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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE

BY-LAW NO. 2000- 23

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE BUILDING KNOWN AS ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, LOCATED AT 262 STONE STREET SOUTH ON STONE STREET SOUTH, GANANOQUE, AS BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, C. O.18 as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate the church building to be of architectural or historical value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Gananoque has caused to be served on the owners of the church building known as St. John's Church located at 262 Stone Street South, Gananoque and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid structure published in the Gananoque Reporter having general circulation in the municipality; and whereas the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule B attached hereto;

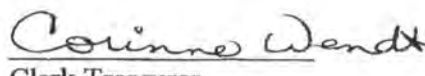
AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk Treasurer of the Municipality;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Gananoque enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and historical value the building known as St. John's Church, 262 Stone Street South, Gananoque, particularly described as a church building in schedule B attached hereto.
2. The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the church building as described in schedule B attached hereto in the proper land registry office.
3. The Clerk Treasurer is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the aforementioned property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

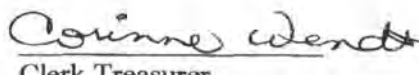
Read a first and second time this 8th day of AUGUST , 2000.


Mayor


Clerk Treasurer

Read a third time and finally passed this 5th day of SEPTEMBER , 2000.


Mayor


Clerk Treasurer

SCHEDULE "B"

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Gananoque
Report Re: Reasons for Designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Gananoque (Fig.1) is a fine example of the mature work of one of Canada's finest ecclesiastical architects, Joseph Connolly, who, by the time of his death in 1904, had designed over thirty Catholic churches and chapels in Ontario. Connolly originally trained in Dublin, Ireland at the office of the esteemed J.J. McCarthy, known as "the Irish Pugin," and arrived in Canada in 1873. Not surprisingly his early work was greatly influenced by his mentor and indeed most of his churches are built in the Gothic revival mode favoured by McCarthy. However Connolly infused each of his commissions with sensitivity to the requirements of the particular site, drama in composition, masterful handling of materials and authoritative use of a broad architectural vocabulary derived from medieval sources as well as Romanesque, Renaissance and Baroque precedents, where appropriate. Among Connolly's most celebrated work is the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Guelph; St. Mary's , Bathurst Street, Toronto, St. Peter's Cathedral, London and the tower addition to St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston.



Fig.1: North elevation, particularly fine patterned dichromatic slating.

The original Roman Catholic Church in Gananoque was built in 1846-7 on King Street between Stone and Charles Streets. The needs of a growing congregation led Archbishop Cleary and the Reverend John O'Gorman to commission the design of a new church structure, on the present Stone street site, dramatically perched high above the mouth of the Gananoque River. Given his general 'track record', the Irish connection and the success of his tower design for nearby St. Mary's, just recently completed, Connolly was the obvious choice.

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For Gananoque Connolly chose to work in a Romanesque mode characterized by semi-circular arches, circular niches and windows (especially of course, the great rose window), squat columns with multi-scalloped capitals and low cylindrical towers with conical roofs.

The building is constructed of local limestone, rock faced and skillfully laid in a broken ashlar pattern. The quoins of the main entrance and the fine carved detailing at the façade are, however, rubbed smooth creating an effective contrast to the rock-faced background (Fig.2).



Fig.2 Front Elevation (Façade)

The nave rises dramatically above the aisles (allowing the clerestory), given particular emphasis by the use of buttresses extending to the parapet corbels and resolved into pilastered niches with stilted Norman arches at their heads. A pilastered niche is also set above the rose window and is surmounted with a bossed hood, completing the triangle of niches.

The tripartite treatment of the main entrance also features stone hood moulds (Fig.3) but here each boss is elaborately carved as are the entrance pilaster capitals and the stone window 'sill' terminations (Fig.4).

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Fig.3 Tripartite Main Entrance Treatment

A stone celtic cross rises from the parapet.

While most of the carved stone elements and detailing are concentrated on the façade, the side elevations and apse are exuberantly ornamented with the dichromatic patterned slate Roof (Fig1.). Using green and black slates and a combination of regular, fishscale and clipped edge shapes Connolly designed wonderful patterns featuring triangular, diamond and cross forms at both the nave and the aisle levels and including the conical towers. Spatially and visually the roof is the dominant feature of these elevations. The stonework here, through the regular rhythm of window openings and pilasters, provides an austere but satisfying counterpoint to the patterned roof. It can be said that the roof patterning is the most visually arresting feature of the building and its most instantly identifiable feature in the eyes of the public.

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Fig. 4 Carved bosses and sill terminations

The interior is thoroughly integrated with the exterior treatment, most obvious in the round arches supported by massive columns which creates an arcade between the nave and the aisles. The stained glass windows are of a very high quality, particularly five windows at the west wall executed by Daprato Statuary Co., of Chicago and New York. Much of the rest of the work appears to be by the N.T. Lyon Studio, Toronto. Other key interior features are the 'Raphael' fresco above the high altar and the marble high altar itself imported from Italy c.1915.

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Fig.5 The Nave and Altar

Conclusion

It is clear that the Church of St. John the Evangelist is indeed an important heritage building very much worthy of designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. In fact the building's architectural significance extends beyond local importance in being a good example of the work of one of the country's best 19th century ecclesiastical architects and one of his relatively few compositions in the Romanesque style.

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In summary then the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Gananoque is considered architecturally significant for the following reasons:

- As a fine example of the mature work of one of Canada's finest 19th century architects;
- For Connolly's integration of texture, massing, the combination of elements and iconography which provide much visual richness and symbolic meaning;
- For the quality of the stonework combining intricately carved elements and rubbed work with rock faced ashlar to create visual interest and a Norman (Romanesque) sensibility;
- For the patterned dichromatic slate roof which turns the large roof areas into a vast mosaic;
- For the integrity with which the whole exterior, as conceived by Connolly has thus far survived.

André Scheinman
Heritage Preservation Consultant
March 23, 2000.