



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor R. Bonnette and Members of Council
REPORT FROM: Ashley Mancuso, Records / FOI Coordinator
DATE: May 29, 2007
REPORT NO.: CL-2007-0013
RE: Designation of Speyside Royal Oak (being an English oak tree) under Section IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, 11445 Highway 25, Part Lot 18, Con 3 (Part 1, 20R-15522).
File No.: R01 SP

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. CL-2007-0013 dated May 29, 2007, regarding the designation of the Speyside Royal Oak (being an English oak tree) located at the property municipally known as 11445 Highway 25; Part Lot 18, Con 3 (Part 1, 20R-15522) be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council designate the Speyside Royal Oak under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

AND FURTHER THAT staff proceed with the notification requirements as set out in the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

AND FURTHER THAT staff bring forward a by-law to designate the Speyside Royal Oak located at the property municipally known as 11445 Highway 25; Part Lot 18, Con 3 (Part 1, 20R-15522).

BACKGROUND:

In November 2005, the Heritage Halton Hills committee established its commitment to researching the Speyside Royal Oak with an eye toward designation.

J.M. Rowe, Chair of Heritage Halton Hills, forwarded correspondence, dated May 23, 2006, to the Halton District School Board to announce the intention to recommend designation.

Concurrently, the committee worked on establishing the Listed Cultural Heritage Properties for the Heritage Register – the Speyside Royal Oak was also included in this effort.

On September 6, 2006, E. Westerhof, Manager of Planning for the Halton District School Board, forwarded correspondence requesting the following:

- *Exact location of the tree through a mutually convenient on-site meeting.*
- *Confirmation of the tree with the aid of digital orthophotography, already on file.*
- *Confirmation through a certified arborist that the tree is in fact a Royal Oak and that the tree is viable and in good health.*
- *Confirmation of the rights and responsibilities as a landowner towards the tree, e.g., maintenance, nearby works, removal.*

On November 2, 2006, J.M. Rowe coordinated an on-site meeting with J. Egan, Supervisor of North Area Schools, to identify and confirm the location of the Speyside Royal Oak.

Heritage Halton Hills secured the services of a professional arborist and on December 1, 2006, P. van Wassenaer of Urban Forest Innovations Inc., forwarded a report on his Speyside Royal Oak inspection.

On January 11, 2007, J.M. Rowe, Chair of Heritage Halton Hills, forwarded correspondence and the Heritage Halton Hills Designation Report in response to the Halton District School Board's request.

On January 18, 2007, E. Westerhof acknowledged receipt of the Chair's correspondence and requested a copy of this report, when available, be forwarded for their files.

COMMENTS:

The attached designation report (refer to Appendix 1), prepared by Heritage Halton Hills Chair J.M. Rowe, provides a historical perspective and detail which supports the rationale for designation of the Speyside Royal Oak. The criteria requirements are met under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, in that:

1. The Speyside Royal Oak has design value because it is an excellent example of an English oak. It is well-formed and healthy.
2. The Royal Oak has historical value because it came from an acorn from the Royal Park at Windsor and was planted by area students to commemorate the coronation of H.M. King George VI in 1937. The tree has direct association with the residents of this area.
3. This tree has contextual value because it is a recognized landmark in Speyside. It has been documented by the Dublin Women's Institute.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report relates to the Town's desire to preserve and enhance our Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact on the Town.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:

In May 2006, the Heritage Halton Hills committee advised the owner, Halton District School Board, of the intention to recommend designation.

In January 2007, correspondence and a copy of the designation report, prepared by J.M. Rowe was forwarded to E. Westerhof, Manager of Planning, and G. Cullen, Superintendent of Facility Services, to address the Board's concerns and to formally advise of the intention to recommend designation.

If Council decides that designation under Part IV is warranted, staff will provide Written Notice of Intention to Designate as required by Section 29 (3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in the manner and form and to the persons and agencies prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

CONSULTATION:

The Planning Department and Engineering, Public Works & Building Services were consulted during the preparation of this report as their departments form an integral part in the chain of communication between staff, Heritage Halton Hills and the property owner in terms of development, building and heritage permits and any other facet pertaining to heritage conservation.

CONCLUSION:

In keeping with the commitment to preserve natural heritage and one that has unique cultural and historic ties to the community it is recommended that Council designate the Speyside Royal Oak.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Mancuso
Records / FOI Coordinator

Dennis Y. Perlin
Chief Administrative Officer

Karen Landry
Town Clerk