

## Heritage Designation Brief



### **Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape**

Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

May 2019

Heritage Designation Status Sheet

Street Address: 325 Burnham Street

Roll Number: 040110001000000

Legal Description: LT 1 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 2 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 3 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 4 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 5 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 6 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 7 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 8 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 9 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 10 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH  
CITY; LT 11 PL 145  
PETERBOROUGH CITY; LT 12 PL  
145 PETERBOROUGH CITY; LT 13  
PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY; LT  
14 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
LT 15 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH  
CITY; LT 16 PL 145  
PETERBOROUGH CITY; LT 17 PL  
145 PETERBOROUGH CITY; LT 18  
PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY; LT  
19 PL 145 PETERBOROUGH CITY;  
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BURNHAM ST PL 1A VILLAGE OF  
ASHBURNHAM; PT LT 2 S OF  
ROBINSON ST & W OF BURNHAM  
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ASHBURNHAM; LT 18 S OF HUNTER

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ASHBURNHAM; LT 21 S OF HUNTER  
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ASHBURNHAM; PT LT 30 CON 13  
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M18634, M30018, M31197, M35283,  
M35714, M51182 & R79972, S/T  
ORNAMENTAL RESERVES PL 1A ;  
S/T R427113 PETERBOROUGH CITY

PT HUNTER ST PL 1A VILLAGE OF  
ASHBURNHAM LYING W OF  
DRISCOLL TERRACE ;  
PETERBOROUGH CITY  
May 2, 2019

PACAC Application Review Date:

Heritage Type:

Cultural Heritage Landscape

Designation Type:

Ontario Heritage Act – Part IV

Designation Brief Completion Date:

April 2019

Designation Brief Completed by:

Emily Turner

Comments:

## STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The subject property has been researched and evaluated in order to determine its cultural heritage significance under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990. A property is eligible for designation if it has physical, historical, associative or contextual value and meets **any one** of the nine criteria set out under Regulation 9/06 of the Act. Staff have determined that Riverside Park has cultural heritage value or interest and merits designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### 1. The property has design value or physical value because it:

#### **i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method:**

Riverside Park is an early and representative example of sports field design from the late nineteenth century and is also representative of how fields from this period evolved into their modern usage. Both the baseball and softball fields date from the early periods of the respective sports' popularity in Peterborough and have been retained in their original location, although they have undergone design changes in both the fields themselves as well as their built infrastructure in order to accommodate the changing needs of the sports community.

#### **ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit:**

As part of the wider Riverside Park landscape, the Hunter Street Bridge displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit in the execution of the bridge and the integration of decorative features into the concrete structure. Architect Claude Fayette Bragdon was hired to work on the bridge explicitly to assist in developing its aesthetic qualities to make the concrete construction visually pleasing. This was particularly achieved through the balanced execution of the arches and the integration of coloured terra cotta elements throughout the bridge which demonstrate the high level of artistic merit typical of Bragdon's work.

#### **iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement:**

The landscape shows a high degree of technical or scientific achievement in the Hunter Street Bridge. When it was constructed between 1919 and 1921, it had the longest span of reinforced concrete of any bridge in Canada and was also the longest open spandrel concrete bridge in the country. At the time, it was also one of the longest concrete bridges in the world. Its engineering feats make it an extremely significant heritage attribute of the landscape.

### 2. The property has historical value or associative value because it:

#### **i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community:**



The subject landscape has direct associations with a number of themes, people, organizations, and activities which are important to the community. These include, but are not limited to: the development of organized sport in Peterborough; the development of Ashburnham; the growth of the City's system of parklands; recreation in Peterborough; early Peterborough industry; local brewer Henry Calcutt; Peterborough mayor and politician James Stevenson; engineer Frank Barber; architect Claude Fayette Bragdon; and baseball and softball in Peterborough.

**ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture:**

The subject landscape yields information about the development of organized sports in Peterborough. In particular, it yields significant information about the growth of baseball, both recreational and competitive, in the city and its role within the community. It also yields information regarding the development of parkland in Peterborough in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, its use by local inhabitants, and its management by the municipality.

**iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community:**

The landscape demonstrates the work of the engineer-architect team of Frank Barber and Claude Fayette Bragdon. The Hunter Street Bridge was their first collaborative project together and probably their most well-known.

**3. The property has contextual value because it:**

**i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area:**

The landscape is important in defining the character of the area as a recognized and longstanding feature in the historic core of Peterborough and along the river. As a facility dating back to the nineteenth century, it maintains the historic character of the neighbourhoods and commercial areas on both sides of the river.

**ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings**

The landscape is physically, visually and historically linked to its surroundings as part of the nineteenth and twentieth century development of Ashburnham. The park developed as the sporting grounds for the village of Ashburnham during the late nineteenth century and continued to evolve with the development of the community and the city as a whole. The bridge, in particular is physically linked to roadway as the connection between Hunter Street East and West. The entire landscape is physically and historically

linked to the Otonabee River shoreline through its historic and current relationship to the river.

**iii. is a landmark.** O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (2).

Riverside Park is a longstanding local landmark because of its continuous use as a sports facility since the nineteenth century, its prominent location on the Otonabee River south of Hunter Street, and its significance to the local community. It is recognized as a landmark in the present day but was also recognized historically as a local landmark because of its location and importance as a dedicated sports facility.

### **Design and Physical Value**

Riverside Park is an example of a cultural heritage landscape with both designed and natural elements and has specific cultural heritage value or interest through its design and physical value. The landscape consists of a number of interrelated built and natural elements which together form a cohesive landscape. These elements include the baseball and softball fields, the green space, the trees and plantings, the Otonabee River shoreline, and the Hunter Street Bridge. Individually and taken as a whole, these elements are representative of the development of sports fields and urban parks in both Ontario and in Peterborough throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The landscape also exhibits high degrees of both artistic and technical merit through the Hunter Street Bridge, an integral element of the overall landscape.

The development of sports fields and parks was an important aspect of city growth in late Victorian Canada and the establishment of Riverside Park in the 1880s, and its subsequent development, was part of this broader movement within Canadian city planning to include green space in the urban environment. With the increasing industrialization of cities and towns during this period, the provision of space for leisure activities was part of a broader movement to make cities more livable and aesthetically pleasing. During the late nineteenth century, cities increasingly developed, both through municipal governments and through private individuals and organizations, green spaces, including parks, garden, and cemeteries for the use and enjoyment of their inhabitants, many of whom were engaged in occupations that increasingly little to do with the outdoors, whether in factories or in offices. In general, these spaces were also intended to be accessible by the majority of urban dwellers, by locating them in areas of the city that were easy to access as opposed to on the outskirts or in the countryside to allow for easy access and frequent use.

At the same time as the growing parks movement in Canadian cities, organized sports were increasing in popularity and facilities were needed for them. Sports fields, like other parks, were form of much-needed green space in urban environments, but also provided dedicated spaces for progressively more popular pastimes such as cricket, lacrosse, and baseball which all required outdoors space to play. While many early organized sports games, both in

Peterborough and other cities and towns, took place in parks established for more general purposes, there was an increasing need for dedicated spaces for sports activities. This need intensified with the codification of rules of various sports, including baseball, and the need for more permanent infrastructure to accommodate more regular games, leagues, and spectators. In Peterborough, for example, Victoria Park was a frequent location for informal sport games in the mid-nineteenth century, but it did not have any dedicated spaces for sports activities, nor did it possess fields or pitches laid out in a specific manner that would allow sports to be played formally or with regularity. The creation of a specific park for sports allowed for more formal play and was consistent with wider trends in late nineteenth century Canada regarding the provision of space for recreation and organized sports within the urban context.

Riverside Park was first developed as a sporting ground in 1885 by local brewer Henry Calcutt from vacant land in the industrial complex on the east bank of the Otonabee River. The area had actually been used for sport prior to this: Calcutt had owned a flax mill on the site which, around 1870, he had converted into an indoor skating and curling rink, although this was eventually removed with the creation of larger facilities on the west side of the river in the 1880s. In 1885, the ground was cleared and leveled to create a sports field which could accommodate baseball, lacrosse, and other activities, such as tobogganing and outdoor skating in the winter and swimming in the river in the summer. The property was eventually developed to include open grassy areas without designated usage and a dedicated baseball field. The City acquired the property, alongside several adjacent commercial and residential properties, around 1920 and maintained its usage as a sport-specific facility, constructing the East City Bowl softball pitch in 1931. In 1932, the City purchased Calcutt's adjacent property, where his brewery stood, to expand the park to its current limits. Other built elements were eventually added including the basketball court, children's play structures, and the Lions Club building. Historically, the property also included a designated swimming area on the river and the city's only outdoor pool; these features are no longer extant.

Since the 1880s, the park has been specifically intended as a baseball and softball facility, a usage which it retains to the present day and which is reflected in the primary built and landscape forms of the park. Two of the key built forms in the landscape are the baseball and softball diamonds. These diamonds hold design value as representative examples of baseball and softball field design from the twentieth century. While there have been modifications to both diamonds to reflect current needs, including usage and spectator engagement, they nevertheless retain their importance as primary built elements of the landscape with longstanding presence and identifiable design.

