

June 18, 2014

PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL - CONNAUGHT HERITAGE RECOMMENDATION

I want to thank Council for the opportunity to present to this meeting regarding this very important decision. I rise to speak emphatically in support of the heritage designation recommended for Connaught School by your Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee.

I understand that this may be new territory for Council to support a “heritage designation” where the building’s administrator is not seeking it. However, I wish to remind Council that this building’s true owners are we, the citizens.

The Regina Public School Board (RPSB) administration has attempted to have people believe that any further study and discussion will delay the return of Connaught students to our community. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. The provincial government has only approved funding for planning support for a possible new school. These are not decisions that should be, or need to be rushed. We are at a natural point at which we can pause, take our time, and ensure that we don’t rush into demolishing a school building that has, and continues to be a focal point and landmark of our community.

Council can lead the way in providing an innovative solution that can be positive for all including the RPSB. I ask Council to ensure that every possible avenue be thoroughly explored, including the further second opinion by heritage conservationists who have the experience of assessing such structures and who do not have any conflict of interest in the building of a new one.

As councilors, you may feel that you are reluctant to act when you could be seen as interfering in another political body’s decision. However, this is your decision to make. This is a significant landmark in the city of Regina and you must not shirk your responsibility in ensuring all measures are taken to try to preserve it.

Lest you feel that the RPSB must have come to their decision to close and demolish Connaught after careful thought and consideration, let me remind you of recent history. My grandchildren began attending Connaught School after the RPSB closed a perfectly sound Athabasca school, against the community’s protests, in the middle of an unprecedented population boom. Our community pleaded with the RPSB to keep possession of the Athabasca School building for the need that we knew was coming. When the RPSB finally noticed a need for maintenance of the Connaught School building, the Athabasca School building again was seen as a possible re-location site for Connaught students. Of course, it was too late for such backward planning.

At a time when it only makes sense fiscally, environmentally and socially to make every possible effort to save this beautiful hub of the inner-city, I ask you to welcome the passion and involvement of the Cathedral area citizens. Embrace it and work with this community! Be bold

(2)

and innovative, in the same way that you speak of the residential rehabilitation of the Mosaic Stadium area of the city. Help bring the RPSB and our community together so that everyone, including yourselves, can be proud of the part played in this worthwhile effort.

Sincerely, Bob Hughes,

**CONNAUGHT SCHOOL HERITAGE STATUS
CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION
JUNE 23 2014**

My name is Florence Stratton. I am a tax paying Regina resident who lives in the Cathedral area.

I am here to ask City Council to designate École Connaught Community School a Municipal Heritage Property. I have six interrelated reasons.

1. My first reason—the immense value of historic buildings— includes a personal component. My mother attended Connaught School starting in 1919 when the school was less than a decade old. For her Connaught was a place laden with memories. This is one of the functions of historic schools: to provide a physical manifestation of memory.

Historic schools are also frequently the cornerstone of their neighbourhood. Connaught is now over 100 years old. An enduring presence in the Cathedral area, it helps to create the bonds of community in a diverse neighbourhood.

More generally, historic buildings give communities a sense of place, differentiating one neighbourhood from another neighbourhood and one city from another.

Regina has already demolished so much of its built heritage that its downtown area is beginning to lose its distinctiveness. Please don't let this happen in Cathedral. We don't want Connaught to be replaced by a non-descript building that doesn't mean anything to us. We want to keep our historic building. Indeed, many of us have chosen historic 100 year old buildings as our homes. Like our homes, Connaught was built to last. Moose Jaw has restored and renovated its historic schools. Connaught too can be successfully refurbished to provide an inspirational learning environment for many more generations of Regina children.

2. My second reason concerns the environment. As the report by the Planning Department recognizes, preserving historic buildings is an environmentally sound practice. It conserves new material, minimizes waste, saves the landfill, and reduces a city's carbon footprint. According to the City of Regina's website, "Helping the environment is everyone's responsibility."
3. My third reason also has to do with being consistent with city policy. According to *Design Regina*, the City of Regina should "embrace built heritage" and "conserve historic places" To vote against the designation of Connaught as a Municipal Heritage Property would be to fly squarely in the face of OCP policies.
4. My fourth point raises the question of school ownership. The decision of the city administration not to recommend heritage status for Connaught hangs on this point: "The practice of the administration has been to not pursue Municipal Heritage property designation without property owner consent."

Heritage is evidently not on the School Board's list of priorities. But does the School Board really own Connaught? To many members of the public this view of ownership doesn't make any sense. Doesn't a public school belong to the public—the taxpaying public that paid for it, as well as those members of the public who attended it and in whose neighbourhood it stands? As petitions and surveys have demonstrated, the public places a high value on Connaught as part of our city's built heritage.

5. My fifth point follows on my fourth: The School Board seems to be very much alone in its view that the heritage value of Connaught School doesn't matter.
 - As the Planning Department's report states, the application for heritage status for Connaught is supported by a number of "stakeholders."

- The Planning Department's report itself found Connaught to be an important heritage property.
- The Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee voted to designate Connaught a heritage property.
- *Design Regina* recognizes the heritage value of Connaught.
- Connaught has even gained national recognition from Heritage Canada.

It is only the Regina Public School Board that is indifferent to Connaught's heritage value.

6. My final point has to do with the relationship between the School Board and community. For two years, the community has been requesting the School Board to allow a team of heritage conservators into the building to do a proper assessment of its condition. For two years, the School Board has refused access. When asked at a recent School Board meeting to explain why, the Board chair's only response was a contemptuous shrug of her shoulders.

The community consultation process over Connaught School has been deeply flawed. There has been no transparency and no truly participatory decision-making, only cosmetic consultations.

By awarding Connaught heritage status, City Council can engage the School Board and the community in exploring all the options for the school, a process that would heal the rift between the board and the community.

June 19, 2014

Submission to City Council re. heritage designation for Connaught School
June Botkin, Botkin Historic Building Conservators

As a building conservator, I offer my voice in support of the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendation of Municipal Heritage Designation for École Connaught Community School. Building Conservation is the practice of addressing the issues of prolonging the life of a building while maintaining the historic architectural character, integrity and attributes. Building conservation helps us maintain a link with our history by ensuring that we responsibly care for our built cultural heritage.

I was trained in Cultural Resource Management at the University of Victoria, with a specialization in Heritage Conservation Planning. I have a number of additional certificates, including certificates in masonry building assessment and life cycle cost analysis. In 2012, I was one of 22 people worldwide, and the only Canadian, to be accepted to study at the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome, Italy.

My company, Botkin Historic Building Conservators, provides several services, including project management, building inspections and surveys, preparation of conservation plans, preparation of heritage value assessments and adaptive reuse planning. I am not myself a structural engineer, but I work with and supervise structural engineers on conservation projects.

When assessing a historic property, it is important to work with diverse specialists who can look at the building from many angles of expertise. As a project manager I have found that, with appropriate teamwork and research, there are cost-effective, innovation solutions that can be devised for almost any problem an older building may have. There are very few good reasons to rush to condemn or de-insure a building that has high heritage value.

I have had the opportunity to tour Connaught School, and to read the engineering reports, and I do not see a building beyond repair and rehabilitation. At the least, it is no worse off than many other buildings in the city, including some schools. What I see is a building that has suffered from ongoing water seepage and inappropriate interventions that are stressing the structure. These are things that can be dealt with, along with measures to bring the building up to code. For example, slabs that are too narrow for modern-day standards – which was named as a reason Connaught cannot be rehabilitated without gutting the building – can be brought to code through a variety of non-destructive reinforcement measures that have been developed in recent years for this purpose. This is why it is important to have a variety of specialists assessing the building, such as masonry specialists and building conservators.

The first step is to undertake an appropriate level of research. One of the biggest stumbling blocks for gaining any kind of reasonable renovation estimate for Connaught has been a lack of detailed structural testing. I would recommend the following:

Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR)

- ▶ This test involves setting up a grid on which a GPR machine is passed over the grid pattern at approximately a 4 inch interval. The machine scans the thickness of the material and indicates what objects are contained in that area at that location and what depth the object is located.
- ▶ This test will confirm the structural integrity of the slabs and confirm whether or not there is reinforcing steel in the concrete, the size of the steel, and mesh pattern.
- ▶ Walls could also be tested in the basement area, allowing for visualization of the foundation's footing and its condition and size.

Moisture testing

- ▶ This test involves placing the probes of a moisture meter against the various surfaces to determine moisture content and recording this information by location and material.
- ▶ This would confirm the moisture content of masonry and wood roofing numbers.

Efflorescence Analysis/Mortar Scrapes

- ▶ This test involves scraping the white efflorescence off the wall and then testing the scrapings using various test strips which will indicate the type of salts moving through the masonry units.
- ▶ This would determine what salts are moving through the masonry units (brick and stone) and how this movement is affecting the masonry materials.

Interior Survey

- ▶ This test involves setting up a grid system on each of the floors and establishing a benchmark. Marks or datum points would be located on the walls and used to indicate deflection in the floor based on the predetermined benchmark.
- ▶ This test would allow measurement and calculation of any deflection in the floor system, providing a numerical value of how much movement there is in the floor.

Scoping

- ▶ This test involves inserting a baroscope into openings in the building components. This would allow a visual inspection of the area without damaging the structural components.
- ▶ This would allow the inspection team to see inside cavities to determine what is happening in the system.

Once there is an understanding of the building, then one can move forward with exploring options to keep it off the landfill and in service. The community has stated on many occasions that it is willing to cost-share or pay entirely for a complete inspection to take place.

In addition to heritage valuation, responsible planning should include a full cost accounting of the environmental impacts of demolition and new construction, including a statement on the percentage of material that will be taken to the landfill. A 2012 U.S. study found that no matter how energy efficient a new building is, it can take up to 80 years to overcome the energy expenditure and carbon footprint created by demolition and new construction.

City planners around the world have come to accept that the careful rehabilitation and reuse of existing building stock is key to creating sustainable, livable cities. The Regina Public School Board has a sustainability policy that recognizes the impact of decision-making on the environment. The policy states the board strives for effective environmental practices and innovation, and promises to work toward these aims “in collaboration with parents and the community.” Therefore, the policy groundwork is present for working with the City in the spirit of joint stewardship of our shared environment. Municipal Heritage Designation will provide the needed incentive for this to occur.

DE14-60

**Ecole Connaught School Community School:
An Opportunity for Our City**



Submission to Mayor and Council
City of Regina
by

Patricia Elliott
June 23, 2014

I am a Cathedral Area resident and the parent of a child who attended Connaught for all his elementary years. He is pictured in the self-portrait above, looking very proud of his century-old school. Student pride is important to learning, and he had good reason for it. When I was chair of the school's centennial committee, I came to fully appreciate the school's role in Regina's history and its value to our neighbourhood – and beyond – as a nationally recognized landmark historic school. I also came to realize it was something very precious and unique that could not be replaced once gone.

I am the one who submitted a Heritage Designation application. I had initially requested the school be added to the Heritage Holding Bylaw list, which allows for a sober second thought concerning demolition. Having attended many of the consultation meetings, where community members repeatedly demanded attention be paid to heritage value, it seemed an opportunity for second thoughts was in order.

Just before the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee was to meet in June, I was told that nothing less than a full-on Municipal Heritage Designation could be considered. As these were the conditions given, I agreed to play by them and subsequently submitted an official application for designation.

The nomination package includes the full history of this school, its significance to Regina, defining character elements, as well as a description of the surrounding grounds and how the community uses them as open space. There are many documents in the package, including a statement of significance from a heritage consultant, archival photographs, various engineering assessments, an assessment from a building conservator,

correspondence from Heritage Canada and so on. The total package contains just about anything you would need to know about the school before discussing it, and can be accessed at:

https://saveourconnaught.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/compressed_municipal-designation-package.pdf

I would also invite you to visit <http://saveourconnaught.ca/historic-schools/> for access to documents of interest to city planners, including tools for assessing the heritage value of schools, models for working with school boards and other governmental levels, and information on the environmental, economic and social impacts of heritage school demolition and replacement.

If you would like more background reading specific to Connaught, numerous other relevant documents are posted at: <http://saveourconnaught.ca/important-docs/>. I also invite you to visit the 'History' tab at www.connaught100.com to get a sense of what the school has meant to Regina, and why its retention has come to be a high-profile civic concern.

Your City Planning Department has also provided a background paper on Connaught. This document notes the following:

1. There are no financial implications connected to designation.
2. Connaught has heritage value for both its connection to Regina history and its architectural style.
3. Rehabilitation of existing buildings is more environmentally sound than new construction.
4. Stakeholder groups contacted support its designation. *(In addition to local stakeholder groups, Heritage Canada provided a statement of support. Attached.)*

Further, the Planning Department states very clearly that our new Official Community Plan, Design Regina, directs this Council to “encourage owners to protect historic places” and “to protect conserve and maintain historic places and to leverage and expand funding, financial support and other means of support to encourage the conservation of historic places.” A historic place is defined as a place named in the OCP. Connaught is in fact so named in the OCP as having “significant heritage value.”

Therefore, the case for the school itself is open and shut. Under the City of Regina’s policy, the school is a recognized historic place that should receive the benefit of protection for today’s citizens and future generations. This is the recommendation put forward by your advisory committee, which has reviewed all the information carefully.

The additional piece of the OCP is encouragement to owners, which so far has not been put forward by the City. This has left citizens to make the effort on their own.

