



## ***MEMORIAL PARK***

110 Simcoe Street South  
City of Oshawa

**PREPARED FOR HERITAGE OSHAWA  
BY: MELISSA COLE, Heritage Consultant  
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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **i. Purpose of the Report**

This report evaluates the cultural heritage significance of Memorial Park in the City of Oshawa and its associated structures located in the park such as the Bandshell, murals and heritage plaques in accordance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.

The purpose of this undertaking is to determine whether the subject property merits designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### **ii. Legislative Context**

Ontario Regulation 9/06 under the Ontario Heritage Act sets out the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest, which is required in order to designate a property under the provisions of Part IV.

A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

1. The property has design value or physical value because it:
  - i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
  - ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
  - iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
  
2. The property has historical value or associative value because it,
  - i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
  - ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
  - iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
  
3. The property has contextual value because it,
  - i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
  - ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
  - iii. is a landmark.

After analyzing the history and heritage attributed of the subject property, it is concluded that the subject property merits designation under the Ontario Heritage Act in light of criteria 1 (ii), 2 (i,ii,iii) and 3 (i,ii,iii).

## **2.0 Description of Property**

### **i. Location**

Memorial Park is located in the City of Oshawa on Simcoe Street South bounded by Simcoe, Metcalfe, John and Centre Streets. Figure 1 indicates the location of Memorial Park within the City of Oshawa and indicates the relationship of Memorial Park within the context of several key buildings including E.A. Lovell School, the Masonic Temple, Canadian Automotive Museum, Oshawa Public Library, Oshawa City Hall, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, St. George's Memorial Church and Simcoe Street United Church.

### **ii. Legal Description**

Memorial Park is located at 110 Simcoe Street South, bounded by Simcoe Street South (east), Metcalfe Street (north), Centre Street South (west) and John Street West (south). It is registered as Plan H-50004, Block K, Lots 1-6, Part Lots 7-11 and Lot 12 within the City of Oshawa.

### **iii. Site Description**

As illustrated in the photographs appended to this report, Memorial Park is a hidden jewel in the heart of downtown Oshawa. The 1.06 ha. (2.93 acre) park contains two significant architectural features: a Bandshell and a War Memorial/Cenotaph. The War Memorial/Cenotaph holds a prominent place in Memorial Park and faces Simcoe Street South. Also located on the site is a 1939 St. George's church marker, murals, Pedlar People Limited plaque, Canadian Corps Monument, mature vegetation and beautiful landscaped gardens and pathways.