The baseball field as it is now understood as a spatial form developed gradually over time. From the first baseball games in the early nineteenth century, the pitch on which the game was played underwent an evolutionary process; as the rules

were formalized and established, the physical landscape of the game also developed. Early fields were much more informal than modern ones and reflected the game's early rules that allowed, for example, the batter to move around more freely than in later iterations of the game. Games in the early and mid-nineteenth century were often played on whatever field was available, with no permanent infrastructure or field layout. However, by the mid-nineteenth century, the form and layout of the pitch was beginning to be formalized, along with the rules of the game.

Formal layouts for baseball fields, with specific recommendations regarding the measurements between the bases, the location of the pitcher's mound, and the material in which the bases were made were established beginning in the late 1850s and codified throughout the next five decades. These recommendations were published in baseball guides, including *Beadle's Dime Base-Ball Player*, the earliest of the baseball guides which was in print from 1861 to 1881 and edited by influential early sportswriter Henry Chadwick, and *DeWitt's Base-Ball Guide*, published between 1868 and 1885. The 1867 edition of *Beadle's*, for example, included a field layout diagram as well as a description of how "suitable ground" for the field should be selected, the appropriate size for the field and location of the bases, the pitcher's mound, and foul lines, and the correct material for creating the bases. While there were modifications to the recommendations put out by these publications at the local level in playing fields across North America, the overall design and dimensions of the baseball field, specifically the infield, as understood in contemporary sport had been established by the turn of the twentieth century. Baseball enthusiasts as well as the general public would have been well aware of these developments; for example, in 1887, when the National League and the American Association in the United States agreed on one, consistent set of rules to be used across the leagues, the *Peterborough Examiner* reported on these new developments, as well as Chadwick's role in promoting and reporting on them, including diagrams and images of the new field layout and new positions and styles for pitching and batting.

Like pitches elsewhere, the baseball diamond at Riverside Park evolved in accordance to the changes in baseball field design and layout throughout the nineteenth and twentieth century, reflecting changes including the general layout of the field, fan engagement, and the rules of the game. The first field was not located at its present location: it was situated on the north side of the Hunter Street Bridge on the former cricket pitches and, in fact, a baseball pitch remained at this location into the twentieth century. During the mid-nineteenth century, cricket was the more popular ball and bat game, likely owing to its long history amongst British communities both in Britain and its former colonies, and was also much more formalized in play. Cricket was extremely popular in Peterborough in the late nineteenth century and dedicated pitches were laid out as early as the 1870s. The current residential street Cricket Place north of Hunter Street East (then Elizabeth Street) was the original cricket pitch in the city and was established in the 1870s. Baseball, on the other hand, was a more informal game

during this period and could be played on unmanicured, non-specific fields. In Peterborough, baseball was played on the cricket pitch likely as early as the 1870s, as well as other locations throughout the city; the first recorded baseball game in the city was played on the Circus Grounds on the shores of Little Lake. Although the rules and fields were gradually being established and formalized during this period, there was still a significant amount of flexibility in the play of the game, allowing for the game to be played wherever there was a flat grassy area. As a result, early baseball fields typically included no permanent built elements in order to allow for spatial flexibility and to accommodate baseball within other sports fields or open space used for other activities.

The baseball diamond was formally established in its present location on the south side of Hunter Street East by Calcutt in 1885 as an integral part of the new sports field, laying out the field and gradually adding board fences, grandstands to accommodate spectators, benches for players, and other outbuildings as the game became more formalized and more popular. The park was also used for lacrosse in the late nineteenth century but gradually evolved into a baseball-focussed facility with the growth in popularity of the sport in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A photograph taken of the field prior to 1916 shows the development of field around the turn of the twentieth century. Grandstands were erected on the north and west sides of the field; these were wooden covered structures which likely had bleacher seating. There were also covered benches for the players. These structures are representative of ball field development in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as baseball diamonds became more permanent and there was increasing demand for spectator accommodation as the popularity of watching the game increased; the erection of spectator seating was becoming common in ball fields across North America and were generally grandstands of this type. This was also the period when fencing became common around baseball fields, both in order to define the space as a sports facility, as well as the extent of the outfield, and as a method of crowd control. It was also usually used to regulate who was allowed to enter the field, as games during this period played by league teams in Peterborough required admission. The diamond itself was also formally established, with an identifiable infield, during at this time. This development is consistent with baseball field and infrastructure design across North American during this period as fields were formalized and built features were as a direct result of the increased popularity of the game, particularly in urban centres.

The field underwent changes with the construction of the Hunter Street Bridge between 1919 and 1921. The construction of the bridge resulted in significant changes to the landscape of the east side of the river due to the elevation of the bridge above grade. In particular, this resulted in the removal of the industrial buildings which had marked northern boundaries of the field and the transformation of the industrial area into open grounds and, eventually, the East City Bowl softball field, which was opened in 1931. On a plan drawn up in 1928 showing the proposed planting of the park, this area, which had been the site of a

former industrial building, had been demarcated as bowling greens, but, with the rise in popularity of softball beginning in the 1920s, it was decided that the area should be designated for softball.

The softball pitch at East City Bowl developed during a time after the rules of the game, and the general layout of the pitch, had already been established. Softball emerged in Chicago in the late 1880s, initially as “indoor baseball”, a way for baseball players to continue to play in the winter months. With the larger ball and shorter bat, it was more suited to smaller, indoors spaces. While it continued to be played indoors in some settings, the game also moved outdoors into parks and fields, although these were not the size of those used for baseball; with the increased industrialization of North American cities, particular Chicago, outdoor space was at a premium and softball was played in whatever space was available. It was, at this time, an extremely flexible sport without established field dimensions and layout.

The rule of softball were not officially codified until the 1930s, but, by the mid-1920s, the game had taken on a standardized form, as had the layout of the pitch. Notably, the pitch was smaller than in baseball with shorter baselines and a smaller outfield. The pitch at East City Bowl was constructed as these standardized sizes were being established and conformed to the general size and layout of a softball pitch during this period.

The field was also equipped with bleachers to accommodate spectators. Softball had become increasingly popular during this period, both with regards to direct participation and as a spectator sport. Bleachers were installed for spectators along the edges of Hunter Street East and Burnham Street to allow people to watch the game from behind home plate, which was oriented towards the intersection, and the first and third base foul lines. The site lent itself well to accommodating spectators; the depression of the field below the level of the streets created banks on which the bleachers were constructed, allowing for a better viewing experiencing with the crowds higher above the field of play.

While the current fields have been modernized, they nevertheless retain their key design elements, updated to reflect the current needs of sports teams and spectators in Peterborough. This gives the park consistency from the nineteenth century although, like many cultural heritage landscapes, it has evolved along with the community and the sport. Both pitches remain in their early twentieth century locations, although the baseball diamond has been reoriented so that home plate backs onto Steve Terry Way, where it had previously backed onto the river in the early twentieth century.

The baseball field has undergone the most changes, as the most longstanding feature of the landscape; these changes reflect the changing nature of baseball in Peterborough where its following has decreased from its high level of popularity in the early decades of the twentieth century. The basic infrastructure

of the field remains, including the diamond itself, the backstop and dugouts although the latter two have been modernized and replaced over the years. The grandstands of the early twentieth century have been removed in favour of more modest and modern bleacher seating behind the backstop and along the foul lines. The high board fencing of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century has been replaced with metal fencing, with the exception of the outfield where board fencing remains. The scoreboard has also been replaced and moved. Nevertheless, the field retains all of its essential elements which have developed throughout its lifespan as part of a landscape which is actively and consistently used by the community for sport.

At East City Bowl, the field is effectively the same as it appeared in mid-century photographs, with the field layout, backstop and player's benches remaining in the same location and orientation. The floodlighting, originally installed in the late 1940s, also remains although the lights and poles have been periodically replaced. The bleachers along Burnham Street have been removed in favour of grass, and the extant ones have been reconstructed. The stairs leading up to Hunter Street have also remained and a new, matching set of stairs has been installed to access Burnham Street. New fencing has been installed along the roadways and around the outfield, although this follows the lines of the field's original fencing; fencing has also been installed between the field and the spectator area along the foul lines, reflecting an increased awareness of safety which developed throughout the second half of the twentieth century.

The landscape also has physical value through its natural elements. These include the Otonabee River shoreline and the significant number of trees that edge the baseball fields, and grassed areas of the park. These elements are important aspects of the landscape as a whole and also representative of late nineteenth and early twentieth century park development and landscape architecture.

