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TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH

Engineering and Planning Services, Box 158, 24 Church Street West, Elmira, Ontario N3B 2Z6
Phone: 519-669-1647 or 1-877-969-0094 EMAIL: planning@woolwich.ca

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO AMEND HERITAGE BY-LAW 60-2007 (West Montrose Covered Bridge)

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Woolwich intends to amend By-law 60-2007 which designates the property being the West Montrose Covered Bridge, located on Covered Bridge Drive in West Montrose, Township of Woolwich, Region of Waterloo. An amending By-law is scheduled to be before Council for formal approval at its regular Council meeting to be held on November 19, 2024.

Description of Property

The West Montrose Covered Bridge is a late 19th century covered wooden bridge that spans the Grand River in the rural village of West Montrose. Connecting Hill Street, Covered Bridge Drive and Rivers Edge Drive, the bridge is just under 200 feet in length and covered with red-painted wood panelling and a gable roof.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The West Montrose Covered Bridge is the only remaining covered bridge in Ontario and the second oldest surviving bridge in the Region of Waterloo. It was designed by a local contractor, John Bear, who, with his brother Benjamin, constructed the bridge in 1881 as a replacement for an earlier open bridge at the same location. Originally, the bridge was constructed solely of wood. Over the course of more than a century, a number of improvements have been necessary to maintain the function and integrity of the bridge. The bridge materials today are a mix of wood, stone, asphalt, concrete and steel, representing not only the evolution of bridge technology but also the stewardship of the township, the region and the province. While the materials have been altered the original form of the bridge designed by John Bear has been largely maintained.

The 'Kissing Bridge', as it was appropriately nicknamed due to the intimacy and privacy that the covered bridge offered its travellers, is an iconic structure. It is a prominent and recognizable feature in arguably one of the most picturesque landscapes in Ontario. It is also representative of the early history of Woolwich Township and of an earlier time in the village.

Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments to the Heritage By-law include the following:

- The removal of the Bailey trusses and strengthening the existing wooden trusses;
- Repairs to the centre pier, abutments and structure;
- The removal and replacement of the exterior wood sheathing and interior wood panelling with similar vertical siding and panelling;
- Replacement of window louvres with similar wooden louvres; and
- The removal and replacement of shingled roof with new cedar shingles.

The proposed amendments to be **added** to the heritage attributes description are identified in bold and those to be deleted are underlined below:

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- The original truss configuration, a hybrid Queen Post – Howe timber configuration; reinforced by a recycled 1944 Bailey steel truss structure
- The **stone masonry** central pier
- The wood exterior **vertical siding sheathing** and interior **vertical sectional** panelling **located on the north and south ends of the bridge**, punctuated by louvered window openings
- **louvered wood window openings**
- The **wood** shingled gable roof

Additional information regarding the proposed amendments can be obtained from the Township office by contacting:

Sherwin Meloney, Planner
Township of Woolwich
Tel: 519-669-6033
smeloney@woolwich.ca

Any person may send by registered mail or deliver to the Development Services department of the Township of Woolwich notice of their objection to the proposed amending by-law together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Township of Woolwich will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

A copy of this notice has been provided to the property owner and Ontario Heritage Trust.

THE LAST DAY FOR FILING OBJECTIONS IS Friday October 18, 2024

Dated this 19th day of September, 2024