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## **NOTICE**

In accordance with procedure By-law 160-2004, and in the matter of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, and the matter of the lands and premises, known as the former Snelgrove Baptist Church located at 10261 Hurontario Street in the City of Brampton, in the Province of Ontario:

### **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the City of Brampton intends to designate property situated at 10261 Hurontario Street (Snelgrove Baptist Church) in the City of Brampton, in the Province of Ontario, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

The former Snelgrove Baptist Church at 12061 Hurontario Street is located on the east side of Hurontario Street, north of Mayfield Road. The former church is on the same property that contains the Snelgrove Apartments, a four storey apartment that caters to seniors and persons with special needs. Snelgrove Apartments is located next door to the newly built Coptic Orthodox Church of Archangel Michael & St. Tekla.

### **SHORT STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR THE DESIGNATION**

The property at 12061 Hurontario Street is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value. The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design or physical value, historical/associative value and contextual value.

#### **Design/Physical Value:**

The building at 12061 Hurontario Street, known originally as the Snelgrove Baptist Church, was built in 1904 on the site of an earlier frame church. The one-and-a-half storey building is of rectangular plan, faced in red brick in common bond, and on a fieldstone foundation. Designed in the typical Ontario vernacular style for religious structures, the church also features Gothic Revival architectural influence. Gothic Revival architecture was very popular in Ontario, and was the most common style for religious buildings in the mid- to late 19th century. Common features of the style exhibited on the former Baptist church include a steeply pitched gable roof, pointed arch door and windows, buttresses, and quatrefoil window. The building also has a charming squat wooden bell tower with



pillars, balustrade and frieze. To the north of the main entrance is a corner stone stating "Baptist Church 1904" marking the date that construction began on the church.

### **Historical/Associative Value:**

The Snelgrove Baptist Church is associated with the Village of Snelgrove, which grew from the intersection of Hurontario Street (Hwy 10) and Mayfield Road. The history of the settlement in the Snelgrove area dates back to 1826 when Andrew Ranzire moved there following the completion of the survey for the north half of Toronto Township and all of Chinguacousy Township in 1819. Hurontario Street, which bisected the new survey, was soon lined with planks and provided easy access for settlers to the port at the mouth of the Credit River. Snelgrove was originally known as Edmonton after an early settler's hometown, and became a small commercial center in the 1820s and 1830s.

The first Baptist congregation in Edmonton, Ontario was established soon after the founding of the community when Elder William Millar, a missionary sent to Canada by George Muller of Bristol, England, began making monthly visits to the neighbourhood in the early 1830s. The "Free Will" or "Open Communion" Baptist congregation which he organized met in its first year of existence in the farm house of Irishman James Watson south of the village on the east side of Hurontario Street.

In the early years, the Edmonton Baptist Congregation was served by traveling ministers. One of these was the Reverend McLeurd who it was said would walk from Toronto on Sunday mornings to preach and often conducted baptisms in the nearby Etobicoke Creek. Others who served as ministers in the early history of the Edmonton Baptist Congregation were Elders W. Cooke and John Harris. "W. Cooke of Chinguacousy" is thought to be one of the first as he is mentioned by the Christian Guardian as early as February 1831 in the list of Baptist Ministers of Upper Canada.

By 1840, the first Baptist Church building was built on the southeast corners of Fifteen Side Road and Hurontario Street on the property of John Watson. It was said to have been an "exceptionally built" brick church. Soon after the building of the church, a "good Sunday school" was organized. In the following years, the church prospered and many conversions and baptisms took place. By 1861, the church had outgrown its original building and land for a new church was purchased to the north of the village from Barthelmeess Snell. This church was described as a "fine structure" built of frame with a rough cast exterior and was almost as large as the present building.

Although the congregation was housed in the frame church built in 1861, the first church continued to be occupied for several years as it housed meetings of Wesleyan Methodists, and a separate Baptist congregation that formed in 1861 as a result of a schism in the Baptist church over views towards communion. Eventually, as a result of further reorganization of the Baptist community, the 1840 church was abandoned and demolished. The site of the former church yard is marked by the Zion Cemetery, a pioneer cemetery that continues to reflect the history of the first church in its location on the southeast corner of Hurontario Street and Conservation Drive.

In the late 1880s, the settlement of Edmonton, Alberta was growing rapidly and there was apparently a great deal of confusion for the railways with its Chinguacousy namesake. To end this confusion, the



CPR proposed to change the name of its Edmonton, Ontario station. There was significant opposition to this, particularly from the Snell family who widely advertised their large scale breeding operation of Ayrshire Cattle as being in "Edmonton, Ontario". Since the days of the pioneers, the Snell family had been the largest family and landowner in the surrounding area. Consequently, the CPR decreed that the station "should henceforth be Snelgrove". The name found acceptance, and soon the Post Office followed the CPR's example.

By 1904, the 1861 frame church used for over forty years was found to be no longer adequate for the needs of the congregation. As a result, it was decided that a new brick church would be built on the site of the frame church. According to the proceedings of the Guelph District Baptist Association in 1905, "[g]reat liberty was shown by the people in providing the means for the building" in terms of time, labour, and donations. On August 23, 1904, a ceremony was held to celebrate the laying of the corner stone of the new church by Mr. John Smith, M.P.P. for Brampton. On January 1, 1905, the present brick church was opened for worship. The opening services were in charge of J. O'Neil of Paisley (Caledon East), and the congregation at this time included 37 members. Throughout its history, the church was attended by a number of long established local families, including the Snells, Watsons, Lighthearts, Newhouses, Pawleys, Groats, Earngeys, and Bridies.

The congregation reached its peak in 1914 with 51 members. The number declined steadily after that, as many people left to serve in the First World War. In 1946, the Snelgrove Baptist Church was forced to close its doors. The church reopened on July 11, 1959, only to close a few years later. Snelgrove was eventually absorbed into the City of Brampton in 1974.

### **Contextual Value:**

The former Snelgrove Baptist Church also holds contextual value as a landmark building along Hurontario Street. The building is a reminder of the former village, and the valuable contribution of the Baptist church congregation to the village of Snelgrove of Chingaucousy Township. The property forms part of an important historical grouping, together with several scattered residential buildings of the former village.

### **DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

The heritage attributes comprise all façades, architectural detailing, construction materials and associated building techniques, as well as significant landscape elements and important vistas. The detailed heritage attributes/character defining elements include, but are not limited to:

- Ontario Vernacular architecture with Gothic Revival influence
- Red masonry construction in the common bond
- Fieldstone foundation
- Cornerstone with the inscription "Baptist Church 1904"
- Pointed arch window openings
- Pointed arch main entrance door
- Stone sills
- Wood soffit

- Exposed roof supports
- Heavy-stepped brick buttresses
- Quatrefoil window above main entrance
- Brick chimney with ornamentation
- Association with the village of Snelgrove (formerly Edmonton)
- Associated with the Baptist congregation of Snelgrove
- Landmark status along Hurontario Street

The short statement of reason for the designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the detailed Heritage Report: Statement of Reason for Heritage Designation, constitute the "reason for heritage designation" required under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Please contact Katrina Guy, Heritage Coordinator, at 905-874-2614 to view this document, and for further information. Any objections to this proposed designation must be filed with the City Clerk no later than 4:30 p.m. on **DATE** (within 30 days of the publication of this notice).

Date: **Month Day, Year**

Peter Fay, City Clerk  
2 Wellington St. W., Brampton, ON L6Y 4R2  
905-874-2106 (voice), 905-874-2119 (fax) 905-874-2130 (TTY)  
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