

## **Inventory & Research Working Group Meeting Notes**

Monday, November 25, 2019 (6:00 pm)  
Hamilton City Hall, Room 222

Present: Janice Brown (Chair), Ann Gillespie (Secretary), Alissa Denham-Robinson; Graham Carroll, Lyn Lusted; Chuck Dimitry, Jim Charlton; Raminder (Rammy) Saini

Regrets: Brian Kowalewicz

Also present: Alissa Golden (City of Hamilton, Cultural Heritage Planner)  
Miranda Brunton (City of Hamilton, Cultural Heritage Planner)  
Lisa Oversby (City of Hamilton, Heritage Project Intern)

### **1. Chair's Remarks**

Janice welcomed all present and introduced two newcomers: Rammy Saini\*, a prospective new member and volunteer researcher and Lisa Oversby\*, a Heritage Project Intern working with Alissa Golden, Heritage Project Specialist

\* See biographical background (Appendix 'A')

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Review of and Approval of Meeting Notes: 28 October 2019**

The Meeting Notes were approved by general consensus with minor amendments.

### **4. Staff Presentation: Alissa Golden – Update of Places of Worship Inventory**

NOTE: For background, see item 4 c) of Meeting Notes for August 26, 2019.

Alissa indicated that she has scanned all of the forms submitted to date and entered the data into her database. She is in the process of reviewing with individual members their Preliminary Evaluation forms and had just met Graham to review his Preliminary Evaluations for the pre-1967 Places of Worship in Ward 7. Alissa advised us that she did not expect to finish entering the data and reviewing completed forms until June/ July of 2020. Rather than working with staff on a one-to-one basis, the working group decided to review a selection of buildings at regular meetings when there is a light agenda. Alissa G. will prepare

the material for Ward 4 (Jim Charlton) for January's meeting. Ann Gillespie (Dundas) volunteered to be the next candidate.

## **5. Heritage Intern Presentation: Lisa Oversby – Draft Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Crooker House, 299 Dundas Street East, Waterdown**

BACKGROUND: The goal of the Waterdown Built Heritage Inventory is to gather updated information and to evaluate each property in the study area to determine its heritage value or interest. A property may then be recognized by adding it to the Municipal Heritage Register or further evaluated for potential designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Alissa G. explained that Lisa had been asked to present her first draft Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Waterdown Village Built Heritage Inventory, to obtain feedback from I & R Working Group members. She delivered a succinct and articulate PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the key points of her report. Chuck Dimitry queried the relocation of the former coach house from the rear to the front of the property. Staff explained that since the property was currently only *inventoried* (i.e. listed on Waterdown's Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and/ or Historical Interest but not located in the Mill Street Heritage Conservation District), there were no restrictions on its demolition or relocation. It was agreed that more details about the relocation and the original appearance of the former coach house should be incorporated into the final report. Graham Carroll indicated that he had seen some historical photographs of the Crooker Building and suggested that one or more might be included in Lisa's report, which referred to it as a prominent structure that was considered to be the largest and finest mercantile buildings in the Village of Waterdown until it burned down in 1922 (p.30).

All supported the report's recommendation to add the property at 299 Dundas Street East to the Heritage Register and conclusion that it meets the criteria under Ontario Regulation 9/06 for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. A more final version of the report, however, would need to be brought back to the I & R Working Group for approval before a recommendation could be made to the HMHC.

## **6. Update on Places of Education Inventory and Volunteer Recruitment**

Staff explained that the inventory work was divided up geographically according to the pre-2018 Ward boundaries. In contrast to the Places of Worship Inventory, there was no previously completed inventory to update. Members are therefore

finding this survey and research work to be more challenging and time-consuming. Three wards are still without volunteers. To help with the work load new volunteers are being recruited from the following resources:

- Dr Mary Chaktsiris, Assistant Professor, History Department, MacMaster University – to recruit third and fourth year Public History students.
- Janice to ask Loren Kolar (Legislative Coordinator and HMHC Secretary, City of Hamilton) if it would be possible to contact HMHC applicants who were not appointed to the committee to volunteer for a working group.
- Janice to recruit high school volunteers from the following secondary schools: Bernie Custis, Westdale, Westmount, and Sir Allan MacNab.
- Janice to contact Megan Hobson to recruit students from Willowbank, a school for heritage conservation in Niagara-on-the-Lake, at which Megan teaches a course.
- Janice to contact Walter Furlan, owner of *Furlan Conservation/ Heritage Restoration* and former HMHC member, as a potential volunteer. .
- Janice to contact Joachim Brouwer, President, Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society, as a potential volunteer.
- Rammy Saini volunteered to take on Ward 8. Janice/ Alissa G. to send her an information package. Janice and Ann to meet with Rammy to provide more background on the mandate of the I & R Working Group and the Places of Education and Places of Worship inventory projects.

