



August 27, 2025

Dear members,

At our August 25 meeting, the Board discussed the matter of the City of Kingston Council's decision to remove the designation on a heritage property, 2555 Highway 38, at their August 12 meeting.

This property was designated in recognition of its built heritage value, but the owner later requested that Council remove the designation. The reason given was the increased cost of insurance for the property.

Our Board had written a letter to the chair and members of the Heritage Properties Committee (HPC), which was forwarded on to Council with the HPC recommendation, asking them to maintain the designation on the property and providing information on finding reasonable insurance rates for heritage properties. The submission of this letter allows the Frontenac Heritage Foundation the ability to launch an appeal of Council's decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Despite a staff recommendation to maintain the designation, and a Heritage Properties Committee recommendation supporting retention, Council voted unanimously to remove the designation.

Our seven board members carefully considered an appeal of this decision for the following reasons:

- The property's obvious heritage value as shown in the [Staff Report](#)
- The possible precedent for future requests
- The concerning political climate that sees heritage as optional, not integral, to our community and our economy
- The fact that the de-designation request was based on incomplete information and fearmongering about insurance rates

Ultimately, the Board voted not to pursue an appeal, based on the following considerations:

- Lack of an apparent, immediate threat to the property's actual heritage attributes
- Cost of an appeal in terms of professional support, time, and energy
- Unfortunate likelihood of losing the appeal due to the current political mandate of the provincial tribunal
- The concerning political climate that is likely to result in bigger issues for local heritage conservation in the near future, which will require our involvement.

The vote was not unanimous, and we appreciate that you, as members, may have a variety of opinions on this as well. Please feel free to reach out and let us know your thoughts. Whether you agree with the Board decision or not, we would love to hear from you, and we thank our members who have already shared their thoughts.

We remain concerned about this recent decision of Kingston City Council, and we plan to continue efforts to advance education and awareness of the value of our built heritage to the community and the economy. Keep an eye on our social media, our newsletter, and our event schedules for more in the near future.

Thank you for continuing to support heritage conservation in our region.

Kristine Hebert

Kristine Hebert, President of the FHF
On behalf of the Frontenac Heritage Foundation Board

cc: FHF Board of Directors and Members