



REGISTER OF DESIGNATED PROPERTIES

Ontario Heritage Act, R. S. O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 27

ORILLIA WATER FILTRATION PLANT

By-law No. 2007 – 128 – Passed August 13, 2007

Legal Description

Orillia Water Filtration Plant
200 Bay Street
Orillia, ON

“Water Lot 28, East Side of Bay Street, Plan 8, Orillia; Part Water Lot 29 East Side of Bay Street, Plan 8, Orillia; Water lot in front of Lots 28 and 29, East side of Bay Street, Plan 8, Orillia as in RO1087840, and part Jarvis Street, Plan 8, Orillia closed by OR122942 being Part of PIN 58663-0030 (LT).”

Name and Address of Owner

Corporation of the City of Orillia
50 Andrew Street South
Orillia, ON L3V 7T5

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Water Filtration Plant's cultural heritage value lies in it being a wonderful example of small town Ontario waterworks, and a well-preserved example of early industrial architecture.

Situated on the shores of Lake Couchiching and adjacent to Couchiching Beach Park, the Water Filtration Plant is a well-known local landmark that has been representative of not only Orillia's potable water system, but also, through its subsequent additions, the growth in population of Orillia.

The original structure of the Water Filtration Plant was built in 1914, the same year as the Sir Sam Steele Building.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The original building design is laid out in a classic 'bay' pattern in that the structural layout of brick pilasters makes a pattern of 5 – 12' bays by 3 – 12' bays. The original building measures approximately 72' x 42' and stands more than 20' high. The original structural system of open web steel joists (OWSJ) still supports the building. This is an excellent example of the structural system that would have been used early in the century. The steel joists are riveted together rather than welded as they would have been in more modern construction.

The most beautiful and charming characteristic of the building is the windows – elegant brickwork with curved edges for the sills and window edges, limestone, keystones and a heavy arched shape that has been retained. The fact that the glass has been replaced but the shape has been retained is a significant testament to the integrity and beauty of the original design.

A limestone sill surrounds the building. It can be safely assumed that the limestone was quarried locally, perhaps from Longford.

Another unique feature of the building is the ironwork hinges on the main doors facing the park – although they have been painted grey to match the door colour, it is recommended that they be painted out black to regain the look of the original wrought iron.