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OAKVILLE

*Halton*

August 6, 1999

Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2R9

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Subject: Historical Designation**

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Pursuant to Paragraph 29 (6)(a)(ii) of the Ontario Heritage Act, attached is a certified true copy of By-law 1999-058, being "A by-law to designate a portion of the property municipally known as 1198 and 1208 Lakeshore Road East as a property of historical, architectural and contextual significance. (Ballymena Estate)". Also enclosed is a copy of the staff report to Council which accompanied the by-law.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (905) 844-6601, extension 3136.

Yours truly,

Pat McPherson  
Committee Assistant  
TOWN OF OAKVILLE

cc: Ramona Boddington, Heritage Planner, Planning Services Department

corr/patm/letters/Ballymena1

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE

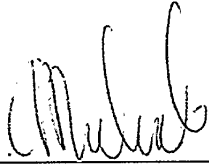
BY-LAW NUMBER 1999-058

A by-law to designate a portion of the property municipally known as 1198 and 1208 Lakeshore Road East as a property of historical, architectural and contextual significance. (Ballymena Estate)

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The portion of the property municipally known as 1198 and 1208 Lakeshore Road East more particularly described as Part 1 on a plan of reference registered as 20R-13292, **Schedule "A"** to this by-law is hereby designated as a property of historical, architectural and contextual value and interest pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended, for the reasons set out in **Schedule "B"** to this by-law.

PASSED by Council this 4th day of August, 1999.



MAYOR

Christine Sheaschuk  
CLERK



**SCHEDULE "A"**  
**To Town of Oakville By-law 1999-058**

The property municipally known as 1198 Lakeshore Road East and 1208 Lakeshore Road East in the Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton, and more particularly described as Part Lot 9, Concession 4, Former Township of Trafalgar, South of Dundas Street, designated as Part 1 on Plan 20R-13292, registered in Land Registry Office #20.

**SCHEDULE "B"**  
**To Town of Oakville By-law 1999-058**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1198 and 1208 Lakeshore Road East together formed an estate of approximately eight acres known as "Ballymena". Ballymena was an estate property bordered on the north by Lakeshore Road and on the south by Lake Ontario.

Buildings on the Property include a gatehouse, main entrance gates and fence, and a paddock gate and fence as shown on Schedule "A". These features of the Property have been identified as being of architectural, historical and contextual significance for the reasons set out herein.

Although reference is made to Ballymena as an estate in the reasons for designation, this reference is made to explain the significance of the identified features and not to impose restrictions on buildings or structures not on the land described in Schedule A to this By-law.

Ballymena was established in 1916 by Lieutenant Colonel William Fletcher Eaton as his lakefront estate and was owned by Mr. Eaton or his wife until 1942. From 1947 to 1980, Ballymena was owned by the Honourable Ray Lawson and served as a personal residence during his term as Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and the latter years of his life. Mr. Lawson's daughter, Mrs. Helen Ruth Kindersley occupied the gatehouse at 1208 Lakeshore Road from 1947 to 1998, and has also used the main house from 1980 to 1998.

**II. REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

The property exhibits or contains each of the following:

1. buildings associated with the lives of significant members of the community, namely William Fletcher Eaton, and the Honourable Ray Lawson;
2. buildings that have played a role in an important historic event, namely a pivotal period in the development of Oakville through the development of Lakeshore panel-style estates;
3. buildings that have architectural significance, value or interest due to building type, architectural style or period, or are the work of an important architect or early builder;  
and
4. buildings that have the contextual significance because of their position as an integral part of the surrounding streetscape.

## **1. Historical Associations with Significant Members of the Community**

### **(a) William Fletcher Eaton and The Eaton Family**

Ballymena was established by William Fletcher Eaton as his lakefront estate in 1916.

William Fletcher Eaton was the eldest surviving son of Timothy Eaton, founder of the vast Eaton retail, manufacturing and real estate empire. Mrs. Timothy Eaton, William Fletcher Eaton's mother, was an owner of the former Oakville estate of Raymar. Ballymena was named after the birthplace of Timothy Eaton in Ireland.

William attended Upper Canada College in Toronto. He worked for a time in the family business in the parcel wrapping and shipping department. There he met and married Nora Cook, daughter of an Eaton employee. William and Nora moved to western Canada for several years to farm and engage in independent business ventures. Eventually, William Fletcher Eaton returned to Ontario to manage Eaton's textile factories in Oshawa and Hamilton. In 1915, he was instrumental in the establishment of a large knitting factory in Hamilton. He was also a member of the board of directors the T. Eaton Co. Limited.

William Fletcher Eaton was involved in patriotic work during World War I, holding the rank of Major in the Canadian Militia, and being appointed Assistant Director of Recruiting for Canada and personal staff officer to Sir Sam Hughes, the Minister of the Militia. He was later associated with Colonel Greer in the administration the Military Service Act. He eventually rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

William Fletcher Eaton was involved in the Scouting movement both locally and nationally. As residents of Oakville for 25 years, the family was active in community affairs and was most generous in opening their home and gardens for charitable events. Mr. Eaton died in 1935. His wife died in 1942.

William Fletcher Eaton is significant as an early member of the Eaton family, a man who was actively involved in patriotic activities, as the founder of one of the lakeshore estates in Oakville. All listed buildings and features are associated with Mr. Eaton.

