



BY-LAW NO. 2025-0067

A By-law to designate Prospect Park and Fairy Lake in Acton, Ontario, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact a by-law to designate real property, including all of the buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS authority was granted by the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills to designate Prospect Park and Fairy Lake, Acton, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton, as being of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Reasons for Designation are set out in Schedule “B” of this by-law;

AND WHEREAS on July 7, 2025, Council for the Town of Halton Hills approved Report No. PD-2025-031, dated June 18, 2025, in which certain recommendations were made relating to the designation of the subject property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT Prospect Park and Fairy Lake, located in the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills, and further described in Schedule “A”, is hereby designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value or interest for the reasons set out in Schedule “B” attached to and forming part of this By-law;
2. THAT a copy of this By-law together with reasons for the designation be registered against the property and served in accordance with Section 29 of the Act;
3. THAT a notice of this By-law be published in accordance with Section 29 of the Act.

BY-LAW read and passed by the Council for the Town of Halton Hills this 25th day of August, 2025.

Originally Signed By:

MAYOR – ANN LAWLOR

Originally Signed By:

TOWN CLERK – VALERIE PETRYNIAK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 2025-0067

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PIN: 24992-0026 (LT)
PT RDAL BTN LTS 27 & 28 CON 2 ESQ WITHIN PT 2, 20R1243; PT LTS 27, 28 & 29,
CON 2 ESQ, LT 86
& PT LT 87, PL 227 ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098, PTS 1, 2, 4, 20R1243;

PIN: 24992-0111 (LT)
PT LT 177 PL 227 AS IN EW5566; S/T 452253, 758570, 758571, H856994;

PIN: 24992-0110 (LT)
PT LT 192, PL 1098, PART 1, 20R5820; LT PARCEL N, PL 603, EXCEPT PT 1,
20R9956; ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098, S/T 767833

PIN: 24992-0102 (LT)
LTS 108 & 109, PL 227; S/T 484413 & 300270

PIN: 24992-0104 (LT)
PT LTS 197 & 198, MUP 1098, AS IN 586110

PIN 24992-0099 (LT)
PCL 27-3, SEC E-2; PT LTS 27 & 28, CON 2 ESQ; PT RDAL BTN LTS 27 & 28,
CON 2 ESQ, PART 2, 20R11251;

PIN: 24992-0049 (LT)
PCL 27-4, SEC E-2; PT LT 28, CON 2 ESQ, PART 3,4, 20R11251, S/T PT 4,
20R11251, IN FAVOUR OF BLK 61, 20M604 AS IN 585008

PIN: 24992-0502 (LT)
PCL BLOCK 63-1, SEC 20M604; BLK 63, PL 20M604

PIN: 24992-0505 (LT)
PCL BLOCK 66-1, SEC 20M604; BLK 66, PL 20M604

PIN: 24992-0127 (LT)
PT LT 133, PL 603, AS IN 268142; ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098
The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of
Halton

SCHEDULE “B” TO BY-LAW NO. 2025-0067

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Description of Property

Prospect Park is an approximately 25-acre parkland complex within the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills, located west of Acton's Main Street. The park is situated on a 14-acre peninsula that extends into the approximately 69-acre Fairy Lake. Surrounding the park to the northeast, east, and southeast are late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries residential subdivisions. Prospect Park shares the peninsula with Park Avenue and Lake Avenue.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Prospect Park is a unique and representative example of nineteenth-century recreational and community space within Acton and the greater community of Halton Hills. Situated on a peninsula extending into the human-made Fairy Lake, the park has been landscaped to blend natural features with human design. Mature deciduous trees line the former driving track that encircles the park. The graveled track allows visitors to circumnavigate the property and observe the lake from its three shorelines. Mature deciduous trees are located around the perimeter of the path and throughout the park. Benches are installed throughout the property, and an additional semi-paved walking path stretches from Prospect Park through Rotary Park on the north bank, forming a horseshoe around the lake's north arm and transitioning users from the maintained park to denser natural vegetation.

Prospect Park's location on Fairy Lake, its landscape design, and its emphasis on preserving a curated natural setting distinguish it from other fairgrounds in Halton Hills, such as the Georgetown Fairgrounds, which are surrounded by residential development. Unlike Georgetown, where urban expansion has enclosed the fairgrounds, Fairy Lake serves as a natural boundary for Acton's fairgrounds. This relative isolation from urbanism around Prospect Park has enabled Acton to integrate its landscape design with the natural environment, despite the property's central location within the community. The park's design incorporates the lake as a central feature, while strategic plantings of foliage and fencing at the peninsula's base create a natural buffer against urban encroachment. This approach enhances the park's identity as a scenic, secluded space, preserving its historical role as both a recreational and cultural landmark.

