# mcmillan

## **Ontario Heritage Act**

Presented by Annik Forristal, McMillan LLP
Paper by Mary Flynn-Guglietti, McMillan LLP

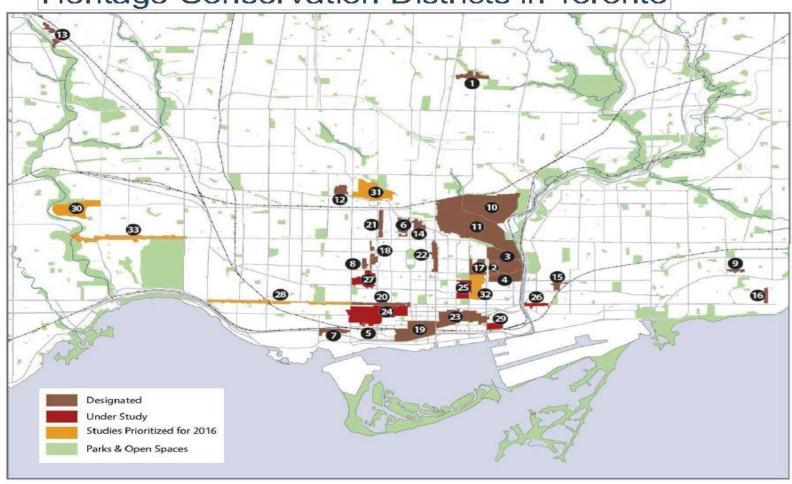
#### Overview

#### Ontario Heritage Act:

- Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) passed in 1975
- Until 2005 property designation merely allowed delay of demolition permit
- 2005 amendments added ability to create heritage conservation districts ("HCDs")
- January 2012: 20 HCDs in the City of Toronto
- February 2017 –24 approved HCDs and another 29 HCDs in the works
  - 7 HCD studies and plans completed in 2015/2016, 11 HCD studies and plans prioritized in progress and 11 HCD studies authorized but not yet prioritized

#### Map of HCDs in Toronto – Schedule A

#### Heritage Conservation Districts in Toronto



#### Part IV – Individual Property Listing

- Municipality keeps register of properties of cultural heritage value or interest
- If listed (but not designated) must give municipal Council 60 days' notice for demolition or removal



#### Part IV - Individual Property Designation

- Landowner may object to designation
  - Hearing held before Conservation Review Board (CRB)
  - CRB makes recommendation
  - Council makes final decision
- Once designated, no demolition or alteration without Council consent
  - Demolition Council decision appealable to OMB
  - Alteration Council decision goes to CRB
- Heritage designation broad includes not only buildings and structures, but also lands upon which structure situated

#### Part V – Heritage Conservation Districts

- HCD Study (Section 40 of OHA)
  - makes recommendations for HCD (e.g., geographic boundaries and content)
  - designated as study area for 1 year municipality may prohibit or limit erection, demolition or removal of buildings and structures within area
  - Study area by-law appealable to OMB (unless property already designated under Part IV, in which case Part IV rules apply)
- HCD Plan
  - Public meeting required
  - By-law designating HCD appealable to OMB
  - Once HCD designated, permit required for erection, demolition or alteration
  - Council decision re: permit appealable to OMB

