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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

DEC 17 2013

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN

PUBLIC NOTICE

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The Corporation of the Township of Severn hereby gives public notice under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* of the passage of By-law No. 2013-92 to designate the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum property to be of cultural heritage value or interest.

A copy of the By-law is available at the Township of Severn Administration Office or Township website at [www.townshipofsevern.com](http://www.townshipofsevern.com)

Andrew Plunkett, Clerk-Treasurer  
1024 Hurlwood Lane, P.O. Box 159  
Orillia, Ontario – L3V 6J3

[aplunkett@townshipofsevern.com](mailto:aplunkett@townshipofsevern.com)  
(705) 325-2315 – Ext. 233

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN

BY-LAW NO. 2013-92

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE COLDWATER CANADIANA HERITAGE MUSEUM PROPERTY TO BE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST (1474 Woodrow Road)

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WHEREAS the *Ontario Heritage Act*, as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact By-laws to designate real property including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Severn (the "Township") has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known as the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum property more particularly described in Schedule "B" attached hereto is hereby designated a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. That the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to comply with Section 29(6) of the said Ontario Heritage Act.

By-law read a first and second time this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.

By-law read a third time and finally passed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.

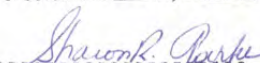
CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN

  
MAYOR

  
CLERK-TREASURER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THIS DOCUMENT TO BE A TRUE COPY OF  
BY - LAW NUMBER 2013-92 AS ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN, ON  
THE 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December 2013

Dated at the Township of Severn this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2013

  
DEPUTY CLERK



## COLDWATER CANADIANA HERITAGE MUSEUM

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### Historical Significance

The Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum is located at 1474 Woodrow Road in the Township of Severn. When visiting the Museum, "History Comes to Life" amid rich artifacts including restored buildings and tales from the past.

### Woodrow Homestead

The original log home of the Woodrow Family is an excellent example of workmanship of our pioneering forefathers. Built in 1835, the skillet hanging by the fireplace was originally used by the family. Today, many local residents trace their ancestry back to this homestead.

In the 1830's, Andrew Archibald Woodrow immigrated to Canada from his Scottish Highland home in Islay. Archibald and his wife Catherine and daughter Catherine, settled on a parcel of land located in the East Half of Lot 21, Concession 11 in the unincorporated Township of Medonte. A small one-room cabin with a loft complete with a magnificent stone fireplace was soon erected. Shortly after, he added a barn.

In 1840, the Woodrows settled in Upper Canada at the present location of the Homestead. It was from this period they began to farm the land and help to establish a community of early settlers. Land records show Archibald Woodrow did not purchase the 100 acres until July 12, 1852 when the Province of Canada sold the land to him for 43 pounds, 15 shillings.

The farm prospered as in 1864 a large 1 ½ storey squared log home with a dug cellar was attached to the front of the original homestead. The new "addition" was larger than the original house and provided additional space for a family with 10 children. The new addition, although built of log, was well constructed and incorporated a very large elaborate front door case and 12 over 12 pane downstairs windows into its design.

Neither feature is usually found in log homes of this period principally because such architectural elements could only be procured from skilled craftsmen at a high than average price. The use of such a door case and windows in the Woodrow Homestead indicates the family was reasonably comfortable financially.

From 1864 onward, the house did not undergo any further renovations and remains to this day in essentially the same form. Over the years, some minor modifications were made reflecting changing times and to accommodate different uses of the house. These changes have compromised the original interior. For example, a pine floor has replaced the original stone floor in the fire place room, a modest kitchen was installed at the rear end of the dining room with the addition of a wall separating the two areas, as well as an opening was made between the two south upstairs bedrooms.

In 1875, the family added narrow clapboard siding to the house in an attempt to hide the pioneer log construction. During this time, metal shingles replaced the original cedar shingles.

Following Archibald's death in March 1885, the property passed to his wife Catherine and was later transferred by inheritance to their son Alexander (Sandy) Woodrow. In 1944, the house and property passed through the ownership of Victor Turner and Arthur Johnston. In 1966, the property was acquired by the Coldwater Canadiana, a group of individuals dedicated to restoring the home as a museum of early Canadian life.

### Museum Grounds / Additional Buildings

It was during this time that the property was increased to 6.5 acres with the acquisition of land on the corner of Highway 12 and Woodrow Road.

## Schedule "A" to By-law No. 2013-92 (cont'd)

During this period to present, several out buildings from neighbouring farms were moved to the property. These are:

- (a) Display Barn – housing examples of early businesses of Coldwater as well as a model of the Coldwater Municipal Office;
- (b) The Eady Slaughter House;
- (c) Carriage Barn;
- (d) Black Smith Shop;
- (e) Railroad Side Station;
- (f) General Store;
- (g) Coldwater Fire Hall;
- (h) Vasey Union School;
- (i) Print Shop;
- (j) Boathouse

The above-noted buildings have historical significance as follows:

(a) Display Barn

This building was moved to the Museum property from a local farm and is circa late 1800's and houses examples of local businesses from the community of Coldwater. The building is comprised of the original poles, barn board siding and steel roof which is unique from the 1800's.