For two years, there has been a sustained and widespread call from citizens to explore alternatives to the destruction of what is a nationally-recognized heritage asset. This included an online petition of 1,800 signatories, an on-paper petition of just over 1,500, an open letter signed by over 300 people and some 700 postcards and letters recently delivered to the ministers of Culture and Education.

A desire to seek the expertise of conservation experts has been the centre-piece of these communications, and has been the number one theme emerging from public consultation meetings. The Council for Educational Facilities Planners International (CEFPI) notes that when renovation estimates are prepared for historic buildings without the involvement of specialized conservators and full structural testing, the costs usually end up unnecessarily inflated beyond the cost of a new build. CEFPI adds, “The idea that newer and bigger is better often sways school boards and facilities committees, particularly when a consultant or architect—who may stand to benefit more from new construction—tells the board that renovation is the more costly option.”¹

This is a key roadblock in the case of Connaught. It has been said the Ministry of Education will not fund a renovation. However, when I and others met with Ministry officials, they said this was not their position and was not what they had communicated to the school board. This is corroborated by a review of Ministry and board correspondence, which shows the School Board seeking but not gaining a statement to this effect. The Ministry only communicated that they would fund the most economical option, as stated in the attached letter. From this arises the public’s ongoing call for a more thorough renovation investigation by heritage specialists, to reduce the unknown factors that may have inflated estimates to date, and underestimated rehabilitative potential.

CEFPI highlights why informed assessment and valuation of historic schools is so important to decision-making:

Older and historic schools...were built during an era of high quality construction and significant community pride in education, and those that have survived to the present are important community institutions that sustain the neighbourhoods they serve. They provide cultural continuity, linking generations together through a common education experiences that pays benefits over time to the community and its school system. Many older schools...provide small, personal educational settings

¹ See

[http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/5753/Local Governments and Schools A CommunityOriented Approach](http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/5753/Local_Governments_and_Schools_A_CommunityOriented_Approach)

– reflecting a style of education that has only recently been rediscovered by teachers, parents and community leaders. To abandon or demolish such property without a thorough and creative look at their potential to continue to support 21st Century educational programs is a waste of valuable community assets.²

Public understanding of the value of this asset is high, and remains important to school community members. Indeed, even after being informed Regina Public Schools did not intend to continue operating Connaught past 2015, interest in rehabilitating Connaught as a historic school remained strong. A March 2014 community survey that captured approximately 17 per cent of families with children at Connaught, as well as general residents, found:

- **School and neighbourhood heritage are highly valued.** Items considered ‘important’ or ‘very important’ included school history and heritage (86.1 % of parents; 83.9 % of all respondents;) and neighbourhood heritage (89.4 % of parents/caregivers; 86.6% of all respondents).
- **Respondents think a school in the neighbourhood is important, but most do not think a new school is important.** Parents and community members alike feel it is more important to renew the current school. Among parents, this included 80% who ranked pursuing a renovation option as ‘very important’ or ‘important,’ compared to just 3% who said it was ‘not important.’³

These sentiments are further illustrated by the online comments received in the past 48 hours, also attached. Asked why heritage designation is important, some of the responses were:

“Because it is my school, to start. Even if they close it, it’s a beautiful building and should be a heritage building...I might be younger, but I still have an opinion, and frankly so do many more, and they are all saying, make it a heritage building.” – Genevieve.

“I attended Connaught from Kindergarten to Grade 8 in the French Immersion Program....heritage buildings help to create a sense of place among people, allowing the community to be a vibrant and positive place to live. Please don't destroy a pillar in our sense of belonging; it's something that can take generations to create.” – Madeline.

² See <http://ncptt.nps.gov/blog/cefpi-a-primer-for-the-renovation-rehabilitation-of-older-and-historic-schools-2004-16/>

³ (see <http://saveourconnaught.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/community-survey-report-as-of-march-22.pdf>)

“My son is a Connaught student and this is our community! We take pride in our community!” – Debbie.

“I rarely sign petitions; however, as an avid Regina lover, I am surprised when I see key buildings disappear. They act as a significant visual diary for our city, and as a foundation for strong communities.” – Celia.

“Because municipal governments and school divisions should work together to serve their communities.” – Anna

I urge you to read all the comments. Some are familiar names of people who have spoken on this issue, but the majority are not. It is hard for parents, residents, students and alumni to find time to speak before Council meetings and write letters; these words are their voice. In its *Appraisal Guide for Older, Historic Public Facilities*, the Council for Educational Facility Planners International (CEPFI) states: “Understanding the community served by the school is critical to facility planning. This is particularly true for older and historic schools, which are often intimately connected to their neighbourhood and reflect community pride and aspirations.”⁴

Through all of this, Regina Public Schools (Regina Board of Education) has remained remarkably incurious about alternatives to demolition and replacement, and indeed has pulled out several stops to leave the community bereft of options other than Regina Public’s preferred outcome from the beginning: namely, to replace a historic school with a new open-concept plan school that is an unlikely fit for the neighbourhood and for the children who attend Connaught. Added to this is an apparent blind spot toward the ecological, social and economic costs of neglecting and demolishing school buildings on a regular basis, perhaps because we lack civic policies that require such costs to be measured.

We do have Municipal Heritage Designation, however, to help achieve better management of our cultural assets and shared urban environment. This is why citizens, stakeholder groups and the City’s own advisory committee are seeking designation for École Connaught Community School.

We aren’t surprised to see Regina Public Schools as the lone stakeholder opposing designation. The City Planning Department has noted that there have been some precedents for proceeding without owner consent. I am aware of at least one such case involving a school designation, in Morse, Saskatchewan.

Morse School was also built in 1912 and, like Connaught, was the last of its kind. Citizens were rightly alarmed when the school board announced its demolition. The first Notice of

⁴ See ncptt.nps.gov/blog/cefpi-a-primer-for-the-renovation-rehabilitation-of-older-and-historic-schools-2004-16/

Intention to designate a Municipal Heritage Property under the Heritage Property Act was issued by the Town of Morse on the school board, headquartered in Herbert. The board objected. Then a Saskatchewan Heritage Property Review Board hearing was held, which supported the Town's action. Morse School was designated April 7, 1981. Under this encouragement, restoration grants were obtained to support an integrated museum and school.

On February 3, 2009, the Canadian Museum Association awarded Morse Museum and Cultural Centre and Morse School a Museums and Schools Partnership Award for "excellence in collaboration between Canadian Museums and Schools in developing educational programming which enhances and expands students' knowledge and appreciation of Canada's cultural and natural heritage." The CMA noted, "Its integration as well as its long term vision make this project an excellent example of the kind of unique learning opportunity that museums and schools can create by working together."⁵ Keep in mind that this unique learning opportunity and national recognition would never have occurred were it not for the Town designating the school over the objections of the school board.

There is no reason to believe that the City could not successfully promote similar outcomes through its ability to designate property and to order inspections that would reveal the rehabilitative potential of Connaught School. The preferred option, however, would be to provide appropriate encouragement to take this path voluntarily. Education about the benefits of rehabilitation is needed, as other cities have learned to approach aging school facilities in a more sensitive manner.

It has been said the City of Regina must stand back from school board decision-making. The drawbacks of this abdication are noted in the manual *Local Governments and Schools: A Community-Oriented Approach*:

A recent review of school facility planning research concluded that "there appears to be uniform agreement [among researchers] that local governments are not doing a good job of planning for schools, having abdicated that responsibility to school districts over the last several decades, and there exists a substantial disconnect between school boards and local governments in their facilities and infrastructure planning, respectively." This disconnect has critical implications for communities, particularly those that are struggling to manage growth and its impact on the economy, environment, social equity, and quality of life.

⁵ See <http://www.tourismsaskatchewan.com/whats-happening/sasksecrets-newsletter/march-2009-home/morse-museum-and-school>

Indeed, the idea of decision-making relegated to silos has been abandoned in many other cities, as we move toward a world of integrated planning that includes all levels of government as well as the public. Connaught represents an opportunity to step out of the silos and begin planning our city in new, more inclusive, creative, sustainable ways.

It seems to me one of the problems is that the public is ahead of the School Board on new thinking around heritage valuation, and it is going to take some time for policy to catch up. However, re-imagining Connaught School as a heritage retention project is possible in the time available between planning and re-opening the school. This is a good opportunity to catch up quickly, with heritage designation as the factor to spur action.

The City an opportunity for progress, as well. When City administrators told School Board administrators that the City was only interested in a land swap if the school site was cleared, as was reported at the last school board meeting, this pre-empted any public discussion about adaptive reuse. It also unfortunately revealed where the City's heart is when it comes to preserving the character of our neighbourhoods, and how far behind Regina is in understanding and accommodating heritage value and encouraging sustainable practices.

However, I believe the will is there to do better. This sentiment is reflected in the OCP. What remains is to start transferring good intentions into practice. École Connaught Community School offers your most high-profile opportunity to turn the corner on a long history of unsustainable planning and cultural loss. If the School Board, City, and community were to work together to turn Connaught into a major heritage retention project, we would, like the Town of Morse, gain truly outstanding results for students and community. This will mean discovering ways to work in a more integrated fashion among School Board, City, Province and stakeholder groups. If this Council wants to set the bar nationally for creating a smart-growth, creative city, please start by giving École Connaught Community School the Municipal Heritage Designation it has earned. It will take courage and long hours of meetings ahead, but you will not regret it.

HERITAGE CANADA
NATIONAL TRUST



HÉRITAGE CANADA
FIDUCIE NATIONALE

*Patron: His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada*

*Président d'honneur : Son Excellence le très honorable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Gouverneur général du Canada*

June 5, 2014

Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
City of Regina
2476 Victoria Avenue,
P.O. Box 1790
Regina, SK S4P 3C8

Subject: Connaught School, Regina -- Municipal Heritage Designation

I am writing on behalf of the board and staff of Heritage Canada The National Trust (HCNT) to express our support for the Municipal Heritage Designation of Regina's historic Connaught School.

Built in 1912, Connaught School is the city's oldest school building and only remaining public school from the pre-World War I period. Designed by prominent prairie architect J.H. Putnam, the two-storey brick classically-inspired building served as a prototype for other city schools. The building's general massing and character remain intact, as do many of its character-defining elements. The later gymnasium is the work of nationally renowned architect Clifford Wiens.

The school is also an important landmark situated on a signature corner of Regina's high profile heritage corridor.

In addition, Connaught School is the birthplace of Saskatchewan's community schools movement and was a pioneer in dual English-French education. For many years it was Canada's only dual-track community school.

Concerned for the future of this important Canadian landmark, HCNT named Connaught School to the Top Ten Endangered Places in Canada list in 2012.

Based on the report of a highly qualified heritage building conservator, the school is a good candidate for rehabilitation and renovation.

It is without hesitation that we therefore encourage you to bestow a Municipal Heritage Designation on this important heritage landmark.

We've changed our name and renewed our vision!

Nous avons changé notre nom et renouvelé notre vision!

HCNT is a national, not for profit and non-governmental organization established in 1973 leads action to save historic places, and promotes the care and wise use of our historic environment and inspires Canadians to identify, conserve, use, celebrate and value their heritage buildings for future generations.

Sincerely,



Natalie Bull
Executive Director

We've changed our name and renewed our vision!

Nous avons changé notre nom et renouvelé notre vision!



November 9, 2012

Ms. Debra Burnett, Chief Financial Officer
Regina SD No. 4
1600- 4th Avenue
REGINA SK S4R 8C8

Dear Ms. Burnett:

Re: Connaught Community School

This letter is further to my meeting with Ron Christie and the school division's architect James Youck on Friday, November 2, 2012 regarding the proposed project at Connaught Community School.

With regard to the Connaught Community School project the Ministry of Education will support the most economically viable long term solution that is equitable and ensures the provision of sustainable educational programming and infrastructure in the neighbourhood.

I trust this information will assist the school division in its deliberations with regard to the future of the Connaught Community School. The ministry looks forward to working with the school division on this exciting project in the future.

