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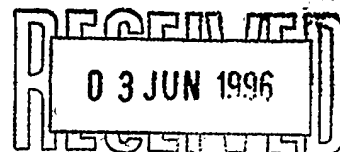
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# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON



DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY CLERK  
K.W. SADLER, CITY CLERK

*Handwritten signature*



REGISTERED

May 29, 1996

RECEIVED  
IN THE OFFICE

JUN 5 1996

CULTURAL PROGRAMS  
HERITAGE UNIT

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

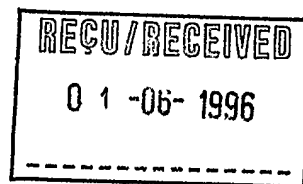
Re: Amendment to Designation of Labatt Park  
The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

Please find enclosed, a certified copy of By-law No. L.S.P.-3237(a)-319, entitled "A by-law to amend By-law No. L.S.P.-3237-544 entitled 'A by-law to designate Labatt Park to be of historical value.' ", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on May 21, 1996 and registered as Instrument No. 423648 on May 24, 1996.

*J. A. Malpass*  
for J. A. Malpass  
Assistant City Clerk

/crg

Encl.





## CITY OF LONDON BY-LAW CERTIFICATION RECORD

I, J. A. Malpass, Assistant City Clerk

of the Corporation of the City of London, hereby certify that the By-law hereunder is a true  
copy of By-law No. L.S.P.-3237(a)=319

of the City of London, passed on May 21 19 96.

DATED at London, Ontario this 29th day of May 19 96.

Signature

Bill No. 408  
1996

By-law No. L.S.P.-3237(a)-319

A by-law to amend By-law No. L.S.P.-3237-544  
entitled "A by-law to designate Labatt Park to be  
of historical value."

WHEREAS pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18*, the Council of a municipality may by by-law designate a property including buildings and structures thereon to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so amend the designation of the property known as Labatt Park has been duly published and served and no notice of objection to such designation has been received;

The Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. Section 1 of By-law No. L.S.P.-3237-544 is amended by repealing Schedule "B" thereof, Historical Reasons, and by enacting in its place the new Schedule "B" of this by-law.

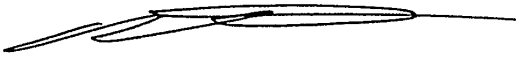
2. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described as follows hereto, in the proper Land Registry Office:

"Part of Lots 5 and 6 East of Wilson Avenue RP 191(w) and part of Lots 1, 2 and 3 RP347 (w) in the City of London and the County of Middlesex being all of PIN 08260-0127 as in Instrument No. 33043."

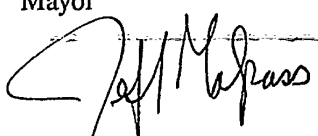
3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the London Free Press, and to enter the description of the aforesaid property, the name and address of its registered owner, and short reasons for its designation in the Register of all properties designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

4. This by-law comes into force on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on May 21, 1996.



Dianne Haskett  
Mayor



J. A. Malpass  
Assistant City Clerk

First reading - May 21, 1996  
Second reading - May 21, 1996  
Third reading - May 21, 1996

## SCHEDULE "B"

To By-law No. L.S.P.-3237(a)-319

### Historical Reasons

Labatt Park is London's oldest sporting facility and is believed to be the oldest baseball grounds in continuous use (in situ) in North America, and hence, the world. In 1877, W. J. Reid bought a swampy river flat in London West, drained and laid out a baseball diamond and grandstand, and named it Tecumseh Park. London's earliest professional baseball team, the Tecumsehs, were founding members of the International League and won the championships in 1877. Oil baron J. I. Englehart was the primary financial backer of the Tecumsehs and also owned a hotel of the same name. In 1892, W. J. Reid constructed a third of a mile brick-dust bicycle track and many professional and amateur bicycle races were held. Former Mayor George Wenige frequently raced on the bicycle track. London's first moving picture was shown at Tecumseh Park in 1895. In 1932, it was the site of a huge civic reception for "Silent Sandy" Sommerville, the first Canadian golfer to win the U.S. amateur title. Over the years, the park has been used for football games, university and collegiate sports meets, political rallies, boxing programs and winter ice-skating. London won the pennant of the Michigan-Ontario Baseball League in 1920, 1921 and 1922. The Labatt family bought the park in 1936 and donated it and \$10,000 for improvements to the City of London resulting in the name change to Labatt Park.

The flood of 1937 swept away the original grandstand and outbuildings, which were replaced with the existing frame team clubhouse. The London Army team won the Canadian Sandlot Congress title in 1943 and 1944. On September 29, 1948, the London Majors won the World Sandlot title over the Fort Wayne Generals, with the fielder Russ Evon ("Ruthless Russell" or "Russell the Muscle" and catcher Jack Fairs. The London Majors continue on in the Inter-County League as the longest-serving tenant of Labatt Park. The Class AA London Tigers, an affiliate of the Detroit Tigers, played here from 1989 to 1993 and won the Eastern League championship in 1990. In 1990, the park won the "Beam Clay Award" as the best natural grass ballpark in North America.

### Architectural Reasons

The existing white-frame, cottage-style team clubhouse (c. 1937) is one of the few clubhouses of its type, remaining in the region. Its exterior remains largely unaltered. Originally, both the teams and the umpires used it as a changeroom. Over the years, many famous sports personalities have changed there, including Connie Mack in 1943, Hall of Famer Fergie Jenkins in 1984/85 and Oscar "Lefty" Judd. The current London Majors continue to use the old team clubhouse and it remains a significant landmark structure to London's rich sports history.