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November 6, 2023

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Ontario Heritage Trust

File: 12-04

City Clerk
The Corporation of the City of Oshawa
50 Centre Street South
Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate
110 Simcoe Street South (Memorial Park)**

Pursuant to Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Oshawa intends to designate the following property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest:

110 Simcoe Street South, described as: LOTS 1 TO 12, BLOCK K, PLAN H50004 OSHAWA.

1. Location and Description of Property:

The property municipally known as 110 Simcoe Street South, site of Memorial Park, is located in downtown Oshawa and is bounded to the north by Metcalfe Street, to the east by Simcoe Street North, to the south by John Street West, and to the east by Centre Street South. The subject property is comprised of a flat open space with various built public features and landscaped elements, unveiled in 1924.

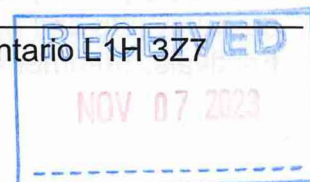
2. Legal Description:

The property at 110 Simcoe Street South to be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18 is legally described as:

LOTS 1 TO 12, BLOCK K, PLAN H50004 OSHAWA.

3. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

Memorial Park has physical value as a representative example of an urban public park built for the citizens of Oshawa. As its name indicates, Memorial Park contains several built features within the landscape which recognize and commemorate veterans and those who have been impacted by and/or have a connection to wartime events. This is primarily expressed in the 1924 War Memorial/Cenotaph and the surrounding designed landscape. The construction of the memorial was championed by Dr. T.E. Kaiser, with a cenotaph design by noted English-Canadian sculptor Alfred Howell and constructed by Mr. McIntosh Bros of Toronto. The memorial is constructed with stones collected from each battlefield with Canadian casualties during WWI (including Ypres, Vimy Ridge, St. Julien, Passchendaele, Arras, Rheims, Louvain and Mons), a piece of marble from Westminster Abbey, and a piece of the wartime residence of the Governor General of Canada.



Memorial Park contains a representative example of a bandstand, known as the McLaughlin Bandshell, which is a prominent feature within the park. The uniquely shaped, shell-like designed structure was built in 1942 of wood and steel and paid for as a gift by philanthropist and prominent Oshawa industrialist Colonel R.S. McLaughlin.

As a whole, Memorial Park has design and physical value as a designed cultural heritage landscape which displays design intent which is intended to facilitate the gathering of people and embodies and evokes commemoration and/or public celebration.

Memorial Park has historical value due to its direct association with the Pedlar family and Pedlar People Ltd which played an important role in Oshawa's industrial history. The Pedlar family owned and operated Pedlar People Ltd on the site from 1872 to 1921. At one point in time, Pedlar People Ltd was the largest manufacturer of sheet metal in the British Empire, particularly known for their roofing material. Pedlar People Ltd played an important role in World War II through its manufacturing of shells and cartridge casings that were finished at a separate facility in Ajax before being shipped overseas. They were a major industrial employer within the City of Oshawa until it closed in 1982.

Memorial Park is associated with Oshawa philanthropist and industrialist Colonel R.S. McLaughlin. Colonel R.S. McLaughlin donated the \$18,000 needed to construct the Bandshell, which is named in his honour.

Memorial Park is valued as a space to memorialize Oshawa residents who served in the Canadian Armed Forces during major conflicts. The War Memorial/Cenotaph includes the names of Oshawa residents who lost their lives during wartime. Additionally, there are commemorative murals depicting 130 years of the Ontario Regiment and a bronze statue presented by the Canadian Corp Association located throughout the park, which also reflect this historical association.

Memorial Park has associative value because it demonstrates the work of English born sculptor Alfred Howell, who designed the War Memorial/ Cenotaph in 1924. Alfred Howell is well known for his powerful and evocative war memorials, some of which are also located in Sault Ste. Marie and Guelph, Ontario, and Saint John, New Brunswick. He was a founding member of the Sculptor's Society of Canada and has works that can be seen in the National Gallery in Ottawa.

The series of murals, commemorating 130 years of the Ontario Regiment, accurately and artistically depict details of Canadian military decorations, and were completed by John Hood in 1996. John Hood is an accomplished and award-winning Toronto artist who has been the recipient of several awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his body of mural work in Ontario.

Memorial Park has contextual value because it is important in defining the character of the area. The large park represents a green space in the City of Oshawa's urban core. The park has been used as a public place of gathering for almost 100 years and is home to several cultural and social events and performances including Oshawa's Remembrance Day ceremonies, Metis Festivals, Summer Concert Series, and many others.

Memorial Park is prominently situated in between Simcoe and Center Streets, both of which are major streets in Oshawa. The park's large, open and accessible footprint in the predominantly commercial core of downtown Oshawa, combined with frontage on major streets and its use as a park for over 100 years, is memorable and easily discernible for the public and establish the park as a landmark.

On the basis of the cultural heritage value or interest outlined above, the property at 110 Simcoe Street South meets the criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 569/22 subsection 1(2), specifically criteria 1, 4, 6, 7, and 9.

4. Heritage Attributes:

The following list of heritage attributes reflects the values described in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

- The entire 2.93-acre rectangular property known as Memorial Park;
- The McLaughlin Bandshell including elaborate details and the six-arch band roof which together form a shell-like design;
- The four full-size murals commemorating 130 years of service of Oshawa's Ontario Regiment by acclaimed Canadian painter John Hood;
- The War Memorial/Cenotaph with its curved stone monument topped by a bronze statue, with embedded stones of various colours and significant fragments from all over the world and bronze tablets inscribed with names of fallen soldiers;
- The raised stone garden surrounding the War Memorial/Cenotaph with inscribed stone which reads "The Garden of Unforgotten";
- The organized design of low stone walls surrounding the War Memorial/Cenotaph and found throughout the landscape;
- The unobstructed view of the War Memorial/Cenotaph from Simcoe Street South;
- The designed circulation patterns and pathways which create defined spaces of various shapes and sizes;
- The park-like setting, meandering pathways, and mature tree canopy;
- The location within Oshawa's urban core;
- Stone monument with bronze sculpture of a WWI soldier, acquired from the Canadian Corps; and,
- Monolithic stone monument commemorating St. Georges Memorial Church.

The full particulars for the subject property, including heritage attributes to be protected, are available for inspection in Planning Services, 8th Floor, City Hall, 50 Centre Street South, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you would like to obtain further details, please contact Harrison Whilsmith, Planner A, at (905) 436-3311 ex. 2697 or by email at hwhilsmith@oshawa.ca.

Any person may, on or before the 6th day of December, 2023, send by registered mail or deliver to the City Clerk, Notice of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of their reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If a Notice of Objection is received, the

Council of the City of Oshawa will consider the objection on or before the 5th day of March, 2024.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact me at the address shown or by telephone at (905) 436-3311, extension 2697 or by email to hwhilsmith@oshawa.ca.



Harrison Whilsmith, Planner A
Policy

HW/k

- c. Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

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