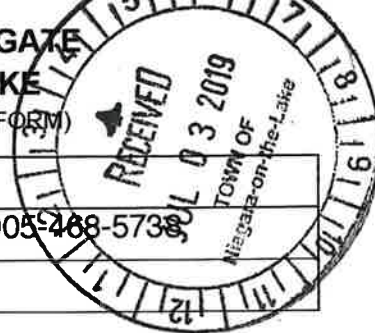




REQUEST TO APPEAR AS A DELEGATE
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
 (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE ON THIS FORM)



Name: B. HAMILTON	E-mail: bstonehamilton@gmail.com	
Street: 1448 Niagara Stone Rd.	Box # / RR #: 711	Phone #: 905-468-5738
City: VIRGIL	Postal Code: L0S1T0	Fax #:

- Non Agenda Delegation** - a presentation which addresses topics that do not appear on the Council or COTW Agenda and for which no report has been prepared for Council by Staff must be submitted no later than 12 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the COTW or Council Meeting
- Agenda Delegation** - a presentation which specifically addresses a COTW or Council Agenda item.

I have never spoken on this issue before and the key points of my presentation are as follows:
 Request to have the Town recognize and assist in restoration of Butler's Burial Ground

Ask the Town to request Federal Government to designate this site as a National Historic Site.

Take immediate steps to preserve the area as it has been neglected and deteriorating rapidly.

If an applicant wishes to address an issue they have previously spoken to as COTW or Council, they will only be permitted to do so if they bring forward significant new information. Specific details on how this information is new must be identified below and is subject to approval by the Town Clerk. Council will be advised if significant new information has not been provided.

I have spoken on this issue before, and the specific new information I wish Council to review is as follows: (attach a separate page(s) if necessary)

I wish to appear before Council on Monday, July 2, 2019 ~~Sept~~ (

Meeting time is 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted) DATE
 Note: Your request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the schedule meeting.

I wish to appear before Committee of the Whole on Sept 14 (

Community & Development Services Corporate Services Operations-Parks & Recreation/Public Works
 Note: Your request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the schedule meeting.

I have read and understand the Delegation Protocol on the back of this form and acknowledge the information contained on this form, including any attachments, will become public documents and listed on Town Meeting Agendas.

I also understand presentation materials must be submitted with this delegation form and electronic presentations must be emailed to peter.todd@notl.com no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the schedule meeting.

B. Hamilton
 Signature

July 2, 2019
 Date

Presentation Requirements: No Yes (description) _____

"Lord Mayor Desiro, Council members, ladies and gentlemen,

Shirley Stark and myself work with the local Ghostwalks in downtown Niagara on the Lake and have become intrigued with local history particularly regarding Colonel John Butler. We have been researching for the past year as members of the Niagara on the Lake museum. Our museum staff has been amazingly supportive in our quest.

Our main objective here, is to have Butler's Burial Ground given immediate attention to maintain it's integrity in view of it's current deterioration. As part of our locale and heritage we hope the Town can lend assistance in that endeavor. We realize this is a Park's Canada property. We have had ongoing discussions with Lisa Curtis and her staff at Parks Canada. It was determined that unless it is a National Historic Site funding is not a priority. She agreed that they would keep the grass cut but recent visits to the site have shown this has not been maintained.

We believe the burial ground, should be designated a National Historic Site and hope that the Town will be supportive in achieving this recognition.

Our Town has been recognized nationally and internationally as the "prettiest town for its population". I ask anyone to take a look at this current burial location and tell me if this conforms to that definition? Is this how we honour our founding historic ancestors?

"That old sacred spot the earliest cemetery probably in Upper Canada now lies utterly abandoned and almost forgotten...It is the greatest disgrace these Annals have to record of Niagara."

William Kirby

"Annals of Niagara", 1896 Pg. 119

"It is a pleasure to record that the Park Commissioners, Niagara Falls, have lately placed a strong iron fence around the half acre and it is hoped a cairn will be placed with the names of those interred within."

Janet Carnochan

"Inscriptions and Graves", 1910 Pg. 8

These two local historic figures reflected their concern about the burial ground over 100 years ago! We still do not have a cairn indicating the individuals buried at this site and the existing markers are becoming illegible. Shirley is compiling a comprehensive list of names of those buried there from our research. The fence referred to is in disrepair. This will take time and money that the owner, Parks Canada needs to address now!

Being the burial place of the founders of our town, it's not only a historical site , also a historical landmark. There is a bust of Colonel John Butler at the National War Memorial in Ottawa recognizing him as one of fourteen National Canadian heroes. This hero's final resting place sits in a state of neglect and that is not acceptable!

We've been trying to bring attention to this deteriorating site for over a year, hoping that someone who can make a difference will step up. The \$76,000.00 bridge that was built on Parks Canada property to provide safe access to the burial ground was established and

funded by our town. We would like to see the same support given to the historical site it leads to.

