

**STAFF REPORT: Administration**



**REPORT TO: Council**  
**MEETING DATE: November 26, 2007**  
**REPORT NO.: A.07.32**  
**SUBJECT: Heritage Designation Request**  
**PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk**

#### **A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report A.07.2, "Heritage Designation Request", and authorize proceeding with publication of a Notice of Intention to Designate a Property, being the David J. McNichol residence.

#### **B. Background**

On November 14, 2007, Council considered a request made by David McNichol, grandson of the late David J McNichol, for designation of the late Mr. McNichol's former residence under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, as representing a site of cultural heritage and interest within the Town.

Prior to enacting a By-law to designate a property, Council must first publish a notice of intention to designate, allowing a thirty day period in which appeals to the proposed designation may be filed. The cost of publication is borne by the applicant. If no appeals are filed, Council may consider enacting a By-law. If appeals are filed, the matter is referred to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing. If the By-law comes into effect, it is registered on title of the subject lands at the cost of the applicant.

The designation of a property has no significant impact on a municipality, other than maintaining the property on a designation register. The owner of a designated property must seek the permission of Council should they wish to renovate, move or demolish a designated structure.

The Niagara Escarpment Plan will permit a mobile or portable dwelling that is accessory to agriculture, in addition to a single detached dwelling. The NE Plan makes further provision to recognize designated dwellings, noting a second dwelling on a lot will be considered if it is the only viable way of preserving the heritage value of an existing, designated dwelling.

The applicant has expressed a desire to establish a new dwelling on the working farm for his use, with the designated dwelling to be used for full-time farm labour accommodation.

As background, David J McNichol was first elected to Township of Collingwood Council in 1949, then elected Reeve in 1952, the position in which he served continuously until his passing in 1994, save a two year term in 1972. Mr. McNichol served on Grey County Council as Township Reeve and was elected an unprecedented three times as County Warden, in 1963, 1972 and 1986. David J. McNichol also served on many boards and commissions and was a founding Director of both the Georgian Triangle Tourist Association and the Georgian Trail Board of Management.

Mr. McNichol also played a key role in the water and sanitary sewage servicing projects that first provided municipal services in the Craighleith area, both in the initial consideration and in working to secure Provincial funding that would ensure the viability of the project.

Mr. McNichol was born in this residence on September 20, 1918 and he eventually assumed the family homestead from his parents John and Jean (Gilmour) McNichol. David then married his wife Hazel (Knox) and together they farmed the property, raising a family of five in the home.

The David J. McNichol Residence is a traditional 1 ½ storey rural Ontario farmhouse located within a traditional farm structure cluster in a working farmstead environment. The property is described as east part Lot 10, Concession 10, Part 1, 16R-8160.

The McNichol residence, as a structure, is not an outstanding example of early southern Ontario architecture, however, the impact of its lifelong resident on the growth and development of the former Collingwood Township is substantial and significant. A comparator may be found in designated residences such as those of Norman Bethune and Agnes McPhail.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features and cultural heritage of the community.

### **D. Budget Impact** (cc: Treasury if required)

None, applicant pays notice publication and by-law registration costs.

### **E. Attached** (Relevant documentation not personal information about an identifiable person)

Request for designation, David McNichol  
Staff Report PL.07.54, Request for Comments, NEC File G/R/2006-07/9166  
Notice of Intention to Designate a Property

Respectfully submitted,

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