



Municipal Heritage Committee Report

Report Number: KLMHC2024-048
Meeting Date: August 1, 2024
Title: **Proposed Heritage Designation of 2 King Street West, Village of Omemee**
Description: Proposed heritage designation of 3740 Highway 7 (Woodlawn/Seven Gables) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act
Author and Title: Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

Recommendations:

That Report KLMHC2024-048, **Proposed Heritage Designation of 2 King Street West, Village of Omemee**, be received;

That the designation of the property known municipally as 2 King Street West 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.

2 King Street West, also known as the John McCrea Memorial Methodist Parsonage, is an Arts and Crafts house constructed in 1910 as the parsonage for the adjacent Methodist, now United, church. 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. Recent amendments to the Act have extended the deadline to designate properties by an additional two years to January 1, 2027.

In March 2023, staff brought forward a report to Council to outline how to prioritize properties for designation, given the size of the City's Register and the limited staff resources to review the Register and designate the listed properties on it. Staff recommended the prioritization of the City's commercial and institutional properties, major landmarks and properties that were under threat of redevelopment or demolition. This did not include the majority of residential properties in the City and it was understood that the heritage protection on these properties would be allowed to lapse. Staff sent correspondence to all residential listed property owners to inform them of these changes and that their property would cease to have protection as of January 1, 2025, although this date has now been extended by the province to January 1, 2027.

The owners of 2 King Street West contacted staff in May 2024 to request that the property be designated under Part IV of the Act. Staff undertook a site visit to the property and met with the owners in May 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. The property has an extremely high level of cultural heritage value in Omemee both through its architecture and through its association with John McCrea, a local businessman and Methodist lay leader in Omemee, and his daughter, Flora McCrea Eaton, Lady Eaton.

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

Rationale:

2 King Street West, also known as the John McCrea Memorial Methodist Parsonage, has cultural heritage value as a unique example of an Arts and Crafts house in Omemee and through its associations with John McCrea, a local businessman and Methodist lay leader in Omemee, and his daughter, Flora McCrea Eaton, Lady Eaton. Constructed in 1910, the house is a unique example of the Arts and Crafts architectural style in Omemee, a popular architectural style in urban and suburban areas in Canada in the early decades of the twentieth century but less popular in the rural areas of the province. It displays key features of the Arts and Crafts style, including its irregular massing, natural colours, and plentiful windows. It was constructed as a memorial for John McCrea, a local cabinetmaker, respected member of the municipal council, and an important lay leader in the local Methodist Church in Omemee. It was funded by his daughter, Flora McCrea Eaton, who married the heir to the Eaton's business empire, John Craig Eaton, and who retained important connections to her hometown throughout her lifetime. The property is a well-known local landmark and supports and maintains the historic small-town landscape of Omemee.

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

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: 2 King Street West



Adobe Acrobat
Document

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Department Head: Leah Barrie, Director of Development Services