

# CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LAKESHORE

## By-law 84-2007

### BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE PART OF THE LANDS AND BUILDINGS AT 7025 TECUMSEH ROAD, IN THE VILLAGE OF STONEY POINT TO BE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE

**WHEREAS** The *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended authorizes the council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

**AND WHEREAS** The council of the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore (the "Town") has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known municipally as 7025 Tecumseh Road, in the Village of Stoney Point, Town of Lakeshore and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;


**AND WHEREAS** Notices of objection to the proposed designation were served upon the clerk of the municipality and a hearing was subsequently held by the Conservation Review Board;

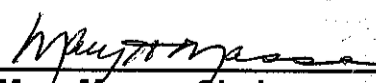
**AND WHEREAS** Council for the Town reviewed the decision of the Conservation Review Board and has desires to the recommendations contained therein;

**NOW THEREFORE** the council of the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore hereby enacts as follows:

1. The real property municipally known as part of 7025 Tecumseh Road, in the Village of Stoney Point and Town of Lakeshore and more particularly described in Schedule "A", attached to and forming part of this by-law, including all of the buildings and structures located thereon, is hereby designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest.
2. The reasons for the aforementioned designation are set out in Schedule "B";
3. The Town solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the real property described in Schedule "A" in the proper land registry office.
4. The Town clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owner of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town.

**READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 11<sup>TH</sup>  
DAY OF DECEMBER, 2007.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Bain, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Masse, Clerk

**Schedule "A"**  
**To By-law 84-2007**

**Legal Description:**

Part of Lot 7, Concession 1,  
Geographic Township of Tilbury North,  
Designated as Part 2 on Reference Plan 12R-23313  
Town of Lakeshore

Being Part of PIN 75067-0167

**Schedule "B"**  
**By-law 84-2007**

**Reasons for Designation**

**1. Design or Physical Value**

The church in Stoney Point is the product of Father N.D. St-Cyr's ambitious plans for transforming the Roman Catholic Church property in Stoney Point. Father N.D. St-Cyr, from Nicolet, Quebec, arrived at Stoney Point at the start of 1893 and was still making improvements to the physical fabric of the church property three years before his departure in 1914.

For the design of the church, Father St-Cyr turned to Louis Caron Junior whom he knew from Nicolet. Louis Caron Junior, in practice as an architect since 1890, was a prolific designer of churches, rectories, convents and other buildings in Quebec. The Church of the Annunciation in Stoney Point, erected in 1905 to his 1903 plans, was his only church commission in Ontario. The design Louis Caron Junior supplied is in some ways similar to his designs for churches in Windsor-Mills, Gentilly, Sainte-Cécile de Lévrard, Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil, Saint-Louis-de-Blandford and Victoriaville. The design reflects the traditions of church building in Quebec and the architectural tastes of French Canadians at the turn of the twentieth century.

The Church of the Annunciation exhibits in both its exterior and interior the Romanesque Revival style in the French Canadian tradition. The exterior features the round Roman arch which often distinguishes Roman Catholic churches in Ontario from Protestant churches and their preference for the pointed Gothic arch. Characteristically French Canadian are the bell-tower with open belfry (*clocher*), twin flanking towers (in this case reduced to pilasters surmounted by pinnacles), an oculus at the apex of the front gable (in the third tier of the central tower) and a spirelet (*flèche*) of the same design as the front pinnacles and located toward the south end of the church over the sanctuary and altar inside.

Pressed tin, a material that became widely available in the late nineteenth century, adorns the roofline of the church that is generally restrained in appearance on the exterior; and is applied throughout the interior to great decorative effect. The pressed tin patterns were probably designed in Nicolet and may even have been cast in the factory of Louis Caron et Fils where a blacksmith and metal workers were employed. In any event, the varied and wide use of pressed tin at the Church of the Annunciation and its survival into the twenty-first century are remarkable.

For Father St-Cyr's last project, he ordered the magnificent Casavant pipe organ in 1911 from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec for installation in the centre of the church's gallery. After the departure of Father St-Cyr, the influence of French Canadian designers continued. The painted decoration on the ceiling by Louis and Roland Jobin, Montreal transplants who worked on many ecclesiastical projects in Essex County, add to the artistic merit of the church's interior.

The influence of a Quebec-educated priest and Quebec designers on the Church of the Annunciation in Stoney Point is key to understanding the church's historic character.

**2. Historical or Associative Value**

The design influences from Quebec on the Church of the Annunciation demonstrate the close links a hundred years ago between Quebec and Essex County, 800 kilometres away. The Church of the Annunciation is the legacy of the cultural connection between French Canadians across provincial borders. G. Emmett Carter, the Bishop of London, acknowledged the cultural connection in the introduction to Breault's 1967 history:

“Notre milieu canadien-français, fidèle aux traditions de ceux qui ont longé le fleuve St-Laurent et qui ont fondé leurs foyers sur les bords de nos grands lacs se réjouit de la foi gardée intacte, de l’attachement à l’église paroissiale, à l’église universelle.” In translation: “The French Canadians in our midst, faithful to the traditions of those who lived along the St. Lawrence River and who founded their homes on the shores of our Great Lakes, rejoice in their faith guarded intact, in their attachment to the parish church, in the church universal.”

In addition to its broader significance, the church has been the centre of parish life and village activity for a century. It has served the function of the most important institution in the generally French Canadian and Roman Catholic community, and has stood alone without the normal array of different churches seen in most other Ontario villages and small towns.

### 3. Contextual Value

In his 1944 doctoral thesis on the geography of Essex County, Neil F. Morrison discusses the primacy of the church in the rural French Canadian landscape:

“In general, it may be said that the rural French-Canadian cultural structure rests upon four pillars – church, home, farm and language. The lofty spire of the Roman Catholic Church rises above the smaller French communities of Essex County and dominates the rural landscape just as it does in the Province of Quebec.”

In its height, size and embellishment, the Church of the Annunciation symbolizes the French Canadian cultural structure of Stoney Point. The church is the dominant historic building in Stoney Point.

#### Heritage Attributes

The entire Church of the Annunciation is not to be altered. Specific features include the: limestone foundation and detail, brick walls with their decorative brickwork, windows, round-arched transom light over the main entrance, wooden stringcourse, brackets and eaves around the bell-tower, tin-covered belfry, parapet, pinnacles and spirelet, date stones and brick chimney. The church’s footprint with the indented sanctuary/sacristy and the slopes of the roofs shall also not be altered.

In the basement, the stained glass windows and the wainscoting, six-paneled doors, and staircases with Tuscan newel posts in the east and west stairwells to the narthex shall also not be altered.

In the narthex, the stained glass transom light and windows, pressed tin cornice and ceiling, and light fixtures shall also not be altered.

The layout of central nave, side aisles, columns separating the two, and sanctuary shall also not be altered.

In the main body of the church the columns, arcade and cornice, stained glass windows, vaulted ceiling, side aisle ceilings, Bible verse, cross and roundels painted on the ceiling above the altar, columns and balustrade at the gallery shall also not be altered.