

Lake of Bays Heritage Committee

Criteria for Establishing Notable Natural Heritage

Background

The Official Plan of the Township of Lake of Bays identifies Natural Heritage Areas as

“those areas of the Township’s landscape that exhibit biological, geological, scenic and other heritage values of national, provincial, regional or local significance. These areas present unique or important features and an ecological contribution to the overall natural setting and character of the Township.”

The policy further states that::

“Natural heritage areas must be preserved so that the values that make them important are retained over time. “

The Official Plan includes several policies, Sections D.48 through D. 93 which will provide direction for their conservation. These policy sections also include some areas which have already been identified as being significant.

In order to fulfill these policy objectives, the municipality has relied on other relevant sections of the Official Plan and the Ontario Heritage Act, to establish a Heritage Committee. An objective and major role of the Heritage Committee is to establish and inventory of natural heritage features and advise Council with respect to designating them as such under the Ontario Heritage Act.

In order to identify significant Natural feature for the purposes of an inventory, the Official Plan Schedules, and possible designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, the following criteria has been established by Council by by-law _____.

Designated built heritage features must exhibit at least one of the following criterions. These criteria have not been listed in any particular order of importance.

Criteria

1. Representative

The structure represents a particular

- i. Major stage in the earth’s history*
- ii. Ongoing ecological, geological or biological process in the development of an ecosystem or plant or animal community*
- iii. A natural phenomena or area of exceptional beauty or esthetic importance*

- iv. *A significant habitat of rare or endangered species, an area of biological diversity, or having unique value from the point of view of science or conservation*
- v. *Is a model example of the natural character of the community or municipality*

2. Associative

The feature is associated with a particular

- i. *An era of human development*
- ii. *an natural event of local, regional or national significance*

3. Influences Present Character

The feature contributes to

- i. *the existing built and natural landscape and character of a local community or the municipality in general*

4. Research and Understanding

The feature provides:

- I *a place which reveals information about the natural history of the community or municipality*
- li *a strong historical association with the community*
- lii *a landmark to the community being a cultural or historical point of reference*
- lv *a significant component in the character of the natural landscape*
- v *a strong association with a particular cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons*
- vi *a place which has special associations with the life or work of a person, group of people who have been important in the community's or municipality's history*