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Thorold

Niagara

January 16, 2007

RECEIVED
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CONSERVATION REVIEW
BOARD



Ms. Rita Caldarone
Secretary, Heritage Policy and
Program Development
Heritage & Libraries Branch
Ministry of Culture
400 University Avenue, 4th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2R9

Dear Ms. Caldarone:

Re: Designation of Decou House Monument
North Side of Decew Road
Under Ontario Heritage Act - By-law No. 48-2006

Please be advised that Thorold City Council, at its July 4, 2006 meeting, adopted By-Law No. 48-2006 which designates the Decou House Monument, as being of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18. A Notice of the Passage of the By-Law was published in Niagara This Week on July 21, 2006.

In accordance with Section 28(6)(a)(ii) of the Act, we have enclosed a certified copy of the registered By-Law being No. SN142827 registered November 8, 2006 for your records.

We trust this is in order.

Yours truly,

Adele Arbour, MCIP, RPP,
Director of Planning & Building Services

AA:em
Attach.

cc: J.K. Bice, City Clerk
Crissy Munro Leeson, OPG

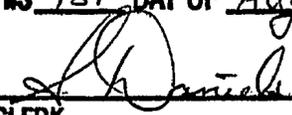
City of Thorold

P.O. Box 1044, 3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4A7

www.thorold.com

Tel: 905-227-6613

ON THIS 1ST DAY OF August 2006



Deputy CITY CLERK
CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD

BY-LAW NO. 48-2006

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE DECOU HOUSE MONUMENT,
NORTH SIDE OF DECEW ROAD , WEST OF MERRITTVILLE HIGHWAY
AS BEING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS:

1. Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate a property within the municipality including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. Ontario Power Generation owns the Lands.
3. Council has served a Notice of Intention upon the Owners of the Lands and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust providing Notice of Intention to designate The DeCou House Monument of cultural heritage value or interest and has caused Notice of Intention to be published in Niagara This Week, a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality on the 24th day of March, 2006.
4. No Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been served upon the City.
5. The Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold endorsed the cultural heritage value or interest designation of The DeCou House Monument in accordance with the recommendation of Report PBS2006-29, approved at a Special Council Meeting held March 21, 2006

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. In this by-law and its preambles:
 - (a) "Building" means any premises or structures on the Lands.
 - (b) "City" means the Corporation of the City of Thorold;
 - (c) "Council" means the Council of the City;
 - (d) "Designated" or "Designation" means the designation of the building known as "The DeCou House Monument" located at 2350 Decew Road, north side of Decew Road, west of Merrittville Highway, in the City and located on the Lands, to be of cultural heritage value or interest, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Ch.O.18, as amended;
 - (e) "Lands" means lands and premises and buildings or improvements thereon, described in Schedule "A" annexed hereto and made part of this By-law;
 - (f) "Notice of Intention" means the Notice set out in Schedule "B" annexed to and made part of this By-law.
2. The building known as "The DeCou House Monument" and located on the Lands as such are described in Schedule "A" annexed to this By-law is Designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

3. The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law including a copy of the reasons for designation, as stated in Schedule "B" to this By-law, to be registered on the title to the Lands at the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Niagara South in the City of St. Catharines.
4. The Clerk of the City is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the Owners of the Lands and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause Notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City.
5. Amendments to Schedule "A" annexed to and made part of this By-law may be made by the Clerk of the City after passage of this By-law in order to register the By-law pursuant to Section 3 hereof.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED BY COUNCIL

THIS 4th DAY OF JULY, 2006.



R. Brock, Mayor



J.K. Bice, City Clerk

SCHEDULE "A" to By-law No. 48-2006

DESCRIPTION

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Thorold, formerly the Town of Thorold, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, formerly the County of Welland, and being:

Lands described as 2350 Decew Road, North side of Decew Road, West of Merrittville Highway.

SCHEDULE "B" to By-law No. 48-2006

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION IN THE CITY OF THOROLD, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold intends to designate the Decou House Monument located on the north side of Decew Road, west of Merrittville Highway, municipally known as 2350 Decew Road, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 2005 Chapter 0.18, Section 29.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION:

DeCou House Monument
North side of Decew Road
Thorold, Ontario

DeCou House Monument is located on the north side of Decew Road, west of Merrittville Highway.

Cultural Value

John DeCou was involved in many aspects of our local history and development of the area. The DeCou stone house played a pivotal role in the War of 1812, the Battle of Beaverdams and Laura Secord's famous walk.

Architectural Significance

This monument incorporates the remains of a Georgian style house built by Captain John DeCou early in the 19th century. The visible portion of the monument which was constructed in the early 1950's, after the second of two fires had gutted the home, consists of a portion of the original limestone walls of the house constructed at the level of the lower first floor window sills, a flagstone floor and a plaque mounted on a cairn rising to the level of the rear wall (unveiled Oct. 13-53). Beneath the floor is the original basement of the home which was filled with the rubble from those portions of the walls of the house which had remained standing after the fire and which were taken down when the monument was constructed. This monument is unique in that it presents somewhat of the appearance of a ruin uncovered or exposed by an archaeological dig.

Historical Significance

The DeCou family were of French Huguenot origins (W.coast of France-Saintonge province). In 1798 John DeCou married Catherine Dochstader who was born at Fort Niagara in 1781, the daughter of a Loyalist who had lost his life while fighting in New York state with Col. John Butler's Corps of Rangers during the Revolutionary War. John and Catharine had ten children. In 1804 DeCou was elected a director of the Niagara District Agricultural Society (first in Upper Canada); he was Township of Thorold Collector, Assessor and Township in Warden and one of the founders of the Niagara Library.

John DeCou was Lieutenant of a company of militia in the 2nd Regiment of Lincoln, District of Niagara in 1809; General Brock became a regular visitor at DeCou's home. The house was used as a store and garrison for British troops in the war of 1812. Ltnt. James FiltzGibbon of the 49th regiment took up residence at the stone house along with a troop of volunteers. At one period while John DeCou was in prison, the house was occupied by soldiers while the Indian allies camped in the farm's fields. The house remained a military outpost well into 1814. The house was ransacked twice by the Americans in 1813-14.

John DeCou's grist mills employed many and a settlement called "DeCew Town" grew near them with a school, church and blacksmith shop. John DeCou became one of the incorporators of the Welland Canal when it was formed in 1824. In 1833 after the destruction of his milling business, he purchased 600 acres of bush land on Derquania Creek in N. Cayuga where he constructed a dam across the creek and built two sawmills and a grist mill. A hamlet sprang up known as "DeCewsville". He was active in political matters and died in 1855; he was buried at DeCewsville.

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available in the Planning and Building Services Department during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, 227-6613, 8 Carleton Street South, Thorold.

Any person may object to the proposed designation within thirty (30) days after the date of the publication of the Notice of Intention by serving on the Clerk of the Corporation of the City of Thorold a notice of objection setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The last day for filing objections will be Monday, April 24, 2006. All objections received within the aforementioned time period will be referred to the Heritage Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

DATED at the City of Thorold this 24th day of March, 2006

John K. Bice, City Clerk
Corporation of the City of Thorold
P.O. Box 1044, 8 Carleton Street South
Thorold, Ontario L2V 4A7