Sincerely,

Daryl Richter
Manager of Capital Projects
Corporate Services Branch, Infrastructure Unit

cc: Julie MacRae, Director of Education, Regina SD No. 4
Boris Okrainetz, A/Southern Regional Director, Ministry of Education

bee: Wikulsky/Project File/Chron

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Jane Anweiler	Regina, Equatorial Guinea	2014-06-17	This is a beautiful old building and if not repaired and used as a school (which I still hope will happen) it could be repurposed and remain an asset to our city and community. I really hope that you will designate it as a Municipal Heritage building. You have my strong support to do so.
Patricia Elliott	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	I want to live in a city that respects our built environment, and has the courage to stand up for it. I want my child to attend a school system that understands true sustainability.
Shelton Livingstone	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Keeping Regina's cultural background is the most important priority we should have right now. Tearing down such a beautiful building will not help the spirit of many people who love every part of it.
Frank Korvemaker	Regina, Sask., Canada	2014-06-17	Schools have played an important role in the education of past generations, but also in the appreciation of the varied architecture of Regina., It is important to preserve and reuse these highly visible components of our city.
Florence Stratton	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Historic buildings are of immense value to a neighbourhood and city. Moose Jaw has restored and renovated its historic schools. Connaught too can be successfully refurbished to provide an inspirational learning environment for many more generations of Regina children.
Maureen Eckstein	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Our heritage is a very important part of life so why would we destroy it!
Judith McLennan	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	It is part of our heritage and community. Connaught will be replaced by a MEGA school
Dirck de Lint	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Our city has a terrible habit of forgetting its past, and buildings representative of that past are few. That this particular building is also functional and located in a vibrant community makes it important to save it rather than replace it with some modern construction built to support an educational method which is starting to look counterproductive.
Judith McKenzie	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Three generations of my family went to Connaught School - my daughter, two of my granddaughters, my grandson and now my great granddaughter
jennifer krall	regina, Canada	2014-06-17	remembering and honouring our history is an important part of who we are
Marni Aubichon	regina, Canada	2014-06-17	my granddaughter attends this school and relocating to another area for 3 years makes no sense - fix the current building - we have let way too many of our old building be torn down in this city
Jillian McLennan	North Vancouver, Canada	2014-06-17	Connaught is a central part of the Cathedral Community identity as well as the history of Regina.
Robin Adeney	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Buildings remind us of our identity, create a sense of place and community. Connaught School should be preserved.
Sylvie Roy	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	I believe we should keep old buildings as part of our heritage. There are so few old buildings in Regina that we should work at keeping the ones we have.
Celia Overend	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	I rarely sign petitions; however, as an avid Regina lover, I am surprised when I see key buildings disappear. They act as a significant visual diary for our city, and as a foundation for strong communities. There are fewer and fewer historical buildings in our city, so we must act sooner rather than later in order to preserve our visual and structural past.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Lauren Fournier	Toronto, Canada	2014-06-17	I was born and raised in Regina, SK and am currently living out of province for school. Connaught Community School is one of the few remaining architectural treasures of pre-modern Regina, and I very much hope that it is warranted Heritage Designation and thus protected. Thank you!
Kathleen McLeod	Edmonton AB, Canada	2014-06-17	A community resource that has served education well with no need to destroy a heritage building.
Christine Heenan	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	As a resident of the cathedral area I feel that Connaught is an essential part of the neighborhood.
Brenda Niskala	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Connaught School, paired with the library, is the anchor for our neighbourhood. I always knew my children were safe when they were near Connaught. They are the kind of stately buildings that make this part of the city special.
Genevieve Peris	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Because it's my school to start. Even if they close it, it's a beautiful building and should be a heritage building. I bet they don't even plan on building a new school! They want to use the land for the new stadium probably! Or maybe even those new condos... My point being, I might be younger, but I still have an opinion, and frankly so do many more, and they are all saying, make it a heritage building. That's why it's important to me.
Colleen Peris	Regina, Canada	2014-06-17	Because the greed of a handful of people should not supersede the will of an entire community. Tearing down Connaught School is not only wrong, it is unconscionable. There are so many other viable alternatives to destroying this historic landmark, it is only a matter of will and it can be done.
Suzanne Smart	Regina,, Canada	2014-06-17	This historic building can never be replaced. We need to respect our cultural heritage and the environment by keeping unnecessary waste out of the landfill.
Catherine Gibson	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	Without Heritage, we are nothing
June Botkin	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	This is the oldest school left in the city. The designation and council support helps meet the values expressed and passed by city council in the new community plan. It's time the city walked their talk!
Jacqueline Campbell	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	Heritage
Kathleen Irwin	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	It is an historic landmark worthy of saving. The option of a new building will not conform to the architectural integrity of the neighbourhood.
Ingrid Alesich	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	It is important to keep the main structure of the school while upgrading the internal infrastructure and making it energy efficient, light and bright, accessible and making the grounds a place of beauty and fun for the children and teachers.
Sherie Crepeele	Brandon, Canada	2014-06-18	To keep the heart of the community alive and cared for.
Kathryn Hamre	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	This building has historical significance for the City of Regina and more should be done to ensure its preservation.
Madeleine Black	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	I attended Connaught from kindergarten to grade eight in the French immersion program. I also lived and worked in the Cathedral area for many years afterwards and believe that heritage buildings help to create a sense of place among people, allowing the community to be a vibrant and positive place to live. Please don't destroy a pillar in our sense of belonging, it's something that can take generations to create.
Rene Dumont	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	This is important because I feel that this is the most significant heritage building in this community!
Leslie Charlton	Regina, Canada	2014-06-18	History is important for a city to be great.
arnold mckenzie	Regina, Canada	2014-06-19	Both my daughters attended this school and my wife Sandi helped initiate the school lunch program.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Deborah Karpa	Regina, Canada	2014-06-19	So our city has some character with old buildings maintained and restored. The Cathedral is noted for its old character buildings, why would we tear it down? Building new always costs more than fixing old?
Taylor Obarianyik	Regina, Canada	2014-06-19	Grew up in cathedral and it would be heart breaking to lose such an important piece of heritage in the community.
Sarah Wells	regina,, Canada	2014-06-19	The city needs to preserve tradition and heritage.
Mirtha Rivera	Regina, Canada	2014-06-19	Because our kids need their school to stay where it is and they don't need to be going somewhere else.
Anna Baker	Regina, Canada	2014-06-19	Because municipal governments and school divisions should work together to serve their communities.
Tiffany McHugh	Regina, Canada	2014-06-19	It is the least wasteful, least disruptive option. The school means a lot to many people.
Debbie Bradford	Regina, Canada	2014-06-19	My son is a Connaught student and this is our community! We take pride in our community!
Marcel Hunt	Regina, Canada	2014-06-19	Heratige, people... c'mon!
Greg Patterson	Thunder Bay, Canada	2014-06-19	How is it not?
Marianna Brown	Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada	2014-06-19	This building is recognized as one of the ten such buildings in all of Canada

Presentation to City Council
on Connaught School Heritage Status

Submitted by Amy Petrovitch

I am a Cathedral Area resident with two children who attend Ecole Connaught Community School. The Cathedral Area is a well-known and enviable community that values our heritage buildings which are a part of our culture, and we have the right to be able to retain them. The school has been the corner stone of our community for over one hundred years and deserves to be treated with more respect than it's been given of late.

When the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee recommended Municipal Heritage Status for Connaught, my eyes filled with tears of joy. For the first time, an official body actually listened and asked thoughtful questions. The members understood our community's desire for heritage retention, rather than dismissing the idea with contempt and disbelief. They understood that our children do in fact enjoy and benefit from learning in a historic setting. They made a well thought-out recommendation based on their knowledge of heritage conservation and its importance to our city and young people.

As chair of the École Connaught School Community Council, I have attended several community input sessions. In April and May 2012, the school board held three meetings for school community members, including parents, teachers, students and area residents. During the first meeting, it was made clear the board's consultant and administrators favoured demolishing our historic school, which had just celebrated its 100th anniversary, to replace it with a new open-concept school. The overwhelming response of the people who filled the gym that evening was: respect our heritage, take better care of our building, and pursue rehabilitation, renovation and retrofitting for the future.

Although we had never before been told there were major problems with the building, suddenly we were told our school was at the end of its life and was not a good candidate for renovation. When someone asked if we could have a second opinion on the building's condition, the answer was, "No." The answer has been "No" ever since.

I imagine how differently these meetings might have gone if Connaught had official recognition as a heritage building. If Connaught were a designated property, renovation would be the first option to be explored, and it would be done properly.

The consultant's final report noted that the number one design consideration emerging from three public meetings was "a strong desire to retain some or all of the Connaught School building." Yet, after a long silence, in February 2013 the board suddenly brought forward and passed a recommendation to pursue funding for all-new construction instead of a renovation, stating renovation would be too costly. A major factor in the cost was lack of reliable information about the building's structure, which meant very high contingency costs.

Despite this setback, support for our heritage school has remained very strong in the community. During these events, we celebrated a 100th Anniversary and received two Municipal Heritage Awards. Being part of a historic school was a wonderful opportunity for students to study Regina's history and connect with older generations who had attended the school in decades past. This continuity is important, and can't be duplicated in any other setting. I cannot imagine graduates from the 1930s and 40s would care to visit students in a new glass and steel building they feel no connection to.

Parents and community members also spent time conducting research, touring historic schools in other cities, and meeting with conservation experts. What we learned filled us with hope for our school. We saw with our own eyes what was possible. We heard how much students and teachers appreciate their beautiful restored historic schools.

In June 2013, the School Community Council asked the school board to pursue heritage designation, opening a door to grants, specialised knowledge and funding partnerships. We felt heritage designation would be a much-needed help for equally addressing the needs of the board, families and community. After the idea was turned down, 319 people signed an open letter in protest, showing heritage designation was a concept that many thought was worth pursuing. I'm happy the Heritage Advisory Committee has taken up that idea on behalf of residents.

The new school designs we've been shown as the ideal model do not fit our neighbourhood, nor have they been proven to provide better outcomes for students. In February 2014, some 200 school community members attended a meeting in the Connaught gym, where once again the board heard loud and clear that our school's heritage was important, and that people wanted a second or even third opinion from people who specialize in rehabilitating older buildings. Since then, we've been told the school must close immediately, putting families into a panic that could have been avoided with some timely, relatively inexpensive repairs (estimated at \$67,000). It is a strong testament that community members quickly raised \$9,000 to help offset the cost of repairs, although their offer was turned down.

This is the strength of our school community. If you vote to give Connaught the support it needs tonight, citizens will come forward to ensure a positive outcome for all. My children have gained immeasurably from attending a historic school that gives them a sense of pride and place. They have studied in a school that fits their neighbourhood and has educated children for over 100 years. One of those whom is their grandfather. I hope future generations have the same opportunity.

Amy Petrovitch

Heritage Regina
P.O. Box 581
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3A3

June 19, 2014

Your Worship and members of Regina City Council:

Heritage Regina supports the designation of Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School as a Municipal Heritage Property for four reasons.

Connaught is the oldest school in Regina still being used for its original purpose.

Construction of Connaught began in 1912, and this 17-classroom school opened its doors just in time for the September 1913 school year. School concerts and gym classes were held in Connaught's upper hallway until the 1958 addition of a distinctive round gymnasium designed by Regina architect Clifford Wiens.

Some might argue that the original portion of Sacred Heart Academy (3225-13th Avenue), a Roman Catholic residential girls' school, is older: it was built in 1910. But Sacred Heart Academy was converted into condominium apartments in 1990.

Holy Rosary School (3118-14th Avenue), constructed in 1914, is the only other elementary school built before World War I that is still operating as an elementary school in Regina 100 years later.

Connaught School also occupies a special place in the history of education in Regina.

In 1976 Connaught introduced a French Immersion stream, and in 1980 the surrounding community helped pilot a community schools program, making it the first and for many years the only dual track (French-English) community school in Canada.

Reginans who live in the Cathedral Neighbourhood have demonstrated on many occasions that Connaught Community School holds great value for them. Their care of the school grounds, their careful documentation of the school's history, their celebration of significant anniversaries over the years (including

their installation of a brass plaque to mark the school's centennial), and alumni donations of historical artifacts and photographs are all proof of this. And at public meetings they have demonstrated a preference for considering heritage value in making planning decisions.

All of this not only reflects an appreciation of Connaught School's aesthetic contribution to the Cathedral Neighbourhood, but its role in sustaining intergenerational linkages and a sense of continuous history in one of Regina's oldest neighbourhoods.

It is worth noting here that in 2013 city council acknowledged the heritage value of Connaught School and its importance to the community (and Regina) when it awarded the George Bothwell Heritage Award for Public Service to the Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School Centennial Committee.

Connaught School is part of the substantial body of work of James H. Puntin, a prominent Regina architect during the first three decades of the 20th century.

Born in Great Britain in 1878, Puntin emigrated to Canada in 1904 and settled in Winnipeg where he became general manager of the Winnipeg office of a Toronto architectural firm, Darling and Pearson. Puntin moved to Regina in 1906 and found employment with the provincial Department of Public Works, overseeing the construction of the new Legislative Building which Montreal architects Edward and William Sutherland Maxwell had designed. In 1912 Puntin went into private practice. One of his first projects was to design a new building for the Young Women's' Christian Association opposite Victoria Park in downtown Regina; another was Connaught School.

In 1929 Puntin formed a partnership with Col. F.J. O'Leary, and the following year they invited Charles Coxall to join their firm. But there was little work for architects during the Great Depression and the firm was eventually dissolved. Puntin continued to practice on his own until 1943, when he retired and moved to British Columbia.

The largest part of James H. Puntin's body of work in Regina are the elementary and high schools he designed for the Regina Public and Catholic School Boards. In all, he designed 7 elementary schools: Benson, Connaught, Haultain, Kitchener, Lakeview, Saint Augustine and Wetmore.

More modest, but significant nonetheless, are the high schools Puntin designed. Five new private and public high schools were constructed in Regina after World War I: Champion College (1921), Scott Collegiate (1924), Luther College (1925), Sacred Heart College (1926) and Balfour Collegiate (1930).

James H. Puntin designed Campion College, Luther College, Sacred Heart College and an addition to Sacred Heart Academy. (Edgar M. Story and W.G. Van Egmond designed Scott Collegiate, and W.G. Van Egmond and Stanley Story designed Balfour Collegiate.)

Another of Puntin's clients was Regina College, for whom he designed a women's dormitory and tower (1914), a gymnasium (1925), and the Music and Art Building--Darke Hall-- (1928).

During his career in Regina James H. Puntin also designed the Albert Memorial Bridge (1930) and a new City Police Station (1931).

In assessing James H. Puntin's body of work in Regina, his biographer in the *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada* states that "... it was his assured designs for major additions to Regina College (1924) and the new complex for Luther College (1925) which demonstrated his ability to use Collegiate Gothic forms in a distinctive manner."

But Heritage Regina would argue that Connaught School is worthy of praise and recognition too, as the earliest example of James H. Puntin's skill as an architect.

