

Subject: Lock 25, Battle of Beaverdams Park Designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

Report to: Thorold City Council

Recommendations

1. That Development Services Report DS 29-2023 **BE RECEIVED**;
2. That the applicable by-law to designate the subject site under Part IV [Section 29(1)] of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, as attached hereto **BE APPROVED**; and
3. That the Clerk be authorized to proceed as per the *Ontario Heritage Act* requirements to complete the designation process.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek a decision from Council regarding the proposed designation of Lock 25, Battle of Beaverdams Park (PT TP LOTS 16 and 17, PLAN 897 P) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The designation would formally recognize the cultural heritage value and interest of the site.
- The lock has been evaluated by a qualified cultural heritage professional retained by the Heritage Advisory Committee, who concluded there is merit in pursuing designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The Heritage Advisory Committee subsequently advised Council of their support in proceeding with the designation.
- Proceeding with the designation was previously approved at a Special Council Meeting held on April 28th, 2023, and a Notice of Intention to Designate the property was released on April 28th.
- No objections to the designation were received within 30 days of the date of publication of the notice (being May 28th, 2023).

- As such, it is recommendation that Council proceed accordingly to finalize the designation process, by passing the applicable by-law and authorizing the Clerk to proceed with the remaining procedures under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Budgetary Status

There is no budgetary impact resulting from this report. Costs associated with the notification requirements and signage associated with the designation form part of the approved budget for the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Analysis

Site context

Lock 25 is located within Battle of Beaverdams Park, south of Sullivan Avenue and west of Ormond Street South. **Figure 1** depicts the site context.

