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# TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

19M43 HIGHWAY NO. 3, P.O. BOX 40, WAINFLEET, ONTARIO L0S 1V0  
(905) 899-3463

RECEIVED  
JAN 15 2004  
CONSERVATION REVIEW  
BOARD

File: Heritage Designation Rathfon

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004

MS. RITA CALDARONE  
SECRETARY, HERITAGE POLICY &  
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT  
HERITAGE & LIBRARIES BRANCH  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
400 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
TORONTO, ON  
M7A 2R9

Dear Ms. Caldarone

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate  
Ontario Heritage Act  
Rathfon Inn**

The Township of Wainfleet Council passed a resolution to advertise the notice of intention to designate at their meeting held November 18, 2003.

The last day for objections was December 28, 2003 and no objections were received.

A copy of the Township report and notice of intention is provided for your information.

Yours truly,

Michael Higgins, MCIP RPP  
Planner/Deputy Clerk

MH/nd  
04-008

✓ Logged  
RL

## **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND  
IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION IN THE TOWNSHIP OF  
WAINFLEET IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet intends to designate the former Rathfon Inn located at 8L5 Lakeshore Road as a property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990 Chapter 0.18 Section 29.

### **SHORT STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION**

**RATHFON INN**  
8L5 Lakeshore Road  
Part of Lot 8, Concession 1  
Township of Wainfleet

#### **HISTORICAL:**

The property on which the original house is located was deeded from the Crown to Casper Ramey on May 16, 1798. A little more than 182 acres was sold to Michael Graybiel in 1804. Dates of construction for the original house vary from 1777 through 1805. Techniques used to build the house are consistent with a very early date. The stone house remained in the Graybiel family until 1874.

The Graybiels were politically well-connected in Upper Canada. During the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the house was associated with three men who were important in the history of Niagara, Ontario and Canada. The tradition that John Graves Simcoe, during his tenure as Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, visited the farm regularly to collect revenue from local tax collector, Michael Graybiel, has been reported in the Graybiel family history, newspaper articles about the Rathfon and promotional material for the Inn.

There is evidence linking the house to William Hamilton Merritt, founder of the first Welland Canal, and Governor General James Bruce, Lord Elgin, who is remembered as the Father of Responsible Government in Canada.

John Graybiel (Michael's son) was a Niagara District Magistrate and member of the District Municipal Council and had served Wainfleet Township over 25 years in various capacities of assessor, collector, commissioner and warden.

#### **ARCHITECTURAL:**

The style of the original stone house at the west end of the Rathfon building, while basically Georgian, is more that of a typical Pennsylvania Dutch (German) farmhouse of the area around Lancaster, Penna. The stonewalls are two feet thick and the structure is supported by huge white logs and attic beams joined with pegs.

The limestone wall, which surrounds the property with the exception of the lake side, was built by Bernard Hyman c. 1925-26 and has become a landmark in the area. The thick wall was set on a deep foundation and stones were hauled in, some by horse and wagon, to complete it.

Any person may object to the proposed designation within thirty days after the date of the publication of the Notice of Intention by severing on the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet a notice of objecting setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. The last day for filing objections will be December 28, 2003. All objections received within the aforementioned time period will be referred to the Heritage Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

Dated at the Township of Wainfleet this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003.

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A.C. GUILER, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES/CLERK

Township of Wainfleet  
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