

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LINCOLN

BY-LAW NO. 06-26

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS THE MENNONITE BURYING GROUND (c.1798), VINELAND CEMETERY, 3547 RITTENHOUSE ROAD, PLAN M2 LOT 229, PART LOT 192, R.P. 30R 5285 PART 2 AND PART 3, NOW TOWN OF LINCOLN AS BEING A PLACE OF ARCHITECTURAL, HISTORICAL AND/OR CONTEXTUAL VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS:

1. Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, authorizes the Council of the municipality to enact by-laws to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as Vineland Cemetery, 3547 Rittenhouse Road in the Town of Lincoln, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the Grimsby/Lincoln News, a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality in its publication of February 15, 2006.
3. The reasons for the designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto, and forming part of this by-law.
4. No notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality.

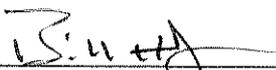
NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LINCOLN ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is designated as being of architectural, historical and/or contextual value or interest the property known as the Mennonite Burying Ground (c.1798), Vineland Cemetery, 3547 Rittenhouse Road, Plan M2 Lot 229, Part Lot 192, R.P. 30R 5285 Part 2 and Part 3, now Town of Lincoln as being a place of architectural, historical and/or contextual value or interest, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, for the reasons as described in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law.
2. For greater certainty, this designation shall recognize the architectural, historical and/or contextual value or interest of the Mennonite Burying Ground (c.1798) and the area of the Vineland Cemetery where the Rittenhouse burial plot is located upon the aforesaid property.
3. The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law.
4. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the Grimsby/Lincoln News, a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

BY-LAW read a FIRST time this 18th day of April, 2006.

BY-LAW read a SECOND time this 18th day of April, 2006.

BY-LAW read a THIRD time and FINALLY PASSED this 18th day of April, 2006.


MAYOR: BILL HODGSON


WILLIAM J. KOLASA

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 06-26

Mennonite Burying Ground (c.1798), Vineland Cemetery, 3547 Rittenhouse Road, Plan M2 Lot 229, Part Lot 192, R.P. 30R 5285 Part 2 and Part 3, now Town of Lincoln, Property Assessment Roll Number 2622-040-015-07300-0000.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NO. 06-26

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

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 concrete 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). In subsequent years, badly damaged portions of the south wall have been replicated to ensure that the wall remains intact.

Just before his death in 1915, Chicago businessman, Moses F. Rittenhouse, a Vineland native and 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 (Section B, Lot 84) 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.