



## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

### 24 Main Street West

**TAKE NOTICE** that Grimsby Town Council, on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate PT LT 330, Corporation Plan 4 as in RO528590; GRIMSBY as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

**The Reason** for the Notice of Intention to Designate is to recognize the physical, associative, and contextual value that **24 Main Street West** contributes towards the Town of Grimsby's inclusive heritage.

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

24 Main Street West has direct associations with the Livingston family and their publication *The Independent*, as well as the Miller family who owned various businesses on Main Street West.

James Livingston was born in Nottawasaga Township, Simcoe County Ontario, his parents were natives to, Ireland. He and his wife Isabelle Trew moved to Grimsby in 1885; James and Isabelle were convinced by Matt Meaghr to buy into his recently established newspaper the *Grimsby Independent*, which he called 'The People's Paper'. James became sole proprietor before the paper's second issue.

The Livingstons also owned and published; the *Merritton Advance*, *Smithville Advance*, *Ancaster Advance*, the *Canadian Sportsman*, *Canadian Poultry News*, and the *Fruit Grower & Farmer*, and briefly in 1900 James also created and ran the *Morning Post* in Hamilton, which was the first morning publication in the city.

James and Isabelle lived in the house at 22 Main Street West located beside the subject building. James was twice elected as reeve (mayor) of the Village of Grimsby in 1893 and 1899 and from 1888 to 1897 James conducted a large horse livery and bus/stage business between Grimsby, Grimsby Park, Beamsville and Smithville. After his newspaper interests were disposed of James devoted much of his time to the operation of several large fruit markets and in 1928 organized a company to construct the Grimsby Grape and Wine Company factory.

James' two sons started working with their father in the newspaper business as early as 10 years old. In 1919 the family business was renamed "James Livingston & Sons", Orlon worked as editor and Art worked as the business manager.

Wilf and Barbara Miller started their Jewelry business in 1979, which was run out of 24 Main Street West. The couple also ran other businesses on Main Street such as a restaurant and music store. The Millers sold various types of Jewelry and specialized in gold repair and custom jewelry making.

24 Main Street West yields information about the foundational newspaper business called *The Independent*, the paper served the Grimsby, Beamsville and Smithville area, expanding as the years went on. The building was integral to the business, and the Livingstons during this time lived out of the adjacent Victorian house at 22 Main Street West.

In 1886 James Livingston installed a Washington press, which improved the production process of the *Independent*. Often there would be a few community members inside the building, waiting

for their copy of the daily paper, during this time patrons would help with printing or hanging papers.

Thanks to the contributions of James Livingston, his family and the staff, The Independent provides a clear and complete documentation of Grimsby's events, including the activities and daily life of the Town's citizens. The paper continues to be a valuable resource for the community long after the end of its publication.

Grimsby's downtown commercial core is made up of predominantly two and three storey mixed use buildings, commonly built of masonry in the Victorian and Italianate styles. The buildings share the same setbacks, and massing that create a cohesive and uninterrupted historic downtown corridor. A majority of the buildings were constructed in the mid to late 1800's and still resemble their original designs. 24 Main Street West contributes to this historic corridor and has been home to many businesses and figures that supported the prosperity of the Town.

The building at 24 Main Street West is historically connected to 22 Main Street West. At the time of construction, the properties were on the same parcel, historically owned by the notable Woolverton Family.

During the 1880's the two structures were used by the Livingston family, who ran their very successful publication from the commercial structure. The paper continues to provide insight into Grimsby's history.

### **HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED**

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at 24 Main Street West include:

- Setback from Main Street West
- Victorian decorative elements
- Cornices, dentil moldings, corbels
- Tapered window headers
- Window and door openings
- Three bay façade
- Flat roof
- Two storey structure

### **OBJECTIONS**

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in a newspaper. Objections should be directed to Victoria Steele, Town Clerk, Town Clerk, 160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby ON, L3M 0J53.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

Any inquiries may be directed to Bianca Verrecchia, Heritage Planner at 905-945-9634 ext. 2122 or by email [bverrecchia@grimsby.ca](mailto:bverrecchia@grimsby.ca)

**Last date to file Notice of Objection: February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**