

Feb. 7, 2025

Cargill White House letter of objection to the request to repeal Bylaw No 88-15

It has come to our attention that the current owners of the Cargill White House have requested to remove the Heritage Designation currently in place. We wish to voice our objection to this request.

Cathy's parents, Ralph and Sandra Lee, purchased the Cargill White House in 1986. It was abandoned, dilapidated and for sale by the bank. They started to fix up the interior and exterior. The front porch was falling down, so they had local woodworker Ed Williamson turn the spindles and large posts to replicate the ones that were there. The back 'Summer Kitchen' was in ruins, so it was replaced and a top storey was added to it to try and bring the house back to its former look.

In 1990, we were newlyweds and moved into the house. We began working on the outside of the house in the Summer, and the inside in the Winter. Over the next 17 years, we insulated the home, Andy painted the whole place himself, we added a back deck and again used Ed Williamson to turn spindles for it, we put the wrought iron back up around the top of the veranda and around the chimney, we rebuilt the 'carriage house' to replicate the old one and even saved the cupola off of the original one and had it installed on the new building.

In the years that we lived there, we often saw people taking pictures of our home and wondered who was taking them and where those pictures ended up. A friend, who is in the Masonic Lodge told me that he was at a presentation one evening and our home was in one of the slides. One year a photo of our home was on the front cover of the Bell telephone book. I was visiting a friend's home in Chesley who is a collector of art and on her wall she had a huge painting of part of our front porch. It took some convincing to make her believe that it was indeed our home. These are just a few of the places that we have heard of the White House ending up. All because it is a beautiful example of early architecture.

In 1999 local writer and advocate for conserving local architecture, Ruth Cathcart, approached us about a book that she was working on. It was called "The Architecture of a Provincial Society - Houses of Bruce County, Ontario 1850-1900". She included a photo and write up in her book, of our home, as well as featuring it on the back cover.

Over the years several people who had lived in the house many years prior, stopped by to speak with us and tell us how thankful they were for the work that we were doing to maintain/restore and preserve this important landmark. We even had a visit from Richard Cargill Wise, a descendant of Henry Cargill, one afternoon. He was able to tell us more about

the house's past.

In 2011 Brockton held a Doors Open event. The Carill House was one of the featured properties. We recall hearing after the event that it was the most attended entry that year. This demonstrates the appreciation that both the community and the public have towards this historic landmark.

We loved our home and thought that we would stay there forever, however circumstances changed. While we respect any homeowners right to alter and change a house as they wish, and appreciate the fact that restoring a Heritage home can be financially taxing, there must be ways to maintain the integrity of the house utilizing modern technology and architectural ideas. The exterior facade needs to be protected.

Accordingly, given the importance of the Carill White House to the Village of Carill and the Municipality of Brockton, we feel that the Bylaw should remain in place and thus object to the application to repeal Bylaw No 88-15.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy and Andy (Carroll)









The house ~ summer
and fall





May, 1992
The house gets
new eaves troughs.





May 22 - July 93
Andy starts painting
the house.



• 1993.
August,
October,
December





July, 1995
A new deck goes
on the back of
the house.





June 21, 1997
The house gets
a new roof.





Jan. 1, 2001
Lots of snow!

July, 2001
The old coach
lights.





Jan. 1, 2002

Aug. 2003



12 2004



Jan. 23, 2004

THE HENRY CARGILL HOUSE C.1888 Greenock Township Village of Cargill

The illustrious Henry Cargill (1838-1903) was the son of Irish parents from County Antrim. He was born in Halton County and came with his wife, Margaret Davidson, to Greenock Township in Bruce County in 1879. As a public spirited and immensely capable citizen he acted as postmaster in his village from 1880 to 1887, reeve from 1885 to 1887 and Member of Parliament for East Bruce from 1887 until his death in 1903.

His children were Wellington David, Carrie, Margaret and Henrietta.

The village of Cargill, located on the banks of the Teeswater River, was originally called Yokassippi, a corruption of the indigenous Indian word meaning "the drowned lands river". This referred to what is

known today as the Greenock or the "Great Swamp". Before 1872 it consisted of 150,000 acres of forested wetland. Today it comprises about 20,000 acres or 250 square miles – about one-third of the area of the

township. It is drained by creeks, lakes and rivers. One of the unique, natural areas of Ontario, much of the swamp is now managed by the Sauguen Valley Conservation Authority.

In early times the swamp was the site of tall stands of virgin white pine, soft maple, elm, cedar, beech, hemlock, ash and yellow birch. All but the pine have regenerated over the years. Thickets of willow, dogwoods and blue beech still make up the understorey. Delicate plants such as orchids, Indian pipe and

pitcher plants thrive here as do deer, wild fowl, muskrat, raccoon, fox, weasel and squirrel.

Cargill's holdings amounted to 12,000 acres from which he harvested 5,000,000 board feet of white pine each year for twenty-five years. The trees were felled in the frozen winter months using cross-cut saws. Corduroy roads were built over the soft spots of the swamp enabling men to get about. The oxen were fitted with special shoes so they would not sink into the swamp. A canal of several miles was dug by hand. It filled

with water in the spring and the logs were floated along its length until they reached the Teeswater River and then down the river to Cargill. In the village, Henry Cargill opened a sawmill, a steam planing mill, a shingle mill, grist and woollen mills, and a foundry.

Cargill was also a farmer and livestock breeder. He imported 300 head of registered shorthorn cattle from Scotland and raised Clydesdale horses, sheep and swine.

This house, aptly named *The White House*, is the only Cargill family home to survive. (A later and much grander red brick house built across the road and referred to as *The Red House* was destroyed by fire in 1919.) The style, rarely seen in this region, is known as the "stick style". The rectilinear windows and the





structure itself are outlined by boards or sticks painted in starkly contrasting colour to the body of the house. Add a few carefully chosen curving lines and a large verandah surmounted by a wrought iron grill and the result is a house which easily earns the description – picturesque. Fortunately for us, the present owners, Andy and Cathy Cormack, have taken great trouble to restore the house to its former glory.

Andy & Cathy Cormack
Best wishes
Ruth Cuckear