In a 1921 article about the park and its history, local historian and journalist F.H. Dobbin identified the natural landscape as a key characteristic of the park, particularly its location along the shore of the Otonabee River. In his opinion, Riverside Park was a better park than Nicholls Oval, and other parks in the city, because of its location, noting that: "[a] perfect park needs water in its view." This idea was consistent with the understanding of urban park development in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century which sought to take advantage of the aesthetic qualities of the natural landscape; in urban centres across Canada, this including the placement of parks on shorelines and the use of the natural features of the waterbody to define and enhance the park as most towns and cities in Canada were located on a lake or a river. While the original placement of the sports facility on the shoreline was, in many ways, dictated by the fact that Calcutt's flax mill was located near the river and raceway, the continued use of the shorelines, both for activities such as swimming and as an aesthetic feature, and retention of the park's natural features after its acquisition by the City and the

demolition of the remaining industrial properties speak to the way in which parklands were understood and designed during this period.

The use of existing natural elements reinforced the pervasive idea from this period of a park as a refuge from the industrial life of the city through the allocation of green space, including trees, grass, and other features – in this case, the shoreline – for relaxation, recreation, and pleasure. The need for a public park to fulfill this function had become particularly pronounced as North American cities industrialized throughout the nineteenth century and the population became increasingly urban. Promoted through the work of landscape architects such as Frederick Law Olmstead and Frederick Gage Todd, the integration of natural elements into park design became common practice from large urban wilderness parks to smaller facilities such as Riverside Park. The focus on nature as a contributor to the overall landscape and layout of the park, even in one which was not explicitly intended as a natural landscape, places Riverside Park within a wider context of Canadian park design from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

One of the key features of the park is its collection trees and plantings. This plant life is a longstanding feature of the site, dating to before its use as a park and throughout its development in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Dobbin noted that, prior to their development as baseball fields, the lands were “flat, covered in sward, and a copious growth of willows, hazel, and jewberry [blackberry].” Even as the park developed, the trees provided important landscape features within it, particularly along the bank of the river and defining the limits of both the original baseball diamond and the park itself, prior to the annexation of the Calcutt brewery property. Dobbin, particularly felt that these trees were a defining feature of the landscape and that: “[t]he beautiful growth of trees along the east shore should never be desecrated by leveling and cutting.”

The importance of natural features within the park’s overall landscape is highlighted in a 1928 design by horticulturalist and landscape architect, Dr. Henry J. Moore. Moore, then employed by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, developed a plan for the planting of the park, which laid the park out in three sections and identified planting areas and species for each; Moore was a well-known horticulturalist whose most prominent project was the International Peace garden on Turtle Mountain, straddling the border between Manitoba and North Dakota, which broke ground in 1932. Drawn prior to the annexation of the Calcutt property, the park was laid out in three sections: the existing baseball diamond, a children’s park and playground area where the current play structures and basketball court are located, and a bowling green at the present site of East City Bowl. The layout he suggested divided the space through driveways and with grouping of trees and shrubs ranging from elms and maples near the Hunter Street Bridge and unidentified shade trees along the riverside and in small groupings in the children’s play area, to smaller shrubs such as spiraea and Japanese barberry around the edges of the baseball field and bowling green.



Notably, Moore included a significant and deep planting between the park and the Calcutt Brewery, creating a clear barrier between the parkland and the remaining industrial buildings on the site.

Currently, the park retains much of this natural landscape although there have been changes with the evolving nature of the site, such as the construction work on Steve Terry Way in 2014. Of particular note is the remaining weeping willow tree along Steve Terry Way which is the only extant weeping willow along the roadway after the construction. There are a number of other weeping willows which are recognized and important natural aspects of the landscape, including those along the shoreline. Other trees include white ash, black willow, black locust, honey locust, linden, white poplar, London plane, Norway maple, and Manitoba maple which all appear in shoreline and open areas and around the perimeter of the sports fields. Many of these trees are not native to the Peterborough area and were planted as part of the development of the park.

The landscape demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement in the Hunter Street Bridge. Constructed between 1919 and 1921, the bridge was a significant technical achievement in bridge design for its time. Designed by architect and engineer team Claude Fayette Bragdon and Frank Barber, the bridge has the longest span of reinforced concrete of any bridge in Canada at the time of its construction as well as the longest span of an open spandrel concrete bridge in Canada. Globally, only 13 bridges had longer spans. From an engineering and design perspective, it is one of the most significant historic bridges in Ontario and is has important technical value to the landscape of East City Bowl.

The current Hunter Street Bridge was a replacement for a wrought iron bridge which had been constructed in 1875. The City commissioned Barber as the engineer to develop a design and he brought Bragdon on board to assist with the aesthetic and architectural elements of the bridge. Both Barber and Bragdon saw reinforced concrete as the best material for the bridge for its cost effectiveness and technical properties. Reinforced concrete had been developed in the mid-nineteenth century and had been in use in bridge construction since the mid-1870s. In Canada, the first reinforced concrete bridge was constructed in 1905 in Bolsover to span the Trent Severn Waterway at Canal Lake, a closed spandrel bridge with a total length of just 202 feet. By the late 1910s, the use of the material in bridge design had developed significantly, particularly through the use of open spandrels to lighten the bridge and the need for decreased amount of steel to reinforce the structure. Barber himself had designed extensively in this material and written about it in a number of articles in *The Canadian Engineer*, particularly the way in which arches could be used and adjusted to account for dead load stresses.

When completed, the bridge spanned a total of 1,172 feet with a clear span in the central arch of 234 feet, surpassing in span other notable contemporary

Canadian examples including University Bridge in Saskatoon constructed between 1915 and 1916, the Centre Street Bridge in Calgary, constructed in 1916, and the King George Bridge in Oakville, constructed in 1913 and also designed by Barber. The bridge used 17,000 cubic yards of concrete and 250 tons of reinforcing steel over eleven arches spans, with five on each side of the main arch which spans the river. Notably, the central span of the bridge, its longest, is not reinforced. To assist in this, the weight of the roadway was even reduced, through the use of cinders, as opposed to loam, as fill.

The bridge also displays a high degree of craftsmanship in its decorative elements. Writing in 1923, Bragdon noted that concrete, on its own, had the potential to be aesthetically unappealing and one of his central roles in the design process was the development of Barber's structural design into something that was also pleasing to view. Notably, Bragdon simplified the arches within the bridge in order to change the proportion and rhythm of the bridge as viewed from the side and added decorative elements including the light standards, a decorative railing, and terracotta elements. Bragdon believed that the colour introduced through the terracotta elements, which were not structural, significantly enhanced the aesthetic qualities of the bridge and gave it a sense of individuality that reflected the character of the city. The terracotta elements, which were manufactured by the Atlantic Terracotta Company of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, include shamrocks, vegetal motifs, and crests and are particularly well-executed examples of terracotta from this period.

The bridge's technical and design achievement was recognized in its day by contemporary publications. The bridge was reported on in both *The Canadian Engineer* in 1918 and 1921, both prior to and after its construction, and the American periodical, *The Architectural Review* in 1923. Both periodicals noted the significant technical and design achievement of the bridge and its importance in the development of contemporary bridge design. It was also included in a 1929 book by noted American bridge designer, Charles S. Whitney, entitled *Bridges: A Study in their Art, Science and Evolution* as an example of a modern concrete bridge and of one with appropriate and well-executed decorative elements. Bragdon himself also wrote extensively about the bridge and his partnership with Barber in his memoir, *More Lives than One*, published in 1938.

### **Historical and Associative Value**

Riverside Park has historical and associative value through its important role in the development of organized sport in Peterborough. It yields significant information about the sport culture and history of the city during the late nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth century. The landscape also has specific associative connections with a number of important figures within the community, including nineteenth century Ashburnham brewer Henry Calcutt and

local politician James Stevenson, and with the architect and engineer of the Hunter Street Bridge, Claude Fayette Bragdon and Frank Barber.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, the area now known as James Stevenson Park was primarily an industrial landscape. In the early days of Peterborough settlement, it had been open ground and used for grazing cattle, but with the industrial development of the city, this area was a prime location for new factories because of the access to the river, roadways, and the new dams being constructed along the river. Initially granted to Zaccheus Burnham as part of his agreement for the survey of the Newcastle District, a significant portion of the property, particularly on the north side of Hunter Street was purchased by R.D. Rogers who began development. Sir Sandford Fleming's 1846 map of city shows this early development on the site, including a foundry on the north side of Hunter Street East. Two years later, after the construction of a dam on the Otonabee and a raceway on the Ashburnham side of the river, Rogers opened a saw mill on the raceway in 1848, later adding a flour mill to the growing industrial complex. Over the next several decades, the industrial landscape of this area grew, with the addition of a tannery, woolen mill, planning mill, brewery, and tool company. These industries reflected the economic growth of the city in the mid-to late-nineteenth century and the key sectors of growth, namely the lumber and agricultural industries.

However, this area soon developed to include sporting use. In 1859, a three acres site, located to the north of Hunter Street between Driscoll Terrace and Mark Street, was donated by the Rev. Mark Burnham as a cricket grounds; cricket was, at that time, Peterborough's most popular summer sport with competitive games taking place as early as 1855 in the city. For the next several decades, this area, which is now Cricket Place, was the primary summer sports location in Peterborough. This shifted to Riverside Park, just to the south, in summer 1885.

