

The Corporation of the Township of Springwater

By-law 2021-039

Being a By-law to designate the property municipally known as the Midhurst Community Centre, located at 74 Doran Road in the Township of Springwater, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

(Heritage Designation – Midhurst Community Centre)

Whereas Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact a by-law to designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And Whereas the Township of Springwater Heritage Advisory Committee conducted a heritage evaluation of the Midhurst Community Centre, located at 74 Doran Road, on October 22, 2019;

And Whereas the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Springwater reviewed details of the evaluation and the Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendation at their August 5, 2020 meeting;

And Whereas the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Springwater at its meeting held on August 5, 2020, passed resolution C262C-2020 directing staff to begin the process of designating the Midhurst Community Centre pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act;

And Whereas the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Springwater at its meeting held on February 17, 2021, passed resolution C076-2021 describing the heritage attributes of the Midhurst Community Centre pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act;

And Whereas the Corporation of the Township of Springwater has provided Notice of Intention to Designate the Midhurst Community Centre a property of cultural heritage value or interest in the Springwater News on March 4, 2021;

And Whereas no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality;

And Whereas the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Springwater deems it desirable to designate the Midhurst Community Centre as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act;

Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Springwater enacts as follows:

1. That the property known as the Midhurst Community Centre more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, be hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest.

2. That the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and Description of Heritage Attributes set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law, are hereby adopted.
3. That the Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of the By-law to be registered on title for the aforesaid property with the Land Registry Office.
4. That the Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of the By-law to be served on the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.
5. That this By-law shall take force and effect upon final passage hereof.

Read a First, Second and Third Time and Finally Passed this 21st day of April, 2021.



Don Allen, Mayor



Renée Ainsworth, Clerk

The Corporation of the Township of Springwater

By-law 2021-039

Schedule "A"

Property Legal Description

LT B PL 265 VESPRA; PT LT 6 PL 265 VESPRA PT 3 51R3495; PT LT 7 PL 265 VESPRA; PT LT 12 CON 4 VESPRA AS IN RO648644; T/W RO498368; SPRINGWATER

Municipal Address

74 Doran Road, Midhurst

The Corporation of the Township of Springwater**By-law 2021-039****Schedule "B"**

Description of the Property

The Midhurst Community Centre (formerly the Township of Vespra Town Hall) is located on the north side 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 LT B PL 265 VESPRA; PT LT 6 PL 265 VESPRA PT 3 51R3495; PT LT 7 PL 265 VESPRA; PT LT 12 CON 4 VESPRA AS IN RO648644; T/W RO498368; SPRINGWATER.

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