



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KING  
Report to Council

Monday, June 17, 2024

**Growth Management Services Department - Planning Division and Corporate Services  
Department - Clerks Division  
Report Number GMS-PL-2024-20  
Heritage Permit for Laskay Sessionist Cemetery Restoration Works**

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**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Director of Corporate Services and Director of Growth Management Services respectfully submits the following recommendation(s):

1. That Report GMS-PL-2024-20 be received.
2. That Heritage Permit Application HP-24-01 for the Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery be approved to permit the repair and restoration works to be completed in accordance with the Conservation Plan, as attached as Appendix A.

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery is located in the Hamlet of Laskay and is designated on the Heritage Register under the *Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)*.
- The Township retained the services of Archeological Services Inc. (ASI) Consultants to prepare a scoped Conservation Plan to restore and repair the damaged area of the cemetery.
- Staff recommend that the heritage permit be approved by Council to allow for the works as outlined in the plan to commence.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Report is to provide Council with background and recommend approval of the heritage permit to allow for the heritage conservation works to commence for the Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery outlined in **Appendix A**.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery**

The Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery was established in approximately 1856 on land granted by Senator David Reesor for the purposes of a Presbyterian church, manse and cemetery. Markers and monuments at the cemetery date between 1854–1892, with the cemetery ceasing to accept new burials by the 20th century. The cemetery is associated with the former church building

which was later demolished for the erection of a new building in the 1970's located at 12868 Weston Road. The Laskay Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery is recorded to contain a total of 23 markers.

The cemetery is located at the rear of 12868 Weston Road and was designated as a heritage property in 2009 under Section 29, Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* by By-law 2009-103. The designation by-law is attached as **Appendix B**. The subject property is 0.176 hectares in size and is located on the west side of Weston Road and south of Mill Street. The location of the property is shown on **Appendix C**.

### **Timeline of Events**

In 2016, the Township retained the services of Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) to complete a "Heritage Restoration Plan" for its twelve (12) designated heritage pioneer cemeteries. The Restoration Plan was completed in 2018 and identified the overall condition of the cemeteries along with a detailed examination of the individual grave markers in each cemetery. Specific recommended conservation method(s) to conserve each grave marker were also provided in the report. The Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery was one of the cemeteries studied and the existing conditions of the cemetery in 2018 were recorded (**refer to Appendix D**).

On May 22, 2022, sections of the cemetery were negatively impacted by unauthorized disturbances and alterations as a result of development and construction works which were carried out by the abutting property owner of 12868 Weston Road. Areas of damage from the incident were recorded and are shown in **Appendix E1 and E2**.

With the assistance of the Township's solicitor, the property owner at 12868 Weston Road was formally notified that they would be legally responsible for the damages to the Township's property. The Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) informed the Township that any workplan and works in connection with a cemetery must be carried out with the approval of the BAO, and in accordance with subsection 83(1) of the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, and subsection 146(1) of *Ontario Regulation 30/11*.

The Township and the property owners entered into a settlement agreement to require the property owner of 12868 Weston Road to pay for the repairs and restoration of the specific sections and areas of disturbance of the cemetery that were impacted. This included restoring the areas of the cemetery and the grave markers which were moved and damaged. A \$50,000 security deposit in regard to these works was provided to the Township by the property owner for the restoration and repair of the cemetery. The settlement agreement also identifies that the owner will be required to provide additional securities or fees for any excess works, studies, approvals or documents that may be required to be obtained to reverse the damages.

It is important to note that the restoration works are to repair the damages done exclusively by the adjacent property owner as a result of the incident that occurred in 2022 and shall not include repairs or conservation works for areas which were not disturbed or damaged. As reported in the 2018 Heritage Restoration Plan, the cemetery was previously in a state of disrepair and in need of additional maintenance and conservation works. The remaining sections of the cemetery not damaged by the property owner will require additional resources beyond the scope of this settlement agreement and heritage permit, and is to form part of a further review of the need for an overall action plan for the Township's pioneer cemeteries. A future heritage permit should be obtained for future conservation works occurring for the cemetery to ensure that any new works will be in accordance with good heritage cemetery conservation standards and practices.

Prior to carrying out any conservation works, the BAO will require Stage 1 and Stage 2 archaeological assessment reports to identify any non-cemetery archaeological resources on the assumed boundary between the cemetery and the residential property at 12868 Weston Road, and to provide an understanding of the soil characteristics of this area. If any archaeological resources of cultural heritage value or interest are identified, additional assessment may be required.

Options to erect a permanent fence between the residential property and cemetery lands to clearly delineate the property boundary is being considered. Currently, a temporary metal fence has been erected to prevent further trespassing and disturbances into the cemetery. Prior to erecting this fence in the cemetery, the BAO has requested that a Stage 3 archaeological assessment be conducted to determine the location of the future fence posts and to formally confirm the boundaries of the cemetery.

The Township retained Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI) to provide guidance and to prepare a Conservation Plan and the archaeological assessment reports to meet the requirements of the BAO and the *Ontario Heritage Act* as aforementioned. ASI will oversee the works including the installation of fence posts in order to ensure that they do not interfere with any existing grave shafts. There are not known to be any grave shafts or burials along the property line where the fence is to be installed, but in the event that any grave shafts are encountered their locations will be mapped and photo-documented as required. If human remains are encountered, all work must cease and the police and coroner and the BAO must be contacted immediately.

The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment was submitted for acceptance to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism on February 16, 2024. The Township requested an expedited review. The Ministry, as of June 6, 2024, has advised that the report remains in the expedited review stream and will be addressed in the order the review was granted and that a date cannot be provided for completion at this time. Once accepted, and subject to other requirements such as the approval of a heritage permit from Council, commencement of the conservation works can begin.

The Township also commissioned a new legal survey to confirm the location of the boundary between the cemetery, attached as **Appendix F**, and completed by Schaeffer Dzaldoc Purcell Ltd., Ontario Land Surveyors. As a result of this, it was determined that a portion of poured concrete patio was encroaching on the cemetery lands. On April 9, 2024, King Parks staff, with monitoring by ASI and approval of the BAO, undertook work to remove that portion of the concrete pad on the cemetery property.

The Township will continue to work collaboratively with the BAO, property owner and all agencies involved to obtain all necessary documents and approvals to commence the conservation works as soon as possible.

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **Provincial Policy**

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2020 states that built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved where they have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest for the important contribution they make to our understanding of the history of a place, an event, or a people. The property has cultural heritage interest or value that is worthy of continued protection as they have made an important contribution to our understanding of early historic settlement patterns in the Hamlet of Laskay.

## **Official Plan**

King's Official Plan (OP) identifies the need to recognize and protect the Township's heritage resources as being important to help with the enrichment and understanding of the community's historical traditions and understanding of the past. Continued protection and conservation of the Township's cultural heritage resources will meet the objectives and policies of the Official Plan.

## **Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)**

Under the OHA municipalities are responsible for identifying, evaluating, and conserving heritage properties. Section 33 of the OHA states that no owner of a property shall alter or permit the alteration of the property if it is likely to affect the property's heritage attributes as set out in the designation by-law. If alterations are proposed, a heritage permit is required to be obtained by the municipality prior to any works taking place.

The designation by-law which applies to the subject cemetery includes the following heritage attributes:

- the variety of styles and material of its original markers and monuments, with their surviving inscriptions;
- its placement of the original markers and monuments;
- the original placement of gravesites;
- the mature trees and bushes;
- the park like setting; and
- its location and dimensions;

A heritage permit would be required for the relocation of the original markers, removal of trees and other important landscape features, etc. The Conservation Plan will inform the heritage permit and outline the plans to repair the alterations of the heritage attributes listed above.

## **Contents of the Conservation Plan**

The purpose of the Conservation Plan is to guide alterations so they will not affect its cultural heritage value or interest, and/or its heritage attributes. The Plan provides direction ensuring that alterations can be made while conserving the property. This will help to ensure that the stated cultural heritage value or interest is retained through the protection of its heritage attributes.

The Plan was developed and informed by reviewing the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada by Parks Canada and Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries – Repairing Tombstones documents. The Plan is attached as **Appendix A** to this report and details the following conservation methodologies and approaches to the restoration of the cemetery:

A summary of the damages to the cemetery from the incident in 2022 as assessed by ASI in 2023 include the following:

- nine (9) grave markers were moved and/or damaged;
- vegetation was removed;
- one large Sugar Maple tree was damaged;
- one small tree was completely removed, with a portion of its stump remaining and;

- ruts were left in the ground from construction equipment

A detailed description and summary of the damages to each marker and the entire cemetery can be found in the attached report.

