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**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE  
UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18**

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TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Gravenhurst intends to designate the Gravenhurst Railway Station, located at 150 Second Street, in the Town of Gravenhurst, District Municipality of Muskoka, under Section 29 of *The Ontario Heritage Act* (R.S.O 1990, Ch. O. 18). A By-law to designate the property is to be considered by Gravenhurst Town Council at its regular meeting to be held on **Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012.**

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**STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE:** Gravenhurst was once the busiest transshipping port in all of Ontario and the strategic location of the Town was one of the key reasons for the foundation of the Town of Gravenhurst. The steamers allowed Gravenhurst to serve as the gateway to the Muskoka Lakes. It was thanks largely to the steamers and the railways that the Muskoka resort industry developed.

In 1889, the Northern Railway was officially absorbed into the Grand Trunk Railway. The main station for the Grand Trunk was destroyed by fire in 1913 and plans for a new station were begun soon after. The war intervened and no clear date can be established for the commencement of work on the new station. Proof of the station being in use as of 1916 exists because of recollections of local soldiers who remember arriving and leaving from that particular station on their way to training at Camp Borden. The official opening was not made until the Prince of Whales visited in September 1919.

For many years afterward, the station was the hub of railway activity in Gravenhurst. Gravenhurst was also a major stop-over with crews changing here on northern trips. Other railway infrastructure that existed at one time included a "roundhouse" and marshalling yards. The only physical evidence of a once thriving railway presence in Gravenhurst is the building that exists today at 150 Second Street.

In April of 1984, Town Council passed an "Intention to Designate the Gravenhurst Railway Station" upon C.N. transferring title of the buildings to the Town. Although the Intent to Designate was passed, a final designation By-law was not finalized.

The CN Railway Station is historically significant for the representative historical contribution of the railroad to the community. The coming of the railroad to Gravenhurst was the single most important development within the community in the late nineteenth century. It opened the area to trade, settlement, navigation and lumbering. It created a thriving lumber town at Gravenhurst and a lively summer resort industry on the Muskoka Lakes.

**DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES:** The Gravenhurst Railway Station, consists of three separate buildings: the Terminal Building, the Express Building and the Restaurant building. The Station is an excellent example of railway architecture in the early twentieth century. It is one of the few early stations remaining in Central Ontario and the only one standing in South Muskoka.

The brick overlap facing over the frame structure, coupled with the wide roof overhanging, revealing cut exposed rafters, are the main features of the complex. The buildings have medium pitched, hip style roofs with asphalt shingles. The outstanding architectural feature of the buildings is the approximately six foot overhang with exposed cut rafters. The rafters give a tear drop effect which along with the tongue and groove soffits provides rich detail to the station. Four metal lamp standards provide light and interest to the train platform. The overall impact is one of charm and invitation.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** is available at the Town of Gravenhurst Website and Planning Department at the Municipal office during office hours (8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday). For further information, please contact Jeremy Rand, Planner.

Any person may send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Town of Gravenhurst notice of their objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Town of Gravenhurst will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated at the Town of Gravenhurst  
this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2011.

Candace Thwaites  
Clerk