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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE

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OAKVILLE, ONTARIO  
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REGISTERED MAIL

July 24, 1991

ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
77 Bloor Street West  
2nd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: TOWN OF OAKVILLE BY-LAW 1991-162  
DESIGNATION OF 1 FORSYTHE STREET (THE OLD LIGHTHOUSE, 1889)  
OAKVILLE, ONTARIO

Pursuant to Section 29(6)(a) of the Ontario Heritage Act, attached is a certified true copy of By-law 1991-162 being "A by-law to designate a certain property as a property of historical and architectural value and interest (1 Forsythe Street, The Old Lighthouse, 1889)".

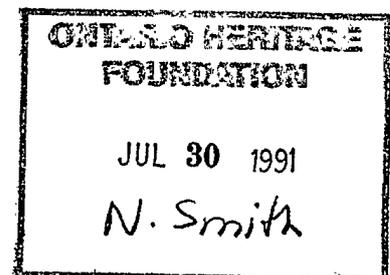
Yours very truly

*B. Collier*

for Carol Provost  
Committee Co-ordinator  
and Assistant Clerk  
TOWN OF OAKVILLE

CP/gc  
MERG-45

cc: R. Boddington, Heritage Planner



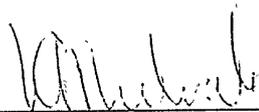
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE  
BY-LAW 1991-162

A by-law to designate 1 Forsythe Street  
(The Old Lighthouse, 1889) as a property of  
architectural and historical significance

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 1 Forsythe Street  
(The Old Lighthouse, 1889) is hereby designated as a  
property of architectural and historical value and  
interest pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act for  
reasons set out in Schedule "A" to this By-law.
2. The property designated by this By-law is the property  
described in Schedule "B" attached to this By-law.

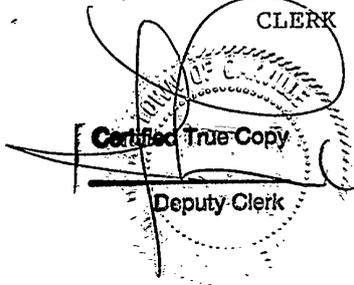
PASSED by the Council this 15th day of July, 1991.



MAYOR



CLERK



Certified True Copy

Deputy Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"  
TO BY-LAW 1991-162

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The lighthouse was the second lighthouse to sit at Oakville Harbour. The first was built in 1837.

The first lighthouse served well for nearly fifty years, but on April 8, 1886, a spectacular storm from the northeast caused waves that, Summer's diary reports as being 35 feet high, destroyed the old timbers of the east pier. "During school lunch hour", Summer writes, "many children came down to the lake bank in time to see the lighthouse tumble into the channel." When the wind abated, the pier had been destroyed completely.

The pier was rebuilt in 1887, but nothing was done about a lighthouse until 1889 when the Hamilton Steamboat Company's passenger ships the Macassa and the Mojeska started calling regularly at Oakville. During the summer of 1889, a new lighthouse was built by Henry George, Contractor for Port Elgin, at a cost of \$960. Construction began on April 2, and the new lighthouse was lit for the first time on June 4.

The second lighthouse served well for over seventy years through the efforts of the lighthouse keepers, and bore the brunt of many a storm during that time. One of the worst storms experienced over that time was in 1947 when the piers were washed away by the action of the lake leaving the lighthouse on an island in Lake Ontario.

In 1960, the lighthouse which once warned sailors of the vicinity of Oakville and of the shallow rock studded waters at the mouth of the Sixteen Mile creek was faced with demolition as it was to be replaced with a strictly

