

# Lower Doon and Homer Watson Park Candidate Cultural Heritage Landscape Evaluation

## Executive Summary

In October 2018, the City of Kitchener (the City) retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) to undertake the *Cultural Heritage Landscape Implementation (CHLI) – Additional Research to Determine if the Lower Doon and Homer Watson Park is a Significant Cultural Heritage Landscape* (the project). The Lower Doon area, including Homer Watson Park, was identified as a potential cultural heritage landscape (CHL) by the City in 2014. As the City is embarking on a Neighbourhood Planning Review of the area, determination as a CHL is necessary to identify if conservation measures need to be integrated into the planning framework.

The Project was divided into two phases to align with the ongoing planning review. The first phase included the evaluation of the study area as a CHL as well as any other areas considered to be of interest as CHLs. During the site survey, a total of 299 properties and 15 landscapes, including the study area, were inventoried. Each landscape was considered as a potential CHL. Two of these landscapes, including Homer Watson House and Doon Valley Golf Course, had been previously recognized through various levels of municipal or provincial protection. The remaining landscapes had not been evaluated for cultural heritage value or interest. Inventoried landscapes include:

- Lower Doon Study Area
- Homer Watson Park
- Homer Watson Park (Region)
- Homer Watson House
- Willow Park
- 299 Doon Valley Drive (Conestoga College Campus)
- 500 Doon Valley Drive (Doon Valley Golf Course)
- Old Mill Road Streetscape (from Doon Valley Drive to Mill Park Drive)
- Pinnacle Drive Streetscape
- Gateways including:
  - Intersection of Doon Valley Drive and Old Mill Road
  - Intersection of Mill Park Drive and Huron Road
  - Intersection of Old Mill Road and Mill Park Drive
  - Intersection of Pinnacle Drive and Old Mill Road
  - Intersection of Doon Valley Drive and Conestoga College Boulevard
  - Intersection of Conestoga College Boulevard and Homer Watson Boulevard

Following evaluation, four CHLs were identified. For each CHL, a Statement of Significance was prepared including heritage attributes. In addition, current conservation measures in place were reviewed and recommendations for further



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conservation measures were prepared. The following is a summary of this discussion for each of the identified CHLs:

- Homer Watson Park
  - Designate the park under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in consultation with City stakeholders
  - Prepare a comprehensive CP that incorporates appropriate park/open space management strategies
- Homer Watson House
  - Update current Designating Bylaw to reflect the OHT Statement of Significance
  - Prepare a comprehensive CP in accordance with OHT requirements that, among conservation strategies, clearly articulates stewardship activities needed for the property and speaks to funding available as an OHT easement site
  - Homer Watson Viewscapes
    - o Additional research should be completed, in collaboration with the Homer Watson House and Art Gallery, to place the works of Homer Watson in the local landscape
- Willowlake Park
  - Designate the park, including both north and south portion, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in consultation with City stakeholders
  - Prepare a comprehensive CP that incorporates appropriate park/open space management strategies
- Doon Valley Golf Course
  - Designate the property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in consultation with City stakeholders
  - Prepare a comprehensive CP that incorporates appropriate recreation activities
- Homer Watson Viewscapes
  - Additional research should be completed, in collaboration with the Homer Watson House and Art Gallery, to place the works of Homer Watson in the local landscape

