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MAY 07 2015

RECEIVED



Legal and Legislative Services

May 6, 2015
File No. 310701

Sent Via REGISTERED MAIL
Emailed to: sean.fraser@heritagetrust.on.ca

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Attention: Sean Fraser, Director, Heritage Programs and Operations

Dear Mr. Fraser:

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate under the Ontario Heritage Act
Ironwood Tree at Ridgeway Battlefield Park**

Please be advised that at the Council-in-Committee meeting held on May 4, 2015, the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie considered Report No. CDS-38-2015 and approved the following recommendations:

THAT: Council initiate a Notice of Intent to designate the Ironwood Tree at Ridgeway Battlefield Park for the reasons noted in Report No. CDS-38-2015.

In accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*, please find enclosed a Notice of Intention to Designate the above property under the *Act*. A Notice of Intention to Designate will also be published in the Town's local newspaper on May 14, 2015. In the event that the Ontario Heritage Trust has an objection to the proposed designation, you are required to serve a Notice of Objection on the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie on or before June 13, 2015. If no Notice of Objection is served, the Council shall consider a by-law to designate the property on June 15, 2015.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Yours very truly,

Laura Bubanko, CMO, Dipl. M.A.
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk
lbubanko@forterie.on.ca
LB/cw
Enclosure

cc: Dave Heyworth, Manager, Land Use Policy – *via email*
Keith Overend, Chair, Municipal Heritage Standing Committee – *via email*



THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE
UNDER ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
Ironwood Tree at Ridgeway Battlefield Park

HERITAGE TRUST

MAY 07 2015

TAKE NOTICE that upon recommendation of the Town's Municipal Heritage Standing Committee, the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie intends to designate the Ironwood Tree at Ridgeway Battlefield Park as a Heritage Tree, under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, as amended as being of cultural heritage value or interest for its design, historical, and contextual value.

Description of Property – The Ironwood Tree at Ridgeway Battlefield Park as a Heritage Tree under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Under the guidelines a tree can be considered for designation if it meets one of the criteria in a significant way. There are few Ironwood trees of this age, particularly standing out in the open.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

This old Ironwood Tree is one of the few of its age standing alone in the open on public lands and accessible to the residents of Fort Erie. More importantly, core testing of the tree put its age at Circa 1866 at the time of the Fenian Raids that occurred at Ridgeway Battlefield Park. It stands today as a reminder of the important battle and historical event in Fort Erie.

On June 2, 1866 Fort Erie was invaded by the Fenian Army. These Irish Civil War veterans intended to hold Upper Canada "hostage" and use this position to negotiate Ireland's freedom from Britain.

The subsequent Battle of Ridgeway and battle at the Fort Erie dock, while a tactical victory for the Fenians, ended quickly with the intervention of the United States government.

A consequence of these battles was that residents throughout Upper and Lower Canada realized that they could not rely on Britain for protection, giving support to the growing movement for Confederation. Canada became a country one year later.

The Battle of Ridgeway is the first battle of the modern Canadian Armed Forces; the first casualty of the modern forces was here in Ridgeway; and a catalyst to Confederation happened at Ridgeway Battlefield Park. Some historians call this "The Battle that made Canada – Canada."

Any person may, within thirty (30) days after the date of the publication of this Notice of Intention to Designate, serve on the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie, a Notice of Objection setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Town of Fort Erie shall refer the matter to the Review Board for a hearing and report. However, any person who has served a Notice of Objection may withdraw the objection at any time before the conclusion of the hearing into the matter by serving a Notice of Withdrawal on the Clerk and the Review Board. Where no Notice of Objection is served, the Council shall consider a by-law to designate the aforesaid property on June 15, 2015.

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available by contacting David Heyworth, Manager, Land Use Policy, of the Town of Fort Erie at (905) 871-1600, Ext. 2504 or by E-Mail at dheyworth@forterie.on.ca.

Dated at Fort Erie, Ontario this 14th day of May, 2015.

Laura Bubanko, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk
Town of Fort Erie
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