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# MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

315 King Street West • P.O. Box 640 • Chatham, Ontario • N7M 5K8



# COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PLANNING SERVICES TELEPHONE: (519) 360-1998 FAX: (519) 436-3250

### Chatham-Kent: Celebrating 10 years as a Community of Communities

December 3, 2008



Ontario Heritage Trust 10 Adelaide Street East TORONTO ON M5C 1J3

Re: Registration of Heritage By-law 268-2008 Myers Dash Wheel Property Parts 1 and 2, Reg. Plan 24R-3551 Intersection of Townline Road and Bradley Line, Community of Dover

Attached is a certified copy of By-law 268-2008, that was registered as Instrument No. 0663172 on December 1, 2008 for the above-noted property.

Sincerely, 

Charlie Toman Development Planner

CT:kc Attachment

c Municipal Heritage Committee

Heritage\Letters\Ont Heri Reg Bylaw 268-2008 Dover Dec 3-08.ltr

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### BY-LAW NUMBER 268-2008

### OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

A By-law to designate the property legally described as **Parts 1 and 2 of Registered Plan 24R3551, Community of Dover,** as being of historical and architectural value or interest.

### PASSED the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18 as amended, provides that the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent may designate a property within the boundaries of the Municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has appointed the Heritage Chatham-Kent Advisory Committee and the said committee has recommended that the Municipality designate the hereinafter described property pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has given Notice of Intention to Designate the hereinafter described property to be of cultural heritage value and interest pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been received by the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent;

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

NOW THEREFORE the Municipality of Chatham-Kent enacts as follows:

- 1. That the property legally described Parts 1 and 2 of Registered Plan 24R3551, Community of Dover, and more particularly described in the attached Schedule "B" be designated to be of cultural heritage value and interest pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act.
- 2. The Clerk be authorized to register the by-law against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
- 3. The Clerk be directed to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

THIS By-law shall come into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME this 27th day of October, 2008.

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of By-law Number <u>26.2008</u> passed by Municipality of Chatham-Kent Council at its' meeting Held on <u>Ochober 22</u>, 2008, And the same is now in full force and effect.

Elinor Mifflin, Clerk Elinor Mifflin, Clerk The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent

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#### SCHEDULE "A"

#### **REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

### **Myers Dash Wheel Property**

#### **Description of Property**

The Myers Dash Wheel is located on the Townline Road and Bradley Line/Concession 5 legally described as Part Lot 1 and 2, RP 24R3551 in the Community of Dover in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The property consists of a metal clad frame structure housing a large wood and steel vertically positioned dash wheel mounted on concrete mounts and suspended in a concrete wheel pit.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

#### Historical/Associative (OHA Reg 9/06):

Chatham-Kent geography represents one of the largest land reclamation successes in Canada. The relatively flat landscape, dense clay soil, and the fact that the drainage flow, even along the high cliffs on the Lake Erie shoreline, is towards the Thames River and Lake St. Clair, has created a drainage problem that has historically been a major obstacle for agricultural development. Through most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, large areas of Harwich, Raleigh, Tilbury East, Dover, and Chatham Townships, despite having some of the richest soil in Ontario, were un-inhabitable due to their swampy nature (that was also a breeding ground for malaria carrying mosquitoes) and tendency for flooding. The drainage of this land was a particular challenge as much of the affected area lies below lake level. Beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, an elaborate system of drainage began to be created utilizing, among other things, embankments and a network of dykes. A fundamental component of the plan, however, was the pumping systems that had to be designed to raise the water up to the lake level in order for it to be dispersed.

The dash wheel, or scoop wheel, was a device of ancient design that was used in Britain and Holland to raise the water to a higher level and it became the earliest method of pump drainage in Chatham-Kent. The dash wheel looks and functions much like a mill wheel except instead of being turned by water flowing over it to a lower level, the wheel, as it turns, scoops water *from* a lower level and raises it *to* a higher level. The wheel requires energy to rotate and this power source was originally through a steam engine adjacent to the wheel that drove it through a series of pullies and belts. They were later powered by gasoline or diesel engines and were slowly replaced by centrifugal pumps.

The dash wheels were made by several prominent early Kent County businesses including Park Brothers and McKeough & Trotter. The Myers dash wheel was specified in a report by W.G. McGeorge in April 1919 to be "of wood and iron of at least 22 feet in diameter and 4 feet clear width. The wheel pit shall be of reinforced concrete and the wheel driven by a steam engine and boiler." The wheel's buckets could move as much as 25,000 gallons of water per minute when levels were high.\*

The dash wheels, although used in Europe, are unique in Canada (and possibly North America) to Kent County. Although three dash wheels still exist, the Myers Dash wheel is the only wooden example and the only one still in situ on its original site and in its original wood-framed shed with most of the attendant apparatus (with the exception of a power source) present. As such, it is a very important industrial/agricultural rarity that represents the determination, innovation, and the engineering accomplishment that resulted in one of the largest land reclamation projects in Canada that directly facilitated development of much of Chatham-Kent's renowned fertile agricultural land.

#### Design/Physical (OHA Reg 9/06):

The Myers Dash Wheel is a rare example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century stationary industrial/agricultural technology utilizing traditional engineering concepts.

The structure is particularly well-preserved, being housed in its original utilitarian metalclad frame shed (exterior sheathing has been updated) and situated on its original concrete support bed in its original concrete wheel pit. The property also retains the original jack wheel, an arm that was powered by steam to turn the large wheel.

The wheel is impressive in its immenseness, being over 20 feet in diameter. Its size is accentuated by its location inside the utilitarian shed where it dominates within the close quarters.

#### Contextual:

The relationship between the property and its broader setting has remained unchanged since its construction in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The shed structure is prominent on the flat agricultural landscape and its location in situ as part of the larger drainage system is extremely significant and adds tremendously to its value and its potential as an educational/interpretive vehicle.

# **Description of Heritage Attributes/Character Defining Elements**

Key exterior elements of the Myers Dash Wheel property that contribute to its value as a rare and well preserved example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century stationary industrial/agricultural technology include:

- Metal clad frame shed
- Wood and iron dash wheel
- Concrete mountings
- Concrete wheel pit
- Functioning waterway and floodgate
- Jack wheel

Key contextual elements of the Myers Dash Wheel that support its value include:

- Its prominence on an embankment running through the flat low lying landscape, the only structure in the midst of the fields; a visual time capsule that has remained unchanged for nearly 100 years.
- Its in situ location as an important and integral component of the adjacent drainage system of embankments and dykes, lending extreme value to the understanding and appreciation of effective early drainage technology.

\*Marion Matt The Dipper Stick: A History Of Land Drainage In Kent County 1979



Parts 1 and 2, Registered Plan 24R-3551, Community of Dover, now in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Instrument No. 463792

PIN No. 007760003