



The Architectural
Conservancy
of Ontario

www.arconserv.ca

Preserving heritage
since 1933

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April 3, 2013

Councillor Vincent Crisanti,
Chair and Members of Etobicoke York Community Council
Etobicoke Civic Centre
Main floor, 399 The West Mall
Toronto, ON M9C 2Y2

Dear Councillor Crisanti and Members of the Etobicoke-York Community Council:

EY23.7: Designation of the Ormsby/Franceschini Estate under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

As president of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario – founded in 1933 -- I am writing in support of designation of the buildings and landscaping features in the Mimico Estates, as detailed in the Toronto Planning Department, Heritage Preservation Services report dated March 21, 2013.

The Mimico Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment, dated May 2012, also clearly outlines the historical significance of this landmark, founding property.

As a “a rare surviving example of a residential compound on the Lake Ontario shoreline in Etobicoke where “Ormscliffe”, the main residence, is adjoined by a group of auxiliary structures, as well as remnants of the original landscaping” associated with two important Toronto industrialists, Albert Benjamin Ormsby and James Franceschini, the estate is “integral to the understanding of the historical development of Mimico, which was founded as a model town for railway workers and evolved to include a residential enclave along the Lake Ontario shoreline where wealthy Torontonians constructed waterfront estates.”

In addition, as with others interned during World War II, his property seized, James Franceschini’s residence serves as a vivid reminder of how human rights were suspended even for prominent, respected members of the community.

Sincerely,

Susan Ratcliffe
ACO President

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