The character of Prospect Park is also defined by its collection of cultural heritage sites and structures that exhibit high craftsmanship and artistic merit. These structures are rare, unique, and representative examples of specific styles and expressions. This collection includes the form and interior of the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed (formerly the Acton Drill Shed), the Bandstand, the entrance pillars, and the Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery. Each of these features represents a distinct period in the park's evolution and are closely tied to the broader history, culture, and heritage of Acton, collectively illustrating the community's cultural, political, social, and architectural development.

Prospect Park has direct associations with several significant community themes, events, people, activities, and organizations that are significant to the growth, development and culture of the Acton community and its cultural heritage.

The Park has routinely influenced Acton's community and civic identity since its

establishment in 1889. Originally part of the Adams family farmland, the park's transition from private agricultural space to publicly owned civic land reflects the evolving priorities of the community. The park's development was closely tied to Acton's growth as an agricultural and industrial town, particularly through its association with significant community figures such as Ransom Adams, E.W. Smith, Alfred Owen Beardmore Senior, and A.O. Terrance Beardmore.

The park is associated with the most significant cultural and community events that have shaped Acton's social and civic identity for over a century. The Acton Fall Fair, first held at the park in 1913, remains one of the town's longest-standing traditions, reflecting the region's agricultural history and economic development. Large-scale public celebrations, such as Dominion Day events, town anniversary festivities, post-war celebrations, Canada Day, and other festivals, have been regularly held at the park for over a century. The park also hosted company picnics for Beardmore & Co., a major employer in Acton, illustrating how industrial and community life intersected within Acton's parklands. Its affiliation with organizations such as the Halton Rifles, the Acton Agricultural Society, and various sporting clubs emphasize its role as a communal space for both recreation and civic engagement. The park's uses have evolved over time, from early agricultural fairs and sports competitions to mid-century civic events, reflecting broader societal changes in Acton's development.

Beyond its role as an event space, Prospect Park provides information that contributes to the understanding of Acton's community, culture, social progress, and historical development. The land was originally settled in the early nineteenth century by the Adams brothers, Methodist preachers who contributed to Acton's early agricultural and religious life. As Acton expanded and industrialized, the land transformed into a public space, reflecting a shift from individual land ownership to collective civic use. The development of Prospect Park was an ongoing process shaped by the town's needs. The construction of entrance pillars and a bandstand in 1926, for example, was part of a broader community-driven initiative to formalize and enhance the park in time for Acton's 50th anniversary. Similarly, the gradual addition of amenities, including the Acton Drill Shed, boathouse, and former arena, demonstrates how the park adapted to serve multiple generations.

Several historic structures within Prospect Park contribute to the overall character of its cultural landscape and are directly associated with significant themes, events, people, activities, organizations, and institutions that have played a vital role in the Acton community. These include the Acton Drill Shed (now the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), the bandstand, the entrance pillars, and the Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery.

Prospect Park is fundamental to the identity of Acton, playing a significant role in defining, maintaining, and supporting both the character of the surrounding neighbourhoods and the broader community. Since its establishment in 1889, the park has served as a focal point for recreation, community celebrations, cultural heritage, and civic engagement. The park's role extends beyond its function as a recreational space; it has actively influenced Acton's physical development, preserved essential elements of its history and cultural heritage, and provided a continuous gathering place for generations of residents.

It is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings in several ways. Physically, Fairy Lake has directly influenced the park's geography and development. This body of water remains a defining feature, shaping the park's landscape and recreational uses. The peninsula that forms much of the property was created in the mid-1830s when the Adams brothers constructed a dam on Black Creek to create a mill pond for their sawmill and flour mills.

Moreover, Prospect Park's presence has directly shaped the urban and residential

development of Acton. Unlike other areas where land was rapidly subdivided for housing or industry, Prospect Park was intentionally preserved as a public space, influencing how the surrounding neighbourhoods evolved. In the late nineteenth century, Councillor W. E. Smith surveyed the housing developments of Park and Lake Avenue, located northeast, east, and southeast of the park, to ensure that the development complemented rather than encroached upon the park. These streets were designed with the park as a focal point, ensuring it remained accessible and central to the community. This deliberate planning decision helped maintain the park as a central and accessible feature of Acton's landscape.

Throughout the twentieth century, as Acton expanded, the town recognized the need to protect and enhance the park. Ten additional acres of land adjoining the park to the northwest were designated as public recreational and green space rather than being developed for housing. Later efforts, such as the annexation of land from the Lakeview subdivision in the 1970s, further solidified the park's role as a defining element of Acton's built environment and accentuates its physical connection to and influence on community development. Municipal planning decisions over multiple generations have prioritized the park's expansion rather than its reduction thereby emphasizing its significance in maintaining the town's character.

Beyond its influence on physical development, Prospect Park is a repository of Acton's historical and cultural heritage. The park's origins are intertwined with Acton's early settlement history. Originally farmed by the Adams brothers in the early nineteenth century, the land was transformed by the creation of Fairy Lake in the 1830s, a result of their mill operations. This historical connection is further supported by the presence of the Pioneer Cemetery, where members of the Adams family, including Eliphalet and Zenas Adams, are buried, maintaining a physical link between Acton's founding figures and the present-day community.

