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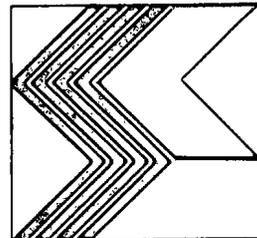
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CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

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CITY HALL  
L2R 7C2  
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*Niagara*



REGISTERED MAIL

JAMES M. COUGHLIN  
DIRECTOR  
PLANNING

December 7, 1995

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

RECEIVED  
IN THE OFFICE

DEC 19 1995

CULTURAL PROGRAMS  
HERITAGE UNIT

To Whomever This May Concern:

Re: Designation Under the Ontario Heritage Act  
Dalhousie House, Rennie Park  
St. Catharines  
Our File No: 10.64.153

Please be advised that on December 4, 1995, City Council passed a by-law designating the above-noted property pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act.

Three (3) certified copies of By-law 95-430 are enclosed for your records.

Please contact the writer at (905) 688-5600 if you have any questions.

Yours truly

*K. Blozowski*  
Kevin Blozowski  
Secretary-Treasurer  
St. Catharines Heritage Committee

attach.

c.c. Denis Squires, Legal Department  
Tom Derreck, City Clerk



# CERTIFIED COPY

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW NO. 95-430

A By-law to designate the property in Rennie Park known as Dalhousie House to be of historic or architectural value or interest.

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18, authorizes the council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate property within the municipality to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS property under the Ontario Heritage Act means real property and includes all buildings or structures thereon;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines has caused to be served upon the owner of the property described in Schedule "A" hereto, known as Dalhousie House, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to designate the property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out as Schedule "B" hereto;

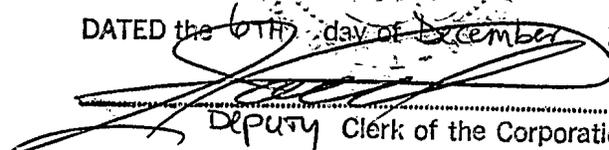
AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served upon the Clerk of the City of St. Catharines.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES enacts as follows:

1. The property, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, known as Dalhousie House, is hereby designated to be of historic or architectural value or interest.

CERTIFIED under the Hand of the Clerk and the Seal of the CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES to be a TRUE COPY of By-law 95-430 of the Corporation of the City of St. Catharines

DATED the 6TH day of December 1995

  
Deputy Clerk of the Corporation of the City of St. Catharines

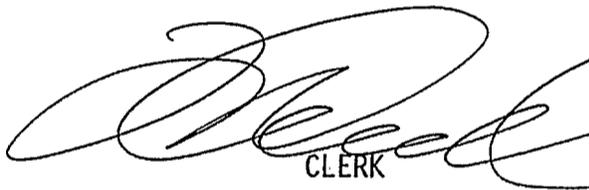
2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.

3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owner of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of St. Catharines.

Read a first time this 4<sup>TH</sup> day of DECEMBER 1995.

Read a second time this 4<sup>TH</sup> day of DECEMBER 1995.

Read a third time and passed this 4<sup>TH</sup> day of DECEMBER 1995.

  
CLERK

  
MAYOR.

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 95-430

Located in Rennie Park, south of Lakeport Road, in the City of St. Catharines, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, formerly in the Town of Port Dalhousie, in the County of Lincoln, being part of Lots 56, 57 and 58 as shown on Plan TP7 on the southerly side of Canal Street, which may be more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at point in the westerly limit of said Lot 58, distant southerly therein 60.1 lineal feet from the southerly limit of Canal Street;

THENCE north 70 degrees 57 minutes east 42.0 lineal feet more or less to a stake.

THENCE north 66 degrees 37 minutes east 64.8 lineal feet more or less to a stake in line with the westerly wall of the storehouse building of the Muir Dry Dock, and distant northerly 1 foot from the northerly wall of said building.

THENCE North 67 degrees 46 minutes east parallel to and distant from said northerly wall of building always 1 foot therefrom 38.7 lineal feet more or less to a stake.

THENCE north 35 degrees 23 minutes east 52.7 lineal feet more or less to the limit between Lot 55 and 56.

THENCE south 40 degrees 09 minutes east in the said limit between lots, 39.2 lineal feet more or less to the northerly limit of Government lands, as shown on Plan 7.

THENCE westerly in the said limit of government lands to the westerly limit of Lot 58.

THENCE north 40 degrees 09 minutes west in the westerly limit of said Lot 58, 33.9 lineal feet more or less to the place of beginning.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NO. 95-430

Dalhousie House (constructed circa 1850) was once part of the Muir Brothers Dry Docks and ship building yard. Alexander Muir, a seaman by trade, arrived in Port Dalhousie from Scotland in 1839. It was his belief that a dry dock was needed to repair and service the ships that used the newly built Welland Canal. In 1850 Alexander Muir began construction of a floating dry dock, which was launched from the Michigan side of the Inner Harbour and floated to, near this location. The large wooden bathtub like dock allowed ships to enter, then the water was pumped out by horse driven capstan, leaving the ship high and dry, and ready for repairs.

Alexander Muir was later joined by his brothers, William, Bryce, David and Archibald, and by 1866 construction began on a permanent dry dock. The bluffs were cut back by hand and stones were brought by ship from Montreal to build the retaining wall on the north side of the site. In the autumn of 1867 the permanent dry docks opened, and remained in operation until 1968, although in the final years it was owned by Port Weller Dry Docks Ltd.

This structure, constructed circa 1850, is one of many original service buildings for the docks and shipyard. The ground floor housed the stores and supply offices, while the managers' offices were on the second floor. Throughout its years of operation many residents of Port were employed by Muir Brothers, as was the case with Charles A. Ensil who managed the facility until 1946. At this time the Brothers, as was the case with Charles A. Ensil who managed the facility until 1946. At this time the company was sold and the name changed to the Port Dalhousie Shipyards. Completion of the fourth canal saw almost all ship traffic to Port Dalhousie come to a halt. In 1953 the docks were purchased by Gaymont Supply who then sold to the Port Weller Dry Dock Ltd. With the closing of the Third Canal in 1958 the facilities fell into disrepair and were phased out by the early 1960's.

The 1970's brought new life for this building when funding through the Local Initiative Plan and Wintario was used for renovations to the building. Now known as "the Dalhousie House", the building is managed by the Port Dalhousie Quorum under a long-term arrangement with the City of St. Catharines. It serves as a community hall and senior citizen's centre.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The original structure is a two storey building with medium gabled roof. There are six diamond shaped tie rods that pattern the facade. The building was originally six bays wide with large double doors on the lower level. Windows were originally double hung, but have been replaced by single glazed sections with double row brick voussoirs around the lintels, which is visible, indicates the size of the old double door entrance. A loading door on the second floor over the entrance was probably replaced by the multi-pane steel sash window in the 1920's or 1930's. The second storey, flat roofed additions have been added to the south side. The first is constructed of hammered concrete block, the second in stucco. As well, a set of exterior stairs has been added to the north side.