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PUBLIC NOTICE – HERITAGE LAND
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND
SHARON CEMETERY
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

RECEIVED**MAY 12 2009**

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as Sharon Cemetery, Etobicoke (in Part Lot 31, Concession 3, Etobicoke Township) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Reasons for Designation

Description

Sharon Cemetery, Etobicoke, is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual value. Located on the north side of Rexdale Boulevard, west of Highway 27 (in Part Lot 31, Concession 3, Etobicoke Township), Sharon Cemetery was established in 1842 and encompasses approximately 160 burials and more than 75 grave markers. Beginning in 2005, the cemetery trustees initiated a restoration project that uncovered many monuments and resulted in the repair and remounting of damaged markers.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Sharon Cemetery is historically associated with the Primitive Methodist congregation that was established in the Etobicoke community of Highfield in 1842. During the latter year, a church known as Hainstock's Chapel and adjoining burial ground opened near the intersection of present-day Rexdale Boulevard and Highway 27 where a rural settlement had developed.



A second church completed on the site in 1856 was renamed Sharon Chapel and later known as Sharon Methodist Church (1884) and Sharon United Church (1925). The latter building was demolished in 1967, leaving the cemetery as the remaining physical reminder of the historical use of the property. The cemetery contains the graves of many of Etobicoke's founding families and their descendants.

The cemetery's design value is drawn from the collection of monuments that date from 1845 to 1948, and range from modest grave markers to more elaborate monuments with intricate shapes and decorative carvings. The oldest extant marker (dated October 17, 1845) recognizes the grave of Mary Etherington. A more recent cairn with a plaque identifies the historical background of Sharon Cemetery, and a monument lists the names of families whose ancestors were interred there.

Contextually, Sharon Cemetery is an important visual feature on Rexdale Boulevard, west of Highway 27, where it occupies a parklike setting adjoining the Humber Arboretum.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of Sharon Cemetery related to its design, associative and contextual value as an early cemetery associated with the Highfield community in Etobicoke are:

- The collection of grave markers, including granite, marble and limestone monuments in the tablet, block and obelisk styles
- The stone cairn with a plaque identifying the cemetery, and the granite monument listing the names of families with ancestors buried on the site
- The placement and orientation of the grave markers
- The unobstructed views across the cemetery
- The mature trees

Notice of an objection to the proposed designation may be served on the City Clerk, Attention: Glenda Jagai, Administrator, Etobicoke York Community Council, Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall, Etobicoke, ON M9C 2Y2, within thirty days of the 13th day of May, 2009, which is June 12, 2009. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 13th day of May, 2009.

Glenda Jagai
for Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk