



# Staff Report

## Administration – Town Clerk

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**Report To:** COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services  
**Meeting Date:** April 13, 2026  
**Report Number:** ADM.26.016  
**Title:** Notice of Intention to Designate a Heritage Tree, 152 Year Old Sugar Maple, 10th Line Georgian Trail  
**Prepared by:** Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report ADM.26.016, entitled “Notice of Intention to Designate a Heritage Tree, 152 Year Old Sugar Maple, 10<sup>th</sup> Line Georgian Trail”;

AND THAT, as no objections have been served on the Clerk of the municipality in response to the “Notice of Intention to Designate a Property Under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18”, Council directs staff to include the “By-law to Designate a Property Under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18” on the April 20, 2026 Council Agenda, for enactment;

AND THAT following enactment of the “By-law to Designate the municipally owned lands known as Block 27, Plan 16M14, Town of The Blue Mountains to be of cultural heritage value or interest” Town staff will cause a copy of the By-law to be served upon the owner of the property (Town of The Blue Mountains), 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 Town.

### B. Overview

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This staff report provides a followup to Staff Report [OPS.25.043 Ontario Heritage Act Designation - 152 Year Old Sugar Maple, 10th Line and Georgian Trail](#) and requests Council direction to proceed with the heritage designation and the passing of the By-law.

### C. Background

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At the November 10, 2025 Council Meeting, in response to Staff Report [OPS.25.043 Ontario Heritage Act Designation - 152 Year Old Sugar Maple, 10th Line and Georgian Trail](#), Council passed the following motion:

**Ontario Heritage Act Designation – 152 Year Old Sugar Maple, 10th Line and Georgian Trail, OPS.25.043**

Moved by: Councillor McKinlay  
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

THAT Council receive Staff Report OPS.25.043, entitled “Ontario Heritage Act Designation – 152 Year Old Sugar Maple, 10th Line and Georgian Trail”;

AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains states a Notice of Intention to Designate the property municipally known as Roll Number 4242000015008450000, High Bluff Lane, Plan 16M14 Block 27, under Part IV, Section 29, of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18.

**The motion is Carried**

In response to the November 10, 2025 Council direction, staff advertised the Notice of Intention to Designate a Property Under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 in “The Review”, both online and circulated versions, a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality (see Attachment #1) for the month of February, 2026.

## **D. Analysis**

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The *Ontario Heritage Act* provides that Council must publish notice of the by-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality, which must provide that any person who objects to the by-law may appeal to the Tribunal by giving the Tribunal and the clerk of the municipality, within 30 days after the date of publication under this paragraph, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee charged by the Tribunal.

If no notice of objection is served within the 30-day period under section 29(5) or a notice of objection is served within that period but the Council decides not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property, the Council may pass a by-law designating the property, provided the following requirements are satisfied:

1. The by-law must be passed within 120 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention or, if a prescribed circumstance exists, within such other period of time as may be prescribed for the circumstance.
2. The by-law must include a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property and must comply with such requirements in relation to the statement and the description as may be prescribed and with such other requirements as may be prescribed.
3. The Council must cause the following to be served on the owner of the property, on any person who objected and on the Trust:

- i. A copy of the by-law.
  - ii. A notice that any person who objects to the by-law may appeal to the Tribunal by giving the Tribunal and the clerk of the municipality, within 30 days after the date of publication under paragraph 4, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee charged by the Tribunal.
4. The Council must publish notice of the by-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality, which must provide that any person who objects to the by-law may appeal to the Tribunal by giving the Tribunal and the clerk of the municipality, within 30 days after the date of publication under this paragraph, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee charged by the Tribunal.

Staff confirm that following the enactment of the By-law at the April 20, 2026 Council Meeting, that notice of the By-law will be included in “The Review” for the month of May, 2026. If no notice of appeal is given within 30 days after the publication (by June 30, 2026), the Clerk shall ensure that a copy of the By-law is registered against the property affected by the By-law in the appropriate Land Registry Office and that a copy of the Registered By-law is served on the Trust.

If a notice of appeal is received, staff will provide a further report to Council, for consideration.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

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- 1. Communication and Engagement**  
We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders
- 2. Organizational Excellence**  
We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.
- 3. Community**  
We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.
- 4. Quality of Life**  
We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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None

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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The Tree Trust has committed to the long term care and maintenance of this tree and no additional financial resources are required from the Town. As part of the designation process the Town will formalize the maintenance responsibilities and provide an easement for access to TBM Tree Trust and their agents.

If it is determined that interpretive signage was well suited to this location, the cost for a 24" x 48" signboard mounted as a tabletop display would be approximately \$2,200 including manufacture and installation.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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John McMullen, Manager of Parks & Trails

Jeff Fletcher, Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste

Alan Pacheco, Director of Operations.

## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Corrina Giles, Town Clerk [townclerk@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:townclerk@thebluemountains.ca).

