



OAKVILLE

REPORT

Planning and Development Council

Meeting Date: January 20, 2025

FROM: Planning and Development Department

DATE: January 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Notice of amendment to By-law 2021-136 – St. John’s United Church at 262 Randall Street (January 7, 2025)

LOCATION: 262 Randall Street

WARD: Ward 3

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RECOMMENDATION:

That notice be issued under subsection 30.1(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to the owners of 262 Randall Street of the proposed amendments under subsection 30.1(2) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to By-law 2021-136.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- In 2021, St. John’s United Church, located at 262 Randall Street, was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* by By-law 2021-136.
- The 2021 designation by-law included the sanctuary building and the Lusk Hall addition. The Church has since requested that the property’s Memorial Garden also be included in the designation.
- Staff agrees that the Memorial Garden merits designation, and in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*, is recommending that By-law 2021-036 be amended to update both the statement of cultural heritage value or interest and the list of heritage attributes to include the Memorial Garden.

BACKGROUND:

The property at 262 Randall Street is located on the southeast corner of Randall and Dunn streets in Downtown Oakville and contains the historic St. John’s United Church. See Appendix A for the location map and photos of the property and its Memorial Garden.

St. John’s United Church was designated in 2021 under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* by By-law 2021-136. See Appendix B for this by-law. Staff worked with

members of the Church to bring forward a heritage designation of the property that was supported by both the town and by the church community. At the time, the goal was to conserve the 1877 sanctuary and rear vestry wing, as well as the 1923 Lusk Hall. The Church has since requested that the Memorial Garden be included in the designation as well, as it is an important part of the property’s cultural heritage value and continues to play a significant role in the church community’s cultural and religious practices.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

In accordance with section 29 of *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA), all designation by-laws are required to include the following four items: a description of the property; a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest; a description of the heritage attributes; and a correct legal description.

In the case of By-law 2021-136, both the statement explaining the property’s cultural heritage value or interest and the list of heritage attributes will need to be amended to include the Memorial Garden.

The statement of cultural heritage value or interest will be amended to add the following information about the Memorial Garden:

The church property also has cultural heritage value for its Memorial Garden located on the south side of the church building and the west side of Lusk Hall. Designed by architect George Farrow, the Memorial Garden was constructed in 1986 and is delineated by a low brick wall containing a paved area, scattering grounds and commemorative plaques. The pavers were designed to mimic the arched windows of the church and the plaques on the wall of the church building resemble shields. At the entrance to the garden is the highly visible carillon tower, designed by Ron Baird, one of Canada’s most renowned and successful sculptors. The 14-metre-tall steel tower houses electronic carillon bells and is topped with a kinetic eagle weathervane with a cross.

The Memorial Garden, including its scattering grounds, garden wall, plaques, carillon tower and oak tree, were built in memory of the church’s early members, including the Shroeder, Leonard and New families.

The list of heritage attributes will be amended to add the following attributes of the Memorial Garden:

Key attributes of the property which embody the cultural heritage value of St. John’s United Church include the following, as they relate to the Memorial Garden and courtyard on the southwest portion of the property:

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- The oak tree in the middle of the courtyard, along with the accompanying bronze plaque noting it was planted in 1969 in memory of Gordon Leonard;
 - The Memorial Garden, including low masonry walls and the presence of pavers mimicking the arched windows of the church;
 - The metal carillon tower;
 - The bronze ‘shield’ plaques on the wall of the church; and
 - The bronze plaque commemorating the carillon bells and tower on the wall of the church.

In accordance with section 30.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, a Council may amend a designation by-law made under section 29 of the OHA. As per the requirements of s.30.1 (5), Part IV of the OHA, the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee is being consulted regarding the proposed amendment to the designation by-law. Should Council decide to issue the notice of proposed amendment to the designation by-law, notice will be sent to the owner of the property. There is a 30-day objection period, following which, if no objections are received, an amending by-law will be brought forward for passage. A draft of the notice has been attached as Appendix C.

Heritage Planning staff recommends that the notice of intention to amend By-law 2021-136 be issued and that notifications proceed as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

A separate report regarding this matter was presented to the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee on December 17, 2024. The Committee supported staff’s recommendation to amend the designation by-law.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

There is no public notification required.

(B) FINANCIAL

There are no financial considerations.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

There is no impact on other departments and users.

(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This report addresses Council’s strategic priorities: Community Belonging, Environmental Sustainability, and Accountable Government.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

A Climate Emergency was declared by Council in June 2019 for the purposes of strengthening the Oakville community commitment in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed amendment to this designation by-law supports the town’s climate initiatives through the continued designation and retention of this significant historic property.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Location map and photos

Appendix B – Designation By-law 2021-136

Appendix C – Draft notice of proposed amendment to By-law 2021-136

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