

February 11, 2016

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

From: Toronto Preservation Board

Subject: **Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act
- 112 Ravenscrest Drive**

Recommendations:

The Toronto Preservation Board recommends to the Etobicoke York Community Council that:

1. City Council state its intention to designate the property at 112 Ravenscrest Drive under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, in accordance with the Statement of Significance: 112 Ravenscrest Drive (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment 3 to the report (February 5, 2016) from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division.
2. If there are no objections to the designation in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the bill in Council designating the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
3. If there are objections to the designation in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, City Council direct the City Clerk to refer the designation to the Conservation Review Board.
4. If the designation is referred to the Conservation Review Board, City Council authorize the City Solicitor and appropriate staff to attend any hearing held by the Conservation Review Board in support of Council's decision on the designation of the property.

Background:

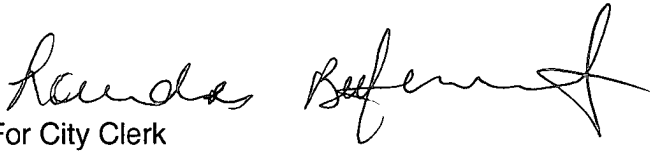
The Toronto Preservation Board on February 10, 2016, considered a report (January 19, 2016) from Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division, regarding Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act – 112 Ravenscrest Drive.

Communications

(February 4, 2016) Letter from Denise Harris, Chief Historian, Etobicoke Historical Society
(PB.Supp.PB12.9.1)

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/pb/comm/communicationfile-58802.pdf>)

(February 8, 2016) Letter from Vito Vaccarelli (PB.Supp.PB12.9.2)



For City Clerk

L. Bettencourt

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PB12.9>

ETOBICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
c/o Montgomery's Inn
4709 Dundas Street West
Etobicoke, Ontario M9A 1A8



Founded: 1958 Incorporated: 1962
www.etobicokehistorical.com
BN 129748547-RR0001
Affiliated with *Ontario Historical Society*

February 4, 2016

Re: Item PB 12.9: Intention to Designate 112 Ravenscrest Drive (Ward 3) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

To: All Members of the Toronto Preservation Board
Mary MacDonald, Manager, Heritage Preservation Services

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Etobicoke Historical Society, I am writing to express our unconditional support for the designation of 112 Ravenscrest Drive under the Ontario Heritage Act.

This property has been listed on the City of Toronto Heritage Register since 2006. Its owner and nominator, Vito Vaccarelli, has done an exceptional job of researching the history of his property. In a township that had hundreds of farm houses prior to World War II, 112 Ravenscrest is one of the few "Ontario Gothic" farmhouses that not only has survived, but also has retained most of its original architectural features, including its gables, bargeboard, doors, windows and outstanding di-chromatic brickwork. The 130 years that the Coulter Family owned the property parallels and serves to enhance our understanding of Etobicoke's transition from a pioneer settlement to a highly successful farming community to suburbia. The house is historically linked to its community and is a well-known local landmark.

The research clearly supports that the property meets the criteria for designation in all three areas identified in the Ontario Heritage Act: design and physical value; historical and associative value; and contextual value.

Best regards,

Denise Harris
Chief Historian
Etobicoke Historical Society
denise.harris@sympatico.ca
416-621-6006

February 8, 2016

Barbara Holt, Administrative Assistant
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I am writing to confirm that I will not be able to attend the Toronto Preservation Board meeting to designate 112 Ravenscree Dr on February 10th 2016. As the designation nominee and current owner of the property I am unable to attend due to the limited number of days I am able to take off from my place of employment. However, I would like to take this opportunity to restate my full support and reasons for the designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value according to Ontario Regulation 9/06.

The Coulter House has a long history stretching back to 1809. The existing structure was constructed by Ann and Robert Coulter in 1874. The house is one of the best examples of a Gothic Revival Ontario Farm House in the west end of the city that still retains many unique architectural and landscape features. The Coulters were prominent pioneer settlers of the hamlet of Richview making countless contributions to the economic, public education and the religious life of the community for over 100 years. Furthermore, in the 1950s and 1960s the Coulter House was the first Canadian home of Victor Kugler. Mr. Kugler, also known by the alias Victor Kraller in the Diary of Anne Frank, and was a Dutch resistance fighter who is credited for hiding the Frank family during World War II. He is one of the few Canadian citizens to be awarded the "Righteous Medal" from the state of Israel, and was given the Mayor's Medal and key to North York by Mel Lastman for his WWII deeds and his continuous work challenging Holocaust deniers.

Although my wife and I are not certain how much longer we will remain in the house we do have plans to fully restore the façade of the and possibly selling it in the near future. We are concerned, however, with future of the Coulter House within the ravenous redevelopment climate in our neighbourhood. Without a restoration to improve the "curb appeal" of the house plus the added protection of a Provincial Designation, we fear that this small historic house on a large 75' x 195' lot will likely be threatened with a demolition request in the future. My wife and I have spent 15 years restoring this outstanding heritage house and we do not want to see all our efforts wasted by the redevelopment frenzy in this hot real estate market.

Sincerely,

Vito Vaccarelli,
Home Tel. 416-695-3657
Cell. 647-927-3657