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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST JUN 082009 RECEIVED



Corporation of the Town of St. Marys Box 998, St. Marys ON N4X 1B6

June 3, 2009

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



To whom it may concern:

# Re: Designation of property of architectural and heritage significance.

Please be advised that Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys has published a notice of intent to designate the property at Block 2 and Block A, east side Church Street South, north side Elizabeth Street, west side Peel Street South in the Town of St. Marys, Ontario, known as St. Marys Central School.

Please find enclosed a copy of the published Notice of Intent to Designate and the Statements of Designation.

Yours truly,

Mary A. Smith, Administrative Liaison for Heritage St. Marys

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### 262 Public Notices

## **170** Apartments for Rent

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### 212 Recreation Vehicles

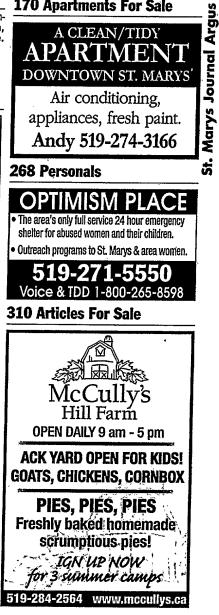
2005 WILDWOOD TRAILER, 29 FT. like new, sleeps 6 comfortably, separate bed-room, 3 pc bath, stove, fridge, furnace, Ř a/c, 10 x 24 deck, wood storage shed with lighting. Located at Wildwood Conservation (Upper Thames) near town of St. Marys. Lot 75, fees paid. Lake and boat docking. \$19,500. Call 519-743-1643 or email louiseirene2@yahoo.ca. ကဲ June

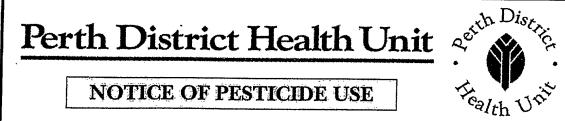
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### 261 Legal Services

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Between June 8 and September 80, 9000 the Torm of St. M.



# NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PLACE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE

Notice is herby given that the Council of the Separated Town of St. Marys intends to designate as a place of architectural and historical value the following property in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, Section 29, Part IV:

St. Marys Central School Block 2 and Block A, east side Church Street South, north side Elizabeth Street, west side Peel Street South in the town of St. Marys, Ontario.

Built in 1914 replacing an earlier school on the same site, St. Marys Central School has served generations of local school children. Central School is the largest stone structure in St. Marys, a Town that has a collection of several dozen stone buildings. It is important as the last example of institutional (even domestic) limestone construction in St. Marys. Its exterior features are remarkable and remain in excellent repair. Specific features to be designated include the stonework, concrete door surrounds and original fenestration.

Detailed reasons for designation of this property can be seen or obtained from the office of Robert Brindley, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of St. Marys, Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6 during normal office hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.)

Any person who objects to this intended designation must within 30 days of the publication of this notice serve on the CAO a notice of objection in writing, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The Ontario Heritage Act provides that where a notice of objection has been served, the Council shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated as St. Marys, Ontario, this 3rd day of June 2009.

Signed: Robert Brindley CAO Clerk

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# St. Marys Central School: Statements of Designation

# **Summary of Reasons for Designation:**

- 1. **Historic context**: Central School, the second building of this name on this site, stands as a symbol of the evolution of public education in this municipality from 1845 to the modern day.
- 2. Associative: Generations of St. Marys children attended elementary school in this building, some going on to careers in education themselves and many to other vital professions and trades within this community and beyond its boundaries.
- 3. Architectural: Even without the historic and associative values, the Central School building has its own significance as a fine example of early 20th century institutional architecture. It is important to note that it is the last in a long line of public buildings in St. Marys to be constructed of locally quarried limestone.

# **Identification of Property:**

Central School's street address is 189 Elizabeth Street. The legal description is Block 2 and Block A, east side Church Street South, north side Elizabeth Street, west side Peel Street South, in the Town of St. Marys. Its construction in 1914 is well documented with many original letters from the architect, subcontracts and other documents available for reference in the archives at the St. Marys Museum.

The original owner of the Central School building and its surrounding property was the St. Marys Public School Board. It is currently owned by the Avon Maitland District School Board.

# Statement of Cultural and Heritage Value and Interest

**Historic Context:** The history of early public elementary education in St. Marys is well recorded, thanks to an analysis of the minutes of the Public School Board, written and published in booklet form ca. 1911 by Dr. J. R. Stanley, a local physician, long-serving member of the school board and, some years later, mayor of St. Marys in 1926 and 1927.

The first St. Marys public (or common) school was constructed in 1845, a rectangular limestone building on the southwest corner of Queen and James Streets. The first teacher was Gordon Meighen, a recent immigrant from Ireland, who taught while accumulating the resources to begin life as a farmer in Blanshard Township. Approximately 75 years later, Gordon's grandson, Arthur Meighen, would become Canada's ninth Prime Minister.

The one-room stone school on James Street was soon over-crowded and a second building nearby on Jones Street East was acquired for the education of the girls of the village. In 1855, the girls' classes were transferred to the second floor of a new Town Hall on Water Street. The town jail cells were on the ground floor of this multi-purpose municipal building – hence the name: Lock-up School.

However, the population of the town was growing and soon the trustees declared these two buildings unsuitable for school purposes. In 1856, the site for the construction of a larger, more geographically

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