### **Site and Vegetation**

The property is flat and contains a number of mature trees and shrubs which are identified as a heritage attribute. The recommended primary treatment for vegetation that was damaged or removed in May 2022 is rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is defined within the Standards and Guidelines as: “The action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use for a historic place, or of an individual component, through repair, alterations and/or additions, while protecting its heritage value”. A list of trees, shrubs and vines suitable in the cemetery has been provided by ARA within the Conservation Plan and will assist with the restoration of the cultural heritage landscape in the cemetery. The development and implementation of a vegetation maintenance plan for the cemetery is recommended and will aid in the long-term preservation of the grave markers and enhance the cemetery’s cultural heritage value. Coordination with the BAO will also be required when undertaking any landscaping or planting in the cemetery.

### **Grave Markers**

A comparison of the condition of each of the damaged grave markers in 2018, 2022 and 2023 can be found in the Conservation Plan Report. The recommended primary treatment for the grave markers that have been moved or damaged is restoration. Restoration is defined within the Standards and Guidelines as: “The action or process of accurately revealing, recovering or representing the state of an historic place, or of an individual component, as it appeared at a particular period in its history, while protecting its heritage value”. The grave markers should be restored to their condition prior to the damage that occurred in 2022. Restoration of the markers will involve the actions of reassembling, relocating or repairing the markers which have been damaged. These works are considered to be the appropriate conservation treatment to be used to protect and restore the cultural heritage significance associated with the heritage attributes. Grave markers will require conservation work beyond the scope of this plan and it is recommended that the Restoration Plan as prepared by ARA be used to further extend the life of these heritage attributes.

The King Heritage Advisory Committee reviewed the conservation treatments prescribed for the cemetery at their meeting on June 6th, 2024. The Committee recommended that Council approve the heritage permit to allow for the conservation works to occur.

Staff recommend that Council approve the heritage permit to allow for commencement of the conservation works.

### **Next Steps**

Upon approval of the heritage permit and Conservation Plan and obtaining permissions from the BAO, Staff will begin the process of retaining practitioners such as a conservator, monument builder or contractor to carry out the works as outlined in the Conservation Plan. A monitoring program is also recommended to be implemented to confirm that the works carried about by the practitioners is completed to the Township’s standards.

### **Future Plans for Conservation**

A long-term comprehensive strategy and Conservation Plan to repair the pioneer cemeteries in the Township is under consideration. Staff will review and evaluate the options available for further conservation works for the other pioneer cemeteries.

As part of this Conservation Plan process, Staff will be working towards assigning a municipal address to the cemetery once the conservation of the cemetery has concluded, to provide greater clarity to the location of the property. The cemetery does not currently have a municipal address. The location of the cemetery to date has been referred to as the “Rear of 12868 Weston Road”. The new legal survey has been deposited with Land Registry.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

As noted in this report, Staff have received a \$50,000 security deposit through the settlement agreement reached with the abutting property owner of 12868 Weston Road, who caused the damage to the cemetery. The settlement agreement also identifies that the owner will be required to provide additional securities or fees for any excess works, studies, approvals or documents that may be required to be obtained to reverse the damages done. Any additional financial expenses incurred as part of the efforts to conserve the cemetery and relating to the damages caused by the property owner will be recovered under the terms of the settlement agreement between the Township and the property owner.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The 2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP) was adopted by Council on June 12, 2023. The CSP reflects the priorities of upmost importance to the community and defines the obligations and commitments of the Township of King to its citizens and to the public. The CSP is aligned with the Townships long-term vision defined in the “Our King” Official Plan. The CSP also aims to ensure that staff initiatives focus on and work towards supporting King’s Vision, Mission and Values.

This report is in alignment with the CSP’s Priority Area(s), and/or associated Objective(s) and/or Key Results(s):



Complete  
Communities

Enrich community well-being and make King the ideal place to live, work and play.in-kind contribution requests by 2024.

The 2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan aims to ensure initiatives focus on current Term of Council priorities in support of the Township's long-term vision to 2031. Through the reviews undertaken, it is determined that cultural heritage merits protection, retention and preservation of heritage is an important element of the character of the community and assists in fostering diverse and complete communities.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is Staff's recommendation that Council approve the heritage permit to allow for the works as outlined in the Conservation Plan to commence for the Laskay Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Appendix A - Laskay Cemetery Conservation Plan](#)

[Appendix B - 2009-103 - Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery By-law](#)

[Appendix C - Map](#)

[Appendix D - Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery ARA Assessment](#)

[Appendix E1 - Damage Report](#)

[Appendix E2 - Damage Report](#)

[Appendix F -Survey](#)

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# Scoped Conservation Plan

## Laskay Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery 12868 Weston Road Township of King, Ontario

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### Final Report

Prepared for:

#### Township of King

2585 King Road  
King City ON L7B 1A1

Archaeological Services Inc. File: 23CH-122

May 2024





## Executive Summary

Archaeological Services Inc. was retained by the Township of King to undertake a Scoped Conservation Plan for the Laskay Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, located at the rear of 12868 Weston Road in the Township of King, Regional Municipality of York (Figure 1). The cemetery is maintained by the Township as the licensed operator. The cemetery is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest (Corporation of the Township of King By-law 2009-103).

The Scoped Conservation Plan is being undertaken in response: to alterations and damage to the cemetery that occurred in May 2022, in violation of the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002; and a settlement agreement reached between the Township and the owner of the adjacent property to repair the cemetery.

The purpose of the Conservation Plan is to assess the alterations and damage to the cemetery that occurred in May 2022 and provide recommendations to guide the restoration and conservation of those parts of the cemetery that were altered or damaged. The scope of this Conservation Plan is limited to those areas of the cemetery where damage and alterations occurred.



## Report Accessibility Features

This report has been formatted to meet the Information and Communications Standards under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (A.O.D.A.). Features of this report which enhance accessibility include: headings, font size and colour, alternative text provided for images, and the use of periods within acronyms. Given this is a technical report, there may be instances where additional accommodation is required in order for readers to access the report's information. If additional accommodation is required, please contact Annie Veilleux, Manager of the Cultural Heritage Division at Archaeological Services Inc., by email at [aveilleux@asiheritage.ca](mailto:aveilleux@asiheritage.ca) or by phone 416-966-1069 ext. 255.



## Project Personnel

- **Senior Project Manager:** Kristina Martens, B.A., Dipl. Heritage Conservation, Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist, Assistant Manager - Cultural Heritage Division
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- **Landscape Architect:** Mark Steele, M.L.A., O.A.L.A., C.S.L.A., Landscape Architect and Principal – The Landplan Studio Inc.
- **Field Review:** Kristina Martens, Mark Steele and Laura Wickett
- **Report Production:** Laura Wickett and Mark Steele
- **Report Reviewers:** Rebecca Sciarra, M.A., C.A.H.P., Partner, Director - Cultural Heritage Division, Kristina Martens



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## 1.0 Introduction

Archaeological Services Inc. was retained by the Township of King to undertake a Scoped Conservation Plan for the Laskay Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery (Laskay Cemetery), located at the rear of 12868 Weston Road in the Township of King, Regional Municipality of York (Figure 1). The cemetery is maintained by the Township as the licensed operator. The cemetery is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest (Corporation of the Township of King By-law 2009-103).

The cemetery is located on the southeast corner of Mill Street and Second Street within the village of Laskay. The L-shaped property measures approximately 714 square metres. The cemetery is an inactive pioneer cemetery with burials dating between 1854 and 1892. The grave markers are arranged generally concentrated in the centre of the cemetery. Where rows are apparent, the markers are organized in a westward facing arrangement. The property is relatively flat and contains a number of trees and shrubs, as well as grave markers. Tree lines along the western and eastern edges as well as a fence line along the southern edge generally screen the cemetery from neighbouring properties.

The Scoped Conservation Plan is being undertaken in response to: alterations and damage to the cemetery that occurred in May 2022, in violation of the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002; and a settlement agreement between the Township and the owner of the adjacent property to repair the cemetery.

### 1.1 Project Overview

The purpose of the Scoped Conservation Plan is to assess the alterations and damage to the cemetery that occurred in May 2022 and provide recommendations to guide the restoration and conservation of those parts of the cemetery that were altered or damaged. The Scoped Conservation Plan is limited to those areas of the cemetery where damage and alterations occurred.

### 1.2 Approach to Scoped Conservation Plan

This Scoped Conservation Plan follows the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (Parks Canada, 2010). *Landscapes of*



*Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries – Repairing Tombstones* (Anson-Cartwright, 2003) was also an important reference document in the preparation of this plan.

The *Heritage Restoration Plan for Pioneer Cemeteries, Township of King* (Archaeological Research Associates Limited, 2018) contains detailed documentation and assessment of Laskay Cemetery prior to the damage that occurred in May 2022. Photographic documentation of the cemetery was also carried out by the Township of King in 2021. Immediately following the damages in May 2022, a Township of King Municipal Law Enforcement Officer documented the condition of the cemetery in textual and photographic format (Costigan, 2022). This document also mapped the areas of the cemetery subject to damages. Comparison between these documents and the current condition of the cemetery, as observed in September 2023 informed preparation of this Scoped Conservation Plan.