Organized sport developed rapidly in Peterborough throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. While early settlers had engaged in a range of sporting activities, such as skating, snowshoeing, horseracing, and foot races, organized sports, particularly those with teams, did not emerge with force until later in the century, as the population expanded, became more settled, and had more time for recreational activities. The first recreational sports took place in Victoria Park, notably cricket. These eventually shifted to the Ashburnham Cricket grounds after 1859 where other sports were also played. Popular sports included baseball and lacrosse, as well as track and field events. Swimming, rowing and bicycling also gained in popularity, although these took place elsewhere.

Curling and skating, and eventually hockey, also became popular as winter sports. Both curling and skating, although often played on Little Lake or the Otonabee River when they froze over, were played at Riverside Park; in 1870, Henry Calcutt converted his flax mill on the site into an indoor rink, as the mill

had never operated at full capacity and Calcutt's interest and enthusiasm for sports made him an active participant and advocate in all types of sport across the city. The rink operated in this location until 1884 when a new rink opened on Charlotte Street.

Sport in Peterborough attracted people from across the city and was promoted by the prominent citizens of both Ashburnham and Peterborough who worked to develop leagues and facilities. These included individuals such as brewer Henry Calcutt who was active in a huge range of sports throughout his lifetime, both as a player and an advocate. Other prominent local citizens involved in sport included the likes of R.B. Rogers, Dr. George Burnham W.A. Stratton and David Dumble. For many of the upper class participants, their primary sport was cricket, but they continued to take an interest and participate in other sporting activities. They were not the only participants, however, as many local citizens from different backgrounds and occupations became involved in organized sport.

With the growth in popularity in sport came the establishment of new leagues and clubs for different sports across the city, including the city's first organized sports club, the Peterborough Junior Cricket Club as well as the Peterborough Lacrosse Club, the Peterborough Baseball Club, and the Peterborough Turf (horseracing) Club. In 1885, a number of local clubs came together to form the Peterborough Amateur Athletic Association to provide a central administrative body for sport in the city. The PAAA became an important local organization, representing local sports teams and individual clubs and assisting with the establishment and maintenance of sports fields and facilities, including the cricket grounds and, after its establishment in 1885, Riverside Park.

The development of organized sport in Peterborough corresponded with an increase in popularity of sport as a pastime and as an integral aspect of community life in Canada and abroad in the second half of the nineteenth century. In the nineteenth century, an increased interest in the promotion of physical and mental health, notably in Victorian Britain and, by extension, Canada, had led to the growth of public focus and participation in activities and initiative that supported increased health outcomes. These included areas such as hygiene and health education, but also extended to the idea of physical activity as an important part of the promotion of bodily health. In particular, organized sport was seen as an important driver in the promotion of male virility and strength because of both its physicality through the activities themselves and its mental stimulation. Sport was also seen as promoting morality through its organized rule-based system, its promotion of self-improvement, and the development of community spirit. It was a central aspect of the idea of Christian manliness which developed during this period through the writings of individuals such as Charles Kingsley and Thomas Hughes and promoted the ideal Christian man as one imbued with both a sound moral compass and developed physical strength.

These ideas were imbued within Victorian and Edwardian society and central to the development of organized sports in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as men were encouraged to be involved with sporting activities and prominent members of the community developed sporting organizations, clubs, and teams as part of a wider cultural shift which involved sports as a central aspect of Christian society. Women were also encouraged to participate in physical activity, but generally in a less-competitive, more recreational setting, reflecting the gendered ideas during that period regarding men and women's bodies and their physical limits, as women were often discouraged from participating in more physically-demanding and competitive sports, including baseball and hockey.

Baseball, in particular, was widely associated with the muscular Christian ideals. On one hand, it encouraged physical activity and training and the growth of teamwork through competitive play. It was also intrinsically a rule-based, structured game, which promoted the moral values of the late Victorian era. At the same time, it was non-contact sport and, therefore, did not encourage aggression or anger, two of the things that sport was seen to potentially promote that put it at odds with Christian virtues. It was, therefore, viewed as an explicitly moral sport that promoted the muscular Christian ideal at its very best, and, as a result, gained increasing popularity in the late nineteenth century as a sport compatible with the values of the time. It was also a sport with a more universal appeal than cricket; even by the end of the nineteenth century, cricket was still viewed as a sport played by the upper classes whereas baseball was perceived as an everyman's game, encouraging participation from across the spectrum of social classes in the city.

The first recorded baseball game in Peterborough was played on September 9, 1876 at the Circus Grounds near Little Lake and reported on in the *Peterborough Examiner* when the local Pine Grove team played Cavanville. Throughout the next several decades, baseball rapidly developed as a popular summer sport in Peterborough, eventually outpacing cricket and lacrosse as the sport of choice in the city. The Pine Grove team was the city's first organized team, but others soon followed including the Clippers and the Maple Leafs who played at the Ashburnham Cricket Grounds. By the mid-1880s, a league had formed with teams with many teams formed by the employees of local businesses, including the Auburn Woolen Mills, Hamilton Foundry and the Grand Central Railway, as well as other smaller, local businesses where baseball had become an important and very popular pastime; for example, the *Examiner* reported in September 1885 that "the employees of the Oriental Hotel have got the baseball fever."

When the new Riverside Park field opened in 1885, baseball popularity and participation continued to grow. Over the next several decades, Peterborough's teams competed against both local teams and against teams from other cities across southern and eastern Ontario, as baseball became an ever more popular sport for both participants and spectators. In 1900, Peterborough joined

the Midland Baseball League which became the Central Ontario Baseball League in the early 1920s. Teams including the Peterborough Petes and Peterborough Tigers were established in the twentieth century, providing opportunities for competitive play outside of local industrial and recreational leagues. Games in Peterborough were played in Riverside Park with significant success for Peterborough teams, particularly in the early decades of the twentieth century.

With the expansion of the park came the opening of the new softball field – East City Bowl – in 1931. While eventually it hosted games for both men and women, it was originally designated as the women's softball field. The designation of the new softball diamond at East City Bowl reflects the growing acceptance of women in sports during the early decades of the twentieth century. While Victorian women were able to participate in some sports, generally those considered more feminine like skating, and began to form sports clubs for activities such as tennis and curling in the late nineteenth century, their involvement in team sports began increase around the turn of the twentieth century, with the first women's hockey clubs established in Montreal in the 1890s. Throughout the first decades of the century, and particularly after the First World War, women found increasing acceptance playing what were generally considered more masculine sports, particularly basketball which was the most popular women's team sport during this period.

Softball, in particular, was seen as a sport that women could play. By the 1920s, women had gained acceptance as a softball players and new leagues were forming to facilitate women's participation in the sport, including the Ontario Ladies' Softball Association in 1925, which included teams from Peterborough, and the Provincial Women's Softball Association in 1931. Throughout the twentieth century, women's softball flourished in Peterborough and was an important sport in the community.

Men's softball began at East City Bowl in 1946. The Peterborough Men's Softball Association (Men's City Softball League) was founded in 1920 and played at various fields throughout the city, including in Confederation Square in front of the Armoury, Central School, and the Riverside Park baseball diamond before moving to East City Bowl. Both men and women continue to play softball at the facility, although the sport's high point came in the middle of the twentieth century.

While softball flourished across the country in the early to mid-twentieth century, amongst both men and women, it was particularly popular in smaller industrial centres, including Peterborough, particularly those that lacked professional sports teams. Softball became a community activity where individuals could participate in competitive athletic activities and members of the community could also watch, as admission to them was generally very inexpensive. It also developed into a sport with a significant working class participation rate because

of the rise of softball as a company sport throughout the early decades of the twentieth century.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, many companies and factories began to look for ways to increase company moral and cohesion among their employees. At the same time, with the introduction of strengthened labour laws around this period, the working day was decreased to eight hours, meaning that workers had more leisure time. The introduction of team sports sponsored by local businesses and company provided workers with a structured leisure activity as well as a way to built company spirit in a fun, but competitive, environment. This was particularly important for working class women, who had generally been excluded from sports up until this time, either because of class or financial barriers or because of the perception that team sports were not feminine, or a combination of both.

Company sports as an important community activity gained in strength throughout the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. In Peterborough, this corresponded with a period of increased industrialization that had begun in the late nineteenth century and the establishment of large industrial employers in the city, many of whom supported the idea of company sports as a morale boosting activity that could help to build a team spirit in increasingly large workplaces. By the Second World War, many companies throughout Peterborough boasted different sports teams, including both baseball and softball, but softball was one of the most important and popular.

Since its early days, softball had been culturally associated with industrial cities and the participation of working class people in sport, likely because of its genesis in industrializing Chicago. By the 1920s, softball was explicitly viewed as a company sport and many teams both in Canada and the United States were sponsored by local industries and businesses. In fact, softball was such a central part of company life during this period that local athletes were often recruited by companies to be on their sports teams, particularly in large industrial workplaces, and found a job within the respective factory to allow them to play on the company team.

