



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**.

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**.



February 3, 2023

Via Registered Mail and Email

Ms. Erin Semande
Ontario Heritage Trust
Heritage Programs and Operation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

Dear Ms. Semande,

RE: Notice of Intention to Designate 30 Properties to be of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest in the Town of Aurora

Please find attached the Notices of Intention to Designate for each of the 30 properties that were resolved by the Council of the Town of Aurora on June 21, 2022, to become designated. These Notices include a statement explaining the Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and a description of the heritage attributes for each property.

The 30 properties are as follows with each Notice of Intention to Designate attached:

16 Reuben Street	16-18 Mosley Street	17 Wellington Street East
19 Mosley Street	21 Machell Avenue	21 Victoria Street
31 Tyler Street	33 Mosley Street	35 Metcalfe Street
36 Wells Street	41 Wellington Street East	42 Wellington Street East
50 Mill Street	50 Tyler Street	50 Wellington Street East
53 Mosley Street	53 Wellington Street East	55 Metcalfe Street
56-58 Mosley Street	57 Mosley Street	68 Mosley Street
71 Tyler Street	73 Kennedy Street West	73 Wellington Street East
77 Wellington Street East	79 Victoria Street	81 Tyler Street
1978 Vandorf Sideroad	14314-14378 Yonge Street	15800 Yonge Street

The Town's Heritage Advisory Committee was also consulted, including through the meeting held on Monday, May 2, 2022. The Notices also outline the objection process, and pursuant to Section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, they will be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality (The Auroran) and will also be served to each property owner.

Yours sincerely,

Michael de Rond
Town Clerk

Attach.

- c. Marco Ramunno, Director, Planning and Development Services
- c. Adam Robb, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services

Corporate Services
Michael de Rond
Town Clerk

905-726-4771
mderond@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way,
Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1



**NOTICE OF INTENTION
TO DESIGNATE 14314-14378 YONGE STREET**

RECEIVED
2023/02/03
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora intends to designate the following property as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest pursuant to the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended. A statement of reasons is included.

14314-14378 Yonge Street
The Happy Woodlawn Pet Cemetery
Pt Lt 74 and 75 Con 1 King Pt 13, 17, 23, 24, 26-30, 36-39, 65R35315;
Town of Aurora, Pt Lt 75 Con 1 King Pts 1 and 2 65R7092 subject to and
together with a right-of-way set out in instrument R684317; Aurora
PIN: 036700968; 036700972; 036700976

Description of Property

The property known municipally as 14314-14378 Yonge Street is located on the west side of Yonge Street, north of Butternut Ridge Trail and south of the railway tracks. The property includes a rare and unique example of a pet cemetery in the context of Aurora as well as Ontario at large.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

14314-14378 Yonge Street is of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest based on its design and physical value, historical and associative value, and contextual value.

Design and Physical Value:

The property is highly unique as a pet cemetery that features original grave stones and markers, ornamentation and commemorative features.

Historical and Associative Value:

The property is known locally as the Happy Woodlawn Pet Cemetery, which began in 1933 under the ownership of the Blochin family. The property was formerly owned by Victor P. Blochin and his wife Anne. Victor was a major in the Russian Red Army, and was captured as a prisoner of war in Germany. During his capture, he became friends with another captive, Angus Campbell, the Lord of Dunstaffnage Castle in Scotland. After the war ended, Blochin moved with Campbell to Scotland to work as a gardener at the castle. Campbell was a breeder of West Highland White Terriers and gifted one to Blochin. By the 1920s, Blochin left Scotland for Canada, taking a number of Westie dogs with him. Blochin settled on the property and opened Bencruachan Kennels in 1927. Anne Blochin was also successful in her own right as the founding editor of *Chatelaine* magazine. Victor and Anne began burying their beloved pets on the property that is now the cemetery, and over time others began to do as well. The burials are marked by a number of various gravestones of all different sizes and materials. The couple would sell caskets, and the burial grounds holds cats, dogs, rabbits, at least one horse, and even a monkey. The Blochins produced many award winning dogs and became internationally known, even inspiring the Canadian West Highland White Terrier Club's Victor Blochin Memorial Trophy. The subject property is known as the first pet cemetery in Canada.

Contextual Value:

The property defines, maintains and supports the character of the area. As a cemetery surrounded by natural area and forest, it is significantly linked to the stories and emotions of the community. The property maintains a legacy as the first pet cemetery in Canada that is functionally and historically linked to the early residents of Aurora.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following provides a description of heritage attributes for the property which contribute to the reasons for which the property is of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. Important to the preservation of the property are the original key attributes of the building that express its value, which include:

Exterior Elements

- All grave stones and markers, including ornamentation and commemorative features
- All burials and interred remains in their existing location in-situ
- Location set within a forested area including naturalized vegetation and mature trees
- The spatial distances between graves and their relationship to each other

Notice of objection to this notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Aurora within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate in the local newspaper. This notice of objection must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Town of Aurora shall consider the objection and make a decision whether to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property or not.

Michael De Rond

Town Clerk

Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1

mderond@aurora.ca

For any other inquiries, please contact:

Adam Robb, MPL, MCIP, RPP, CAHP

Senior Planner, Development/Heritage

Planning and Development Services

arobb@aurora.ca

365-500-3104