

The Corporation of the Township of Woolwich

By-law No. XX-2024

A By-law to Amend Heritage By-law 60-2007, of the Township of Woolwich

WHEREAS Section 30(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 as amended, provides that there is authority for this by-law; and

WHEREAS on November 18, 2024, the Council of Woolwich deems it desirable to amend by-law 60-2007;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Woolwich has caused to be served on the owner of the property known municipally as the West Montrose Covered Bridge in the Township of Woolwich, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, a Notice of Intention to Designate as being of cultural heritage value or interest that part of the property more particularly described in Schedule A attached hereto and has caused such Notice of Intention to be published in the September 19, 2024 edition of the Observer, a newspaper having general circulation in the Township of Woolwich;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed amendment has been served on the Clerk of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Schedule A of By-law 60-2007, be revised accordingly and replaced with the following:

Schedule A

The West Montrose Covered Bridge

Legal Description of the Property

Part Lot 71, part of the Grand River, identified as the West Montrose Covered Bridge on the sketch attached as Schedule B to By-law 60-2007 known municipally as West Montrose Covered Bridge, Township of Woolwich, Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

Description of Property

The West Montrose Covered Bridge is a late 19th century covered wooden bridge that spans the Grand River in the rural village of West Montrose. Connecting Hill Street, Covered Bridge Drive and Rivers Edge Drive, the bridge is just over 200 feet in length and covered with red-painted wood paneling and a gable roof.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The West Montrose Covered Bridge is the only remaining covered bridge in Ontario and the second oldest surviving bridge in the Region of Waterloo. It was designed by a local contractor, John Bear, who, with his brother Benjamin, constructed the bridge in 1881 as a replacement for an earlier open bridge at the same location. Originally, the bridge was constructed solely of wood.

Over the course of more than a century, a number of improvements have been necessary to maintain the function and integrity of the bridge. The bridge materials today are a mix of wood, stone, asphalt, concrete and steel, representing not only the evolution of bridge technology but also the stewardship of the township, the region and the province. While the materials have been altered, however, the original form of the bridge designed by John Bear has been largely maintained.

The 'Kissing Bridge', as it was appropriately nicknamed due to the intimacy and privacy that the covered bridge offered its travelers, is an iconic structure. It is a prominent and recognizable feature in arguably one of the most picturesque landscapes in Ontario. It is also representative of the early history of Woolwich Township and of an earlier time in the village.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the bridge and which should be retained include:

- the original location of the bridge in the Village of West Montrose spanning the Grand River;
- the original dimensions of the bridge, 208 feet in length and 17 feet wide;
- the original truss configuration, a hybrid Queen Post - Howe timber configuration;
- the stone masonry central pier;
- the wood exterior vertical siding and interior vertical sectional paneling located on the north and south ends of the bridge;
- louvered wood window openings;
- the wood shingled gable roof;
- the system of illumination by decorative electric interior lamps; and
- views to and into the bridge from the north and south banks of the Grand River.

2. This by-law shall come into full force and effect on the date it is passed.

FINALLY PASSED AND ENACTED this 18 day of November, 2024.

Mayor

Clerk