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Waterloo

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

DEC 15 2006

RECEIVED

The Corporation of the
Township of Wilmot

60 Snyder's Road West, Baden, Ontario N3A 1A1

Clerk's Department
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Reply to: Dawn Mittelholtz
dawn.mittelholtz@wilmot.ca

December 13, 2006

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

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: BY-LAW NO. 2006-70, A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE
NEW HAMBURG GRANDSTAND, LOCATED IN NORM S. HILL PARK, NEW
HAMBURG, TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO,
BEING PART OF SMITHS PLAN LOT 1-5, BLOCK 5E, F & G. PART LOT 8

Please be advised at its Inaugural meeting on December 4, 2006, Council considered and adopted By-law No. 2006-70, being a by-law to designate the above noted property to be of heritage value or interest. Enclosed is a copy of the above noted By-law.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Dawn Mittelholtz
Deputy Clerk

Encl.

2/1/07
RPM

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

BY-LAW NO. 2006- 70

**BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS
THE NEW HAMBURG GRANDSTAND, LOCATED IN NORM S. HILL PARK, NEW
HAMBURG, TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO,
BEING PART OF SMITHS PLAN LOT 1-5, BLOCK 5E, F & G. PART LOT 8**

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to designate property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot deems it desirable to designate the New Hamburg Grandstand as having historic, social and contextual value and interest;

AND WHEREAS the Clerk of the Township of Wilmot has caused Notice of Intention to Designate to be given in accordance with Section 29 (3 & 4) of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990;

AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection has been served on the Clerk within the meaning of Section 29 (5) of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**THEREFORE THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

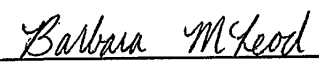
1. That the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto is hereby designated to be of historic, social and contextual value. The Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest is set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
2. This By-law shall come into effect on the final passing thereof by the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot.

READ a first and second time this 4th day of December, 2006

READ a third time and finally approved in Open Council this 4th day of December, 2006



Mayor



Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"

to

BY-LAW NO. 2006-70

Legal Description of Property to be designated:

**PART OF SMITHS PLAN LOT 1-5, BLOCK 5E, F & G. PART LOT 8, NEW HAMBURG,
TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO**

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NO. 2006-70

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The New Hamburg Grandstand

History of the Grandstand in New Hamburg

In 1874 the village of New Hamburg purchased 17 acres of land from Absolom Shade for a show ground and park. This became the new home for the Wilmot Agricultural Society's Fall Fair.

In 1886 the New Hamburg council received a petition signed by many individuals to set aside a portion of the park for a half-mile race track. This track was laid out opposite of the current track. The first annual race meet was held on the 9th and 10th of September, 1886.

In 1894 a new half track was built in the configuration of the current track. The first race meet on the new track was held on August 15th and 16th, 1894. A new grandstand was being built to accommodate 600-800 people.

In 1911 a Park Commission was appointed with the intention to improve and beautify the village's park near the skating rink as well as the grandstand. The decision was made to remove the old grandstand and build a new one.

In 1923 a fire on the 19th of August destroyed the grandstand. The loss was estimated at \$1500 and was partially covered by insurance. The grandstand was replaced.

In 1926 a concrete swimming pool, 30 feet by 60 feet was built between the Grandstand and Jacob Street. A small long cabin was built to provide kitchen facilities for campers. It still stands today.

In 1947 the Grandstand was demolished to make way for a new one. The swimming pool was also removed but never replaced although plans were made to construct a new 50 x 100 foot pool. The grandstand was not completed until 1948 when the roof was finished. The seating was used for the 1947 Derby races. This is the current grandstand and seats approximately 2000 people.

Cultural History of the Grandstand

The Grandstand in the park has served as a focal point for a variety of activities for over one hundred years. The current building is the fourth structure. It has accommodated crowds of local residents and out-of-town visitors to sporting, cultural and recreational activities in the park. Some of the more prominent events include the Canadian Pacing Derby, the New Hamburg Fall Fair, the annual band tattoo and more recently the Mennonite Relief Sale and Moparfest.

Harness Racing

The first harness races were held on September 9th and 10th, 1886. At one point a race meet was held on the May 24th, Victoria Day holiday weekend. Harness races were also held in conjunction with the New Hamburg Fair. A number of "firsts" occurred at the New Hamburg track. They were:

- a new method of harness racing began in 1928 when each heat was run as an individual race with three heats per class. This was a "first" in Canada.
- In 1937 the track was widened by three feet and converted to a "non-pocket" track. The first of its kind in Canada.

- In 1931 the new Longworth barrier system was used to start the races for the first time in Ontario.
- In 1943 twilight racing was tried on June 2nd and 9th. This was reported to be the first of its kind in Canada. Post time was 5 o'clock.

Canadian Pacing Derby

In 1936 a "new" Turf Club was organized with the following executive:

President -	Dr. T.C. Kirkpatrick
Vice-President-	L.E. Appel
Secretary -	Earl Katzenmeier
Treasurer -	Floyd Debus
Executive Members -	Ed Pfaff, R.C. Puddicombe, F. Milton.

A week after this organizational meeting it was announced that the new Turf Club would host the first Canadian Pacing Derby sponsored by the Canadian Harness Racing Association of Canada. Discussions had been ongoing for over a year for an event to promote harness racing. Earl Katzenmeier was the promoter for one day horse meets across the province. August 12th was the scheduled event. Alan Parsons, a horse-race owner from London, pledged \$2500 of his own money to guarantee the race. The members of the Turf Club put up \$500, which was personally guaranteed by members. Various local residents pledged \$188 to help cover the costs. Race day arrived and a large, enthusiastic crowd arrived despite the Hartman Bridge detour. (the bridge was being constructed). For the first time ever para-mutual betting was used and even though it was in the middle of the Depression \$8900 was waged. Final receipts showed \$3300. Twenty-five percent of the profit was given to the Park Board after payment of all the expenses. It left the Turf Club with \$1048 to help plan for the 1937 races. The Derby continued to be held in New Hamburg until 1957. It was the most important day race meet in Canada during that time. Crowds ranged from 8,000 to 15,000 over the years. The derby was won four times by the famous horse "Count B". A monument for this horse still remains in the park.

The Derby was often held in combination with other events on the Civic Holiday Weekend. In 1945 the race coincided with the V-J Day holiday celebrations. The 22nd running of the Derby was held in 1957 in conjunction with the centennial celebrations of the village of New Hamburg. This would prove to be the final running of the Canadian Pacing Derby in this place. The 1958 race was cancelled in July.. "for the time being..." due to the fact it was increasingly difficult to attract quality horses to attend a one-day meet. The Canadian Pacing Derby revived in 1956 at the Greenwood Track in Toronto where it is still run today.

Harness races continued to be run along with the fall fair. On August 7th, 1967 a Civic Holiday harness race meet was revived in New Hamburg ten years after the Derby was cancelled.

The Grandstand as a Landmark in New Hamburg

"One of the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest is the contextual value of property". The New Hamburg Grandstand is important in defining the character of an area. As has been noted, the grandstand has been a focal point for a variety of activities for well over one hundred years. Other aspects of the park area have come and gone. The Grandstand has remained a defining feature. Through those years, this structure has remained physically, functionally and historically linked to its surrounds. The New Hamburg Grandstand remains a landmark. Although no longer as readily visible to the traffic passing New Hamburg as it was in earlier years, it still remains a unique landmark for residents of the township as well as the visitors.