

## The Corporation of the Town of Essex

### By-Law Number 2432

Being a By-Law to designate the Essex Carnegie Library  
located at 18 Gordon Avenue in Essex,  
more particularly described as PLAN 176 LOTS 202 & 204,  
as being of cultural heritage value or interest  
under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act,  
R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18.

**WHEREAS** Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., Chapter O.18, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact By-Laws to designate real property within the municipality, including all buildings and structures thereof, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex deems it desirable to designate the Essex Carnegie Building located at 18 Gordon Avenue, Essex, more particularly described as PLAN 176 LOTS 202 & 204, as being of cultural heritage value and interest;

**AND WHEREAS** Notice of Intention to Designate 18 Gordon Avenue has been served on the owner of the property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust and such notice was published in the Essex Free Press and Harrow News, newspapers having general circulation in the municipality;

**AND WHEREAS** the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule 'B' attached to and forming part of this By-Law;

**AND WHEREAS** no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality.

**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex hereby enacts as follows:

1. **That** the real property located at 18 Gordon Avenue, Essex, more particularly described as PLAN 176 LOTS 202 & 204, is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest.
2. **That** the Clerk is hereby authorized and instructed to register a copy of this By-Law against the property described in Schedule 'A', attached hereto, in the local Land Registry Office.
3. **That** the Clerk/or his/her designate, is hereby authorized to cause a copy of the By-Law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause Notice of this By-law to be published in the Essex Free Press and in the Harrow News.
4. **That** the effective date of this By-Law shall be the date of final passage thereof.

**Read a first, a second and a third time and finally passed on April 7, 2025.**

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Mayor

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Clerk

**SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2432**

**Essex Carnegie Library  
18 Gordon Avenue, Essex, Ontario**

**Legal Description**

PLAN 176 LOTS 202 & 204

## **SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2432**

### **Reasons for Designation Under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18**

#### **Essex Carnegie Library**

##### **General Description of Property**

18 Gordon Avenue is located on the southern side of Gordon Avenue within Essex Centre. It is comprised of the former Essex Public Library: a brick building that was built in 1914 following a large donation from Scottish American Philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, to serve as the Essex Public Library.

##### **Description of Property that has Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The area of the property that demonstrates cultural heritage value or interest is the area that encompasses the entirety of the former Essex Carnegie Library.

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

###### ***Design/Physical Value***

*The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.*

18 Gordon Avenue retains significant design or physical value because it is an example of an early 20th century public library building built by Andrew Carnegie in 1914 in the Town of Essex.

The building was built in 1914 after the community received a \$6,000 donation from Scottish American Philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, on January 6th, 1911. The Beaux Arts architectural style is characteristic to other public libraries built by Carnegie at the turn of the 20th century. This is best seen in the style of the gables, window openings, building size and layout, and decorative voussoirs, alongside motifs depicting what the building's initial purpose was.

###### ***Historical/Associative Value***

*The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.*

18 Gordon Avenue retains significant historical or associative value because it has direct associations with an organization and institution that is significant to the community. The Essex Public Library played a significant role in the educational development of Essex Centre throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century.

Efforts for the construction of a public library in Essex Centre were started in 1885, 29 years prior to the opening of the building in 1914, as members of the local community felt that there needed to be greater access to education in Essex Centre. Community members began lobbying for a permanent structure for the local library after a committee was formed to create a library in 1885. In 1908, the library became a free public institution aimed at increasing the education and literacy rate in Essex Centre.

On January 6th, 1911, the community was gifted a \$6,000 donation from Scottish American Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to construct a permanent structure for the public library. Carnegie began granting money to municipalities in the United States in the 1880's to build a public library, as he believed in open access to free education for all and worked to improve

literacy rates across the world. He built libraries around the world, including building 125 libraries in communities across Canada.

In the library's first year of operation, 302 people used its services and over 5,150 books were borrowed. Throughout its years of operation, the number of books that were available for circulation was steadily increased and the Town's literacy rate steadily improved. It ceased operations in 2005, and it now houses the Essex and Community Historical Research Center.

*The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.*

18 Gordon Avenue has historical or associative value because it demonstrates the work of prominent Windsor architect, James Carlisle Pennington or J. C. Pennington, who used the Beaux Arts architectural style, characteristic of most Carnegie buildings. Alongside designing this building, Pennington worked on designing hundreds of buildings throughout Windsor and Essex County for over 50 years, such as the former Harrow Municipal Building and the additions made to the Essex High School in the 1920s.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The key heritage attributes that contribute to the design/physical value of 18 Gordon Avenue includes:

- The mass, form, and style of the building,
- The brick cladding on all elevations,
- The fieldstone foundation,
- All existing window and doorway openings,
- The decorative voussoirs,
- The sign reading Public Library on the front facade,
- The existing Mansard roof line and peaks,
- The decorative gables,
- The decorative white brick pattern.

The key heritage attributes that contribute to the historical/associative value of 18 Gordon Avenue includes:

- The location of the building on the south side of Gordon Avenue,
- The sign reading Public Library on the front façade.