

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

BY-LAW NO. 2020-110

A by-law to designate the property known as Belfountain Conservation Area (Mack's Park), Parcel 1 being firstly all of PIN 14268-0027 (LT), secondly all of PIN 14268-0052 (LT), thirdly all of PIN 14268-0053 (LT), fourthly all of PIN 14268-0428 (LT), and Parcel 2 being firstly all of PIN 14268-0004 (LT), secondly all of PIN 14268-0049 (LT), thirdly all of PIN 14268-0050 (LT), fourthly part of PIN 14268-0207 (LT), fifthly all of PIN 14268-0209 (LT) legally described in Schedule B (the "Property") as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate property to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Caledon (the "Council") has consulted with the Town's Heritage Committee, with respect to the designation of the Property described in Schedule "B" to this by-law as being of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council has caused notice of its intention to designate the Property to be given in accordance with subsections 29(3), 29(4) and 29(4.1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

AND WHEREAS the statement of cultural heritage value or interest and description of the heritage attributes in respect of the Property are set out in Schedule "A" to this by-law;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation of the Property has been served on the Clerk for The Corporation of the Town of Caledon;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Caledon ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Property, more particularly described in Schedule "B" to this by-law, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest for reasons set out in Schedule "A" to this by-law.
2. A copy of this by-law to be registered against the Property described in Schedule "B" to this by-law in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. A copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the Property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in The Corporation of the Town of Caledon as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Enactment

This By-law shall come into full force and effect on the day of its passing.

Enacted by the Town of Caledon Council this 8th day of December, 2020.

Allan Thompson, Mayor

Laura Hall, Town Clerk

Schedule A to By-law 2020-110

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Belfountain Conservation Area (with Mack's Park preceding it) has been a defining feature of the village of Belfountain for over a century. The park has attracted thousands of visitors to its unique blend of a natural setting enhanced by landscape design.

When Charles Wilson Mack (1858-1942) chose the Belfountain site for his summer home in 1909, the naturally dramatic landscape of a river running through the Niagara Escarpment had been devastated by sawmills and deforestation. The conservation area's three mill sites which precede Mack's time have archaeological interest. In addition to the former sawmills, the conservation area's quarry is a visible reminder of the short-lived period of quarrying for sandstone and limestone at, or near, the Forks of the Credit. The mill sites and quarry contribute to an understanding of the local economy in the nineteenth century, which was fuelled by natural resource extraction.

In stark contrast to the site's nineteenth-century uses, Mack's dream was to build a beautiful home in the countryside and invite the public to it for their enjoyment. Suffering from poor health and afflicted with a nervous disposition, Mack sought a calm retreat – a convenient distance from his manufacturing business and principal residence in Toronto. He and his wife, Addie Madella Mack, lived at the Belfountain bungalow they had built overlooking the river gorge from spring until fall each year. Year after year, they made improvements to the deforested landscape surrounding their bungalow. Their property, christened "Luckenuf," soon acquired the moniker "Mack's Park" with free access given to the public.

Through its transformation into a beauty spot open and free to the public, Mack's Park became a regional summer destination for day visitors as well as for artists, writers, musicians, teachers and prominent Torontonians who built cottages in Belfountain. It had the effect of turning the sleepy hamlet of Belfountain into a summer resort.

Mack's beautification project relied on Belfountain resident Samuel Western Brock (1873-1944) to carry out the work. Mack hired Sam Brock six months every year, starting in 1910. His employment lasted the duration of Mack's decades-long endeavor. In the quarries, Brock had worked as a miner and could handle explosives for blasting rock. He was also capable of building the dam across the river, the fanciful stone structures Mack desired, fitting the structures with plumbing, tending the gardens laid out on Mack's property, and it is assumed, building the rustic wooden structures that complemented the stonework. The complex stone structures surviving in the conservation area celebrate the life's work of this local builder whose livelihood came mostly from a single patron – Mack. Brock sustained a high degree of craftsmanship and artistry over three decades of work, and in the construction of the park's grotto in 1928 he demonstrated great technical ability. It is a remarkable achievement for vernacular construction.

Mack's paradoxical aims in developing Luckenuf as both a calm retreat for him and his wife and a beautiful and peaceful place they could share with the public were motivated by their religious convictions expressed in benevolence and community service and the early twentieth century belief that parks, gardening and nature study were ways of remedying social ills. They wanted to share their good fortune with the public. The Luckenuf project provides insight into societal aspirations during the Edwardian and Interwar periods.

The many photographs taken of Mack's Park and the surviving features seen in Belfountain Conservation Area place Mack's Park firmly in the very long tradition of country estates laid out in the English Picturesque landscape style.

England set the style for landscape design in the Western World from the early eighteenth century onward into the twentieth. In the early eighteenth century, English taste was influenced by Poussin, Lorrain and Salvator Rosa who painted the Italian countryside. Designers aimed to create the same effect in three dimensions, modifying nature enough to organize the elements as if painted in a picture but ensuring that the site's naturalness remained.

