

**CITY OF ST. THOMAS**

**BY-LAW NO. 152 -2006**

A by-law to designate Waterworks Park, 2 South Edgeware Road, in the City of St. Thomas, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.

WHEREAS pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, the Council of a municipality may by by-law designate a property including buildings and structures thereon to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to designate the property known as Waterworks Park, 2 South Edgeware Road, St. Thomas, Ontario, has been duly published and served, and no notice of objection has been received to such designation;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is hereby designated as being of historic and architectural value or interest the property known as 2 South Edgeware Road, in the City of St. Thomas, all of which is described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
2. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described in the aforementioned Schedule "A" in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the St. Thomas Times-Journal.
4. This by-law comes into force on the day it is finally passed.

READ a First and Second time this 20th day of November, 2006.

READ a Third time and finally passed this 20th day of November, 2006.

Original signed by "Wendell Graves"  
City Clerk

Original signed by "Jeff Kohler"  
Mayor

Schedule "A"

Lot 183 & Part Lots 184-187 and Range South Edgeware Road,  
Part Lots 3 & 4, Plan 125, City of St. Thomas, County of Elgin

## Schedule "B"

### Waterworks Park

#### History

By 1890 the existing water supply system had become inadequate for the growing city. A plebiscite held that year approved the development of a new waterworks system. The project began with the purchase of 31 acres of land. The reservoir and the pumping station were completed and in operation by 1891. Sand filtration, with a capacity of two (2) million gallons and two steam-pumping engines were in use. Over the years the capacity of the plant increased, steam gave way to gasoline, and finally

In 1971 the Ontario Water Resources Commission purchased the facility and began the accession of water from Lake Erie. In 1972-1973 the pumping plant was demolished. To create a reservoir of water two dams were built. The "old dam" originally built of timber was reconstructed in 1904 with concrete and in 1921 the "new dam" was built to create a larger water storage area of 350 million gallons. It is the "old dam" which creates the head of water for the existing reservoir and the ponds.

To access the area a steep hill led from Edgeware Road. In order to ease the problem a new entrance was created to the south. This created a picnic area with swings, the park work being done by the waterworks employees. The grounds were improved with a covered dance floor in 1899 (north pavilion) and the area became a popular picnic ground. In 1909 William Allan the chief operator purchased seeds, built a greenhouse and began the development of the garden area. Another pool was added in the 1920's, which still exists.

To the north of the pumping station and east to Dalewood Drive the City owned 500 acres. In 1929 Allan began a reforestation of the property with 12000 trees and in 1931-1932 lands and forest planted an additional 200. This planting continued to 1940 and eventually encompassed over one (1) million trees. In 1932 Allan was empowered to clean up a smelly swampy area known as the Poney Ponds. For this work he was given \$225.00. With the aid of a horse and scoop the existing ponds were developed and the excavated material became the islands. These were originally connected by wooden bridges, which were replaced by steel around 1976. The whole area continues to be increased and maintained by the City's Parks Department. The ponds support a wide variety of aquatic life while the gardens create a park filled with beautiful flowers.

#### Reasons for Designation

The area complements Pinafore Park for the citizens of the north half of St. Thomas and is widely used as a tourist attraction by many. The park is a favourite spot for the taking of wedding pictures and the occasional outdoor wedding. The picnic area is widely used and contains a well-developed playground and two picnic shelters. The lands bordering the creek contain pathways used by many as an enjoyable walk along the water. The existing upper pond (Dalewood Pond) entices fishermen, canoeists and skaters in the winter. In the trees along the lands at the eastern end, enthusiasts have constructed an 18-hole disc golf course, which is used in all seasons.

Above the ravine, (4) four baseball diamonds and soccer fields attract large crowds in the spring and summer and in winter the whole area is frequented with cross-country skiers while the hills are heavily used for tobogganing and sleighing. The area also allows space for children of 2 schools an area for play.