



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor R. Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Ashley Mancuso, Records / FOI Coordinator

DATE: October 29, 2007

REPORT NO.: CL-2007-0058

RE: Designation of Glen Williams Town Hall under Section IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1 Prince Street, Glen Williams, legally described as Lot 65, Plan 49, East of South Side of Prince Street, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. CL-2007-0058 dated October 29, 2007, regarding the designation of the Glen Williams Town Hall under Section IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1 Prince Street, Glen Williams, legally described as Lot 65, Plan 49, East of South Side of Prince Street, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council designate the Glen Williams Town Hall 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 Glen Williams Town Hall located at the property municipally known as 1 Prince Street, Glen Williams, legally described as Lot 65, Plan 49, East of South Side of Prince Street, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton.

BACKGROUND:

At the April 20, 2006, Glen Williams Town Hall Board meeting, the Board voted to request designation of the Glen Williams Town Hall.

Heritage Halton Hills at its May 17, 2006, meeting received correspondence, dated May 9, 2006, from Glen Williams Town Hall Inc., formally requesting designation (see

Appendix A). Under Recommendation HERITAGE-2006-0014, the committee voted to proceed with the designation of the Glen Williams Town Hall.

The Glen Williams Designation Report (see Appendix B), prepared by J.M. Rowe and dated October 2007, was received by Heritage Halton Hills at its October 24, 2007, meeting. Under Recommendation HERITAGE-2007-0021, the committee voted to receive and approve the Glen Williams Town Hall Designation Report and that it be forwarded to Council to request designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

COMMENTS:

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

1. The Glen Williams Town Hall has design value because it is an excellent example of the hand-pressed red clay brick that was made, just north of the village, into a small brick measuring about 8.5” by 2.5”. The bricks are laid in a Flemish bond pattern, which is alternating headers and stretchers on each course. An alternating header and stretcher are used as the pattern for the brick header over each window.

The windows are large double hung windows with nine panes of glass divided by wooden muntins within each sash. Each window sits on a heavy wooden sill being a full two inches thick.

The front doors are two wooden doors measuring three feet wide by eight feet high. These doors are protected by the brick vestibule built on the front of the original building.

The roof is pitched front gabled of wood frame with asphalt shingles. A gable return dresses up the gable end of red brick. The barge board is undecorated.

The vestibule, added about 1981, complements the existing features and any future changes should retain this style.

2. The Glen Williams Town Hall has historical value due to an exterior made of local hand-pressed red clay brick, erected in 1870-71 by Georgetown builder Walter McKay. It has served the community in various capacities continuously since 1871.
3. The Glen Williams Town Hall has cultural value because it has been the centre of village life since its opening. It has served the village socially, educationally, politically, religiously and in every possible capacity a community hall could be used for.

4. The Glen Williams Town Hall is a typical example of a village community hall built of local brick in a colonial Cape Cod style. Its architectural features are the Flemish bond brick pattern, the double hung multi-paned windows and two large wooden entry doors. The hall has been central to the history of the Village of Glen Williams from its opening in 1871, being associated especially with Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report relates to the Town's desire to preserve and enhance our Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage specifically Action item 1.17 which recommends that we continue to collaborate with Heritage Halton Hills to implement heritage preservation programs".

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact on the Town.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:

In May 2006, Glen Williams Town Hall Inc., requested Heritage Halton Hills formally proceed with the designation of the Glen Williams Town Hall.

In October 2007, Heritage Halton Hills chair J.M. Rowe, who also serves as a trustee for the Glen Williams Town Hall Board, submitted the Glen Williams Designation Report (see Appendix B).

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 our heritage in Halton Hills and one that has unique cultural and historic ties to the community it is recommended that Council designate the Glen Williams Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Mancuso
Records / FOI Coordinator

Dennis Y. Perlin
Chief Administrative Officer

Karen Landry
Town Clerk

APPENDIX A

GLEN WILLIAMS TOWN HALL INC.

9 May 2006

Heritage Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive
Georgetown, Ontario.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Glen Williams Town Hall is a group of volunteers who maintain the village community hall on Prince Street. The group of annually elected Trustees are the collective owners of the building. We are incorporated in Ontario and are a charitable organization as well. Besides maintaining the hall, the Trustees also sponsor community events like the annual Canada Day celebrations and Children's Christmas party, to name just two.