In Canada, country estates were laid out in the English Picturesque landscape style as early as the 1790s. Many followed in Upper and Lower Canada in the nineteenth century. Much later through the decades of the early twentieth century, William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's long-serving prime minister, developed his Kingsmere estate in the Gatineau hills north of Ottawa. The greater part of Kingsmere showed the influence of the English Picturesque landscape style.

Mack's choice of a site with the naturally dramatic landscape of a river running through the Niagara Escarpment gave him a canvas on which to depict an improved version of nature. He had Brock build a dam with a beautifully built cascade reminiscent of the hilly Italian countryside, a headpond on which you could paddle a canoe from the boathouse, a grotto with a large cavity where people could watch water trickle from the artificial stalactites, winding paths that followed stone terraces built into steep treed hillsides, and Mack's bungalow in the centre of it all. All these features are representative of the English Picturesque landscape style.

In the early twentieth century when Mack was developing his grounds, sculptured stone fountains and rustic wood structures were popular landscape design elements. Mack incorporated these to complete the picturesque effect at Luckenuff.

Famous as one of Ontario's beauty places, Mack's Park (which had been turned into a commercial venture after Mack's death and renamed Belfountain Park) was targeted for acquisition in 1959 by the newly formed Credit Valley Conservation Authority. Under its ownership and management, parcels of land adjoining the 1959 purchase were added in a series of acquisitions to reach the conservation area's present size of 32.46 acres.

While Mack's bungalow, two cottages near it and wooden structures in the landscape have vanished, a significant number of other features from Mack's Park remain. Brock's dam still stands although altered at its eastern end with a concrete sluice way and retaining wall. The grotto, repaired in 2001, rises up the high retaining wall and culminates in a parapet roof with Picturesque Gothic accents. Stone terraces and stone steps (sometimes encased in concrete) climb the steep valley walls. The tiered stone fountain erected in 1914 still works. The site of Mack's bungalow has become a barrier-free terrace lookout. The suspension footbridge above the falls, which was replaced c.1970, functions as the original did.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following cultural heritage resources imbue Belfountain Conservation Area with historic interest and character:

- three former sawmill sites and an abandoned quarry that describe the nineteenth-century uses on the land;
- all remaining stone or concrete works from the early twentieth century, including the dam, grotto (both inside and out), tiered fountain and its circular pool, low and high retaining walls, terraces, hillside steps, walks, circular oven, and remnant walls and posts;
- the headpond, its walls and the former swimming pool enclosure with its platforms;
- the trail beside the pond;
- the bridge, which formerly carried vehicles;
- the suspension footbridge above the falls, which is a replacement of the original suspension bridge; and,
- the site of Mack's bungalow, which has become a terrace outlook.

The mounted millstone under a shingled roof cover is not related to the conservation area as it was relocated from a former grist mill in Halton County. The millstone is not a heritage attribute.

Schedule B to By-law 2020-110

THE PROPERTY

The Property known as Belfountain Conservation Area (Mack's Park) as described in Schedule A of By-law 2020-110 is two parcels (known as PARCEL 1 and PARCEL 2):

PARCEL 1 being

Firstly, all of PIN 14268-0027 (LT) being Part of Lot 41 southeast of Credit Street and Fork Street, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon) as in CA26802; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

Secondly, all of PIN 14268-0052 (LT) being Lot 2 southeast of Credit Street, Plan CAL-2 (Caledon) except CA26802; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

Thirdly, all of PIN 14268-0053 (LT) being Lot 2 southeast of Credit Street, Plan CAL-2 (Caledon) except CA14957; Lot 42 southeast of Credit Street and Fork Street, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

Fourthly, all of PIN 14268-0428 (LT) being Part of Credit Street, Plan CAL-2, designated as Parts 8 & 9 on 43R-24462; Closed by By-law PR3693297; Save and except Part 1 on 43R-38125; Subject-to an easement over Part 2 on 43R-38125 as PR3700521; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

PARCEL 2 being

Firstly, all of PIN 14268-0004 (LT) being Part of McDonald Street, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon) (AKA unopened road allowance) lying between the Credit River & Gordon Street (AKA unopened road allowance), Plan CAL-20; Closed by By-law PR3693297; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

Secondly, all of PIN 14268-0049 (LT) being Gordon Street, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon); Closed by By-law PR3693297; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

Thirdly, all of PIN 14268-0050 (LT) being Part of Lot 41, Block B, CAL-20 (Caledon) south of Fork Street, east of Credit Street as in VS254503; Subject-to an easement in gross over Part 2 on 43R-37085 as in PR3130342; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

Fourthly, part of PIN 14268-0207 (LT) being Lot A, Block B, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon); Lot B, Block B, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon); Lot C, Block B, Plan (CAL-20), Part of Lot 31 south side of Scott Street, Block B, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon); Part of Lot 32 south side of Scott Street, Block B, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon); Part of Lot 14 east side of Main Street, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon); Lot 5, between Credit Street & Pinnacle Street, Plan CAL-2 (Caledon); Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

Fifthly, all of PIN 14268-0209 (LT) being Credit Street, Plan CAL-20 (Caledon) lying southeast of McDonald Street; Closed by By-law PR3693297; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel

to be registered against the Property in the proper Land Registry Office.