

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: 100 Bowring Park Road – Pedestrian Bridge

Date Prepared: November 4, 2019

Report To: Chair and Members, Built Heritage Experts Panel

Councillor and Role: Councillor Maggie Burton, Planning and Development Lead

Ward: 5

Decision/Direction Required: To seek approval to designate the Cantilever Pedestrian Bridge in Bowring Park, located at 100 Bowring Parking Road, as a Heritage Structure.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

At the October 21, 2019 Regular Council meeting, Council directed: *“That Cantilever Bridge in Bowring Park, architecturally designed by world renowned engineer Ove Arup, be referred to Built Heritage Experts Panel (BHEP) and the Bowring Park Foundation for consideration for designation as a Heritage structure.”*

As per Council’s directive, the Designation Criteria Review is brought to the BHEP. Once the BHEP have made a recommendation, staff will meet with the Bowring Park Foundation and other City Departments prior to bringing a recommendation to Council for consideration.

The Cantilever Bridge is located in the Open Space District and Open Space (O) Zone. Bowring Park was established in 1914 by the Bowring Brothers and presented to the City in 1924. It underwent redevelopment and expansion in the 1950s. In 1958, the City commissioned Montreal architect firm, van Ginkel Associates, to work on a new development plan that included active and passive uses with new amenities such as: a swimming pool, boating pond, playground, tennis courts, pedestrian bridge and road bridge. As funding became available from the Canadian National Railway (CNR), the van Ginkels, along with the United Kingdom firm of Ove Arup as the structural engineering consultant, designed and constructed the pedestrian and road bridges to cross the railroad tracks running south of the park.

The bridge is a graceful concrete bridge which arches over the former railway track. Structural engineer Ove Arup (1895-1988), born in England to Danish and Norwegian parents, was one of the world’s foremost architectural structural engineers. He helped design the floatable concrete phoenix caissons used in the D-Day invasion of France during the Second World War as well as the Sydney Opera House (completed in 1973) in Australia.

ST. JOHN’S

The pedestrian bridge is what we now call the Cantilever Bridge. The bridge creates a connection between the low terrain at the south of the park to the higher terrain within the original park. The CNR shut down its Newfoundland operations in 1988 and the railway tracks have since been removed. Today, the pedestrian bridge crosses the Newfoundland T'Railway Provincial Park.

Consideration of designating this bridge as a Heritage Building was previously brought to the BHEP on February 1, 2017. At that time the BHEP recommended this bridge, as well as 26 other modern buildings be considered for heritage status. The owners were notified to see if they would be interested in having their building designated by Council as Heritage Buildings.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:
Maintenance operations and repairs to the Cantilever Bridge may be required following assessment.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: Not applicable.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:
A Sustainable City – Plan for land use and preserve and enhance the natural and built environment where we live.
4. Legal or Policy Implications:
Should the designation proceed, the Legal Department will be asked to write a Heritage Designation By-law for the Cantilever Bridge at 100 Bowring Park Road for Council's consideration.
5. Privacy Implication: Not applicable.
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: Not applicable.
7. Human Resource Implications: Not applicable.
8. Procurement Implications: Not applicable.
9. Information Technology Implications: Not applicable.
10. Other Implications: Not applicable.

Recommendation:

That the Built Heritage Experts Panel review the documentation provided and make a recommendation to Council on this matter.

Prepared by/Signature:

Ann-Marie Cashin, MCIP – Planner III, Urban Design and Heritage

Signature: _____

Approved by/Date/Signature:

Ken O'Brien, MCIP – Chief Municipal Planner

Signature: _____

AMC/dlm

Attachments:

Location of Subject Property

Heritage Photos

Designation Criteria Review

Location of Subject Property
100 Bowring Park Road












	PDE Heritage – FORM 1	Department of Planning, Development and Engineering			
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Heritage Building Designation</h2>					
PROPERTY LOCATION					
Civic Address:					
Applicant Name:		Phone (h)	(c)		
Mailing Address:		Email:			
ARCHITECTURE (maximum 35)				SECTION A	
		E	VG	G	F/P
1. Style:		20	10	5	0
2. Construction:		15	8	4	0
3. Age:		10	8	5	0
4. Architect:		8	4	2	0
5. Design:		8	4	2	0
6. Interior:		4	2	1	0
Sub Total					
HISTORY (maximum 35)				SECTION B	
7. Person:		25	10	5	0
8. Event:		15	8	4	0
9. Context:		10	5	2	0
Sub Total					
ENVIRONMENT (maximum 15)				SECTION C	
10. Continuity:		5	3	1	0
11. Setting:		5	3	1	0
12. Landmark:		5	3	1	0
Sub Total					
INTEGRITY (maximum 15)				SECTION D	
13. Site:		5	3	1	0
14. Alterations:		5	3	2	0
15. Condition:		5	3	2	0
Sub Total					
TOTAL SCORE					
SIGNATURE					
Reviewed by: _____ Date (yyyy-mm-dd) _____					

E - Excellent

VG - Very Good

G – Good

F/P – Fair/Poor

ST. JOHN'S

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, CANADA