In our support for the village of Glen Williams, the Town Hall was an original supporter of the creation of the Glen Williams heritage conservation district. Unfortunately, this plan was never realized. Nevertheless, the Town Hall would like the structure preserved and protected within the setting of the village.

On 20 April 2006, the Trustees of the Glen Williams Town Hall Inc. voted to send a letter to Heritage Halton Hills to request designation of the Glen Williams Town Hall as a heritage building under the Heritage Act.

The Glen Williams Town Hall was built in 1871 and opened with a concert on Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24th). It was renovated in 1976 and the interior was gutted and completely remodeled. Therefore, it would only be the exterior of the building which would be eligible for protection.

We await your decision.

Sincerely,


John Mark Rowe,
President.

APPENDIX B

Glen Williams Town Hall



**Heritage Halton Hills
Designation Report
October 2007**

By John Mark Rowe

Glen Williams Town Hall

Location

The Glen Williams Town Hall is located at 1 Prince Street, Glen Williams, Town of Halton Hills, having Assessment Roll Number 24 15 070 003 61900 0000. The property is identified as Lot 65 on the Plan of the Village of Glen Williams with a frontage of 40 feet and a depth of 50 feet, occupying 0.05 acres.

History

Drinking in the Glen! The story of the Glen Williams Town Hall begins with intoxicating spirits and the desire of villagers to save their neighbours from their own folly. A Glen Williams temperance society was formed, known as Royal Oak Temple No. 552. A visiting lecturer in 1869 wrote, "I have also had the pleasure of meeting with the Temple at Glenwilliams, which is said to be the best in the county, and enjoying the noble hospitality of its members. It would be difficult to find a more zealous and active membership than this Temple has the advantage of and the result is good progress and a noble work..." This group probably met in the schoolhouse on Prince Street, the only large room in the village.

Glen Williams March 28th 1870

Owing to the absolute necessity of having a public Hall in this village a meeting was held in the house of Charles Williams Esq on the evening of the 28th March 1870 composed of the following Gentlemen Mr Joseph Tweedle Chairman B Williams Secy Mr John Murray Treasurer Charles Williams John Hunt & William Tost to consider the best way & means for the erection of public Hall in Glen Williams

Moved by Mr Tost seconded by John Hunt that Messrs Joseph Tweedle John Murray John Hunt Charles Williams B Williams George H Kennedy William Tost Samuel Cook & John Jones be a building Committee to transact all business in connection with this proposed Hall carried

Moved by Mr John Hunt seconded by Mr Tost that a subscription list payable on the 1st October be drawn up and signed by the members of the building Committee present and circulated among the electors at the place of polling tomorrow after carefully considering the expense of building it was decided by the members present to put up the Hall of Brick Moved by B Williams seconded by Mr Tost that we send out work from 10 o'clock in this place carried meeting adjourned

B Williams Secy

The Glen Williams Temperance Society wanted to stop the flow of liquor so they approached Charles Williams for a piece of land for a community hall which they could also use for meetings. A meeting of community leaders was held in March 1870 at the home of Charles Williams where it was decided a Town Hall was a desirable objective. Attending the meeting were Joseph Tweedle, Benajah Williams, John Murray, John Hunt and William Tost. At the April meeting the site was chosen as "along side of the Brick Store and Mr. Tost's Blacksmith shop." It was also decided that "the Hall be built of brick thirty-five feet wide, fifty feet long

and the walls fifteen feet high." Charles Williams deeded the land to the first nine trustees to be held in trust for the community.

In May 1870, the Good Templars of Royal Oak Temple (Glen Williams) attended a meeting and requested the privilege of having all their meetings in this Hall for the donation of \$200 towards the building project. The building committee agreed, especially since the Templars representative was R. S. McCrea, shopkeeper in the adjoining general store.

After considerable discussion a contract was given in June 1870 to Walter McKay of Georgetown to build a brick hall 28x44 feet, being 15 feet high for \$1000.

On 14 May 1871 a meeting was held at John Cook's hotel and the first slate of Trustees was chosen. They were George H. Kennedy, Daniel Cook and John S. Fraser, yeomen; William Tost, blacksmith; Benajah Williams and John Hunt, manufacturers; Joseph Williams, miller; Robert Brown, pumpmaker and William Kerr, tinsmith.

