

The Corporation of the Town of Kingsville
By-law xxx-2018

Schedule “A”
30 Main Street East, Kingsville, Ontario
The Old Fire Hall

Description of Property:

Constructed 1939-1942, The Old Fire Hall is a two-storey brick front and cement block building. It is located on the North side of Main Street East in the Town of Kingsville.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The building’s cultural heritage value lies in its original use as the Town of Kingsville’s Fire Hall, providing a permanent home for the Town’s fire truck and firefighting equipment. In addition to the Fire Hall being the first location of the official proper Fire Department from early bucket brigades and the connection of the history of large fires that have devastated Main Street and the downtown Kingsville area.

Early attempts, in 1862, by James King to get grants for firefighting equipment were denied. The first official organized department came to be in 1884, and in 1889, with the installation of a waterworks system by Hiram Walker for Mettawas Hotel, proper firefighting could be undertaken. In 1892, Council passed a by-law defining the fire limits and prohibiting the erection of buildings of inflammable material within said limits.

Kingsville had formed a Fire and Light Committee. Two trucks were eventually purchased and were stored at various places around town along with several hose reel carts. Fire hoses were stored at a location at Chestnut and King. The construction of the Fire Hall provided a place for all firefighting equipment to be housed. The apartments above allowed young firefighters a home, provided a return on investment to the Town and made it easier to dispatch to firefighters’ homes. Bells in their homes were activated through the telephone from the Fire Hall.

Plans for the fire hall were obtained by Fire Chief Clinton Fox from a station built in Detroit. The bulk of the Fire Hall was built by the firefighters and volunteers. Saving funds was a theme throughout the building of this Fire Hall. Fundraisers were held and total construction took three years to complete with the Town pitching in money at the end to finish up the apartments above the Fire Hall and finishing work inside the hall itself.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

The building is constructed of cement blocks that were made by members of the fire department and community volunteers. A section of the blocks is engraved with the names of the sitting council members from that time.

The building’s symmetry from early garage door entrances are maintained with large window storefronts. There is a bell tower located at the rear of the building.

The iconic setback allowed room for fire trucks to be washed and today serves as a parking area for the businesses located in the building.