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Ontario Heritage Trust

City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

City Hall, P. O. Box 818, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W1

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

Notice of Intention to Designate: 15 Huron Street

Take notice that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford intends to designate 15 Huron Street as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29, of the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18*.

Description of Property

The subject lands are located on the west side of Huron Street, south of the Avon River and north of the Perth County Courthouse. The lands are known municipally as 15 Huron Street and are legally described as Plan 20 Part Block K Part Lot 581-584, Part Block Q, Concession 1 Part Lot 1 (Geographic Township of Downie), subject to easement, in the City of Stratford.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The subject property is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act because it meets 3 of the prescribed criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest, according to Ontario Regulation 9/06 as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22. The heritage attributes of 15 Huron Street display: design or physical, historical or associative, and contextual value.

The Shakespearean Gardens is of cultural heritage value as one of the only Shakespearean Gardens in Canada and represents the City's protection of parkland along the Avon River. Opened in 1936, the Gardens provide an invaluable example of the efforts of Stratford's Parks Board to create parkland in the City's downtown core, during a time of increased industrial pressures.

The Shakespearean Gardens also demonstrate a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit throughout. Designed by Dunnington-Grubb, and Stenson and featuring the work of Cleeve Horne, the Gardens provide significant contributions from Canadian Landscape architects and artists.

Being adjacent to the Avon River and the City's downtown Core, the Dufton Chimney has become a well-known landmark that has defined the City's waterfront parkland. The City has incorporated the Dufton Chimney alongside the Huron Street Bridge in its logo for over 20 years.

Design/Physical Value

The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit. Specifically, the design of the Gardens by Dunnington-Grubb, and Stenson, including the planting beds and stonework, and the bust of William Shakespeare sculpted by Cleeve Horne.

Historical or Associative Value

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community, specifically, R.T Orr and Stratford's Parks Board, as well as representing the City of Stratford's preservation and protection of parkland along Avon River.

Contextual Value

The property has contextual value because it is a landmark, specifically its proximity to the Avon River and the City's downtown core, and the Dufton Chimney, as the last remaining physical structure from the Dufton Woolen Mill and being incorporated into the City of Stratford's logo for the past 20 years.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following attributes of the Shakesperean Gardens located at 15 Huron Street should be considered as heritage attributes in a designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act:

- a) Dufton Chimney Tower and features; including the top structure with weathervane
- b) Original stone walls throughout the garden design
- c) Huron Street covered lychgate
- d) Knot Garden
- e) Herb Garden
- f) Rose Garden
- g) Perennial Border Garden
- h) Walkway lamp lighting
- i) Sundial within the confines of the Garden
- j) Bust of William Shakespeare

These attributes of the Garden reflect its value as an important representation of the City of Stratford's history and are excellent examples of the artistic craftsmanship incorporated into its design and the Gardens legacy as a landmark within the City.

Notice of Objection

Any person may send a notice of objection to this proposed designation, before 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2024. This notice must be sent by registered mail or delivered to the Clerk of the City of Stratford and must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the City of Stratford shall consider the objection and make a decision whether or not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property within 90 days after the end of the 30-day objection period. If Council decides not to withdraw its intention to designate, a heritage designation by-law must be passed within 120 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate. Council must publish a notice of passing of the designation by-law which is followed by a 30-day appeal period when appeals of the by-law may be given to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a hearing and decision.

For more information

Alexander Burnett, Planner
Planning Services, 519-271-0250 extension 5320
planning@stratford.ca

Dated at the City of Stratford this 23rd day of December, 2024.

Tatiana Dafoe,
City Clerk