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# Thorold

August 16, 2010



Mr. Richard Moorhouse,  
Executive Director  
Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Mr. Moorhouse:

Re: Designation of the Decew-Young House  
2440 Decew Road  
Under Ontario Heritage Act - By-law No. 57-2010

Please be advised that Thorold City Council, at its June 1, 2010 meeting, adopted By-Law No. 57-2010 which designates the Decew-Young House, as being of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18. A Notice of the Passage of the By-Law was published in Niagara News on June 9, 2010.

In accordance with Section 28(6)(a)(ii) of the Act, we have enclosed a copy of the registered By-Law being SN288839 registered July 30, 2010 for your records.

We trust this is in order.

Yours truly,

Adele Arbour, MCIP, RPP,  
Director of Planning & Building Services

AA:em  
Attach.

cc: S. Daniels, City Clerk  
Denise Bradden, owner

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**City of Thorold**

P.O. Box 1044, 3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4A7

[www.thorold.com](http://www.thorold.com)

Tel: 905-227-6613

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD

BY-LAW NO. 57-2010

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE DECEW-YOUNG HOUSE,  
PART TOWNSHIP LOT 41, MUNICIPALLY KNOWN AS 2440 DECEW ROAD  
AS BEING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS:

1. Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate a property within the municipality including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest in accordance with the recommendation of Report PBS2010-20 adopted at a Special Council meeting held on April 6, 2010.
2. [REDACTED] owns the Lands.
3. Council has served a Notice of Intention upon the Owners of the Lands and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust providing Notice of Intention to designate The Decew-Young House of cultural heritage value or interest and has caused Notice of Intention to be published in Niagara News, a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.
4. No Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been served upon the City.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF  
THOROLD ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. In this by-law and its preambles:
  - (a) "Building" means any premises or structures on the Lands.
  - (b) "City" means the Corporation of the City of Thorold;
  - (c) "Council" means the Council of the City;
  - (d) "Designated" or "Designation" means the designation of the building known as "The DeCew-Young House" located on the north side of Decew Road, between the Decew House remains and the restored Morningstar Mill, Part Township Lot 41, municipally known as 2440 DeCew Road, in the City and located on the Lands, to be of cultural heritage value or interest, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Ch.O.18, as amended;
  - (e) "Lands" means lands and premises and buildings or improvements thereon, described in Schedule "A" annexed hereto and made part of this By-law;
  - (f) "Notice of Intention" means the Notice set out in Schedule "B" annexed to and made part of this By-law.
2. The building known as "The DeCew-Young House" and located on the Lands as such are described in Schedule "A" annexed to this By-law is Designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
3. The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law including a copy of the reasons for designation, as stated in Schedule "B" to this By-law, to be registered on the title to the Lands at the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Niagara South in the City of St. Catharines.

4. The Clerk of the City is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the Owners of the Lands and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause Notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City.
5. Amendments to Schedule "A" annexed to and made part of this By-law may be made by the Clerk of the City after passage of this By-law in order to register the By-law pursuant to Section 3 hereof.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED BY COUNCIL  
THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2010.

  
Henry D'Angela, Mayor

  
Susan Daniels, City Clerk

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**DESCRIPTION**

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Thorold, formerly the Town of Thorold, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, formerly the County of Welland, and being:

Lands described as Part Township Lot 41, municipally known as 2440 DeCew Road.

## SCHEDULE "B"

### 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 CITY OF THOROLD, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold intends to designate The Decew - Young House located at 2440 DeCew Road on the north side of Decew Road, between the Decew House remains and the restored Morningstar Mill, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 2005 Chapter 0.18, Section 29.

#### REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION:

The Decew - Young House  
2440 DeCew Road  
Part Township Lot 41  
Thorold, Ontario

The Decew - Young House is located at 2440 DeCew Road on the north side, west of Merrittville Highway.

#### Cultural Heritage Value

The fact that the building was built by John Decew gives it significance. It is located near two local heritage sites that were once part of the small community of Decew Town. About a quarter mile to the east are the remains of the Decew House (formerly John Decew's imposing stone house), and a half mile to the west is the restored Morningstar Mill at the picturesque Decew Falls. The Decew House was made famous by Laura Secord during the War of 1812, when she trekked from Queenston to warn Ltnt. James Fitzgibbon, the officer-in-charge of the military outpost there, of an impending attack by Americans.

#### Architectural Significance

The house is a one and one-half storey, three-bay Ontario Cottage of timber construction with a rubble stone basement. Decew Road follows the line of the former Mohawk Trail, an important east-west route used by native peoples above the Niagara Escarpment.

Within the east wing of the three-bay cottage, there is evidence of a smaller building, circa 1815. Built by John Decew, who purchased the land in 1812, this small timber-framed house may have been used to accommodate workers or a general store or blacksmith shop for the community of Decew Town. Philip Young and his wife Mary owned the property for more than 20 years and it was probably they who enlarged the house to its present three-bay, one and one-half storey configuration with a one storey kitchen wing to the rear. The exterior is clad in the original mid-nineteenth century clapboard (also known as weatherboarding) with decorative beaded corners and deep fascia boards below the eaves. The rubble stone basement contains evidence of an earlier c. 1815 structure, with full and hand-hewn half timbers. On the second floor there are a number of early nineteenth century details present, such as an opening for a ladder for access from the first floor, an interior wooden door with a Georgian Cross and Bible panel, folk faux oak graining on doors and mouldings and a very early c. 1800 Suffolk latch.

#### Historical Significance

John Decew was born in 1766 and arrived in the Niagara Peninsula about 1787. His ancestors were displaced Huguenots who had been forced to flee their homeland to escape persecution. The Decews went to England and eventually immigrated to America. Decew's father fought for the crown in the American Revolutionary War and the family later removed to Upper Canada. John did some surveying work and explored the area for a milling site. He acquired land on the Beaverdams branch of Twelve Mile creek on the brow of the Escarpment in Thorold Township and in 1792 built one of the first sawmills in the Nassau District of Upper Canada. He also built a log cabin and shortly after he added a linseed oil mill. In 1798 John married Catherine Docksteder in Niagara and they had 11 children. John served as assessor, collector and warden for Thorold Township. He was also a founding member in 1800 of the Niagara Library, the province's first circulating library, and a director of the Niagara Agricultural Society in 1804.

Decew's successful milling business enabled him to begin construction of a new stone house just north of his mills on the other side of the Mohawk Trail. War was declared and Decew assumed command of a company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln Militia. During the conflict his stone house was occupied by James Fitzgibbon and men of the 49<sup>th</sup> Regiment. It was to be this house that Laura Secord made her famous walk.

With the return of peace Decew set about expanding his milling operations. His other enterprises included a school, church, blacksmith shop, workers' houses, etc. and the settlement became a recognized hamlet called Decew Town. It was during this time that the original smaller, wood-framed cottage with the rubble stone basement found in the east wing of the three-bay house at 2440 Decew Road was constructed.

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available in the Planning and Building Services Department during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, 227-6613, 3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold.

Any person may object to the proposed designation within thirty (30) days after the date of the publication of the Notice of Intention by serving on the Clerk of the Corporation of the City of Thorold a notice of objection setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The last day for filing objections will be **Friday, May 14, 2010**. 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 City of Thorold this 14th day of April, 2010**

Susan Daniels, City Clerk  
Corporation of the City of Thorold  
P.O. Box 1044, 3540 Schmon Parkway  
Thorold, Ontario L2V 4A7