This Scoped Conservation Plan provides:

- Historical context and land-use history;
- Statement of significance for Laskay Cemetery;
- Summary of previous interventions on the property;
- Condition assessments of the site and grave markers, including photographs;
- Recommended conservation treatments for vegetation and grave markers;
- Guidance on implementation of the conservation work; and
- Description of a monitoring program for the execution of the conservation work.





Figure 1: Location of Laskay Cemetery at 12868 Weston Road. Source: (c) Open Street Map contributors, Creative Commons n.d.



## 2.0 Historical Context

The following section is primarily based on the historical context for the property presented in the *Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of Laskay Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery* (A.S.I. 2024).

### 2.1 Indigenous Land Use and Settlement

Southern Ontario has been occupied by human populations since the retreat of the Laurentide glacier approximately 13,000 years before present (B.P.). Populations at this time would have been highly mobile, inhabiting a boreal-parkland similar to the modern sub-arctic. By approximately 10,000 B.P., the environment had progressively warmed (Edwards and Fritz, 1988) and populations now occupied less extensive territories (Ellis and Deller, 1990).

Between approximately 10,000-5,500 B.P., the Great Lakes basins experienced low-water levels, and many sites which would have been located on those former shorelines are now submerged. This period produces the earliest evidence of heavy woodworking tools, an indication of greater investment of labour in felling trees for fuel, to build shelter, and watercraft production. These activities suggest prolonged seasonal residency at occupation sites. Polished stone and native copper implements were being produced by approximately 8,000 B.P.; the latter was acquired from the north shore of Lake Superior, evidence of extensive exchange networks throughout the Great Lakes region. The earliest evidence for cemeteries dates to approximately 4,500-3,000 B.P. and is indicative of increased social organization, investment of labour into social infrastructure, and the establishment of socially prescribed territories (Ellis et al., 1990; Ellis et al., 2009; Brown, 1995:13).

Between 3,000-2,500 B.P., populations continued to practice residential mobility and to harvest seasonally available resources, including spawning fish. The Woodland period begins around 2,500 B.P. and exchange and interaction networks broaden at this time (Spence et al., 1990:136, 138) and by approximately 2,000 B.P., evidence exists for macro-band camps, focusing on



the seasonal harvesting of resources (Spence et al., 1990:155, 164). By 1,500 B.P. there is macro botanical evidence for maize in southern Ontario, and it is thought that maize only supplemented people's diet. There is earlier phytolith evidence for maize in central New York State by 2,300 B.P. — it is likely that once similar analyses are conducted on Ontario ceramic vessels of the same period, the same evidence will be found (Birch and Williamson, 2013:13–15). Bands likely retreated to interior camps during the winter. It is generally understood that these populations were Algonquian-speakers during these millennia of settlement and land use.

From the beginning of the Late Woodland period at approximately 1,000 B.P., lifeways became more similar to that described in early historical documents. Between approximately 1000-1300 Common Era (C.E.), the communal site is replaced by the village focused on horticulture. Seasonal disintegration of the community for the exploitation of a wider territory and more varied resource base was still the norm (Williamson, 1990:317). By 1300-1450 C.E., this episodic community disintegration was no longer the norm and populations now communally occupied sites throughout the year (Dodd et al., 1990:343). Within the Toronto area, these communities represent the ancestors of the Huron-Wendat. From 1450-1649 C.E. this process continued with the coalescence of these small villages into larger communities (Birch and Williamson, 2013). The ancestral Huron-Wendat on the north shore of Lake Ontario gradually began to move northward during this period. Through this process, the socio-political organization of the First Nations, as described historically by the French and English explorers who first visited southern Ontario, was developed. By 1600 C.E., the Wendat were the northernmost of the Iroquoians, inhabiting the area between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay known historically as Wendake and forming a confederation of individual nations.

At the time of contact with Europeans, the Niagara Peninsula was peopled by the “Neutral Nation” (*Gens Neutral*), a term coined by the French, in reference to the fact that this group took no part in the long-term conflicts between the people of the Wendat and the Haudenosaunee in New York. The Wendat referred to the Neutral as *Attiwandaronk*, meaning “peoples of a slightly



different language.” Conversely, the Neutral used the same term to refer to the Wendat. Unfortunately, none of the contemporary documents mention the term that the Neutral used to refer to themselves collectively. There is no known word comparable to the term Wendat that would indicate that the Neutral recognized themselves as a confederation of individual tribes. The term “Neutral” is an artifact of the European explorers, a name which poorly describes their position vis-a-vis surrounding Iroquoian and Algonquian peoples. Moreover, it implies a level of political unity equivalent to the Wendat or Haudenosaunee confederacies, which may be inaccurate.

In the 1640s, the traditional enmity between the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat (and their Algonquian allies such as the Nippissing and Odawa) led to the dispersal of the Huron-Wendat and then the Neutral. Shortly afterwards, the Haudenosaunee established a series of settlements at strategic locations along the trade routes inland from the north shore of Lake Ontario. By the 1690s however, the Algonquian-speaking Anishinaabeg groups, such as the Mississaugas were the only communities with a permanent presence in southern Ontario. From the beginning of the eighteenth century to the assertion of British sovereignty in 1763, there was no interruption to Anishinaabeg control and use of southern Ontario.

## 2.2 Post-Contact Settlement

This section presents an overview of post-contact settlement, a history of King Township and Laskay, and land-use history of the subject property.

### 2.2.1 The Toronto Purchase

Immediately following British hegemony in the Canadas at the conclusion of the Seven Years War, settlement in the Toronto area was limited even though its potential to serve as an effective link in the transportation and communications network associated with the fur trade was widely recognized (Careless, 1984:10). At the conclusion of the American War of Independence (1774-1783), however, the British were forced to recognize the emergence of a new political frontier which had to be maintained by a strong military presence. In addition, a



number of British Loyalists travelled north in order to remain within British territory. Many of them were eventually given land grants by the Crown partly in exchange for their loyalty and partly as compensation for their estates, which had been confiscated in the Colonies. These developments led the colonial government to enter into negotiations with them for purchase of tracts of land from the Mississaugas, who they recognized as the “owners” of the north shore of Lake Ontario.

The Toronto Purchase (Treaty #13) was made between the Crown and the Mississaugas on September 23, 1787, and then renegotiated on August 1, 1805. The main purpose of the treaty was to secure access to communication routes and posts along the shore of Lake Ontario and to connect Niagara and Kingston (Surtees 1984:60), leading to the creation of twelve townships. However, the 1787 agreement had many inconsistencies. To begin with, the September 23, 1787 surrender document did not describe the physical boundaries of the treaty or the quantity of land surrendered, nor did the body of the document name the Chiefs of the bands with whom the surrender was negotiated. At the end of the document, the names of three Chiefs, Wabakinine, Neace, and Pakquan, together with their dodems, appear on slips of paper that had been attached to the document, suggesting that this was not the document that the Mississauga representatives were presented during negotiations (Surtees, 1984:62).

In light of these inconsistencies, the Crown, as represented by William Claus, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs approached the Mississaugas in 1805 with the intent of identifying the land in question and formally purchasing it from them. The formal deed of surrender confirming the Toronto purchase was drawn up and executed on August 1, 1805, the date that the surrender of the Mississauga tract was negotiated. In addition to confirming the 1787 transaction made with Sir John Johnson, the deed included a detailed legal description of the boundaries of the surrendered parcel. However, the revised boundaries of the 1805 purchase appear to be significantly larger than the original description of the lands. Due to the inconsistencies between the 1787 and 1805 treaties and the fact that the Crown did not disclose to the Mississaugas in 1805 that the previous treaty was invalid, this treaty was subject to a specific claims process –



ultimately leading to a settlement in 2010 between the Federal government and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, 2017).

### 2.2.2 King Township

The Township of King was first surveyed in 1800 by John Stegman using the “single front” method and it is believed that the first settlers took up their lands later in that same year. Additional surveys of the township were undertaken in 1836-1838, 1852 and 1859. The township was probably named in honour of John King, who was British under-secretary of state for the Colonies during the 1790s and early 1800s, although it also may have been named for Admiral Sir Richard King (Armstrong, 1985:144; Boulton, 1805:82; Gillham, 1975:2; Rayburn, 1997:181).

King formed part of the East Riding of York in the Home District which was governed from Niagara until 1800 when the Home and Niagara Districts were officially separated. King was first mentioned in a gazetteer published in 1799, as being situated on the west side of Yonge Street, north of Vaughan “and opposite to Whitchurch.” In 1805, Boulton noted that King was “very thickly settled” and “inhabited by Quakers, a circumstance strongly recommending the settlement. The inhabitants are industrious, and very desirable neighbours” (Smith, 1799:95; Boulton, 1805:82; Jonasson, 2006).

