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THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 4217-4223 Watson Rd S, Puslinch

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate at 4217-4223 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 10 Front Part Lot 31, municipally known as at 4217-4223 Watson Rd S, Puslinch.



(Key Map Showing Location of 4217-4223 Watson Rd S, Puslinch)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 4217-4223 Watson Rd S, the former "School Section 9" possesses significant cultural heritage value due to its role in the educational and social history of the Badenoch area. This value is retained in the one room schoolhouse on the property. This building represents the efforts of the board of School Section 9 to provide public elementary education to the local community. The school was constructed in 1889 following building plans published by the Ontario Department of Education in the midnineteenth century as a guide. The property's design value is underscored by the schoolhouse architecture rendered with Italianate detail and cut-stone masonry. The schoolhouse's strategic placement has defined the geographic locus of the Badenoch community to the present. Given its pivotal role in the history of Puslinch, both the property

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and its schoolhouse hold the status of a landmark. The property 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 is listed on the Township of Puslinch Municipal Heritage Register and has received a plaque from the Township's Heritage Committee for its cultural heritage value.

Design Value:

The property features an outstanding example of an Ontario one-storey stone schoolhouse, built in 1889, with Italianate details. The building features representative elements of late-nineteenth century Ontario schoolhouse design: front gable roof, singlestorey rectangular form, large window fenestrations on the side walls with stone soldier lintels and sills, and a front facade with two entrances: one for girls and one for boys. Noteworthy features include the application of Italianate details: wide eaves and paired "C" style brackets with finials, ashlar limestone masonry walls with lime-taped coursing, large segmented arched sash windows with 6 over 6 panes spaced on both side wails of the building, and a matching window on the front facade centred between twin entrances for girls and boys. Each entrance has a segmented arch equipped with a three-pane transom. All fenestrations are fitted with segmented stone lintels and moulded keystones, including the engraved datestone "S.S. No. 9 1889 Puslinch" located under the gable. The wood belfry is original, and the bell replaced in 2004. The south-facing rear window has been replaced to accommodate a single entrance. Although not listed here as heritage attributes, it should be noted that much of the interior of the schoolhouse retains its original elements from the period of its closure in the 1960s, including slate blackboards, schoolhouse lamps and painted beadboard paneling. In addition, the schoolhouse site includes a large, landscaped playground.

Historical or Associative Value:

As Puslinch was settled, it was divided into twelve school sections (SS). The residents of each section built their own school, which not only represented and defined the geographic community but also became a centre for community activities. The property at Lot 31, Front Concession 10, was initially owned by John Campbell, a skilled shoemaker. This location served as the setting for open-air church services, conducted across the road from the old blacksmith shop. The Duncan Martin family also resided on this same lot. Throughout the property's history, three schools were established on its grounds, with the present-day schoolhouse being constructed in 1889. This schoolhouse remained in operation until December 1964 when students were bussed to a consolidated school. The Badenoch community chose to financially support and operate the property as a community centre after the schoolhouse closed in 1964. Of all the 12 Puslinch schoolhouses decommissioned in the early 1960s, the Badenoch schoolhouse remains the only one in public hands. The property and its schoolhouse have transformed into the Badenoch Community Centre and Park. It is owned by the County of Wellington.

Contextual Value:

The property is surrounded by several other heritage properties in the Badenoch community. These residences, including the John J. McRobbie and Peter McLean houses, among others, were built by immigrants from the Badenoch area of Scotland who arrived here in the 1830s and who played a significant role in shaping and establishing

this area of the Township. Furthermore, the property holds the status of a landmark due to its rich and complex history within the Township. Over the years, it has served numerous generations and families, playing crucial roles in both education and civil activities.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4217-4223 Watson Rd S.

Badenoch Schoolhouse:

- Height, scale, and form of building
- Limestone exterior walls, with ashlar masonry and lime-taped coursing
- Extant original doors and windows and transoms
- Segmented stone fenestration on windows and doors
- Stone lintels with keystones
- Tooled stone sills
- Wood eaves and brackets
- Belfry and bell
- Ornate datestone showing date of construction

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 Ontario Heritage Trust

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