The red brick hall opened on May 24, 1871 with a patriotic concert in honour of the Queen's birthday. The hall had a wooden floor with a stove at the centre near the back. The front had a long raised stage, also of wood construction.

The first request came in August 1871 when the Wesleyan Methodist Church requested use of the Hall for services on every second Sunday afternoon and the Sabbath School would use it alternate Sundays. This was granted as long as they paid to have chairs made.

Rentals began in 1873 when the Trustees had two requests – one from the Glen Band for practices and concerts and one from the English Church (Anglican) for divine services. The price was fixed at \$24 per annum, if they provided their own light and fuel! A daily rate of \$2 was fixed, without fuel or light.

As trustees resigned or died, they were replaced by another Glen resident. They met as needed, often three times a year. The Hall was always busy. Besides the Temperance Society, the band and two churches, political meetings were held as needed and this was the polling station for all elections. Fraternal workers associations and the Loyal Orange Lodge met here. Christmas concerts from the school, recitations and music recitals became regular features. Even traveling medicine shows with a live bear and fiery preachers used the stage to good effect. With the advent of electricity, hydro bills could be paid here monthly. In the twentieth century, dances were introduced with live bands playing on the stage. Lucy Maud Montgomery staged many works here with her Union Dramatic Players.

In 1949, the school house bell tower collapsed when a new addition was being constructed. Classes opened in the Town Hall in September. After such extensive use for decades, the Hall was in bad shape. In 1953, the Board was offered \$1000 for the property, which would be demolished. The

offer was rejected. In September 1953, the Hall was leased to the Board of Education, effectively ending its service as a community hall. The Hall Board held informal meetings thereafter. Clayton Allen, who joined the board in 1953, became the caretaker of the place. When the school finished with the place, it was used returned to the community for a time. Teenage dances under the auspices of St. Alban's were held with a live band and DJ, while the United Church held bake and rummage sales. The need for repairs prompted the trustees to lease the hall out for furniture storage.

On 1 January 1974, Esquesing Township (which included Glen Williams) was absorbed by the Town of Halton Hills. Local residents were worried that the "town hall" belonged to the new Corporation. People got together to clarify ownership and a village meeting was held to discuss the future of the Hall. Trustees present included Clayton Allen, Ray Addy, Fred Engleby, Una Wheeler and John



Damaged back wall of Town Hall, July 1975

Wagstaffe. They outlined the problems: crumbling back

wall, rotting floor, sagging ceiling, no water or septic, leaking roof and a bank balance of \$86. A renovation committee was struck with Cy Waters as chairman and included Nancy Waters, Lorraine and Richard Nowina, Ellen Russell, Sheila Willis, Pat and Bob Harrington, Campbell and Ann Blair, Una Wheeler, Red Cuthbert, Joan Brown, Alex Ashenhurst, Betty Allen and Cathy Bouskill.

Local residents rallied to restore the Hall, and a federal grant of \$13,500 was received under the Opportunities for Youth programme. Fundraisers were held and volunteer labour abounded to restore the facility.

The back wall was rebuilt and the old brick was re-pointed. The outhouses and cloak room at the front of the building were removed. The interior was gutted and dry-walled with a balcony being added at the far end. The floor was removed and the ground excavated to pour a concrete cistern and septic tank, the top of which formed the new floor of the Hall. Rain run-off filled the cistern and a pump with an ultra-violet filter provided water for the small kitchen and toilets.

The Town Hall Board decided to thank the village for their support by sponsoring Dominion Day celebrations on July 1, 1976 which included the official re-opening of the Hall. The Glen Williams Town Hall consisted of every member of the village at this point. Meetings were held in a "New England" town hall style with every resident attending the meeting having a vote.



In 1981, it was decided to incorporate the Hall for insurance purposes. In true village style much of the legal work was donated. The Glen Williams Town Hall Inc. was incorporated on November 12, 1981 in the Province of Ontario. This formalized the structure of the trustees. The model set forth in the deed drawn up by Charles Williams in 1871 was restored. Annual elections are held today to select the nine trustees who administer the Hall. They are the legal owners of the Hall for the term of their office. The Hall achieved charitable status in 1983, principally to issue donation receipts in connection with their on-going commitment to run Canada Day every year.