King was described as “an old settled township and possesses some fine farms.” The land was described as “hilly and broken” and timbered with hemlock and various hardwoods. In 1846, approximately 13,818 acres (5,592 ha) or 25% of the available land within the township had been taken up and was under cultivation. The assessed value of the township in 1846 was £42,064 (Smith, 1846:90-91).

In 1800, the population numbered just 20 residents, increasing to 160 by 1809. In 1837, the population of the township was estimated at 2,059, and by 1842 it had increased to 2,625. This increase was attributed to the improvement of roads, particularly Yonge Street. The settlers were a mix of “principally Irish,





with a few English, Scotch, Canadians, and Americans.” In 1846 the township contained eight grist mills and twelve sawmills. The number of sawmills had risen to 21 by 1850. The township reached its greatest population in 1871 when it stood at 7,482. The main crops grown in the township included wheat, barley, oats, peas, potatoes, and turnips. Additional farm produce included butter, maple sugar, and wool (Walton, 1837:99; Smith, 1846:90-91; Smith, 1851:283-284; Gillham, 1975:1-2).

### 2.2.3 Laskay

The hamlet of Laskay is situated on either side of Weston Road, on part Lots 3 and 4 in Concession 6 in King Township, and it is related that the community was originally known as “Bulltown.” The east part of the settlement was developed earlier than the west half and was given impetus by Joseph Baldwin who emigrated to Upper Canada from Yorkshire, England, in 1830. Baldwin settled in King Township in 1832 where he erected a grist mill in 1849 and completed the construction of a sawmill and dam. Baldwin suggested that the settlement should be named “Loskey” after his native place, but the spelling was gradually corrupted to “Loskie” and “Laskey” and finally attained its present variation of “Laskay” around 1861. The east half of the settlement also contained a carding and cloth finishing mill (operated by Henry Baldwin), a general store known as the “Laskay Emporium” built in 1845, post office (opened on March 1, 1854), shoemaker, photographer, and cooperage. Land was donated for a Methodist Church and cemetery (Gillham, 1975:54-57).

The west half of the settlement began its development shortly after David Reesor had part of his 50 acres (20.23 ha) surveyed into a plan of subdivision in 1856. Known as “Taffy Hollow,” this part of the community contained several industries and small businesses including a sawmill, plaster mill, turning lathe, blacksmith (the “Old Forge”), tailor, butcher, and barber. Land was donated here for the Presbyterian Church and cemetery, and for a Temperance Hall (Gillham, 1975:57-58).



In 1857-1858, Laskay was a growing community with a population of about 50 inhabitants. In 1869-1870, Laskay was described as a “post office village” with a population of approximately 100. By 1873, that number had risen to about 150. The community contained one store, hotel, two churches and the cemetery, a steam sawmill, and various occupations were listed in the available directories: merchants, wool manufacturers, millers, postmaster, coopers, shoemakers, teacher, tailor, clothing merchant, carpenters, blacksmiths, auctioneer, wagon maker, peddler, and a police constable named William Warren (Lovell, 1858:255; McEvoy, 1869:261; Lovell, 1871:139; Crosby 1873:168; Fisher & Taylor, 1876:177; Irwin & Co., 1881:188).

The growth and prosperity of the settlement was affected by two floods, the first of which, in 1890, washed away the mill dams. The woollen mill accidentally burned in 1897 and was never rebuilt. As a result, Lakay was never officially incorporated as a village (Gillham, 1975:58-59).

#### **2.2.4 Part Lot 4, Concession 6, King Township**

In the following discussion note that any information contained in the digitized version of the abstract index that is unclear or illegible is indicated using square parentheses.

Lot 4 in Concession 6, containing 200 acres (80.94 ha) was patented by Patrick Hartney on June 18, 1817. Hartney was a career soldier who had served for approximately 26 years as a non-commissioned officer. He was discharged from service in late April 1806, at which time he settled in the Town of York and was appointed barrack master at Fort York. Hartney volunteered for service in the “Grenadier Co.” of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment when the American forces invaded the town in April 1813. He was severely wounded during the battle and “left for dead” on the field. He recovered from his wounds and continued to serve as barrack master until 1829. He petitioned the Executive Council for lands in March 1816, when he was granted 400 acres (161.88 ha) in King Township. He also applied for lands in Markham in April of the same year, but none were available. Hartney was a married man with eight children, and was referred to as “Doctor



Hartney” by Eli Playter (Upper Canada Land Petitions, H10/95; Upper Canada Sundries, pp. 12544-46, 15460-61; Firth, 1962:281).

Hartney died sometime after December 1828 when he made his last will, and the land remained in the possession of his family until March 1840, when James Hartney sold the entire lot to Thomas T. Armstrong for £600. Armstrong immediately severed the lot and sold the west half to Alexander Potter for £250 in that same month. In April 1842, Armstrong mortgaged the remaining easterly half of the property for £600 (King Memorial deeds #17291, 17957, 19636, [38983]).

In July 1844, Armstrong sold the east half of the lot, containing 100 acres (40.47 ha) to William Henry Boulton for £1,700. In July 1846, Boulton purchased additional lands being part of the adjoining Lot 5 Concession 6. Two years later, Boulton sold the “west half of the east half” of the east half of Lot 4, containing 50 acres (20.23 ha), to Samuel Hollingshead for £300 (King Memorial deeds #23056, 27196; King deeds #444).

In March 1847, Boulton sold the remainder of his property to Samuel Wells for £2,500 (King deeds #434).

In February 1853, Wells sold his lands to Benjamin Bowman for £2,140. The land was mortgaged for £1,500 (King Memorial deeds #47927, 47928).

In April 1854, Bowman sold this land to James Munsie for £3,200 (King Memorial deeds #54195).

In January 1856, Munsie sold this property to David Reesor for £3,200 (King Memorial deeds #61097).

The Honourable David Reesor (January 18, 1823–April 28, 1902) was a native of Markham and the son of Abraham and Anna (Dettwiler) Reesor. The family had resided in Lancaster, Pennsylvania prior to the American Revolutionary War. Reesor was also the nephew of Abraham Stouffer who was the “founder” of Stouffville. He served as the Reeve of Markham (1851, 1856-1857, 1859-1860),



and as the Warden of York and Peel Counties. Reesor was elected to the Legislative Council for the Province of Canada where he sat between 1860 and 1867. He was then appointed as a Liberal member to the Senate for the Dominion of Canada where he sat until his resignation in 1901. Reesor served as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the local militia. He was married in 1848 to Emily McDougall, who was the sister of William McDougall who was a “Father of Confederation.” Reesor retired to his Toronto home in Rosedale where he died. He and his wife are interred at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Senator Reesor Drive in Markham is named in his honour (Beers, 1907:9-10).

Reesor commissioned George McPhillips (Provincial Land Surveyor) to subdivide part of his land into a plan of subdivision. In late August 1856, this plan was registered on title as Plan 167.

### **2.2.5 Part Lot 24, Registered Plan 167**

In October 1861, David Reesor sold a parcel of land containing 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre for \$280 to William Goodfellow, James Marsh, and Frederick Willis as trustees for the Laskay Presbyterian Church (King Memorial deeds #83159).

The church, as established in 1861, was officially known as “The Canada Presbyterian Church Congregation of Laskay.” In 1925, the congregation opted not to enter church union (i.e., to become part of the United Church of Canada), but rather chose “to remain in the Continuing Presbyterian Church in Canada.” The congregation later decided to dissolve, and in March 1927 a committee of three was appointed “to make the best arrangements possible for the sale of the church property” (King deeds #21558).

The auction sale for this property, which comprised the “church” portion of the lot only, was advertised for several weeks in the *Aurora Banner* newspaper, and the sale itself was held on May 5, 1928. The property was sold to John Alexander Gray, one of the committee members, for \$275. Gray died on August 25, 1937, before he had received the deed to the property. His widow, Catherine McFarlane Gray, then paid the balance of the purchase price and obtained the deed for the land. The severance of the lot and its sale was approved by County



Court judge James Parker in Toronto on November 28, 1938, thus explaining why no Planning Act consent is noted in the abstract index (see recitals in King deed #21558).

Gray (March 13, 1875-August 25, 1937) was a native of York County and the son of Alexander and Ellen (Sinclair) Gray. Census records list his occupation as a “farm labourer” and as a “thresher.” He was married in late January 1906 to Catherine McFarlane Cairns (April 29, 1873-March 3, 1955), a native of Vaughan, and the daughter of Thomas and Janet Cairns. John and Catherine were members of the Presbyterian Church and had no children. John died from “apoplexy.” He and Catherine were interred in the King Cemetery (Ontario Vital Statistics, marriage registration #21831/1906; death registration #40828/1937; 1911 King/York North Census, district 137, sub-district 5-3, p. 7; 1921 King/York North Census, sub-district 9, p. 14; Gray tombstone inscription, King Cemetery.)

