

The Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington

By-law 2026-14

A By-law to designate the lands at 7324 Wellington County Road 21
to be of cultural heritage value or interest

Whereas The *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Section 29 (the “Act”), as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural value or interest;

Whereas On the advice of the municipal heritage committee, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known municipally as 7324 Wellington County Road 21 (“the Property”) and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust notice of intention to designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be posted on the Township’s website having a general circulation in the municipality;

Whereas The statement of cultural value or interest of the Property are set out in Schedule “B”;

Whereas The description of Heritage Attributes are set out in Schedule “C”;

Whereas No notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served upon the clerk of the municipality;


Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington hereby enacts as follows:

1. The real property municipally known as 7324 Wellington County Road 21 and more particularly described in Schedule “A”, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Act*;
2. The Township’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. Township staff is 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 posted on the Township’s website having general circulation in the municipality;
4. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon its final passing.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 9th day of February, 2026.



Mayor – Shawn Watters



Clerk – Kerri O’Kane

Schedule “A”

Legal Description

7324 Wellington County Road 21, legally described as:

Part Lot 1, Con 2 East of Grand River Pilkington, As In ROS387654 Except Part 1, 61R6750; S/T FS8471; Centre Wellington

PIN: 71495-0090 (LT)

Schedule “B”

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Description of Property

7324 Wellington County Rd 21 is located on Pt Lot 1, Con 2 EOGR in the Township of Centre Wellington, County of Wellington (Former Township of Pilkington). The property is approximately 26 acres and is largely forested on the west side with two agricultural fields on the east side. The property supports four structures which are centrally located on the site: a historic stone house, likely built in 1860; a historic log house, built in 1832 and relocated to this property from Puslinch; a bank barn built around the same time as the stone dwelling; and a garage, build date unknown. It also contains many mature trees and vegetation and slopes to the Grand River, above the whirlpool.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: The cultural heritage value of 7324 Wellington County Road 21 resides in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value, and its contextual value.

Historical or Associative Value

The property is significant because it has potential to yield information about the theme of early European settlement and contributes to the rural agricultural history of Centre Wellington. The property is also significant for its association with notable Township residents and families. The stone dwelling on the property was likely built under the ownership of John Marriot in approximately 1860. Marriot emigrated from England to live in Canada and established his occupation as a farmer. When he died in 1880, the property was passed on to his wife and it remained in the family's ownership until 1905.

James Ross, along with his wife Margaret lived on the property as tenants between 1890-1905. Ross is known for serving as Warden of Wellington County for 2 years in 1858-59. He was also a member of the Pilkington Agricultural Society and Elora Horse Association and frequently participated in farm-related events.

The property then passed to the Aitchison family through marriage (1907-1921), listed as farmers. William Aitchison (1919-1920) enlisted to fight in the First World War at the age of 33. He earned the rank of Corporal and served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry until he was discharged in 1919. Between 1937-1972, the land was farmed by the Watson and then Chamberlain families. It was split in 1972 and the approximately 29.5 acre lot containing the stone house was sold to Pat and Ramelle (Katharin) Harkins. At a later date, an additional 1.5 acre lot was severed and sold off to create the current acreage.

Pat and Ramelle moved to Canada from the United States and first settled in Winnipeg, later moving to Guelph. Pat would hold two different post-secondary teaching positions in Guelph and Toronto. After moving to Elora, the couple started the Woolwich Dairy Company, specializing in goat cheese products, which was very successful.

The log house was moved to the property by the current owners in the late 1980s. It was built in 1832 by Nicholas Beaver, an early settler in Wellington County, originally from Alsace-Lorraine (now a part of France). It is also thought to have served as a Friends meeting house and be associated with the Canadian Underground Railroad.

Today the house is used to store antique items and display art. The current owners, Daniel Lance Bratton and Carol Williams bought the property in 1984. They currently run The Elora Poetry Centre and Gallery on the property.

Design or Physical Value

The stone dwelling is significant because it is a representative example of an early 19th century stone farmhouse, with some Georgian style elements. It is the main dwelling on the property, built in approximately 1860. The structure is of simple design, one-and-a-half storeys in height and consists of an end-gable roof with a chimney on the west side. Two modern board and batten additions were added at the ground level on the north and east sides of the house.

The main dwelling is constructed of rough-cut fieldstone and rubble stone, likely local. The house was covered in stucco in the 1940s, though much has now been removed. Of interest are the large stone quoins, which adorn the corners of the original dwelling, and the stone sills and voussoirs on each window. The original section of the dwelling features many wood windows in various sizes and configurations. The original main entrance to the dwelling on the south facing façade has been converted to a large window with red-brick surround. The east facing addition features wood windows, salvaged from the Elora Armoury Hall (now LCBO). The two arched fanlights above the French doors on the addition are recreations of the window found on the front door to the Armoury.

The log house built in 1832, known as “Beaver House” was moved to the property from its original location in Puslinch, on the east side of Highway 6. The style is typical for log houses of this period, being rectangular in shape with an end-gabled roof. The log house displays evidence of 19th century construction, including hand-hewn logs with keyed corners, and visible chinking between each log.

The large bank barn is thought to have been built around the same time as the stone house. The original barn burned down around 1900 and was rebuilt with the original foundation remaining. The barn is wooden with a fieldstone foundation and a corrugated metal roof. The concrete silo adjoins the barn.

Contextual Value

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings and contributes to the rural agricultural context of this part of the Township. The stone dwelling faces south and likely would have been situated on the lands to maximize natural light and views of the property and farmland. The log dwelling faces towards the river and located near the gardens, approximately 20 metres south of the stone dwelling.

The forested areas on the property largely consist of thickets, with older growth of White Cedar and Sugar maple along the edge of the Grand River. There are many mature trees on the property including two prominent silver maples on either side of the gravel driveway, a stand of seven large hemlock trees towards the river, and five mature apple trees scattered throughout the declining ash tree stand. It is thought that the apple trees would have been planted shortly after the lands were cleared for agriculture. A creek runs through the property, flowing into a small pond before continuing to join the river.

The property boasts a large frontage along the Grand River, a designated Canadian Heritage River and Cultural Heritage Landscape. It has been sustaining people, flora and fauna for thousands of years, and was most certainly utilized by many past owners and visitors to the property, including local wildlife. The property and poetry centre are also physically and functionally linked to the vibrant arts and culture community within Centre Wellington.

Schedule "C"

Description of Heritage Attributes to be Protected

Log House

- Height, scale and massing of the 1.5 storey log dwelling
- Log construction and materials
- The pitch and overhang of the roof
- Fenestration pattern of doors and windows in their current size and location

Stone Farmhouse

- Height, scale and massing of the 1.5 storey stone farmhouse
- Fieldstone and rubblestone construction and materials
- The pitch and overhang of the roof
- Chimney on the west side of the dwelling
- Fenestration pattern of doors and windows in their current size and location
- Wooden windows including any original glass in their original locations
- Cut stone quoins and voussoirs
- Wood veranda and stairs on the south façade (not original)
- One-storey north and east board and batten additions including windows salvaged from the Armory Hall

Bank Barn

- Height, scale and massing of the large wood bank barn
- Fieldstone foundation
- Original barn board and log construction
- Lower-level stables for livestock

Landscape

- Two silver maple trees on either side of the driveway, near the barn

Excluded from the Heritage Attributes to be Protected

- Detached Garage
- Interior elements
- Remaining stucco on the exterior stone