

Notice of Intention to Designate

In the matter of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended, and in the matter of the lands and premises at the following municipal address in the Province of Ontario;

Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Springwater intends to designate the following municipal address as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended.

74 Doran Road – Midhurst Community Centre

Formerly the Township of Vespra Town Hall

Description of Property

The Midhurst Community Centre is located on the north side of Doran Road, in the former Township of Vespra, now in the Township of Springwater. It consists of a two-storey hall and small parking area. The property is legally described as PLAN 265 LOT B PT LOT 6 7 12.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Midhurst Community Centre's cultural heritage value lies in its historical and associative ties to the community, being the former Township of Vespra Town Hall. The original Vespra Town Hall was erected in 1855 in what was then known as Oliver's Mills (Midhurst). Only a year prior had Vespra become a separate municipality, as prior to 1854 it was amalgamated with the Townships of Flos and Sunnidale. This hall served the community for 72 years as the population grew.

In 1927 property was donated by Mrs. Thomas Spence to build the new Township of Vespra Town Hall. Much of the Hall was built by locals contributing their labour which is a testament to the associative value it has to the community. It was constructed of solid concrete block with a cottage roof. Timbers from the old Town Hall were used in the construction of the new one; its history hiding in the walls of the current structure. The upstairs was the auditorium which had an ample stage for music, plays, and Council meetings. The basement housed the kitchen and vault for Vespra Township records and funds. The total cost of the Town Hall was valued at \$4000, with Township Council contributing \$1000 and the rest being financed by local residents. The grand opening was on December 9, 1927 with speeches and a dance that followed. The Hon. Charles Stewart, M.P. of Ottawa, Minister of the Interior spoke and was warmly welcomed back to Midhurst, a town he left 21 years earlier for his career in provincial and federal politics.

From 1927 to 1967 the Hall served the community as the Vespra Township office and the community centre. Local churches held their services there before their own buildings were completed. When the Township outgrew the building and required a

larger space, the hall would then exist solely as a community centre. In 1978, the Midhurst Hall Board was established continuing its existence as a focal point of the community to this day while respecting its history and beginnings.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The principal features and characteristics that together characterize the core heritage values of the Midhurst Community Centre are:

- Vespra Township Vault/Safe located on the lower level
- Original upstairs room layout
- Original concrete foundation and exterior structure
- Exterior concrete buttresses/abutments

Supporting Information and Reports

Additional background information and reports to Council regarding the proposed designation of the Midhurst Community Centre can be viewed on the Township's website at the following link: www.springwater.ca/heritage

Due to ongoing COVID-19 health restrictions, the Township Administration Centre may be physically closed. Therefore, information may not be able to be provided in-person at the office. If you would like a copy of any of the background reports and cannot access them using the above link to our website, please call 705-728-4784 ext. 2015 or email clerks@springwater.ca.

Notice of Objection

A person who objects to a proposed designation shall, within thirty days after the date of publication of the notice of intention, serve on the Clerk of the Township of Springwater a notice of objection setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. Objections will be received by registered mail or may be hand-delivered by placing it in the Administration Centre drop box. **Objections shall be received by no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 6th day of April, 2021.** Objections will be referred to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

Dated this 4th day of March, 2021

Renée Ainsworth, Clerk
Township of Springwater
Administration Centre
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing ON, L9X 1A8