



PLANNING REPORT for the TOWN OF ERIN

Prepared by the County of Wellington Planning and Development Department

DATE: April 18, 2017
TO: Nathan Hyde, CAO/Town Manager
Town of Erin
FROM: Elizabeth Martelluzzi, Junior Planner
Sarah Wilhelm, Manager of Development Planning
County of Wellington
SUBJECT: **DESIGNATION REPORT**
Stanley Park Gates and Arch
Main Street & Overland Drive, Erin Village

SUMMARY

The Town of Erin Heritage Committee has recommended designation of the Stanley Park Gates and Arch under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Their decision was informed by a detailed heritage assessment prepared by the University of Guelph. Upon Council approval, staff will proceed with the designation process as required under the Ontario Heritage Act.

WHY DESIGNATE?

The designation of property under the Ontario Heritage Act is the main tool that municipalities have to provide long-term protection of cultural heritage resources for future generations. Identifying and protecting cultural heritage resources within the Town helps to guide change while conserving the buildings, structures and landscapes that give Erin its unique identity. Other benefits include that designation publicly recognizes and promotes awareness of heritage properties in Erin. It also provides a process to ensure that changes to a heritage property are appropriately managed and that they respect the heritage value of the property. The Stanley Park Gates and Arch meet the requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act to be considered for designation.

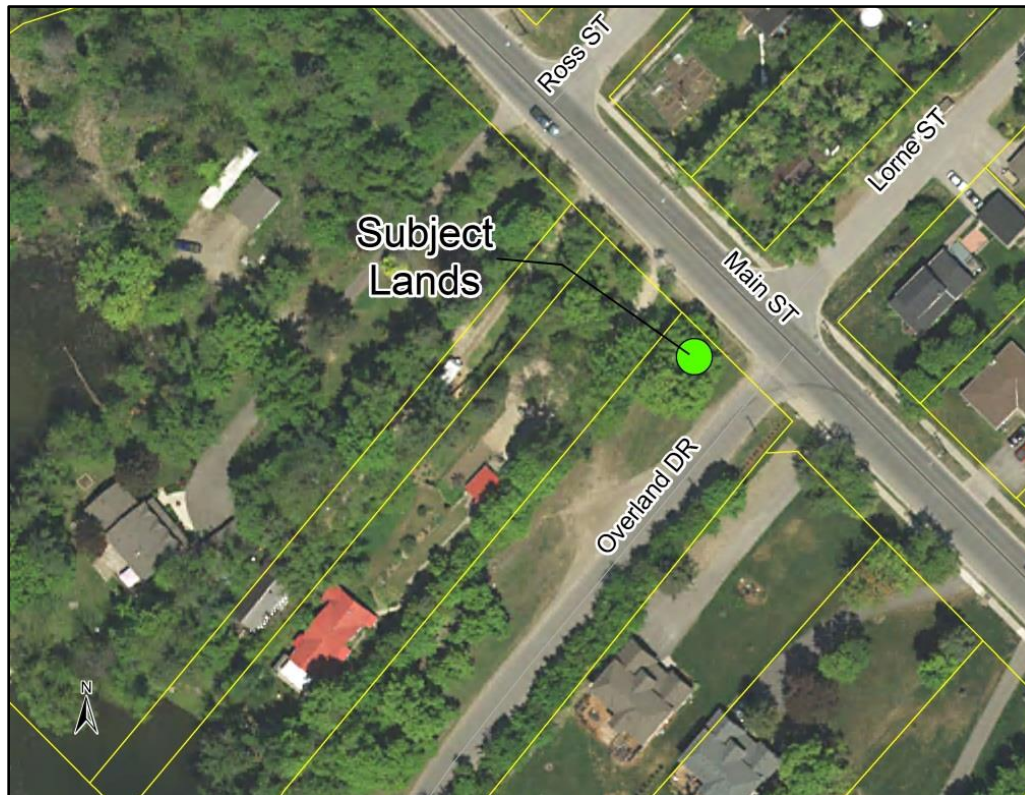
Figure 1 Stanley Park Gates and Arch (January 2017)



LOCATION

The Stanley Park Gates and Arch are located at the corner of Main Street and Overland Drive in Erin Village. They are located within Lot 17 and the road allowance between Concessions 9 and 10 within the Registrar's Compiled Plan No. 686, formerly in the Village of Erin and currently in the Town of Erin. The Town owns the land upon which the gates are located.

Figure 2 Location



POLICY FRAMEWORK

The policies of the province recognize that the conservation of built heritage resources like the Stanley Park Gates and Arch, help define character and sense of place in a community. The Town's Official Plan encourages the protection of those heritage resources which contribute in a significant way, to the identity and character of the Town. The County Official Plan encourages the conservation of significant built heritage resources through heritage designations and planning policies which protect these resources.