Connaught School also occupies a special place in the history of the "West End" (now the Cathedral Neighborhood).

A city's built heritage can bring a sense of place to its communities and neighbourhoods. Historic buildings, by their layout, form and construction materials, give an important sense of place and identity to the Cathedral Neighbourhood. Along 13th Avenue alone one still finds such landmarks as Westminster Presbyterian Church, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Sacred Heart Academy, the Connaught Library and Connaught School.

Those who call the Cathedral Neighbourhood home have shown a keen interest in preserving and celebrating its heritage character. By my count, 11 buildings in the Cathedral Neighbourhood have been designated as Municipal Heritage Properties, and another 42 are currently on the Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw list.

Heritage Regina is of the opinion that Connaught School is the cornerstone of the historic Cathedral neighbourhood, and would urge you to protect and preserve this elegant building which James H. Puntin designed more than a century ago.

The Official Community Plan which City Council initiated and has now adopted recognizes that "Many neighbourhoods have long histories and are home to important cultural heritage resources...rich architecture and historic

places....” And it pledges “Regina will continue to conserve, protect and support its cultural resources, historic places, civic identity and intercultural dialogue as important civic elements....” (*Design Regina Official Community Plan*, p. 49)

For all of these reasons Heritage Regina would urge you to accept the recommendation of your Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and designate Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School as a Municipal Heritage Property.

J. William Brennan, President
Heritage Regina

June 19, 2014

City Council: June 23, 2014 **Heritage Status for Connaught School** Jeannie Mah

When Connaught School was built in 1912 during Regina's boom years, it was in great company, along with the Legislative Building, Westminster United Church, and the Carnegie Library. Holy Rosary Cathedral would open a year later. All were built of quality materials, solidly constructed, and built to last.

This handsome well-proportioned school, designed by Provincial Architect Puntin, was well thought-out, with a rational floor plan which children could understand. Its north-south alignment allows for natural light to enter, but avoids the glare of southern light in classrooms. The corridors and stairwells are still generous and beautiful, built with materials that are nice to touch.

Having stood for 102 years, recognized by Heritage Canada as an Endangered building, and having won 2 City of Regina Municipal Heritage Awards in 2012, and included in the City of Regina's own Self-guided Walking Tours of Historic neighbourhoods, it is evident that Connaught School is of Heritage value.

The P3A consultations reported that " **the community consultation process revealed a very strong desire to retain the existing Connaught School building**", a fact ignored by the School Board. A community cheque for \$9,000 offered to the School Board for repairs to Connaught was not accepted or acknowledged.

We fear that due diligence has not been done. Visual inspection is not enough. We have offered to pay for scientific testing of the building, but the Regina Public School Board refused to allow a heritage conservation team into the school for an in-depth 6 hour inspection to perform series of physical tests.

Sadly, it seems that Haultain, another solid and beautiful Puntin-designed school, is about to be sold, and, I fear, demolished. It is equally frustrating that Athabasca School was sold for just over \$2 million dollars (during a population boom!), while any new school will cost \$20 million. None of this makes economic sense, and appears to demonstrate poor stewardship of public resources.

During the **Walk to Work** consultations, we discussed the need to create iconic

gateways, to announce specific neighborhoods. Connaught School and Connaught Library are two iconic brick buildings which announce the entrance to Cathedral Neighbourhood. They are functional, useful and beautiful; because of their longevity (in Canadian standards), the buildings connect many generations to our culture and our geography, because these buildings are saturated with our memories and our personal history.

Architecture connects us to place, and our lived memories deepen our sense of security, identity, and love of place. Connaught School and Connaught Library are a perfect intellectual fit: built on a human scale, and visually pleasing - the school and library are the intellectual and cultural hub of this neighbourhood, for children and adults alike.

Neighbourhood schools are the anchor for a community. Playgrounds are used by all ages, where a community can grow up and grow old together. Cathedral is now one of the most desired neighbourhoods in Canada because it is a complete neighbourhood: we can walk, cycle, use public transport, and we have all needed services - library, art gallery, cultural centre, shops, and - a school.

The children who now walk to Connaught will be bused to Wascana School, reported to have been at the end of its life in 2013. Its foundation is in worse condition than Connaught, where the engineer states that "a column has already failed" and "there still risk for similar events to occur..." While the School Board refuses to spend the \$67,000 to make Connaught safe for another year, it willingly spends over 1 million dollars to repair Wascana, while children are still going to school! Connaught children will go to a school which is much more dangerous than the one they are now in.

With every school closure, Regina Public School Board disrupts city design and planning. This should concern the City of Regina. It would be sensible for the City and the School Board to work together to build a well-functioning city. It is hypocritical for the City to discuss walkable communities if schools in established neighbourhoods are gone.

Please astound all Regina citizens, if not all of Canada, by accepting the advice of your own Heritage Advisory committee, and grant Heritage Status to Connaught School. We should restore, re-use, revitalize and densify - this is cheapest route to economic sustainability: the greenest building is the one we have: culturally, historically, and ecologically, the way forward to real sustainability. Please respect Regina's own history!

June 19, 2014

To: His Worship Mayor Fougere
And Members of City Council

My name is Leslie Charlton and I have owned and operated a retail store on 13th Avenue in Cathedral since 2004. I have been a board member of the Cathedral Village Business Association for the past 8 years. I currently have a son, daughter and nephew attending Ecole Connaught.

History weaves an interesting web in any neighbourhood, and I am proud to be a part of the Cathedral story. My great-grandparents lived on Cameron Street through the depression in a house that still stands and is now owned by a family with two current Connaught students. Five of my grandma's siblings attended Connaught School and family record books tell me that our history of commercial enterprise began in Cathedral during the Depression; my great-grandma raised chickens in the backyard of her home and her two young sons Bennett and Cecil would sell them door-to-door. I guess being a Cathedral retailer is in my genes.

This is typical of the many fascinating stories that abound in this old neighbourhood. The beauty and narrative of an historic area draws people from far and wide and continues to inspire those who live and work in that area to have pride of place. I was lucky enough to purchase my shop property on 13th Avenue after three years of renting a space on the 3100 block, just down the street. My newly purchased property had been a somewhat neglected little rental house for many years, so I went through the process of rezoning to **Direct Control District 10** and renovated the 50-year-old building to upgrade the plumbing, make it wheelchair accessible and added 400 square feet. Because it was very important to me to retain the historic aesthetic of the building, I hired architect Len Pauls from PSW Architecture to design my interior and storefront. Mr. Pauls had done many period renovations, including work on the Saskatchewan Legislative Building. He followed my wishes to retain the historic character of the building including adding a flared foundation effect typical in many Cathedral

1920's homes, incorporating exterior finishes similar to those used on other older Cathedral buildings, keeping the original pitch of the roof and adding arched ceilings in the interior.

Obviously, I am a firm believer in maintaining older buildings whenever possible. Old, but new again. History preserved. It's possible even for a nobody like me with very limited funds.

Cathedral, as a business area, depends on this historic charm to draw customers. It is what makes us stand out and one of the main reasons why we keep getting better. Tourism Saskatchewan includes it along with Saskatoon's Broadway Area as a prime visitor destination. Cathedral has been featured prominently in publications such as *Wish Magazine*, *Chatelaine Magazine*, *The Saskatchewan Book of Musts*, and *Western Living Magazine*, which states "Regina is bouncing with prosperity and an influx of vibrant residents who are breathing new life into a classic neighbourhood". The Cathedral Village Business Association recently took part in a collaborative art project for the Cathedral Village Arts Festival to celebrate over a century of business in our area. It was the kick-off to a longer-term project of collecting the stories of all the businesses that have operated through the decades in our village. History is important and it is disturbing that the beautiful, majestic, publicly-owned Connaught School building was not allowed to receive a second opinion on the condition of its structure. The school board has stated that retaining historic publicly-owned buildings is not their job. Exactly whose job is it?

Retaining our heritage is ALL of our responsibility.

Public funds for schools come from the province, but I am always baffled by the lack of response from our city when a school closes - schools hugely affect neighbourhoods and liveability in a city. Consultation should take place between the city and the school board before finalizing any school closure. During this time of growth and development, the City of Regina really must start taking part in the school conversation.

The City of Regina's vision, "to be Canada's most vibrant, inclusive, attractive, sustainable community where people live in harmony and thrive in opportunity" will only be possible if we start working together. We have to stop using the excuse "It's not my responsibility". I dream of living in a city where children learn about history, sustainability and innovation because they are surrounded by it. Retaining, renovating and improving our historic older schools would be a great start.

I left my favourite publication quote for last. This one is from 2011.

The article is called, *"What Went Right: A Story of Cathedral's Revitalization"*.

"The area has always contained a mix of housing forms and land uses. Most of the buildings were constructed before the 1920's, lending Cathedral its historic charm and physical diversity. Cathedral is a shining example of what can go right when strategic investment is made in a struggling community. In this case, looking to our past can inspire the efforts we could make to improve our communities of the future."

That one may ring a bell because it was published by the City of Regina in *"Horizons"* magazine. I hope our city can live up to its words.

Leslie Charlton

June 19, 2014

Mayor Fougere, members of Council, Good Evening.

My name is Catherine Gibson. I speak from my experience of having grown up in Regina and having attended Victoria Public School, Strathcona Public School and Regina Central Collegiate Institute all of which have been subject to **demolition**.

I am thankful for the wisdom shown by the University of Regina to conserve Darke Hall, where much of my musical education was received, and where we were introduced to the plays of Shakespeare performed by troupes of actors (even if we did laugh at inappropriate times). I thank them also for including the 'Regina College' buildings in which I took my first year of university.

I am here tonight to ask that you support the awarding of Heritage Status to Connaught School.

- No parent or guardian would consent to their child having a full leg amputation for an injured ankle without an X-Ray to determine the full extent of the injury. Amputation without compelling indication would be completely inappropriate and irreversibly drastic. The treatment needs to fit the problem.
- There IS a relationship between the City of Regina and School Boards. They share an election process and date. The city collects taxes for the school boards and has an obligation to ensure that tax-payers' money is used responsibly. I should think the obligation is even greater when a heritage asset is involved. Ecole Connaught School is such an asset. The deed may state *Regina Public School Board*; but I believe that is a convenience in place of having to list each and every public school tax-payer by name.
- Demolition followed by new construction creates more greenhouse gases than heritage renovation and restoration. Demolition puts a strain on the already burdened landfill. New techniques in restoration can bring a century old building up to LEED standards including even the Gold standard. The School Board has repeatedly refused access to specialists with the necessary equipment to examine the structural condition. The purpose of bringing in conservationists would be to assess whether the problems and/or deficiencies are really insurmountable and if there are alternatives to complete demolition. The question is not what the building IS, but rather what the building COULD BE.
- To me the most important cornerstone of Design Regina is the concept of 'Complete Communities'. The Cathedral District today is Regina's finest, if not the only, example of a complete community. Page 6 of the recently adopted **Design Regina Official**

Community Plan states the first two Community Priorities as being *Develop complete* neighbourhoods and *Embrace built heritage*. Heritage buildings create pleasant neighbourhoods that attract people and provide a sense of social sustainability. Heritage buildings are both the high-light and the core of the City Tours that most visitors take while on vacation. At the Stakeholder Appreciation event on June 9th, it was said that it was because of the quality (and quantity) of the consultations with the various groups that made this endeavor so successful. Please put those words into action by voting yes to Heritage Status for Ecole Connaught School. As stated above, the cost to restore an existing building is less than the cost of demolition and rebuilding both in dollars and to the environment. Although not massive, some funding would be available from federal and/or provincial heritage committees, and, more importantly, there can be specialty insurance for heritage buildings.

- I ask City Council to take a moment to review the situation with regard to Connaught School. The closing date of June 2015 was suddenly brought forward to June 2014. The stated issue was an abrupt lack of insurance. The repairs and costs to keep the school operating until June 2015 were estimated at \$27,000 plus \$15,000 for monitoring inspections and \$25,000 for unforeseen and/or emergency repairs for a total of \$67,000. These repairs would be part of the conservation work and not be wasted. The comparison of the 'fitness' reports of Connaught and Wascana (the school from which the current pupils are being moved) shows Wascana to be in much worse condition and with structural defects that should make it even less insurable. Yet, the School Board is prepared to spend over 1 million dollars to try to make it last through the time required to have Connaught up and running again. That million dollar repair would be carted off to the landfill with the rest of the building in a couple of years! The mere, by comparison, \$67,000 for Connaught would buy one full year in which other options for temporary relocation as and if required could be examined. The extra year would mitigate the trauma which is disrupting the lives of the families of children attending Connaught.
- I ask City Council to assume guardianship of Ecole Connaught School for the purpose of ordering the school board to allow the access requested by the parents and supporters of the school for the equivalent of an X-Ray, and that this test is to be conducted as soon as feasibly possible by the firm chosen by the parents and supporters. This will determine once and for all, and at no cost to the school board, the extent of the school's deterioration and if there are alternate remedies to the proposed demolition that would better serve the community and the environment.
- I ask City Council to either vote Yes to heritage status today or to table the vote until the results of the structural tests are available.

- I ask City Council to follow the lead of the Provincial Government which is now, and in the past, been conserving our Legislative Building, and of the University of Regina in conserving their College Street assets. Help Regina to become known as a city that treasures its heritage buildings. See to it that Ecole Connaught School becomes a classic 20th century building that will be providing 21st century education for years to come. Embrace our built Heritage!