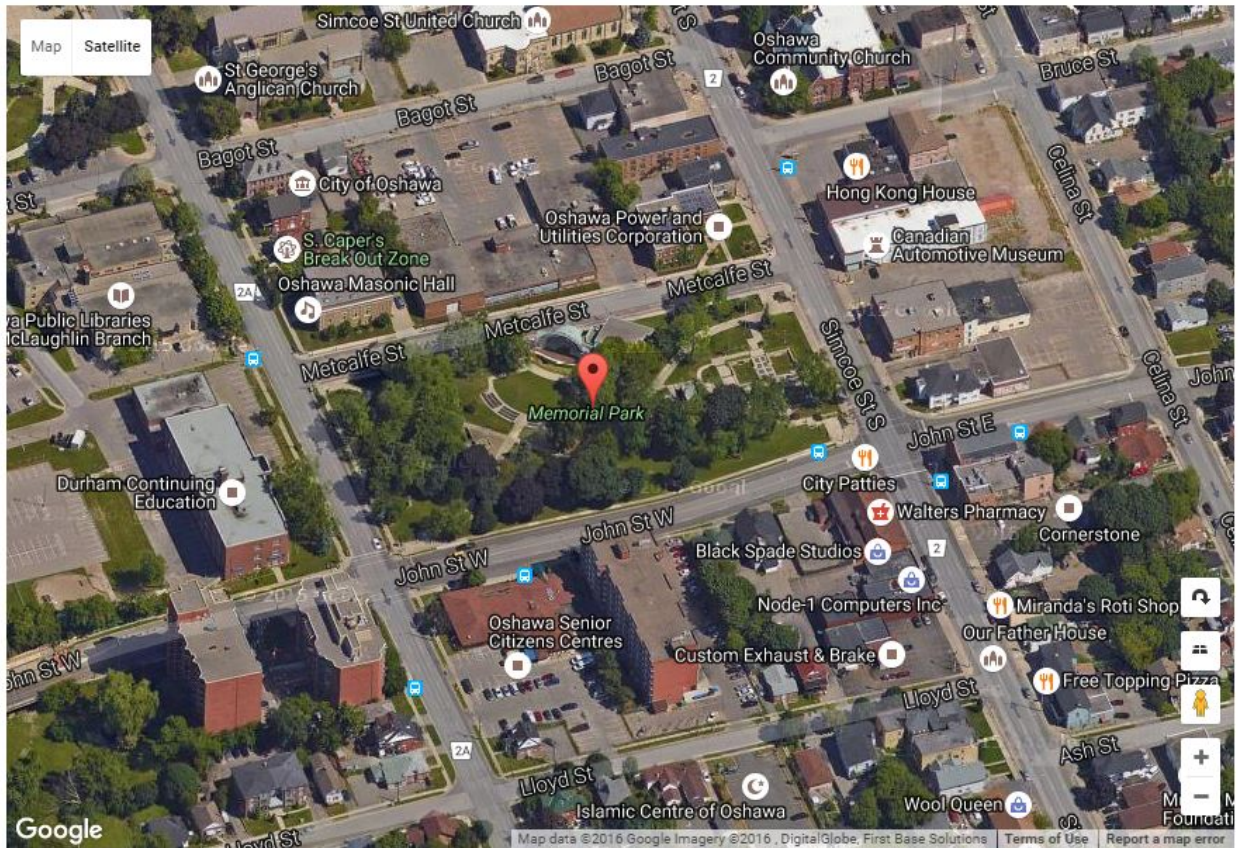


Figure 1 - Memorial Park, City of Oshawa, Google Maps July 2016

### 3.0 Historical Context

#### i. Summary

Memorial Park is a hidden jewel located in the heart of downtown Oshawa within the context of several key buildings including the Masonic Temple, Canadian Automotive Museum, Oshawa Public Library, Oshawa City Hall, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery and Simcoe Street United Church. This is not a park with games and sports, but one that honours the sacrifice that was made by men and women at war. The park is home to two significant architectural features, the War Memorial/Cenotaph and the McLaughlin Bandshell. Unveiled in 1924, the War Memorial/Cenotaph was designed by English Sculptor Alfred Howell. It is unique for the stones that are placed on the memorial that were collected from every allied country from the First World War. The stones came from countries involved in the war, such as Britain and Russia and every battlefield where Canadians lost their lives. The McLaughlin Bandshell, which opened in 1942, was a gift from Oshawa industrialist and philanthropist, R.S. McLaughlin. The Bandshell continues to provide a venue for outdoor musical performances. These two built features, a 1939 St. George's church marker, murals, Pedlar People Limited plaque, Canadian Corps Monument, mature vegetation and beautiful landscaped gardens and pathways make Memorial Park a valued historical and cultural focal point in Oshawa.

## **ii. Early Lot History**

In 1895, Sarah Eliza Pedlar purchased Lots 1-9 and part Lot 10, Block K, Plan H50004 of the subject property. Ownership of the property transferred in 1911 to The Pedlar People Limited. This company was already operating a large sheet metal plant on the property.

Around 1920, the Pedlar People Limited decided to build an entire new plant further south on Simcoe Street. In June 1921, the company purchased the west 18 feet of Lot 10 and all of Lots 11 and 12, Block K. This property at the northeast corner of Centre and John Street was the site of St. George's Church. It was demolished in 1924 when St. George's Memorial Church was erected to the north at the northeast corner of Centre and Bagot Streets. The original location of St. George's Church is commemorated by a stone monument which is still on the site today.

On June 30, 1921, the Town of Oshawa purchased all of Block K from Pedlar People Limited for \$25, 000. The old factory was torn down but a few municipal offices moved into the small office building that remained from Pedlar People Limited. When the Public Utilities Commission erected a building nearby in 1931, the City of Oshawa (incorporated in 1924) rented space on the upper floor and demolished the old office building on the north-east corner of the lot.

## **iii. War Memorial/Centotaph**

Much of the credit for the War Memorial/Cenotaph is owed to Dr. T.E. Kaiser. Dr. Kaiser was instrumental in the fundraising and letter writing campaign. Dr. Kaiser coordinated the selection of the final design with the assistance of a committee that included: Chairman, Mayor W.J. Trick; secretary, Charles Wilcox; treasurer, H.C. Duncan; finance, G.W. McLaughlin; construction, Dr. T.E. Kaiser, Mrs. F.W. Cowan, H.E. Tyler, T.B. Mitchell, Col. Frank Chappell, W.C. Smith and E.A. Lovell.

The War Memorial/Cenotaph was modeled after one in Evesham, England and was sculpted by Alfred Howell. Mrs. Cowan went to Evesham to view the monument, Kaiser organized a fundraising campaign and Howell was commissioned to undertake the Oshawa memorial. The contractor was Mr. McIntosh from McIntosh Bros. of Toronto.

Alfred Howell was born in Oldbury, England on July 6, 1889. He entered the Royal College of Art on a national scholarship at the age of twenty. In 1911, he won the British Institution Scholarship in sculpture and used the funds to continue his studies in modelling, sculpture, architecture and design. In 1913, he married Harriet Robert, a ceramist and jewellery craftswoman. They moved to Toronto where Howell was Head of the Art Department for Central Technical High School in 1927.

