

THE CORPORATION
OF THE
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

BY-LAW NO. 4373-10
(5 Walnut Street)

(Roll No. 2627 020 022 08000 0000)

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS THE LAURA SECORD MEMORIAL SCHOOL, 5 WALNUT STREET, IN THE TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, AS BEING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and,

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has caused to be served on the owner of the lands and premises known as the Laura Secord Memorial School at 5 Walnut Street, in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in the Province of Ontario and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality; and,


WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule 'B' hereto; 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 Niagara-on-the-Lake enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest the real property known as the Laura Secord Memorial School at 5 Walnut Street in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in the Province of 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.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause copy of this By-law to be served on the owners of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED ON THIS 22nd DAY OF MARCH, 2010.


LORD MAYOR GARY BURROUGHS


TOWN CLERK HOLLY DOWD

SCHEDULE "A"
BY-LAW 4373-10

Legal Description: Lots 164, 165, 166, Part Lot 167 and Part of Maple Street (Closed by Bylaw NTP10963) Corporation Plan 1, designated as Part 1, 30R-13773, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

SCHEDULE 'B'
BY-LAW 4373-10

The Laura Secord Memorial School, 5 Walnut Street, Queenston - 1914

Description of Property

The Laura Secord Memorial School is a one storey brick structure with a raised stone basement. Stylistically it exhibits characteristics of Edwardian Classicism with Arts and Crafts details. The main floor houses the classrooms while the lower level houses ancillary school facilities. The property is located on a 2 acre lot on the northwest corner of Walnut and Queenston Streets in the Village of Queenston, Town of the Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The site was originally owned by Robert Hamilton, Samuel Street and Major Adam Brown, wealthy Queenston businessmen and land owners. In 1842 the District Municipal Act divided Niagara Township into 11 school districts with Queenston as No.4. In 1844 the first Queenston school, known as the Old Stone School, was built on the northeast corner of the school property. It housed 150 students in 2 classrooms; but by the early 1900's it was deemed to be antiquated and overcrowded.

An old map of the property shows Maple Street continuing through from Princess Street to Queenston Street, dividing the school site into 2 separate lots. This situation was resolved in 1944 when Maple Street was finally closed and transferred to the Public School Board of Section No.4 of the Township of Niagara.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value of the Laura Secord Memorial School consists in its long standing importance to the community and the community groups which contributed to its construction; its importance as a significant green space in the centre of the community; its imposing Edwardian design by one of Niagara's leading architects; and the significant use of Queenston Limestone in its construction.

Without the contributions of the Queenston Women's Institute and John D. Larkin, a wealthy Buffalo businessman, construction of Laura Secord Memorial School may well have been delayed and the building may have been a less impressive and functional structure.

The Queenston Women's institute, formed in 1908, advocated building a community hall as a suitable memorial to Laura Secord. The group began fundraising in the hope that the building would be completed in 1912, the centennial of the War of 1812. The Institute had raised \$3,000.00 when the school board indicated that a new school was needed. In response the Women's Institute provided the money they had raised for the purposes of constructing the school. Mr. Larkin provided an additional \$3,000.00 for furniture and equipment stipulating that all of the children from his surrounding farms were to be educated at the new school.

The school was designed by A.B. Nicholson from the architectural firm of Nicholson & Macbeth. The firm designed the Craftsman style houses in the Yates Street Heritage Conservation District and other neighbourhoods in St. Catharines as well as Greystone Manor in Queenston and 117 Victoria Street in Old Town. The plans developed by the firm included a large auditorium with a stage and a kitchen for community as well as school use.

The community and the school board used the auditorium and kitchen facilities jointly and the Queenston Women's Institute provided hot lunches for the students until 1924 when the School Board requested that the Institute vacate the auditorium and returned the original \$3,000.00 contribution.

The school is a one storey red brick structure with a raised basement clad in rusticated broken range ashlar with prominent sill stones and raised mortar joints.

The windows, which have been altered, have stone sills and the front steps are stone. Recent research indicates that the raised base of the building is constructed of Gasport and Goat Island limestones and dolomites (the Queenston stone). The building is located in close proximity to the Queenston Quarry. The Lowrey interests of St. Davids operated the quarry between 1905 and 1924 and the building may represent one of the few remaining local buildings attributed to their period of ownership of the quarries at Queenston.

The most striking feature of the building, apart from the rusticated stone base, is the central or main entrance which has a deep classical portico with 4 pairs of Tuscan columns on raised stone bases. The bases carry a stylistically classical pediment with dental moulding. The pediment contains Neo-classical swag and cartouche decoration containing the date "1914". The door surround consists of relatively plain sidelights and transom. The door is surmounted by a large semi-circular fanlight. The geometric tracery and details such as the small square lights at the bottom of the transom give the door case an Arts and Crafts feel.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes include:

- The exterior form and mass of the original 1914 school.
- The window openings.
- The raised Queenston Limestone base of the building.
- The entrance portico, stone stairs, columns and cartouche.
- The doorcase, transom and fanlight.