This was certainly the case with softball in Peterborough in the early to mid-twentieth century as it became an increasingly important company sport with many local businesses and factories fielding teams in competitive play, on local, regional and provincial levels. One of the most successful local teams was the Westclox women's softball team which actively recruited athletic girls and women to play on it, offering them jobs either in the factory or secretarial pool. The team even competed at the provincial level. Other local industries and businesses also fielded softball teams, both men's and women's, competing against each other throughout the mid-twentieth century.

East City Bowl was the place where many of these games were played and the environment in which this aspect of company life developed. The centrality of sport, particularly softball, within the industrial city in the early twentieth century was an important part of community life during the early and mid-twentieth centuries and Peterborough was no exception.

Industrial firms, through their sports programs, were also intimately involved in the development of the park. Although it was owned by the city, local businesses invested significantly in the upkeep and development of the park, because of its importance to their company sports. For example, throughout the 1930s, the Johnston Motor Company (later Outboard Marine), under the leadership of Hugh Campbell, invested in the upkeep of the field and the refurbishment of the grandstands, while sponsoring its own teams which competed there. The field was also home to a number of important players who developed their skills and played for local softball, and baseball, teams, including Daniel McCabe, Ray Judd, and George (Red) Sullivan.

Riverside Park and its associated baseball fields have important connections to the development of baseball and softball in Peterborough and its association with the growth of the community. However, the park was also used for other purposes, most of them recreational. The most notable is the longstanding use of the site for swimming throughout the twentieth century. After the purchase of the park by the city and the removal of the industrial buildings, an area was designated in the Otonabee River for swimming. By the mid-twentieth century, the Lion's Club had constructed the city's first and only outdoor swimming pool on the site of the former Calcutt Brewery. While the pool is now closed, the site is now home to the Peterborough Lions Club building.

The park was also used as a gathering place, because of its size, convenience and the ability to use it for a range of activities. In the early twentieth century, prior to the construction of East City Bowl, the ground was also used for military events. Photographs from this period show its use as a parade ground, reflecting Peterborough's strong military tradition dating back to the middle of the nineteenth century. It was also used for other community gathering such as circuses, fairs, and picnics, particularly company picnics. For example, in 1938, the park was used by CGE as the location for their annual employee picnic. Attended by over 4,000 people, the one day event included games, track races, acrobatics shows, rides and a ferris wheel alongside an interdepartmental softball tournament. This use of the facility, as a general purpose park for large events such as this was not uncommon and it was an important location for community and workplace events which attracted large numbers of people.

The park also has historical significance within the context of the City's development of its public parkland throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The City of Peterborough had a long history of developing and administering public parks. Victoria Park had been set aside by the District of



Colborne in 1838, becoming the first designated park within the city, although it was owned and administered by the county. Throughout much of the nineteenth century, green space was often on private land, such as the lawns in front of St. John's Anglican Church which provided space for the citizens of the town to use at their leisure. However, with the passage of Ontario's Public Parks Act in 1883 which allowed for municipalities to establish and regulate parks within their boundaries, the City formed a parks commission in 1884 to formalize how parks were developed and maintained. This began with the formal recognition of Central Park, now Confederation Square, as public parkland, as opposed to its earlier functions as burial ground and agricultural exhibition grounds. Parkland was gradually expanded throughout the city, particularly with the donation of the land for Jackson Park, Inverlea Park, and Nicholls Oval through the will of Charlotte Nicholls in 1893. Similarly, Little Lake Cemetery, like many garden cemeteries, also provided green space to local inhabitants, although it remained privately owned and operated outside of the City's park program.

While these parks provided space for recreation and leisure, they were not dedicated athletic facilities, as space for sport specific activities had long been provided by the facilities at Riverside Park on land that was neither owned nor maintained by the municipality. It was the construction of the Hunter Street Bridge between 1919 and 1921 that marked the transformation of the landscape into a dedicated City-owned sports facility. The construction of the new bridge spurred the City to purchase and develop the land into dedicated City-owned parkland as part of the wider project; the new bridge project, undertaken during the time of the City Beautiful movement which encouraged city beautification projects as powerful agents of societal change and civic engagement, naturally lent itself to the rethinking of the industrial land at the riverfront.

Formerly, the bridge had crossed at a low level to meet the shore at grade. However, the design proposed by Barber radically changed this because it raised the level of the bridge well above the river and existing roadway. This was done to accommodate an entrance to the Quaker factory offices at the level of the road, but above the rail line which the road had formerly crossed at grade; this was a specific request from Quaker that needed to be accommodated within the overall design and which raised the level of the bridge significantly above the existing roads. It required the construction of two viaducts on either side of the river supported by arches; on the eastern side of the river, the elevation of the bridge was such that the road was raised to the roof height of some of the industrial buildings along the shoreline before sloping down to Burnham Street. This design completely changed the industrial landscape of the east side of the river, particularly through changes to road access, and the relationship between its existing built elements, including roadway, buildings and Riverside Park. With the massive size and scope of the project and the major changes caused by the construction of the bridge, the timing was right for a holistic transformation of the property from private to public sports facility.

The City began assembling the land which now forms the park in 1919, including industrial and residential buildings as well as the existing Riverside Park and sports fields. The City purchased a large block of the property at the corner of Hunter Street East and Burnham Street in September of that year, which were privately owned but used by both the PAAA and the Peterborough Baseball Association, and proceeded to buy much of the rest of the property that now comprises James Stevenson Park over the next several years, including Block A of Plan 1A, the original townplan for Ashburnham, which had originally been owned by Zaccheus Burnham and, by the time the City purchased it, was the majority of the existing parkland. The Calcutt property on which the brewery buildings stood was acquired in 1932 and other smaller pieces of land on the south side of the property were purchased in the 1940 and 1957. The growth and development of the parkland forms part of a larger narrative of Peterborough's growth of parks and recreation facilities throughout the twentieth century to facilitate the city's growing population and interest in sports and outdoor activities which became an increasingly important part of community life.

The expansion of the parkland resulted in the demolition of a number of buildings within the newly assembled block, including both residential and industrial structures. The land purchased by the city included several green spaces broken up by a collection of buildings and the purchase and redevelopment of the area as public parkland required the built fabric of the area to change in a dramatic fashion. The most notable of these was the Calcutt Brewery which closed in 1922, although Henry Calcutt himself had died in 1913. The brewery had been an iconic part of the landscape since it opened in 1863, but its removal allowed for a significant expansion of the park to Burnham Street on the east side. Several other buildings were also demolished including a private home owned by John Bettes, a Quaker employee, and the former Rapid Tool Company Factory buildings which had been vacant since 1911.

Several historic houses on the south and east edges of the park were not purchased by the City and are still extant. These include an Ontario Gothic cottage at 339 Burnham Street and the Absalom Ingram House at 309 Engleburn Avenue on the former Engleburn Estate, both constructed in the nineteenth century. The other building still extant from this area is the Peterborough Mattress Factory, owned by James Ellis. Although located on a parcel purchased by the City and forced to close, the building was relocated to 482 Mark Street in 1927 where it was reconstructed at the rear of the property backing onto the rail line. It is the only remaining industrial building from the larger industrial landscape that characterized the east bank of the Otonabee River throughout much of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of the twentieth.

The park was renamed James Stevenson Park in 1925. The *Examiner* reported that it was named after him as a "Pioneer and Builder of the City" because of his longstanding service as the mayor of Peterborough and MP for Peterborough West as well as his role on other boards and committees, such as the Board of

Education and the Little Lake Cemetery Board. Born in Ireland, Stevenson came to Peterborough in 1943 and rose to become a prominent businessman before entering politics. He died in 1910 and the renaming of the park in his honour was seen as a fitting tribute to an important local citizen.

The landscape also has associative value through the architect and engineering team who designed the Hunter Street Bridge: engineer Frank Barber, who was given the commission by the City, and architect Claude Bragdon, who was employed by Barber as the project architect. Barber and Bragdon were both well-respected professionals in their respective fields and the Hunter Street Bridge was their first collaboration together. They would later go on to design a number of other bridges in southern Ontario together, including the Leaside Bridge in Toronto in 1927.

Barber, who was born in Milton in 1875 and operated an engineering firm in Toronto beginning in 1908, was one of Canada's most prolific bridge builders, designing around 500 bridges throughout the country throughout the course of his career. He pioneered methods in concrete bridge construction including some of the first open spandrel bridges in Canada. Barber was contracted by the City of Peterborough in 1918 to design the bridge, based on his expertise and experience in the field of bridge construction.

It was Barber who hired Bragdon to assist with the bridge's design, specifically its aesthetic qualities, insisting that an architect was required to complement his technical work as an engineer. Bragdon was a well-known architect in New York State, designing a range of buildings primarily in the Rochester area, including the notable but now-demolished Rochester New York Central Station and Rochester First Universalist Church. By the time he was contracted by Barber to work on the Hunter Street Bridge project, Bragdon's architectural practice was slowing down, as he began to pursue a second career as a set designer.

