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City of Welland
Legislative Services
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April 16, 2019

18-64

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto ON M5C 1J3

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
APR 18 2019
RECEIVED

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Proposed Designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act:
"Welland Canal Memorial Monument", located at Merritt Park & King Street

In accordance with the requirements of Section 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, as amended, enclosed herewith please find Notice of Intention to designate to above-referenced property under Part IV of the legislation.

For your reference, I have enclosed a copy of the Council motion and the background report prepared for the Heritage Welland Committee and City Council.

Yours very truly,

Tara Stephens
City Clerk

TS:lc

Enclosure

c. Ms. N. Reid, Secretary, City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee
Mr. J. Leitch, G.I.S. Coordinator

Bridging the past, present and future

Appendix I

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST WELLAND CANAL MEMORIAL MONUMENT MERRITT PARK, KING STREET, WELLAND ONTARIO

Description of Property

The Welland Canal Memorial Monument is located in Merritt Park on the west side of King Street. The footprint of the monument extends from a walkway leading into Merritt Park from King Street up to, around and including a fountain with a central motif of piled rocks and five life sized figural statues located around the fountain and on the walkway; a bench for seating next to one of the sculptural figures and three upright stone tablets with brass donor's plaques on the north side of the walkway.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Welland Canal Memorial Monument was built to commemorate the people of Canada and around the world who came to the Niagara Peninsula to build the Welland Canal. It was unveiled on September 27, 2001 and is a familiar landmark in the City. The monument was conceived as a project to help celebrate the millennial (the year 2000) by the Welland Heritage and Multicultural Centre, a local organization that assists newcomers to integrate into Canadian life and fosters cultural awareness and understanding among all citizens. It was funded by a federal grant from the Millenium Bureau of Canada along with donations from local businesses, organizations and citizens who "purchased" bricks in the walkway leading to and around the monument on which names of their families were etched.

The Welland Canal was central to the inception and growth of the City of Welland. The community came into existence when the aqueduct of the first Welland Canal was built to carry shipping traffic over the Welland River between 1831 and 1833 and a settlement grew up around the site. As the canal was expanded along with its importance as a transportation link, the community grew from village to town to city and became a centre of industry. This monument recognizes the workers who did the actual canal construction: "...the people whose sweat and blood built the canal..."

The monument is the work of well known local artist Bas Degroot, and bronze caster William Jurgenson, with many local contractors and City employees assisting in its construction. Degroot created many monumental artworks in the Netherlands and North America, including two large murals in Welland - "New World" and Canal Construction" - and the bronze figures of beavers at the Welland Bus Terminal.

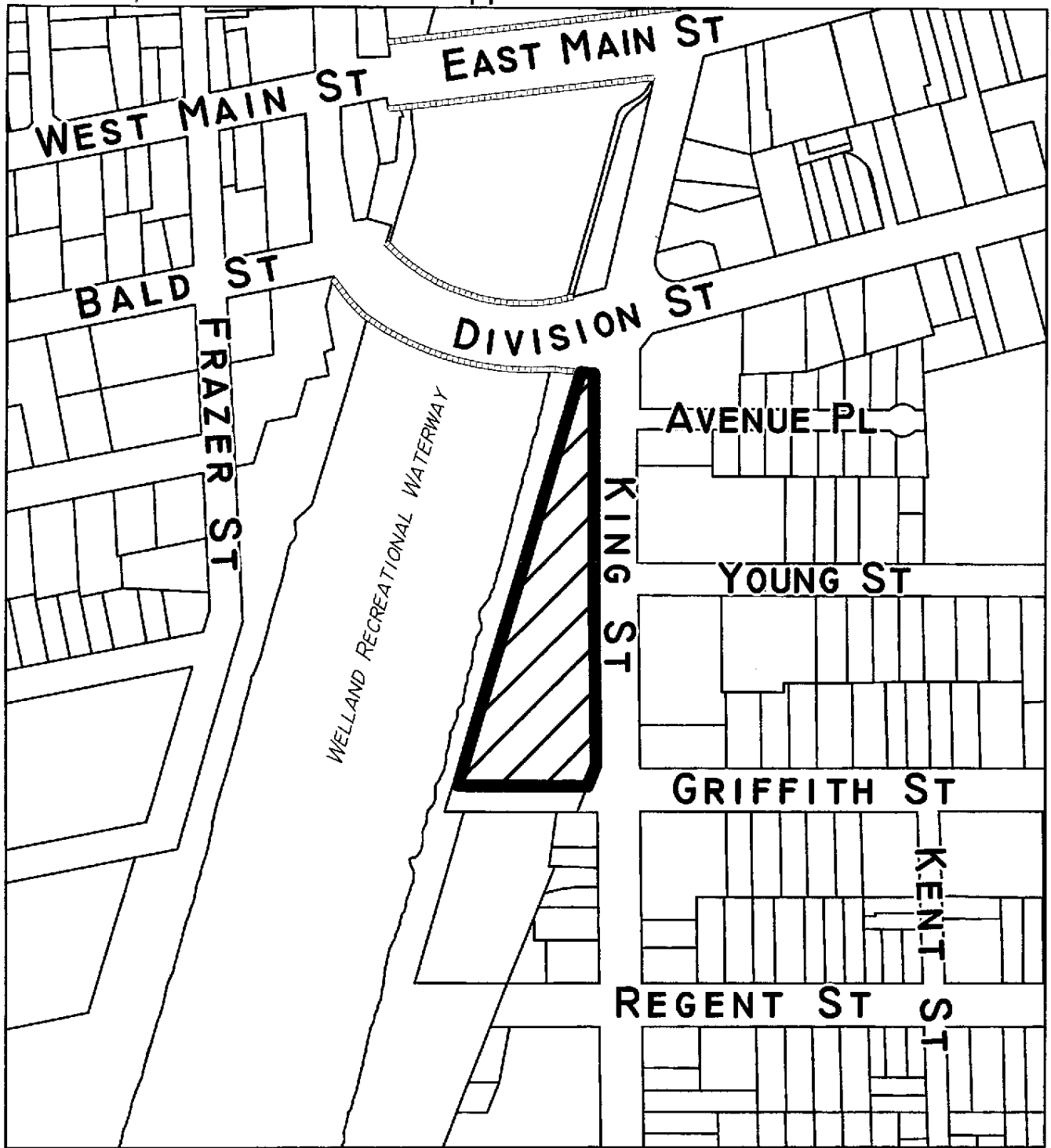
Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes of this structure that reflects its cultural heritage value to the City of Welland include:

- The location of the monument in Merritt Park adjacent to a section of the fourth Welland Canal, now a recreational waterway

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST
WELLAND CANAL MEMORIAL MONUMENT
MERRITT PARK, KING STREET, WELLAND ONTARIO

- The fountain with a central motif of piled rocks, a rock and cement wall surrounding the fountain and five life sized sitting and standing bronze figural statues surrounding and interacting with the fountain and rocks
- A bench for seating next to one of the sculptural figures at the edge of the fountain
- A walkway leading through Merritt Park from King Street up to and around the fountain made up of small pavers each inscribed with the donor's family name(s)
- Three upright stone tablets on the north side of the walkway, each bearing a bronze tablet facing the fountain inscribed with the names of financial supporters. The central stone tablet has a pointed arch top and a brass tablet with a curved top profile that features a motif of clasped hands circling a globe above the name of the monument and list of "gold" donors .



LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT LANDS



*Infrastructure and
Development Services
Planning Division*

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September 25, 2018