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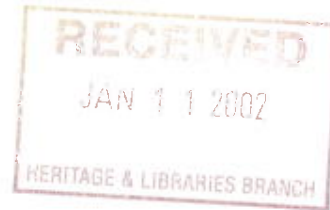


District of Muskoka

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA LAKES

P.O. Box 129, Port Carling, Ontario P0B 1J0
Website: www.township.muskokalakes.on.ca

Phone: 705-765-3156
Fax: 705-765-6755



January 8th, 2002

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Heritage and Libraries Branch
400 University Avenue, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Attention: Rita Calderone

Reference: Burgess Memorial Church

Dear Ms. Calderone,

Please find enclosed the Notice of Intention to Designate for the property known as Burgess Memorial Church in Bala, Township of Muskoka Lakes.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Wendy Oliver at the above number.

Yours truly,

J. W. McDivitt, A.M.C.T.
Clerk Administrator

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Muskoka Lakes – Land of Blue Skies and Clear Waters

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
1974, S.O. Chapter 122

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES
AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS (ES) IN
THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE



TO: Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Heritage and Libraries Branch
Attention Rita Calderone
400 University Avenue, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Muskoka Lakes intends to designate the property (properties), including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address (es) as a property (properties) of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S.O. Chapter 122.

The Burgess Memorial Church, built in 1926 on Bala Falls Road, is recommended for designation for architectural reasons as it is a beautiful example of a simple Gothic church built in Muskoka in the early 20th century. Gordon Ing, whose initials are carved in the mortar on the east side, built the Church without the benefit of an architect's plan. Elements of the Gothic style are evident in the pointed arch-shaped windows, gable roof and decorative bargeboard.

Of particular interest is the fact that local and seasonal residents were encouraged to bring stones for the construction. As a result, the uncoursed fieldstone exterior includes rocks of all shapes and sizes from as far away as the United States.

The six-over-six sash windows in the lower level are surmounted with concrete hood mould or dripstone. The yellow pebble glass in the nave windows is original. Porthole windows in the nave and terra-cotta roof tiles on the entrance and on the windowsills give the church a picturesque charm befitting its prominent location on Portage Island in the Moon River, next to the Bala Falls.

The church is named after the founder of Bala, Thomas W. Burgess, who arrived in the area in 1868. It owes its existence to Presbyterians who did not accept the 1925 union of the Methodist and Presbyterian faiths and the designation of Bala's original Presbyterian church as a United Church. The Burgess Memorial Church was built on land owned by the Thomas Burgess estate.

In August 1964, the board of the Presbyterian Church sold the building to Shirley and Thomas Linke. The church was used as a Baptist Church during the Linkes' ownership. Known as the Stone Church by many, the Burgess Memorial Church is a prominent

landmark of historical significance. In the summer of 2000 the church was decommissioned and has been rezoned for commercial use in October 2000. The retention of the existing exterior features is recommended to preserve the character of Bala's streetscape."

From the above statements of our reasons for designation, the specific parts of the property we believe should be protected are:

- builder's initials on the east face
- uncoursed fieldstone exterior
- six-over-six sash windows in the lower level
- multi-paned arch-shaped windows in main level (nave)
- decorative concrete hood mould over basement windows
- porthole windows
- terra-cotta roof tiles on entrance and windowsills
- bargeboard on gable ends of building

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Township of Muskoka Lakes before the 18th day of February, 2002.

Dated at Township of Muskoka Lakes, Port Carling
this 8th day of January, 2002.

Clerk 