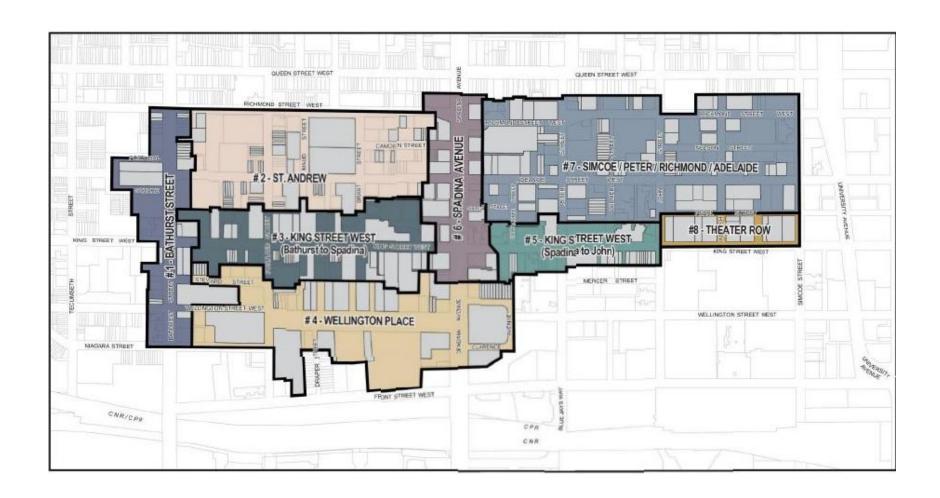
#### Implications of HCD

- Introduces additional "designations" and associated obligations
  - Character Subareas
  - Contributing Properties
    - property that supports the identified significant culture heritage values, character and integrity of the HCD
  - Non-Contributing Properties
    - Property that does not support the overall cultural heritage values, character and integrity of the HCD

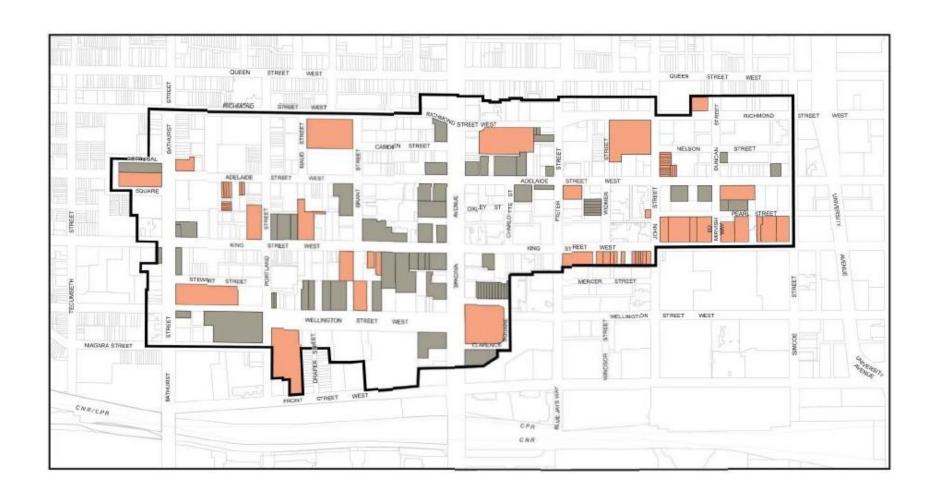
#### King-Spadina Heritage Conservation District

- 45 hectares of land
- 8 character subareas
  - Areas within HCD with distinctive built form typologies
- Contains 512 properties
  - 65 listed or designated properties (Parts IV & V)
  - 4 properties subject to heritage easement agreements
  - 287 contributing properties

#### Map of Character Sub Areas – Schedule C



#### Map of Heritage Register - Schedule B



#### Map of Contributing Properties – Schedule D



#### King-Spadina Heritage Conservation District Policies

- Contributing Properties
  - No demolition unless integrity of contributing property lost
  - Heritage Impact Assessment required for alterations or additions
  - Restoration must reinstate building features from period to which being restored
  - Alterations must be complementary and subordinate to HCDs cultural and heritage attributes
  - Additions must conserve buildings' three dimensional integrity
    - Death of facadism?
  - Additions must be complementary with scale, height, massing and form of HCD, contributing property and adjacent contributing properties

#### King-Spadina Heritage Conservation District Policies

- Non-Contributing Properties
  - Demolition not permitted until plans for replacement building approved
  - Replacement building must conform to HCD policies
  - Alterations and additions not permitted unless demonstrate heritage attributes of HCD conserved
  - Alterations shall conserve cultural and heritage attributes of HCD and adjacent contributing properties
  - Additions must be complementary with scale, height, massing and form of HCD, contributing property and adjacent contributing properties

#### Potential Impact of HCDs on Development

- While preserving history laudable goal, may prevent or limit change, growth and reinvestment within HCD areas
- e.g., King-Spadina HCD
  - Appears to isolate goals to specific historical period (1880-1940)
  - No recognition of modifications and renovations over time
  - Onerous obligations placed on landowners
    - restoration of building to iteration from previous time period
    - requirement to meet contributing property policies for extensively modified and renovated buildings

### **QUESTIONS?**



#### McMillan LLP

## Annik Forristal McMillan LLP

Brookfield Place 181 Bay Street, Suite 4400 Toronto, Ontario M5J 2T3

Email: annik.forristal@mcmillan.ca

**Tel:** 416-865-7292 **Fax:** 416-865-7048