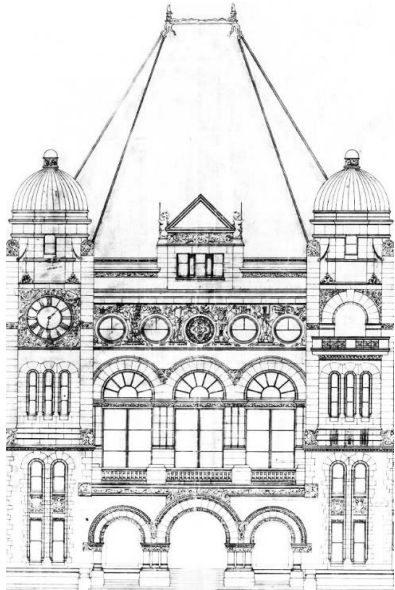




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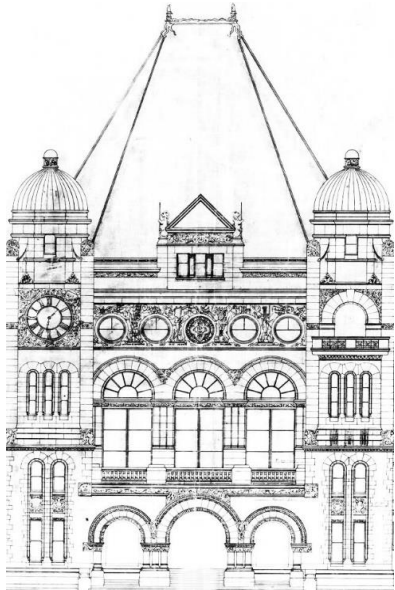


*Presentation to the Standing Committee on
Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy*
Architectural Conservancy Ontario ACO
Diane Chin, Provincial Board Chair

16 November 2022



**ARCHITECTURAL
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ONTARIO**



**Bill 23 attacks our multicultural
heritage:
Bill 23 needs to go**

*Presentation to the Standing Committee on
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Heritage in Ontario

Currently

- Heritage is what is important to the local community
- Local municipalities designate properties important to that community
- Council (elected by the community) votes to pass a designation bylaw
- Designation bylaw protects the **important aspects** of the property from destruction
- Important aspects = designation criteria

Heritage Designation Criteria

Currently properties must have 1 of 9 important aspects (designation criteria)

- Physical or design value
 - Rare, unique example of style
 - High degree of craftsmanship
 - High degree of technical or scientific achievement
- Historical or associative value
 - Direct association with theme important to community
 - Contributes to understanding of community or culture
 - Demonstrates work or ideas of someone important to a community
- Contextual value
 - Defines character of an area
 - Physically, functionally, visually linked to its surroundings
 - Is a landmark

Designated Heritage per Part IV OHA



Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock riding



Mississauga –Erin Mills riding



Markham –Unionville riding



Kitchener Centre riding



Scarborough –Rouge Park riding

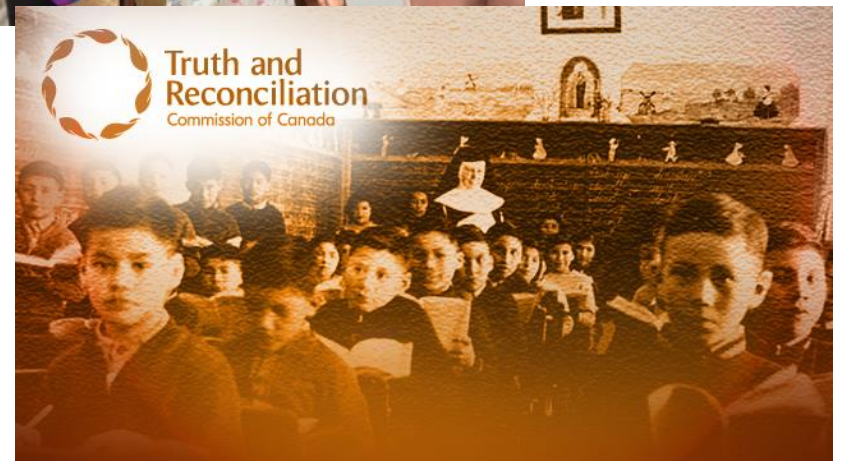
Notions of cultural value are changing

Oxford English Dictionary:

Heritage = “relating to things of historic or cultural value that are worthy of preservation”

Ideas about what is of value, whose history and culture are “worthy of preservation” have changed dramatically

**Ontario Heritage Act
needs to catch up**



Bill 23 moves heritage backwards

- Ontario Heritage Act should protect ALL things of historic and cultural value that are worthy of preservation
- Bill 23 will require two (2) designation criteria instead of just one (1)
- This will make it impossible to protect many sites of historic and cultural value