## **7. New Documentation for the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool, 1099 King Street East**

BACKGROUND: At the last I & R Working Group meeting (October 28), Greg McPherson (Assistant Cultural Heritage Planner) presented his comments on the Cultural Heritage Assessment prepared by Golder Associates Ltd., October 2018, for the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool. This indoor swimming pool was built to accommodate swimming and diving events for the British Empire Games held in Hamilton in 1930.

Members supported Greg's comments, reinforced some points and made some additional remarks to be forwarded to the consulting firm. New information on the history of the pool building, including the name of the architect and engineer as well as historic photographs, was presented by Ann with input from Rob Hamilton (Appendix 'B').

## **8. New Business: Chuck Dimitry – 311 Rymal Road East**

BACKGROUND: 311 Rymal Road East, is an *inventoried*\* property containing a 2½ storey Edwardian style residence situated to the west of an *inventoried*\* mid-19<sup>th</sup> century frame dwelling at 323 Rymal Road East. This property was the subject of a recent Heritage Impact Assessment undertaken by Golder Associates for the City of Hamilton for potential demolition and redevelopment as a new commercial or mixed-use building. The Golder report concluded that #323 was not worthy of OHA designation.

\* listed on the Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and/ or Historical Interest

Chuck expressed concern that the house at #311 could also be demolished, but there is no indication that there is an intent for demolition. Upon preliminary analysis, it is a relatively rare example of a turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse on the Hamilton Mountain (dated 1898 according to the Inventory description). At this time, it is unclear if this property has an association with Young family.

The following actions were agreed to:

- Further research for recommending that #311 be added to the Heritage Register.
- Chuck to contact the Glanbrook Historical Society to see what information they might have.
- Ann suggested this could be a project for a student volunteer.

## **9. Next Meeting Date**

Monday January 27<sup>th</sup> at the same time and location.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm

## **APPENDIX 'A'**

### **Biographical Background for Lisa Oversby and Rammy Saini**

#### **Lisa Oversby**

Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in French and History, and a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies. She is currently interning with Alissa Golden at the City of Hamilton to provide assistance with the Waterdown Built Heritage Inventory project.

**Raminder Saini**

Between September 2012 and August 2017, Rammy was a doctoral candidate at McGill University. Her thesis was on the subject of Indian migration history and their subjecthood in 19th century Britain. She was a sessional lecturer at the University of British Columbia in Kelowna, B.C. from September 2017 to May 2018 teaching courses in British, Indian, European and migration history and recently completed an internship at the Dalnavert Museum in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

## APPENDIX 'B'

### Documentation on the Architect and Engineer for the Municipal Swimming Pool (built 1929-30), now known as the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool

Provided by Rob Hamilton, Archivist, and compiled by Ann Gillespie for the Inventory & Research Working Group of the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee

ARCHITECT: R.E. McDonnell, Registered Architect

ENGINEER: E.H. Darling, Mechanical Engineer

*Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada (1800 – 1950):*

Entry for McDonnell, Reginald Edwardes:

MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL, for the British Empire Games, Scott Park, 1929-30, *Canadian Engineer*, lviii, 11 March 1930, pp. 311-15, illus. & desc.

(<http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/1478>)

Darling, Ernest Howard – *Hamilton Herald*, Saturday, December 14, 1929, p. 3. Pool. Hamilton, Ontario. Illustration. Designer of Municipal Pool.

NOTE: Rob located this reference many years ago and shared it with staff working for the Local History & Archives section of the Hamilton Public Library. On my visit Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, I located the same reference on a card in the card catalogue, which also provided the title: "New swimming pool is the largest in Canada. It is equipped with all the latest devices for purifying and heating water." The catalogue includes three more cards with references to the Municipal Swimming Pool but *not* the newspaper clipping cited below. This recently came to light when Rob requested by phone a copy of the *Hamilton Herald* article and the information clerk on duty produced instead a copy of the following article:

"Hamilton's New Civic Swimming Pool", *The Hamilton Spectator*, Saturday, December 14, 1929, p. 3. Hamilton, Ontario. Illustration (FIGURE 1).

E.H. Darling, "Modern Swimming Pool Construction", *Canadian Public Health Journal*, Vol 24, No. 9 (September 1933), pp. 420-428. This article includes three photos, the front façade (FIGURE 2), the original floor plan and one interior view showing the swimming pool.