CONSULTATION

Section 29(2) of the Ontario Heritage Act requires Council to consult with the Municipal Heritage Committee before giving notice of its intention to designate a property. The Town of Erin Heritage Committee has been the impetus behind the proposed designation. Starting in 2014 they initiated a process to investigate the ownership of the gates and arch. The gates were determined to be on Town property but the arch was owned by the County. This ultimately led to the transfer of land from the County to the Town so that the entire structure is owned by the Town.

At the request of TEHC, the University of Guelph (Michal Laszczuk and Cecelia Paine) prepared a heritage assessment which addressed:

- the history of the park and gates;
- analyzed the integrity of the structure; and
- described the heritage attributes and values.

The University of Guelph report is not a designation report. It provides the research and evaluation necessary as a basis for considering designation. The report evaluated the cultural heritage values of the property against the prescribed criteria set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act and concluded that the property merits designation and TEHC supports designation.

The attached Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest provides the information upon which the designation notice and by-law will be prepared should Council approve the recommendations in this report. The Statement was reviewed and endorsed by TEHC at their meeting of March 20, 2017.

NEXT STEPS

Should Council decide to state its intention to designate, the next steps would be for staff to provide notice of intention to designate as per the Ontario Heritage Act requirements. Should there be no objections after 30 days of circulating the notice, staff would then prepare a designation by-law for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Council of the Town of Erin state its intention to designate the property at the corner of Main Street and Overland Drive, Town of Erin (Erin Village) to be of cultural heritage value and/or interest pursuant to Section 29 (Part IV) of the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND THAT staff be authorized to proceed with the notice requirements outlined in Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND THAT if no objections are received within the prescribed time period, staff prepare and provide the designation by-law to Council for enactment.

Respectfully submitted
County of Wellington Planning and Development Department



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Manager of Development Planning

Attachments:

Appendix A Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

APPENDIX A

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Stanley Park Gates and Arch

Description of Historic Place

The Stanley Park gates and arch are located on Part Lot 17, Registrar's Compiled Plan 686 being Part 2, 61R-10256, Erin; and Part of original Road Allowance between Concessions 9 and 10 being Part 1, 61R-10256, Town of Erin, in the County of Wellington. The gates are located on Part 1 and the archway is located on Part 2. The Stanley Park Gates are located on the south side of Main Street, in the Town of Erin.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Design or Physical Value

The Stanley Park gates demonstrate a high degree of craftsmanship and are representative of early 20th century design and construction methods. The fieldstones used were carefully fitted together and the integrity of the structure was ensured by an application of tooled, V-joint mortar between the fieldstone. The fieldstones are arranged so that the different colours of the stones are evenly distributed across the gate structure while incorporating different sizes of stones. The style and material are particularly important in the context of the street. Similar style of masonry can be seen incorporated into homes along Main Street. The fieldstone material used for the gates also reflects the significance of this locally available material, procured from soils unique to the area.

Historical or Associative Value

The Stanley Park Gates were first constructed as the entrance to Stanley Park. As a result of the opening of the Credit Valley Railway in the 1880's, Stanley Park was established in anticipation of a flood of tourists from Toronto arriving by train. In the early 20th century, the park served as a popular destination for picnics and sporting events. After the First World War, the gates and arch were commissioned to greet visitors arriving by car, and were made wide enough for a car to fit through the entrance. The gates reflect the work of local stone and concrete masons, Harry Sanders and Charles Smith. The two were hired by the owner of the park to build the gates. Both were known in the Erin, Caledon and Eramosa areas for their work on barn and house foundations as well as house porches, culverts, bridges and sidewalks.

Contextual Value

The Stanley Park Gates serve as a landmark and are linked to the character and history of the community. The gates were constructed using local fieldstones which are in abundance around the town due to the rocky composition of the regional soils, influenced by the nearby drumlins and Niagara Escarpment. Further, the gates are significant for their positioning along Main Street as a landmark to visitors both from the past and present. The gates are a reminder of the original use of the lands as a tourist site and are reflective of the masonry work found throughout the Town of Erin.

Description of Heritage Attributes to be protected

- Two walls
- Two piers
- Central wooden arch
- Fieldstone on both the arch and gates
- The location of the gates at the former entrance to Stanley Park
- Construction method, including the V-joint mortar to hold the fieldstones
- The uniformity of colours and size of fieldstone used

Source:

Laszczuk, M., and Paine, C. (2016). *Stanley Park Gates Heritage Designation Report*. University of Guelph, Guelph, ON.