



GEORGINA

In The Matter Of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O. 18 Section 29 (3)

And in the matters of land and premises, known as **Jackson's Point Marine Railway**.

Notice of intent to designate a property of cultural heritage value or interest

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Georgina intends to designate the following property for reasons of cultural and heritage value or interest:

Jackson's Point Marine Railway

Plan 99 PT Lot 1 Con 9 pt of water lot in front of lot 2 plan 168 BLK D and PT BLK B RS65R21566 parts 1 2 and 3 RP 65R4504 part 5.

Reasons For Designation

The property at Jackson's Point Marine Railway is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation, under the categories of design/physical, associative/historical and contextual value.

Description

Jackson's Point Marine Railway is located on the lakebed of Lake Simcoe, extending out from the shore, a few meters to the east of Jackson's Point Harbour. The site consists of an intact section of the remains of a marine railway that was used to lift ships out of the lake to be repaired over the winter or to launch new ships. In historical records such as newspapers, while not technically constructed in a manner that aligns with the modern usage of the term, the site is referred to as a "drydock".

The exact date of construction is not known; however, it could be as early as 1832, around the time when one of the earliest steamers on Lake Simcoe, named *Simcoe*, was in operation. The owner of the site, James O'Brien Bouchier, was also a part owner of *Simcoe*. Alternatively, the marine railway could have been constructed between 1867 to 1900 during the ownership of partners Levi Miller and John M. McDonald who operated The Lake Simcoe Transportation and Dry Dock Company and owned at least two steamships, the *Enterprise* and the R. *Kendrick*. The partners legally acquired the site in 1877.

In 2000, the Corporation of the Town of Georgina took over the ownership from Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as Represented by The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Design or Physical Value

The remaining intact section of the Jackson's Point Marine Railway on the lakebed of Lake Simcoe is a unique example of a marine railway from the 19th century Lake Simcoe steam-shipping industry. The railway measures approximately 200 feet long by 24 feet wide and is constructed of dimensional lumber fitted together and topped with a series of precisely spaced heavy steel rails, reflecting the property's use by The Lake Simcoe Transportation and Dry Dock Company.

Associative or Historical Value

The structure has historical and associative value because it has direct association with 19th century Lake Simcoe steam-shipping industry. In 1832, Jackson's Point became a Port of Call for steamships. The property owner at the time, James O'Brien Bouchier (regarded as the founder of Sutton), was also a shareholder in a steamer named *Simcoe*. Since then, Jackson's Point was associated with many Lake Simcoe vessels carrying passengers and cargo across the Lake including *Sir John Colborne*, *Beaver*, *Sultana*, *Emily May*, *Sutton Belle*, *R. Kendrick* and *Enterprise* among many others.

Sometime between 1832 and 1867, Richard H. Kirkpatrick (from Goderich) acquired the land due to a lawsuit between Clifton Jackson and James O'Brien Bouchier. In 1867, Levi Miller and John McDonald purchased the property and two years later Miller sold all his shares to McDonald. In 1877, the Crown granted Miller a waterlot on the site.

Historical records dating back to 1886 (Newmarket Era) recount instances where damaged vessels were run up the "dry dock" at Jackson's Point for repair or overhaul during the wintertime. Most famously, the steamer *Enterprise* was docked there often.

In 1890, L. Miller became a part owner of *Enterprise* until around 1896. Up to its scuttling in 1903, following a mishap in Holland River, *Enterprise* visited the "dry dock" many times for various repairs and improvements.

For a period, the site became known as the "drydock for the *Enterprise*" to the local community.

It is unknown when the use of the "dry dock" came to a halt, but the Barrie Northern Advance recorded in October 15, 1903, that the marine railway required repairs.

Contextual Value

The structure has contextual value because it is physically and historically linked to its surroundings. The function of the remaining intact portion of the marine railway is connected to the history and evolution of Jackson's Point, and the steamship and tourism industries in Georgina.

Heritage Attributes

Design or Physical Value

The following heritage attributes contribute to the cultural heritage value of the Jackson's Point Marine Railway as a representative example of a marine railway from Georgina's 19th century Lake Simcoe steam-shipping industry:

- The placement, orientation, and spatial relationship to Jackson's Point Harbour.
- The dimensions, approximately 200 feet long by 24 feet wide.
- The material it was constructed with, dimensional lumber fitted together with precisely spaced steel rails.
- The wheel with approximately 36-inch diameter and located roughly to the southeast of the railway.

Contextual Value

The following heritage attributes contribute to the cultural heritage value of the Jackson's Point Marine Railway in being physically and historically linked to its surroundings:

- The placement, orientation, and spatial relationship to Jackson's Point Harbour.

Additional Information

Further information is available for viewing at the Office of Clerk in the Town of Georgina Municipal Offices, 26557 Civic Centre Rd., Keswick, Ontario.

Time For Delivery Of Notice Of Objection

Under the Ontario Heritage Act, a Notice of Objection to the intention to designate the property described above may be served by the owner on the Clerk within thirty days of the date of publication of this Notice. The last day to appeal by the owner for the proposed designation is December 19, 2025. The Town of Georgina is the owner of the Jackson's Point Marine Railway.