

Report to Council

Report Title:	Armoury Building Heritage Designation		
Prepared By:	Fiona Hamilton, Clerk		
Department:	Clerk's		
Date:	October 15, 2019		
Report Number:	CLK2019-30	File Number:	C11CL, R01
Attachments:	Letter from Brockton Heritage Committee – Request Council Approval of Heritage Designation of Armoury Building		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CLK2019-30 - Armoury Building Heritage Designation, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Clerk for information purposes and further authorizes a By-Law coming forward to designate the Walkerton Armoury Building as a designated heritage property in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18*.

Report:

Background:

At the Council meeting on April 9, 2019, Brockton's Heritage Committee requested that Council consider designating the Walkerton Armoury building located at 215 Jane Street as a designated heritage property in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18* ("the Act"). The committee's letter has been attached to this report for Council's information. Council directed that staff bring forward a report outlining the steps to be taken in designating a heritage property.

At the time, the provincial government was proposing changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18* that would impact the process of designating a heritage property. Those changes have now been legislated such that staff are able to bring forward this report for Council's consideration.

Analysis:

In order for a property to be designated as a heritage property, it must meet at least one of the criteria for designation set out in the regulation to the Act, which are:

- The property has cultural heritage value due to its design or physical values because they are rare, have a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or are an early example of a style, type, expression or construction method;

- The property has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, activity or organization that is significant to the community;
- The property yields information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture;
- The property reflects the work or ideas of an architect, builder or designer who is significant to the community;
- The property has contextual value because it defines the character of the area, or is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or is a landmark.

These criteria must be considered and used to develop a “Statement of Cultural Heritage Value” relating to the property.

Once these criteria have been considered, the Act specifies the steps that must be taken in order to designate a heritage property, which are summarized below:

1. Publish a notice outlining the Municipality of Brockton’s intention to pass a By-Law designating the Walkerton Armoury Building a designated heritage building (the “Notice”). The Notice must include the legal description for the property, the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value, a description of the heritage attributes and a statement indicating that a notice of objection (if any) must be filed with the municipality within thirty (30) days of publication of the Notice.
2. In this case, the tenant of the building, G.R.O.W. Rooted in Love Maternity Home would receive a copy of the Notice, and it would also need to be published in the newspaper in advance of the meeting. The Notice must also be sent to the Ontario Heritage Trust.
3. The Notice must be published at least thirty (30) days prior to Council’s consideration of the By-law to designate the property a heritage property (the “By-law”) to allow for interested individuals to file an objection.
4. If no objections are received, Council can proceed to pass the By-law.
5. The By-law must then be registered on the title to the property and on the municipalities’ register of designated heritage properties. The Ontario Heritage Trust must also be provided with a copy of the By-law.

There are a number of appeal procedures that would apply if an objection was received. These procedures were recently amended. Some of the amendments reference prescribed rules that have not yet been proclaimed. As a result, it is difficult to predict with certainty what the regulations may stipulate that could impact the designation process.

In this case, the letter from Brockton’s Heritage Committee has requested that both the exterior of the Walkerton Armoury building and the interior staircase be included in the description of heritage attributes such that these elements would be preserved in the future. Including any of these features as heritage attributes that should be preserved will still be in accordance with the terms of the lease agreement between the Municipality of Brockton and the tenant of the Walkerton Armoury building, G.R.O.W Rooted in Love Maternity Home, as Brockton is responsible for repairs to the exterior of the building and any renovations require Brockton’s prior approval.

Overall, the Walkerton Armoury Building would meet the criteria required by the regulations for designation of a heritage property for many reasons as outlined in the letter from Brockton's Heritage Committee (such as that it was designed by Canada's Chief Dominion Architect at the time and that it housed two battalions and a field battery over the course of both world wars). The proposed Statement of Cultural Heritage Value is:

The Walkerton Armoury Building is an example of the baronial style adopted by the Chief Dominion Architect from 1896 to 1914, David Ewart, and played a central role in the lives of many Bruce County residents as it was home to the 32rd Bruce Battalion (1866-1913), the 160th Bruce Battalion during World War One and the 97th Field Battery in World War Two.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

It is likely that the cost to advertise would be approximately \$350.00 to be funded from the Heritage advertising budget. In the future, repairs to the Walkerton Armoury Building may be slightly higher to preserve the heritage attributes, but these costs could be considered an investment in a key piece of Brockton's history.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Fiona Hamilton, Clerk

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer