

STAFF REPORT: Administration



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: January 14, 2007
REPORT NO.: A.08.01
SUBJECT: Heritage Designation Request
PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report A.08.01, "Heritage Designation Request", and enact a By-law to Designate a Property to be of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest, 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. A Notice of Intention to Designate the subject lands was published in The Blue Mountains Courier-Herald on December 5, 2007 and Notice was served upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and the landowner. No objections were received in response to publication of the Notice.

If Council enacts a By-law to designate the property, it would be in recognition of Mr. McNichol having been born in this residence on September 20, 1918 and 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 three times as County Warden, in 1963, 1972 and 1986.

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, which is in effect in the area of the subject lands, 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.

Council might consider the following questions with regard to designation:

Would designation of the David J. McNichol residence recognize an outstanding example of period architecture? The residence is over 100 years old and substantially complete, representing a typical residence style during the transition of agriculture from subsistence to increased productivity.

Would designation of the residence assist in constructing a new dwelling on the property? The Niagara Escarpment Commission will have to decide that matter. Would the property be of visible heritage? The site is adjacent to a scenic, rural road which would allow for interpretive signage and viewing without accessing private property.

Would designation of David J. McNichol's birthplace and lifelong residence recognize the contribution he made over almost 50 years in municipal politics? In my opinion, yes.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

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

D. Budget Impact

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

E. Attached

1. Staff Report A.07.32, Heritage Designation Request
2. By-law to designate a property

Respectfully submitted,
