

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE
BY-LAW 1993-54

A by-law to designate Lyon's Log Cabin,
Shipyards Park, as a property of historical
and architectural value and interest

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Lyon's Log Cabin at Shipyards Park is hereby designated as a property of historical and architectural value and interest pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act for reasons set out in Schedule "A" to this By-law.
2. The property designated by this By-law is the property described in Schedule "B" and as shown on Schedule "C" as attached to this By-law.

PASSED by the Council this 26th day of May, 1993.



A / MAYOR



CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 1993-54

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:

The Lyon's Log Cabin at Shipyard Park on Oakville Harbour was originally built in the 1820's and once stood on Trafalgar Road adjacent to the former village of Vernerville. The hut was moved to its present location and restored in the late 1970's. On the north facade of the cabin a plaque has been placed which outlines the cabin's history. The plaque reads as follows:

**"The History of George and Mary Lyon
and their Log Cabin
1820 - 1870 - 1980**

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George Lyon (29th May, 1833 - 1921) and Mary Lyon (18th December 1835 - 1922) were married in England in 1868 and came to Canada that year on a sailing ship. Soon after arriving, they purchased about 50 acres of land east of the 7th Line (Trafalgar Road). At the top of the hill north of the present White Oaks Boulevard, about opposite the tall pine bush still on the west side. Their property extended as far west as Morrison Creek and is now occupied by Trafalgar Heights Apartments.

They lived in a log cabin which had already been built on the property about 1820. A lean to was added to hold a small buggy and wagon and a separate kitchen one step up from the cabin proper; the cabin portion (the same size as the present) was divided into two small bedrooms in one end and a "living area" in the other end. There was a large cast-iron self feeding coal stove with mica windows in the centre for heat. The stove was always brilliantly shining, there was a platform just under the roof slopes

and above the bedrooms reached by stairs that could also be used for sleeping. Light was provided by the stove and by oil lamps. A large clock in the living area told time. Mr. Lyon built a separate barn of timbers and boards and kept several cows, horses, pigs and chickens and farmed a portion of the land (hay, etc. for cattle feed and vegetables for eating). Suckers would be caught in Morrison Creek at the back of the property in early Spring. There were also wild rabbits, raccoons and partridge on the property.

While living in the cabin, four sons and five daughters were born to the Lyons. Mr. Lyon worked for the Township of Trafalgar on road maintenance and did much of this work alone or with some help from sons and grandsons. He took direction from the Reeve.

Eventually, one of Mr. Lyons' sons (Edward) purchased the property and house. He renovated it and lived in it for some years. Later, ownership of the property and buildings changed hands a number of times, eventually being owned by the Town of Oakville. In 1966, the Lyon and adjoining properties were purchased by a development company for apartments and commercial businesses.

In 1968, when the land was being cleared and prepared for construction, one of the old buildings on the property was found to be the original Lyon's log cabin which had been covered with boarding some years before to improve its appearance. Since it obviously had some historic value, it was then measured and dismantled as much as possible and reconstructed some years later in Shipyard Park in the harbour at its present location. Most of the logs had to be replaced but the form, size and style are the same as

the original, except that a brick and stone fireplace were added at one end. Actual reconstruction was carried out by students of the T. A. Blakelock High School, Lorne Scots Regiment Cadets, Dr. H. J. Newman and the Harbours Authority.

To the north of the cabin, a row of masonry stones form a low retaining wall for the garden. These stones were part of the centre pier of the swing bridge over the Creek opened in 1895. The bridge carried Colbourne Street (now Lakeshore Road) over Sixteen Mile Creek.

The above information was obtained in 1979 during an interview with Mr. and Mrs. George Lyon, grandson of the above referred to Mr. and Mrs. George Lyon.

Oakville Harbours Development Authority, January 1980.

The Lyon's log cabin is also significant because it is the last vestage of the Village of Vernerville, a small hamlet which once existed adjacent to the Lyon Farm on Trafalgar Road, south of Upper Middle Road. This small hamlet was founded by Sir Frederick Verner in the 1850's. The hamlet was established on the strength of its position to the "new Plank Road". Unfortunately, the coming of the railway and the general poor quality of the road meant that Verner's dream of a permanent settlement would not be achieved and the few settlers who did come to Vernerville soon left.

The Lyon's Log Cabin at Shipyard Park is an excellent example of a pioneer log cabin. With its square simple form, small multi-paned windows and wood shingle roof, the Lyon's log cabin is a representation of a primitive log structure which would have been slightly improved by the occupying family after two or three years of habitation. Much of the structure is not of the original materials, however, the form of the building is identical to the original and the new logs and other materials are exact replacements. The building has a single room composition, four windows, one of which is boarded up, two doors and a medium pitch roof. The chimney and fireplace were added during restoration. The stones which act as a supporting wall for the garden at the north side of the cabin were once part of an 1895 swing bridge which once crossed the Sixteen.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW 1993-54

All and Singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton and being composed of the Oakville Harbour according to Plan 1 and shown on the attached Schedule "C".

