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(Ningara)  
Office of the Clerk



File # R01.07  
June 24, 1999

**VIA REGISTERED MAIL**

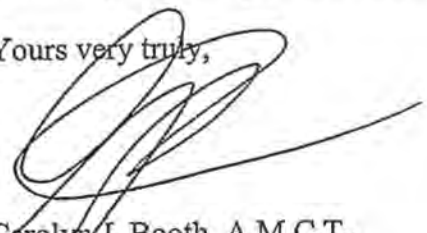
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON  
M5C 1J3

Dear Sir/Madam:

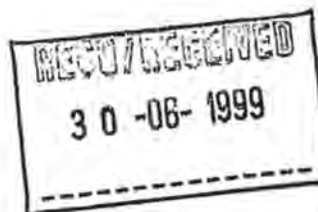
**Re: Notice of Intention to designate under the Ontario Heritage Act –  
477 Ridge Road North – Town of Fort Erie**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18 as amended, enclosed please find the Notice of Intention for the above referenced property.

Yours very truly,

  
Carolyn J. Booth, A.M.C.T.,  
Town Clerk

CJB/cw  
Enclosure  
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Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie  
Municipal Centre, 1 Municipal Centre Drive  
Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada L2A 2S6

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Phone (905) 871-1600

Fax (905) 871-4022

The Municipal Corporation of the  
Town of Fort Erie

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990  
CHAPTER 0.18, AS AMENDED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING  
LOCATION IN THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, described as Part Lot 22, Plan 227 in the former Township of Bertie, now known as Plan 349 and Part Lot 23, Concession 2, LE, in the former Township of Bertie, now in the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara located on the west side of Ridge Road North, as property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, as amended. This house and property is associated with the birthplace of Dr. Edmund J. Zavitz, known historically as "The Father of Reforestation."

**REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

Architecturally, the house is of Italianate Architecture of the period 1840-1880. It was built in approximately 1854. There have been changes to the home by various owners but the features of the period have been retained. The house is of brick construction and the newer rear additions are of wood framed construction. The first floor has the typical tall arched window above in keeping with the symmetrical design of the arched windows throughout the house. The broad eaves are supported by very decorative and paired Modillions. They are a fine example of a decorative and functional Italianate feature from this period. The front windows of the second floor have arched upper portioned and meet the roof line of the front verandah. The second floor windows have the original side storm shutters in place. The shallow pitched roof is also a typical design from this period. A partial "L" shaped open front verandah with plank flooring, supported by turned columns expands across the front of the house and partially down the north side.

The original wide plank floors are present throughout the lower floors. Very large baseboards skirt the walls of most rooms on the lower floor. A very ornate tin ceiling with matching crown decoration is present in one of the first floor rooms. The original banister with very fancy turned spindles is in place leading from the front hall to the second floor. Restoration of the house to its original form is presently being undertaken by the present owner.

The property was the birthplace of Dr. Edmund J. Zavitz (1875-1969) who was born July 9, 1875 at Ridgeway in Welland County. His father Joseph Zavitz (1817-1887) settled in Bertie Township after leaving the USA with other Loyalist Quakers. His mother Dorothy Prout, immigrated from Devonshire in 1852 at the age of two.

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Edmund's father passed away in 1887. His mother was remarried in 1892 to Mr. I.L. Pound who became a good stepfather to Edmund. His early life was influenced by the village school principal, Alva H. Kilman, a remarkable naturalist and entomologist. Mr. Kilman would take Edmund with him on field trips collecting specimens and this is where he developed his interest as an amateur naturalist.

In 1894, at the age of 19, Edmund took a business course in Buffalo and returned to Ridgeway acquiring work as an assistant bookkeeper in Eber Cutler's General Store (also owner of the Saw Mill, Planning Mill and Flour and Feed Mill). In 1895 he attended St. Catharines Collegiate and in 1896 Woodstock College, a boys boarding school. After graduating in 1898 from Woodstock College, he attended McMaster University in Hamilton where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree graduating in 1903 at the age of 28.

While at McMaster he acquired information describing Forestry as a profession which led him to enter Yale Graduate School at New Haven, spending one year enjoying the field work in the Connecticut Hills. In 1904 he completed his first graduate year at Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. His second graduate year in 1905 was spent at Michigan University, where he received the degree of Master in the Science of Forestry (M.Sc.F).

He was then appointed as Lecturer in Forestry at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph.

On December 28, 1905 he was married to Jessie E. Dryden of Brooklin, Ontario, daughter of John Dryden, former Minister of Agriculture for Ontario. In 1935 his wife passed away and he married second wife Margaret Irene Madden in 1937.

**Lifetime Achievement Highlights – Dr. Edmund J. Zavitz**

- 1908 – He was responsible for the purchase of a 100 acre parcel of abandoned farm land in Walsingham Township, Norfolk County, St. Williams area which became what was to be the Forestry Stations of today.
- 1912 – Was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to Lands, Forests and Mines as Provincial Forester and also Inspector to the Dominion Railway Board.
- 1916 – Was called upon to reorganize the Forest Fire Protection Service. The result was passage of the Forest Fire Prevention Act and all power related to the Act under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Forester.
- 1923 – Was made a delegate to the British Empire Forestry Conference which travelled extensively across Canada examining Forestry related matters.
- 1926 – Was appointed Deputy Minister of Forestry.
- 1926 to 1949 – Travelled extensively throughout Canada, United States, Australia and New Zealand providing his expertise in the field of Forestry. Continued to be active as Chief Forester until he was retired in 1949 at age 70. He was appointed as a consultant for a further five year period.
- 1951 – He was given the Forest Conservation Award by the Canadian Forestry Association.
- 1952 – Received the L.L.D. degree from McMaster University and was appointed a delegate to the British Commonwealth Forestry Conference being held in Canada.
- 1954 – His appointment as consultant with the Department expired and he was superannuated.
- 1957 – The Ontario Historic Sites Board erected an Historic Plaque in his honour on the first farm (100 acre parcel) taken over as a Forestry Station in Walsingham Township in Norfolk County.
- 1957 – Was given an L.L.D. degree by the University of Toronto.
- 1959 – Had his first book published "Hardwood Trees of Ontario."
- 1961 – His second book was published "Fifty Years of Reforestation."
- 1964 – Reached the age of 89 and suffered the loss of his wife Margaret Irene Zavitz.
- 1968 – Dr. Edmund J. Zavitz passed away in his 94<sup>th</sup> year.

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As a result, Dr. Edmund J. Zavitz's exceptional vision and devoted efforts in the field of forestry, both the Province of Ontario and especially Simcoe County are immeasurably richer. It is therefore significantly important the home "477 Ridge Road North, Ridgeway, Ontario" be designated as the home and birthplace of the "Father of Reforestation in Ontario." The designation of this property would further the already significant contribution Dr. Edmund Zavitz has made to Ontario.

Any person may within thirty days after the date of the publication of this Notice of Intention to designate, serve on the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie Notice of Objection to the Intention to Designate setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing. However any person who has served a Notice of Objection may withdraw the objection at any time before the conclusion of the hearing into the matter by serving a Notice of Withdrawal on the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie. Where no Notice of Objection is served, the Council shall consider a by-law to designate the aforesaid property on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

Dated at Fort Erie, Ontario this 3rd day of July, 1999.

The Times  
THREE EDITIONS  
July 3, 10, and 17, 1999

Carolyn J. Booth, A.M.C.T.,  
Town Clerk  
(905) 871-1600 ext. 203