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## **Town of Ajax**

*Ontario's First ISO 9001  
Quality Community*

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January 19, 1999

### **REGISTERED MAIL**

Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation  
Toronto Diocese  
c/o Reverend W. Lenius  
82 Church Street South  
Ajax, Ontario  
L1S 6B3

Dear Reverend Lenius:

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate, Ontario Heritage Act  
St. Francis de Sales Church, 78 Church Street South  
Ajax, Ontario

Please find enclosed the Notice of Intention to designate the above-noted property under the Ontario Heritage Act.

This notice will be published in the January 26, 1999 edition of the Ajax News Advertiser. It is the Town's intention to consider the necessary By-law to designate the site under the Ontario Heritage Act on March 1, 1999.

Sincerely,

M. de Rond  
Clerk

/os

cc Members of Council  
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
D. Forget, Secretary, Heritage Ajax  
David Bain, Friends of St. Francis de Sales Church  
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Attn: Philip Carter, Architect  
Wm. Broadhurst, Chancellor, Temporal Affairs, Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Toronto

**RECEIVED**  
1999/01/25  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

## HERITAGE AJAX

### St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

#### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

- 1.- St. Francis de Sales is an excellent example of High Victorian Gothic Church Architecture built c. 1869- 1871. The church is representative of Picturesque Eclecticism of Architectural Design in the 1870's and 1880's. The building is constructed of red clay brick with buff accents and having a foundation of cut field stone. A solid brick chimney highlights the south elevation of the church. The double flue construction is encased by polychromatic brick with a unique design in the lower section and is supported on a cut field stone foundation.
2. - The distinctive church spire is octagonal in shape and covered with the original polychromatic slate. At the base of the spire, which is square, there are four dormers, which rise from the sides of the church tower. The spire is topped by a large metal cross, which is echoed by smaller crosses at the peaks of each of the tower's dormer windows.
3. - The Gothic arched stained glass windows of the church are irreplaceable. They bear the names of some of the early founding families who donated them: Harrigan, O'Connor, Reddin, Smith and Walsh.
4. The steeply pitched roof is marked on both sides by three rose-coloured trefoil window dormers, which are very rare in a church. At the peak of each of these dormer window is the original decorative filigree ironwork .
5. - The structure embodies the work of a very important architect, Henry Langley (1826-1906) who practiced in Toronto from 1862, with partner Thomas Gundry. In 1869 and 1870, when St. Francis de Sales was built, it appears that Henry Langley practiced under his own name. After 1873 Henry Langley set up practice with his brother Edward and his nephew Edmund Burke in the firm Langley, Langley and Burke. In his many years in practice Henry Langley was responsible for the design of over 70 churches in Ontario. Some of his most noteworthy churches are still highly regarded by architectural historians. For example: Metropolitan Church; the spire, east and west porches and pinnacles of St. James Cathedral; College St. Baptist Church; the spire of St. Michael's Cathedral; and the Necropolis. Henry Langley was a founding member, in 1890, of the Ontario Association of Architects. Elizabeth Langley Davidson, a great granddaughter of Henry Langley, is a practicing architect in Toronto. We have received a letter from her conveying the importance of having this building designated for both it's Architectural and Historical significance.
6. - St. Francis de Sales Church is a key landmark in Pickering Village. It gives meaning to the name of the street upon which it is situated. It remains an important symbol of the Irish, who arrived in great numbers due to the potato famine and the industrialization of Great Britain. Canada received over 100,000 Irish emigrants during the 1850's and 60's, many of them skilled workers and craftsmen.. The Irish were one of the earliest groups to settle in Pickering Township. St Francis exemplifies the highly-skilled labour, which they provided to build it. The parish congregation still numbers among its members, descendants of the original founding families.