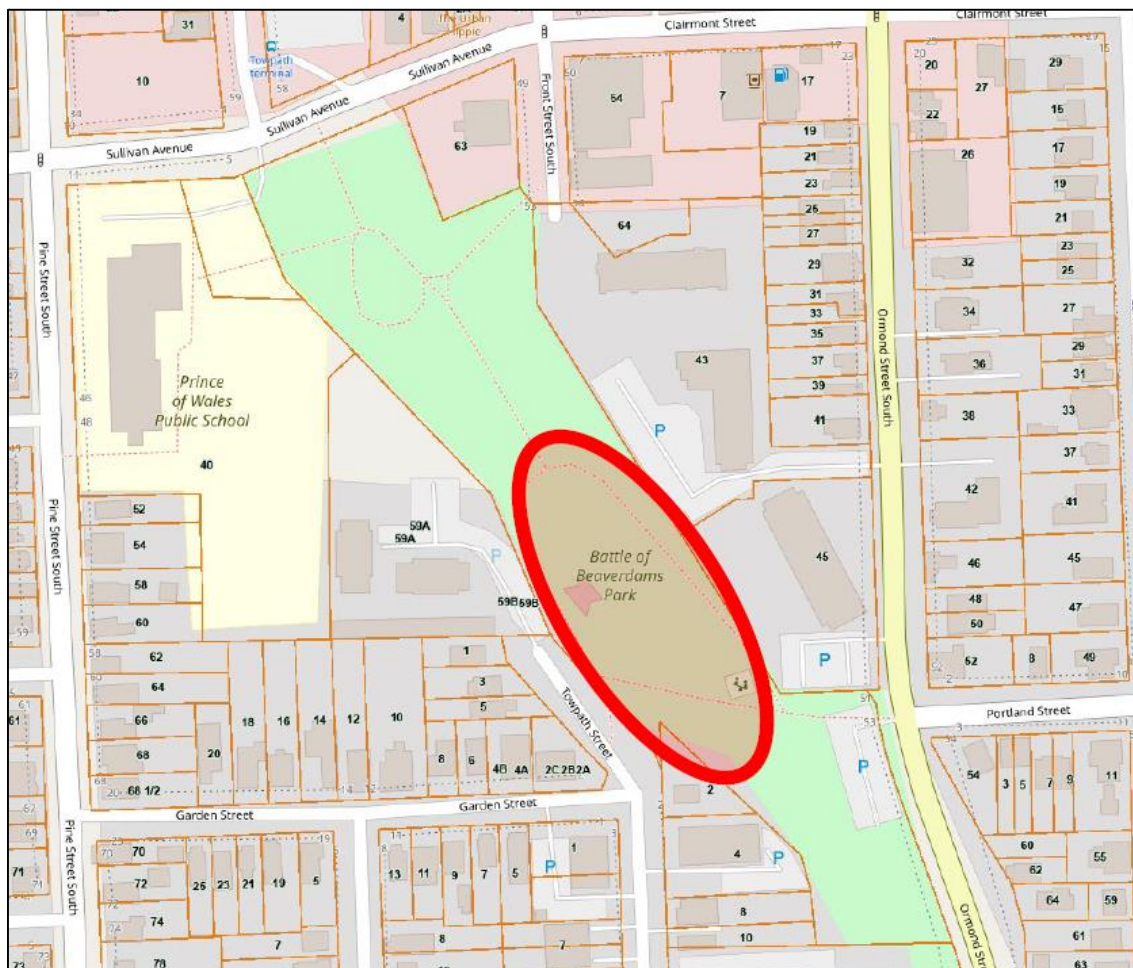


Figure 1: Location of subject lands

Cultural heritage value

The historical value of Lock 25 lies principally in its association with the Second Welland Canal and thus its role in facilitating marine trade between Lakes Ontario and Erie, not only in the Niagara region but throughout the entire Great Lakes waterway system. It is located in reclaimed First and Second Welland Canals lands, which since 1976 belong to the Battle of Beaverdams Park. The partially excavated remains include portions of the two parallel lock walls and their flared ends. Lock 25 along with 16 other locks of the Second Canal was constructed from limestone quarried nearby between 1841 and 1845. Only the capstones of Lock 25's chamber walls and gate ends are visible while the remainder of the lock remains below the surface. Each of the visible lock walls is approximately 46m long and are separated by the 8m wide chamber. The exposed stonework has been used as seating for the bandshell structure opposite to the west since 1979. The Lock remains are part of the built heritage and cultural landscape of downtown Thorold, as a reminder of the various Welland Canals' impact on the historic character of the community.

Ontario Heritage Act process

Following completion of a cultural heritage evaluation completed by a qualified cultural heritage professional, the Heritage Advisory Committee previously recommended that Lock 25 be designated as a resource of cultural heritage value and interest. A motion was brought forward to a Special Council Meeting on April 28th, where Council approved proceeding with the notice of intention to designate in accordance with Section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. No notices of objection were received.

In accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*, if no objections are filed with the municipality within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice, Council can proceed to pass a by-law to designate the property. Since no objections were received, Council can proceed with the proposed designation.

Pending Council approval of the By-law, a Notice of Passage will be published pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The By-law would then be forwarded to the Ontario Heritage Trust, registered on title of the property, and listed on the official municipal register of designated properties. The designation would also be listed on the Provincial register of heritage properties.

Conclusion

Given the above, it is recommendation that Council proceed accordingly to finalize the designation process, by passing the applicable by-law and authorizing the Clerk to proceed with the remaining procedures under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The Clerk will then provide notice of Council's decision as prescribed in the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Pending no formal objections, the designation will then come into force on the day after the notice period has expired.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

- Vibrant, Inclusive Neighbourhoods

Other Pertinent Reports

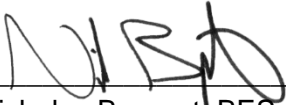
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Attachments

Attachment A Notice of Intention to Designate

Attachment B Draft Designation By-law

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Approved and Submitted by:

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This report was reviewed by Morgan Casciani, Chief Planner.

Attachment A

Notice of Intention to Designate

Attachment B

Draft Designation By-law