

## **TOWARF Building**



### **Architectural/Physical Description**

*From 1982 Old Oakville Heritage District Plan*

No description

### *OLRA Heritage Working Group Commentary and Updates*

In October 1987, after receiving funding from the federal government (in recognition of the importance of TOWARF), Town Council of the day approved the construction of a new TOWARF building on the same site. Design was by architectural firm of Tony Jackson and Julian Ryder. Simple frame structure with lower height profile was designed to be functional while not obstructing views. Some design features resembled the OYS clubhouse that sat on this property from early 1940s.

Paint colour of cladding is less complementary to traditional character of District.

## Historical Description

*Source: TOWARF 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book*

TOWARF was created as a result of a tragic drowning that occurred off of Oakville during a violent storm. Its mandate: to organize a team for water rescue to prevent further boating deaths, disasters, or mishaps in the waters of Lake Ontario off Oakville.

Picture of original building from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of TOWARF (was originally an old garage that the Oakville Yacht Squadron used as their clubhouse). When OYS moved to the west side of the river TOWARF took over this small building and stayed until a new building was done in 1987-1988.

*It was like a little east coast shanty waiting for its fisherman to return from their day's pick of the sea. There was not a park on the south side as there is now and the lake came right up to the edge of the building*



*Oakville Yacht Squadron was founded in 1946 by a group of sailors interested in racing Snipe class dinghies, a boat which was very popular and competitive at the time, and still has an active international fleet today. Early facilities, located in downtown Oakville across the river from the current site of the club were limited, but that did not prevent the members from being very competitive on the local and international stage*

In October 1987, after receiving funding from the federal government (in recognition of the importance of TOWARF), Town Council of the day approved the construction of a new TOWARF building on the same site. The 1500 square foot building includes an observation deck, radio room, galley, training room, two offices, two washroom and shower facilities. Building has been occupied by TOWARF since .October 1988

*Source: From Oakville Harbours Conservation Assessment – Page 68*

The Town of Oakville Water Air Rescue Force (TOWARF) was established in 1954 by Chief of Police Fred Oliver after a tragic boating accident claimed the lives of three Sea Scouts. A volunteer-based organization, TOWARF is a Marine Search & Rescue Unit whose primary mission is to prevent the loss of life and injury to boaters in the waters off Oakville and Bronte harbours. 50 active volunteers, organized into 7 crews, patrol the shoreline between Burloak Drive (Oakville/Burlington border) and Winston Churchill Boulevard (Oakville/Mississauga border) and approximately 10 miles out from shore. TOWARF is a Unit within the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. The volunteers crew the Rescue Boat, perform maintenance on the boat and equipment as well as the interior of the headquarters building.

When TOWARF was founded, a number of local pilots used their personal aircraft to assist in searches. Now the 424 (Tiger) Squadron from CFB Trenton provides airborne search and rescue in the area, flying the CH-146 Griffon helicopter and the Lockheed CC-130 Hercules.

### **Other Associations**

Founder – Fred Oliver, Chief of Police and Town Councillor

Oakville Harbour Cultural Heritage Landscape Designation – organically evolved and associative landscape

