



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act e-Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre électronique, tenu aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.



SEP 14 2016

RECEIVED

Legislative Services

Planning Services

315 King St. West, P.O. Box 640

Chatham ON N7M 5K8

Tel: 519.360.1998 Fax: 519.436.3237

September 12, 2016

Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

**Re: Notice of Passing – Designation By-law 97-2016  
Soldiers Memorial & Memorial Square, Community of Chatham  
Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

---

Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its meeting on July 18, 2016 approved a by-law, designating the property located on Sixth Street, Community of Chatham, for its cultural heritage value or interest, as defined by one or more of the Criteria under *Ontario Regulation 9/06*.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (519) 352-8401 Ext. 3045.

Sincerely,

Greg Houston  
Planning Technician

BY-LAW NUMBER 97-2016  
OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

A By-law to designate the property located at Sixth Street, Community of Chatham, as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

PASSED the 18th day of July, 2016

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18 as amended, provides that the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent may designate a property within the boundaries of the Municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has appointed the Municipal Heritage Committee and the said committee has recommended that the Municipality designate the hereinafter described property pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has given Notice of Intention to Designate the hereinafter described property to be of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been received by the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" annexed hereto;

NOW THEREFORE the Municipality of Chatham-Kent enacts as follows:

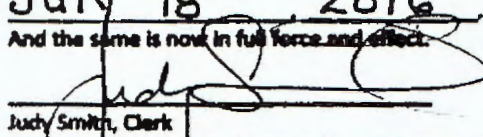
1. That the property municipally known as Soldiers Memorial & Memorial Square and more particularly described as Sixth St PI Old Survey N of King St W Except as in 402219 & Parts 48 to 53; 24R3682; Chatham-Kent be designated to be of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act.
2. The Clerk be authorized to register the by-law against the property described as Sixth St PI Old Survey N of King St W Except as in 402219 & Parts 48 to 53; 24R3682; Chatham-Kent in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The Clerk be directed to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the said property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust and cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be posted on the Municipality's Ontario Heritage Act Notices webpage.

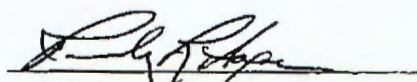
THIS By-law shall come into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

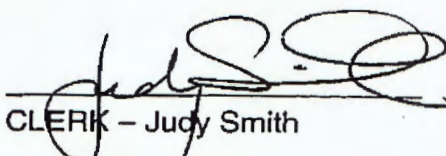
READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME this 18th day of July, 2016.

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of By-law Number 97-2016  
passed by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its meeting held on

July 18, 2016  
And the same is now in full force and effect.

  
Judy Smith, Clerk  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent

  
MAYOR - Randy R. Hope

  
CLERK - Judy Smith

## **Soldiers Memorial & Memorial Square**

### **Preamble:**

In 1923, the Soldiers Memorial & Memorial Square were built and dedicated to the young men of Kent County who had lost their lives in World War I. Since that time, this property has served as a sacred place for the community to honour and remember its citizens who have given the ultimate sacrifice. In this period marking the centennial of World War I, there is no better time to honour the contribution of Kent County men and women than to acknowledge the monument that commemorates their sacrifices.

## Designation Report

# **Soldiers Memorial & Memorial Square**

### **Description of Property:**

The “Soldiers Memorial” and “Memorial Square” property is located at the north end of Sixth Street in the City of Chatham, in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, on the property described as SIXTH ST PL OLD SURVEY N OF KING ST W EXCEPT AS IN 402219 & PARTS 48 TO 53; 24R3682; CHATHAM-KENT

The property is approximately 47 feet by 101 feet, located between the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce located at 99 King Street West and the commercial business to the west located at 101 King Street West, Chatham.

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

#### **Historical/Associative (OHA Reg. 9/06):**

Following the Great War of 1914-18 the carnage of that war played heavily on the minds of the returning enlistments. In 1919 the veterans of Chatham and Kent County met at Maple Leaf Cemetery on “Peace Day”, the 19<sup>th</sup> of July to remember their fallen comrades. In Canada “Peace Day” would survive for only a couple of years as Remembrance Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November became more popular.

By 1922 a group of Chatham citizens were forming the “Memorial Committee” with the goal of having a “Soldiers Memorial” prominently place in the City of Chatham.

The committee searched out potential designs and costs arriving at what they thought would be appropriate to memorialize the sacrifice of the 356 fatalities from Chatham and Kent County during the war. The Memorial Committee purposed a debenture of \$15,000 to City Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 1923. This figure was put to the ratepayers for approval By-law No. 1866 presented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 1923 and failed 847 to 706.

