

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY  
BY-LAW NUMBER 35/2000**

**A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE FORREST RESIDENCE  
BEING PART OF LOT 7, CONCESSION 1, W. S.,  
TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY, AS BEING OF  
ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE AND INTEREST**

**WHEREAS** section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, authorizes the council of a municipality to enact the by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon to be of architectural and historic value and interest:

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wellesley has caused to be served on the owner of the lands and premises known as the "Forrest Residence" in Part Lot 7, Concession 1, W. S., Township of Wellesley and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice or intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of these consecutive weeks; and

**WHEREAS** no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the clerk of the municipality;

**THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wellesley enacts as follows:

1. The property described in Schedule 'A' attached hereto is hereby designated to be of historic and architectural value and interest;
2. Section 33 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., 1990 Chapter 0.18 shall apply only to the following:
  - 1½ story, squared stone house in Gothic style (excluding the north façade and added veranda)
  - Large squared coining
  - Gable roof with 9 light peaked church-type windows (shutters detached)
  - Detailed soffits and return eaves
  - Six over six double hung windows with stone lentils
  - Interior wood door jambs and raised wood panels in front room, south, east and west walls
  - Casement window sills and sashes
  - Molded plaster and egg white composition cornices
  - Molded plaster and egg white composition ceiling medallions and rosettes
  - Plaster and egg white detailed ceilings in hall and front, east and west rooms
  - Turned wood balusters and balustrades on the staircase
3. The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-Law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office;
4. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-Law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause the notice of the passing of the By-Law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality.

First Reading this 5th day of September, 2000

Second Reading this 5th day of September, 2000

Third Reading and finally passed this 5th day of September, 2000

Clerk

Mayor

## SCHEDULE 'A'

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Part of Lot 7, Concession 1, West Section, 2086 Perth Line, Township of Wellesley in the  
Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

## SCHEDULE 'B'

### REASONS FOR THE DESIGNATION

Alexander Forrest and Robina Innis were born in Duns, Scotland in the years 1802 and 1794. Duns is a small community in Berwickshire in the hills of south east Scotland near the English border.

In 1823 they, along with other families of the Forrest clan, emigrated to Canada and settled first in the Rice Lake district near Peterborough. In 1832 two families moved to this area and acquired several tracts of land in what is now North Easthope Township and South Wellesley Township.

Alex and Robina had seven children: Alex; William; Robert; Janet (Jessie); John; Elizabeth; Agnes.

They all settled in North Easthope while son Robert cleared and broke Lot 7, Concession 1 of Wellesley Township. This north half of Lot 7 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession of western Wellesley Township was well forested. Conditions could not have been ideal. Kerosene lamps were not in use yet. Lighting was predominantly rush or Betty lamps. Probably many families used lard lamps. Besides working and deforesting the land, a log house was constructed. This replaced the crude shelter in use at the time. Days were incredibly busy. Alex operated a bakery in Wellesley and Robina was a Medical Doctor in the area.

The Forrests were stone masons by trade and built a number of marvelous stone homes.

The earliest record in writing which can determine their legal association with the land in Wellesley Township is that of an agreement in writing between Samuel Whaley, a representative of the Canada Company and Robert Forrest on April 17, 1848 conveying rights and claims to Lot 7, Concession 1 of Wellesley. By now the log house was built and 20 acres cleared. Indications are that farming was good and there was prosperity. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 1855 the Crown recorded a deed to Robert Forrest for the south half of Concession 1, Lot 7 of Wellesley Township. This deed to Robert was issued by the "Province of Canada" for 100 acres for the sum of 87 pounds and 10 shillings.

In 1857 the north half of Lot 7, Concession 1 was purchased from the Crown for \$552.00, this for 100 acres. In time the south half was completely cleared and the north half 54 acres to this day is not.

Robert married Annie McLaren. They had three boys: Robert Jr.; Alex; James. Three daughters: Christie; Robena; Annie. Three of these six children played a roll in succeeding ownership of the farm.

On March 28, 1867 Robert Forrest purchased from his father and mother (Alex Forrest & Robina Innis), the 100 acres comprising Lot 24, Concession 11, North Easthope for \$2,000.00. On March 28, 1882 an additional 50 acres comprising the north half of Lot 6, Concession 1, Wellesley Township was purchased from Alex Hamilton.

Robert's death in 1892 resulted in the 350 acres being divided:

Robert Jr. – south half of Lot 7 – 100 acres;

James – north half of Lot 7 – 100 acres;

Alex – 50 acres north half of Lot 6 as well as

Lot 24, Concession 11, North Easthope – 100 acres.

During the final settlement of Robert Forrest lands among his heirs, Alex sold 25 acres of Lot 6 to brother James Forrest in 1905; the remaining 25 acres were acquired by sister Annie Forrest (Turnbull). Annie also acquired the south half of Lot 7 after the passing of her brother Robert Jr. in 1904. The south half of Lot 7 was purchased from the estate of Annie in 1950 by William Forrest when Annie's heir to the property and grandson Robert Turnbull Jr. declined to accept the farm and offered it for sale.



In August, 1958 the property was acquired by Hugh Forrest and remains to this day. This is where the accumulation of rocks and stone from clearing was put to use by the skilled Forrest masons. The mental plans of Robert were bearing fruit. A gothic style stone home was begun and constructed. Stones were squared and mortar set. Leverage, pulleys and horses came into play. The laying was precise and mortar placed. All ingredients were not local so some had to be bought. As farming was on going, this would have been a multi year project. It is on record that the log home was still in use in 1859. The wood work was superbly crafted from the finest local woods. Special chisels and knives had to be made so it matched traditional Scottish design. This wood work was superbly crafted and designed. The stairway was and is a work of art. Today it is basically of the same interior lay out. Ornamental ceilings of intricate plaster design.

In 1975 Hugh & Edith Forrest visited Scotland. They visited Holyrood House in Edinburgh at the lower end of the Royal Mile, the summer home of the Queen when in Scotland. The wood work design was identical to that of the Forrest home. The intricate plaster work was achieved by the separation of the yolk from egg white. This was mixed with plaster to achieve a tacky workable material which was hand formed. In Scotland very few have the skills to repair this type of art work. One room visited required 1,800 dozen eggs to complete the plaster work. The windows are generally physically the original windows with wide sills and crafted trim.

The north half of Lot 7, Concession 1 was inherited by James through his fathers will in 1892. The original barn on the property was burned in the mid 1880's. The existing buildings were erected in 1894. The barn and house were erected in 1894 and the house cost \$1,500.00. James owned the farm until 1924 when William his son took over. In 1971 Hugh Forrest took it over, the son of William, but in the same year, sold it to daughter Grace and son-in-law Ivan Oesch.

So the saga of the Forrest clan of Wellesley Township continues, as they preserve the past, the future and its challenges beckon. I personally congratulate the Forrests for their preservation of the family heritage. This today in 2000 is not common. Their co-operation is acknowledged and appreciated.