It is not clear how the partnership developed between the architect and engineer but Bragdon and Barber appear to have been associated outside of architectural circles. Both were active members of the theosophical movement in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Bragdon, specifically, published widely on theosophical topics, ranging from Eastern religion, as understood in late nineteenth and early twentieth century North America, to the relationship between spiritualism and architecture; he also operated the Manas Press which published theosophical works. Barber was a member of the Toronto Theosophical Society, where Bragdon had presented a lecture in December 1916; they appear to have also been associated with Roy Mitchell, the Toronto theatre director and theosophist. This spiritualist influence played out in their architectural work, specifically in Bragdon's, who authored several texts regarding the role of spiritualism in architectural theory and practice specifically focusing on ideas such as balance, harmony and naturalism as inherently mystical aspects of building; he applied these principles to his work on the Hunter

Street Bridge, discussing these ideas in an 1923 article for *The Architectural Record* and in his own 1938 autobiography, which bore distinct similarities to his more general discussions regarding theosophy and architecture in his other published works such as *The Beautiful Necessity* (1910). Nevertheless, their partnership proved vital to the design and execution of the bridge.

### Contextual Value

The landscape of Riverside Park has contextual value through its historic, visual, and physical relationships to the surrounding neighbourhood and area as well as through its internal cohesion and the interrelationship of the varied elements within the landscape itself. In both the historic and contemporary context, it helps define the character of the local area, both within the former Village of Ashburnham and as part of the landscape of the Otonabee River shoreline. It is a local landmark as a longstanding sports facility within the city and was recognized as such historically as well as in the contemporary context.

The landscape is located along the east bank of the Otonabee River and bordered by Hunter Street East to the north, Burnham Street to the east and a line of historic properties along Engleburn Avenue to the south. It includes part of Hunter Street East where it crosses the river, namely the bridge and its approaches. Historically, this landscape was located in the Village of Ashburnham, an independent settlement which amalgamated with the City of Peterborough in 1904; despite its independent status, however, Ashburnham developed and retained strong ties to Peterborough through many aspects of community life, including business and industry, culture, religion and the military. In its early years, it was even referred to as the Ashburnham sporting grounds and has important historical connections to the neighbourhood.

The landscape is historically linked to its surroundings as the Ashburnham sporting grounds, which were used by communities and neighbourhoods throughout the city in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The park developed at the same time as many of the surrounding buildings were constructed and was a key aspect in the development of Ashburnham, first as an industrial complex and then as a recreational facility. In both of its iterations, it played a key role in community development: as an industrial complex, it drove the economic development of Ashburnham and by extension Peterborough and, as a recreational facility, it helped developed a sporting culture in both Ashburnham and Peterborough that continues to this day through the provision of space for organized sport, both competitive and recreational. Through these roles, notably in its current form, it has specific historic links to other parts of the Peterborough landscape, including various factories and businesses in Peterborough such as Westclox, General Electric and Quaker, which actively made use of this facility as part of their corporate life throughout the twentieth century. It continues this role,

as a recreation space, within the contemporary context and is an important surviving historic location within the city.

It is physically linked to its surroundings as part of the historic streetscape of Hunter Street East and of Burnham Street. Both streets are comprised of rows of historic houses and commercial structures, as well as contemporary ones such as the gas station and offices, and the Riverside Park landscape has long been a part of this historic streetscape. Although part of the City of Peterborough since the early twentieth century, Ashburnham has retained its village feel and the continued retention of an outdoors sports facility in this location helps defining Ashburnham as a holistic neighbourhood with local services and facilities for community use. It is a defining feature in the historic core of East City as a recognized, longstanding sports facility.

The bridge, specifically, also has physical and historical links to its surroundings. Physically, the bridge is linked to Hunter Street, connecting the east and west sections of this important roadway within the city. It is also physically linked to the Quaker Oats factory because the bridge was constructed as a high level crossing in order to accommodate the needs of the factory with the railway running below the arches and the upper entrance being directly accessed from the bridge itself. The bridge is also linked physically to the Otonabee River waterway and shoreline as a major crossing point and a defining feature of the landscape of the river.

Historically, the bridge is linked to its surroundings as an integral element of the early twentieth century development of Peterborough. From the nineteenth century, a bridge was located in this place to link the town, later city, of Peterborough and the historic Village of Ashburnham. The crossing provided a vital link between the two communities and assisted in the overall economic, social, and cultural development of both. Although the current bridge is the fifth iteration of the crossing on this site, it nevertheless retains this important function as a link between the two parts of the city on either side of the river. It is also historically linked to its surroundings in its relationship to the Quaker Oats factory, particularly given the aftermath of the Quaker fire in 1916 when the company entered into an agreement with the City to rebuild the factory in Peterborough if a new, better bridge that met the factory's needs was constructed.

The landscape is also visually linked to its surroundings through the viewsheds to and from the property. These views cover a significant portion of historic Ashburnham and downtown Peterborough because of the location of the park on the shore of the Otonabee River and provide views of both the commercial and residential landscapes of these areas as a whole, but also of specific historic buildings including King George Public School, Market Hall, Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, and Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. The view extends as far as Dufferin Street to the north and Romaine Street to the

south. The landscape also commands views of a number of historic houses, mostly in Ashburnham, including Henry Calcutt's nineteenth-century home on Robinson Street which has additional significance because of Calcutt's role in the development of Riverside Park. These views contribute to the contextual value of the park and many of them are longstanding and have explicit links to the development of the park. Many of these views are also of structures and landscapes which are integral to the history and identity of the city, such as views of the river, its historic core, and its industrial buildings.

From the park, the most prominent view is of the Hunter Street Bridge and the Quaker Oats factory which are historically linked to the development of the park because of the Quaker fire and subsequent reconstruction of the bridge in the early twentieth century. This view predates the construction of the current factory and bridge. Notably, the former Quaker factory is prominently visible in early twentieth century photographs of the baseball field, showing the historic significance of this viewshed. The park also commands views of downtown Peterborough and the historic landscape of Ashburnham from the sports fields and the riverbank. One of the notable landmarks visible from the sports fields is the Market Hall Clock Tower which is currently visible from multiple vantage points throughout the park and also appears in historic photographs of sports events taking place there.

There are also specific and important views from the Hunter Street bridge itself. In fact, the bridge was designed to accommodate views of the surroundings landscape, including the sports fields at Riverside Park. The wide sidewalks and low railings allowed for pedestrians to view the river and surrounding area while traversing the bridge. However, Bragdon also specifically incorporated the parapets on either side of the bridge to accommodate this function, writing that: "a little projecting balcony has been introduced, which serves a useful as well as an aesthetic purpose, in that one may there pause to view the panorama of the river without impeding, or being impeded by less idly-disposed pedestrians." Views from the bridge included those of the sports fields, the river and shoreline, the 1913 Canadian Pacific Railway bridge, the Quaker Oats factory, and the residential and commercial landscapes of both downtown Peterborough and the former Village of Ashburnham. These views still exist from the bridge and its viewing parapets and are an important historic and contemporary aspect of the bridge and its significance within the landscape.

In addition to its contextual relationships to the surrounding area, the landscape also possesses an internal cohesion through the important interrelationship of its various parts. These relationships are physical, visual and historic and work to create a holistic landscape. The bulk of the landscape is comprised of the park which has a number of key internal elements: the baseball and softball diamonds, the grassed recreation areas, the shoreline and the roadways. These are physically linked to one another as contiguous open, outdoor spaces which, taken together, form a single recreation facility that is also visually cohesive

through the consistency of green space and trees, and the placement of sports and recreation spaces throughout the landscape. These elements are also linked to the shoreline through the organic progression of the green space to the river with the retention of trees and the ability of visitors to move fluidly through the space, from the sports fields, to the open areas to the riverbank. Historically, the current boundaries of the park represent the gradual evolution of the park in the late nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth as a sports facility, beginning in a relatively small area with a consistent western boundary created by the shoreline and growing to its current extent with the demolition of the industrial buildings surrounding it and the acquisition of land by the City as part of the park building process.

The relationship between the bridge and the sports fields is significant, in both the historic and contemporary context. Historically, the bridge and the sports fields are related to one another because the bridge construction project provided the backdrop for the purchase and development of the park by the City. Prior to the construction of the Hunter Street Bridge, the park included the sports fields of the Peterborough Amateur Athletic Association, as well as a number of nineteenth-century industrial buildings. The purchase of these properties by the City in conjunction with the construction of the bridge allowed for the property to be consolidated and redeveloped into a single sports facility not constrained by the surrounding industrial properties. It also defines the northern boundary of the current park, and its cultural landscape. The new Hunter Street Bridge was integral to the evolution of the park into its current form and its continued usage as a dedicated sports facility. The bridge is physically linked to the park because it defines its northern boundaries and the park's space extends under the arches of the bridge where there are two murals painted between 2015 and 2016.

The landscape is also a local landmark because of its longstanding and consistent use as a sports facility that was and continues to be used by significant numbers of community members. The park has been in existence, as a designated sports facility, since the mid-1880s and was used throughout its lifetime by sports teams from across the city and from other communities, as well as recreationally for other outdoors activities, including swimming, walking, and public gatherings. It also holds a prominent location within the former Village of Ashburnham at the east end of the Hunter Street Bridge and on the bank of the Otonabee River where it is visible from a range of vantage points and locations. It is a defining feature on the shore of the river and in the historic core of East City.