Howell founded the Sculptor's Society of Canada (SSC) in 1928 with fellow sculptors Frances Loring, Florence Wyle, Emanuel Hahn, Elizabeth Wyn Wood and Henri Hebert. As a sculptor, Howell is noted for his powerful figurative war memorials commissioned following the First World War. His memorial in Sault St. Marie (c.1923) illustrates the Triumph of Right over Might



Figure 2 - Hamilton Merritt Statue in St. Catharines, Courtesy St. Catharines Historical Society

with an inscription quoting Rudyard Kipling. A later work is the impressive eight foot bronze statue of Hamilton Merritt, famous for connecting Lake Ontario with Lake Erie by the Welland Canal in 1828, which was erected in St. Catharines Ontario, see Figure 2. Other examples of Howell's work can be found in the Manitoba Parliament Buildings in Winnipeg and in the National Gallery in Ottawa. Howell passed away in 1978 at the age of eighty.

The War Memorial/Cenotaph is oriented to the east, facing Simcoe Street South. On top of the memorial is a bronze figure of an infantryman is mounted on a carved stone column flanked on either side by curved stone walls. Stones collected from all the allied countries of the First World War, and most of the battlefields in which Canadians took part, are represented by a stone placed in the face of the memorial. Allied and British Commonwealth countries represented include England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, South Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Newfoundland, France, Serbia, Belgium, Brazil, Russia and Japan. Among the battlefields from which stones were secured include Ypres, Vimy Ridge, St. Julien, Passchendaele, Arras, Rheims, Louvain and Mons. Many of these stones are of varied colours. A piece of marble from the old Westminster Abbey and a fragment of the residence of the wartime governor general of Canada, the Duke of Connaught, add to the significance of the memorial. Flanked on either side of the memorial are cast metal lights, mounted on the lesser columns that burn at all times.

One of the outstanding features of the War Memorial/Cenotaph is the inscription, "The Garden of the Unforgotten" that was suggested by Dr. Kaiser's daughter Josephine. She discovered the phrase in a book by Reverend Dr. Treeves, *The Other Side of the Lantern*. It was used by Treeves to describe the place where great men of India are buried.

Bronze tablets inscribed with the names of 138 local men who lost their lives in the First World War can be found on the memorial. In 1948, another tablet was added to recognize the sacrifices made by 177 Oshawa residents who died in the Second World War. A memorial to those who lost their lives in the Korean War is located on the west facing wall of the War Memorial/Cenotaph along with other plaques of remembrance for more recent conflicts around the world such as the United Nations Peacekeepers.

A time capsule housed in a copper box was buried in front of the memorial in 1924. It is to be opened in 2424 and is reportedly filled with artifacts including a letter from the City engineer, newspapers, photographs, catalogues, stamps, coins and poppy seeds. Also included is a cheque in an undisclosed amount from the mayor.

On November 11, 1924, the Honourable Sir William Mulock, Chief Justice of Ontario, Chancellor of the University of Toronto, unveiled the memorial alongside four women who had lost their sons in the First World War. These noble women were mothers Lyons, Wood, Walker and Dionne.

A fountain was added to the memorial in 1979 when extensive landscaping was completed on the grounds of the memorial. The fountain has since been removed and replaced with flower gardens.

#### **iv. McLaughlin Bandshell**

The idea of building a Bandshell and permanent home for the current Oshawa Civic Band (previously known as the Ontario Regimental Band) began when a few members including Reg Martyn were discussing a feasible home for the band. Automobile manufacturer and philanthropist Colonel R.S. McLaughlin was approached about the idea, and was quoted as saying, "Get the best architect, build the Bandshell and send me the bill." Mr. Martyn received plans from Con Music Company in Indiana. The plans were handed over to architect Harold Smith and builders Bathe and McLellan. The roof and outside were streamlined and 12 feet was added to the stage platform but the overall design was the same. McLaughlin was able to acquire the structural steel needed, in spite of the shortage caused by the ongoing Second World War. The Bandshell officially opened in July 1942, the final cost of the Bandshell was \$18,000.

The Bandshell was built to give the Oshawa Civic Band place to perform and practice. Prior to this, band practices were held in the Orange Hall located over a grocery store near the four corners and the Armouries on Simcoe Street North. During World War II, the Armouries required the use of the band's practice room for medical inspections on servicemen, so the band was left without a home. Many WWII home-front, morale-building celebrations were held in the Park with the Bandshell as the centre of the events.