functional concrete post. Through the efforts of a group of concerned citizens of Oakville, however, the lighthouse was salvaged and moved to its present location on the grounds of the Oakville Yacht Squadron where it was restored. Today the lighthouse at Oakville Harbour serves as <sup>an</sup> ~~an~~ important symbol for the Town of Oakville and for x the Oakville Yacht Squadron and is a reminder of the days when Oakville was a thriving commercial port.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Lighthouse at Oakville Harbour is of the conventional style of wooden lighthouses built on the Great Lakes during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Lighthouse is Hexagonal in shape, in order to better face up to the storms and pounding waves of Lake Ontario. Other wooden lighthouses of this period are round (at Burlington), octagonal (at Port Dalhousie) and square (at Bronte). The Lighthouse is three stories high and is constructed of wood and is sheathed in wooden shingles. A galley extends around the top storey of the lighthouse, and is accessed through a small door. The lower level has a doorway capped with a classical pediment and a bronze plaque on the door which states "The Old Lighthouse, Built 1875 (incorrect) Removed from the East Pier and preserved in this location 1960, through the interest of the citizens of the Town of Oakville."

The Lighthouse has three windows in the lower portion of the structure; one on the first floor and two on the second floor. The windows are capped with classical pediments, similar to the pediment over the door. Although all three, two-sash double hung windows are today single paned, originally the second storey windows consisted of two over two panes.

The lower storey window is shown in photographs from the turn of the century to have been enclosed by shutters. The third storey was the room in which the light was contained, and is glassed in on all six sides. In the centre of this room the light was stationed within its 270° beveled lens. The light source was originally an oil lamp which would have burned coal oil. The fumes from the burning oil would have escaped through the metal chimney in the roof.

By the time the second lighthouse was built, many other lighthouses were being converted from whale to coal oil. Whale oil was the choice fuel for early lighthouses including Oakville's first lighthouse as it burned cleaner and was more efficient than coal oil. The increasing cost and uncertain supply of whale oil, however, forced the conversion to coal oil. With improvements in technology, the Oakville lighthouse was eventually converted to electric light.

The lens for the lighthouse is today in the possession of the Town of Oakville and is in excellent condition. This ornate piece of glasswork is believed to have been made in France.

The lighthouse at Oakville harbour is one of only three 19th Century wooden lighthouses remaining on Lake Ontario. Others were either replaced by a more permanent limestone structure such as the lighthouse at Burlington Bay or were demolished after the Second World War and replaced by simple concrete beacons as was the case with the Bronte Harbour Lighthouse which was demolished in 1950.

**SCHEDULE "B"**  
**TO BY-LAW 1991-162**

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Oakville, in the County of Halton, in the Province of Ontario, and being composed of part of the Oakville Sixteen Mile Creek Harbour as shown on a plan registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Halton as Number 42, and which parcels of land may be more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at a point in the northeasterly limit of Lot 3 of Block 107, as shown on the said Plan 42, distant 186 feet measured South 51 degrees 59 minutes East along the northeasterly limits of Lots 5, 4, and 3 in the said Block 107 from the most northerly angle of the said Lot 5;

THENCE South 51 degrees 59 minutes East along the northeasterly limits of Lots 3, 2, and 1, in said Block 107 and the northeasterly limit of Anderson Street now closed a distance of 207.67 feet to a point in the said northeasterly limit of Anderson Street distant 20 feet measured southeasterly therealong from the most easterly angle of said Lot 1;

THENCE north 38 degrees 43 minutes East parallel with the northwesterly limit of Anderson Street, 150.46 feet more or less to a point on the water's edge of Sixteen Mile Creek;

THENCE northwesterly along the said water's edge, a distance of 280 feet more or less to its intersection with a line drawn on a bearing of North 38 degrees 52 minutes 30 seconds East, parallel with the southeasterly limit of Burnett Street, from the point of commencement;

THENCE continuing northwesterly along the water's edge of Sixteen Mile Creek 158 feet more or less to the southeasterly edge of an existing concrete ramp;

THENCE southwesterly along the edge of said ramp 20 feet;

THENCE southeasterly, perpendicular to the previous course, 10.0 feet;

THENCE northeasterly, perpendicular to the previous course, 10.0 feet;

THENCE southeasterly, parallel to the edge of Sixteen Mile Creek, 125 feet more or less to a chain link fence;

THENCE southwesterly, therealong, 36 feet to a corner thereof;

THENCE southeasterly along a chain link fence 33 feet more or less to its intersection with the aforementioned parallel line;

THENCE southwesterly, therealong, 220 feet to the point of commencement.