



## Committee of the Whole Report

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<b>Report Number:</b>	<b>ED2021-017</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	June 1, 2021
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposed Heritage Designation of 398 County Road 41, Bexley Township</b>
<b>Description:</b>	Proposed designation of 398 County Road 41, Geographic Township of Bexley (Bexley Methodist Church) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest
<b>Author and Title:</b>	Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

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### Recommendations:

**That** Report ED2021-017, **Proposed Designation of 398 County Road 41, Bexley Township**, be received;

**That** the Municipal Heritage Committee's recommendation to designate 398 County Road 41 under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value or interest be endorsed;

**That** staff be authorized to proceed with the process to designate the subject property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, including the preparation and circulation of a Notice of Intention to Designate, and preparation of the designating by-law;

**That** a designating by-law be brought forward to Council at the next Regular Council Meeting following the end of the notice period; and

**That** this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

**(Acting) Department Head:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:**\_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

The City of Kawartha Lakes designates properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Properties are recommended for designation by their owners, members of the public, local organizations, the Municipal Heritage Committee, Council or staff. Properties proposed for designation are reviewed by the Municipal Heritage Committee, as required by subsection 29(2) of the Ontario Heritage Act, and their recommendation is brought forward to Council under the cover of a staff report.

At its meeting of May 6, 2021, the Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee adopted the following resolution:

### **KLMHC2021-40**

**That** Report KLMHC2021-19, **Designation of 398 County Road 41, Bexley Township**, be received;

**That** the designation of the property known municipally as 398 County Road 41, Geographic Township of Bexley be endorsed; and

**That** the recommendation to designate the subject property be forwarded to Council for approval.

**Carried**

This report addresses that direction.

398 County Road 41 in the Geographic Township of Bexley was listed on the City's Heritage Register in April 2021. The property contains the former Bexley Methodist Church, which has now been converted into a private residence. The owner was provided notice that the property was proposed for listing in February 2021 and, at that time, reached out to staff and requested that the property be designated under Part IV of the Act. Staff undertook a site visit to the property and background research and determined that the property is eligible for designation under Part IV of the Act.

Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act provides that, upon consultation with its municipal heritage committee, and after serving a Notice of Intention to Designate pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the Council of a municipality may pass a by-law designating a property within the boundaries of the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if it fulfils the criteria for designation under the Act, as

identified in Ontario Regulation 9/06. Both staff and the Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee are satisfied that the subject property fulfils the criteria for designation set out under Ontario Regulation 9/06.

### **Rationale:**

Ontario Regulation 9/06 identifies the criteria for determining the cultural heritage value of a property. Under this regulation, a property may be designated under Part IV, s.29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. The property has design value or physical value because it:
  - a. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
  - b. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
  - c. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
2. The property has historical value or associative value because it:
  - a. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
  - b. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
  - c. demonstrates the work of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to the community.
3. The property has contextual value because it:
  - a. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of the area,
  - b. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
  - c. is a landmark.

398 County Road 41 fulfils multiple criteria under Ontario Regulation 9/06 and is therefore eligible for designation under Part IV of the Act. A heritage evaluation report has been prepared for this property, which outlines its significance and demonstrates which criteria it fulfils. This report is attached as Appendix A. A statement of significance for the property as required by the Act, which summarizes the property's cultural heritage value and reasons for designation, can be found below.

### **398 County Road 41, Bexley Township Statement of Significance**

398 County Road 41, also known as Bexley Methodist Church, has cultural heritage value as a representative example of a late nineteenth century Methodist church in Bexley Township. Constructed in 1884, the church is built in a simplified version of the Gothic Revival style, which was typical for rural Methodist churches from the second half of the nineteenth century. The church is built on a rectangular plan with a front entrance porch, wooden siding, a gable roof, and lancet windows with tracery which is representative of churches of this type. The church has historical value in that it yields information regarding the role of religion, and Methodism specifically, in Bexley Township in the late nineteenth century and the demographic settlement patterns of this area of the former Victoria County where Methodism was the largest denomination in the nineteenth century. The church has contextual value as part of the hamlet of Bexley. It contributes to the historic character of the rural hamlet, which is comprised primarily of a collection of nineteenth century buildings centred on the intersection of County Road 41 and North Mountain Road. The church is also a local landmark, due to its prominent location at the centre of the hamlet and the only church building in the community.

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

There are no recommended alternatives.

### **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

The designation of property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act supports the following goals from the Council adopted Strategic Plan:

- A Vibrant and Growing Economy
- An Exceptional Quality of Life

The identification and protection of heritage assets in the community through designation promotes and exceptional quality of life by supporting and promoting arts, culture and heritage within the municipality. Designation provides long term protection and management for key heritage resources in the municipality and recognizes their importance to the community.

The protection of heritage resources in the municipality also assists in the growth of the local economy in general by identifying, protecting, and celebrating places where people want to live, work and visit. It encourages investment in local communities by ensuring and promoting attractive places for residents and businesses to be. It also has

a direct impact on developing local tourism through the preservation of sites and landscapes that people want to visit.

**Financial/Operation Impacts:**

There will be advertising costs and costs for the registration of the designation by-law associated with this application which are covered by the existing Heritage Planning budget.

**Consultations:**

Municipal Heritage Committee

**Attachments:**

Appendix A – Heritage Evaluation Report: 398 County Road 41, Bexley Township



398 County Road 41  
Heritage Evaluation.docx

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**(Acting) Department Head:** Richard Holy