Katherine Gibson

June 19, 2014

To: His Worship Mayor Fougere
And Members of City Council

My name is Susanne Arndt and I am a resident of the Cathedral Community. I sit on the SCC of Ecole Connaught School.

The residents of the Cathedral area have chosen to live in a walkable neighbourhood, with mature landscapes, character homes, and historical architecture and SCHOOLS! Cathedral is known as one of the best neighbourhoods in Canada.

1560 people signed our petition "to develop a sound, affordable renovation plan that will support the current Ecole Connaught Community School building as a 21st Century learning environment, while respecting community values and preserving the heritage value of this nationally recognized historic school." Among the signatories were many who did not live in Cathedral but appreciated its history within the city of Regina, and respected our shared history. Clearly, this is an issue that more than just one Regina neighbourhood cares about.

When Davin School was initially deemed structurally unstable and financially prohibitive to repair, the school board, Davin's SCC and the parents sought more information and then worked cooperatively to come to a solution that was acceptable to all. Davin School is a shining example of how great community team-work can save Heritage Architecture. We still would like to work collaboratively with The Board of Education in this same way. Hopefully to provide a school that is functional while conserving its historic architecture.

There has not been enough corroborative evidence to convince us that Connaught School cannot or should not be rehabilitated and retained as a heritage school. The provincial government is on record that they support the most economical solution for Ecole Connaught School. They have NEVER said they would not support a renovation. The supportive document is appended.

We deserve a second specialist opinion. A hypothesis is only valid if reproducible. This is a scientific principal.

Heritage Designation can help by requiring more thorough research and consultation before moving to demolish a building. From my personal experience, I know how important this is.

I have been a Family Physician for 28 years and have not had a malpractice suit against me in all that time. I attribute this to my non-paternalistic method of practising, open communication, good listening skills and employing sound scientific evidence. I am open to new information that may be presented to me which could very well change my diagnosis. I also am aware of my limitations. I am a generalist, not a specialist. If someone presented with a headache, there could be many causes. I would need to do a thorough history and physical exam. After completing this, if I thought the headache was due to a brain tumor, I would not just give this diagnosis and send them home to put their affairs in order. I would want to be absolutely sure and would order further testing. If this initial testing confirmed my initial diagnosis, I would not say "you have a brain tumor, I can do nothing for you, go home and put your affairs in order." Just because I could not do something about the tumor does not mean someone else couldn't. I would send them to a specialist, a neurosurgeon, who could. Even this specialist would order more specialized testing to make sure the tumor was cancerous before delivering a diagnosis of terminality. Terminal or not, the treatment still would be up for negotiation. It would depend upon the needs and wants of the patient, the patient's family and the confidence in the surgeon. Even with the confidence in the surgeon, it would be entirely appropriate to have a second specialist opinion. There is no harm done with extra knowledge, just harm done without it.

I therefore urge you to grant Heritage Designation, as it seems to be the only thing that will prompt the kind of research, testing and consultation needed to plan the future of Ecole Connaught School -- a highly valued Canadian heritage asset that our city is fortunate to have.

Respectfully yours,

Susanne Arndt

Presentation to City Council on Connaught School

Submitted by
Lynne Sheldon
June 19, 2014

When choosing a school for my daughter, I had three criteria: first, it should be walkable; second, it should be in a liveable community and; third, it should offer French Immersion. I found those things in Connaught School. The fact that the school had an amazing history and was a century old was a bonus.

We appreciated taking part in historical celebrations and walking hallways that families had walked for more than 100 years. We enjoyed the park-like school grounds, with their old shady elms and beautiful landscaping. Like many parents, I had no major complaints about the layout and function of the school, which served my daughter very well, as it had done for many generations.

New is not always better. The key is in good teaching, adequate classroom supports, and strong community connections – not in the latest bells and whistles. If Connaught had any problems, they were more likely to be related to lack of support for the elemental components of education, rather than any issue with the architecture. Although the school board and its design consultants were quite convinced Connaught was too old-fashioned and obsolete to accommodate the latest education theory, our family was very satisfied with a 102-year-old school, and would have liked to have seen its continuance.

When the board voted to close Connaught this June rather than invest in it, my 9-year-old daughter stormed out of the board room. I told a trustee, “You’ve made her angry.” The response was, “She’s a child.” Yet, who is Connaught school for, if not the children? Whose community is being torn apart? Friends are now scattering around the city, rather than accepting a hastily assembled and inadequate relocation choice.

With this decision, we have lost the walkability and liveability that were important to us, and potentially have also lost access to French Immersion, depending on our future school choices. Moreover, the Cathedral Area has lost an anchoring landmark that helps define what the neighbourhood is all about.

This raises an important question: how is the City of Regina involved, and what role could heritage designation play in these decisions?

Heritage designation first and foremost places a necessary check on the culture of neglect and demolition of major public buildings, including schools. According to inspection reports, repairs needed for Connaught’s continued, safe, uninterrupted operation date back many years, yet went untended. The message to parents from the school board was, “We are just going to tear it down anyway, so why bother?” While community volunteers took great care of the school grounds, sagging front steps and a

missing cornice presented a face of neglect to passersby – although the essence of the building is still beautiful.

Because of the impact on surrounding residents, the City has a duty to keep an eye out for property neglect, no matter the owner. Heritage designation is a tool to do so. It allows for inspections and requires consultation on decisions. It introduces the concepts of heritage valuation and embodied energy audits. Designation acknowledges that all levels of society and government are affected and involved. More importantly, heritage designation inspires a sense of pride and care.

If Connaught is designated, this sense of pride and care might spill over to benefit other schools and communities. Sadly, building neglect is not only confined to our historic schools, but also to newer schools. According to engineering and health and safety reports, Wascana School – where Connaught students are now to attend – is in similarly terrible shape and indeed was not to have operated past 2013. Problems identified in the reports included suspected wastewater leaking into the walls, cracking and heaving of slabs, and a failed structural support column, with potential for future failures. These go far beyond the concerns at Connaught, and likely mean Wascana School is also headed for the landfill soon.

Such conditions effectively narrow community choices to just one: a never-ending cycle of demolition and construction that disrupts our children's education; frays neighbourhood social ties; harms the environment; forces us to live amid debris, noise and traffic snarls; and negates our shared history and sense of community.

There is no reason people should have to choose between a school and a heritage building. The two things are not incompatible. There are many good examples around the world, including just down the road in Moose Jaw.

It is said that people who recognize Connaught's heritage value only care about bricks and mortar. As a parent I can tell you, that is not true. Our concerns are connected to neighbourhood sustainability, liveable communities, environmental impacts, and the social wellbeing of our children and future generations. Bricks and mortar embody much more than you might think.

In closing, heritage designation for Connaught would model a better way of conducting ourselves as a city. If we can designate one small but very important school, it will serve notice to owners of other public buildings that the time has come to do better as a society. I realize this is a very big step for the City to take, and that it might be highly controversial in some quarters, but an act of leadership is sorely needed at this moment in time.

June 23, 2014

To: His Worship Mayor Fougere
And Members of City Council

Brief re: École Connaught Community School Heritage Application
Speaker: Katherine Gagne, Chairperson, Regina Board of Education

Good Evening, Mr. Mayor and City Councillors. My name is Katherine Gagne and I am the chairperson for the Regina Public School Board of Trustees.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you on the issue of a Heritage designation for Connaught School.

As owners of the property, we felt it important to once again reiterate that the Board of Trustees for the Regina Public School Division does not support Heritage designation for the property.

As democratically elected officials, Trustees weigh every decision we make, we are thorough in our due diligence, and we are accountable for our decisions.

We have heard from the special interest group who has advanced this request for heritage designation and just because their point of view did not prevail does not mean that they weren't heard and considered.

We serve over 20,000 students and we are responsible for ensuring viable, quality education, not just in 2014, but for decades to come.

This fall, École Connaught Community School will be relocated. The Board made this difficult decision based on consideration of the following:

- Most importantly, student and staff safety.
 - Engineering reports indicate the school is not safe for continued use beyond the end of June without renovation, and that even with recommended renovations, the school could only continue in operation for an additional year.
 - We refuse to put the safety of any child, staff member or member of the public at risk.
 - Additionally, school divisions are required, pursuant to *The Education Act, 1995*, to ensure all school buildings are insured.
 - The Board has been advised that the insurer will not continue to insure the Connaught School building after the end of the current school year.

- The Board of Education has received Ministerial approval to build a new school to replace the existing one.
 - There is governmental funding that is specifically tied to that course of action. The Ministry has made it clear that the funding is not for a renovation.
 - Every delay in the construction of the new school will result in more time that current and future students will have to be bussed out of their community and could potentially compromise a new build.

We have heard from the community in regards to the importance of incorporating some of the design of the present building into the new construction.

- This is consistent with past practice. Just as we incorporated elements of Herchmer school in the Seven Stones design and elements of Central Collegiate live on in the façade of Winston Knoll Collegiate.
- We hope to achieve the same results with the new Connaught School and are in the process of assembling an inventory of items to be preserved.

As a Board of Trustees, our concern with the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendation to council is:

- They are an advisory committee and their decisions are not binding. Their concern is buildings, not Education, and ultimately this is an important educational decision.
- The Committee disregarded existing protocols regarding owner consent.
- Community heritage is not necessarily in a building. Heritage is in the hearts and minds of our people. We may use buildings as touchstones, but our children and their futures are more important.
- I recently viewed a video on the Save our Connaught website. This video was created for the 100th anniversary celebration.
- In the video, visitors to the school were asked to reflect on their best memories of the school.
- Without fail, almost all the memories related to teachers and students and lessons learned. The building itself was barely referred to.

In closing, as a democratically elected board of Trustees and as owners of the property in question, we seek to build a new school on the site of the existing building.

To delay this process by arguing about heritage designation and historical value would do a huge disservice to our students, the community and our city.

For all the reasons outlined, we urge you to decline the request to designate École Connaught Community School as a heritage property. Thank you for your consideration and time.

June 23, 2014

To: His Worship the Mayor
and Members of City Council

Re: Application to designate École Connaught Community School (2124 Elphinstone Street)
as a Municipal Heritage Property

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE MUNICIPAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- JUNE 9, 2014**

That the application to designate Ecole Connaught Community School, located at 2124 Elphinstone Street including the lands legally described as Lot all, Block 394 and Plan Old 33 as a Municipal Heritage Property be APPROVED.

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – JUNE 9, 2014

The following addressed the Committee:

- Catherine Gibson;
- Patricia Elliot, nominator for the designation of École Connaught Community School, addressed the Committee; and
- Mark Whiting, representing Regina Public Schools

The Committee adopted the following resolution:

That the application to designate Ecole Connaught Community School, located at 2124 Elphinstone Street including the lands legally described as Lot all, Block 394 and Plan Old 33 as a Municipal Heritage Property be APPROVED.

Recommendation # 2 does not require City Council approval.

Donald Black, May P. Chan, Rhonda Lamb, Ken Lozinsky, Ray Plosker, David McLennan, Joseph Ralko, Ingrid Thiessen, and Tyler Willox were present during consideration of this report by the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee.

The Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, at its meeting held on June 9, 2014, considered the following report from the Administration:

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the application to designate Ecole Connaught Community School, located at 2124 Elphinstone Street including the lands legally described as Lot all, Block 394 and Plan Old 33 as a Municipal Heritage Property be DENIED.
2. That this report be forwarded to the June 23, 2014 City Council meeting.

CONCLUSION

The Administration has reviewed an application to designate Connaught School as a Municipal Heritage Property and considered the addition of the School to the list of properties on the *Heritage Holding Bylaw*¹. The City of Regina (City) recognizes this is a significant landmark in Cathedral and the oldest remaining public school in Regina. It has played an important role in Regina's history; in particular the Cathedral neighbourhood and in many families' lives.

In the review process the Administration consulted the property owner, the Regina Public School Board, who has advised it is not their intent to retain the building on site. The practice of the Administration has been to not pursue Municipal Heritage Property designation (designation) without property owner consent. Therefore, Administration is recommending that the application for designation be denied.

The City is open to further discussion with the School Board to explore options mentioned in their letter provided as Appendix B-2. The property owner has expressed a willingness to look at retention of some building materials into a future development as a means to commemorate the role of the School in the community.

BACKGROUND

Administration initially received a request to add Connaught School to the *Heritage Holding Bylaw* and recently received an application to designate Connaught School as a Municipal Heritage Property from Patricia Elliott, a resident.

Applications for designation as Municipal Heritage Property are considered in accordance with section 11 of *The Heritage Property Act*. However, City practice has been to not pursue designation without property owner consent.

DISCUSSION

Heritage Assessment

As described in the Statement of Significance provided as Appendix C-1, the heritage value of Connaught School lies in its connection with the development of education in Regina, its architect, and its architectural style. Built in 1912, it is the oldest public school in Regina still being used for its original purpose. The school is of value for its architectural styling, which manifests the ideal elements of a school from the time period: practicality, economy and beauty. Its design is vernacular and functional rather than monumental. The heritage character of it is defined by elements such as the masonry walls with applied decoration, double staircase on front façade and the pattern of fenestration.

Connaught School was a pioneer in community schooling and dual-track French-English education and for many years it was the only dual-track community school in Canada. It was named in honour of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who was the Governor of Canada from 1911-1916. It was designed by a prominent local architect, James Henry Puntin, who made an important contribution to architecture in Regina. He was appointed as Architect to the Regina Public School Board in 1912 and designed many substantial school buildings in

¹ "A Bylaw of the City of Regina To Deny a permit for the Alteration or Demolition of Properties that the Council of the City of Regina may wish to Designate as Municipal Heritage Properties" – Bylaw No. 8912

Regina during the next 20 years, including major additions to Regina College (1914) and the new complex for Luther College (1925).

