



Brampton

REPORT

Planning, Design & Development Committee

Standing Committee of the Council
of the Corporation of the City of Brampton

Date: May 31, 2005.

File: G33 LA

Subject: **HERITAGE DESIGNATION OF ALL HERITAGE CEMETERIES IN THE CITY OF BRAMPTON.**

Contact: Jim Leonard, Heritage Coordinator (3825) / Alex Taranu, Manager, Urban Design and Public Buildings (3454)

Overview

- **The City of Brampton has 29 known cemeteries or burial grounds that exhibit significant cultural heritage value.**
- **The Heritage Coordinator has consulted with the Manager of Cemeteries and received support in principle to proceed with this initiative.**
- **Two of these cemeteries are already designated heritage - Churchville Cemetery and most recently, Ebenezer Methodist Cemetery (approved 2004). Some of the others were listed as "Category A" resource in the Municipal Heritage Inventory in 2004.**
- **This report proposes heritage designation of the 27 cemeteries and burial sites not already designated.**
- **The Brampton Heritage Board (BHB) passed a motion recommending the designation of all heritage cemeteries (April 19, 2005). City Council endorsed this recommendation and directed staff to prepare a heritage designation report (Recommendation: HB055-2005 / May 9, 2005).**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Heritage Report entitled, "Statement of the Reason for Designation of All Heritage Cemeteries in Brampton" (G33LA) be received; and

THAT all cemeteries as described, be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18) as being real property of cultural heritage value or interest; and

THAT staff, working in conjunction with the City Clerk, be authorized to give Notice of Intention to Designate as per the requirements of the Heritage Act and prepare the Designation By-laws.

BACKGROUND

Significance of Heritage Cemeteries:

By their nature, cemeteries are especially sensitive and important heritage sites. They have spiritual significance, they reflect the early history of our City and of course, they hold the bodily remains of Brampton's earliest settlers and some very prominent citizens. Rare and important trees and plant species are often found in cemeteries. Most cemeteries provide park-like green space that enriches the City aesthetically. In decades past cemeteries were actually used as quasi parks by nearby residents. Architecturally, they often hold beautifully carved headstones, monuments, and structures. Cemeteries attract tourists and those interested in searching their family root or the history of this city. In Brampton many of the oldest cemeteries stand as the only reminders of once thriving hamlets and villages such as Tullamore and Whaley's Corners.

Purpose of Heritage Designation:

Heritage designation bestows formal public recognition on historic sites. It provides clarity as to the cultural importance of a given property. It demonstrates that the City is committed to on-going heritage preservation and care.

In general terms, designation gives City Council a far greater opportunity to control how impacts of such things as road widening, cemetery closure/relocation proposals and adjacent land use developments will be assessed and mitigated, than would otherwise be available. It also gives Council the legal authority to prosecute adjacent landowners or other parties that damage or encroach on cemeteries.

Heritage cemeteries are vulnerable to acts of vandalism, encroachments by nearby development, road widening, neglect and other impacts or threats. Closed or abandoned cemeteries are especially vulnerable. Designation ensures that the heritage considerations are factored in when the municipality responds or when mitigation is being considered.

Designation identifies and describes the attributes that give a cemetery its heritage significance. The designation is used to help guide proposed alterations so that impacts on these attributes can be factored in. Designation does not restrict use of the property, but the protection it affords may prevent unsympathetic changes or delay demolition while practical options are explored and advice provided. Designation is not used to prevent alterations but to guide them in a reasonable and pragmatic fashion.

Heritage designation does not affect or impact regular maintenance of grounds, headstones or other structures; it does not affect client care or new burials. Designation does not alter the day-to-day activities or functions required to operate a cemetery. Heritage designation also does not obligate land owners to restore buildings or site features or spend more money than would otherwise be spent by any prudent land owner.

Heritage designation of cemeteries is a common practise in Ontario. Currently at least 79 cemeteries in the province are designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

CURRENT SITUATION:

There are a total of 29 known cemeteries and burial sites in the City of Brampton that possess cultural heritage significance. Of this group, only 2 are already designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage

Act - Ebenezer Methodist Cemetery on Gore Road (designated in 2005) and Churchville Cemetery on Churchville Road (designated in 1988).

In June 2004 City Council listed 9 cemeteries as being of cultural heritage value. In December 2004 Council listed the Harrison-Hewgill Cemetery. Previously, only the farmhouse was listed. The remaining cemeteries in the City have no heritage status of any kind.