## **J. Attached**

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1. Notice of Intention To Designate A Property Under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18
2. By-law to Designate the Municipally Owned Lands Known as Block 27, Plan 16M14, Town of The Blue Mountains, to be of cultural value or interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrina Giles  
Town Clerk

For more information, please contact:  
Corrina Giles, Town Clerk  
[townclerk@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:townclerk@thebluemountains.ca)  
519-599-3131 extension 232

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	ADM.26.016 Notice of Intention to Designate a Heritage Tree, 152 Year Old Sugar Maple, 10th Line Georgian Trail.docx
Attachments:	- Att 1 - Notice of Intention to Designate dated February 2, 2026.pdf - Att 2 - By-law-2026-XX-to-Designate-Heritage-Tree.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 30, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Adam Smith - Mar 30, 2026 - 4:21 PM**



## **Notice of Intention to Designate A Property under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains intends to designate the property municipally known as Roll Number 4242000015008450000, High Bluff Lane, Plan 16M14, Block 27, under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 as a property of cultural heritage value or interest for the purpose of designating a Heritage Tree located on that property.

**Property Description:** Located on the southeast corner of the intersection of the 10th Line and High Bluff Lane, north of and adjacent to the Georgian Trail, a 0.42 acre municipally owned property, known as Roll Number 4242000015008450000, High Bluff Lane, Plan 16M14, Block 27, Town of The Blue Mountains.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:** the property is considered for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 as amended, as representing a site of cultural heritage and interest within the Town.

A 152-year-old sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) located on the above-described property possesses significant cultural heritage value under Ontario Regulation 9/06 due to its historical, aesthetic, and contextual significance

**Historical:** The tree, estimated to be 152 years old, is a rare and enduring example of the natural heritage of the region, predating significant settlement and development in the area. It represents a living link to the pre-settlement landscape and the ecological history of the region, reflecting the prominence of sugar maples in Ontario's early agricultural and maple syrup production traditions.

**Aesthetic:** The sugar maple exhibits exceptional visual qualities, with its expansive canopy, vibrant seasonal foliage, and robust form, making it a striking and iconic feature in the landscape. Its aesthetic appeal enhances the scenic quality of the Georgian Trail, a significant recreational corridor.

**Contextual:** The tree serves as a prominent landmark along the Georgian Trail, a key recreational trail connecting communities and attracting visitors for its natural beauty. Its highly visible location from the public road right-of-way establishes it as a defining element of the local landscape, contributing to the area's sense of place and community identity.

**Description of Heritage Attributes:** The following attributes embody the cultural heritage value of the sugar maple:

- Its age, approximately 152 years, as determined by measurement, visual assessment and historical photography.
- Its physical form, including its height, trunk diameter, and expansive canopy demonstrate its maturity and health.
- Its vibrant seasonal foliage, showcasing brilliant red, orange, and yellow hues characteristic of the species.

- Its specific location adjacent to the Georgian Trail and near the public road right-of-way, ensuring high visibility and accessibility.
- Its ecological role as a native species, supporting local biodiversity and reflecting the region's natural heritage.

**Notice of Objection:** Any person may object to the proposed designation by serving a Notice of Objection to the Town Clerk within 30 days of the publication of this notice. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection and must be served by mail or delivered to:

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk,  
Town of The Blue Mountains  
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310  
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0.

Dated at the Town of The Blue Mountains, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2026.

# The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains

## By-Law Number 2026 –

### Being a By-law to designate the municipally owned lands known as Block 27, Plan 16M14, Town of the Blue Mountains, to be of cultural heritage value or interest

Whereas the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O.1990, C. O.18 (the “Act”) authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, or portions thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And Whereas the Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains has caused notice of its intention to designate the Sugar Maple (*Acer Saccharum*) located on the municipally owned lands known as Block 27, Plan 16M14 to be served and published in accordance with the provisions of the Act;

And Whereas the Clerk of the municipality has not received any notice of objection to the proposed designation with the time prescribed in the Act;

And Whereas a Statement of Cultural Value or Interest is set out in Schedule “B”;

And Whereas a description of Heritage Attributes is set out in Schedule “C”;

And Whereas the Council for the Town of The Blue Mountains considers it desirable to designate the said Sugar Maple (*Acer Saccharum*) as being of cultural heritage value and interest;

Now Therefore Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the Sugar Maple (*Acer Saccharum*) located on the municipally owned property known as Block 27, Plan 16M14, and more particularly described in Schedule “A”, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Act.
2. That the Town’s legal representative is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule “A” in the proper land registry office.
3. That Town staff are hereby authorized to cause 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 Town.

And Further that this By-law shall come into force and take effect upon the enactment thereof.

Enacted and passed this                      day of                      , 2026.

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Andrea Matrosovs, Mayor

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Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

**Schedule "A"**  
**Property Description**

Located on the southeast corner of the intersection of the 10th Line and High Bluff Lane, north of and adjacent to the Georgian Trail, a 0.42 acre municipally owned property, known as Roll Number 4242000015008450000, High Bluff Lane, Plan 16M14, Block 27, Town of The Blue Mountains.

**Schedule “B”  
Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The property is considered for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 as amended, as representing a site of cultural heritage and interest within the Town.

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**Contextual:** The tree serves as a prominent landmark along the Georgian Trail, a key recreational trail connecting communities and attracting visitors for its natural beauty. Its highly visible location from the public road right-of-way establishes it as a defining element of the local landscape, contributing to the area’s sense of place and community identity.

**Schedule "C"**  
**Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following attributes embody the cultural heritage value of the sugar maple:

- Its age, approximately 152 years, as determined by measurement, visual assessment and historical photography.
- Its physical form, including its height, trunk diameter, and expansive canopy demonstrate its maturity and health.
- Its vibrant seasonal foliage, showcasing brilliant red, orange, and yellow hues characteristic of the species.
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