There should be no question or hesitation in designating Butler's Burial Ground as a national historic site. However, while this process is essential in ensuring its future preservation and maintenance, it will take time during which the state of the property will continue to deteriorate rapidly.

It needs to be restored to the park-like setting it was created to be. The original stones are disappearing into the ground and the Claus vault was intentionally buried in order to preserve its integrity. The gravestones and the vault need to be restored or they will disappear forever. There also needs to be a cairn, or some type of memorial, recognizing all the people buried there. I'm sure the local ancestors to Butler's Rangers would be most appreciative.

Some of the earliest pictures of the property show where a spring provided fresh water for its visitors, steps leading up to the gravestones, benches beside the entrance to the vault and even a flag pole can be seen in the background.

While Parks Canada can only commit to restoration projects if they're designated national historic sites, we believe the town can take immediate action as they did with the bridge project. The decay of this property over the last year is shocking. Whatever steps are necessary to have the place designated a national historic site must be initiated as soon as possible. However, time is of the essence and if the preservation and restoration of this cemetery is not treated as an urgent matter, we will continue to lose pieces of our history that can never be replaced.

In summary, Colonel Butler's intelligence, his loyalty and his compassion for others made him a hero to loyalists, natives, slaves, families and all who knew him.

From Great Britain to loyalist families who had lost everything, when you needed help, you relied on Colonel John Butler.

He negotiated the deal to buy this land, he chose the first 16 settlers here, he rescued thousands of families while his own was held captive by his enemies for 5 years, he founded churches both sides of the border...(there's more)...And we have the honour of having him here! We should feel privileged that we are the keepers of this hero's final resting place.

Our Town needs to stress to Parks Canada this site needs the recognition it deserves.

Time is of the essence and integrity is the need.

Thank you."