The businesses on display were terminated and the contents donated to the Museum. In this building are examples of a Barrel Hoop business, a women's hairdressing salon, a barbershop, a shoe repair and harness business, a laundry, a carpentry shop as well as the contents of the original Coldwater Municipal Office prior to Severn Township. All of these sample businesses are historical to the Coldwater area and provide an insight into "life in the past".

(b) Eady Slaughter House

This is a unique building for this Museum as it is a Slaughter House moved on site from the community of Eady. The building is a barn structure with the original wood floor and blood sluice for drainage which was operational in the 1930's prior to electricity. The barn was originally located across from the Eady Community Hall and was an organized local beef ring used until the 1960's prior to moving to the Museum. This building not only contains a large lifting mechanism for the livestock, but also a collection from the original Coldwater Dairy. The Slaughter House is an important addition for early communities.

(c) Carriage Barn

Now under renovation to include the restore the proper foundation, original barn board siding and steel roof, the Carriage Barn was built in 1890 and is a fine example of a pole barn drive shed. It will house our collection of Leatherdale Carriages (a local business) and several other modes of early transportation. This includes one two wheel and one four wheel Leatherdale carriages.

(d) Black Smith Shop

This building was once a local storage shed converted to house the Black Smith Shop. It houses a working forge as well as many fine examples of equipment once used in local Smithy's such as were located at the Chimney's just outside the former Village of Coldwater. The black smith shop shows a fine sample of the manufacturing of local implements and tools.



## Schedule "A" to By-law No. 2013-92 (cont'd)

(e) Railroad Side Station

This small building was once the original railroad side station located beside the CPR tracks and would stop if there was a passenger waiting to travel to Orillia, Barrie, Midland or Toronto. The red paint on the building is original to the structure. This building was not manned at that time and a comparable building today would be a bus shelter. Within this building is a collection of early steam memorabilia including the original equipment, blackboard for the train schedule, photos of the history of steam engines, signal lights and coal shuttle.

(f) General Store

The contents of the General Store came from a local business which also housed the original Post Office. During the years, several artifacts have been donated to the store from area residents. The General Store is attached to the Community Display Barn on site.

(g) Coldwater Fire Hall

Built by the volunteers of the Coldwater Museum and the Coldwater Volunteer Firefighters in 1993, this building houses the two original fire trucks used by the former Village of Coldwater as well as a selection of memories from the early days in the Village. The Museum has also obtained two fire reels once pulled to the fire by the Firefighter. These were received from the Huronia Hospital Fire Station and a local citizen who realized their historic significance.

The fire trucks housed in this building are as follows:

**1945 GMC – Yellow Ladder Truck**

- Includes original uniforms and equipment
- 2 hose reels from the Huronia Recreation Centre (HRC) which were transported by manpower to the fire

**1948 Ford Truck**

- bought and transformed into a fire truck from a flatbed farm truck
- a local mortician (Robinson) constructed the wooden box, hose reels and water tank as the Village could not afford a new truck at that time

(h) Vasey Union School

Circa 1880's, this school was opened during the 2010 season and contains several texts, furnishings and memorabilia from local community schools. In this building is the original iron school bell which was in the first brick building in the former Village of Coldwater – the Public School. The building is comprised of the original barn board siding and steel roof. It was also originally a drive shed converted into a school.

(i) Print Shop

The Print Shop was once a small private store within the Village of Coldwater and was located where the BP Station is now. There is a small living space in the attic for the proprietor. Within the Print Shop we have two working print presses and a fine collection of moveable print all donated from the original printing business of Plant Print in Coldwater (circa 1900's) and several owners since then.

(j) Boathouse

Completed in 2011 at a cost of \$10,000 is a dry Boathouse which will house Vic Connors' MB. Vic Connors was a local citizen who was significant in the development of the Severn Hydro Station. He used the MB as an Ice Breaker in delivering mail and supplies to the residents along the Severn River.

#### **Schedule "A" to By-law No. 2013-92 (cont'd)**

The Woodrow Homestead and the outlying buildings are historically significant with the homestead being exceptional architecturally because it is one of a few pioneer log homes in the area which has remained in its original location. Each additional outbuilding is historically significant to the area near the former Village of Coldwater and provide an educational look back to the "days gone by" for local residents and visitors.

In 2010, the Museum also constructed a 800 foot riverwalk with Heritage and Butterfly Gardens. The trail winds itself from the front gate of the property along the historic Coldwater River to Highway 12. In 2011, washroom facilities were also added as a welcome addition. In the washrooms, visitors will find some local artifacts including the original TD bank safe from the Village of Coldwater.

Owned and operated by a non-profit corporation, there is no better way to spend an afternoon than exploring the rich history of the area including the homestead with original furnishings and great reminders of our settlers, local businesses, modes of transportation and much, much more.

**SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NO. 2013-92**

PT NE1/2 LT 21, CON 11, MEDONTE AS IN RO235006 & RO763463; SEVERN - BEING ALL OF PIN 58519-0233 (LT).