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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HUNTSVILLE

BY-LAW NUMBER 86-86

A By-law to Designate the Property known Municipally as The Locks, Huntsville as being of Historical Value or Interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 authorizes the Council of a Municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural or historic value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Huntsville has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as 'The Locks', Huntsville, Ontario and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Huntsville enacts as follows:

- 1) There is designated as being of historical value or interest the real property known as 'The Locks', Huntsville, Ontario more particularly described in Schedule A hereto.
- 2) The municipal 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 Clerk is hereby authorized 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 to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each three consecutive weeks.

READ a first time this 8th day of September A.D., 1968.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

READ a second and third time and finally passed this 8th day of September A.D., 1968.

  
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MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

SCHEDULE "A"

THE LOCKS, HUNTSVILLE

Part Lots 13 & 14, Concession 12 and  
Part Lots 13 & 14, Concession 13, Brunel  
Ward, Town of Huntsville on the  
north branch of the Muskoka River between  
Mary Lake and Fairy Lake

The Locks are situated on the Muskoka River between Mary Lake and Fairy Lake approximately 2 miles south of Huntsville. The park setting is one of the prettiest in the area, enjoyed by both local citizens and tourists.

The Huntsville Locks were constructed by the Department of Public Works between 1873 and 1875 to open up navigation between Port Sydney, Huntsville and Port Vernon (Hoodstown). The first steamer, the Northern, was built and launched in Port Sydney in 1877. This lock helped to open up the Huntsville area for settlement as the Lake route was more reliable than the road system in those early days. While the railway came through ten years later in 1886, much traffic of logs, tanbark and other supplies for settlement used the lock.

For 75 years the steamers like the Gem and the Dortha used this Lock. More recently, it is used by pleasure craft who enjoy the ability to travel by over 130 kilometers of shoreline of the four North Muskoka Lakes...Vernon, Fairy, Peninsula and Mary making the Locks a prime tourist attraction.

There was originally a water powered sawmill located between the upper lock channel and the river. First built by the Fetterlys and then owned by the Cottrills.

The Lock was operated by the Department of Public Works until 1971-72 when the responsibility was transferred to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Location - Part Lots 13 & 14, Concession XII and  
Part Lots 13 & 14, Concession XIII of  
Brunel Township, on the North Branch  
of the Muskoka River, between Fairy  
Lake (normal elevation 931 ft./284m)  
and Mary Lake (normal elevation 921 ft./  
281m).

Original  
Material - squared timbers.  
- Locks manually operated.

Dimensions - Length 80 feet/ 24m  
- Width 20 feet/ 6m  
- Min. Draft 3.5 feet/ 1m

Rebuilds - 1947 - faced with concrete, new gates.  
- 1956 - improvements to upper channel.  
- 1962 - new sills, new gates.

Usage - In 1880, 422 lockages were conducted, made up of  
369 steamboats, 41 small boats and 10 rafts. During  
the late 1960's and early 1970's over 4000 lockages  
were conducted annually. In the eighties this number  
has declined to about half.

Today the Locks are enjoyed by pleasure craft and are a prime tourist attraction of the area and should be maintained as a functioning facility.

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