

Authority: Toronto and East York Community Council Item 11.12,  
as adopted by City of Toronto Council on November 29, 30 and December 1, 2011  
Enacted by Council: July 13, 2012

**CITY OF TORONTO**

**BY-LAW No. 947-2012**

**To designate the property at 299 King Street West (James McGee Buildings) as being of cultural heritage value or interest.**

WHEREAS authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 299 King Street West (James McGee Buildings) as being of cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures located thereon to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the land and premises known as 299 King Street West and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, a Notice of Intention to designate the property and has caused the Notice of Intention to be posted on the City's web site for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4, Notice requirements under the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" to this by-law; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection was served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. The property at 299 King Street West, more particularly described in Schedule "B" and shown on Schedule "C" attached to this by-law, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "B" to this by-law in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the property at 299 King Street West and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be posted on the City's web site for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4, Notice requirements under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 13th day of July, A.D. 2012.

FRANCES NUNZIATA,  
Speaker

ULLI S. WATKISS,  
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

## **SCHEDULE "A"**

### **REASONS FOR DESIGNATION STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **Description**

The properties at 295, 297 and 299 King Street West are worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for their cultural heritage value. The James McGee Buildings (1876) consists of a trio of three-storey commercial buildings that are located on the south side of King Street West in the block west of John Street. The properties were listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 2009.

#### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

The James McGee Buildings have design significance as representative examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings that display architectural features derived from the Italianate and Renaissance Revival designs popular for commercial edifices during this era. The buildings are distinguished by their continuous cornice line, repetition of fenestration, and uniform red brick cladding, with contrasting buff brick (the brickwork on #297 and 299 King has been painted). With these features, the James McGee Buildings complement their neighbours, including the George Garden Buildings at #291 and 293 King and the William Barber Building at #287 King, with the latter designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Contextually, the properties at 295, 297 and 299 King Street West are historically linked to the King-Spadina neighbourhood as it evolved from its origins as an institutional and residential enclave to a commercial and industrial sector in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Following the relocation of the first Toronto General Hospital, the original Upper Canada College and the Provincial Legislature from the district, which had attracted upscale housing, in the late 1800s King Street West reverted to commercial uses, particularly multi-storey buildings with residential units above the storefronts. The block on King Street West, west of John Street, is of special interest for its collection of surviving commercial buildings that includes the James McGee Buildings and is known locally as "Restaurant Row" with its proximity to the theatres in the city's Entertainment District.

#### **Heritage Attributes**

The heritage attributes are:

##### **299 King Street West**

- The three-storey commercial building
- The scale, form and massing
- The materials, with red brick cladding and brick and stone detailing (the brick has been painted)
- The principal (north) three- two-bay façade, with a cornice with dentils along the flat roofline and single brackets

- The first-floor storefront, which has been remodelled as part of the evolution of the building, where the main entrance is currently found in the left (east) bay
- The fenestration, with segmental-arched window openings with brick detailing
- The decorative detailing, with brick piers dividing the bays and corbelled brickwork beneath the cornice

**SCHEDULE "B"**  
**Legal Description**

PIN 21413-0096 (LT)  
PT LT E PL D142 AS IN CT615464

City of Toronto and Province of Ontario  
Land Titles Division of the Toronto Registry Office (No. 66)

The hereinbefore described land being delineated by heavy outline on Sketch No. PS-2012-050 dated April 2, 2012, as set out in Schedule "C".