Facing west to Centre Street South, the structure was equipped with a band room, special lighting effects and amplifying equipment. The stage could accommodate 125 performers. In the 1950s, demand for the Bandshell increased and the Oshawa Civic Band outgrew their band room, originally built under the stage. R.S. McLaughlin helped finance the construction of a bigger band room at the back of the structure. A raised brick and timber bordered amphitheater and other landscaping was completed in 1977.

The Bandshell is a wood and steel structure, now with a cream colour finish accented with grey moulding. The overall shape is winged with memorial tablets mounted on the front face at each side of the stage. The roof extends east in a series of semi-circular tiers or hoods, each diminishing in size from the adjacent one (see Photo # 18). The stage opening is semi-circular and can be accessed from a rear stage door or mounted at the front by north and south stairways. Each stairway is defined by two flag standards. The additions are stepped and do not detract from the original design. The acoustics of the Bandshell are considered outstanding



and the Bandshell is known as one of the finest in Canada. The Oshawa Civic Band continues to practise every Monday night at the Bandshell.

**v. Murals**

Located on the east section of the Bandshell are a series of murals that commemorate the 130 year history of Oshawa's Ontario Regiment. The murals were painted by John Hood of Toronto, Ontario in 1996. The detail in this set of murals is exquisite; all the medals depicted at the bottom of the mural are accurate representations of Canadian military decorations.

On the east wall of the addition is the Windfields Farm mural painted in 1996 by David Yeatman of Aylmer, Quebec. Featured in the mural is Northern Dancer after his historic Kentucky Derby win in 1964 with jockey Bill Hartack and E. P. Taylor, owner of Windfields Farm. Northern Dancer also won the Queen's Plate and the Preakness Stakes. Windfields Farm was a 607 ha. (1500 acre) thoroughbred horse breeding farm founded by businessman, entrepreneur and philanthropist E.P. Taylor. In 1950 he purchased what was then named Parkwood Stables, from Col. R. S. McLaughlin. The thoroughbred stables at Windfields were renowned in North America. The farm no longer stands but there are two horse cemeteries where Northern Dancer and other horses are buried. One of these cemeteries, the Trillium Horse Cemetery, was designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act in 2015 by By-law 65-2015.

Another mural that can be viewed looking north from Memorial Park is along the Metcalfe Street façade of the Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. building. The mural portrays Camp-X. It was painted in 2001 by local artist Tony Johnson. On December 6, 1941, Camp-X Special Training School 103 was opened under the direction of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive and his Canadian Chief of Security, Sir William Stephenson. Five hundred secret agent graduates were schooled at Camp-X in hand-to-hand combat, interrogation techniques, psychological warfare, explosives training and espionage, sabotage and survival skills behind enemy lines.

The murals were commissioned by the Downtown Action Committee in the fall of 1993. They are located throughout the City of Oshawa on both City-owned and privately-owned structures. There are over 15 murals that highlight the history, culture and significant milestones of the community.

## vi. Park Rededication

Memorial Park was developed without the benefit of a master plan. In December 1998, Daniel J. O'Brien and Associates Ltd. (O'Brien), landscape architects, were retained by the City of Oshawa to prepare a landscape renovation plan. Their findings are contained in the April 1999 report: *Memorial Park Landscape Renovation Plan*. In 2002, O'Brien compiled a natural features (trees) inventory for the park, *Existing Conditions and Removals Plan*. By 2002, several of O'Brien's recommendations were completed including the following:

- The cenotaph area was redesigned to include a sunken court surrounded by low masonry walls and benches.
- The seating area by the Bandshell was redesigned to enhance the cultural performances by providing permanent benches and a larger grassed area.
- A water feature was placed at the convergence of the main pathways to act as a central focal point and create more appealing frontage on Centre Street
- Enhanced features, enhanced lighting and traditional lighting were added to emphasize the importance of Memorial Park to the community.

The park was rededicated on September 23, 2002

## vii. Commemorative Stone, Sculpture and Plaques

### St. George's Church Commemorative Stone

The land that Memorial Park occupies was originally the site of St. George's Church from 1852-1924 on the northeast corner of Centre Street and John Street. The church was demolished in 1924 when St. George's Memorial Church was erected to the north at the northeast corner of Centre Street and Bagot Street. On April 23, 1939, the location of the earlier church was commemorated by a stone monument that stands today memorializing the location of the original church.

Inscription:

*This stone marks the location of the Chancel of St. George's Church 1852-1924. Erected by Members of the old church April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1939. Rectors Rev. J. Pentland 1852, Canon J.R. Worrell, 1862, Canon W. Belt, 1869, Rev. H.B. Owen, 1875, Rev. I Middleton, 1880, Rev. J.H. Talbot, 1892, Canon C.R. dePencier, 1910*

### Canadian Corps Sculpture

This monument was presented to the City of Oshawa by the Canadian Corps Association in 2009 during the Corps' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, hosted by Oshawa Unit 42. The monument features a bronze First World War soldier that was originally located at the Dominion Headquarters in Toronto. It had been sold because it was no longer needed by the Canadian Corps. The monument had to be relocated. The statue was commissioned by Borden Company Ltd., a Toronto-based dairy that wanted to honour one of its fallen employees and serve as a reminder of the role the Canadian Corps played in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The monument is located in the southwest quadrant of Memorial Park.

