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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY

BY-LAW NUMBER 115-2012

A By-law to amend By-law 90-1979, being a By-law to designate certain property known as "The Pagoda" pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Recitals

1. Pursuant to By-law 90-1979, the Council for The Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay designated property and structures known as the Pagoda, and municipally known as 170 Red River Road, in the City of Thunder Bay (hereinafter referred to as the "designating by-law").
2. Pursuant to Section 30.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the Council may amend the designating by-law to include criteria for determining the cultural heritage value or interest of the designated property and structures (hereinafter referred to as "designating criteria").
3. Council has determined that it is in the public interest to amend By-law 90-1979 to include designating criteria.
4. Council has deemed that The Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay, as the owner of the Pagoda, has received notice, as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*, of the proposed amendment to By-law 90-1979, and has no objection thereto.

ACCORDINGLY, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT By-law 90-1979 be and the same is hereby amended
 - (a) by deleting the legal description contained in section 2 and by substituting therefore the legal description contained in Schedule "A" attached to and forming part of this By-law, and
 - (b) by Schedule "B"- Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest of the Pagoda, attached to and forming part of this By-law as Schedule "A" to By-law 90-1979.


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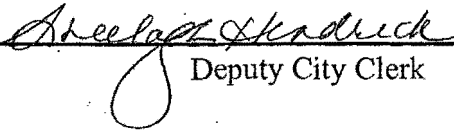
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2. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date it is passed.

Enacted and passed this 29th day of October, A.D. 2012 as witnessed by the Seal of the Corporation and the hands of its proper Officers.



ACTING Mayor



Deputy City Clerk

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY



Deputy City Clerk



By-law Number 115-2012

Schedule " A "
Legal Description

The Pagoda – 170 Red River Road

Part of Parcel 16454, Sec TBF SRO; Part Reserve A, PI Prince Arthur's Landing, McIntyre, as in PPA967, EXCEPT LPA8039, LPA8757, LPA24416, LPA49068 and Part 2, 55R-11225; Thunder Bay, being the part of PIN 62149-0094 (LT).



Schedule "B"

Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest of the Pagoda

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(forming Schedule "A" to By-law 90-1979)

Pagoda – 170 Red River Road

Architect: H. Russell Halton

Building description:

This octagonal brick structure in the Indian chatri style, is unique in Canada. The Pagoda features an ogee roof topped by a small bell shaped cupola supported by a balustrade. Both the ogee roof and bell-shaped dome were covered in fish scale-shaped copper roof shingles. A peristyle (or outer colonnade) of frame classical columns surrounds the building. Each wall face features one window, with the exception of the one to which the portico is attached, which features the entrance door. Four of these windows are large, segmentally arched, and feature frame panelling underneath.

A gable projecting from the roof frames a welcoming brick portico entrance that is flanked by two Ionic flat columns (pilasters). The side openings of the portico are segmentally arched. The portico also features an entablature with a tablet above featuring a beaver and maple leaves carved in relief from Bedford Indiana stone (sculpted by Mr. B. Jones of Stanworth-Martin co.) which adds a definitively Canadian stamp.

While the term 'pagoda' refers to an Oriental tiered tower with multiple eaves, the structure of the

Port Arthur Publicity Pagoda is more accurately a mix of Indian, Roman, Greek and Scandinavian influences. During the turn of the last century, at the time that the Pagoda was built, the term "pagoda" was also used to describe a "small ornamental building". The Pagoda is definitely reminiscent of garden follies and gatehouses popular at the time.

The property is designated for both its historical and architectural merit.

Notable architectural features:

- octagonal brick structure
- large, segmentally arched windows with wood frame panelling underneath
- peristyle of frame classical columns
- double curved ogee roof
- gable projecting from roof
- open belvedere topped with a bell-shaped dome
- fish scale-shaped copper roof shingles
- gable projecting from roof, framing portico entrance
- Ionic pilasters flanking portico entranceway
- entablature in portico, featuring beaver and maple leaves carved in relief
- architecturally and geographically distinctive.

Historical value:

Built in 1909, and officially opened in 1910, it is likely the oldest municipally owned structure in Canada, specifically constructed for the purpose of public relations. The Pagoda was intended to capture the attention of visitors to Port Arthur in order to promote the town's industrial and tourism advantages over the nearby (and rival at the time) town of Fort William. It was located at the head of the Great Lakes at a major transfer point for travel between east and west in Canada, near the terminus for both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways, passenger ships and road travellers.

In addition to being a tourist or publicity building, for a period of time during the early 20th century the Pagoda also operated as the office of the Industrial Commissioner. The building was referred to as "The Industrial Development & Publicity Bureau".

The Pagoda has been the topic of much controversy in the latter half of its lifespan. In 1961, the roof of the building (including the bell-shaped dome) was painted with large red, yellow, pink and blue polka dots by the local Jaycees, as a publicity stunt. Members of the community were surreptitiously involved in keeping the dots painted on the roof over the next couple of decades, while attempts to paint over the dots failed each time. The dots remained the source of debate over whether they should remain or the roof should be returned to its "original" solid colour. In 1989 the City of Thunder Bay (which was formed by the amalgamation of the towns of Port Arthur and Fort William) made the decision to paint over the polka dots, and painted the roof and bell shaped dome a solid green.

In 1986, the Pagoda was designated a National Historic Site by the government of Canada. The Ontario Heritage Trust has held a heritage conservation easement on this property since 1992. Canada's Historic Places has stated that the Pagoda "symbolizes the themes of civic boosterism and inter-city rivalry in the early 20th century."

Contextual value:

The Pagoda is a widely-known landmark in Thunder Bay and has been a major feature of the landscape near the waterfront of the Town of Port Arthur, and later the City of Thunder Bay, since it was constructed. As a tourism building, it was uniquely situated at the nexus of the terminus for passenger ships on the Great Lakes, the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways, and road travellers. The Pagoda is also a featured and promoted landmark through the Canadian Federal and Ontario Provincial Governments.

Prepared by Kimberly Costa
October 3, 2012

Final revised version as adopted by the
Heritage Advisory Committee
at its meeting held on October 3, 2012