



City of Orillia
Culture & Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMITTEE PURSUES DESIGNATION OF FRENCH'S STAND.

August 12, 2009 (for Immediate Release) ORILLIA - The Orillia Municipal Heritage Committee is pursuing the Heritage Designation of one of the longest serving and historically significant businesses in Orillia, **French's Stand**.

French's Stand opened on June 3, 1920 in Couchiching Beach Park overlooking Lake Couchiching. Since June 1920 members of the George N. French family have operated the one storey frame structure and the business is currently run by George's grand daughter, Jodie Gross. French's stand has retained much of its original design, form, materials function and character for 89 years.

With the railway passing through Orillia several times a day, the provincial Highway approaching and a strategy for promoting the Trent Severn Waterway for tourism, George French thought setting up a refreshment stand at Couchiching Beach Park would be a good opportunity.

A regular patron of French's stand was Stephen Leacock, his table is commemorated with a brass plaque.

The Orillia Municipal Heritage Committee has done the historical research, but all of Orillia has a personal connection with the stand. The committee would like to invite the town to come down and relive the memories they have experienced.

There will be a ceremony to re-kindle these memories;

- Wednesday, August 19th
- 5 pm
- French's Stand
- Centennial Drive
- Orillia, Ontario

The Municipal Heritage Committee would welcome letters or emails describing your personal experience at French's stand. Please email to: info@heritageorillia.ca
Or mail to: Orillia City Centre, 50 Andrew Street South, Orillia ON L3V 7T5
Attention: Craig Metcalf, Director of Culture & Heritage.

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