In summary, the heritage value of the Connaught School lies in its connection with the development of education in Regina, its architect and its architectural style. Built in 1912, it is the oldest public school in Regina still being used for its original purpose. If demolished the only other public schools left in the city will post-date 1920. Only Balfour, Davin and Thompson Schools are listed under the *Heritage Holding Bylaw* and none of the remaining public schools in the city of Regina are protected as Municipal Heritage Property.

Addition to the *Heritage Holding Bylaw*

As indicated in the Background section of this report, Administration initially received a request to add Connaught School to the *Heritage Holding Bylaw* (Appendix B-1).

The purpose and intent of the *Heritage Holding Bylaw* is to list properties that possess heritage value and the potential for designation as a Municipal Heritage Property. These properties can be temporarily protected for a 60-day period following the receipt of an application to alter or demolish. This affords the City with the opportunity to consider whether or not to pursue designation. The City's practice has been not to pursue designation as a Municipal Heritage Property where the property owner is not in consent.

The *Heritage Holding Bylaw* was established in 1989. It was based on a broad, comprehensive inventory of properties with heritage value in the city's older neighbourhoods that took place in 1981 and 1982. In 1989, approximately 300 properties were listed under the *Heritage Holding Bylaw*. At the time the *Heritage Holding Bylaw* was established, the City did not seek property owner support to add properties to this bylaw.

Since 1989, nearly 70 properties have been removed from the *Heritage Holding Bylaw*, likely because they were demolished or possibly because they were designated. In 2005, 50 properties were considered for possible addition to the *Heritage Holding Bylaw* including Connaught School. Administration's approach at the time was to send notice to these property owners. Only 15 of these owners responded that they would support an addition to the *Heritage Holding Bylaw*. A response was not received from the owner of Connaught School at the time.

The City plans to review the *Heritage Holding Bylaw* and ensure it includes an up-to-date list of properties. The City does not plan to immediately undertake this work, although it may be advanced in the coming years as the City considers broader cultural policy. For property owners, an up-to-date list would increase predictability and certainty by informing their plans long before decisions are made. An up-to-date list would also reduce the number of circumstances where properties are not listed, but are found to have heritage value after the process to redevelop begins.

Municipal Heritage Property Designation

Administration recently received an application for designation of Connaught School as a Municipal Heritage Property. A copy of the application can be downloaded from the link below:

https://saveourconnaught.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/compressed_municipal-designation-package.pdf

The Heritage Property Act provides City Council with authority to designate any property as a Municipal Heritage Property (designation). Designation of a building provides statutory protection. A permit for demolition or alteration of a designated property could be denied indefinitely, unless City Council is satisfied that the heritage value of the property will be retained to its satisfaction and heritage defining elements protected, or the denial is successfully overturned by the Saskatchewan Heritage Property Review Board.

Designation of a building also requires the owner to obtain prior written approval from the City before it is altered or demolished. This ensures the proposed alterations do not have a negative effect on its character. Under designation Council could also establish guidelines that would apply to infill development on the property to ensure the infill is sympathetic in design.

City Council is not required to have the owner's consent to designate a property or provide compensation under *The Heritage Property Act* and Council may decide whether it is reasonable to use this authority. However, as indicated previously it is not administrative practice to recommend designation without owner consent. Accordingly, Administration recommends denial of the application for designation.

Provincial Heritage Designation Application

The Administration received correspondence from the applicant (Patricia Elliott) that Heritage Regina and Save our Connaught Heritage co-submitted an application on May 23, 2014 for designation of Connaught School as a Provincial Heritage Property. The City confirmed with the Heritage Conservation Branch of the Province of Saskatchewan that it has received an application for Provincial Heritage Property designation for Connaught School. The timelines for processing this application are not yet determined but one of the application requirements is property owner consent.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Environmental Implications

Life cycle assessments indicate that retaining and re-using buildings is more environmentally friendly than new construction, especially in cases where a building is replaced entirely and the old structure is sent to the landfill. To this end, re-use of the subject building, if possible, would correspond to the City's broader objective of promoting environmentally sustainable development.

Policy and/or Strategic Implications

Design Regina: The Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2013-48, commonly known as *Design Regina* provides policy direction to "encourage owners to protect historic places through good stewardship and by voluntarily designating their property as a Municipal Heritage Property." A historic place is defined in *Design Regina* as a building that has been recognized by City Council for its heritage value.

Part B.6 of *Design Regina*, the Cathedral Area Neighbourhood Plan, states: “Of particular interest is the concentration of institutional buildings with significant heritage value that front onto 13th Avenue from Cameron Street to Elphinstone Street. These include the Holy Rosary Cathedral, the Chancery Office, Westminster United Church, Connaught School and Connaught Library.”

Policy direction is also provided in *Design Regina* to protect, conserve and maintain historic places and to leverage and expand funding, financial incentives and other means of support to advance the conservation of historic places.

Other Implications

None with respect to this report.

Accessibility Implications

None with respect to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Administration consulted stakeholders including Heritage Regina, Heritage Saskatchewan, Biographies Regina, the Architectural Society of Saskatchewan, and the Cathedral Area Community Association. All were supportive of the initial request to add the property to the *Heritage Holding Bylaw*, as stated in Appendices B-3 and B-4 and were also supportive of potential designation.

Administration also contacted the property owner. The Regina Public School Board has indicated that it would not consent to the designation of Connaught School. A copy of the written response is provided as Appendix B-2.

Subject to concurrence with the recommendations contained in this report, in order to proceed with designation of the property and in accordance with *The Heritage Property Act* a notice of intention to pass a bylaw must be served on the owner and published in the Leader Post.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

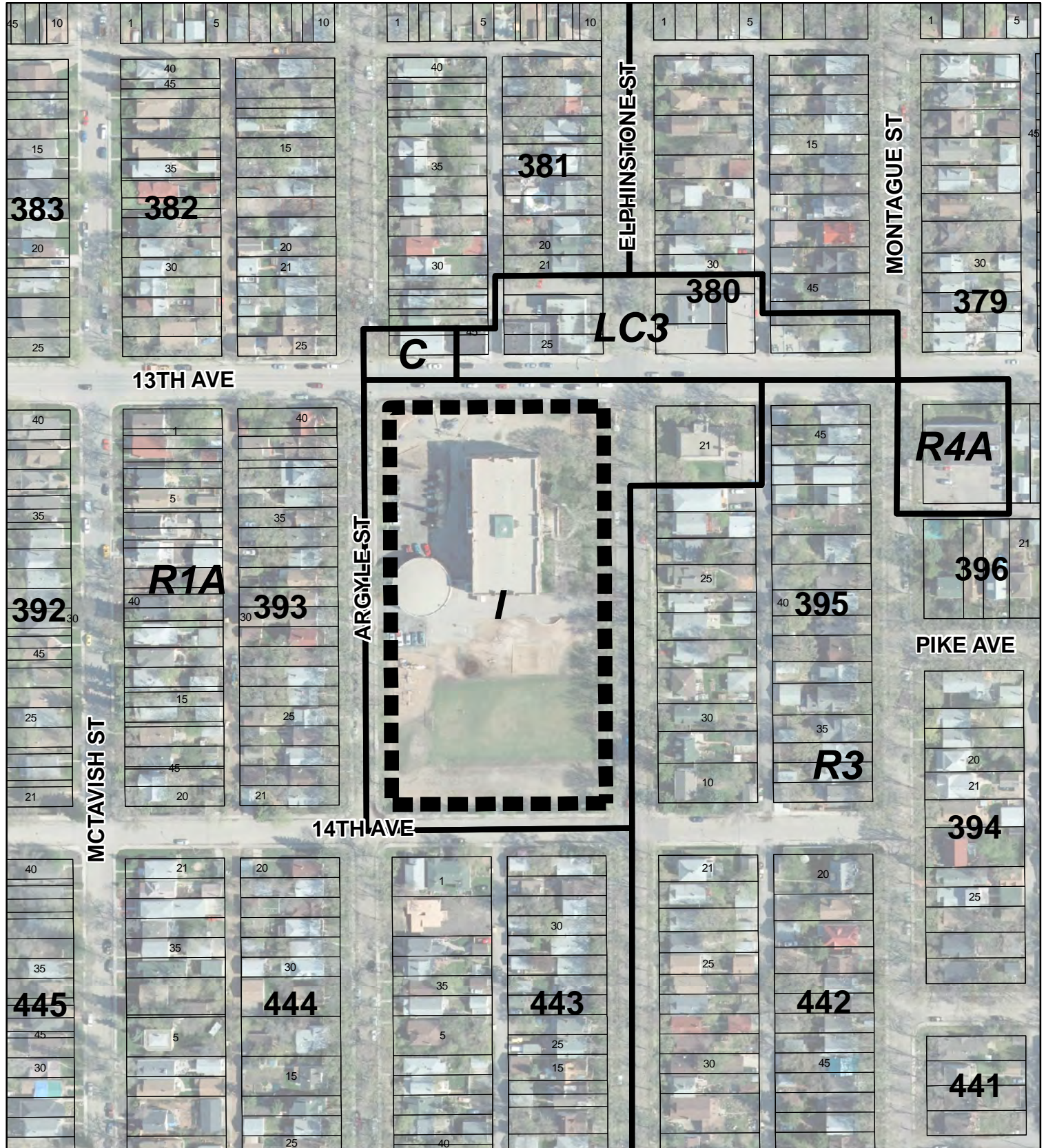
City Council approval is required to amend Schedule A of the *Heritage Holding Bylaw No. 8912*. In addition, pursuant to section 11 of *The Heritage Property Act*, the authority to designate Municipal Heritage Property, by bylaw, also rests with City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Ashley Thompson, Secretary



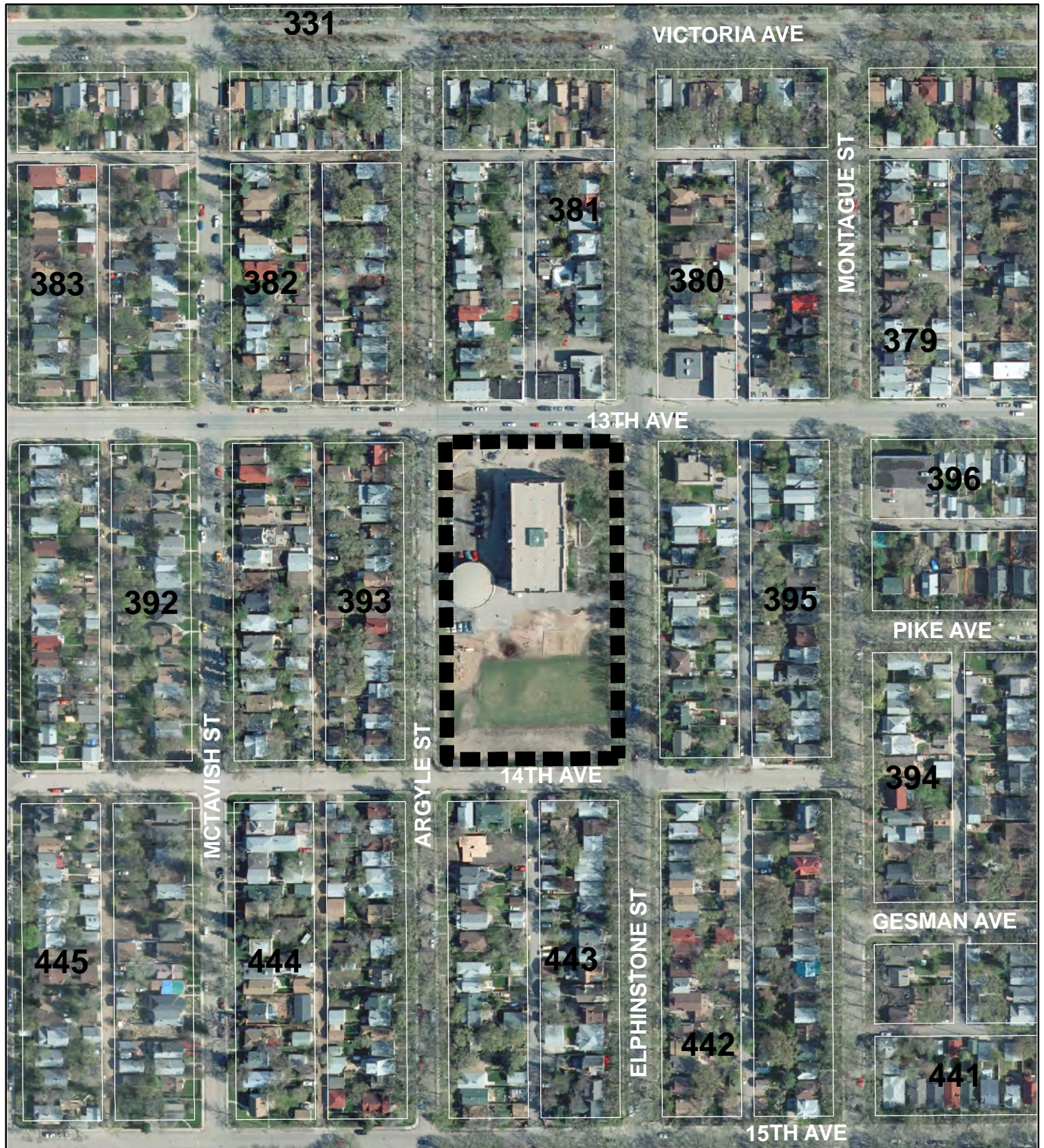
Subject Property

Date of Photography 2012



Project 14-H-01

Civic Address/Subdivision 2124 Elphinstone Street/Old 33



Subject Property

Date of Photography 2012

Project **14-H-01**Civic Address/Subdivision **2124 Elphinstone Street/Old 33**

APPENDIX B.1

Letter from Patricia Elliott

Heritage Holding Bylaw Status
For Connaught School, 2124 Elphinstone Street
Dec. 8, 2013

Rationale

The City of Regina's self-guided Walking Tour of the Cathedral Area notes Connaught School's historical connection to the Duke of Connaught's 1912 visit to Regina, and that it is the first of three Regina schools designed by J.H. Puntin. The guidebook states, "The desire to ensure structural soundness and longevity while striving for economy is reflected in the exterior design of the original building, which can be described as simplistic grandeur."

