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ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

AUG 14 2006
RECEIVED

Township of Springwater

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Midhurst, Ontario L0L 1X0

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VIA CANADA POST

August 11, 2006

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

Dear Sir / Madam:

**RE: DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC EASTERN LARCH (McGUIRE TREE)
2 AMELIA STREET, ELMVALE**

I am writing to advise that the Township of Springwater (via the Springwater Heritage Committee) is moving forward with the designation of an historic Eastern Larch tree under Part IV the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Notice of Intent was issued to the public via an advertisement in the *Springwater News* newspaper on August 10, 2006, and direct notification was issued to the property owner, [REDACTED]. Barring any formal objections, the designation by-law will be considered by Township Council on September 18, 2006. Please accept this letter as our notice to the Ontario Heritage Trust as required under section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

In the event that you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to contact me at (705) 728-4784 ext. 2039 or cbegley@springwater.ca.

Sincerely,

Conor P. Begley, B.A., D.P.A.
Research & Policy Analyst

Encl.



NOTICE OF INTENT
Under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Springwater intends to pass a By-law under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

THE PURPOSE of the By-law is to designate the "McGuire Tree" Eastern Larch (*Larix laricina*) located at 2 Amelia Street, Elmvale as a historically significant feature in the Township of Springwater. The reasons for designation include its uniqueness as one of the largest Eastern Larch (Tamarack) trees in Ontario. The McGuire tree is believed to have been planted in the 1870s. In October 1979, the tree was approximately 100 years old and had the following measurements:

- ◆ Girth 8'3"
- ◆ Diameter 31.5" (measured 4" from the ground)
- ◆ Height 59.5'
- ◆ Average Crown Spread 42.5'

A COPY OF THE DESIGNATION BY-LAW together with the Reasons for Designation are posted at the Township Offices (Midhurst), Knox Building (Elmvale), the three branches of the Springwater Library and the Township website at www.springwater.ca.

ANY PERSON who objects to the passage of this designation by-law shall file a written objection with the Township Clerk by not later than 12:00 noon on the 13th day of September 2006. If no objection is received, this by-law will come forward for passage at the Regular Council Meeting to be held on September 18th, 2006.

Dated at Midhurst, Ontario, this 10th day of August, 2006.

Carey deGorter, Clerk
Lower East Wing, Simcoe County Administration Centre
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst ON L0L 1X0
(705) 728-4784 ext. 2015



McGuire Tree –Eastern Larch (*Larix laricina*)

Historical Background

The "McGuire Tree" is located on private property in front of the residence located at 2 Amelia Street, Elmvale (formerly 8 Amelia Street). This tree is believed to be one of the largest Eastern Larch (Tamarack) trees in Ontario. It survived a serious outbreak of larch sawfly that plagued the area during the years 1895 to 1912. The reason for its survival may have been the fact that it was a single tree distant from others in the area.

The Eastern Larch (*Larix laricina*) is the only deciduous conifer that is native to Ontario. It often goes by the common names of Tamarack and American Larch. The tree turns a beautiful yellow in fall before the needles drop by winter. Specimens found in the open may grow to 70 feet tall by 20 feet wide, with a narrowly pyramidal growth habit. As a member of the Pine Family, it is related to other Larches, as well as the Firs, Spruces, Pines, and Hemlocks.

The McGuire tree is believed to have been planted in the 1870s. In October 1979, the tree was approximately 100 years old and had the following measurements:

Girth 8'3"

Diameter 31.5" (measured 4" from the ground)

Height 59.5'

Average Crown Spread 42.5'

The tree is recorded as having been planted by William "Miner Bill" Ritchie (1842 -1929). Miner Bill, so called because of 13 years as a carpenter in the mines in Sudbury, and to distinguish himself from other William Ritchies in the Elmvale area, had a business arrangement with his father-in-law, who operated a saw mill on the banks of the Wye River. Many of the homes and barns in the Elmvale area were built by Miner Bill Ritchie.

The house located at 2 Amelia Street, Elmvale was built by the McGuires at this prominent location on the corner of Queen Street West and Amelia Street during World War I, in 1915. The cost of building the house was \$5,000.00.

William J. and Mary McGuire were married in Elmvale in 1905 and had a drug store on the main street of the village. Mrs. McGuire's parents, the Masons, lived next door on Amelia Street and both homes were built at the same time. A single driveway and artesian well serviced both homes. Donald McGuire, the son of William J. and Mary took over his parents' original pharmacy and later built a new pharmacy across the street. The Whitfield Pharmacy operates today at this same location.

Some of the features of the McGuire house include:

- * Bomb shelter under the porch with reinforced walls and ceiling
- * Four bedrooms on upper floor
- * Sun porch on second storey
- * Approximately 8" baseboards
- * Oak woodwork in dining room
- * Mahogany woodwork in living room
- * Southern birch (Georgia birch) used for all woodwork in the central hall
- * Beveled edge on glass in long window by the porch
- * Stained glass panels above window in south side and den (front room) and box hall
- * Original dumb waiter to the root cellar, now steps
- * Artesian flow from the house next door (6 Amelia Street) south to 2 Amelia Street was used as a refrigerator in the basement to keep food cool

Designated Features:

Eastern Larch (*Larix laricina*) located at the edge of the property.

The McGuire house is not being designated at this time.