

Request for Decision

Carrefour Rheel Belisle - Listing on Municipal Heritage Registry

Presented To:	Planning Committee
Presented:	Monday, May 29, 2017
Report Date	Wednesday, May 03, 2017
Type:	Managers' Reports

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the addition of the Carrefour Rhéal Belisle (2777 Main Street, Blezard Valley) to the City of Greater Sudbury's Heritage Register.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

Growing the Municipal Heritage Register by four properties per year is identified as an action item under the Quality of Life and Place pillar of [Council's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan](#).

Report Summary

The Ontario Heritage Act allows municipalities to include in their formal heritage register properties which the municipality considers being of cultural heritage value or interest but which are not designated. Listing properties on the Municipal Heritage Register is consistent with Council's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan. The Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel recommends that Carrefour Rhéal Belisle be listed on the register to recognize its cultural heritage value. See the attached Information Sheet for the assessment of Carrefour Rhéal Belisle's heritage value.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with listing municipal property on the Municipal Heritage Register.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Ed Landry
Senior Planner
Digitally Signed May 3, 17

Reviewed By

Kris Longston
Manager of Community and Strategic Planning
Digitally Signed May 3, 17

Recommended by the Division

Jason Ferrigan
Director of Planning Services
Digitally Signed May 9, 17

Recommended by the Department

Tony Cecutti
General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure
Digitally Signed May 9, 17

Financial Implications

Apryl Lukezic
Co-ordinator of Budgets
Digitally Signed May 11, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed May 15, 17

Carrefour Rhéal Belisle – Listing on Municipal Heritage Register

Report Date: May 10, 2017

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Carrefour Rhéal Belisle located at 2777 Main Street, Blezard Valley, be listed on the Municipal Heritage Register.

Background

One of the tasks of the Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel is to research and identify properties of cultural heritage value in the City and make recommendations to Council for their listing on the Municipal Heritage Register. Researching and listing cultural heritage resources on the Register serves to officially recognize these properties, as well as afford them a level of protection under the Ontario Heritage Act. Adding properties to the Register also helps to build public awareness and interest in Greater Sudbury's cultural heritage.

Growing the Municipal Heritage Register by four properties per year is identified as an action item under the Quality of Life and Place pillar of [Council's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan](#). The City has already taken a leadership role in this initiative by listing:

- the [David Street Water Treatment Plant](#) at 355 David Street;
- the former [Copper Cliff fire hall](#) at 7 Serpentine Street in May, 2014;
- the [Anderson Farm](#) in July 2016; and,
- [Queen's Athletic Field](#) in December 2016.

The Panel is recommending that the City continue to list City-owned cultural heritage properties on the Municipal Heritage Register. The Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel is recommending that the Carrefour Rhéal Belisle, located at 2777 Main Street, Blezard Valley, be the next City-owned property to be listed on the Register (see attached Information Sheet).

What is a Municipal Heritage Register?

As mentioned, one of the primary elements of the Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel's work program is to identify, research and recommend properties to Council for listing on the Municipal Heritage Register. This work program ties directly to the current program listed in the City's [Official Plan](#), which states that:

"The City will prepare and maintain an inventory of heritage resources. Council will support the designation and conservation of those resources listed in the inventory and implement the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act."

[Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act](#) requires a municipality to keep a current, publicly accessible register of properties of cultural heritage value or interest situated in

the municipality. The municipal register is the official list or record of cultural heritage properties that have been identified as being important to the community. The register must include all properties in the municipality that are designated under Part IV (individual designation) and Part V (district designation) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

As of 2005, the Ontario Heritage Act also allows municipalities to include on the municipal register properties of cultural heritage value that have not been designated, commonly known as "listing." Listing is a means to formally identify properties that may have cultural heritage value or interest to the community. It is an important tool in planning for their conservation and a measure of interim protection in that the owners must give the Municipality 60 days notice prior to demolition. This allows time for the municipality to decide whether to begin the designation process to give long term protection to the property, or determine that the building would a better candidate for documentation in the City's Archives and, potentially, salvage prior to demolition.

Why list a property on the register?