The property's landmark status was explicitly recognized in the period in which it was acquired by the City, as the premier outdoor sports facility and a point of civic pride in the development of local parkland, particularly because of its location along the Otonabee River. In 1921, local historian and journalist F.H. Dobbin wrote in the *Peterborough Examiner* about the park, its past and current purchase and development by the City. Of it, he wrote: "in years to come, [in] the rejuvenated and revised Riverside Park...the city will have an asset to boast of

and delight that may not be duplicated in the province.” The park continues to be an important city facility for sports and recreation.

### **Significance as a Cultural Heritage Landscape**

Riverside Park has significance as a cultural heritage landscape because it is “a defined geographic area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community” (PPS 2014). It possesses a cohesive set of interrelated built elements, including the baseball and softball fields and the Hunter Street bridge, and natural elements, including the plantings and Otonabee River shoreline. Its activities and uses are key to its cultural heritage value within the community which recognizes the park as a longstanding and important sports facility which is linked to the development and history of baseball and softball – both recreational and competitive – in the city.

The Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape is comprised of several distinct but interrelated elements. These include the baseball and softball diamonds, the grassed areas, clusters of trees and bushes, the Otonabee River shoreline, and the Hunter Street Bridge. These elements work together to form a cohesive landscape with direct associations to both the industrial and sporting history of the site and the city. It is an example of a continuing evolved cultural landscape which has developed into its current form from continued usage and its relationship to the natural environment and surrounding community and it continues to play a role in contemporary society and evolve with the community.

The landscape is primarily composed of parkland with both constructed and natural elements which form together a cohesive landscape. The Hunter Street Bridge is the only element of the landscape which is not explicitly part of the parkland. However, the bridge is an integral element of the landscape because of its role in visually defining the site as its northern boundary and through the creation of space below the bridges arches which act as an extension of the park itself. The bridge acts as the gateway to the park from the city’s downtown and through the stairways linking the bridge to the baseball and softball fields. The bridge is also linked historically to the park because it was the construction of the bridge between 1919 and 1921 which spurred the city to purchase the parkland and develop it into a municipally-managed sports facility. It is a key element in the historic development of the park and in the definition of the current landscape.

The park’s longstanding use as a sports facility is key to its role within the community and its meaning as a space. The evolution of the park from industrial to recreational landscape was driven by the desire to provide recreational facilities for the populations of the City of Peterborough and the Village of Ashburnham. Although these activities were initially casual and unorganized,



namely the use of the indoor rink for recreational skating, the park gradually took on a role as a place for organized sport, first for curling in the indoor rink and later for baseball and softball, the primary sports played in this facility since the mid-1880s. The use of the park as a baseball and softball facility defines the space and its cultural significance within the community which associates this site with these two activities, both historically and in the contemporary context. The use of the site for other sports-related activities and active pursuits, such as swimming, further codifies the role of the site within the community. Along with other sports facilities within the city, the Riverside Park landscape helps define Peterborough's identity as a sports city, where organized sports and outdoors recreational activities are at the heart of community life and a central part of the character of the city. Its longstanding and consistent usage makes it one of the most important cultural sites in establishing and upholding this aspect of the city's historic and contemporary identity.

*"The short statement of reason for designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the Heritage Designation Brief constitute the "Reasons for the Designation" required under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Heritage Designation Brief is available for viewing in the City Clerk's office during regular business hours."*

## **SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape has cultural heritage value or interest as a longstanding and important sports facility within the city of Peterborough. It is a landscape which includes the interrelated elements of sports fields, green space, the Otonabee River shoreline, and the Hunter Street Bridge which form a single, cohesive landscape that has evolved from the nineteenth century as an outdoors space for sports and recreation and has retained its importance to the community in this capacity. It has specific physical and design value as a representative example of baseball and softball field design as it evolved throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as in the high level of craftsmanship and technical innovation of the Hunter Street Bridge which marks the northern limit of the landscape. Historically, it has direct associations with and yields significant information regarding the development of organized sport, specifically baseball and softball, in Peterborough which is related to the growth of the community and its industrial base, particularly in the twentieth century. It also yields information on the development of parkland in Peterborough, both in a private capacity and as a municipal asset. From a contextual perspective, the landscape is an integral aspect of the former Village of Ashburnham, now East City, and helps in defining the wider landscape of the Otonabee River shoreline. Its longstanding presence, dating back to the late nineteenth century and its importance to the community make it an important local landmark, and it has been recognized as such since the early twentieth century.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED**

The Reasons for Designation include the following heritage attributes and apply to all built and natural features within the boundaries of the landscape including, but not limited to, built elements, construction materials, landscaping, natural features, trees, views, and contextual relationship with the surrounding neighbourhood.

### **Landscape Boundaries**

- The entirety of the property known municipally as 325 Burnham Street (James Stevenson Park) including:
  - All built and natural features within the bounds of the property from Burnham Street to the Otonabee River and Hunter Street East to the adjacent properties on Engleburn Avenue
- Hunter Street Bridge

### **Built Features**

- Baseball and softball diamonds including:
  - Layout of the field
  - Backstops
  - Seating
  - Flood lights
  - Wire and board fences
  - Dugouts and benches
  - Scoreboards
  -
- Basketball court
- Play structures
- Roadways
- Parking areas
- Lamps and standards
- Stepped entrances from Hunter Street East and Burnham Street
- Fencing
- Hunter Street Bridge including:
  - Concrete construction
  - Spandrel arch
  - Arches
  - Decking
  - Approaches
  - Ornate railing
  - Lamps and standards
  - Decorative terracotta including shamrocks, vegetal motifs, “Peterborough” text panels with border, crests,
  - Murals
  - Projecting balconies
- Planted gardens at the corner of Hunter Street East and Burnham Street

### **Natural Landscape Features**

- Otonabee River shoreline
- Trees bordering the baseball diamonds, basketball court, and grassed areas, on the Otonabee River shoreline, and in grassed areas including:
  - *Salix* sp.
  - *Fraxinus Americana*
  - *Acer* sp.
  - *Robinia* sp.
  - *Tilia* sp.
  - *Populus alba*
  - *Platanus x acerifolia*
- Weeping willow tree adjacent to Steve Terry Way
- Plantings and shrubs
- Grassed areas

### **Views**

- Views of the Otonabee River from the park and bridge
- Views of the Hunter Street Bridge from the park
- Views of the park from Hunter Street Bridge
- Views of the Market Hall Clock Tower from the park and bridge
- Views of the Quaker Oats factory from the park and bridge
- Views of historic commercial and residential structures in Ashburnham and downtown Peterborough from the park and bridge, including, but not limited to:
  - King George Public School
  - Westclox
  - Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church
  - St. Joseph's Hospital
  - Calcutt House (73 Robinson Street)
  - John C. Sullivan House (83 Robinson Street)
  - The Commerce Building
  - Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains
  - St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
  - The Harness Factory
  - Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
- Views of the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge from the park and Hunter Street Bridge

### **Contextual Relationships**

- The relationship between the baseball and softball fields
- The relationship between the sports fields and grassed areas and shoreline
- The relationship between the roadways within the park and the sports and recreation areas
- The relationship of the Lions Club building to the park
- The relationship of the park to the Hunter Street Bridge
- The relationship of the Hunter Street Bridge to the East City commercial area
- The relationship of the Hunter Street Bridge to the Quaker including its upper and lower entrances
- The relationship between the river and the Hunter Street bridge
- The relationship between Burnham Street, Hunter Street East and the park

### **Usage**

- The historic and ongoing use of the property for sport
- The historic and ongoing use of the baseball diamonds on the property for baseball and softball
- The historic and ongoing use of the property by local sports teams

- The historic and ongoing use of the bridge as a roadway connecting downtown Peterborough and the former Village of Ashburnham

