

Cultural Heritage Landscape Implementation for Cultural Heritage Landscapes within the KW Hospital Secondary Plan Area

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under a contract awarded in August 2018 by the City of Kitchener, Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. and Dillon Consulting Limited has carried out a Cultural Heritage Landscape Implementation (CHLI) study and report. The purpose of this study and report is to initiate the implementation process of the City's 2014 Cultural Heritage Landscape Study (CHLS) through the creation of Statements of Significance, as well as boundary maps and recommended conservation measures for the six Cultural Heritage Landscapes (CHLs) located within, or partially within, the KW Hospital Secondary Plan and Planning Around Rapid Transit Stations (PARTS) Midtown Plan.

The six CHLs examined as part of the CHLI study include:

- Gildner Green Neighbourhood;
- Gruhn Neighbourhood;
- Mount Hope Cemetery;
- Union Boulevard;
- Iron Horse Trail; and
- Canadian National Railway Line.

Provincial legislation and policies, as well as regional and local Official Plans and guidelines, provided the framework for the CHLI study. The CHLI study and report for the KW Hospital Secondary Plan area involved a number of methods, including:

- Historical research and a descriptive summary of previous work and the overarching legislative and policy framework for CHLs;
- Field survey, including confirmation of the presence of heritage attributes and CHL boundary delineation;
- Evaluation of significance, drafting Statements of Significance, and identification of heritage attributes adapted from the 2014 CHLS;
- Policy review and outlining of potential impacts as a result of policies; and
- Conservation recommendations relating to each CHL boundary.

Based on the review of the cultural heritage resources examined that are within the KW Hospital Secondary Plan area boundary, modifications to both the Gildner Green Neighbourhood and Gruhn Neighbourhood CHLs are proposed. The rationale for the proposed revised boundary of the Gildner Green Neighbourhood is to capture and better reflect the areas of the landscape that have conserved the residential historic form and context of the neighbourhood. The rationale for the proposed boundary expansion of the Gruhn Neighbourhood is to capture more of the surrounding neighbourhood context and better reflect the conserved character and context of the residential streetscape. The larger boundary of the Gruhn Neighbourhood CHL allows for the more cohesive, less fractured conservation of the neighbourhood.

The CHLI study involved a review of local policies and plans, including the City of Kitchener Official Plan and Zoning By-law, the PARTS Midtown Plan, and the KW Hospital Secondary Plan. Proposed land use or development with potential to impact the CHLs were identified, and policy considerations were suggested to mitigate potential impacts. Beyond the existing protections

embedded in the City's policies and zoning and the suggested policy considerations, other measures are recommended to address the potential impacts identified, and to ensure the conservation of cultural heritage resources.

The CHLI report examines conservation measures to maintain the heritage attributes. Some of the recommended conservation measures for each of the six CHLs include updating the Official Plan mapping, developing specific Official Plan policies, integrating CHL-specific guidelines within the Urban Design Manual, and requesting Heritage Impact Assessments and/or Conservation Plans to guide development or site alteration within or adjacent to the CHLs. Additional recommended conservation measures for the neighbourhood CHLs and cemetery include listing properties on the Municipal Heritage Register and designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.