A comprehensive register of cultural heritage properties, including both designated and listed properties, has the following benefits:

1. The register recognizes properties of cultural heritage value in the community;
2. The register promotes knowledge and enhances an understanding of the community's cultural heritage;
3. The register is a planning document that should be consulted by municipal decision makers when reviewing development proposals or permit applications. The register provides easily accessible information about cultural heritage properties for land-use planners, property owners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public, and
4. The register provides some interim protection for listed properties.

What is the process to list non-designated properties on the register?

Council's approval is required to add cultural heritage properties that have not been designated to the register. In municipalities with a Municipal Heritage Committee, Council must consult with its committee before a non-designated property is added to or removed from the register.

The City's Heritage Plaque Program

The City developed a Heritage Plaque Program with the assistance of the past Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel. Plaques have been erected to commemorate the Chelmsford Convent, Austin Airways, the Copper Cliff Fire Hall, and the Pine Street Water Tower. Plaques to commemorate the Queen's Athletic Field, and the Carrefour

Rhéal Belisle, will be developed and installed on their respective sites.

Conclusion

The Ontario Heritage Act allows municipalities to include in their formal heritage register properties which the municipality considers being of cultural heritage value or interest but which are not designated. Listing properties on the Municipal Heritage Register is consistent with Council's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan. The Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel recommends that Carrefour Rhéal Belisle be listed on the register to recognize its cultural heritage value. See the attached Information Sheet for the assessment of Carrefour Rhéal Belisle's heritage value.

Carrefour Senator Rhéal Belisle Cultural Centre

Address	2777 Main Street, Blezard Valley ON
Owner	City of Greater Sudbury
Construction Date	1899
Legal	Geographic township of Blezard, Lot 11, Concession 5, PCL 2151



Students from Union # 2 Public School in Blezard Valley, 1920. (Valley East Heritage Collection)



Carrefour Rhéal Belisle Cultural Centre in 2016. Note addition to the rear of the building. (CGS Staff)



Location Map



Internal Detail in 2016. Original exterior seen from within new addition. (CGS Staff)

Historical Significance

Bleazard Valley's first school opened its doors in 1899. Given the growth of the community, Bleazard Valley needed a bigger and more modern school. Bleazard Valley Public School opened its doors in 1913, on the same site as the original building, and continued as a school for almost 5 decades.

In 1958, the Separate School supporters withdrew support in order to build their own school. This left sixteen public school supporters with a high tax burden. By 1960, only two rooms of the building were being occupied by students. The school was eventually put for sale.

Senator Rhéal Belisle, former student and resident of Bleazard Valley, purchased the school in 1963. After 3 years of ownership, Senator Belisle transferred the school to the Diocese of Sault-Ste-Marie.

After sitting vacant for close to 25 years, the Diocese transferred the school to the then Town of Valley-East. In 1983, the municipality decided to renovate and rehabilitate the school, and eventually reopened the building now named "Carrefour Socioculturel Sénateur Rhéal Belisle."

Cultural Heritage Value

The Cultural Centre has played an important role in the development of Bleazard Valley.

The Centre has direct associations with the development of Bleazard Valley in the early 20th century, first as a school and then as a cultural centre. It has close connections with the educational, cultural and spiritual development of the community.

With a construction date of the early 20th century, the building represents one of the oldest buildings in Greater Sudbury.

The centre has associations with Rheel Belisle (1919-1992), Member of Provincial Parliament (1955-1963), and Canadian Senator (1963-1992).

The Cultural Centre has contextual value because it helps define Bleazard Valley, Main Street in particular, and it is a landmark in the community.

Architectural Description

The two-storey building is made up of red brick. Its features include a porch at the front of the building, a bell tower, and a full basement partially made up of native stone. The building also features an elevator that is not original to the building. In the early 1980s, the Town of Valley-East added a new section of the building, located at the back. The addition consists of a new rear entrance, stairwell, and washroom facilities. The original exterior and window openings can still be seen from within the addition (see pictures above).

Sources

Lebelle, Wayne F. (2002), *Valley East 1850-2002*, WFL Communications, Field, Ontario.

Legislative Assembly of Ontario, www.ontla.on.ca, accessed on April 28, 2017

Parliament of Canada, www.lopparl.gc.ca, accessed on April 28, 2017

The Sudbury Star, "May have to Sell Their Homes to Pay Public School Taxes", August 31, 1960.



Centre, circa 1973, before addition to the back of the building (Senator Carrefour Rhéal Belisle Cultural Centre Collection)