Inscription:

*Canadian Corps Association*

*They shall not grow old  
As we that are left grow old  
Age shall not weary them  
Nor the years condemn  
At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We will remember them.*

*This monument presented to the City of Oshawa by the Canadian Corps Association, April 25, 2009 During the Corps 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.*

*Donated to the Canadian Corps Association Ontario Command By the Borden Co. Ltd.*

*In memory of their employees who paid the supreme sacrifice and whose names are recorded on the back of this memorial*

### **Rededication Plaque**

There is a bronze plaque in front of the Bandshell that was installed in 2002 at the time when the park was rededicated.

Inscription:

*City of Oshawa Memorial Park*

*Memorial Park is regarded as hallowed ground for quiet meditation, the enjoyment of music and especially for honouring our men and women who served in armed conflicts. The Park, first established in 1920, was redeveloped during 2002.*

*Rededication September 2002*

*Mayor Nancy L. Diamond & Councillors, Clare Aker, Robert Boychyn, Cathy Clarke, John Gray, Joseph Kolodzie, John Neal, Mike Nicholson, Louise Parkes, Nester Pidwerbecki, Warren Young.*

### **Pedlar People Limited Plaque**

The Pedlar People Limited plaque is located near the northeast corner of Memorial Park and recognizes the company for its important contribution to the city's industrial history. When the family business first started in 1861, the store was located at the northwest corner of Bond and Simcoe Street and sold metal kitchenware. In 1872 the company started a small metal stamping plant in an old stable that was located on the Memorial Park site. It eventually became known world-wide for its metal roofing systems and was the largest sheet metal factory in the British Empire. The company was sold in 1976 to a Toronto holding company and officially closed in 1982. The plaque was unveiled by Heritage Oshawa in June 2016.

Inscription:

Pedlar People Limited

*Pedlar People Limited is an important part of Oshawa's industrial history.*

*The Pedlar family arrived in Skae's Corners (Oshawa) in 1841 and in 1861 Henry Pedlar opened a small store selling metal kitchenware at the northwest corner of Bond and Simcoe Streets. By 1872 Henry's son George moved to a location here at Memorial Park where an old stable was converted into a small metal stamping plant. By 1894 what had started as a small kitchenware store had become the 'largest sheet metal factory in the British Empire' known internationally for their metal roofing systems.*

*In 1911, the company officially became Pedlar People Limited. The company continued to grow and add products. Shortly after World War I, they moved from their location here to a new facility located at the corner of Simcoe Street and First Avenue.*

*The company played a pivotal role during World War II. They produced shells and cartridge cases that were shipped to Defense Industries Limited in Ajax before being sent overseas. Like many of its contemporaries, Pedlar People Limited employed female workers in the factory to replace their male counterparts who had gone overseas to serve.*

*The company transferred out of the Pedlar Family in 1976 when it was sold to a Toronto holding company. It was the end of an industrial era when the company officially closed in 1982.*

#### **4.0 Applicability of Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act**

In light of the findings of this report, it is concluded that the park known as Memorial Park meets several of the criteria outlined in Regulation 9/06. The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design or physical value, historical/associative value and contextual value.

- 1(i) Memorial Park contains two significant architectural features the McLaughlin Bandshell and the War Memorial/Cenotaph. The 1924 War Memorial/Cenotaph is the design of noted English sculptor Alfred Howell. It is unique for its use of stones representing the Allied and British Empire countries and battlefields pertinent to World War I. The 1942 Bandshell was a gift from philanthropist and Oshawa industrialist, Colonel R.S. McLaughlin.
- 2(i) The location of the park in relation to several public and institutional buildings. Including the original Centre Street public school, largest school in Oshawa. Masonic Temple, City Hall, Oshawa Seniors Citizen Centre, Canadian Automotive Museum, Oshawa Public Libraries, McLaughlin Branch, Simcoe Street United Church and St. George's Memorial Church.
- 2(i) The property has direct association with WWII, WWI and the Korean war. The War Memorial/Cenotaph contains bronze tablets with the names of 138 Oshawa residents who fell in action during WWI, 177 Oshawa residents who died during the Second

World War and a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Korean War is located on the west facing wall of the War Memorial/Cenotaph along with other plaques of remembrance for more conflicts around the world.

