

June 1, 2025

To: Property Owners(s),

**Re: Heritage Property Designation Review**

Since 2022, the City of Brampton's Heritage team has been reviewing the Heritage Register following the Province's Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act. This legislation aims to accelerate housing development and includes major changes to the Ontario Heritage Act.

Under the new rules, any property on the Heritage Register must be formally designated by the end of 2026 or it will be removed and lose heritage protection for at least five years. This change is especially important for neighbourhoods with historic character, as future development could impact their identity through increased density, height and traffic.

The City's review has focused on downtown Brampton, where many heritage assets are located. As part of this process, your property has been identified as meeting the criteria for heritage designation. However, your property has not been formally designated at this time.

A designation functions to protect our shared heritage and contributes to shaping the unique character, identity and legacy of our city.

City staff will commence the formal designation process over a 12-month period, starting in the fall of 2025. Pursuant to Bill 23, all municipalities in Ontario must complete their Designation process by December 31, 2026. Failure to do so results in such properties losing all heritage protections for a five-year period, which may impact a neighbourhood's growth and change its overall character.

We've enclosed informational brochures for your review and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss any questions you may have about the municipal heritage interest in your property.

We look forward to working together to help protect the unique character and culture of downtown Brampton. Our team is here to support you with expert advice and practical guidance, helping you explore design solutions that align your goals with heritage conservation.

Regards,

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is Designation?**

- When a heritage property is designated under the OHA, it means that the City and the province formally recognize the property as having historical, cultural, architectural, or contextual significance. Designation simply provides protection to the characteristics and elements that make your property special, helping to ensure that its heritage value is preserved for future generations.

### **Why Designation is Important?**

- Designation defines and enhances neighbourhood character and a sense of community and cultural identity. This is particularly important for Downtown Brampton, which is a Major Transit Station Area targeted for residential intensification and helps balance growth impacts such as density, building heights, and traffic.
- Conserving heritage properties through designation is environmentally friendly. It uses less energy and creates less waste than new construction.
- Designation encourages pride of place and supports economic development and cultural tourism.

### **Does Designation impact the use or value of my property?**

- Designation does not prevent changes or additions to your property and there is no requirement to restore your property to an earlier historical appearance. Research shows that heritage designation enhances and increases individual and neighbourhood property values. It has been demonstrated that heritage properties hold their value better than non-designated properties during market downturns.
- Designated properties may qualify for the Paul Willoughby Heritage Incentive Grant – which provides financial assistance for preservation, maintenance, restoration – and the upcoming Heritage Tax Rebate program.