Following the vote a mass meeting was held at First Presbyterian Church to form a committee to raise the \$15,000 by public subscription, kicked off by the 24<sup>th</sup> Kent Regiment Chapter’s donation of \$1,000. By the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 1923 over half of the money required had been raised and the secretary of the committee reported that the contract was let. City Council had agreed to see that the foundation would be ready for construction and the dedication date was fixed for the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 1923. It was also agreed that the sidewalk at the north end of Sixth Street between the Bank of Commerce and the Standard Bank would be removed with all cost going to the Memorial Fund.

In Robert Shipley’s book, “To Mark Our Place”, on page 90 he makes reference to a petition done by a Mr. Kendall, secretary of the Great War Veteran Association (the forerunner of the Royal Canadian Legion) asking, “What kind of memorial they wished to see?”

“The men said they wanted nothing but an unselfish memorial something symbolic. The men would be bitterly opposed to anything for themselves. The sentiment was the same in Chatham, Ontario. Twenty-four hundred and twenty-two of the aggregate pronounced themselves as being heartily in favour of the monument and the site chosen.”

It should be noted that the inscription on the front of the memorial read that it is dedicated to the men of Chatham and Kent County.

Work began the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, 1923, with C. H. R. Fuller, City Manager supervising the construction of the “fourteen foot square” by “eight foot deep” foundation, the combined weight of the memorial and foundation would be 190 tons. C. H. Colby, contractor, would be responsible for the construction of the monument.

It was reported in the Chatham Daily News on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 1923 that the “bronze figure of a Canadian soldier representing victory” had been lowered into place atop the granite memorial, completing the construction of the monument.

The “Soldiers Memorial” on “Memorial Square” was dedicated on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 1923, by Lieutenant Governor Cockshutt. In his dedication he said, “This monument is to the memory of our boys who have fallen on the field of battle – the men whose memory will ever remain”.

For over nine decades the Soldiers Memorial has rested on the Memorial Square and for a but few of those decades has been the place where citizens have gathered on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November to remember the sacrifices of the 697 fatalities of the two Great Wars, the Korean conflict and Peace-keeping assignments.

**Design/Physical (OHA Reg. 9/06):**

The Soldiers Memorial is an excellent and well preserved example of a first quarter, twentieth century monument.

The structure consist of a 14 feet by 14 feet by 8 feet concrete foundation, with an apron approximately 24 inches on the east and west side and 10 feet north and south of the memorial.

The Granite memorial has a 28 inch plinth, four section tall of 72 inch, 39 inch, 47 inch and 24 inch approximately 17 ½ feet tall plus an oversized bronze figure of a soldier of the Great War atop.

The estimated weight of the foundation, the stone work and figure is 190 tons.

The Toronto based firms of McIntosh Granite Company and F.G. Tickell & Sons were responsible for the granite and the bronze figure. It is suggested in the book, “To Mark Our Place” by Robert Shipley (retired professor at Waterloo University) that the figure may have been the work of William Loveday of London, though no mark could be found on the exterior of the casting. At the time, Tickell & Sons was “the only bronze foundry in Canada that successfully attempted statuary castings.” (To Mark Our Place – page 136).

It was noted in the Shipley book that, “When we compare the statues in Chatham and Shelbourne, Ontario, with the Renaissance statue of St. Longinus. Here again is the expressive, triumphant gesture of one who has seen a vision”. (To Mark Our Place – page 146)

**Contextual (OHA Reg. 9/06):**

The property is associated with the north end of Sixth Street, Chatham with an entrance to Tecumseh Park at its north end. It is the last vestige of any building that existed on this location before 1923. It is also central in the community of Chatham and central to the commercial portion of King Street West.

**Description of Heritage Attributes/Character Defining Elements:**

**Property:**

- Oversized bronze statue of a helmeted soldier holding his rifle in the air and looking skyward
- Stone stepped sculpture base
- Granite four section tower
- Stepped stone base block, the upper section with raised panel with scrolled and dentilated pediment with incised dedication flanked by the dates 1914 and 1918 over a laurel wreath flanked by foliated brackets and the dates 1939 and 1945
- Rectangular stone plinth
- Rectangular stone base with two steps on the south exposure
- Stone urns sitting on the base flanking and forward of the monument proper

**Contextual:**

Key elements of the Soldiers Memorial and Memorial Square that support its contextual significance are:

- Placement in relation to King Street, Tecumseh Park, and the surrounding commercial buildings

**Sources:**

Mr. Jerry Hind, Historian, Chatham Ontario

Robert Shipley, *To Mark Our Place: A History of Canadian War Memorials*, NC Press, 1987

Chatham Daily News 1922-1924

**Photograph:**