- 2(i) The property has direct association with R.S. McLaughlin who donated the funds to construct the McLaughlin Bandshell.
- 2(i) The property has direct association with the Pedlar People Limited, who made an important contribution to the city's industrial history.
- 2(i) The property has direct association with the Ontario Regiment through a series of murals commemorating 130 years of the Ontario Regiment, located on the east façade of the Bandshell. The Ontario Regiment is currently celebrating 150 years.
- 2(iii) the War Memorial/Cenotaph demonstrates the work of English sculptor Alfred Howell who is known for his powerful figurative war memorials following the First World War. He designed the Oshawa War Memorial/Cenotaph.
- 3 (i) Memorial Park is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the area in which it stands because it is the location of many cultural events that take place in Oshawa including Oshawa's annual Remembrance Day ceremonies, Metis Festival, Pride Parade and Summer Concert Series.
- 3 (ii) Memorial Park is historically linked to its surroundings through the placement of various memorials including the 1939 St. George's church marker and the Pedlar People Limited Plaque indicating the properties historic value.
- 3 (iii) Memorial Park is a landmark in the centre of Oshawa due to it being a gathering place for Remembrance Day celebrations, Metis Festival, Pride Parade, Fiesta Parade and the annual Summer Concert Series and cultural celebrations at the Bandshell. It is a key part of the larger cultural heritage landscape of downtown Oshawa.

## **5.0 Proposed Designation Statement and Description**

Should the Heritage Oshawa Committee and Council agree that designation of Memorial Park is appropriate, it is recommended that the following Designation Statement and Description be incorporated into the designation by-law.

### **i. Location and Description of Property**

Memorial Park is located in the heart of downtown Oshawa on Simcoe Street South and bounded by Simcoe Street South on the east, John Street West on the south, Centre Street South on the west and Metcalfe Street on the north. The 1.06 ha park contains two significant architectural features: a bandshell and a War Memorial/Cenotaph. The War Memorial/Cenotaph holds a prominent place in Memorial Park and faces Simcoe Street South. Also located on the site is a 1939 St. George's church marker, murals, Pedlar People Limited plaque, Canadian Corps Monument, mature vegetation and beautiful landscaped gardens and pathways.

**ii. Legal Description**

Memorial Park is located at 110 Simcoe Street South. It is registered as Plan H-50004, Block K, Lots 1-6, Part Lots 7-11 and Lot 12 within the City of Oshawa.

**iii. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The associative value of Memorial Park is linked to its role in contributing to an understanding of the development of the neighbourhood that surrounds the park and the City of Oshawa, from it being the site of the Pedlar People Limited and then its use as a memorial to the City's war-dead. It is a prominent meeting place and cultural hub located in downtown Oshawa. Its location within the context of several public buildings including the Oshawa Masonic temple, Oshawa City Hall, Oshawa Public Libraries, Oshawa Seniors Citizen Centre, Simcoe Street United Church, Canadian Automotive Museum and St. George's Memorial Church. It is a nexus in the Oshawa community.

Memorial Park's cultural heritage value also lies in two significant architectural features: The McLaughlin Bandshell and the War Memorial/Cenotaph. Coinciding with the incorporation of the Town of Oshawa as the City of Oshawa, the 1924 War Memorial/Cenotaph was designed by noted English sculptor Alfred Howell. It is unique for its use of stones representing the Allied and British Empire countries and battlefields pertinent to World War I. The War Memorial/Cenotaph was originally constructed to recognize the sacrifice of Oshawa residents during World War I. In 1942, 177 names were added to recognize those who had died in World War II and later the addition of the names of the lives lost during the Korean War (1950-1953). The 1942 Bandshell was a gift from Oshawa philanthropist and industrialist, Colonel R.S. McLaughlin. The Bandshell continues to provide a venue for outdoor musical performances, including an annual summer concert series on Wednesday evenings.

The park is historically, visually and functionally linked to its setting. It is organized by pathways and built features beneath a mature tree canopy. The Memorial/Cenotaph and Bandshell, along with the 1939 St. George's Memorial Church marker, Pedlar People Limited plaque, Canadian Corps Memorial, murals, mature vegetation and beautifully landscaped grounds make Memorial Park a valued historical and local landmark in the City of Oshawa.

**iv. Heritage Attributes**

The Heritage attributes of Memorial Park are:

- Its location in the downtown core within the context of several public buildings
- The War Memorial/Cenotaph designed by sculptor Alfred Howell, which recognizes the sacrifice of the Oshawa residents who lost their lives during WWI, WWII and the Korean War. On top of the memorial a bronze figure of an infantryman is mounted on a carved stone column flanked on either side by curved stone walls. Stones collected from all the allied countries of the First World War, and most of the battlefields in which Canadians took part, are represented by a stone placed in the face of the memorial.

