

September 27, 2024

Dear Council Member Cressman,

At the September 10, 2024 committee meeting of Heritage Wilmot, members were advised by Wilmot Township staff that no additions will be made to the Non-designated register of properties.

Therefore, as appointed members of Heritage Wilmot, we are requesting that the following properties be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

1. Oxford Waterloo bridge:

At the May 27, 2024 council meeting, Township staff presented a follow-up report reviewing three options for the bridge's future. Council directed staff to explore Option 2, which focuses on converting the bridge for pedestrian and bicycle use.

With council's decision to preserve the historic truss bridge, designation would further protect it and formalize its importance as part of Wilmot's history. It will be a focal point and destination feature of the proposed multi-use trail, and its designation should be seriously considered.

2. Beckdale House:

We consider this property threatened due to development pressure. The Province is in the process of downloading planning authority to the municipality and Wilmot Township's development plans include the land situated between New Hamburg and Baden. This property, located at 1149 Snyder's Road West, Baden, is on a parcel allocated for development. It was previously considered for inclusion on the Non-designated list in 2021.

We respectfully request that Wilmot Township council initiate the process to designate the Oxford Waterloo bridge and Beckdale House.

Rene Eby, Marg Rowell, Yvonne  
Heritage Wilmot members