THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH

By-law Number (1998)-15835

A by-law to designate Torrance Public School as a building of architectural and historical significance.

The Council of the Corporation of the City of Guelph, **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, or portions thereon, to be of historical or architectural value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Guelph has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known as Torrance Public School notice of intention to designate portions of the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

WHEREASthe reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" hereto; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the said property designation has been served upon the clerk of the municipality;

THEREFORE,the Council of the Corporation of the City of Guelph **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. There is designated as being of architectural and historical value and interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, portions of Torrance Public School to the extent more particularly described in Schedule "C" to this By-law.

2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" to this By-law in the proper land registry office.

3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Guelph.

PASSED on this **FOURTH** day of **AUGUST, 1998.**

Joe Young

JOE YOUNG - MAYOR

V. Charlene Lavigne

V. CHARLENE LAVIGNE -
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SCHEDULE "A"
BY-LAW (1998)-15835

City of Guelph, County of Wellington, Lots 6, 7, 8, 15, 16, and 17, Plan 27.

SCHEDULE "B"
By-law Number (1998)-15835
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

TORRANCE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Designed by prominent local architect W. Frye Colwill, this distinctive building was constructed in 1910 as the St. James Ward School. Built in the Beaux Arts style, of pressed red brick and trimmed with ornamental cast concrete, the school features a strong frontispiece accentuated by three large pilasters topped by a classical pediment. The grand side entrances are accented by their own columns which bear Ionic capitals and the whole structure is topped off by a shallow dome. At the time of its construction, the building was considered one of the finest public buildings in Guelph because of its distinctive style and street presence.

St. James Ward School was W. Frye Colwill's last major commission. He was involved in the design and construction of numerous local buildings but is best known for the elegant Beaux Arts Carnegie Library which graced Nelson Crescent until its demolition in 1964. St. James Ward School and the 1905 Carnegie Library design are both excellent examples of Colwill's aesthetically stylish and original work which distinguished him from the general trend toward restrained Edwardian Classical designs in the bulk of early Twentieth Century Guelph buildings.

St. James Ward School was later renamed Torrance Public School to honour Rev. Dr. Robert Torrance who was Wellington County School Inspector and the Inspector of Public Schools in Guelph and served as Secretary of the Guelph Board of Education for over 30 years. Rev. Torrance was the first and only minister of the United Presbyterian Congregation in Guelph from 1846 to his retirement in 1882, after which the congregation was dissolved and its members joined other local Guelph churches.

Torrance Public School is recognized as an important landmark in the central part of the City of Guelph by virtue of its age, its distinct style, its historic associations and its contribution to the character of Waterloo Avenue. The designation pertains to the exterior of the original 1910 school only.

SCHEDULE "C"
By-law Number (1998)-15835
ELEMENTS OF PROPERTY BEING DESIGNATED

TORRANCE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The designation applies to:

1. The entire exterior of the original red-pressed brick and cast concrete school building constructed in 1910, including all original window and door openings;

2. All cast concrete ornamentation and trim on the exterior of the 1910 school building, including the front columns, pilasters and their associated decorative features;

3. The roof lines of the original 1910 school building including the shallow domed roof and all cast concrete ornamentation and trim associated with the roof line of the building.

The later 1959 addition on the west side of the school building, and the interior of the original 1910 school building, are not included in the designation.

The adjacent stone dwelling located on Lot 6, Plan 27 is also not covered by this designating by-law.

It is intended that any non-original features may be returned to their documented earlier designs or to their documented original form without requiring City Council permission for an alteration to the designation.