- The McLaughlin Bandshell, a gift to the City of Oshawa from noted philanthropist and industrialist Colonel R.S. McLaughlin. The Bandshell is a wood and steel structure with a cream colour finish accented with grey moulding. The overall shape is winged with memorial tablets mounted on the front face at each side of the stage. It is home to the Oshawa Civic Band and many significant cultural events in the community, such as the historic WWII home-front, morale-building celebrations and the popular Summer Concert series.
- Memorial Park is the former location of St. George's Memorial Church, which has been memorialized through a stone monument located on the south side of the property.
- Memorial Park is the former location of Pedlar People Limited, which has been memorialized through a bronze plaques located on the north-east corner of the site.
- Memorial to the Canadian Corps located on the south-west corner of the site. This monument was presented to the City of Oshawa by the Canadian Corps Association in 2009 during the Corps' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, hosted by Oshawa Unit 42. The monument features a bronze First World War soldier on top of a stone monument that contains the names of the employees of the Borden Company Ltd., a Toronto-based dairy, honouring its fallen employees and serves as a reminder of the role the Canadian Corps played in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.
- A series of murals commemorating 130 years of the Ontario Regiment, located on the east façade of the Bandshell. The murals were painted by John Hood of Toronto, Ontario in 1996. The detail in this set of murals is exquisite; all the medals depicted at the bottom of the mural are accurate representations of Canadian military decorations.
- Mural commemorating Northern Dancer and Windfields Farms, located on the northeast façade of the Bandshell. This mural was painted in 1996 by David Yeatman of Aylmer, Quebec. Featured in the mural is Northern Dancer after his historic Kentucky Derby win in 1964 with jockey Bill Hartack and E. P. Taylor, owner of Windfields Farm.

## 6.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Memorial Park, located at 110 Simcoe Street South, in the City of Oshawa be designated in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its physical, historical and contextual value.

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## Sources

Conveyances Abstract and related documents. *Durham Land Registry Office*

Landscape Renovation Plan. Daniel J. O'Brien and Associates Ltd., 1998

McGrigor Plan, April 1855, showing Block K

Murdoch, Su, Heritage Consultant. Memorial Park, Research Report 2003

Oshawa Archives, Memorial Park File

Oshawa Archives, War Memorial/Cenotaph File

Oshawa Archives, McLaughlin Bandshell File

Heritage Collections, Oshawa Public Libraries

Thomas Bouckley Collection, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery



## Appendix A

### Current Photographs

Current photographs of the property, taken August 2016



Clockwise from large photo:

1. Looking west showing east face (front) of War Memorial/Cenotaph
2. East face, south half of War Memorial/Cenotaph (WWI bronze plaque)
3. East face, north half of War Memorial/Cenotaph (WWII bronze plaque)
4. Centre Column, east face of War Memorial/Cenotaph
5. North end of War Memorial/Cenotaph
6. Infantryman, centre column War Memorial/Cenotaph
7. Looking northwest to centre column of the War Memorial/Cenotaph
8. Looking southwest to War Memorial/Cenotaph



Clockwise from large photo:

9. Looking east showing back of War Memorial/Cenotaph
10. Centre Column, west face War Memorial/Cenotaph
11. Eternal Flame bronze lampstand
12. West face, south half of War Memorial/Cenotaph
13. Base of centre column of War Memorial/Cenotaph
14. West face, north of War Memorial/Cenotaph

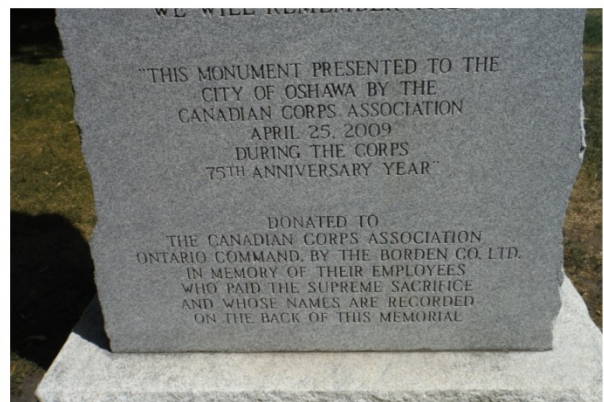


Clockwise from large photo:

15. South façade of bandstand
16. Inscription/detail of west plaque on Bandshell
17. Inscription/detail of east plaque on Bandshell
18. West façade of Bandshell, looking southeast
19. Windfields Farm mural on east façade of Bandshell addition
20. Bandshell addition on the east façade
21. Bandshell addition, looking southeast



- Clockwise from large photo:
- 22. War murals on south façade of Bandshell addition
  - 23. Bronze plaque, noting mural artist, John Hood
  - 24-27. Individual photos of each mural



- Clockwise from top left:
- 28. Canadian Corps Monument, west face
- 29. Canadian Corps Monument, east face
- 30. Inscription on bottom of west face
- 31. Inscription on west face
- 32. Inscription on east face



