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CONSERVATION REVIEW  
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**Town of Ajax**  
*Ontario's First ISO 9001*  
*Quality Community*

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Ajax, Ontario  
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February 11, 2000

Ontario Heritage Foundation  
Attn: Pamela Craig  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

Dear Ms. Craig:

Re: Designation By-law 14-2000, Elizabeth Street Cemetery, Ajax

Please find enclosed a copy of Town of Ajax By-law 14-2000 which designates the Elizabeth Street Cemetery, Ajax, as being of local architectural and historic value and interest.

This By-law will be registered on the title of the subject property.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

M. de Road  
Clerk

/os

cc Marilyn Brewer, Chair, Board of Trustees, Board of Pickering United Church,  
D. Forget, Secretary, Heritage Ajax

RR  
6/13/00 ✓

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AJAX

## BY-LAW NUMBER 14-2000

A By-law to designate the property known municipally as Part Lot 16, Concession II, Ajax, as being of Architectural and Historical value or interest (Elizabeth Street Cemetery).

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18), as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of Architectural or Historical value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as Part Lot 16, Concession II (Elizabeth Street Cemetery) and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation a Notice of Intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

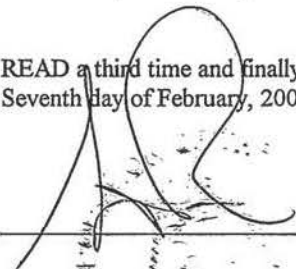
AND WHEREAS the Council has considered the recommendations of Heritage Ajax with respect to this matter;


NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of Architectural and Historical value or interest the real property known as The Elizabeth Street Cemetery, more particularly described as Part Lot 16, Concession II, Town of Ajax (former Village of Pickering), Region of Durham, Province of Ontario. The reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the property land registry office.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause Notice of the Passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

READ a first time and second time this  
Seventh day of February, 2000.

READ a third time and finally passed this  
Seventh day of February, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk



## SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 14-2000

### REASON FOR DESIGNATION

1. The Old Wesleyan Methodist Cemetery on Elizabeth Street (formerly Mill Street) in Pickering Village is an example of an early sect of the present day United Church.

Early Methodism was a result of a revival in the established Church of England (Anglican) in the early 1700's. This group spread quietly through Europe and into America. John Wesley, a member of the early Methodist Church of England, was an Elder in the Church, but it was not until after his death that the "Wesleyan Methodist" group assumed it's own church status.

Newfoundland was the first North American colony to receive this modification of Methodism in 1765. Wesleyan Methodism gradually spread west through the Eastern provinces, south to New York and into Upper Canada. It is not until 1817 that Duffins Creek (Now Pickering Village) shows up in the records as being part of the Smith's Creek circuit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. A circuit is an area where one ordained minister of the church oversees the entire area. These circuit riders rode on horseback and would perform services along the way, either in peoples homes, local schools or if the population was larger in a church. The circuit rider may only be in a particular Town or Village once a month. In his absence a Lay Preacher, who was often a prominent member in society, would be appointed to hold weekly services or "classes".

In 1817 Reverend James Jackson had a membership of 201 for the entire Smith's Creek circuit. (It extended from Toronto to Belleville). As time went on and Upper Canada enjoyed years of increased growth, the circuits were re-aligned (areas were decreased in size) to accommodate the growing membership within the Wesleyan Methodist Church. From 1847-1856 Duffins Creek is part of the Markham circuit; from 1856-1863 the Whitby circuit; from 1863-1875 the Pickering circuit; 1875 and 1876 The Pickering Circuit is divided into Duffins Creek East and West wards; 1876-1881 Duffins Creek.

In 1874 the "Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada" and the "Wesleyan Conference of Eastern British America" and the "Canada Conference of the Methodist New Connexion Church" organized themselves into the "Methodist Church of Canada". In 1884 the Bible Christian Church and the Methodist Church of Canada united and became known together as the Methodist Church of Canada. In 1925 we see the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches to form the "United Church of Canada".

2. The Elizabeth Street Pioneer Cemetery is one of Ajax's earliest cemeteries and the site of one of Duffins Creek's early churches.
3. The original patent for the 200 acre lot known as Lot 16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession in Pickering Township was granted in 1828 to King's College. The first registered owner of the property is Christopher Elliott on January 9, 1837. It changed-owners numerous times and was subdivided in many different ways over the years.

In 1871 the area, 91/100 acre, where the already established church and cemetery existed was granted by Adam F. Elliott and Robert M. Racey to the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church for the price of One Dollar. (Trustees being: Mathew Swallow, William Dixon, John Rickard, Byron Leavens, James Rogers, Richard Wilson and Richard Brignall). Robert Racey later sold part of Lot 16 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession to John Spink who owned Spink's Mill and the properties on the east side of Mill Street (now Elizabeth Street). The first church building, a white wooden structure was built at the north end of the Old Methodist Cemetery in 1843. It seems the Church was used until 1879 when the congregation moved to a newly built, much larger, brick structure on King Street (Old

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Kingston Road) in the centre of the Village (present site of the Montessori School). It is believed that in 1879 the white frame church building was sold to Mr. J. Linton, who used the lumber to build the semi-detached frame building across the street, where it still stands. The earliest interment in the cemetery is March, 1842 and the latest is 1955.

Several churches were constructed in Duffins Creek in the early years of settlement. There was a friend's meeting house in the east end of the Village, the Old Kirk Church, the Anglican Church of St. Georges was built in 1841. In 1848 the Roman Catholic Church of St. Wilfred's was built, and the Bible Christian Church was located on Kingston Road East of Church Street.

3. Many of Duffins Creek's early families are interred in the cemetery.

In 1988, The Ontario Genealogical Society published a listing of the headstones and their inscriptions for the "Pickering Old Methodist Cemetery (Elizabeth Street)".

From research into early census reports (1852, 1861, 1871) it appears that not only were Wesleyan Methodists buried in the cemetery, but also primitive Methodists and also members of the Bible Christian Church. It is interesting to note that the Cemetery and Church is indicated on the map of Pickering Township in the 1877 Historical Atlas of the County of Ontario. (I.E. Cross for Cemetery and "CH" beside structure) many of the Duffins Creek landowners, who are indicated on this map, and their descendants are buried in the cemetery. (Woodruff, Gordon, Hartrick, Linton, Leavens, Leng, Wise, Madill, Gormley, Richardson, Powell). Many of the people interred in the cemetery were important citizens of Duffins Creek.

- Brereton Bunting, Merchant, Preacher and Justice of the Peace. Close friend of Oliver Mowat and on intimate terms with the Hon. George Brown, one of the Father's of Confederation. His wife's name was Mary B. Brown. Brereton is listed in the census of 1871 as being a member of the Bible Christian Church. Many of his descendants are buried here.
- Wise Family, were local shop owners and landowners (Pickering Village Pharmacy).
- Joseph Gordon, a local farmer married Mary Cuthbert. Their descendants went on to operate the Gordon House Hotel (Old Kingston Road).
- Cuthberts, built the Cuthbert House Hotel (now the Gordon House).
- William Dixon, one of the group of Wesleyan Methodist Trustees who purchased the land where the cemetery is located.
- Linton, relatives of William Hartrick. Linton Avenue named after Lydia Linton Sheir.
- Woodruff, descendants of one of the earliest known families in the area.
- Dickie/Marquis, dry goods store owner.

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