



## NEWS RELEASE

# Council Approves Queen-Picton Heritage Conservation District Study Area By-law

For Immediate Release

March 3, 2025

At its February 25, 2025, Meeting, Council enacted [By-law 2025-010](#), establishing a study area for the Queen-Picton Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Study and implementing a temporary restriction on property alterations, effective March 27, 2025, for one year from the date of passage. This measure pauses change to the area's historic character while the HCD study is underway.

The HCD Study is a comprehensive review aimed at updating the existing Heritage Conservation District Plan and assessing the possibility of expanding the district boundaries. This ensures heritage policies align with modern standards while protecting Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic character.

The Study Area By-law will not apply to complete planning and building permit applications received before March 27, 2025.

"This is a crucial step in preserving the character of our historic town, ensuring that our heritage is protected and celebrated for future generations," stated Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. "I am pleased to see this initiative advance and I would like to thank my fellow Council Members for their thoughtful discussion on this important topic."

The By-law, enacted under Section 40.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, allows certain alterations to proceed during the one year, as they are considered minor and/or likely to have no impact on the heritage character of the study area, including:

- Interior renovations
- Emergency repairs
- Erection of accessory structures (e.g., sheds, garages, pools) not requiring a variance to the Zoning By-law
- Temporary patios and event structures
- Tree removals (as per By-law 5106-18)
- Signage (as per By-law 4586-12)



"This By-law, and the Heritage Conservation District Study itself, is designed to protect our heritage in the Old Town area through a thoughtful and thorough review of the cultural heritage resources," stated CAO Bruce Zvaniga. "Thank you to our Policy and Heritage Planning Team for their efforts in working toward completing this strategic priority of Council."

View the [Study Area Boundary Map](#). For more information, please read the [Queen-Picton Heritage Conservation District Study – Revised Study Area By-law Report](#). If you need clarification about how the Study Area By-law may impact your property within the HCD Study Area, please email [heritage@notl.com](mailto:heritage@notl.com).

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