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THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 4726 Watson Rd S, Puslinch

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate at 4726 Watson Rd S, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18. as authorized by Township of Puslinch Council through Resolution No. 2024-336.

Description of the Property

The subject property is described as being Concession 9 Rear Lot 11, municipally known as at 4726 Watson Rd S, Puslinch.



(Key Map Showing Location of 4726 Watson Rd S, Puslinch)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 4726 Watson Road South, Puslinch, meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

The property retains cultural heritage value in the masonry and design of this vernacular 'Ontario House' stone residence and its stone barn. It has significant historical association with William Rae, a Scottish stonemason and farmer. Contextually the property is associated with Scottish masonry in the Arkell area.

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Design Value:

The property is an example of a vernacular one-and-a-half-storey "Ontario House" style residence built with a high degree of craftsmanship. This architecture design's components include a three-bay front façade, side-gabled roof with a centred and peaked front gable over a Gothic arched window on the second floor. Three symmetrical sash window fenestrations are on the lower storey of the front facade. Unlike other residences in the Township with this architecture, this property's main doorway is not centred in the front facade, is off to the side leading into a one-storey cross-gabled wing with a peak parallel to the main body of the house. This peak once supported a bell and belfry for calling farm workers. The property has a small sash window fenestration on the side facades of the upper half storey.

William Rae was living on this property in a log house in 1861. He built this house sometime during the next decade. His skill as a stone mason is evident in the large lime-taped, coursed granite and limestone walls with Aberdeen components. Quoins are large cut limestone, and all window and door fenestrations feature cut limestone voussoirs, surrounds and sills.

Additionally, the property's bank barn is of high craftsmanship, as it is also made of stone and consists of an interesting drive-through central opening made for horses to go right through after being unhitched from their loads.

Historical /Associative:

William Rae was a skilled Scottish stonemason credited with building numerous farms in Eden Mills and Lower Puslinch. He was also a successful farmer. He set standards for agricultural education and played a pivotal role in promoting the high-level breeding of sheep and cattle. Rae was an active member of the Puslinch Agricultural Society and a key figure in the Puslinch Farmers Club, where he transformed how farming knowledge and purchasing were shared among agricultural workers in Puslinch and throughout Ontario. His leadership and innovations helped shape the agricultural landscape of the region.

Contextual Value:

The property is part of a larger landscape of properties featuring Scottish stonemasonry from the same period in the Arkell area, such as those owned by Adam Hume, and James Orme. The property's stone building materials were sourced from the immediate area, linking the residence physically and historically to its landscape.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4726 Watson RD S:

William Rae House:

- Original window and door fenestration
- Original rubble foundation
- Exterior original stone walls: front and side facades including wing
- Limestone voussoirs, sills and surrounds

- Form and mass of building with wing

Notice of Objection

Any person may send a notice of objection to this proposed designation, before 4:00 p.m. on November 16, 2024. This notice must be sent by registered mail or delivered to the Clerk of the Township of Puslinch, and must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Township of Puslinch shall consider the objection and make a decision whether or not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property within 90 days after the end of the 30-day objection period. If Council decides not to withdraw its intention to designate, a heritage designation bylaw must be passed within 120 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate. Council must publish a notice of passing of the designation bylaw which is followed by a 30-day appeal period when appeals of the bylaw may be given to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a hearing and decision.

Dated October 17, 2024

Justine Brotherston,
Municipal Clerk
Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

CC: Property Owner
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