Besides Canada Day celebrations which include the Duck Race, nine trustees rent the hall out, sponsor coffee houses, a Children's Christmas party, a seniors monthly lunch and Canada Day festivities for all.



Mr. & Mrs. J. Ken Williams visit the Hall for the 1984 Bicentennial celebrations.

The Town Hall has also been active in the community since restoring the Hall in 1976. They sponsored Village celebrations for the Ontario Bicentennial in 1984 and for their own 120th anniversary. They made donations to the creative playground at the Glen Williams Public School (since removed) and at the Glen Ball Park. They contributed funds for the construction of the gazebo at the Glen Ball Park. They have planted

several trees in the Glen Ball Park. They have donated to Glen Minor Ball annually for decades.

The Glen Williams Town Hall spear-headed the project to create the Shelagh Law Memorial Parkette from wasteland created when the river wall was created. They installed benches, a plaque and a lamp standard as well as landscaping the property. The "Welcome to Glen Williams" sign was a project completely organized and paid for by the Town Hall. The Hall also paid for three new flag poles at the cenotaph and donated numerous flags to be flown from them. In addition, the Hall paid for benches in the Glen cemetery (twice after the first set was stolen). When Scouting and Guiding were active in the village, the Hall Board donated the use of the Hall and made annual cash donations to their programmes.



Village Skating Rink January 1989



Russ and Gerry Miller receive a farewell from Steve Gemesi in 1994

To mark the millennium in the village, the Glen Williams Town Hall designed and replaced new street signs on every street in the village.

So the historic Glen Williams Town Hall continues to be an active integral part of village life, improving the quality of life for the citizens of Glen Williams of all ages and for visitors from other places like Georgetown.



REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Design Value

The simplicity of the Glen Williams Town Hall is the beauty worth preserving. The hand-pressed red clay brick was made just north of the village into a small brick measuring about 8.5" by 2.5". The bricks are laid in a Flemish bond pattern, which is alternating headers and stretchers on each course. An alternating header and stretcher are used as the pattern for the brick header over each window.

The windows are large double hung windows with nine panes of glass divided by wooden muntins within each sash. Each window sits on a heavy wooden sill being a full two inches thick.

The front doors are two wooden doors measuring three feet wide by eight feet high. These doors are protected by the brick vestibule built on the front of the original building.

The roof is pitched front gabled of wood frame with asphalt shingles. A gable return dresses up the gable end of red brick. The barge board is undecorated.

The vestibule, added about 1981, complements the existing features and any future changes should retain this style.

Historical Value

The Glen Williams Town Hall has an exterior made of local hand-pressed red clay brick, erected in 1870-71 by Georgetown builder Walter McKay. It has served the community in various capacities continuously from 1871.

Cultural Value

The Glen Williams Town Hall has been the centre of village life since its opening. It has served the village socially, educationally, politically, religiously and in short in every possible capacity a community hall could be used for.

Heritage Value

The Glen Williams Town Hall is a typical example of a village community hall built of local brick in a colonial Cape Cod style. Its architectural features are the Flemish bond brick pattern, the double hung multi-paned windows and two large wooden entry doors. The hall has been central to the history of the Village of Glen Williams from its opening in 1871, being associated especially with Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery.

Character - Defining Elements

- Flemish bond pattern red clay bricks
- Double-hung multi-paned large windows on three sides
- Eight foot high wooden entrance doors (inside vestibule)

Documentation

The Canadian Champion, 25 March, 1869

Minutes of the Glen Williams Town Hall 1870-2006

Current Owner

The Glen Williams Town Hall is owned by a Board of nine trustees that stand for election annually in November. The 2007 trustees are John Mark Rowe, President; Janice Giles, Don Barclay, Joe Coutts, John Vandenberg, Steve Gemesi, Jane Cookson, Paul Griffin and Doug Getty. The Glen Williams Town Hall Board voted to request designation at their April 2006 meeting.

Recommendations

Heritage Halton Hills recommends to the Council of the Town of Halton Hills to proceed with designation of the Glen Williams Town Hall under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for the reasons cited above.