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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

This notice is to inform you of the Westport Municipal Heritage Committees intention to designate The Rideau District Museum in Westport Ontario as a heritage property under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Rideau District Museum: Legal Description: Lot One (1), South Side of Bedford Street, Range Five (5)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

The Rideau District Museum is a two storey museum, having opened its doors in 1961. This wooden barn like structure contains artifacts from all over the world, and is recognized as the only museum of its kind in the area.

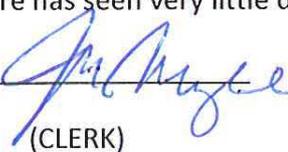
STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST:

One of the oldest buildings in Westport, the Museum, built in 1859, originally housed a furniture, coffin and boat manufacturer, operated by Conley and Truelove. Later, a blacksmith operated from the site, for nearly a hundred years. The original forges and bellows are still present. The wooden floorboards and beam support still stand from the date it was built.

The building itself is rich in family history as well. A number of prominent Westport family descendants once owned or operated out of the building. George Murphy, Jim McCann, Joseph Shillington and Ernie Menzies are just four of the former blacksmiths, all of which have descendants in the village. Artifacts within include Sally Grant, a wooden carved statue of justice that once stood atop the Brockville courthouse, a dump cart believed to be used in the construction of the Rideau Canal, and hearse windows from the hearse that Sir. John A. MacDonald's body was in. It is approaching its fiftieth year of operation, having been converted into a museum in 1961.

DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

Being rich in family history, the upper floor of the Rideau District Museum is devoted to living. When the blacksmith shop was operational, the blacksmith and his family lived upstairs. Two rooms demonstrate what living would have been like. Despite the fact that horses and carriages went through this building across the floors, the original hardwood floors still stand. Its original structure has seen very little damage or repairs over the years, and has maintained its stature.


(CLERK)

