

Address: 1027 Charlie Thompson Road

Legal Description: Part Lot 14, Concession 10, Franklin

Original Owner: Reverend J.W.A Stewart and Ruth Quinby Stewart

Year Built: 1924 by Tom Asbury

Architectural Styles: Ontario Vernacular

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

Beacon Lodge, a Stewart family cottage, was built in 1924 on the Stony Heights property. The cedar frame cottage embodies rich historical associative value as it was one of three cottages conceptualized by Ruth Quinby Stewart (“Mother Ruth”) that increased accommodation for friends and family during the busy summer months. The vernacular building style of Beacon Lodge is representative of the typical housing development in Dwight during that era; however the cottage uniquely exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship displayed in the two original cobblestone chimneys and massive cobblestone fireplace.

The cottage is home to many cherished Stewart family items that create a distinguishing atmosphere that is representative of life for the early to most recent Stewart generations. Family pictures, artwork, furniture and antique pieces provide a glimpse into the many lives of the Stewart descendants who have enjoyed their summer stay in Beacon Lodge. Several authentic late Victorian furniture pieces originally belonged to Joseph William Alexander Stewart and are in fact older than the cottage.

The cottage is a landmark on Lake of Bays, as the ‘beacon’ of light it reflects on Lake of Bays is the source of its name – though that is debated. The opposing theory is that that the name Beacon Lodge is derived from the first three letters of the names of Josephine Stewart Welch’s daughters, Beatrice and Connie. The contextual value of Beacon Lodge is further demonstrated through the visual and historical link to the tennis court and adjacent Stewart cottage, Cobble Cottage, as well as the other family cottages located nearby on Dwight Beach Road.



Designation Date: October 12, 2010
Designation By-law: 10-113