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Owen Sound

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

MAY 23 2012

DELIVERED

May 18, 2012

City of Owen Sound
Kristen M. Van Alphen, City Clerk
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 2H4

Dear Kristen Van Alphen:

Re: Heritage Designation – Harrison Park – 75 2nd Ave E, Owen Sound

City Council at its meeting held on May 14, 2012 adopted the minutes of the Community Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held on May 3, 2012 which contained the following motion:

"THAT the Community Planning & Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that City Council proceed with *Notice of Intention to Designate* Harrison Park, 75 2nd Avenue East, based on information contained in Appendix 'A', as amended, of the report from the Heritage Coordinator dated April 24, 2012 regarding the Heritage Designation of Harrison Park, and attached hereto as a statement of cultural heritage value or interest."

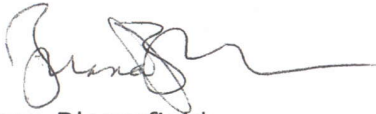
Please accept this letter and attachment as your Notice of Intention to Designate Harrison Park located at 75 2nd Avenue East as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts, may be filed with the Clerk of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound before June 18, 2012.

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If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or Sandra Parks, Heritage Co-ordinator at 519-376-4440 ext. 1275.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Briana', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Briana Bloomfield,
Deputy Clerk
/bb

c: S. Parks, Heritage Co-ordinator
Ontario Heritage Trust

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990.

Description of the Property – Harrison Park, 75 2nd Avenue East

Harrison Park is located in the southern part of the City of Owen Sound, in the Sydenham River valley flanked by the Niagara Escarpment, with its main entrance at the southeast corner of 2nd Avenue East and 1st Street East, with a land mass of 86 acres.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Harrison Park's cultural heritage value lies in tangible and intangible elements that, together, identify it as a place where significant natural beauty mixes with park design and built heritage, creating areas for community gatherings and recreational activities.

Purchased by early Owen Sound industrialist and community leader John Harrison (1824-1902) in 1875 and transferred to the Town of Owen Sound in 1912, Harrison Park has design or physical value as a good example of early parkland design on the urban-rural fringe. Under Harrison's ownership, roads and walking paths were developed, and thousands of trees planted; with municipal possession came development of the watercourse and pools, main entrance gates, campground, Inn, Bandstand, Community Hall, mini-golf course and swimming pool.

The Park's historical or associative value lies in its relationship with the Harrison Family legacy, particularly John Harrison's dream that these lands remain a place of beauty for all to enjoy, and his family's gift and sale of the lands to the municipality. Town Councillor and Parks Commission member, Edward Brigham was an Owen Sound area contractor and amateur landscape designer who generously donated an enormous amount of time and expertise to the early design and installation of park improvements. The first swans arrived in the park in 1912, a gift from King Edward V to Mayor Elias Lemon; generations of families have enjoyed feeding the swans and waterfowl, and looking at the exotic birds and deer.

The property has contextual value because of its importance in defining the area, and is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings as an Owen Sound landmark. Its vistas and views frame places of natural beauty which can be viewed from a variety of vantage points: on foot, on skis, riding bicycles, in a canoe, on a paddleboat or driving a car. Its trails link to regional and provincial trail systems.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that embody the design or physical value of Harrison Park include - see reference map:

1. Main Entrance Gate – riverstone/fieldstone gate and walls
2. Black History Cairn
3. Sydenham River Watercourse – to be maintained as a natural riverscape
4. Island
5. North Watercourse
6. Five-globe light standard (near Harrison Park Inn)
7. Bandstand (exterior)
8. Community Hall (exterior)
9. Laundry (exterior)
10. Weaver's Creek watercourse and walking trail
11. Kitchen (exterior)
12. Ruin of inlets for mill or logging
13. Mile Drive
14. South Washroom (exterior)

Key attributes that express the contextual value of Harrison Park include its:

- vistas and views which can be viewed from a variety of vantage points
- relationship to regional and provincial trail systems

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available from the Community Services Department, Planning Division.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts, may be filed with the Clerk of the City of Owen Sound before June 18, 2012.

Dated at the City of Owen Sound this the 18th day of May 2012.

Kristen M. Van Alphen, City Clerk
The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
808 Second Avenue East
OWEN SOUND, ON N4K 2H4
(519) 376-4440, ext. 1228
fax (519) 371-0511
kvanalphen@owensound.ca

Map of Heritage Attributes

