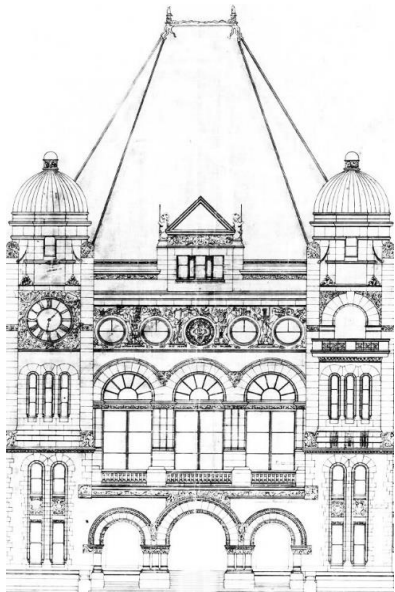




**ARCHITECTURAL  
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ONTARIO**

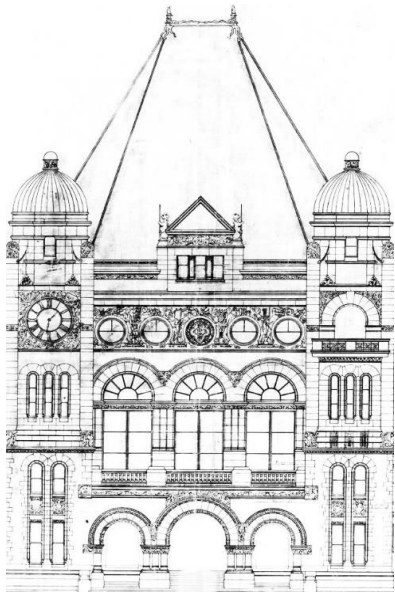


*Presentation to the Standing Committee on  
Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy*  
**Architectural Conservancy Ontario ACO**  
**Diane Chin, Provincial Board Chair**

16 November 2022



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ONTARIO**



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

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

# 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



Kitchener Centre riding



Mississauga –Erin Mills riding



Markham –Unionville riding



Scarborough –Rouge Park riding

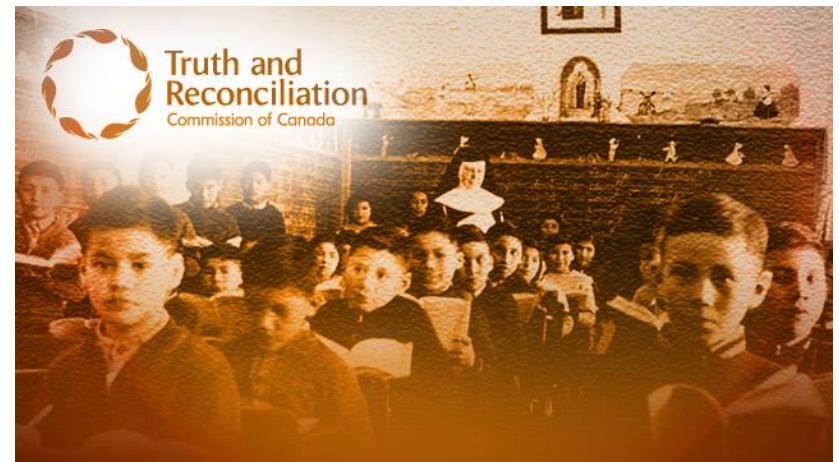
# Notions of cultural value are changing

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



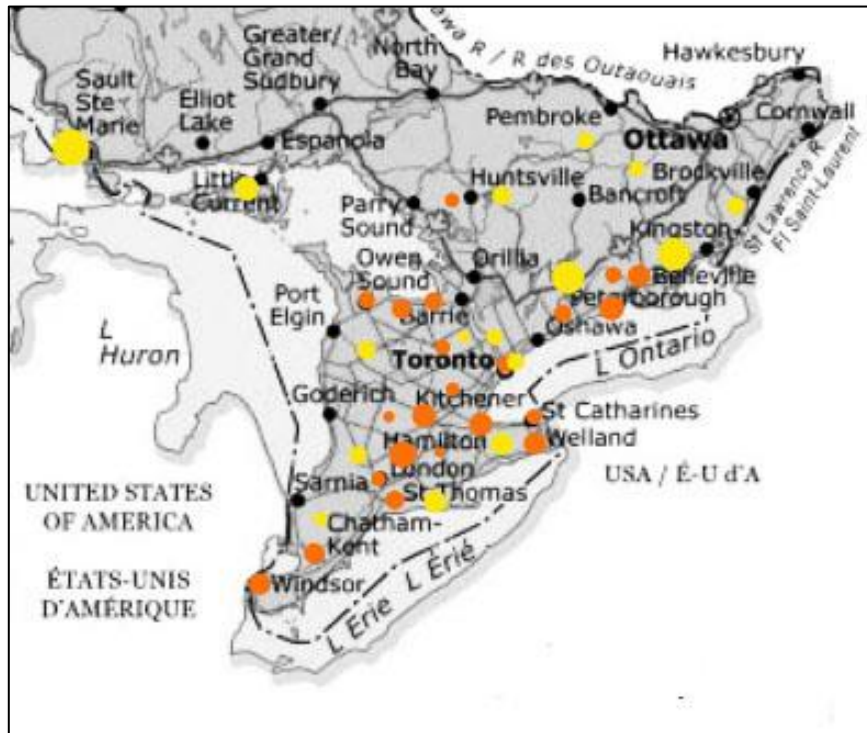


# How we treat the history and culture of others says a lot

- 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”**