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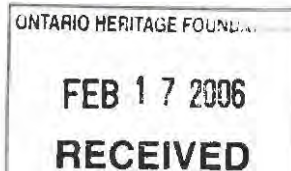
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J. Olson-Canturgh

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TOWN OF LINCOLN

4800 South Service Road
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B1
TEL: 905-563-8205
FAX: 905-563-6566

February 13, 2006

Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Mennonite Burying Ground (c.1798), Vineland Cemetery – Application for Heritage Designation

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Lincoln, at its meeting of February 6, 2006, ratified the following motion of the Town's Corporate Priorities Committee:

THAT the memorandum dated January 24, 2006 from the Town of Lincoln Municipal Heritage Committee regarding the Heritage Designation of the Mennonite Burying Ground, Vineland Cemetery, be received as information;

AND THAT the Town of Lincoln supports the recommendation of the Municipal Heritage Committee that the property known as the Mennonite Burying Ground, circa 1798, and the area of the Vineland Cemetery where the Rittenhouse Burial plot is located, be designated as a heritage site because of its historical and architectural significance and its cultural heritage value and interest;

AND THAT the Town continue with the designation process in accordance with Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

In accordance with the said Ontario Heritage Act, please find attached: a "Notice of Intention to Pass a By-law to Designate a Place of Architectural, Historical and/or Contextual Value or Interest".

The property proposed to be designated is the Mennonite Burying Ground (c.1798), and the area of the Vineland Cemetery where the Rittenhouse burial plot is located, as situated in the Vineland Cemetery located on the northeast corner of Regional Road 81 and Martin Road in the former Township of Clinton, now Town of Lincoln, Region of Niagara.

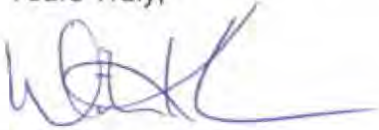
A detailed statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property, as prepared by the Town's Municipal Heritage Committee and reviewed by Council, is also attached.

A notice of objection to the designation may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality. For your information, such notice will be published in the Grimsby-Lincoln News on February 15, 2006.

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If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Kolasa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Kolasa
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk



***Notice of Intention to Pass a By-law to Designate a
Place of Architectural, Historical and/or Contextual
Value or Interest***

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln intends to pass a by-law under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, chapter O.18, as amended, to designate as a place of architectural, historical and/or contextual value or interest, the following property:

the Mennonite Burying Ground, circa 1798, and the area of the Vineland Cemetery where the Rittenhouse burial plot is located; as situated on the northeast corner of Regional Road 81 and Martin Road, west of Vineland, in the former Township of Clinton, now Town of Lincoln.

The property is of architectural, historical and/or contextual value or interest as it is reputed to be the oldest Mennonite Cemetery in Canada. The Mennonite Burying Ground is believed to have begun with its first burial in 1798 when, during the initial Mennonite migration, a child bearing the family name of "Martin" died en route to Waterloo and was buried in the southwest corner of the cemetery. A unique stone wall, constructed of local-quarried ledgerrock limestone in 1833, surrounds the original burying ground. Further, just before his death in 1915, Vineland Station-born Chicago businessman Moses F. Rittenhouse, a grandson of one of the original pioneers, donated land to expand the cemetery and created a trust fund to maintain the property in perpetuity. Mr. Rittenhouse was buried in a family plot in the new section of the cemetery outside of the original wall.

Further information, including detailed reasons for the designation of this property, may be obtained from the Corporate Services Department, Town of Lincoln Municipal Offices, 4800 South Service Road, Beamsville, Ontario, L0R 1B1, during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or on the Town's website at www.lincoln.ca.

Any person who objects to the intended designation must, within thirty days after the date of this notice, serve on the Clerk, a notice of objection in writing, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The Ontario Heritage Act provides that where a notice of objection has been served, the Council shall refer the matter to the Ontario Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated at the Town of Lincoln on February 15, 2006
William J. Kolasa, Clerk

MENNONITE BURYING GROUND

c. 1798

The Mennonite Burying Ground (c.1798) is situated on the northeast corner of Regional Rd. 81 (Old Highway #8) and Martin Rd., west of Vineland (in the former Clinton Township).

Following the American Revolutionary War of 1776 - 1783, many of Eastern Pennsylvania's Mennonites, who felt persecuted for their beliefs or loyalty to the Crown, sought refuge in the newly-created Upper Canada (now Ontario). As early as 1786, a prospecting party left Bucks County, Pennsylvania, USA and arrived in Lincoln County, Ontario, Canada in search of possible locations for settlement. After visiting the area around Twenty Mile Creek (known then as "The Twenty"), they reported a preponderance of black walnut trees, which gave the indication of good arable land. Following the trail of these black walnut trees, some 16 Mennonite families began migrating in the late 1790's to the area now known as Vineland.

Reputed to be the oldest Mennonite cemetery in Canada, the Mennonite Burying Ground is believed to have begun with its first burial in 1798. Tradition has it that during the initial migration, a child bearing the family name of Martin had died on route to Waterloo and was buried in the southwest corner of the cemetery. Although several small stone markers in this vicinity still exist today, many have been weathered beyond recognition, thereby, rendering it impossible to completely substantiate this claim. As it happened, more burials followed in the early 1800's, all bearing names of the original settlers, each of them carved or etched on marble headstones.

In 1801, a log structure was built nearby to serve as the first Mennonite church, which also doubled as a schoolhouse on weekdays. In 1816-17, the church was granted more land to the east from property originally owned by associate minister, Jacob Moyer. The log building was eventually replaced by a white frame church.

The unique stone wall, which surrounds the original burying ground, was built in 1833 by architectural contractor Newton Perry at a cost of ninety silver dollars. Utilizing local quarried uncoursed ledgerrock

limestone, the wall was topped with wooden sheathing, which in turn was covered with sheet iron. The familiar curved capping, as we know today, was added in 1914 throughout its course. Supporting buttresses were later added to the north side of the south wall to prevent shifting and erosion from the adjacent #8 Highway (Regional Road 81).

Just before his death in 1915, Chicago businessman, Moses F. Rittenhouse, a grandson of one of the original pioneers, donated land to expand the cemetery and created a trust fund to maintain the property in perpetuity. In the same year, landscape architects, E.D. Smith & Son were assigned the task of laying out the surrounding gardens, which included curved paths and decorative iron gateways. Mr. Rittenhouse was buried in the family plot in the new section of the cemetery, to the north, outside the original wall. To mark this site is a massive, slightly-pitched, oblong headstone set on a two-tiered plinth. Flanked by two, lidded cast stone urns, it features a rusticated frame with decorative eared architraves, ornamental fretting etched within its perimeter, and the name of "RITTENHOUSE" carved in capital roman letters. Further expansions to the cemetery were made to the northwest in 1930 and the north in 1966.

*Designation Statement prepared by:
Brian Romagnoli on behalf of the Municipal Heritage Committee
November, 2005*