In October 1938, Mark Allan and John S. Stewart (as the then “surviving trustees”) transferred this land to Catherine McFarlane Gray for \$275. The dimensions of the property vary from deed to deed, the abstract index for it refer to “99' front on E. limit, commencing at the NE. angle of Lot 25” (King deeds #21558). The full description, as given in the deed, commenced:

on the west side of Main Street at the north-east angle of Lot 25; then west on the south side of Mill Street 93 feet to the limit between what was known as the Church part of the lot and the cemetery in the rear; then south 56'; then east 12'; then south 43' along the east boundary of the cemetery to the south limit of Lot 24; then east 79' to the west side of Main Street at the south-east angle of Lot 24; then north 99' on the west side of Main Street to the POB [place of beginning].

The lands that were believed to form the cemetery were excluded from this purchase and remained the property of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (King deeds #21558).



In August 1939, Gray sold this land to Ewart Patton for \$200 (King deeds #25406).

In October 1947, Patton sold the property to Charles and Ida Della Black for \$75 (King deeds #25407).

In July 1972, Ida D. Black as the surviving joint tenant sold this land to Michael J. and Carol J. Hall. The abstract index described the land as “±93' (28.34 m) on the south side of Mill Street commencing at the NE. angle of Lot 25” (Registry deeds #124887, 124960).

In January 1974, Hall sold this property to Paul and Maria Ehrnes. The land was described as measuring 99.52' (30.33 m) by 56.29' (17.16 m). The Ehrnes mortgaged the land in May 1987 for \$60,000. In April 1992, Paul Ehrnes transferred ownership of this property to Maria Ehrnes (Registry deeds #156412, 433805, 593115; Deposit #212662).

The land registry records for this land were automated sometime after April 1998, and any subsequent land use history would require a search of PIN 03363-0043.

### **Part Lot 25, Registered Plan 167**

The chain of title for this lot follows as outlined on Lot 24.

### **2.2.6 Laskay (Secessionist) Presbyterian Church**

The Secession church was a Scottish Presbyterian denomination that formed in 1730s through the union of several sects during a period of discord and competing views on doctrine and governance. It underwent numerous transformations, reconfigurations, unions and divisions over time (Morton, 1911:215-216).

As noted above, the land upon which the church and cemetery are located was part of a 71-acre (28.73 ha) tract purchased by David Reesor in January 1856,



which he subdivided later the same year. Reesor did not donate the 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre (0.081 ha) church and cemetery land to the congregation until the end of October 1861. The 1857-1858 *Canada Directory* does not list a Presbyterian Church or clergyman at Laskay (King Memorial deeds #83159; Lovell, 1858:255), nor is the church shown on the 1856 plan of subdivision (McPhillips, 1856) or the 1860 *Tremaine Map of the County of York* (Figure 2).

The 1871 census for King Township notes that the Presbyterian church at Laskay occupied ½ acre of land (0.202 ha) and contained “two buildings.” The function of the second structure is not specified: it was possibly a drive shed or manse (1871 King Census, division A2, p. 30 line 10). Neither structure is specifically indicated on the 1878 map of King Township in the *Illustrated Atlas of the County of York* (Figure 3).

There are very few records extant related to the Laskay Presbyterian Church. An undated photograph of the church, possibly taken in the 1920s, shows that it was a rectangular frame (clapboard) building, with gable ends and return eaves (Figure 2). A single, centrally placed chimney suggests that the interior was heated with a wood stove. The main entrance was centrally placed in the east wall of the building facing Weston Road. The south wall contained three large windows of the 9/6 variety which would have provided ample light inside the church. Presumably the north wall contained a similar placement of windows. The building was austere in terms of its design, although the main entrance featured a low triangular pediment which projected out from the wall and provided some visual interest. The cemetery was located to the rear of the building, and the grounds were enclosed with a post and rail fence. It is reasonable to suggest that the church was not built until after Reesor donated the land to the congregation in late 1861. In support of this it should be noted that there is no reference in the *Minutes of the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church* to the church, a permanent clergyman, or elders at Laskay, until 1862. Laskay formed part of the Presbytery of Toronto during the second half of the nineteenth century.



The various directories published during the mid-nineteenth century that include York County either do not include Laskay as a place or do not mention a Presbyterian clergyman there. Nor is the church at Laskay mentioned in James Croll's 1868, report on the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The clergymen who officiated at "King and Laskay" included the following, as named in the *Minutes of the Synod*, or listed in the *Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Canadian Presbyterian Church*:

- Rev. James Milligan (1862-1868), ordained August 27, 1862; elders Henry Stewart (1864), William Agnew (1866), and William Goodfellow (1867-1868).
- 1869: "vacant" (i.e., no resident clergyman).
- 1870: records could not be located, possibly "vacant."
- Rev. George Haigh (1871-1875), ordained April 1863. Appointed to serve in Hespeler, Waterloo County, on April 24, 1876.
- 1877-1878: Laskay and East King "vacant." Elder D. Johnstone (1878)
- 1879: Rev. S.R. Warrender, appointed June 3, 1879. Warrender does not appear to have remained at Laskay for more than a few months.
- 1880-1881: "vacant." The *Minutes of the Synod* report that "Laskey (*sic*) and West King formed into one charge, July 6, 1880."
- 1882-1883: records could not be located.
- 1884-1885: Rev. John W. Cameron, b. New York State 1851, entered Knox College 1874, ordained November 15, 1881. He was "immediately invited to take charge of the Presbyterian Church at Laskay and in the west of King." He had three churches under his control with a membership of 175 "having considerably increased since the reverend gentleman took charge." The church at Laskay was then described as a "comfortable frame building." In mid-January 1885, Cameron was transferred to serve at Richmond Hill and Thornhill. In 1891 he was a "Free Church" minister at Mornington Township in Perth County (Adam and Mulvany 1885:390-391; 1891 Mornington Census, Perth North, division 3, p. 3).





- 1885-1887: Rev. Peter Fleming. Fleming was transferred to serve at Thornbury, Clarksburg, and Heathcote near Owen Sound in August or September 1887. The *Acts and Proceedings of the Thirteenth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada* note that Fleming served at three churches including St. Mark's Mission, working with six elders and seven "other office bearers." Fleming preached to 45 families and "ten single persons" for a total of 550 worshippers. There were 115 communicants on the roll. Sixty pupils were enrolled in the Sunday School and Bible classes, and the church/Sunday School library contained approximately 200 volumes. Seven members of the congregation were engaged in the Sunday School work (Appendix 28, p. xlv).
- 1888-1890: "vacant." Elder William Hall.
- 1890-1900: Rev. Joseph Watt (1890-1900), induction October 21, 1890; ordained June 19, 1883. Elders: W.T. McCutcheon (1891), D. O'Brien (1895, 1899-1900).

In 1862, Laskay and King were to be included as a fifth district to hold "Presbytery of Toronto Missionary Meetings" (Anonymous, 1862).

The church at Laskay appears to have advocated in favour of temperance, and in March 1892 was among the organizations named which prayed for "certain amendments to the Liquor License Law respecting the sale of liquor in polling subdivisions" (55 Vic. ch. 49; Anonymous, 1892).

The Presbyterian and Methodist Churches at Laskay entered church union in 1925 and thereafter became the Laskay United Church.

As noted earlier in this report, the Presbyterian church was eventually sold in October 1938 to a private owner, Catherine McFarlane Gray, and then passed through numerous other hands. The church building was demolished sometime before 1954 and the existing residential structure to the immediate east of the cemetery appears to have been built sometime between 1954 and 1978.



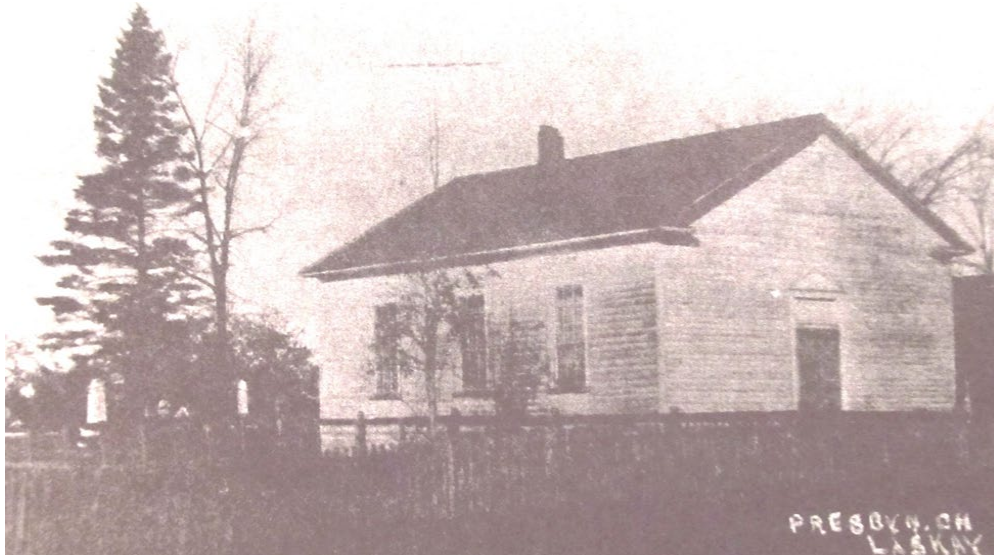


Figure 2 View looking northwest from Main Street (Weston Road) to the Laskay Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, circa 1920.

