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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O.
1990, CHAPTER O.18;

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES IN PT LOT 3 TO PT
LOT 4 N OF HUNTER E OF GEORGE AM412 IRREG 3100.00SF 38.09FR D;

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

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

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of Peterborough intends to designate the property, including land and building, known municipally as 410-412 George Street North, as a property of architectural and/or historic interest or value under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

A Statement of the Reasons for the Proposed Designation of 410-412 George Street North is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days, or before 4:30 p.m. on the 13th of March 2009.

Nancy Wright-Laking, City Clerk
The City of Peterborough
500 George St. N
Peterborough, ON K9H 3R9

February 11, 2009

The Crystal Building – 410-412 George Street North

The property at 410-412 George Street North has good cultural heritage value for its association with early Peterborough developer, James T. Henthorn, who owned and developed the entire block bounded by Hunter, George, Water and Brock streets over a period of 50 years between 1827 and his death in 1877. In 1860, Henthorn's original row of frame buildings on George Street, housing a bakery, stable and shed, was destroyed by fire and the current block of brick structures replaced it soon after. The site known as the "Crystal Block" included the row of 3 storey masonry buildings on the east side of George Street, from Brock Street to Hunter Street. Some of the oldest buildings in the city are contained within this block.

The 1865-66 Peterborough City Directory shows R. Johnston and Son Dry Goods located near number 410 and by 1888, Mr. W.W. Johnston was the owner and operator of a dry goods business at 410 George Street. The family resided upstairs for over 30 years, from 1856 to 1897.

By 1922, 412 George Street had become known as the "The Crystal Apartments". The name, which is still visible over the entrance may have come from the "Crystal Theatre" located next door at 408 George Street North. Other businesses that have operated from this location over the years include The Boston Café and Porter's Meat Market. The property is well documented, both inside and out by photos in the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images at the Peterborough Museum & Archives.

Vancouver architect Ron Thom, the master planner and architect of Trent University, established a temporary field office at 412 George Street from 1965 until 1968 while construction of the university was underway. Thom's work on the original four buildings of the Nassau Campus at Trent have won enduring international recognition and placed him among Canada's foremost modernist architects. The current door to the apartment entrance of the Crystal Block, with its Prairie Style influences in design is believed to be Thom's work.