



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: ED2024-001
Meeting Date: January 16, 2024
Title: **Proposed Heritage Designation of 91 William Street North, Town of Lindsay (Bell Telephone Exchange)**
Description: Proposed heritage designation of 91 William Street North under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act
Author and Title: Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

Recommendations:

That Report ED2024-001, **Proposed Heritage Designation of 91 William Street North, Town of Lindsay (Bell Telephone Company Exchange)**, be received;

That the Municipal Heritage Committee’s recommendation to designate 91 William Street North under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value or interest be endorsed;

That staff be authorized to proceed with the process to designate the subject properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, including the preparation and circulation of Notices of Intention to Designate, and preparation of the designating by-laws; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

The City of Kawartha Lakes designates properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Properties are recommended for designation by their owners, members of the public, local organizations, the Municipal Heritage Committee, Council or staff. Properties proposed for designation are reviewed by the Municipal Heritage Committee, as required by subsection 29(2) of the Ontario Heritage Act, and their recommendation is brought forward to Council under the cover of a staff report.

91 William Street North, also known as the Lindsay Bell Telephone Exchange, was constructed between 1948 and 1949 and is an important example of a mid-twentieth century Stripped Classical telephone exchange. It is the only example of this type of building in Lindsay. The property is currently listed on the City's Heritage Register. Although there was initially no intention by staff to designate this building under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act made through Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act (2022) now require municipalities to designate listed properties or remove them from the Register within two years of the amendments coming into effect. Practically, this means that, in order for municipalities to provide heritage protection to its cultural heritage resources as is required by provincial land use planning policy, they must be designated under Part IV of the Act. The amendments came into effect on January 1, 2023.

91 William Street North has been prioritized due to its uniqueness as Lindsay's historic mid-twentieth century telephone exchange, giving it a high degree of architectural and historic value, as well as the existing and anticipated development pressures along the William Street North corridor. The designation of this property would provide controls for future development on the subject property itself as well as on adjacent properties and give Council and staff additional tools to ensure compatibility with the existing fabric of the William Street North corridor when reviewing and approving new development in this area of Lindsay. This property was identified by the Municipal Heritage Committee and staff as a priority property. Staff have undertaken a site visit to and heritage evaluation report about the property and have determined that the property is eligible for designation under Part IV of the Act.

At its meeting of December 7, 2023, the Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee reviewed the heritage evaluation report for this property and adopted the following resolution:

KLMHC2023-146

Moved By J. Pitcher

Seconded By S. McCormack

That Report KLMHC2023-083, **Proposed Heritage Designation of 91 William Street North, Town of Lindsay**, be received;

That the designation of the property known municipally as 91 William Street North be endorsed; and

That the recommendation to designate the subject property be forwarded to Council for approval.

Carried

This report addresses that direction.

Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act provides that, upon consultation with its municipal heritage committee, and after serving a Notice of Intention to Designate pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the Council of a municipality may pass a by-law designating a property within the boundaries of the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if it fulfils the criteria for designation under the Act, as identified in Ontario Regulation 9/06. Both staff and the Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee are satisfied that the subject property fulfils the criteria for designation set out under Ontario Regulation 9/06.

Rationale:

Ontario Regulation 9/06 identifies the criteria for determining the cultural heritage value of a property. Under this regulation, a property may be designated under Part IV, s.29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if it meets at least two of the following criteria:

1. The property has design value or physical value because it:
 - a. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
 - b. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
 - c. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
2. The property has historical value or associative value because it:

- a. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
 - b. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
 - c. demonstrates the work of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to the community.
3. The property has contextual value because it:
- a. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of the area,
 - b. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
 - c. is a landmark.

Amendments made to the Ontario Heritage Act under Bill 23 require a property to meet two or more criteria in order to be eligible for designation. 91 William Street North fulfils multiple criteria under Ontario Regulation 9/06 and is therefore eligible for designation under Part IV of the Act. A heritage evaluation report has been prepared for this property which outlines its significance and demonstrates which criteria it fulfils. This report is attached as Appendix A. A statement of significance for the property as required by the Act, which summarizes the property's cultural heritage value and reasons for designation, can be found below.

91 William Street North Statement of Significance

Design and Physical Value

91 William Street North has design and physical value as a unique example of a mid-twentieth century Stripped Classical telephone exchange in Lindsay. The building was constructed between 1948 and 1949 as a new telephone exchange for the Bell Telephone Company and is one of only a few examples of this style of industrial structures in Kawartha Lakes. The Stripped Classical style was prevalent throughout the 1920s and 1930s in commercial and public architecture where it was adopted by a range of architects in different urban locations across North America. Although it had declined in popularity in Canada and the United States by the late 1940s when the subject property was constructed, it remained an important architectural form into the mid-twentieth century of which the subject property is a good example. The property is also representative of increasing technical requirements around telephone exchange

construction in the first half of the twentieth century in response to new technologies and an increased demand for telephone services.