- Clockwise from top left:
- 33. West face of St. George's monument
  - 34. East face of St. George's monument
  - 35. Rededication plaque in front of the Bandshell
  - 36. Pedlar People Limited Memorial Plaque
  - 37. Park Rededication Plaque, September 2002



Clockwise from top left:

38. Looking southeast, Memorial Park
39. Paved pathways through the park
40. Looking east towards the Canadian Automotive Museum
41. Looking west showing E.A. Lovell School (Continuing Education Centre)
42. Sign advertising Concerts in the Park
43. Water feature, looking west
44. Plaque located in the garden in front of the War Memorial/Cenotaph

## Appendix B Historical Images



Clockwise from left:

- 45. War Memorial/Cenotaph, 1941 Courtesy *Oshawa Public Libraries*
- 46. War Memorial/Cenotaph, 2000 Courtesy *Oshawa Archives*
- 47. War Memorial/Cenotaph, 1968 Courtesy *Oshawa Archives*





Clockwise from top left:

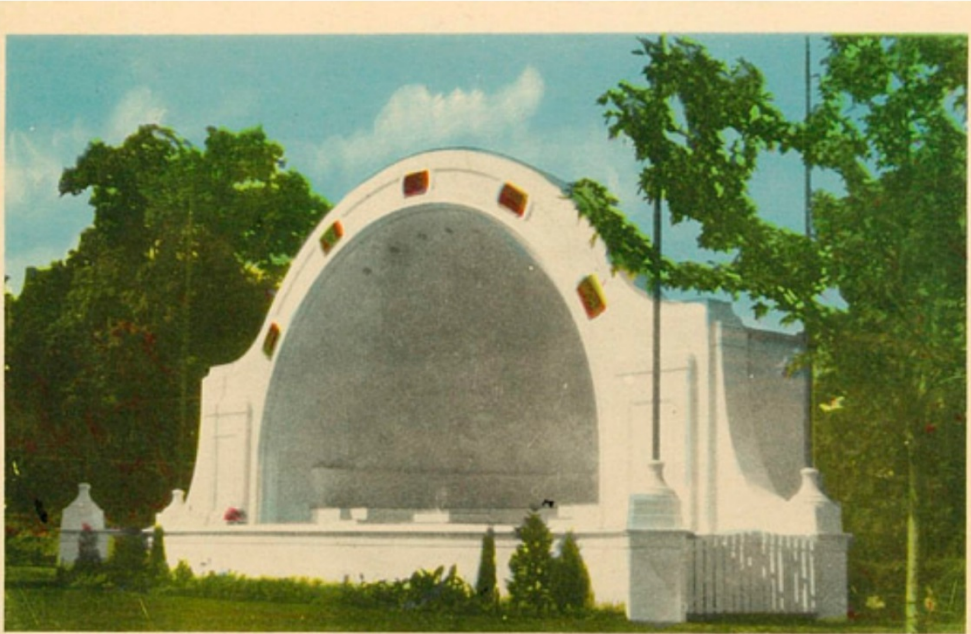
48. War Memorial/Cenotaph, 1941 *Thomas Bouckley Collection*

49. War Memorial, Opening Day 1921, Saywell Collection, *Oshawa Archives*

50. War Memorial/Cenotaph, Hinkson House in background where Masonic Temple is today, *Thomas Bouckley Collection*

51. War Memorial/Cenotaph, showing fountain, *Thomas Bouckley Collection*

52. War Memorial/Cenotaph, Postcard, *Thomas Bouckley Collection*

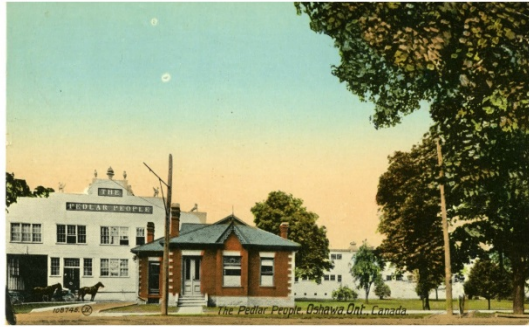


McLaughlin Band Shell, Memorial Park, Oshawa.—1



53. Postcard, McLaughlin Bandshell, *Oshawa Archives*

54. McLaughlin Bandshell, 1990s, *Oshawa Archives*



Clockwise from large photo:

55. St. George's Church, *Oshawa Public Libraries*

56. Union School, originally located on the northwest corner of Memorial Park, *Oshawa Public Libraries*

57. Pedlar People Limited, originally located on the northeast corner of Memorial Park, *Oshawa Archives*

58. Laying of the cornerstone for the original St. George's Church, *Oshawa Public Libraries*

Appendix C  
 McGrigor Plan, April 1855

