

THE CORPORATION OF LOYALIST TOWNSHIP

BY-LAW NO. 2003-71

Being a By-law to designate the Switzerville Cemetery located on Part of Lot 11, Concession 6, which fronts onto Newburgh Road, as an architectural and historical property pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990, C. 0.18 as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and historical value; and

WHEREAS the Loyalist Township Heritage Committee has recommended to the Council that the Switzerville Cemetery, be designated an Historical and Cultural property; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of Loyalist Township has caused to be served on the owner of the Switzerville Cemetery and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspapers having general circulation in the municipality; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of Loyalist Township enacts as follows:

- 1) The real property known as the Switzerville Cemetery, more particularly described in Schedules 'A' and 'B' hereto, is hereby designated as being of historical and cultural value. The reasons for this designation are detailed on Schedule 'B' attached hereto.
- 2) The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule 'A' hereto in the proper land registry office.
- 3) 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 same newspapers having general circulation in the municipality.

Enacted and Passed this 14th day of July, 2003

REEVE

CLERK

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2003-71

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in Loyalist Township (formerly Ernestown Township), in the County of Lennox and Addington and being composed of the north 40 acres of Lot 11 in the 6th Concession of the said Loyalist Township, lying North of the main travelled road crossing said Lot, save and except one acre of land conveyed by one Switzer; by deed bearing date the 7th day of May, 1825, and registered the 23rd day of May, 1825 as No 726 in the Registry Office for the said County and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the North West Corner of Lot 11, Concession 6 of the said Loyalist Township;

THENCE Southerly along the West limit of the said Lot 11, also being the East limit of the road allowance between Lots 10 and 11, Concession 6, a distance of 335.5 feet to the POINT OF COMMENCEMENT:

THENCE Easterly, parallel to the North limit of said Lot 11 a distance of 258 feet along a post and wire fence;

THENCE Southerly, parallel to the West limit of said Lot 11 a distance of 172.5 feet along a post and wire fence;

THENCE Westerly, parallel to the North limit of said Lot 11 a distance of 254 feet more or less along a post and wire fence to the West limit of said Lot 11;

THENCE Northerly along the West limit of said Lot 11, also being the East limit of the road allowance between Lots 10 and 11, Concession 6, a distance of 173.5 feet more or less to the POINT OF COMMENCEMENT.

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2003-71

LOCATION MAP

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2003-71

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Switzerville Cemetery, in service from 1825 to 1957, is recommended for designation for historical and cultural reasons detailed below. This cemetery represents a community of families brought together through the Methodist denomination. The cemetery occupies a portion of the acre of land, on the west line of Lot 11, Concession 6, purchased from Christopher Switzer in 1825 for the use of a group of Methodists living on the neighbouring farms. The Switzer Chapel was erected on the land in 1826 and in 1892 was replaced by a brick church, itself demolished in 1988. Within the lot, the cemetery with headstones and family monuments is to the south and to the east of the church site. In the cemetery, approximately 95 stones survive. These are grouped by families and represent about 160 deaths, up to 49 of which were children. Family names represent some original Loyalist settler families, some later immigrants to Upper Canada from different origins, and finally generations born in the township.

Notable parts of this cemetery are some finely detailed carved headstones, some dating back as early as the mid-to late-1820's. Several are examples of the skills of township resident carvers named Moore who marked their workplace as MillCreek (1854) and Odessa (1860's). A towering oak tree is a significant presence in the landscape with the rows of stones distributed across the ground.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL:

The Methodists had a strong presence in the township, starting with a meeting house near Parrot's Bay by 1792; then moving north to the Fourth line between Odessa and Morven in 1816. The Switzer Chapel provided a place of worship for Methodists in the northwest corner of Ernestown Township and brought local focus. In time, a school was built nearby and, for almost sixty years – from November 1853 through May 1911 – there was a Switzerville post office.

Christopher Switzer, who died in 1828, was a descendant of immigrants from the Palatine who settled for decades in Ireland, where they became attached to Methodist teachings. Families brought that commitment to New York province through a new migration in the 1760's. This was the background for Switzer who acquired his land in the township shortly after 1800.

The finely carved headstone of John Grange carries his story as an immigrant from Ayrshire, Scotland, to Upper Canada in 1795. He died in 1835 at age 75 years. W.R. Moore of Odessa carved the white marble stones for Ora Switzer, wife of D.P. Williams, died 1868; Benjamin Clark, died 1868; and Marshal Williams, died 1868, all names that suggest established township families.

The 1854 headstone of Rebecca, wife of James Fretts, was carved by S.Moore of MillCreek. This stone remains as valuable evidence of local craftsmanship, because it has been re-assembled in recent times. Many of the stones in the Switzerville cemetery have been provided the attention of new bases, re-attachment of broken pieces, and back support, stabilizing important markers of life at an earlier time in the township.

FEATURES NOT TO BE COVERED BY THE DESIGNATION:

Not part of the designation is the site of the church, which is commemorated by the limestone monument with etched granite panels, erected in 1990, that represents both the 1826 Switzer Chapel and the brick church that replaced it in 1892.