## Current Photographs































## Appendix A













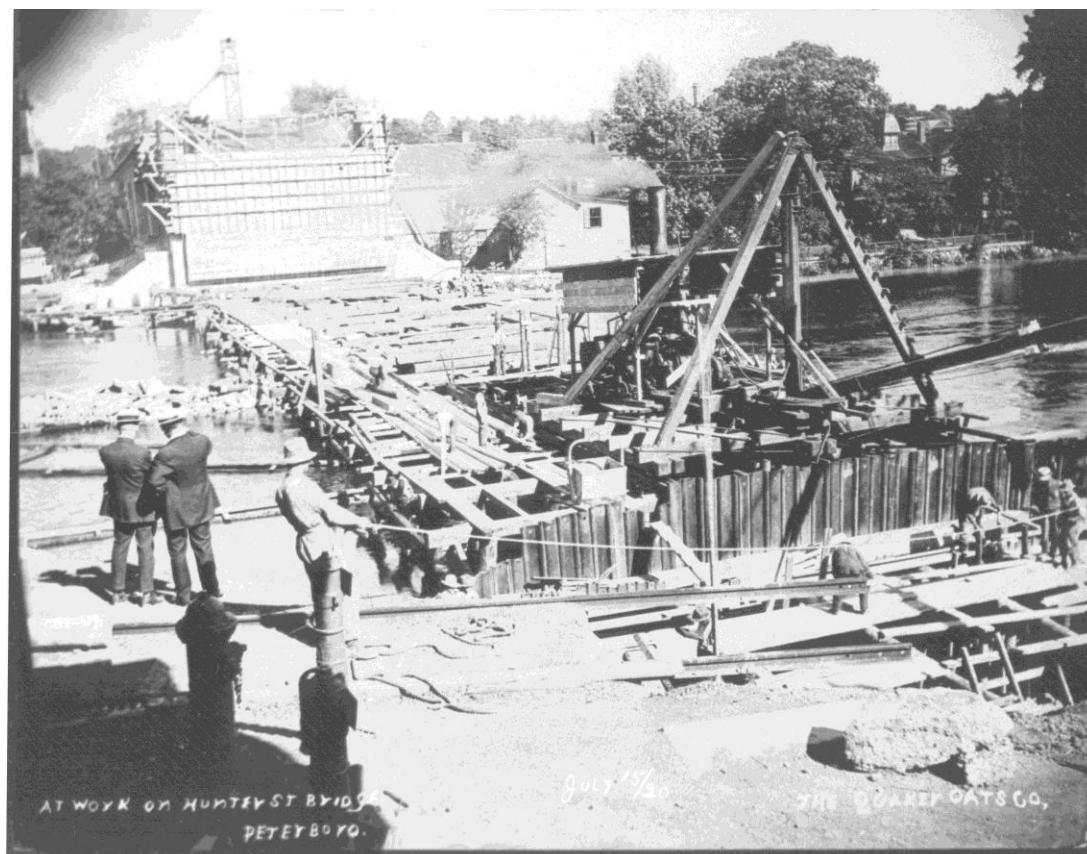


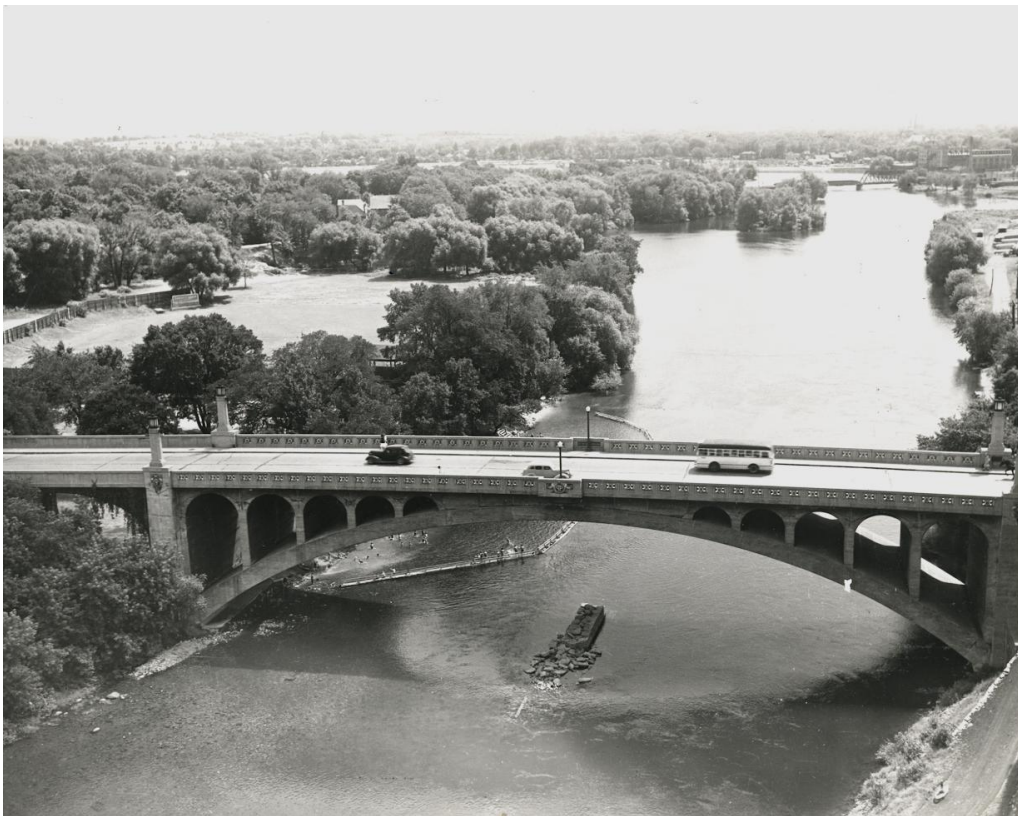
## Historic Photographs



























### The Line-Up

Probable Opening Game Lineups

OSHAWA		PETERBOROUGH	
LOWDEN	1f	PETER	1f
OLEY	2f	DEADLEY	2f
URST	3f	KEARNS	3f
FALLACE	1b	CADD	1b
BENVILLE	2b	KINODON	2b
ILLER	3b	CLARK	3b
LAY	ss	WHATLEY	ss
ENNETT	c	MOWRY	c
IDDLE	p	KITCHEN	p
TURNER	d	JAKATBY	d

# PETERBOROUGH vs. OSHAWA

## RIVERSIDE PARK

### 3 P.M.

# OPENING GAME

Opening Ceremonies 2.45

## Tuesday, May 24th

General Admission

Grand Stand, (Main) 10c

East Stand Free

25c

Children, 10c

**COME AND SUPPORT YOUR TEAM**

General Motors

Celebrate the Game with

### Fireworks

Largest Assortment in the City at the

## SUGAR BOWL

Special Assortment in 50c and \$1 Bags

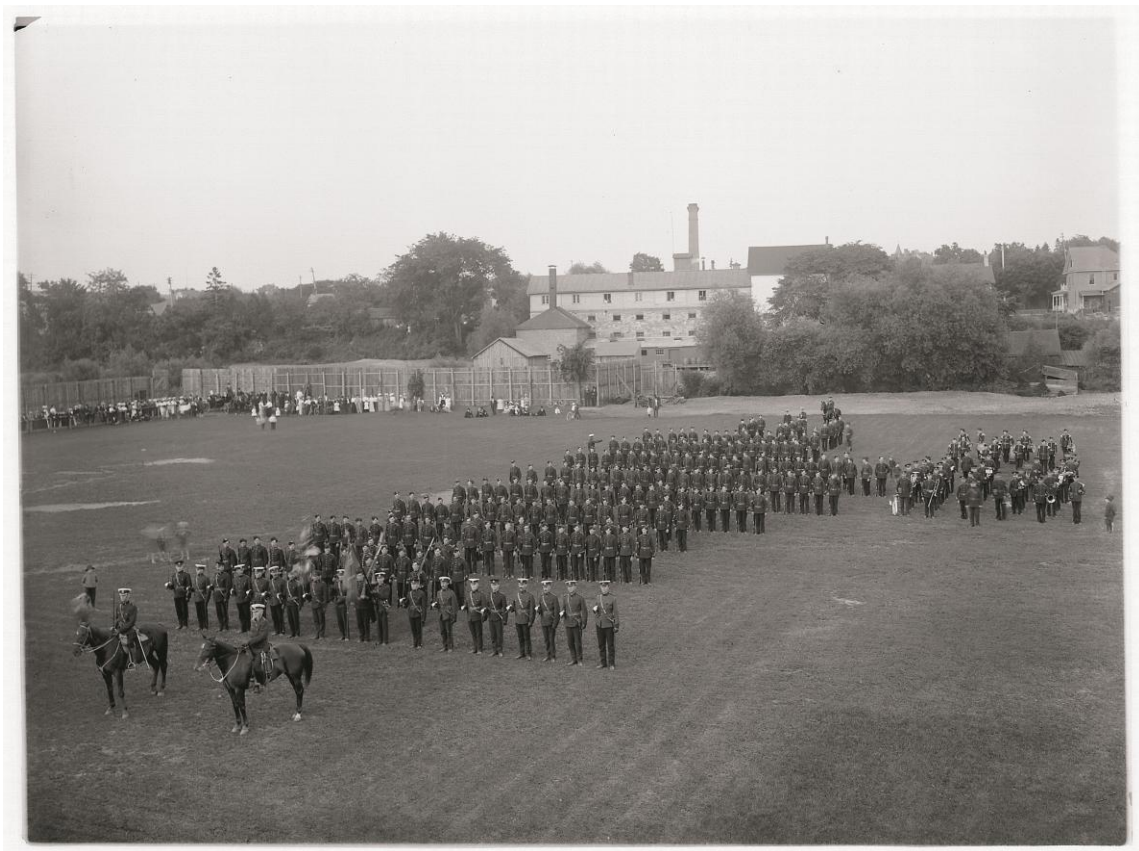
OPEN ALL DAY TUESDAY

58 George St. Phone 2170

**You're Never G**







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Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame

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Plan 1A  
Plan 124  
Plan 145

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