### **(b) The Honourable Ray Lawson and the Lawson Family**

Following Mrs. Eaton's death the property was sold to Archibald and Edith Auld who never occupied it. The property was vacant until purchased in 1947 by the Honourable Ray Lawson, following his appointment to the Lieutenant Governorship of Ontario.

Mr. Lawson was a partner in the printing firm of Lawson & Jones, and a former resident of London Ontario. Early in World War II, Mr. Lawson was appointed chair of the Crown Corporation, Federal Aircraft Ltd., which was responsible for the production of aircraft for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. In 1943, Mr. Lawson was awarded the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his contribution during World War II. After the war he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, serving in that capacity from 1946 to 1952. In 1953, he

became Canadian Consul-General in New York, resigning from that post in 1955 due to poor health.

Mr. Lawson moved to Ballymena in 1947 with his wife Helen Lawson, his widowed daughter, Mrs. Helen Ruth Kindersley, and Mrs. Kindersley's two small children. Mr. Lawson wished to have a home within easy reach of Toronto, the centre of his activities as Lieutenant Governor. Except for the two years spent in New York, and winters spent in Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson used the main house at Ballymena until her death in 1977 and his death in 1980. Mrs. Kindersley continued to live on the estate year round, occupying the Gatehouse during the winter months and the main house in the summer.

The intensive care unit of the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, and its Helen Lawson residence (now a psychiatric facility) were provided through donations from Mr. Lawson. Donations from Mr. Lawson also provided equipment and facilities for Lawson Park on the site of the former Ballymena stables. The Lawson playground in Bronte and the Oakville Room at the Oakville Public Library are also the results of the Lawson family's generosity.

The Honourable Ray Lawson was distinguished on the provincial level as one of Ontario's Lieutenant Governors, on the national level as for his contribution to the war effort and as Canadian Consul General, and on the municipal level for his contribution to local civic facilities. All listed buildings are associated with Mr. Lawson.

## **2. Historical Significance to Development of Oakville**

The development of this estate was part of an early 20th century movement that saw a departure from large land holdings to estate properties established somewhat along the lines of the large estates of England and which mirrored the summer homes of the affluent on the south shore of Lake Ontario. This movement contributed to and to some extent caused a change in the historical development of the Town of Oakville, broadening it from its agricultural and industry based origins and creating the basis for the future development of an attractively sited residential area. This period was the beginning a change in the style of future development of Oakville from a self-contained community to an attractive and desirable suburban community.

Because of its location, in proximity to both Toronto and Hamilton, and the attraction of the extensive waterfront, this area of Oakville (then Trafalgar) became a very attractive site for the large homes being erected by the wealthier members of society, several of whose business affairs were centred in Toronto or Hamilton. Commuting was greatly facilitated by improvements in the roads, particularly the paving of the highway between Toronto and Hamilton and the coming of the motor car. Several "full panel" properties such as Ballymena were developed along Lakeshore Road, stretching from Lakeshore Road to the shore of Lake Ontario, however few such properties now survive. William Fletcher Eaton is an example of the type of wealthy businessman that established himself in Oakville as an early commuter.

The listed buildings and structures are associated with Ballymena's role as one of the "panel-style" estates of Oakville., The main gates and fence, gatehouse, paddock wall and fence are of particular significance as the visible structures

which set the tone of what Ballymena was, as an "estate", and as such symbolize the life and times of the era in which it was created.

### **3. Architectural Significance**

The architectural significance of the estate lies in the exterior of its main gates and flanking stone walls, the gatehouse and the paddock wall.

#### **(a) Entrance Gates and Fence**

The main entrance to the property is at 1198 Lakeshore Road East and is marked by a fine pair of entrance gates built circa 1917 and flanked by stone side walls. The gate posts are Credit Valley stone and bear the name "Ballymena" on a bronze plaque. The gates are decorative wrought iron. The main entrance gates and wall are in near original condition.

Notwithstanding the significance of the wall, the reasons for designation are not intended to prevent or require additional approval for the replacement of the east "service" gate or the extension of the height of the wall by adding a decorative wrought iron railing in accordance with the drawings approved by the Town of Oakville Site Plan Committee.

#### **(b) The Gatehouse**

The gatehouse, in particular, is a notable building in both its type and architectural style. Gatehouses were an essential part of well-designed estates and this building is a good example of a gatehouse built in the Tudor style.

The gatehouse was built in 1916 and was designed by the architects Munro and Mead who were of some repute in Hamilton, Ontario. The doors to the garage of the gatehouse are still painted black and white. The ground floor storey of the building is clad in stone with Roman Stone architraves and sills at the openings. The upper storey of the gatehouse is clad in rough stucco with half timbering in a Tudor Revival Style. The roof remains the original slate. Alterations to the building have been made in a compatible manner and the building "sets the style" of the property as an estate. The Gatehouse area includes a stone paddock wall with a decorative Tudor arched doorway in the north-west corner facing the entrance driveway which are also significant.

### **3. Contextual Significance**

The entrance gates, gatehouse and fences of Ballymena constitute an important part of the streetscape of Lakeshore Road. Apart from contributing handsomely to the general appearance of the Road, they are one of the few reminders left symbolizing this part of Oakville as it once was.

Notwithstanding the inclusion of the property between Lakeshore Road and the gates and the fence in the land designated, the reasons for designation are intended to apply to this area only, so as to ensure the view from Lakeshore Road of the fence and gates is not materially obscured.