Example # 1: Important Heritage Site impossible to protect with Bill 23



- Potter's Field Burial Ground, Owen Sound
- Unmarked graves of 1300 indigents, including many Black settlers fleeing slavery in US
- Will it meet new OHA criteria?
 - strong historic significance
 - but an empty field has no “physical or design value”
 - does not “define the character of the area”
 - meets only 1 of 9 criteria
 - could not be designated under Bill 23

Example # 2: Important Heritage Site impossible to protect with Bill 23



Reggae Lane

1584 Eglinton Ave W, Toronto
"Little Jamaica"

- Heart of Toronto's roots-reggae music recording studios and record shops
- Started 1970s by first wave of Jamaican immigrants in Toronto
- Will it meet new OHA criteria?
 - direct historic association with a theme very important to the community
 - a laneway lacks "physical or design value"
 - does not define character of the area
 - meets only 1 of 9 criteria
 - could not be designated under Bill 23

Example # 3: Important Heritage Site impossible to protect with Bill 23



Portuguese
Cultural Centre,
53 Queen St N,
Mississauga



- 1954: first Portuguese immigrants arrived to live and work at Lever Mushroom Farm village, Lakeview
- 1974: Portuguese Cultural Centre built to celebrate and strengthen growing Portuguese community
- Will it meet new OHA criteria?
 - strong contribution to our understanding of Mississauga
 - no strong physical or design value
 - does not “define the character of the area”
 - meets only 1 of 9 criteria
 - could not be designated under Bill 23

Our province is changing

For example: Mississauga, per 2021 census

- **53%** of population were recent immigrants
- **30%** speak neither English nor French at home
- **6%** claimed English ethnic origin
- **4%** Portuguese ethnic origin

Ontario Heritage Act should protect **ALL** things of historic and cultural value worthy of preservation

- English immigrants' heritage is protected by current Ontario Heritage Act
- Portuguese, Jamaican and other immigrants' heritage deserves protection too
- Bill 23 denies that

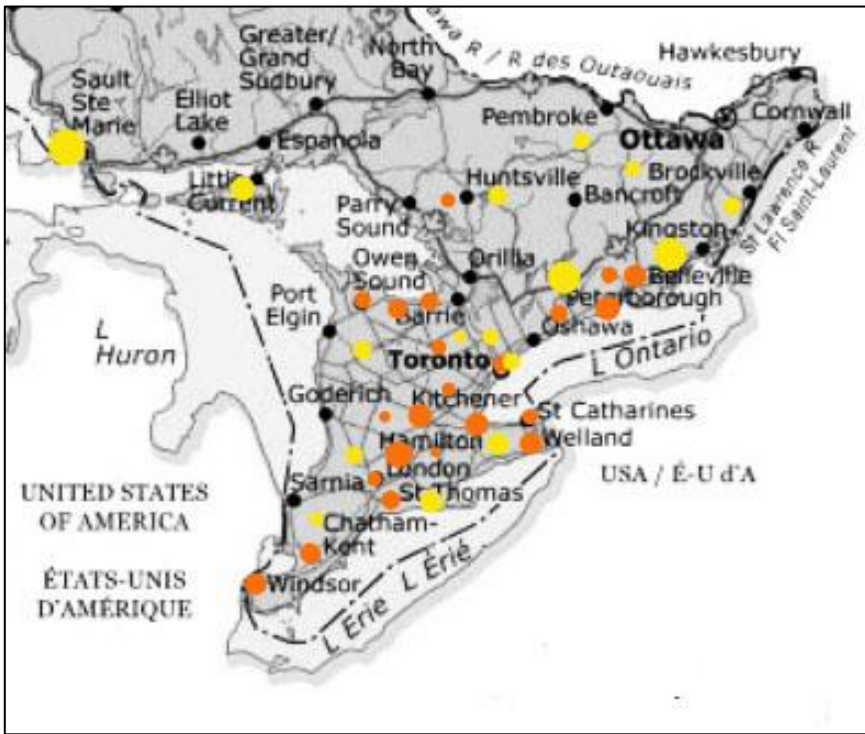


How we treat the history and culture of others says a lot

- Bill 23 is an embarrassing, backward step
- Even worse now that heritage is the responsibility of the Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship!
- Drop Bill 23!



What is Architectural Conservancy Ontario?



● branches ● members/interest/agency agreements

Provincial charity, est. 1933
“Through education and advocacy,
to encourage the conservation and adaptive reuse of structures, districts and landscapes
of architectural, historic and cultural significance
to inspire and benefit Ontarians”