



Municipal Heritage Committee Report

Report Number: KLMHC2024-031
Meeting Date: June 6, 2024
Title: **Proposed Heritage Designation of 1884 Pigeon Lake Road, Geographic Township of Emily**
Description: Proposed heritage designation of 1884 Pigeon Lake Road (Gamiing Nature Centre) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act
Author and Title: Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

Recommendations:

That Report KLMHC2024-031, **Proposed Heritage Designation of 1884 Pigeon Lake Road, Geographic Township of Emily**, be received;

That the designation of the property known municipally as 1884 Pigeon Lake Road be endorsed; and

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

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.

1884 Pigeon Lake Road is a rural agricultural property in Emily Township that is now home to Gamiing Nature Centre. The property contains an early twentieth century farmhouse and barn, alongside natural elements including open fields, rewilded woodland, and wetland along Pigeon Lake, and is an important example of a rural cultural heritage landscape in Kawartha Lakes. The property has significant historical association with the Irish Catholic settlement of northern Emily Township.

The designation of this property was requested by the owner who reached out to staff in February 2024. Staff undertook a site visit to the property and met with the owner in March 2024 and subsequently have prepared a heritage evaluation report for the property. Through the heritage evaluation report, staff have determined that the property is eligible for designation under Part IV of the Act.

This report provides the background information regarding the cultural heritage value of the property.

Rationale:

1884 Pigeon Lake Road has cultural heritage value as a representative example of a rural agricultural cultural heritage landscape in Emily Township. The property was first settled in 1825 and have evolved from this period as an agricultural property, through the clearance of the land in the nineteenth century, to a contemporary rural property and nature centre. The property contains an early twentieth century concrete block Edwardian Classical house which is an important example of this construction type and material, and a gambrel roof barn from around the same period. The property has significant historical value for its association with the history of Irish Catholic settlement in northern Emily Township, through its succession of owners who yield information as to Irish Catholic migration to the township and community and familial connections in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The property maintains and supports the

rural and historic agricultural character of northern Emily Township through its retained buildings, natural heritage features and placement within the broader landscape.

A heritage evaluation report outlining the full reasons for designation and the property's heritage attributes it attached to this report as Appendix A.

The designation of this property supports the Council-adopted Cultural Heritage Landscapes Strategy through its protection of a rural CHL under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Specifically, it supports the following goals:

- Ensure that important urban, hamlet and rural landscapes are identified, evaluated and preserved
- Promote and support the unique sense of place of Kawartha Lakes communities through the identification and protection of CHLs
- Support and promote historic and ongoing traditions and ways of life in Kawartha Lakes such as farming and nature based tourism through the protection of CHLs across the City of Kawartha Lakes

The CHL at 1884 Pigeon Lake Road is confined to a single property with defined boundaries and, in alignment with the strategy, Part IV designation is the best mechanism for the protection of this landscape.

Other Alternatives Considered:

There are no recommended alternatives.

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 covered by the existing Heritage Planning budget.

Consultations:

Property owner

Attachments:

Appendix A – Heritage Evaluation Report: 1884 Pigeon Lake Road



Adobe Acrobat
Document

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Department Head: Leah Barrie, Director of Development Services