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City of Orillia

BOX 340 - ORILLIA, ONTARIO
L3V 6J1

OFFICE
OF THE
CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR

December 14, 1979.

REGISTERED

The Ontario Heritage Foundation,
77 Bloor Street West,
TORONTO, Ontario.
M7A 2R9

Dear Sirs:

Re: City of Orillia Designating By-laws 1979-155 and 1979-156

Please find enclosed the following:

1. Copy of By-law Number 1979-155, A By-law to Designate the Church of the Guardian Angels as being of Architectural and Historical Value or Interest, together with a copy of the Reasons for Designation.
2. Copy of By-law Number 1979-156, A By-law to Designate the Orillia Presbyterian Church as being of Architectural and Historical Value or Interest, together with a copy of the Reasons for Designation.

These documents are forwarded to you pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, Section 29 (6).

Yours truly,

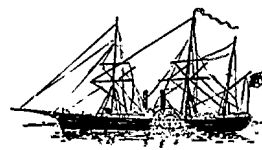
Laura S. Lee

Laura S. Lee (Mrs.),
Assistant Clerk.

LSL:SC
Encl.



CITY ON THE LAKES - BIRTHPLACE OF CENTRAL ONTARIO



BY-LAW NUMBER 1979-156 OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE ORILLIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS
BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and historic value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Orillia has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as The Orillia Presbyterian Church and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;


AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT The Orillia Presbyterian Church, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, be and it is hereby designated as being of architectural and historic value or interest.
2. THE Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the Registry Office for the division of Simcoe.
3. THE Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 10th day of December A.D. 1979.


MAYOR


DEPUTY CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 1979-156 TO THE CITY OF ORILLIA

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Orillia in the County of Simcoe and being composed of all of Lot 5 and part of Lot 4 on the north side of Neywash Street and part of the south part Lots 3, 4 and 5 on the south side of Tecumseth Street as shown on a Plan registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Simcoe as Plan No. 8.

IN THE MATTER OF The Ontario
Heritage Act, 1974

-and-

IN THE MATTER OF By-law Number
1979-156 , a by-law to designate
certain property pursuant to the
Act.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

THE ORILLIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HISTORY

The Orillia Presbyterian Church has its origins going back to 1834, when Mrs. James Dallas operated a Sunday School which was later absorbed by the Church in 1851.

The first Church building was erected in 1852, and over the years it underwent several enlargements and renovations. In 1888 the need for even more space became apparent. And so under Rev. Dr. R.N. Grant, the cornerstone of the present building was laid in September of that year. The opening services took place in July of 1889.

This new Church, with a seating capacity of 1,100, was designed by Architects Gordon and Helliwell, of Toronto. These same architects were later contracted to design the Sabbath School Building, located at the north west end of the church. It was built in 1912 by Mr. W.L. Bennett of Orillia. At that time, under Rev. D.A. McGregor, the school enrollment was 836 pupils. Among the many activities which have taken place within its walls, the Sunday School Building served as a hospital in 1918 when Orillia was hard hit by an influenza epidemic.

In 1920, an organ, considered to be one of the most outstanding in Canada, was installed as a memorial to those who had lost their lives in World War I. The organ was of such great size that the organ chamber had to be enlarged by nine feet. The original organ dating back to 1893 was relocated in the square bell tower.

In 1937, the T. Eaton Company was hired to completely redecorate the interior of the Church. Other changes since then have included the finishing of some of the basement rooms to allow their use for various group activities including a young peoples coffee house. Relatively little change has taken place until November 28, 1977, when a spectacular blaze destroyed the roof and attic of the north end of the building. The cause of the fire was never determined but luckily the Church section escaped damage. Restoration was undertaken by the Cobb Brothers of Toronto and involved a new roof over the Sunday School Building, the replacement of some brickwork, and interior repairs due to smoke and water damage.

Outstanding interior features of the Church include ornately carved woodwork, stained and leaded glass, a decorative iron railing around the balcony, and a beautiful raised choir loft. Found on display at the rear of the building are the original Church bell and pulpit which dates back to 1851.

Architecturally, the building is quite unique. It boasts three towers, one of a round turreted version. Stone string courses and labels over doors and windows form a contrast to the red brick walls, which are also decorated with buttresses, and pointed gothic window and door openings. The building employs a basic transept type plan and rests on a limestone foundation. Decorative brickwork includes corbelling along the eaves and recessed stepping used at the doorways.

Set amongst the trees in an older residential area, Orillia's Presbyterian Church serves as a landmark of Orillia's illustrious past.