



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

OCT 28 2011

RECEIVED

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND**  
**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE UNDER SECTION 29**  
**OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

---

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound intends to pass a By-law to designate a property located at 17 George Street to be of cultural heritage value or interest (Tower Hill Garden).

**Property Description:**

17 George Street, Parry Sound, Parts 1 and 2, Plan 42R-19490.

The Tower Hill Garden sits at the top of George Street adjacent to the West Parry Sound District Museum. It is part of a large tract of undeveloped property owned by the Town of Parry Sound on Tower Hill. The portion of the property being proposed for designation as a Cultural Heritage Landscape is the part that is currently maintained by the Town as a parkland garden plus a fifty foot zone of wooded area along the edge which is not bounded by George Street or the museum driveway.

**Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

Although this park and garden is only one of many parks maintained by the Town it holds a special place in the hearts of many Parry Sound citizens. The garden is unique in Ontario. It owes its existence and development in the years 1927 to 1934 at the base of a fire observation tower to will and whimsy. The fire tower was part of a forest fire detection system required to protect the essential forest resource on which the economy of the area depended. However, the District Forester at the time realized that tourism was also a contributing factor to the well being of that economy so he convinced his superiors to have the observation tower built so that the public could access it. He had the fire crews create ornamental gardens around its base. By the time the department of lands and forests knew it, they were custodians of Parry Sound's major tourism attraction with about 4,000 visitors a year in the early 1930's.

The Tower provides a stunning view of the Town of Parry Sound, the mouth of the Seguin River and the surrounding natural landscape that is representative of the Thirty Thousand Islands. Although the gardens are no longer filled with flowers of yesteryear, they provide a green and shady spot for a rest after climbing down from the tower or a stroll and a picnic lunch after a visit to the museum. The bond between the people of Parry Sound and the waters of Georgian Bay can be demonstrated by the collection of weatherworn rocks assembled to create a raised garden bed circling the base of the tower.

**Heritage Attributes:**

All stonework, rocks and boulders located within the specified boundary;

Retaining walls, rubble walls, flagstone paths;

Sundial base and foundation;

Pond with surrounding flagstone decking and foundation stonework;

Observation tower and model of old fire tower;

Ranger cabin;

Town centennial time capsule monument;

Trees and plantings are not included as individual specimens but as a whole to maintain the "spirit and sense of place" of the garden and to allow for restoration and/or adaptive reuse of the garden setting as determined by stakeholders and Town Council.

**AND TAKE NOTICE** that any person or agency who objects to this proposed designation may no later than November 25, 2011, serve on the Clerk of the Town of Parry Sound a notice of objection setting out the reason for objection and all relevant facts.

DATED AT PARRY SOUND THIS 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2011.

Mr. Rob Mens, Clerk  
Town of Parry Sound  
52 Seguin Street  
Parry Sound, Ontario  
P2A 1B4  
Telephone #705-746-2101