This is echoed in Jonathan Yardley Architect's Statement of Significance, commissioned by the building owner in 2012, which states the school represents "practicality, economy and beauty."

Yardley identified 15 exterior character-defining elements and noted that although there have been major interventions to the exterior of the building – most significantly the removal of original windows and a portico supported by doric columns – "the overall appearance of the building still reflects the bulk, mass and interior ambience of the original design." Yardley noted many of the interior character-defining elements remain intact, including the original terrazzo floors, original plastered ceilings and crossbeams, original mouldings and casings, and wrought iron and oak staircase railings. He further noted that the school's placement in the landscape and relation to surrounding buildings is part of its heritage character. His report concluded, "It is hoped that this brief overview of the heritage aspects of Connaught School will enable a rational plan to be developed."

The Heritage Canada Foundation has also recognized Connaught's heritage significance, placing it on their list of Top Ten Endangered Places in 2012. Heritage Canada's statement on Connaught's significance is as follows:

Built in 1912, Connaught School is Regina's oldest school building and highly significant to the city's educational history. Designed by prominent local architect J.H. Puntin, the two-storey brick school's design turned away from the ecclesiastical Gothic Revival style for a "secular" classical design, which served as a prototype for other city schools. It features wide multi-purpose hallways, high ceilings, ample large windows, broad staircases, good ventilation and extra-wide classrooms. Also on site is a round auditorium designed by architect Clifford Wiens in the 1960s. Connaught is the birthplace of Saskatchewan's community schools movement and was a pioneer in dual English-French education, established in 1975. For many years it was Canada's only dual-track

community school. Today it is a viable and growing school community with 330 students and projected to reach 425 by 2018.

The school is also an important landmark in the historic Cathedral neighbourhood. It bookends the city's most significant and high profile heritage corridor. It occupies the intersection of the Cathedral Area's two main thoroughfares (13th Avenue and Elphinstone Street) and sits directly opposite Connaught Library (1930) also designed by Puntin. The school does not have a heritage designation. It has, however, been named in the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Cathedral Area as a significant heritage property that should be rehabilitated and restored wherever possible.

The Cathedral Area's Neighbourhood Development Plan, referred to above, emphasizes Connaught's significance to Regina's landscape. Under the heading 'Heritage,' the Plan states:

Of particular interest is the concentration of institutional buildings with significant heritage value that front on to 13th Avenue from Cameron Street to Elphinstone Street. These include the Holy Rosary Cathedral, The Chancery Office, Westminster United Church, Connaught School and the Connaught Library.

Current Status

Connaught School is owned by Regina Public Schools, and has operated as a public school for the past 100 years. In 2010, the board's consulting engineer firm, J.C. Kenyon Engineering, Inc., conducted a visual inspection and reported evidence of foundation shifting. The report recommended carrying out regular building movement surveys and future underpinning work, to ensure building safety beyond five years. In 2012, W&R Foundation Specialists of Edmonton placed the cost of underpinning at \$3.75 million, to which J.C. Kenyon added additional recommended repairs and contingencies amounting to \$6.25 "for the structural renewal of the building." Kenyon further recommended that no decision be made about the building's future until testing beyond visual inspection could be carried out to determine the actual condition of the foundation.

In response to these recommendations, the owner undertook a review of the building's future. During public consultations held in 2012, community members cited the school's heritage significance to students and residents, as well as its architectural harmony with the surrounding neighbourhood, as the highest-ranking design aspects for consideration. Many participants made reference to the 100-year-old school's social significance in the community, and the key role it plays in providing open space and a community hub, in addition to its contribution to the neighbourhood's historic character. This lends credence to the notion that the school deserves a place on the Heritage Holding Bylaw list.

In February 2013, Regina Public Schools announced its intention to either sell or demolish and replace Connaught School. The primary rationale given was that the school does not meet modern pedagogical needs, and that it would be too expensive to repair and

reconfigure the school into the style of open concept educational architecture that is in current favour. The board cited a figure of \$23 million to transform the existing structure to meet open concept needs, as opposed to \$19 million to build a new school. A proposal for a new school was therefore forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

In August 2013 the board commissioned a second engineering assessment. The assessment, carried out by BBK Engineering, found the footings and walls of Connaught School to be sufficient, and did not therefore include underpinning among its recommendations, significantly reducing the original renovation cost estimate. BBK's recommendations focused on site drainage and protection from water damage. The report found no current safety issues, although it noted the structural components of the floor slabs are unknown in the absence of further testing. An exterior visual assessment carried out by a representative of the Saskatchewan Masonry Institute in November found the brickwork appeared to be in very good condition.

These assessments highlight the rehabilitative potential for Connaught School in the event the owner decides to abandon the property. This makes the due consideration of the building's heritage value to Regina residents an important component in future planning.

Conclusion

The fact that the building's future is unclear should not be a disincentive to place Connaught School on the Heritage Holding list. In fact, the opposite is the case. Should the Ministry of Education support a new school, Regina Public will have the option to demolish or sell Connaught School. Past history indicates sale of public schools generally leads to demolition, with a few exceptions.

The owner has stated on several occasions that heritage preservation is not the responsibility of Regina Public Schools, and that the board is not concerned about the impact of heritage loss. However, the City of Regina has a vested responsibility to ensure full consideration will be given to Connaught's heritage value to our city and its residents, which is quite significant, as attested to in the aforementioned documents.

Bylaw 8912 states the City of Regina "is desirous of avoiding demolition of buildings and structures of significant Heritage value until due consideration is given to their possible designation as Municipal Heritage Properties." The bylaw provides 60 days for the City to consider the building's potential as a designated heritage asset. In the case of Connaught School, this additional consideration is clearly warranted.

While the building may not meet the school board's preference for new architecture, various preliminary studies indicate affordable structural renewal is possible, either as a school or as an adaptive reuse project. There would doubtless be significant interest within the community to explore and develop adaptative reuse proposals, given time and opportunity to do so.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan, Yardley's Statement of Significance, and national recognition received by the Heritage Canada Foundation indicate this is a property of high-level value to the City of Regina and its residents, and that the impact of irreplaceable loss of heritage would be considerable. If the City is truly desirous of avoiding the demolition of significant heritage buildings, placing Connaught School on the bylaw list will help incentivize future planning to include heritage value as a factor for consideration.



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
REGINA SCHOOL DIVISION
NO. 4 OF SASKATCHEWAN

Regina Public School Division Office
1600 4th Avenue, Regina, SK S4R 8C8
Web site: www.rbe.sk.ca

Ph: (306) 523-3000
Fax: (306) 523-3031
E-mail: info@rbe.sk.ca

April 4, 2014

Attention: Fred Searle, Manager of Current Planning
City of Regina
Community Planning and Development
PO Box 1790
Regina SK S4P 3C8

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Searle:

Re: *École Connaught Community School*

Receipt of your letter of March 17, 2014, and the subsequent March 24, 2014, correspondence from Ms. Brears, advising of a request from “a member of the community” to add the property located at 2124 Elphinstone Street to the Heritage Holding Bylaw, is acknowledged. As an initial response thereto, we would provide the following information.

It is and continues to be our understanding that, historically, the process associated with additions to the Heritage Holding Bylaw, similar to the Municipal Heritage Designation process, requires that an application be made by the registered owner of the property or an authorized representative of the owner. In this regard, this confirms that the Regina Board of Education (“the Board”) has not made such application and, as recently as October 2013, adopted a motion specifically declining a request to seek heritage designation for the facility in question. Additionally, we are also of the understanding that any previous additions to this Bylaw have traditionally resulted from a broad, comprehensive review of potential heritage sites, rather than from proceeding with a “one-off” application as appears to be the case in this instance.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, I would take this opportunity to provide you with some background regarding current circumstances. The condition of the facility located at 2124 Elphinstone Street has reached a state that has rendered it unsafe and uninsurable for future occupancy. In this regard, we would direct you to the engineering report posted at http://www.rbe.sk.ca/sites/default/files/boarddocs/jkenyon_report.pdf). As a result of these developments, at its meeting held March 25, 2014, the Board approved the temporary relocation of the Connaught school community effective with the end of this school year (June 2014).

As you can appreciate, the relocation of a school community impacts many families and community members, and the Board wishes to minimize any inconvenience associated therewith. As you may be aware, the Board was recently advised of approval by the

Ministry of Education to proceed with the construction of a new Connaught school building to replace the existing facility. This approval was indeed timely as it will allow the Board to proceed with the construction process in an expeditious fashion to minimize the disruption and inconvenience to the relocated students and their families.

Without debating the merits of the Heritage Holding Bylaw application, please note that, in preparing the Phase 1 Feasibility Study required by the Ministry of Education prior to its approval of this project, the consultants conducted public consultations regarding replacement of the facility and, additionally, undertook a heritage assessment. As with previous school facility replacement projects, the Board will endeavour to include items of significant historical, community or cultural value from the former building within the new design.

The Board's and Ministry's direction at this time is clear; to proceed with the replacement of the current École Connaught Community School building forthwith in order to minimize the disruption of students, parents, community and staff. While the Board has not made a final decision regarding the rebuild location, as the existing site is the only land owned by the Board in the neighbourhood, rebuilding upon the existing site is a strong option. Obviously, this would require the removal of the existing facility.

In the event that another party, whether municipal or private, wished to purchase the existing building and associated lands, the Board may consider such a proposal, provided that it did not negatively impact the already tight schedule for completion of a replacement facility. Such a proposal would also have to ensure Board acquisition of a suitable alternate school site in the neighbourhood. Obviously, the Board, as owner of a suitable site in the area, is not in a position to absorb any additional costs associated with such an "exchange" approach.

Given the foregoing, the Board, as owner of the building located at 2124 Elphinstone Street, strongly objects to the property being included on the Heritage Holding Bylaw. In the event that the application from "a member of the community" continues to be processed, the Board respectfully requests further advice as to its ability to intervene in any process that would serve to limit or delay its ability to deliver, in an expedited fashion, a new school facility designed to serve the educational and broader needs of the Connaught students, staff, parents and community.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Julie MacRae".

Julie MacRae
Director of Education

:sjs

APPENDIX B.3

Response from Heritage Regina

**Heritage Regina
Box 581
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3A3**

April 6, 2014

Liberty Brears
Community Planning and Development
City of Regina

Re: 2124 Elphinstone Street (Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School)

Heritage Regina supports the addition of Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School to the Heritage Holding Bylaw for two reasons.

First, Connaught is the oldest school in Regina still being used for its original purpose. It was named for H.R.H. Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Canada's Governor General from 1911 to 1916. Construction of Connaught began in 1912, and this 17-classroom school opened its doors just in time for the September 1913 school year. School concerts and gym classes were held in Connaught's upper hallway until the 1958 addition of a distinctive round gymnasium designed by Regina architect Clifford Wiens.

To be sure, the original portion of Sacred Heart Academy (3225-13th Avenue), a Roman Catholic residential girls' school, is older: it was built in 1910. Two additions were constructed in 1914 and 1926, but Sacred Heart Academy was converted into condominium apartments in 1990.

Regina's first purpose-built high school, Central Collegiate, was constructed in 1909; it was closed in 1985 and demolished. A large Condominium apartment complex was subsequently built there.

Regina College, a private Methodist high school, was also built in 1912. It began to offer first Year University classes in 1925, and in 1934 became a junior college affiliated with the university of Saskatchewan. (It is now the University of Regina.)

Holy Rosary School (3118-14th Avenue), constructed in 1914, is the only other elementary school built before World War I that is still operating as an elementary school in Regina 100 years later.

Between 1920 and 1930 the Regina Public School Board built eight more elementary schools: Haultain (1920), Inismore (1920), Kitchener (1921), Lakeview (1922), Thomson (1928), Davin (1929), Herchmer (1930) and Lorne (1930). The Regina Catholic school Board built two: Sacred Heart (1928) and Saint Augustine (1929). Only

six of these schools are still in operation in 2014: Davin, Lakeview, Kitchener, Sacred Heart, Saint Augustine and Thomson.

Connaught School also occupies a special place in the history of education in Regina. In 1976 Connaught introduced a French Immersion stream, and in 1980 the surrounding community helped pilot a community schools program, making Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School the first and for many years the only dual track (French-English) community school in Canada.

Reginans who live in the Cathedral Neighbourhood have demonstrated on many occasions that Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School holds great value for them. Their care of the school grounds, their careful documentation of the school's history, their celebration of significant anniversaries over the years (including their installation of a brass plaque to mark the school's centennial), and alumni donations of historical artifacts and photographs are all proof of this. And at public meetings they have demonstrated a preference for considering heritage value in making planning decisions.

