



## Municipal Heritage Committee Report

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**Report Number:** KLMHC2023-080

**Meeting Date:** November 9, 2023

**Title:** **Heritage Evaluations – Lady Eaton Elementary School and the Omemee Train Station**

**Description:** High level heritage evaluations for Lady Eaton Elementary School and the Omemee Train Station (17 James Street North)

**Author and Title:** Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

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### Recommendations:

**That** Report KLMHC2023-080, **Heritage Evaluations – Lady Eaton Elementary School and the Omemee Train Station**, be received for information.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Background:**

At its meeting of May 4, 2023, the Municipal Heritage Committee discussed the potential closure of Lady Eaton Elementary School in Omemee. The property on which the school is located contains two structures, the school itself and the former Omemee Train Station, constructed in 1915 and moved to this location in the 1960s. The Committee was concerned, particularly with regard to the next steps for the historic train station, but also with regard to the future use of the school once it is closed.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee felt it needed additional information regarding the history and cultural heritage value of the buildings on the property and passed the following motion:

**KLMHC2023-072**

**Moved By** J. Hartman

**Seconded By** S. McCormack

**That** staff be asked to undertake a preliminary evaluation of the Omemee Train Station and Lady Eaton Public School and present it to the Committee at a later meeting.

**Carried**

Staff have undertaken a high level review and heritage evaluation matrix for each structures. Although they are located on the same parcel, staff felt that it was appropriate to evaluate both building separately as they are not related to each other with regard to their history or architecture as the train station building was moved from its original location to this parcel. Heritage evaluation matrices for both properties have been prepared and are attached to this report as Appendix A and Appendix B.

### **Rationale:**

The heritage evaluation matrices prepared for the properties examine their potential cultural heritage value based on the nine criteria outlined under Ontario Regulation 9/06. Under this regulation, a property must fulfil one criteria to be eligible for listing on the Heritage Register and two criteria to be eligible for designation under Part IV of the Act. In reality, most properties fulfil more than the minimum required number of criteria prior to a recommendation to list or designate.

Both buildings have identified cultural heritage value, although it is likely that the case for heritage protection is higher with regard to the train station, as it is a rarer example

of its structural and architectural type. The Committee has a number of options with regard to the next steps for these properties:

- Recommend the listing one or both properties on the Heritage Register
- Request that staff undertake a full heritage evaluation report for one or both properties in anticipation of recommending designation
- Not proceed with heritage protection for either property

The Committee may choose to pursue any of these options. At present, it is anticipated that Lady Eaton Elementary School will close in June 2023 at which point the school will be deemed surplus and it will be up to the Ministry of Education to dispose of the property. Should the Committee wish to move the listing or designation of either property, it is advisable that that take place prior to the closure of the school.

Alternatively, there has been discussion regarding the removal of the Omemee Train Station to another location given its significance to the local community. The Committee may want to further investigate plans to do so prior to making a recommendation regarding the property.

The listing or designation of one or both of these structures would not preclude the school board from closing the school. Rather, it would provide the City, through Council and the Committee, to provide additional input on the future use of the structures, through the processes under the Ontario Heritage Act, once the school is closed.

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

The Committee may choose to undertaken one of the options (designation, listing, or nothing) outlined above.

### **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

There are no financial or operational impacts as a result of the recommendations of this report. Should the Committee wish to proceed with heritage protections on either structure, there may be financial considerations related to the provision of notice, the registration of designating by-laws or appeals.

### **Consultations:**

N/A

## **Attachments:**

Appendix A – Heritage Evaluation Matrix: Lady Eaton Elementary School



Heritage Evaluation  
Matrix 17 James Street

Appendix B – Heritage Evaluation Matrix: Omemee Train Station



Heritage Evaluation  
Matrix 17 James Street

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**Department Head:** Richard Holy, Director of Development Services