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A BY-LAW to designate the property known municipally as The Auld Kirk situated on Part E, Lot 16 Concession 7, Township of Ramsay, as being of Architectural and Historical Value or Interest.

WHEREAS section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 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 historic value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramsay has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as The Auld Kirk Township of Ramsay, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the clerk of the municipality;

THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramsay enacts as follows:

- 1) There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the real property known as The Auld Kirk, situated on Part East Half of Lot 16 in the seventh concession of the Township of Ramsay more particularly described in instrument # 139.
- 2) The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in the proper 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 the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 2ND DAY OF JANUARY, 1980.


Reeve


Clerk

I, Robert H. Brydges, Clerk-Treasurer of the Township of Ramsay do certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a by-law passed by the Council of the Township of Ramsay on January 2nd, 1980.


Robert H. Brydges, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF RAMSAY

IN THE MATTER of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, R.S.O. 1974, C.122, AND
IN THE MATTER of the following land and premises at the following municipal
address, in the Township of Ramsay, in the Province of Ontario.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramsay
on the 6th day of June, 1979, decided to designate the following land and
building as property of architectural and historical value or interest
under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, C.122.

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE
PROPOSED DESIGNATION

The Auld Kirk
Part East Half Lot 16, Concession 7

The building is located at the intersection of the eighth line and County
Road #16. The building of the Church was begun in 1834 and was completed
in 1836.

The basic construction is of stone rubble walls, interrupted in each side
by three large windows, and on the front by two windows of the same scale
as those on the sides, and by a large central door at ground level. An
almost fan shaped window set above the doorway is a duplicate of the upper
third of the main windows. Each of the openings moves in a classic neo-
gothic style towards the top of the gothic arch formation, and the lines
of the window openings for glass intertwine in the rule of three in a style
distinctive, yet traditional.

The importance of this building lies both in its architectural distinction
and in the fact that it is one of Ramsay's oldest churches and many of the
township's settlers are interred in the adjacent cemetery.

Any person may, within thirty days of the first publication of this notice,
send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Township of Ramsay,
notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation together with a
statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such
a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of this Corporation of the
Township of Ramsay shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board
for a hearing.

Dated at the Township of Ramsay this 25th day of June 1979.

Robert H. Bridges

"THE AULD KIRK"

The first systematic immigrations to Ramsay Township from Scotland occurred in 1815. Further groups of settlers arrived in 1818 and 1819 and located in Beckwith, Lanark and Dalhousie Townships.

The Reverend William Bell and later the Reverend Doctor Buchanan ministered to the spiritual needs of the various scattered settlements during the period 1818 to 1830, the former operating from Perth and the latter from Franktown. This arrangement was not satisfactory and accordingly the settlers of Ramsay living along the Tannery Creek at Leckie's Corners sought out a permanent minister of their own persuasion. The Church of Scotland accordingly designated the Reverend John Fairbairn, who arrived in the community in 1833, and immediately began to organize his congregation.

In the spring of 1834 the first session was elected, and this congregation of the Father Church was named St. Andrew's. Later that year, after several had been named, the congregation agreed to acquire a plot of ground suitable for a cemetery and a church. In consequence a plot of ground was and a building erected in 1834, and forming the south-east corner of the last lot of the number 10, in the Seventh Concession of Ramsay was purchased from John Mitchell, junior, for the sum of Three Pounds, Two Shillings and Sixpence.

The church was begun in 1834 (the same year that saw the first burial in the adjacent cemetery) and was completed in 1836.

Description of the Building:

The basic construction is stone rubble walls, interrupted in each side by three large windows, and on the front by two windows of the same scale as those on the sides, and by a large central door at ground level. An almost-fan-shaped window set above the doorway, is a duplicate of the upper third of the main windows. Each of the openings moves in a classic neo-gothic style towards the top of the Gothic arch formation, and the lines of the window openings for glass intertwine in the rule of three in a style distinctive, yet traditional.

The stone used in the building was drawn by oxen from the farm of James Aitken, then located on Lot Number 1, 11th Concession Huntley Township, Carleton County. (It is of interest to note that Aitken's great granddaughter, Mrs. Oliver Simpson presently resides in Carleton Place.) As a result of the building's conversion for use other than those for which it was designed, two of the windows, one on either side, at the rear have been blocked in, inside the building, in order to form a winter burial vault. This is something of a tragedy from the viewpoint of tradition, although entirely within the bounds of practicality.

Later History:

The Great Distruption of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, of the 1840's was felt as well in Ramsay, and as a result, St. John's Free Church was built diagonally opposite the Auld Kirk. However the ground allotted to the Free Church proved unsuitable for burials and that congregation used the Auld Kirk ground for interments.

Over the years, the cemetery continued to be regarded as a community burial ground, and has gained and still maintains a character transcending its original denominational status. By the beginning of the 1860's the establishing and subsequent growth of the woollen industry in the Village of Almonte resulted in an increase in the population of the village at the expense of other nearby settlements, hence the congregations of both the Auld Kirk and the Free Church was forced to consider moving the focus of their activities to the growing Town of Almonte. Accordingly a new St. Andrews was built in 1861 and the Free Church constructed St. John's in 1863.

As a result of this relocation of families, the Auld Kirk was left in a state of disrepair for many years, until, after the first World War, when former residents of the community got together to work out a plan for the partial restoration of the building, and its maintenance as a memorial to the Scottish settlers and their descendants.

The Auld Kirk remains in use to-day for some burial services, and the vault referred to earlier, is used as a repository for the remains of those who died during the winter months when final committal is difficult. A service to honour the memory of those buried in the adjacent cemetery is held each year in the Auld Kirk, and is celebrated by the Chairman of the Ecumenical Board of the area.

NORTH LANARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.