

The Corporation of the City of Kenora

By-law Number 63 - 2015

A By-law to designate a certain property under the Ontario Heritage Act – Mink Bay

Whereas Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, RSO 1990, authorizes Council of a municipality to designate property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if,

- (a) where criteria for determining whether property is of cultural heritage value or interest have been prescribed by regulation, the property meets the prescribed criteria; and
- (b) the designation is made in accordance with the process set out in this section. 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (1); and

Whereas the property locally known as Mink Bay being described as #1) Pt. Tract of land within Township 9, Range 22E of the principal meridian, Keewatin Part 2, 23R 7902, Kenora (Wetlands area); #2) Plan M269, Part 1, Parcel 15680 (part of wetland area, north of Hwy. 17); #3) Pt. Tract of land within Township 9, Range 22E of the principal meridian, Keewatin Part 14, 23R 7902, Kenora (area south of Second West Bay Road), meets the criteria prescribed by the Province for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

Whereas Council considered a staff report, including a recommendation from Heritage Kenora, recommending designation of this property at its meeting of February 17, 2015 and recommended the property be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

Whereas the Clerk of the City of Kenora has caused Notice of Intention to Designate to be given in accordance with section 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, RSO 1990; and

Whereas no Notice of Objection has been served on the Clerk within the meaning of Section 29(5) of the Ontario Heritage Act, RSO 1990; and

Now Therefore Be it Resolved That: The Council of the City of Kenora hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the property described in Schedule “A” hereto is hereby designated as a cultural landscape of historic and cultural heritage value and is described as #1) Pt. Tract of land within Township 9, Range 22E of the principal meridian, Keewatin Part 2, 23R, Kenora (Wetlands area); #2) Plan M269, Part 1, Parcel 15680 (part of wetland area, north of Hwy. 17); #3) Pt. Tract of land within Township 9, Range 22E of the principal meridian, Keewatin Part 14, 23R 7902, Kenora (area south of Second West Bay Road) be and is hereby designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value or interest, as indicated in Schedule A to this By-law;

2. That this by-law shall take effect and come into force upon third and final reading of the by-law.

By-law read a First & Second Time this 21st day of April, 2015

By-law read a Third & Final Time this 21st day of April, 2015

The Corporation of the City of Kenora:-

David S. Canfield, Mayor

Heather Lajeunesse, Deputy Clerk

Mink Bay Area – Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Description of Property

Mink Bay Wetland consists of 82.56 acres; a cultural heritage landscape at the west end of Keewatin, is the site of the original industrial development of the Town of Keewatin, and its residences. There are three properties associated with this site of historical significance.

Legal Description - Property #1 **Wetland Area**

Pt Tract of land within Township 9, Range 22E of the principal meridian Keewatin, Part 2
Plan 23R-7902

1. Design or Physical Value:

Portage Bay is one of the original six portages. Access to this portage is from the Lake of the Woods, over the coffer dam and into the wetlands and then into the Winnipeg River. This portage has been used for over 6,000 years.

2. Historical or Associate Value:

The property has historical value or associative value because it:

- a) Is the site of the earliest industrial development of Keewatin, being the original site of the Keewatin Lumber & Manufacturing Co. Ltd.'s sawmill when it was built in 1879.
- b) The first residences in the Town of Keewatin were located here, along the old "Sawdust Road", now called West Bay Road, In the beginning there was a school, saw mill, planer, storage shed, repair shop, two bunkhouses and a boarding house. The area was called "Slabtown" because the sawmill there produced slabs.
- c) The Area is associated with one of the earlier pioneers of Keewatin; John Mather. John Mather was the General Manager of the saw mill and the founding pioneer of the community of Keewatin.

3. Contextual Values:

The property's contextual value includes its physical and visual links to its surroundings.

- a) This property is key to defining, maintaining and supporting the character as Keewatin's earliest industry; saw milling, with remnants of the industry evident in the coffer dam and control gate which controls the flow of water that used to activate the mill, and is still used today to control the water depth from the Lake of the Woods to the Winnipeg River and the sensitive wetland area.
- b) The area is a landmark of Keewatin, demarcating the early site of Keewatin. The town eventually expanded to the east and south as more businesses came into the area and the residential area grew, as well.
- c) The area has a covenant placed on it and it was declared a parkland in 1984 and then in 2000 was provincially designated as a significant wetland area under the Wetlands Policy, Section 3 of the Planning Act. The area is noted for its biological and ecological diversity.
- d) The Mink Bay Trail has been established. It meanders through the area and is highlighted by historical plaques and significant historical areas like the coffer dam and the creek down which the log booms used to be driven in the days of the sawmill.

4. Description of Heritage Attributes:

Key attributes of this portion of Mink Bay area that reflect its value as an important link to the history of Keewatin include:

- Control gate – coffer dam
- Mink Bay Creek – logs from booms found on creek bottom
- Remnants of sawdust pile – located south of Second West Bay Road
- Site lines from control gate east and west along creek bed
- Site lines from pedestrian bridge –east and west along creek bottom

Legal Description – Property **#2) (Part of Wetland area, North of Highway 17 West**
Plan M269, Part 1, Block A, Pcl. 15680

1. Design or Physical Value: None noted

2. Historical or Associative Value:

The property has historical value or associative value because:

- a) The area is associated with one of the earlier pioneers of Keewatin; John Mather. John Mather was the General Manager of the saw mill and the founding pioneer of the community of Keewatin.

3. Contextual Value:

The property's contextual value includes its physical and visual links to its surroundings:

- a) This area is the gateway to the Mink Bay Trail. The trail meanders through the area and is highlighted by historical plaques and significant historical areas like the coffer dam and the creek, down which the log booms used to be driven in the days of the sawmill.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

Key attributes of the portion of Mink Bay area that reflect its value as an important link to the history of Keewatin include:

- Site lines from Highway 17 West, north to the creek
- Gateway to Mink Bay Trail

Legal Description – Property **#3) South of Second West Bay Road –**

Pt. Tract of land within Township 9, Range 22 of the principal meridian of Keewatin Part 14, 23R-7902, Kenora

1. Design of Physical Value:

- a) Portage Bay is one of the original six portages. Access to this portage is from the Lake of the Woods, over the coffer dam and into the wetlands and then into the Winnipeg River. This portage has been used for over 6,000 years.
- b) The site lines from the actual mill site to the remnants of the saw dust pile and creek.

2. Historical or Associative Value

The property has historical value or associative value because:

- a) Is the site of the earliest industrial development of Keewatin, being the original site of the Keewatin Lumber & Manufacturing Co. Ltd.'s sawmill when it was built in 1879.
- b) The first residences in the Town of Keewatin were located here, along the old "Sawdust Road", now called West Bay Road, In the beginning there was a school, saw mill, planer, storage shed, repair shop, two bunkhouses and a boarding house. The area was called "Slabtown" because the sawmill there produced slabs.
- c) The Area is associated with one of the earlier pioneers of Keewatin; John Mather. John Mather was the General Manager of the saw mill and the founding pioneer of the community of Keewatin.

3. Contextual Value

The property's contextual value includes its physical and visual links to its surroundings.

- a) This property is key to defining, maintaining and supporting the character as Keewatin's earliest industry; saw milling, with remnants of the industry evident in the coffer dam and control gate which controls the flow of water that used to activate the mill, and is still used today to control the water depth from the Lake of the Woods to the Winnipeg River and the sensitive wetland area.
- b) The area is a landmark of Keewatin, demarcating the early site of Keewatin. The town eventually expanded to the east and south as more businesses came into the area and the residential area grew, as well.
- c) The area has a covenant placed on it and it was declared a parkland in 1984 and then in 2000 was provincially designated as a significant wetland area under the Wetlands Policy, Section 3 of the Planning Act. The area is noted for its biological and ecological diversity.
- d) The Mink Bay Trail has been established. It meanders through the area and is highlighted by historical plaques and significant historical areas like the coffer dam and the creek down which the log booms used to be driven in the days of the sawmill.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

Key attributes of the Mink Bay area that reflect its value as an important link to the history of Keewatin include:

- Site lines from actual mill site to remnants of sawdust pile and creek
- Actual physical site of saw mill
- Sight lines of one of the original six portages through this area.