

# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

## BY-LAW NUMBER 08-009

### BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 (526 McDonnell Street)

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH BY THE COUNCIL THEREOF HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the hereinafter described properties be and they are hereby designated to be of historical and architectural value or interest pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, for the reason hereafter stated:

a.) 526 McDonnell Street

PT OF PARK LT 17 IN LT 13 CON 13 (NORTH MONAGHAN) & PT OF LTS 42, 43 & 44 AND PT OF PETERBOROUGH CREEK PL 34 AND LTS 17, 18, 19, 20, BLK A AND PT OF BLK B, PT OF CORDACH AVENUE, PT OF CAMBRIDGE AVENUE CLOSED BY M38972 AND PT OF PETERBOROUGH CREEK PL 121;

#### REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The Bonner-Worth Mill Factory Building has important connections to labour, political and industrial history, as well as excellent architectural and landmark value. This was the site of one of Peterborough's most violent labour disputes, which itself had provincial and national repercussions. Labour organization began in Peterborough at both the Bonner-Worth and Auburn Woolen Mills, and the strike of 1937 was the first of its kind in Peterborough leading to violent confrontations and division within the community.

Within the context of Ontario labour history, the Peterborough strike of 1937 resulted in an inquest into wages and working conditions, ordered by Premier Mitchell Hepburn. The inquest produced the first legislation of its kind, Special Order No. 1, which set minimum wages for men and women in the textile industries, under the provisions of the Minimum Wage Act of 1937. Within a national context, the involvement of the CIO struck fear into the hearts of Canadian industrialists. Although individuals involved in the Peterborough strike denounced any connection to the organization, both the media and the government played on public fears. The day after Peterborough workers returned to work, Premier Hepburn called an early election. Riding on the success in Peterborough, Hepburn condemned the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), and successfully portrayed them as communist sympathizers. He won a landslide victory over Conservative candidate Earl Rowe.

Examined within the framework of industrial activity in Peterborough, the Bonner-Worth Mill Factory Building is a testament to Peterborough's industrial success. Constructed during the peak of industrial expansion in early twentieth century Peterborough, the Bonner-Worth Mill company (later Canadian Woolens, and then Dominion Woolens and Worsteds) flourished and contributed to the overseas war efforts during World War One. The buildings continued to be used for industrial purposes for many years after Dominion Woolens and Worsteds left Peterborough. In the 1960's they became the first campus of Sir Sandford Fleming College and have recently been renovated into affordable housing apartments.

The Bonner-Worth Mill Factory Building is an interesting and largely intact example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial architecture. Constructed in three phases, the two later additions (1913 & 1916) to the Mill complex were designed by William Blackwell, one of Peterborough's most prominent architects. The low horizontal lines of the building contrast with the vertical 2 storey recessed panels that frame the large windows; these were designed to maximize daylight during working hours. The building remains a landmark on the streetscape, because of its substantial size and massing, as well as its well-known historical associations. While a number of additions and outbuildings to the rear of the main building have been removed in recent renovations, the Bonner-Worth Mill Factory Building retains much of its original appearance from the street, complementing the other extant Mill buildings that were severed from the property years ago.

By-law read a first, second and third time this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2008

(Sgd.) D. Paul Ayotte, Mayor

(Sgd.) Nancy Wright-Laking, City Clerk