



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: April 15, 2024

Report No: DS-025-24

Subject: Recommendation Report - Notice of Intention to Designate - 2737, 30 Side Road- Henry Burrows House

Recommendation: **THAT Staff Report DS-025-24 entitled: "Notice of Intention to Designate 2737 30 Side Road be received;**

**THAT Council recognizes the historic house at 2737 30 Side Road in the Town of Milton as being of heritage significance;**

**THAT Council designate the property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 for the reasons outlined in the Reasons for Designation attached as Appendix 1 to this Report;**

**AND THAT the Town Clerk provides the Notice of Intention to Designate as outlined in Section 29 (4) of the Ontario Heritage Act;**

**AND FURTHER THAT once the thirty-day objection period has expired and if there are no objections, a designation by-law is brought forward for Council adoption.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2737, 30 Side Road is a one-and-a-half storey Ontario Cottage Style stone building with a medium cross gable roof. It is well maintained and retains many of the original exterior and interior elements. Lady Joan Roberts, the second wife and widow of Sir Charles G.D. Roberts who is known as the "Father of Canadian Poetry," owned this house from 1964 to 1972.
- The property's current owner has voluntarily responded to the heritage designation program and desires that their property be designated.
- Staff has evaluated that this historic home is a significant built heritage resource for the Town of Milton and should be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Act to protect this built heritage resource. (See Appendix '1') This significant heritage resource fulfils more than two of the evaluation criteria in Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990), Ontario Regulation 9/06 (See Appendix 2). As such, it is worthy of designation under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

## REPORT

### Background

This one-and-a-half-storey Ontario Cottage Style stone house was built by Henry Burrows around 1854-56. Its cultural heritage value lies in its physical, historical and contextual value. Physically, it is a contributing example of a one-and-a-half-storey Ontario Cottage Style stone house. It has historical significance, as the house of Lady Robert, widow of the renowned "Father of Canadian Poetry," Sir Charles G.D. Roberts. It is of contextual importance as this property contributes significantly to the history of the first settlement for the early settlers of this rural community.

### Discussion

Historically, the original land grant of 100 acres was granted to Henry Burrow in 1858. The Burrows family owned the property until 1886. Henry Burrows was one of the first settlers in the County of Halton, taking up land near Eden Mills, Lot 31, Concession 3, corner of Guelph Line and 30th Sideroad. He was born in Nassagaweya Township in 1831 and died at 76 in June 1907.

From 1908 to 1929, John and Henrietta Wright owned the property. They are buried in the Eden Mills Cemetery. John finished the basement floor in cement, as attested by an inscription that reads "JLWRIGHT 1913". John Wright was a Foreman at Auto Electric. The property was passed on to their children, Wilbert and George Wright, who farmed the property from 1929. George and Wilbert sold their parts of the property in 1945 and 1946.

The most notable owner and resident of this property was Lady Joan Roberts. She was the second wife and widow of Sir Charles G.D. Roberts. G.D. Roberts is sometimes known as the "Father of Canadian Poetry." As such, he inspired the works of other poets of his generation, including Bliss Carman, Archibald Lampman, and Duncan Campbell Scott. Lady Roberts bought the property in 1964 and lived here until 1972. She sold it to Robert and Dorothy Wood in 1972 who then sold it to Robert and Mary Carley in 1978.

The house was named Tantrammar when the current owners first moved here in 1978. While still a university undergraduate, Robert Carley took a course in Canadian Literature. He

## Discussion

studied several Canadian poets and writers, such as Bliss Carmen and G.D. Roberts. G.D. Robert's poem "Tantramar Revisited" resonated with him. The poem spoke about how one can return to a place of their youth. At first glance, nothing has changed; however, a further look reveals that change has occurred. The poem speaks of the marshes of Tantramar, which is likened to the pond and marshy area of this property. The description of the Tantramar marshes in the poem was perfect; hence, the Carleys decided to call their place Tantramar. Subsequently they found out (some years later) that Sir Charles G.D. Robert's widow, Lady Joan Roberts, the widow of the poet who wrote Tantramar Revisited, lived at this house. She was well known in the community for her love of animals and cared for quite a menagerie while she was here

Physically, the one-and-a-half-storey building has a random rubble stone exterior, medium cross-gable cedar roof, and three stone chimneys. A stone date indicates the built date as 1856. The gable and gothic window on the tail end of the house were added around 1984. The open porch on the northwest side was constructed in 1996. In 2014, a new cedar shingle roof on the entire house was completed and the central gable and gothic window were added. The wood siding on the existing closed-in porch and rear entrance was built approximately in 2016. Many of the windows on the first floor are original. All new windows are two-sash wood, six over six, to match the original ones. All new exterior wood and trim were made to match the existing trim. The five-panel front door was reproduced with a new pediment surround.

The interior heritage elements include the original splayed windows with decorative wood mouldings and panels. The pine floors in the front and maple floors in the tail of the house are originals. This house retains the original baseboards, the dado rail in the tail end of the house, and the storage pantry. The interior walls are plastered, and some original plasterwork is still evident.

Contextually, the original house contributes to the heritage character of the early settlements and agricultural history of Nassagaweya. The property is depicted as one of the earliest houses that was built in this area as shown in the 1877 Historical Atlas of Halton.

2737, 30 Side Road is a significant heritage resource that conforms to the criteria for designation and is further described in Appendix 1: Reasons for Designation.

Key character-defining elements/heritage attributes vital to the preservation of this house at 2737, 30 Side Road are the following (see also Appendix 3: Photos of Heritage Attributes):

- One-and-a-half-storey random stone Ontario Cottage Style building.
- Medium cross gable roof with projecting eaves and plain fascia
- Three single-stack stone chimneys

