



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Corporate Services & Clerk

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Christina Hebert, Manager Committee & Community Services

Date to Council: October 9, 2018

Report Number: CS-2018-18

Subject: Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the Property Inventory of Potential Heritage Sites as prepared by the Heritage Committee, as at May 28, 2018, **be received**;

And that the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties Listing, **be adopted** to include the following:

- a. Lacasse Park, 590 Lacasse Boulevard
- b. St. Anne's Cemetery, 1521 Lesperance Road
- c. Tecumseh Area Historical Society [including Log Cabin and Sheds], 12350 Tecumseh Road;

And further that notice **be given** to the above-listed property owners advising them of their inclusion on the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties Listing.

Background

At the August 28, 2007 Regular Meeting of Council, the following motion (RCM-293/07) was passed:

That the Property Inventory as prepared by the Members of the Heritage Committee dated July 9, 2007, be received; and further, that the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties as prepared by the Members of the Heritage Committee dated July 9, 2007, be adopted; and furthermore, that notice be given to the property owners listed advising them of their inclusion on the Municipal Register, as recommended by the Deputy Clerk, under report dated August 15, 2007.

Accordingly, St. Anne's Church, located at 12233 Tecumseh Road and Baillargeon House, located at 12320 Tecumseh Road were added to the Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest Listing.

Subsequently, the Banwell Road Black Community Settlement Cemetery [previously referred to as the 'Smith Cemetery'] was designated to be of cultural heritage value or interest under the provision of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Act), on May 14, 2013.

To ensure continued preservation of the Town's heritage, the Heritage Committee has been reviewing its municipal heritage inventory in an effort to identify those properties which would merit from being included on Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest Listing.

Comments

Identifying properties of cultural heritage is an essential part of municipal heritage conservation. It is for this reason that the Heritage Committee has established a *Property Inventory* and has adopted a *Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties (Municipal Register)*.

A Property Inventory is not a requirement under the Act. It strictly acts as a tool for the Heritage Committee to list properties that have been identified as potentially having cultural heritage value or interest.

The Heritage Committee has been researching and compiling information on various properties within the municipality which may potentially be of cultural heritage value or interest and have identified same on the Property Inventory of Potential Heritage Sites, as at May 28, 2018. [Attachment 1](#)

The *Municipal Register* is the official list or record of cultural heritage properties that have been identified as being important to the community. Section 27 of the Act requires the Clerk of every municipality to keep a publicly accessible register of properties that are of cultural heritage value or interest situated in the municipality.

The register of heritage properties includes all properties in the municipality that are designated under Part IV (individual property designation) and Part V (within a designated heritage conservation district) of the Act.

The Act also allows a property that has not been designated but is believed to be of cultural heritage value or interest to be placed on the *Municipal Register*. This is commonly referred to as a *Listing*. A description sufficient to identify the property is all that is necessary to include a property on the *Listing*.

Listing, a mechanism instituted under subsection 27(1.2) of the Act, is the first step a municipality may take to formally identify and evaluate a property that may warrant some form of heritage conservation, recognition and/or long term protection such as designation.

Notwithstanding legislation does not require municipalities to list properties on the *Municipal Register*, listing is strongly recommended by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. A comprehensive *Municipal Register*, including both designated and listed properties, has the following benefits:

- Recognizes properties of cultural heritage value in a community.
- Fosters civic identity and pride by drawing attention to the heritage and development of a community.
- Promotes knowledge and enhances an understanding of a community's cultural heritage.
- Provides easily accessible information about cultural heritage value for land use planners, property owners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public.
- Provides interim protection for listed properties.

By providing a measure of interim protection from demolition, listing also serves as an important tool in planning for the conservation of non-designated properties as the Act requires owners of a listed property must provide the municipality with at least sixty (60) days notice of their intention to demolish or remove a building or structure on the property.

This provision thereby allows time for the municipality to determine whether to begin the designation process to give long-term protection to the property.


No other restrictions are placed on the property as a result of being listed on the *Municipal Register*. Property owners are still permitted to undertake site alterations, such as repairs, renovations and restorations, unless it results in demolition.


Municipal Council's approval is required before formally listing a property on the *Municipal Register*. Council must consult with its Heritage Committee before a decision is made to add a non-designated property or remove it from the *Municipal Register*.

Requests to list a property on the *Municipal Register* may come from property owners, municipal Heritage Committees, municipal heritage or planning staff, local historical societies or residents' associations.

The conservation of the Town's built and cultural heritage contributes to the understanding of our past and the rich history of the community.

In an ongoing effort to preserve the Town's heritage, the Heritage Committee recommends that Council approve the addition of the following properties to the *Municipal Register Listing (Attachment 2)* of non-designated properties:

Property	Address	Cultural Heritage Value	Photograph(s)
Lacasse Park	590 Lacasse Boulevard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1923, the Town acquired 23 acres of farm land from Percy Clapp. This park was later christened Memorial Park in 1947, with the grandstands built in 1949. In 1979, two years after Bert Lacasse's passing, the park was renamed Lacasse Park in honour of his commitment to baseball and the Town. The park has served as the original home of Tecumseh Baseball, with in its day, a unique feature of a grass infield. 	
St. Anne's Cemetery	1521 Lesperance Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Roman Catholic cemetery established by St. Anne's Parish. The oldest gravestone is dated April 15, 1861. The official benediction took place on July 24, 1927. 	

Property	Address	Cultural Heritage Value	Photograph(s)
Tecumseh Area Historical Society	12350 Tecumseh Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site of the original railroad yard of Great West Railway and current location of the Lesperance Log Cabin (circa 1799). The original railroad shed was relocated from the West side of Lesperance Road to its current location today. Currently serves as the site for the Tecumseh Area Historical Society which houses the historical records of Tecumseh, St. Clair Beach, Maidstone and Sandwich South. 	

A municipality is not required to consult with property owners or the public to list non-designated properties in the Register. However, notifying owners of the identified properties is recommended to advise of their inclusion on the *Municipal Register* and what that entails.

Additionally, the Heritage Committee has approached the Shoreline Week and the Essex Free Press in regards to developing monthly 'Heritage Committee News' articles to further help educate residents on the history of Tecumseh as well as the heritage designation process and the importance of heritage preservation.

The Shoreline Week has committed to providing a dedicated space for the monthly article and published at no cost to the Town. At this writing, a response is pending from Essex Free Press.

The monthly articles will bring a further awareness of the important role heritage plays within the community.

The continued, ongoing efforts of the Heritage Committee to identify, evaluate and conserve cultural heritage properties that have lasting cultural heritage value or interest to the community allows for the preservation of a community that is so deep and rich in heritage.

Consultations

Heritage Committee
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2017-18 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that the Town of Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of the Town of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable ☐

Website ☒ Social Media ☒ News Release ☐ Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Christina Hebert, BA (Hons), MA, Dipl. M.A.
Manager Committee & Community Services

Reviewed by:

Laura Moy, Dipl. M.M., CMMIII HR Professional
Director Corporate Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Tony Haddad, MSA, CMO, CPFA
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Property Inventory of Potential Heritage Sites
2	Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties Listing