Conservation and protection of heritage cemeteries has become a priority in recent years. Staff have been assessing all heritage cemeteries in the City of Brampton for more than one year. The heritage attributes of all area cemeteries and burial sites have been recorded and photographed. Working in collaboration with the Cemeteries Manager, the Urban Design section prepared designs for new gates and fences to beautify and protect the cemeteries. A headstone restoration program has been underway for more than two years. Several City owned cemeteries have been restored using current professional heritage standards. Brampton Cemetery published a very successful "walking tour" booklet on Brampton Cemetery that spotlights some of the more interesting and historically significant sites and features.

In 2003 the grave of renowned Canadian artist J.W.L. Forster in Brampton Cemetery was commemorated with a National Historic Sites plaque.

In June 2005 the Ministry of Culture invited the Heritage Coordinator and Cemetery Manager to participate in a provincial workshop on cemetery conservation. The Ministry wants to feature Brampton as a "best practises" model for cemetery conservation.

Despite this renewed local focus on heritage cemeteries, some have still been impacted by the encroachment of adjacent development and vandalism. Designation cannot always stop these threats but it can put the municipality and the province in a much better position to respond and to seek mitigation if damage does occur. In February 2005 the privately owned Harrison-Hewgill cemetery on Gore Road was damaged when a construction company working on Gore Road, piled fill on the burial site. The landowner (Criterion Development) had previously given the construction company authorization to store equipment and to pile fill, but the workers on site were apparently not informed of the location of the cemetery. The two known headstones were covered by a foot of soil and one stone was partially damaged by earth moving equipment. Fortunately no permanent damage has occurred. Nevertheless, the final resting place of a young mother who died in childbirth and her infant son was subject to an unfortunate indignity. As of early June 2005 an archaeological investigation of the site, along with a comprehensive clean-up and restoration program, had begun.

The Brampton Heritage Board (BHB) put forward a resolution at their monthly meeting held on April 19 2005, requesting that City Council be asked to pass by-laws designating all cemeteries in the City that exhibit cultural heritage value, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Planning, Design and Development Committee endorsed this motion on May 2, 2005. The motion was approved by City Council on May 9, 2005. The Heritage Coordinator was given direction to proceed with the preparation of heritage designation reports.

Of those cemeteries not already designated, 3 are owned by church diocese (St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, St. John's Anglican Cemetery),

The Heritage Coordinator briefed the Cemeteries Manager earlier in the year and received his support in principle to proceed with the heritage designation initiative.

CONCLUSION:

Our heritage resources are fragile and valuable. They are cultural assets that give identity and distinctiveness to the City. Brampton's heritage cemeteries are among the most important cultural heritage resources in the City. A measure of formal heritage recognition and protection is warranted.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

Jamie Lowery, Director of Parks Operations expressed is supportive of this initiative and encourages investigation of external heritage funding sources as they become available.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Leonard, Heritage Coordinator
Planning, Design and Development Department

Alex Taranu, Manager
Urban Design and Public Spaces

Agreed:

Karl Walsh, Director,
Community Design, Parks Planning & Development

Paul Webster, Cemeteries Manager
Community Services Department

John Marshall, Commissioner
Community Services Department

John Corbett, Commissioner
Planning, Design and Development Department

Attached: "Heritage Report: Statement of Reason for Heritage Designation of All Heritage Cemeteries in Brampton"

LIST OF CEMETERIES PROPOSED FOR HERITAGE DESIGNATION - SEPTEMBER 2005:

Alloa (Creditview Road at Wanless)

Bertam - Old Zion (Wanless at Main St N)

Brampton Cemetery (Centre Street)

Brampton Pioneer Cemetery (Main Street North)

Cheyne (Main Street South)

Eventide (Main Street North)

Graham (Kennedy Road South)

Grahamsville (Airport Road)

Harrison-Hewgill (Gore Road)

Harrison United (Torbram Road)

Hilltop Gore (Gore Road)

Huttonville (Mississauga Road)

Lundy (Dixie Road)

McNichol's Cemetery (Heritage Road)

Mount Olivet (Dixie Road)

Mount Zion -Whaley's Corners (Winston Churchill Road)

Old Grahamsville (Torbram Road)

Page (Heritage Road)

Rice Estate Cemetery (Ray Lawson Blvd)

Shiloh (Highway 50 north)

Snelgrove (Kennedy Road)

St John's Castlemore (Gore Road)

St. John's Edmonton (Huronario Street North)

St Mary's Anglican - Tullamore (Airport Road)

St Patrick's - Wildfield (Gore Road)

Woodhill (Airport Road)

Zion (Wanless)

PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED CEMETERIES

Churchville (1988)

Ebenezer Chapel Cemetery (June 2005)