



Office of the Mayor
WAYNE H. REDEKOP

March 22, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Michael D. Ford
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
14th floor, 56 Wellesley Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7
Michael.Ford@pc.ola.org

Honourable and Dear Sirs:

**Re: Architectural Conservancy Ontario - Request Provincial Government to Amend
Deadline of Subsection 27(16), Ontario Heritage Act**

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of March 18, 2024 received and supported correspondence from the Architectural Conservancy Ontario dated February 8, 2024 requesting the Provincial Government to amend Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act by extending the deadline for five years, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030, and passed the following resolution:

Whereas subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act on or before January 1, 2025; and

Whereas since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of the municipal heritage committee in this municipality have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; contact owners of such properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act; and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

Whereas the above-noted work involving 34 listed properties in this municipality is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024 with the limited municipal resources available;

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Mailing Address:

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6

Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: www.forterie.ca

Now therefore be it resolved,

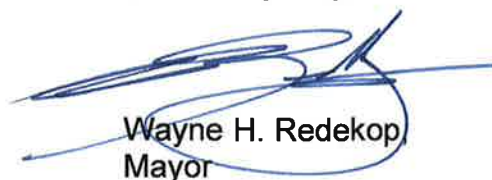
That Council authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

Attached please find a copy of the Architectural Conservancy Ontario correspondence dated February 8, 2024.

I know that you value the history and heritage of our province and the contributions made to our society of those who came before us. By preserving our architectural and built heritage, we honour those contributions and the historical foundations of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Wayne H. Redekop
Mayor

WHR:dlk
Attach.
c.c. All Ontario Municipalities

February 8, 2024



**ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVANCY
ONTARIO**

Premier Ford,

Re: Looming expiry date for protection of heritage properties listed under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

We are writing to express our concerns with a key amendment to the *Ontario Heritage Act*; which your government passed in 2022. Under it, any heritage property listed on a municipal register as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the register on January 1, 2025, unless that council has given notice of its intention to designate the property under the Act. Properties that lose listing status cannot be re-listed for another five years.

This change affects some 36,000 listed heritage properties, according to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, in over 100 municipalities across the province. These properties have only limited, short-term (60 day) protection. As ACO warned in December 2022, forcing municipalities to designate all listed properties within two years or drop them from the register was draconian and totally unrealistic. With the expiry date now less than one year away, municipalities, large and small, are scrambling to review their registers and prioritize properties for designation or other protection. The staff/financial cost in research alone is enormous.

Automatically removing listed properties from the registry in less than eleven months will encourage demolition of existing and affordable housing alternatives at a time when we need them the most.

ACO is asking that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended in the spring session of the Legislature, to extend the deadline in the Act for five years, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030. This early certainty of an additional five years for implementation would give municipalities the opportunity to better plan, resource and undertake this complex exercise. The 2030 timeline would help municipalities ensure that properties are not "thrown off the list" prematurely and without input from property owners.

ACO believes that property owners should not be forced to choose between designation and nothing at all to recognize the heritage significance of their property. However, this is the choice your government has forced on them. At the very least, owners and municipalities should be given more time to make this choice, and given reasonable notice of this extension.

Diane Chin
President

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BY COUNCIL