### 2.2.7 Laskay Presbyterian Church Cemetery

The Laskay Presbyterian Church cemetery is situated at the rear (west end) of Lots 24 and 25 as shown on Registered Plan 167 (PIN 03363-0044). This land was not included in the auction sale for the front or east half of the property in 1928. The cemetery should measure approximately 72 feet on the south side of Mill Street (commencing 93 feet west of Main Street), then 99.52 feet along its westerly side on Second Street, and 84 feet along the south side of Lot 24. Its easterly boundary is irregular, running 56.29 feet south from Mill Street, then east 12 feet, and then south 43.23' to the south limit of Lot 24.

It should be noted that the cemetery is identified on the Moore survey of 1987 as the *remainder* of deed 83159 (1861). The boundaries for the “church” and “cemetery” portions of Lots 24 and 25, as shown on the “block maps” prepared by Teranet, also reflect the limits between the two parts of the churchyard as established at the time of the sale of the property to John Alexander Gray in 1928 (Moore, 1987).



The cemetery has been transcribed by the York Region Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. This transcription lists just 13 tombstone inscriptions, dating between 1854 and 1892. The Ontario Genealogical Society transcript notes that there were probably more burials here which “are believed to have been removed to King City Cemetery” (Ontario Genealogical Society, 1992). Of the documented burials, four are infants; the rest are all adults. There are no teenaged individuals. The oldest age recorded at this site is James Bryson, who died in July 1892 aged 98 years. Two of the gravestones list the place of nativity as Scotland. The monuments include the surnames Blackburn, Bryson, Lauder, Peterbaugh/Puterbaugh, Watson, and Willis.

The 1861 and 1871 census returns for King Township contain “schedules of deaths” for the previous year (i.e., 1860 and 1870). The 1861 census for King census division 3 only records three Presbyterian deaths, all were infants, and the children of Alexander Millin, Archibald Gillis, and James Burrows. The Gillis child was interred at Strange, while the others (Burrows, Millin) are not listed in any cemetery transcriptions.

The earliest burial at Laskay appears to be that of Henry Lauder, son of Thomas and Catharine Lauder, who died January 25, 1854, aged one month and twelve days. His infant brothers, Robert (deceased January 23, 1857) and Thomas (deceased October 21, 1858) are commemorated on the same monument. These were the only deaths recorded on site from the 1850s; they may have been moved to this location from a small, private family burial plot since they predate the donation of land to the congregation by Reesor in 1861, or they may have been buried elsewhere and simply commemorated on the Lauder family stone. The next marked burials are those of Catherine Puterbaugh (circa 1797-August 17, 1866), and John Blackburn (circa 1808-October 24, 1869). There appear to be at least 20 individuals interred in the churchyard up to 1892 (see below for Laskay Burials By Year).



### Laskay Burials By Year (Ontario Genealogical Transcriptions)

1854: 1 marked grave	1884: 3 marked graves
1857: 1 marked grave	1887: 1 marked grave
1858: 1 marked grave	1892: 1 marked grave
1866: 1 marked grave	1951-1960: 2 marked graves
1873: 1 marked grave	Indeterminate* 5
1874: 1 marked grave	<b>Total: 21</b>
1875: 1 marked grave	*Three bases with no corresponding stone; two stone fragments bearing engraved initials, one marked "L.W." the other marked "M.J.J."
1881: 1 marked grave	
1882: 1 marked grave	

One of the tombstones transcribed by the Ontario Genealogical Society (number 9 in the listing) does not provide a name, or a full date of death; the verse on the stone suggests that that it was for a female, who died Aug. 10, 188[--] aged 43. A search of the Ontario Vital Statistics suggests that this individual was Margaret Blackburn Cleland, the daughter of William and Isabella (Watson) Blackburn, who was born in Co. Tyrone, Ireland. She was married at Haldimand on June 5, 1862, to William John Cleland (1838-1910), a farmer at Laskay, and the son of James R. and Sarah (Neale) Cleland. Margaret died of "consumption" or tuberculosis at the age of 43 (Ontario Vital Statistics, death registration #21315).

Some individuals died elsewhere, and the remains were brought to Laskay for burial. These include Henry Peterbaugh, who died at Vaughan on December 31, 1884, aged 55 years, from "liver trouble and bronchitis" (Ontario Vital Statistics, death registration #19453).



Two of the individuals interred at Laskay, Jean (deceased October 30, 1882) and James Bryson (deceased July 7, 1892) were removed from the cemetery and reburied at the King City Cemetery in 1897 (Ontario Genealogical Society, 1992).

In contrast to the Ontario Genealogical Society report on the cemetery, a survey of the site carried out by Archaeological Research Associates in 2018, as part of a heritage cemetery restoration plan for pioneer cemeteries in King Township, documented the remains of 23 monuments, including gravestones and “subcomponent markers, fragments and possible stone fencing posts” (Archaeological Research Associates, 2018:61). Only six inscriptions noted during the 2018 survey could be matched with those among the Ontario Genealogical Society’s transcriptions. Taking into account factors of preservation and visibility, Archaeological Research Associates, estimated that their work documented three additional grave markers (Archaeological Research Associates, 2018:61). No additional individuals were identified, although it should be noted that the 2018 record for Lydia A. Watson appears to be in error. The Ontario Genealogical Society transcription records her as the daughter of William and Lydia Watson, who died on January 2, 1873, aged one year and six months, while the Archaeological Research Associates database entry identifies the fragmentary surviving inscription as reading “WIFE OF W... WATSON DIED JAN. 2, 18..., AE... YEAR, 6 MOS.”

No burial registers could be located for the Laskay Presbyterian Church, either at the United Church Archives at Victoria College, or at the Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives. Deaths, if they were recorded in Presbyterian Church records, are generally found as notations in the Sessions Minutes: for example, the King City Session minutes (1896-1916) include some death records for that particular church. No Session Minutes were found for Laskay.



## 2.3 Historical Mapping



Figure 3: The subject property on the 1860 Tremaine Map of the County of York (Tremaine, 1860).



Figure 4: The subject property on the 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York (Miles & Co., 1878).



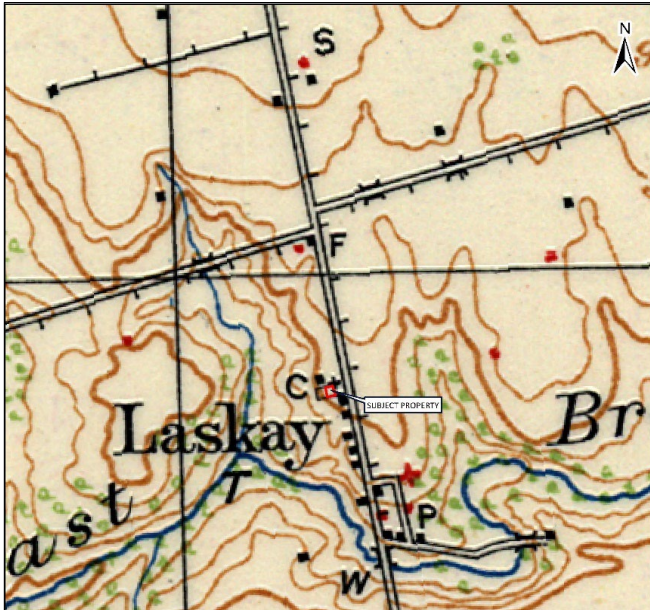


Figure 5: The subject property on the 1919 Department of Militia and Defence map of Bolton (Department of Militia and Defence, 1919).



Figure 6: The subject property overlaid on 1954 aerial photograph of Southern Ontario (City of Toronto, 1954).



### 3.0 Statement of Significance

The statement of significance presented below has been reproduced from the cemetery's designation by-law (Corporation of the Township of King, 2009).

#### Description of Property

The Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay is an inactive, small, rural, mid nineteenth-century community cemetery located at 12868 Weston Road. Measuring approximately 7,685 square feet, it is situated to the rear of the one-time Laskay Presbyterian Church, on the southwest corner of Weston Road and Mill Street, fronting on Second Street. It is located on Concession 6 Part Lot 4, the west part of lots 24 and 25 Plan 167, in the hamlet of Laskay.

#### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value of the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay is related to its design/physical value as a good example of a small, mid nineteenth-century, local community cemetery situated in a rural setting. Characterized by burial sites with simple limestone slabs and more elaborate granite markers arranged in an apparent unstructured layout amidst mature trees and bushes it serves as a reminder of the peaceful, undisturbed setting intended as the final resting place for the deceased of the community.

The cultural heritage value of the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay is related to its historical/associative value as the burial site of members of a number of the original families of the hamlet of Laskay. Senator David Reesor set aside portions of his 50 acres of land for a Presbyterian church, manse and the cemetery established circa 1858. Sharing property with the one time Laskay Presbyterian Church, its approximately 13 markers and monuments, dating from 1854 to 1892, list the names of 18 of the last remaining burial sites of adults and children of the community, some Scottish immigrants, following the later reinternment of many others.

The cultural value of the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay also relates to its contextual value for its more than 150 years influence on the continued





rural character of the immediate landscape. Its rustic and treed setting serves as a spiritual and visual landmark and important reminder of the rural past to the community.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The heritage attributes of the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay related to its cultural heritage value as a small, mid nineteenth-century, rural burial site of early settlers of the hamlet of Laskay, its influence on the rural character of the landscape, and its spiritual and visual landmark value to the community are portrayed by:

- the variety of styles and material of its original markers and monuments, with their surviving inscriptions
- its placement of the original markers and monuments
- the original placement of gravesites
- the mature trees and bushes
- the park like setting
- its location and dimensions



## 4.0 Condition Assessment

The following section presents a summary of the 2018 assessment of the cemetery, a summary of the damages that occurred in May 2022, as well as a description of existing conditions of the site and grave markers as recorded in 2023.

A site visit was conducted by Mark Steele (The Landplan Studio Inc.) and Kristina Martens and Laura Wickett (both of Archaeological Services Incorporated (A.S.I.)) on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The purpose of the site visit was to review and document the site, including landscape, vegetation and grave markers, and to understand the current condition of these components in relation to the *Heritage Restoration Plan for Pioneer Cemeteries, Township of King* (Archaeological Research Associates Limited, 2018) and the *Summary of Damage to Laskay Cemetery* (Costigan, 2022).

### 4.1 Previous Condition Assessment and Recordings (2018 and 2021)

A condition assessment of Laskay Cemetery was previously completed in 2018 as part of the Heritage Restoration Plan for Pioneer Cemeteries, Township of King (*Restoration Plan*; Archaeological Research Associates Limited). The *Restoration Plan* documented the location (Figure 7), type, inscriptions and condition of the grave markers and made recommendations for their repair and conservation. The Township also provided photographs of the cemetery taken in 2021 to inform this Scoped Conservation Plan. These photographs show that the locations and condition of the grave markers generally appear to be similar to the photographs taken in 2018 for the Restoration Plan. Combined, these sources provide a useful recording of the cemetery's condition prior to the alteration and damage that occurred in May 2022.

The *Restoration Plan* notes the following conditions present at Laskay Cemetery:



- 23 grave markers were noted during the site investigation including subcomponent markers, fragments, and possible stone fencing posts.
- The markers are primarily made of marble, with some constructed of granite, one of limestone and one of concrete.
- The most common forms of deterioration within the cemetery were extensive overgrowth, extensive leans and sinking of markers, as well as the fragmentation and the collapse of markers.
- 70% of the markers were in poor condition (rated on a scale of poor, fair, good or excellent).
- The vegetation, in combination with the soft ground in the area, had resulted in many of the markers disappearing into overgrowth, sinking into the ground, as well as leaning and collapsing.

The Restoration Plan also assigned an identification number to each grave marker, which have been carried forward into this Scoped Conservation Plan to ensure continuity between the two documents. The work conducted as part of the Restoration Plan also included accompanying data sets and photographs of the individual grave markers in Laskay Cemetery.



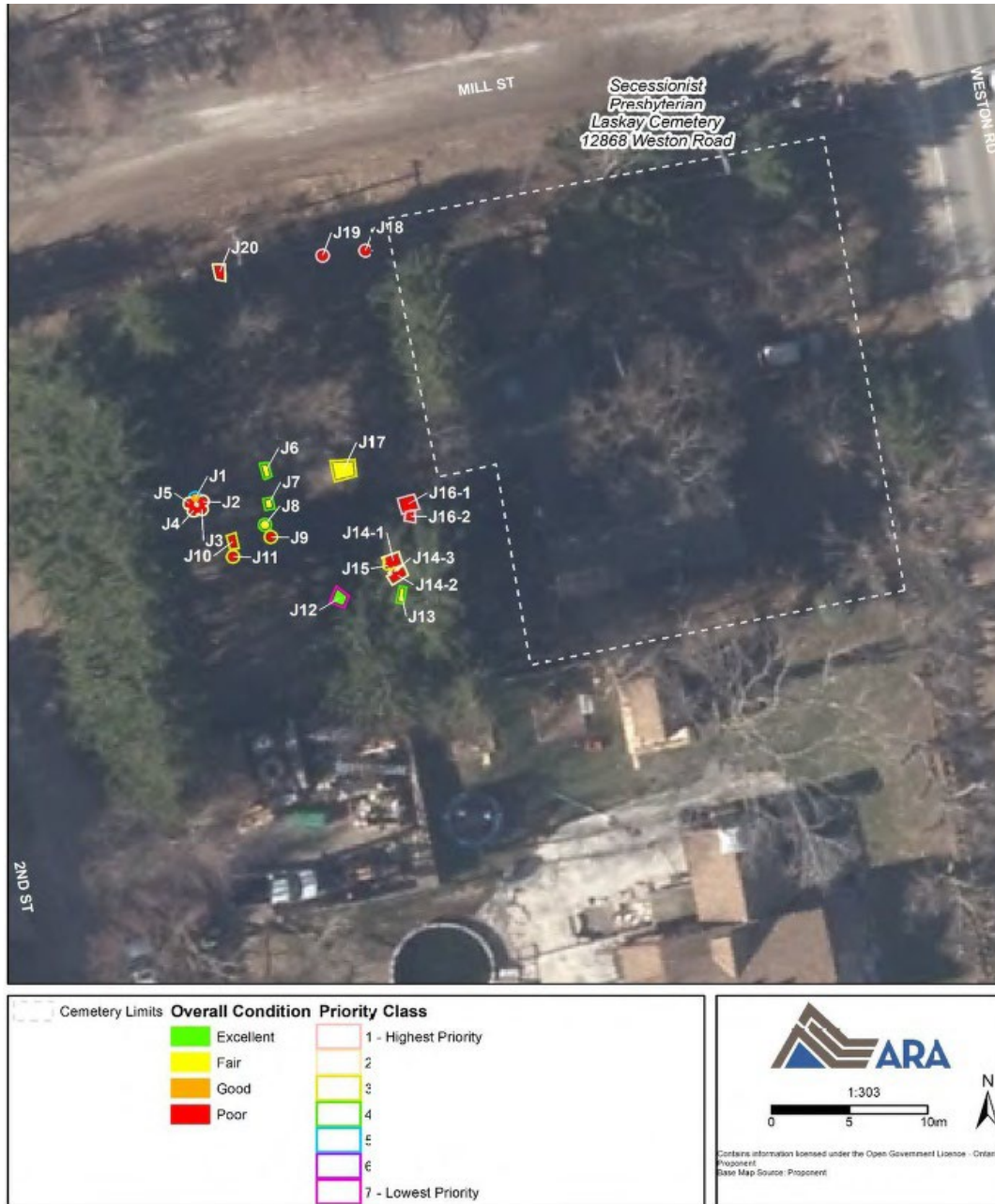


Figure 7: Figure from 2018 condition assessment showing condition and priority class ratings within Laskay Cemetery (Archaeological Research Associates Ltd.)



## 4.2 Summary of Damage (May 2022)

The *Summary of Damage to Laskay Cemetery* (Costigan, 2022) prepared by the Township of King Municipal Law Enforcement Officer describes damage to the cemetery that took place in May 2022. The damages are summarized below, and the general location of the damage is shown in Figure 8.

- The following grave markers were moved and/or damaged: J13, J14-1, J14-2, J14-3, J16-1, J16-2, J17, J18 and J19
- Vegetation was removed
- One large Sugar Maple tree was damaged (represented by the green square in Figure 8)<sup>1</sup>
- One small tree was completely removed, with a portion of its stump remaining (represented by the green circle in Figure 8)
- Ruts were left in the ground from construction equipment (Figure 17)

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<sup>1</sup> Following a property survey, it was determined that this tree is located on private property and not on the cemetery property. Accordingly, damage to this tree is not addressed in this Conservation Plan.