Current

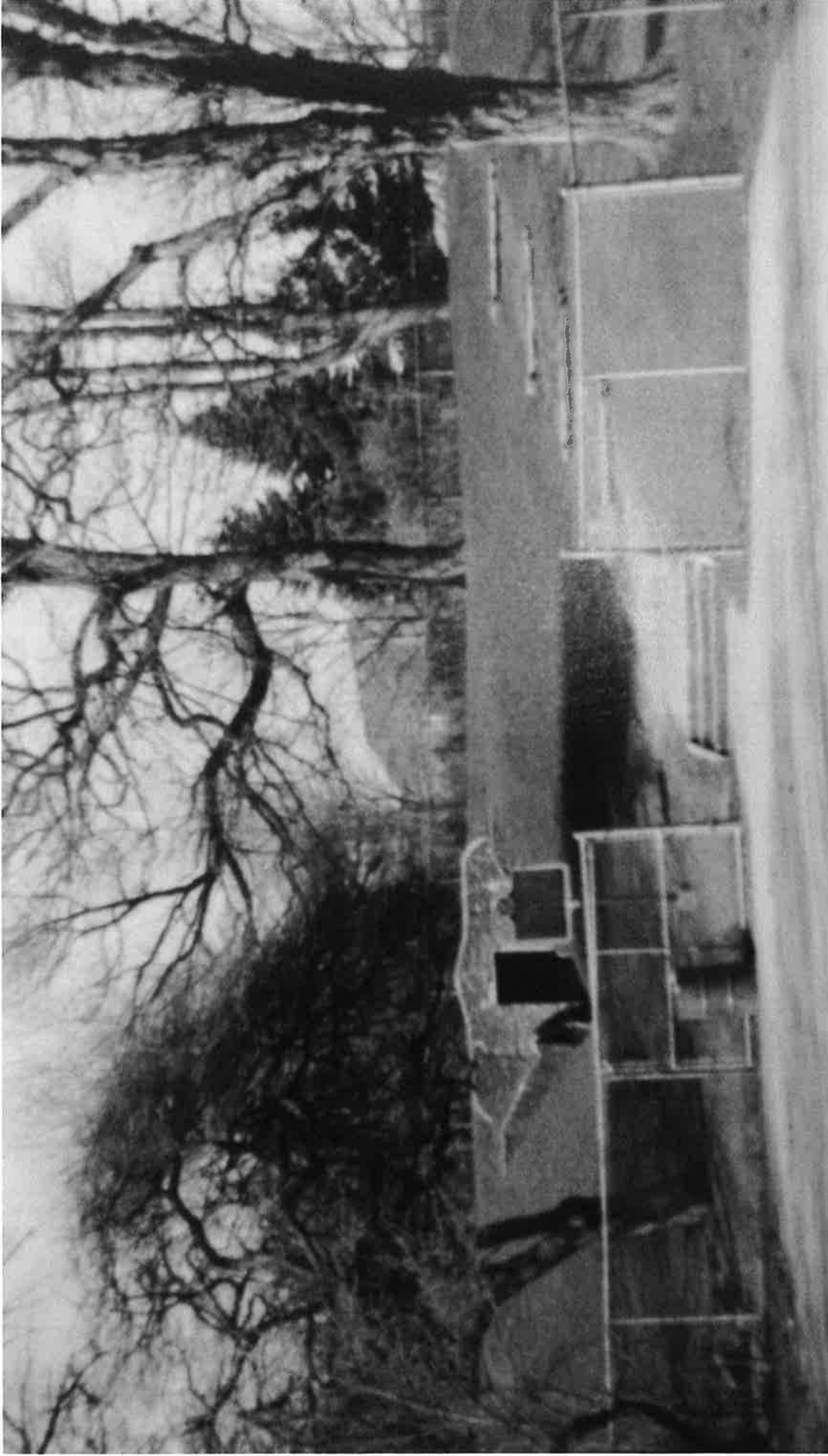




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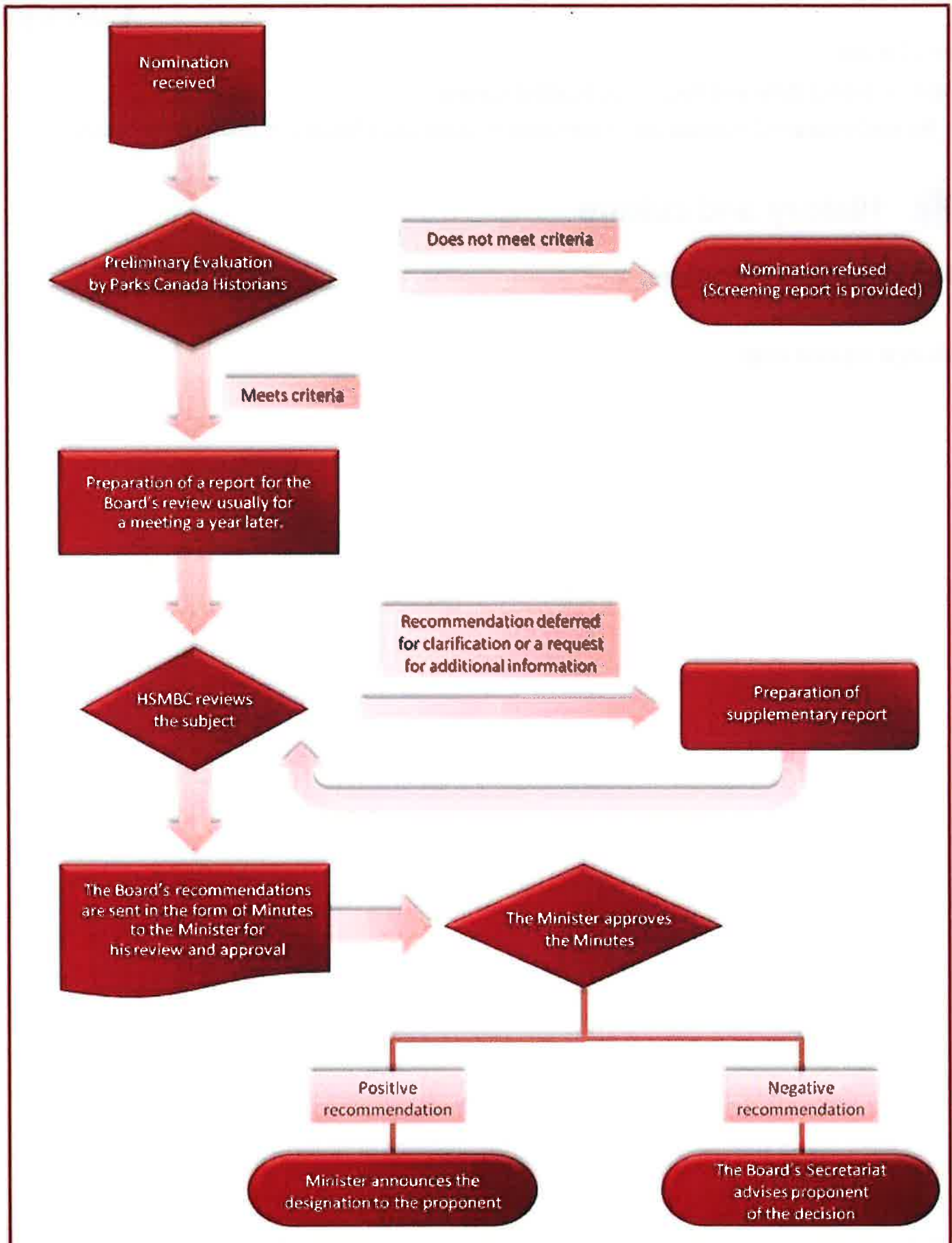


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Flowchart of the Designation Process

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