The park's cultural significance is also evident in its structures that are visually and historically linked to the surrounding neighbourhood and greater community. The entry pillars and bandstand, constructed in the 1920s, reflect the Edwardian and Gothic Revival architectural influences found throughout Acton, particularly in the homes along Knox Street, Park Avenue, and Lake Avenue. These structures contribute to the community's historical continuity, reinforcing Acton's late nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural character. The Pioneer Cemetery, once connected with Knox Church, maintains a historic connection to the early European settlement of Acton and is linked to both the Knox Presbyterian Church and the Adams family property. Similarly, the Acton Drill Shed (now the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), originally built in 1867 and relocated to the park in 1891, preserves a piece of Acton's military and civic history. While its exterior has been altered to preserve its structural integrity, the preserved original interiors remain a representative example of mid-nineteenth-century rural military structures in Southern Ontario, making it one of the oldest standing structures in Acton today.

Another key cultural feature of the park is its longstanding association with the Acton Fall Fair, which has been hosted on the site since 1913. The fair has been an annual tradition for over a century, bringing together residents to celebrate Acton's agricultural and rural heritage. The park's ability to accommodate large-scale community events has reinforced its role as a cultural landmark, ensuring that Acton's traditions are maintained and passed down through generations.

Prospect Park is not only a historical landmark but also an essential community anchor that maintains the social and recreational character of Acton. From its inception, the park was designed as a shared space where residents could gather and participate in public life. Its diverse amenities, including sports fields, a boathouse, walking trails, picnic areas, and play facilities, have ensured that it remains relevant and valuable to

residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Another defining aspect of Prospect Park is its role in maintaining Acton's connection to nature. The preservation of Fairy Lake and green space has ensured that the park remains a scenic and ecologically valuable space, balancing public use with environmental conservation. Efforts to maintain the natural landscape have been ongoing. In the late twentieth century, concerns were raised about water quality and shoreline erosion, prompting initiatives in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation to restore and protect the area's natural features. These efforts included stabilizing the shoreline, improving water circulation, and introducing native plantings to support local biodiversity. By maintaining a balance between built structures and natural elements, the park reflects Acton's broader identity as a town that values both heritage and green space.

Heritage Attributes

The identified heritage attributes of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake that contribute to its physical and design value include:

- The central location of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake within the community of Acton;
- The existing built features, including:
 - The 1926 bandstand at the Prospect Park entrance, including:
 - The setback, location, and orientation of the 1926 octagonal Fachwerk Revival structure;
 - Its scale, form, and massing;
 - The materials, including local pine and decorative half-timbered framing;
 - The upper open-air platform;
 - The ornamental Gothic Revival brackets;
 - The wooden balustrade;
 - The octagonal roof;
 - The 1926 Prospect Park entrance pillars, including:
 - The setback, location, and orientation of the two remaining posts in their original location since 1926;
 - Their scale, form, and massing;
 - The materials, including local flagstone and lime mortar;
 - The 1867 Acton Drill Shed (currently known as the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), including:
 - The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building, in its current location since 1929;
 - The scale, form, and massing of the 1867 frame building;
 - The materials, including the structure's original pine plank walls and exposed nineteenth century posts and beams on the interior;
 - The 1934 Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery Cairn, including:
 - Its original markers and monuments, with their surviving inscriptions;
 - The variety of styles, materials and symbolism represented in the markers and monuments;
 - The scale, symmetry, and design of the c.1930s cement cairn and monument;
 - Its location, orientation and dimensions;
 - Its c.1930s boundary posts and mature trees;
- Natural and human-made features within the landscape, including:

- Fairy Lake and the extant dam;
- The half-mile former drive track;
- The mature deciduous trees along the former drive track; and,
- The mature coniferous trees in the former location of the Acton Grandstand.

The identified heritage attribute that contributes to the historical and associative value of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake includes:

- The legibility of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake as an evolved nineteenth-century recreational and community space within Acton and the greater community of Halton Hills.

The identified heritage attributes that contribute to the contextual value of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake include:

- The legibility of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake as an evolved nineteenth-century recreational and community space within Acton and the greater community of Halton Hills;
- The central location of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake within the community of Acton;
- The existing built features, including:
 - The 1926 bandstand at the Prospect Park entrance;
 - The 1926 Prospect Park entrance pillars;
 - The 1867 Acton Drill Shed;
 - The 1934 Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery Cairn; and,
 - Natural and human-made features within the landscape, including:
 - Fairy Lake and the extant dam;
 - The half-mile former drive track;
 - The mature deciduous trees along the former drive track; and,
 - The mature coniferous trees in the former location of the Acton Grandstand.