All of this not only reflects an appreciation of Connaught School's aesthetic contribution to the Cathedral Neighbourhood, but its role in sustaining intergenerational linkages and a sense of continuous history in one of Regina's oldest neighbourhoods.

Heritage Regina also believes that Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School ought to be added to the Heritage Holding Bylaw because it is part of the substantial body of work of a prominent Regina architect during the first three decades of the 20th century: James H. Puntin.

Born in Great Britain in 1878, Puntin emigrated to Canada in 1904 and settled in Winnipeg where he became general manager of the Winnipeg office of a Toronto architectural firm, Darling and Pearson. Puntin moved to Regina in 1906 and found employment with the provincial Department of Public Works, overseeing the construction of the new Legislative Building which Montreal architects Edward and William Sutherland Maxwell had designed. In 1912 Puntin went into private practice. One of his first projects was to design a new building for the Young Women's' Christian Association opposite Victoria Park in downtown Regina; another was Connaught School.

In 1929 Puntin formed a partnership with Col. F.J. O'Leary, and the following year they invited Charles Coxall to join their firm. But there was little work for architects during the Great Depression and the firm was eventually dissolved. Puntin continued to practice on his own until 1943, when he retired and moved to British Columbia.

The largest part of James H. Puntin's body of work in Regina are the elementary and high schools he designed for the Regina Public and Catholic School Boards. In all, he designed 7 elementary schools: Benson, Connaught, Haultain, Kitchener, Lakeview, Saint Augustine and Wetmore.

More modest, but significant nonetheless, are the high schools Puntin designed. Five new private and public high schools were constructed in Regina after World War I: Campion College (1921), Scott Collegiate (1924), Luther College (1925), Sacred Heart College (1926) and Balfour Collegiate (1930).

James H. Puntin designed Campion College, Luther College, Sacred Heart College and an addition to Sacred Heart Academy. Edgar M. Story and W.G. Van Egmond designed Scott Collegiate, and W.G. Van Egmond and Stanley Story designed Balfour Collegiate.

Another of Puntin's clients was Regina College, for whom he designed a women's dormitory and tower (1914), a gymnasium (1925), and the Music and Art Building--Darke Hall-- (1928).

During his career in Regina James H. Puntin also designed three churches: St. Chad's Anglican Church (1907), St. Peter's Anglican Church (1913) and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (1931). He also designed the Albert Memorial Bridge (1930) and a new City Police Station (1931).

In assessing James H. Puntin's body of work in Regina, his biographer in the *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada* states that "... it was his assured designs for major additions to Regina College (1924) and the new complex for Luther College (1925) which demonstrated his ability to use Collegiate Gothic forms in a distinctive manner."

But Heritage Regina would argue that Ecole Connaught/Connaught Community School is worthy of praise and recognition too, as the earliest example of James H. Puntin's skill as an architect. For this reason, and because this school has occupied a special place in the history of education in our city, it ought to be added to the Heritage Holding Bylaw.

Sources consulted:

John Archer, *Honoured With The Burden: A History of the Regina Board of Education* (1987).

J. William Brennan, *Regina: An Illustrated History* (1989).

Rev. Frank Gerein, *Outline History of the Diocese of Regina* (1961).

James Pitsula, *An Act of Faith: The early Years of Regina College* (1988).

Edward Willett, *Historic Walking Tours of Regina ad Moose Jaw* (2008).

Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1900-1950.

J. William Brennan, President
Heritage Regina

APPENDIX B.4

Response from Cathedral Area Community Association

Cathedral Area Community Association
Via email

April 14, 2014

Liberty;

The Board of the Cathedral Area Community Association wishes to provide the following comments regarding the request to add the property at 2124 Elphinstone Street (Ecole Connaught Community School) to Schedule A of Bylaw No. 8912;

"The Cathedral Area Community Association board has reviewed the draft Statement of Significance and suggests inclusion of the following:

The Cathedral Area Neighbourhood Plan, included as part of Regina's Official Community Plan, is built on the premise that historic buildings are tangible community assets, adding value to surrounding properties and attracting visitors and homeowners to the area. In developing this Plan, residents recognized that responsible stewardship of heritage assets is vital to neighbourhood rejuvenation and stability.

The Plan states, "Of particular interest is the concentration of institutional buildings with significant heritage value that front onto 13th Avenue from Cameron Street to Elphinstone Street. These include the Holy Rosary Cathedral, the Chancery Office, Westminster United Church, Connaught School and Connaught Library." The notion that these buildings together act as a whole in defining neighbourhood character remains to this day, most recently in the design consideration for Canada Safeway renovations, which included reddish-brown bricks specifically chosen to match the façades of 13th Avenue's historic buildings.

In this sense, Connaught School not only serves to help define the neighbourhood, but also to set the standard for newer developments. Therefore the CACA holds a keen interest in ensuring Connaught's distinct architectural styling, as described in the Statement of Significance, receives due consideration in planning decisions.

This would be in keeping with the CACA's mission statement to "preserve and enhance the appearance and livability of the community." The CACA's mission statement further states that our association works to "enhance the history, culture and character of the neighbourhood." Ecole Connaught Community School is recognized as a major contributor to our history, culture and character. Being home to Regina's oldest operating public school is a source of community pride. The CACA is proud to have been part of the school's history, joining with the North Central Community Association, Connaught and Kitchener parents, and various community organizations in 1980 to develop a framework for community schooling that has since been adopted province-wide. As well, community members worked together to pioneer the development of French Immersion education at Connaught. Through this and other community efforts, Connaught School has become deeply embedded in the surrounding community's social fabric.

Community pride and sense of belonging is a tangible asset. In 2011 the Ecole Connaught Centennial Committee launched a two-year exploration of Regina's past 100 years as seen through the 'eyes' of Regina's oldest school. Participants aged 3 to 93 took part in collecting history, creating art and film projects, and planning a 2012 multi-cultural music and arts festival open to all Regina residents, as well as alumni from across Canada. This project received two Municipal Heritage Awards, in the education and public service categories. Further, during the festival weekend, the contribution to our local economy was estimated at \$359,543 in contracted services, merchandise and food sales, hotels, performance fees, and off-site shopping by festival visitors. While the music and food were enjoyable, ultimately the main attraction that brought visitors to our neighbourhood, and pulled many generations together, was a century-old school. The community's interest in maintaining the value of this asset was clear in a May 2012 facility study by P3Architecture, in which "building conservation" was identified as the top design consideration emerging from a series of well-attended public consultation meetings. In 2013, citizens erected a bronze plaque to commemorate Connaught's historic significance to Regina and the Cathedral Area. The presence of this now 102-year-old school continues to be a key asset for retaining intergenerational ties and understanding our city's history, as well as book-ending an important historic corridor for all Reginans.

While Bylaw 8912 does not require any specific action by the property owner, we believe inclusion on the holding bylaw list at least provides incentive for the owner to prepare a plan describing how significant heritage features of the building will be preserved and the original building commemorated, in the event of demolition. We view inclusion on the list, alongside Davin, Balfour and Thomson schools, as the best way to ensure the heritage value of Connaught School will be in some measure recognized and honoured. Bylaw 8912 states it was enacted because "The City of Regina is desirous of avoiding demolition of buildings and structures of significant Heritage value until due consideration is given to their possible designation of Municipal Heritage Properties." We are aware that full Municipal Heritage designation rarely proceeds without the supporter of the property owner. However, we urge the City to objectively apply Bylaw 8912 to Connaught School, without prejudice to how a future application for Municipal Heritage Designation by a future owner may or may not unfold. While the Regina Board of Education might not support such a designation today, there is no guarantee RBE will remain the building's owner. Indeed, the board's most recent media statements indicate a replacement school on an alternate site remains under consideration. Buildings do change hands, and indeed the school board itself changes every four years. A future owner or future school board may be more eager to explore the benefits of Municipal Designation. Inclusion on the list allows that horizon to remain open. In closing, the CACA regards retention of a dual track (French-English) neighbourhood school as a prime concern, whether on the current site or an alternate location. We do not see the holding bylaw list as a barrier to this goal but rather as an opportunity to ensure that in any eventuality, adequate dialogue takes place in a timely and well-managed fashion. This will help support the City of Regina's vision of Regina as "Canada's most vibrant, inclusive, attractive, sustainable community, where people live in harmony and thrive in opportunity." Thank you for receiving our comments."

If you would like a hard copy of these comments just let us know, and we arrange for that.

Please send a reply to confirm that you have received.

Thanks very much.

Bob McIlwaine
Cathedral Area Community Association

APPENDIX C.1

Statement of Significance



Connaught School (2013)

Description of Historic Place

Connaught School is a two-storey brick structure in the heart of Regina's Cathedral Village neighbourhood at the corner of Elphinstone and 13th Avenue. Also on the site is a round auditorium design by Clifford Wiens Architect in the 1960s.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of Connaught School lies in its connection with the development of education in Regina, its architect, and its architectural style.

There is value in the connection of the building with the development of education in Regina. Built in 1912, it is the oldest public school in Regina still being used for its original purpose. It is a pioneer in community schooling and dual track French-English education, for many years it was the only dual track community track school in Canada. The school was named in honour of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who was the Governor of Canada from 1911-1916. The French Immersion Program at Connaught started in 1975 and in 1980 the school was designated as a Community School.

There is also value in the identity of the architect. James Henry Puntin (1878-1957) made an important contribution to architecture in Regina yet his work is often underrated and overlooked. Born at Gateshead-on-Tyne, England on 3 May 1878 he was educated at school in Gateshead, at Rutherford College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and at Owens College in Manchester. He apprenticed to Charles Kempson, Gateshead, 1891-95 and worked as

assistant to F.R.N. Haswell of North Shields in 1896-99, then joined the Royal Engineers Civil Staff as draftsman and clerk-of-works. He emigrated to Canada in 1904 and settled in Winnipeg where he assisted J.G.H. Russell in 1904-05 and became manager of the Winnipeg office of Darling & Pearson in 1905-06. Puntin moved to Regina in late 1906 and worked as supervising architect for the Saskatchewan Public Works Dept. overseeing construction of important buildings such as the provincial Legislative Buildings in Regina, designed by E. & W.S. Maxwell. He accepted the appointment of Architect to the Regina Public School Board in 1912 and designed many substantial school buildings in Regina during the next twenty years, but it was his assured designs for major additions to Regina College (1914) and the new complex for Luther College (1925) which demonstrated his ability to use Collegiate Gothic forms in a distinctive manner. In 1929 he formed a partnership with Col. F.J. O'Leary and the following year invited Charles Coxwell to join their firm, but a dearth of work during the Depression led to the dissolution of the firm and Puntin continued under his own name until 1943 when he retired and moved to British Columbia. He died in Vancouver on 20 March 1957.

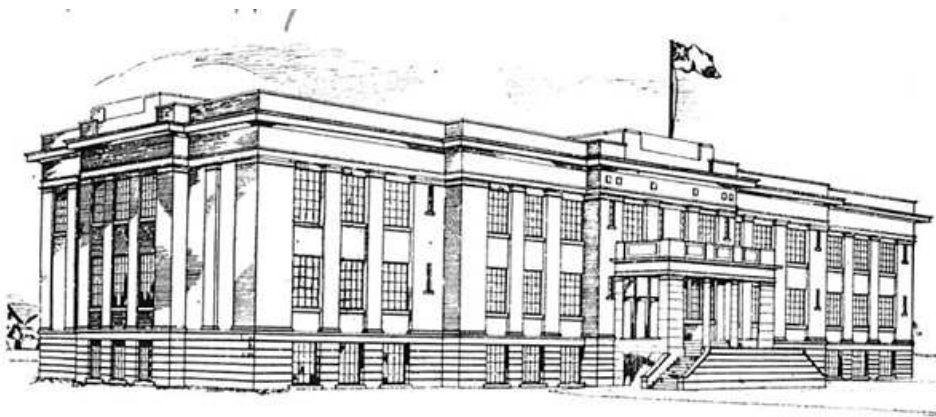
There is value in the architectural styling of the school. An architectural style was chosen that was devoid of ecclesiastical reference. The building expressed the local fervor of the time against any religious component in public education, and as such became a kind of prototype. The architect based his design on those developed for the London School Board in England. With vernacular red brick and applied decoration, it contrasted sharply with the Gothic buildings normally used for places of learning. The style of this building manifests the ideal elements of a school from that time period: practicality, economy and beauty.

The 102-year-old Connaught School is also of social value to the community. It has a key role in providing open space and a community hub, in addition to its contribution to the neighbourhood's historic character as demonstrated by its architectural harmony with the surrounding neighbourhood.

Character-Defining Elements:

The heritage character of Connaught School is defined by the following elements:

- stone base
- masonry walls with applied pilasters
- stone column capitals and bases
- double staircase on front façade
- entrance doors on front and rear
- pattern of fenestration
- relationship between main school and gymnasium
- brick chimney at rear
- name plate on front of building
- setting in landscape
- roundels on frieze above main entrance
- connection with history of education in Regina
- connection with architect James Henry Puntin



The Connaught School, Regina. Architect, Mr. J. H. Puntin; contractors, Parsons Building Company, Limited
Drawing in 'The Contract Record and Engineering Review' October 23, 1912



Connaught School, Regina

J. H. PUNTIN, Architect



Connaught School soon after its completion. Source: Saskatchewan Archives Board RA1877