

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Environment
Date	Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Subject	37 Christie Lane: Application to Deconstruct a Property Designated Under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

Recommendation

1. That City Council approve the deconstruction of the Rutherford Conservatory at 37 Christie Lane on the condition that salvageable steel be retained and conserved for future use in a commemorative structure.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The City of Guelph has received a complete application of intention to demolish 37 Christie Lane, a property for which a Notice of Intention to Designate was issued. Upon receipt of a complete application, Council has 90 days to consult with Heritage Guelph and decide whether to approve or deny the intention to demolish.

Key Findings

City Council directed staff to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate 37 Christie Lane at the November 13 Council Planning Meeting. Notice was issued on November 21, 2024. According to Part IV, Section 30 (2) of the Ontario Heritage Act, a property for which Notice of Intention to Designate has been issued property is to be treated as if the designation were complete.

The University of Guelph has committed to salvaging and retaining the steel elements of the conservatory structure for future re-use in a commemorative structure. This aligns with Council’s direction from the November 13 Council Planning meeting that the heritage attributes in the designation by-law be limited to the salvageable steel elements of the conservatory structure.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The key findings and recommendations of this report align with 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority 6.1.4 to conserve our cultural heritage resources.

Future Guelph Theme

City Building

Future Guelph Objectives

City Building: Grow and care for our community space and places

Financial Implications

None.

Report

The D.M. Rutherford Conservatory is one of very few pagoda-like glass conservatories remaining in North America. At the November 13, 2024, Council Planning Meeting, City Council directed staff to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the Conservatory, limiting the heritage attribute to the salvageable steel elements of the conservatory structure.

The University of Guelph submitted an application to demolish the conservatory and has retained a structural engineer that is in good standing as a professional member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP) to prepare a conservation plan outlining the identification of salvageable steel, the careful dismantlement of the conservatory structure, and the retention and storage of salvageable steel. Additionally, the University has committed to hosting a competition for Landscape Architecture students to design a commemorative structure utilizing the salvaged steel.

Financial Implications

None.

Consultations and Engagement

Heritage Guelph will be consulted at their December 2, 2024 meeting.

Attachments

Attachment-1 Property Location

Departmental Approval

Krista Walkey, MCIP, RPP, General Manager, Planning and Building Services

Report Author

Jack Mallon, Heritage Planner

This report was approved by:

Krista Walkey, MCIP, RPP
General Manager, Planning and Building Services
Infrastructure, Development and Environment
519-822-1260 extension 2395
krista.walkey@guelph.ca

This report was recommended by:

Jayne Holmes, P.Eng., PMP
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Infrastructure, Development and Environment
519-822-1260 extension 2248
jayne.holmes@guelph.ca