

**The Corporation of the Town of Kingsville  
By-law 14-2017**

**Schedule “A”**  
755 Seacliff Dr., Kingsville, Ontario  
The Alfred J. Allworth House

**Description of Property:** The Alfred J. Allworth House

Constructed in 1887, the Alfred J. Allworth House is a 2-storey house built in the Craftsman style located at 755 Seacliff Drive.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The building's cultural value lies in its association with Alfred J. Allworth (1843-1930) who was born in St. Thomas. Alfred J. Allworth married Emily Hillis in St. Thomas on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867 and together they had 5 children; Bertha, Ethel, Maggie, Lawrence and Edward. His daughter Ethel passed away in St. Thomas in 1901 and his son Edward at one point operated a cash store in Kingsville. His daughter Bertha married Ernest Lionel White of Montreal who was the brother of Dr. White of Kingsville. Mr. Allworth's father, who happened to also be named Alfred Allworth, was a frequent visitor in town and he passed away in 1897 at the age of 77. Mr. Allworth's uncle, Dr. Allworth, was a landowner in town who, at one point in time, owned the parcel of land adjacent to Mr. Allworth. Additionally, in 1892, Dr. King, Dr. Allworth, Dr. Drake, J.W. King and Alfred Allworth were reported to have extended the hospitality of their houses to a large gathering of people young and old from Kingsville and Leamington that culminated at the residence of Angus Wige.

Upon arriving in Kingsville, Alfred J. Allworth began his Lake View Vineyard, where, in 1871 he was listed as a vineyard operator in the town of Kingsville. The grapes grown at his Lake View Vineyard won several awards throughout the years. Beginning in 1878, Mr. Allworth's Black and Amber grapes won 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively at the South Riding Fair. Afterwards, Mr. Allworth's Black, Amber, Concord, Delaware and Diana grapes would go on to win multiple county fair awards through 1897. Furthermore, beginning as early as 1885, Mr. Allworth was manufacturing wine producing four thousand gallons using thirteen tons of grapes. In relation to his work on the vineyard, in 1890 Mr. Allworth was elected Vice-President of the newly formed Essex County Horticultural Society.

Although Alfred J. Allworth operated a successful vineyard he was also employed as a clerk at J. H. Smart's bank. In early 1883, Mr. Smart's bank and the adjoining post office were robbed and Alfred J. Allworth was victimized in the process. On the particular night, Alfred J. Allworth was checking the bank at Mr. Smart's behest. Upon unlocking the door and checking inside, three armed men confronted Mr. Allworth pointing revolvers at his head and ordering him to keep quiet whilst covering his eyes. Mr. Allworth was handcuffed while one of the men searched his pockets for his keys. Once the keys were found the men looted the vault and post office taking \$1,800 in cash and \$700 worth of jewelry. After having looted the building, the armed men proceeded to gag Mr. Allworth as well as tie and bind his hands and legs. The armed men then locked Mr. Allworth inside the vault, cut the telephone wire leading out of the store and cut down three telephone poles as they fled. The next morning, Mr. Allworth was freed from the vault alive but worse for wear. Following the robbery, Mr. Allworth recovered from his ordeal and twenty citizens in town armed themselves with muskets and clubs on the lookout for more robbers.

In 1900, Mrs. Alfred Allworth's sister Mrs. (Dr.) Leitch of St. Thomas passed away and bequeathed \$10,000 in cash as well as all jewels and Mrs. Leitch's share of her father's estate totaling \$18,000. Then in the 1901 Census, Emily Allworth is listed as living in St. Thomas with four of her children while Mr. Allworth is listed as a dry goods merchant living in Kingsville. Further, in 1909 Mr. Allworth and several others left Calgary on a fishing expedition in the Rockies. They intended to visit certain lakes but their compass had broken and they became lost. They travelled for ten days on a diet of pancakes, fish and tea and towards the end were depleted in rations. On the tenth day however, they found their way to a ranch in British Columbia which was 250 miles and five mountain ranges from which they came. Afterwards, according to the 1911 Census, Emily Allworth again was listed as living in St. Thomas while Mr. Allworth was listed as living in Alberta. Mr. Allworth passed away January 11<sup>th</sup> 1930 at the age of 87.

**Description of Heritage Attributes:**

Key attributes that embody the heritage value of the Alfred J. Allworth house:

The Alfred J. Allworth House was constructed in 1887 by W. Longland as a 2-storey house in the Craftsman style. The house was to be constructed as 30x34 with a cellar underneath and verandah in both the front and rear.

Exterior features include:

- Cut fieldstone porch (pillars & base)

Interior features include:

- Heated floor installed by Owen Wigle
- Main level hardwood flooring
- Oak swinging door
- 12 lite beveled oak door