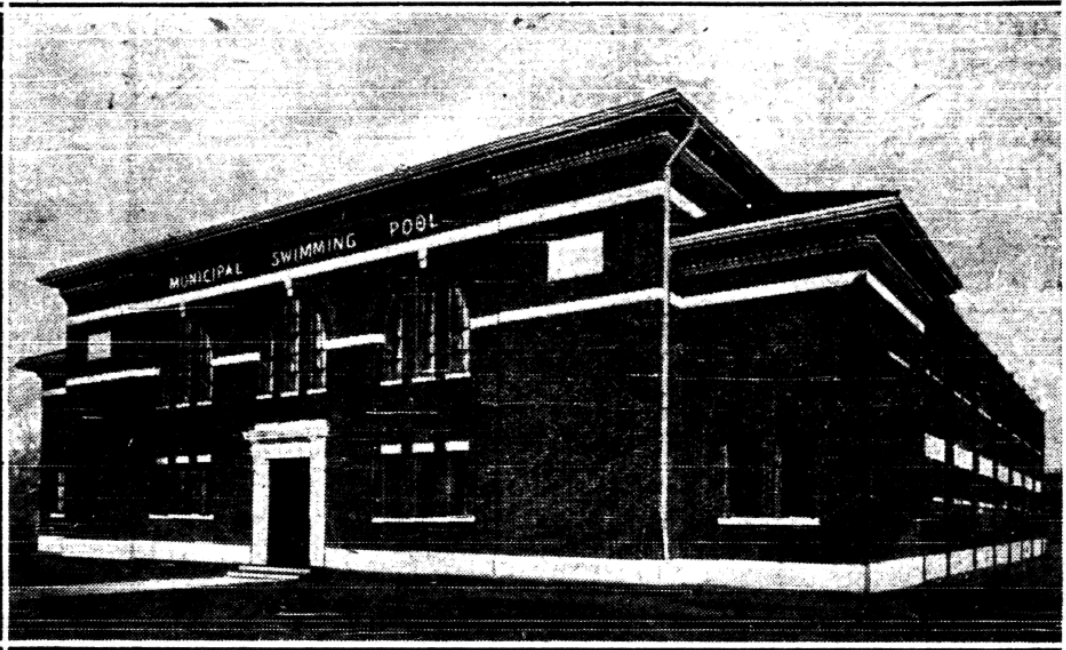
Other on-line archival resources:

INTERNET ARCHIVE: <https://archive.org>

HAITHI TRUST: <https://www.hathitrust.org>

Ann Gillespie, I & R Working Group member, 27 November 2019

# ***Hamilton's New Civic*** **SWIMMING POOL**



R. E. McDONNELL, *Registered Architect*   E. H. DARLING, *Mechanical Engineer*   COCKBURN & SON, *Electricians*   Designers

FIGURE 1

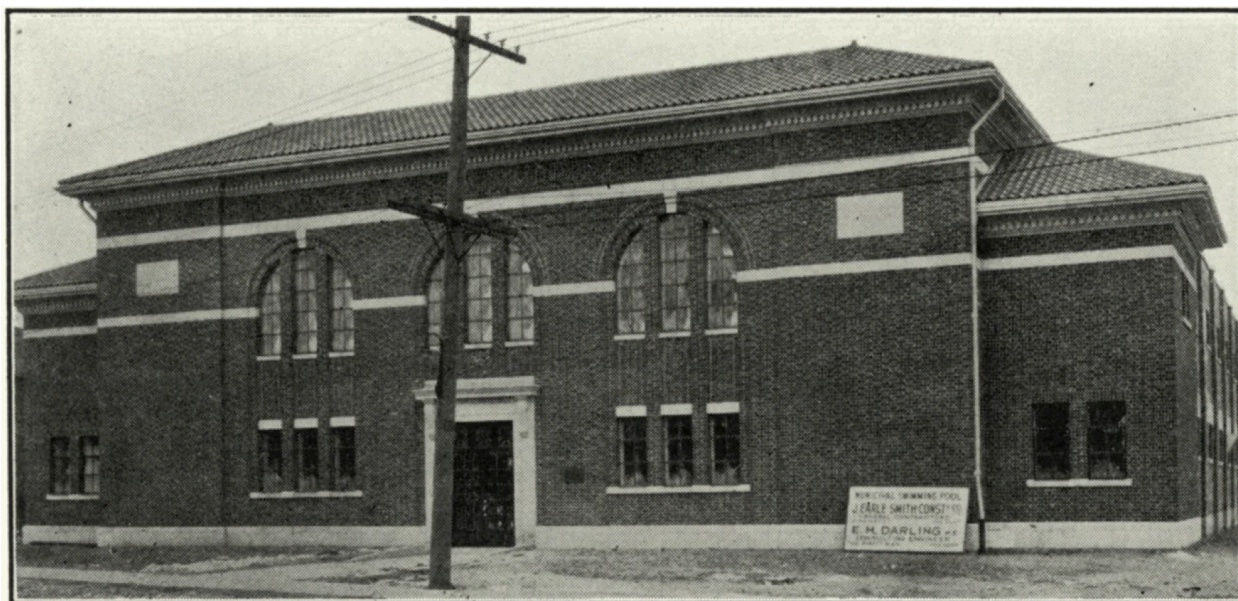


FIGURE 2: Note that the sign only credits E. H. Darling as the designer.