Historical and Associative Value

91 William Street North has historical and associative value in its association with the history of telecommunications in Lindsay. The building was constructed between 1948 and 1949 as a replacement for the town's older telephone exchange and responded to a substantial increase in demand for telephone services in the community. The property yields information regarding the development of the telephone in Lindsay as it evolved from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century as increasing numbers of residents and businesses installed telephones in the community. Similarly, it yields information regarding changes in the local economy and workforce with the introduction of new technology, particularly automated switching which had a substantial impact on women in the workforce.

Contextual Value

91 William Street North has contextual value as part of the diverse historic landscape of William Street North. The William Street North corridor, which runs north from Kent Street West in close proximity to the Scugog River, include a wide range of historic buildings dating from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century and includes both commercial and residential structures. Taken together these form a cohesive evolved landscape that demonstrates the development of this portion of Lindsay and the subject property is linked to its surroundings as part of this evolving development.

Provincial Policy Conformity

Provincial Policy Statement (2020)

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) sets the policy foundation for development and land use planning Ontario. The policy intends to balance the needs of growth and economic development with the need for ensuring a high quality of life, public safety and health, and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage resources. Section 2.6 (Cultural Heritage and Archaeology) requires municipalities to conserve significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes as part of the land use planning process, stating that "Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved."

Significant built heritage resources, as defined by the PPS, are those which have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest as established by the criteria

under the Ontario Heritage Act. These criteria are outlined by Ontario Regulation 9/06. The subject property has been evaluated based on the criteria under Ontario Regulation 9/06 and has been found to fulfil those criteria and, therefore, is a significant heritage resource within the municipality which requires conservation through designation under Part IV of the Act.

A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019)

A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe was prepared by the Ontario government in order to help guide the land use planning process and assist communities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe achieve a high quality of life, positive economic development, and protection for important local resources.

Section 4.2.7 (Cultural Heritage Resources) requires municipalities to conserve their cultural heritage resources as part of the land use planning process “in order to foster a sense of place and benefit communities”. The Growth Plan defines cultural heritage resources as “built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest for the important contribution that make to our understanding of the history of a place, event, or a people. While some cultural heritage resources may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.”

The subject property has been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest through evaluation based on Ontario Regulation 9/06 and therefore requires conservation through designation under Part IV of the Act. This property has a high degree of historic significance with regard to the history and development of telecommunications in Lindsay and community benefit would be gained through its ongoing preservation.

City of Kawartha Lakes Official Plan (2012)

The City of Kawartha Lakes Official Plan was amended in 2017 to include strengthened cultural heritage policies. Official Plan Amendment 26 outlined those amendments.

Three of the heritage policies speak directly to the conservation of individual heritage properties:

- a) Cultural heritage resources of significant cultural heritage value or interest shall be identified, protected and conserved.

- e) The City shall use the tools available to it under the Municipal Act, the Planning Act, the Environmental Assessment Act, and the Ontario Heritage Act to conserve cultural heritage resources.
- f) Cultural heritage resources shall be maintained in situ and in a manner that prevents the deterioration and conserved the identified cultural heritage values or interest and/or identified heritage attributes of the cultural heritage resource.

The City's policies require it to conserve cultural heritage resources and designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act is a tool for doing so. In this case, the subject property has been found to have cultural heritage value through evaluation and individual designation is the most appropriate method for ensuring its conservation.

Other Alternatives Considered:

There are no recommended alternatives. Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act now require municipalities to review and designate their listed properties and the City is required to follow provincial direction.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The designation of property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act supports the following goals from the Council adopted Strategic Plan:

- A Vibrant and Growing Economy
- An Exceptional Quality of Life

The identification and protection of heritage assets in the community through designation promotes an exceptional quality of life by supporting and promoting arts, culture and heritage within the municipality. Designation provides long term protection and management for key heritage resources in the municipality and recognizes their importance to the community.

The protection of heritage resources in the municipality also assists in the growth of the local economy in general by identifying, protecting, and celebrating places where people want to live, work and visit. It encourages investment in local communities by ensuring and promoting attractive places for residents and businesses to be. It also has a direct impact on developing local tourism through the preservation of sites and landscapes that people want to visit.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There will be costs associated with the provision of public notice and for the registration of the designation by-law associated with this application which are included in the 2024 Heritage Planning budget.

It is possible that there will be additional legal fees if there is an owner-initiated appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal as the property is privately owned. There is also the potential for third-party appeals of the designation to the Ontario Land Tribunal; however, appeals of this nature are rare.

Consultations:

Municipal Heritage Committee.

Statutory notices to owners under the Ontario Heritage Act are issued once Council has issued a resolution to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate under subsection 29(3) of the Act. The issuance of a Notice of Intention to Designate triggers the formal consultation process with the property owner(s) and the general public.

Attachments:

Appendix A – Heritage Evaluation Report: 91 William Street North



Adobe Acrobat
Document

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