

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** February 10, 2025  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Alexander Burnett, Intermediate Planner  
**Report Number:** COU25-012  
**Attachments:** Draft By-law with Schedule A and B, and COU24-159 – Intent to Designate 15 Huron Street Report (The Shakespearean Gardens) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

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**Title:** Designation of 15 Huron Street (The Shakespearean Gardens) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Objective:** To provide a recommendation from Heritage Stratford regarding the proposal to designate 15 Huron Street, known as The Shakespearean Gardens, under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Background:** On December 16, 2024, Council adopted Heritage Stratford's recommendation to issue a notice of intention to designate 15 Huron Street, Stratford ON (The Shakespearean Gardens), under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, specifically the:

- a) Dufton Chimney Tower and features; including the top structure with weathervane
- b) Original stone walls throughout the garden design
- c) Huron Street lychgate
- d) Knot Garden
- e) Herb Garden
- f) Rose Garden
- g) Perennial Border Garden
- h) Walkway lamp lighting
- i) Sundial within the confines of the Garden

## j) Bust of William Shakespeare

The notice of intention to designate 15 Huron Street was served on the property owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust and published in the Town Crier of the Beacon Herald on December 28, 2024, in accordance with the requirements of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

No objections to the intention to designate the property have been received by the City.

**Analysis:** As no objections to the intention to designate the property were received, Staff recommend proceeding with the designation of the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no direct or anticipated financial implications because of the recommendation to designate the subject property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Cost of the plaque and photography for the designation is within the existing Heritage Stratford budget.

### **Link to asset management plan and strategy:**

The park and gardens and structures are part of the City's assets and as such are subject to ongoing maintenance and potential replacement. As replacement costs are considered, the heritage designation does mean that these elements will be included in the City's short, medium and long-term asset replacement program.

### **Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

#### **Work Together For Greater Impact**

This report aligns with this priority as recognizing the built and cultural heritage of Stratford preserves heritage properties for future generations.

#### **Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

##### **Culture and Community**

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT City Council designate 15 Huron Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* through the passing of a By-law pertaining to the following attributes:**

- a) Dufton Chimney Tower and features, including the top structure and weathervane**
- b) Original stone walls throughout the garden design**

- c) Huron Street lychgate
- d) Knot Garden
- e) Herb Garden
- f) Rose Garden
- g) Perennial Border Garden
- h) Walkway lamp lighting
- i) Sundial within the confines of the Garden
- j) Bust of William Shakespeare

**AND THAT, a commemorative plaque be installed on the subject lands with all costs borne by Heritage Stratford.**

**Prepared by:** Alexander Burnett, Intermediate Planner  
**Recommended by:** Marc Bancroft, MPL, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning  
Adam Betteridge, MPA, MCIP, RPP, Director of Building and Planning Services  
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer

**DRAFT BY-LAW NUMBER XXX-2025  
OF  
THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD**

BEING a by-law to designate 15 Huron Street under  
Part IV of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act as being  
of architectural and historical value or interest.

**WHEREAS** Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18 ("Ontario Heritage Act") authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate a property to be of architectural and historical value or interest;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford has consulted with its Municipal Heritage Committee;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford has caused to be served upon The Ontario Heritage Foundation and the owners of the property known as 15 Huron Street, City of Stratford ("**Property**"), notice of its intention to so designate the Property and has caused general circulation in the City of Stratford by publication of the notice of intention in the Stratford Beacon Herald being a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

**AND WHEREAS** no written notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality within the prescribed time by the Ontario Heritage Act;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED** by Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford as follows:

1. That the heritage attributes of the Property known as 15 Huron Street, in the City of Stratford is hereby designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act for the reasons described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered in the proper land registry office against the property described in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on The Ontario Heritage Foundation and the owner of the property and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the Stratford Beacon Herald being a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

Read a FIRST, SECOND and THIRD time and

FINALLY PASSED this 10th day of February 2025.

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Mayor – Martin Ritsma

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Clerk – Tatiana Dafoe

## **SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER XXX-2025**

passed this 10th day of February, 2025

### **Reasons for the Heritage Designation of 15 Huron Street:**

#### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The Shakespearean Gardens is of cultural heritage value as one of the only Shakespearean Gardens in Canada and represents the City's protection of parkland along the Avon River. Opened in 1936, the Gardens provide an invaluable example of the efforts of Stratford's Parks Board to create parkland in the City's downtown core, during a time of increased industrial pressures. The Shakespearean Gardens also demonstrate a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit throughout. Designed by Dunnington-Grubb, and Stenson and featuring the work of Cleeve Horne, the Gardens provide significant contributions from Canadian Landscape architects and artists. And being adjacent to the Avon River and the City's downtown Core, the Dufton Chimney has become a well-known landmark that has defined the City's waterfront parkland. The City has incorporated the Dufton Chimney alongside the Huron Street Bridge in its logo for over 20 years.

#### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The specific heritage attributes of the property are:

- a. Dufton Chimney Tower and features; including the top structure with weathervane
- b. Original stone walls throughout the garden design
- c. Huron Street covered lychgate
- d. Knot Garden
- e. Herb Garden
- f. Rose Garden
- g. Perennial Border Garden
- h. Walkway lamp lighting
- i. Sundial within the confines of the Garden
- j. Bust of William Shakespeare

These attributes of the Garden reflect its value as an important representation of the City of Stratford's history and are excellent examples of the artistic craftsmanship incorporated into its design and the Gardens legacy as a landmark within the City.

## **SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NUMBER XXX-2025**

passed this 10th day of February, 2025

### **15 Huron Street, Stratford**

#### **Description of Property**

The property municipally known as 15 Huron Street is located on the west side of Huron Street at York Street, in the City of Stratford. The property is legally described as Plan 20 Part Block K Part Lot 581-584, Part Block Q, Concession 1 Part Lot 1 (Geographic Township of Downie), subject to easement, in the City of Stratford.