Figure 8: Aerial image from *Summary of Damage to Laskay Cemetery* with blue indicating area of significant damage to grave markers and vegetation and orange indicating area of minor damage to vegetation only (Costigan, 2022)



### 4.3 Existing Conditions of the Site (September 2023)

The cemetery is located on the southeast corner of Mill Street and Second Street within the village of Laskay. The L-shaped property measures approximately 714 square metres. The cemetery is relatively flat and contains a number of trees and shrubs, as well as grave markers (Figure 10 and Figure 11). The grave markers are concentrated near the centre of the property. Where rows are apparent, the markers are organized in a westward facing arrangement. The western edge of the property is lined with a row of Norway Spruce trees, that have been limbed up to approximately 2,400 millimetres (m.m.) in height and provide a partial screen of the cemetery from Second Street (Figure 12). The eastern edge of the property is lined with a number of Norway Spruce, two Manitoba Maples and a Sugar Maple, screening the cemetery from the neighbouring residential property. The site is delineated at the south by fenceline.

A variety of tree species are dispersed throughout the property (Figure 13 and Figure 14), including Black Walnut, Red Oak, Tamarack and Butternut. Most of the trees are established or mature and were assessed as being in good condition in the *Arborist Report* (Lund, 2024). Understory growth along portions of the north, east and south boundaries includes Black Locust, Common Buckthorn, Manitoba Maple, Black Walnut, and Balsam Fir. The soil has patches of low-lying ground cover and there are several large shrubs near the centre of the property (Figure 15). With the exception of the tree lines along the western and eastern edges of the property, the plantings do not appear to follow a specific pattern or design (Figure 9).

Damage to the site's landscape that occurred in May 2022 includes the removal of a tree (Figure 16) from the tree line along the eastern edge of the property. This has resulted in a gap in the eastern tree line, which screens the cemetery from the neighbouring residential property. Additionally, ruts were left in the ground from construction equipment that have since been grown over by ground cover (Figure 17).



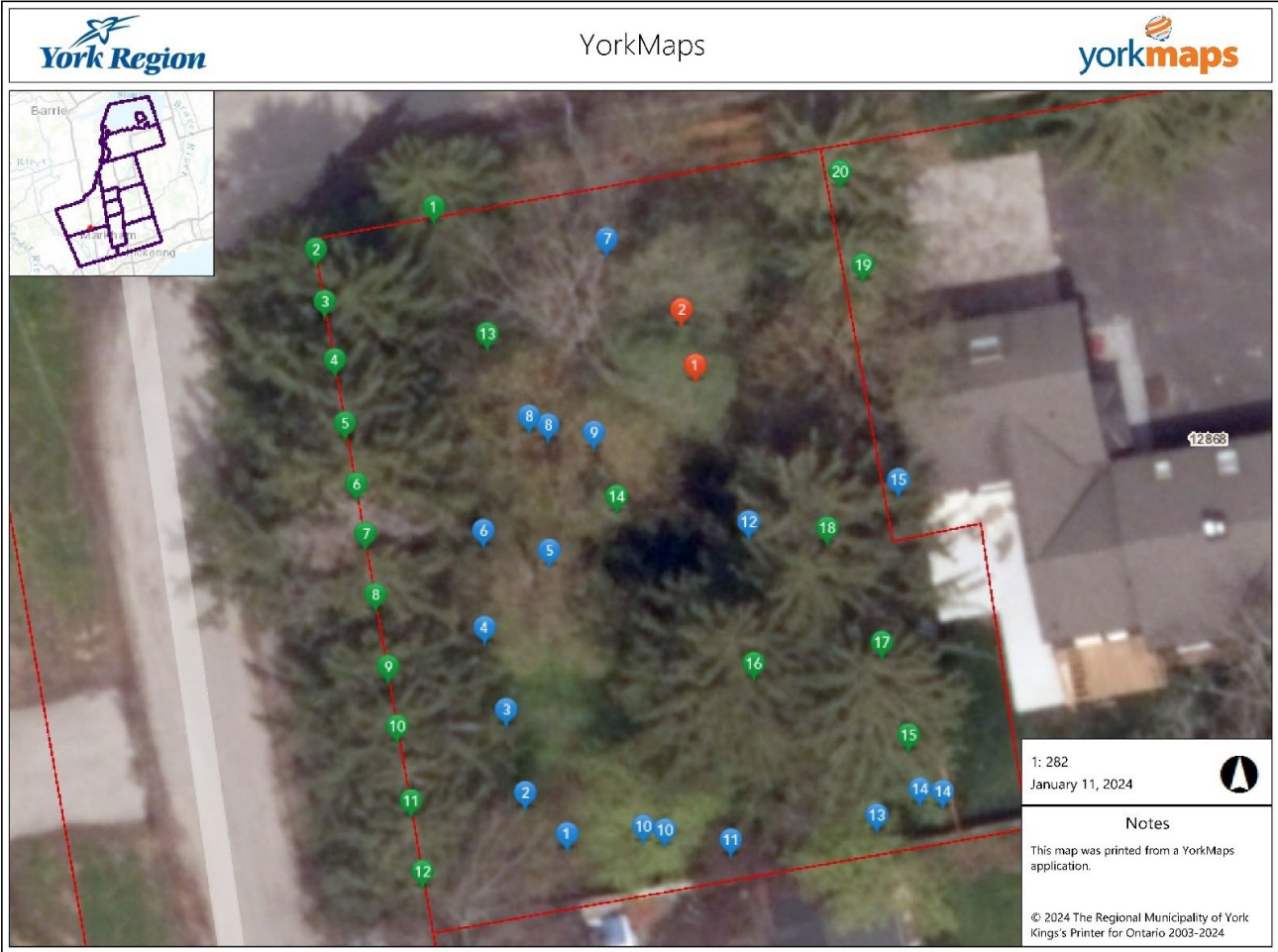


Figure 9: Map of trees on the property (Township of King)







Figure 10: View of cemetery from Mill Street, looking south, with neighbouring property at left.



Figure 11: View across cemetery from within northern limits of cemetery, looking south (A.S.I. 2023).





Figure 12: Row of Norway Spruces lining the western edge of the cemetery, looking southwest (A.S.I. 2023).





Figure 13: Looking southwest from the eastern edge of the cemetery (A.S.I. 2023).



Figure 14: Looking west from within the centre of the cemetery (A.S.I. 2023).





Figure 15: Looking east from within the cemetery, with large shrubs at centre(A.S.I. 2023).



Figure 16: Tree stump from unauthorized tree removal that occurred in May 2022 (A.S.I. 2023).





Figure 17: Ruts left by construction equipment in May 2022, near the northern end of the property as documented in September 2023.



Figure 18: Ruts left by construction equipment in May 2022, near the northern end of the property (A.S.I. 2023).



## 4.4 Existing Conditions of the Grave Markers (September 2023)

The following section presents general views of grave markers in the cemetery, data sheets and photographs of each grave marker that was identified in the *Summary of Damage* as being moved or damaged, as well as an additional grave marker that was damaged but not identified in the *Summary of Damage*. Each data sheet includes the assessment of the grave marker from the *Restoration Plan* and the description of the grave marker from the *Summary of Damage*, along with A.S.I.'s assessment of the grave marker based on the site visit conducted by the consultant team on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Select photographs of each grave marker taken in 2018, 2022 and 2023 are presented following each data sheet. Photographs of the grave markers taken in 2021 provided by the Township were also reviewed in the preparation of this Scoped Conservation Plan and have been included for certain grave markers.

Generally, A.S.I.'s assessment of damaged and moved grave markers reflect the findings of the *Summary of Damage*, however there are several exceptions which have been noted in the data sheets below.

Note that A.S.I.'s existing conditions assessment is focused on damage or disruption that occurred in May 2022. Note also that this section does not discuss all grave markers in the cemetery. Refer to the *Restoration Plan* for information about all the grave markers in the cemetery.



#### 4.4.1 Overall Photographs of Grave Markers

These photographs show general views of grave markers within Laskay Cemetery.



Figure 19: Looking west from the eastern edge of the cemetery (A.S.I. 2023).





Figure 20: Looking towards the northeast corner of the cemetery (A.S.I. 2023).



Figure 21: Looking east from the centre across the cemetery (A.S.I. 2023).







Figure 22: Looking south from the centre across the cemetery (A.S.I. 2023).



## 4.4.2 Grave Marker Data Sheets

### Grave Marker J13

Style of Marker (2018): Unidentifiable Tablet / Bottom Fragment of Marker and Base

Material (2018): Marble / Unidentifiable Base

Colour (2018): White

Structural Condition (2018): Sinking into Ground / Base Nearly Entirely Underground / Missing Top Nearly Entirely of Tablet / Only Small Portion of Marker Bottom Remaining / Mortar Seal Between Die and Socket / Stress Cracks at Upper Portion of Base

Overall Condition (May 2022): Damaged from machinery tracks running over tombstone; broken pieces lying on ground.

Overall Condition (September 2023): Cracked/broken from machinery tracks running over tombstone. The broken pieces have been placed on top.

### Photographs of J-13



Figure 23: Marker J13 (A.R.A., 2018).



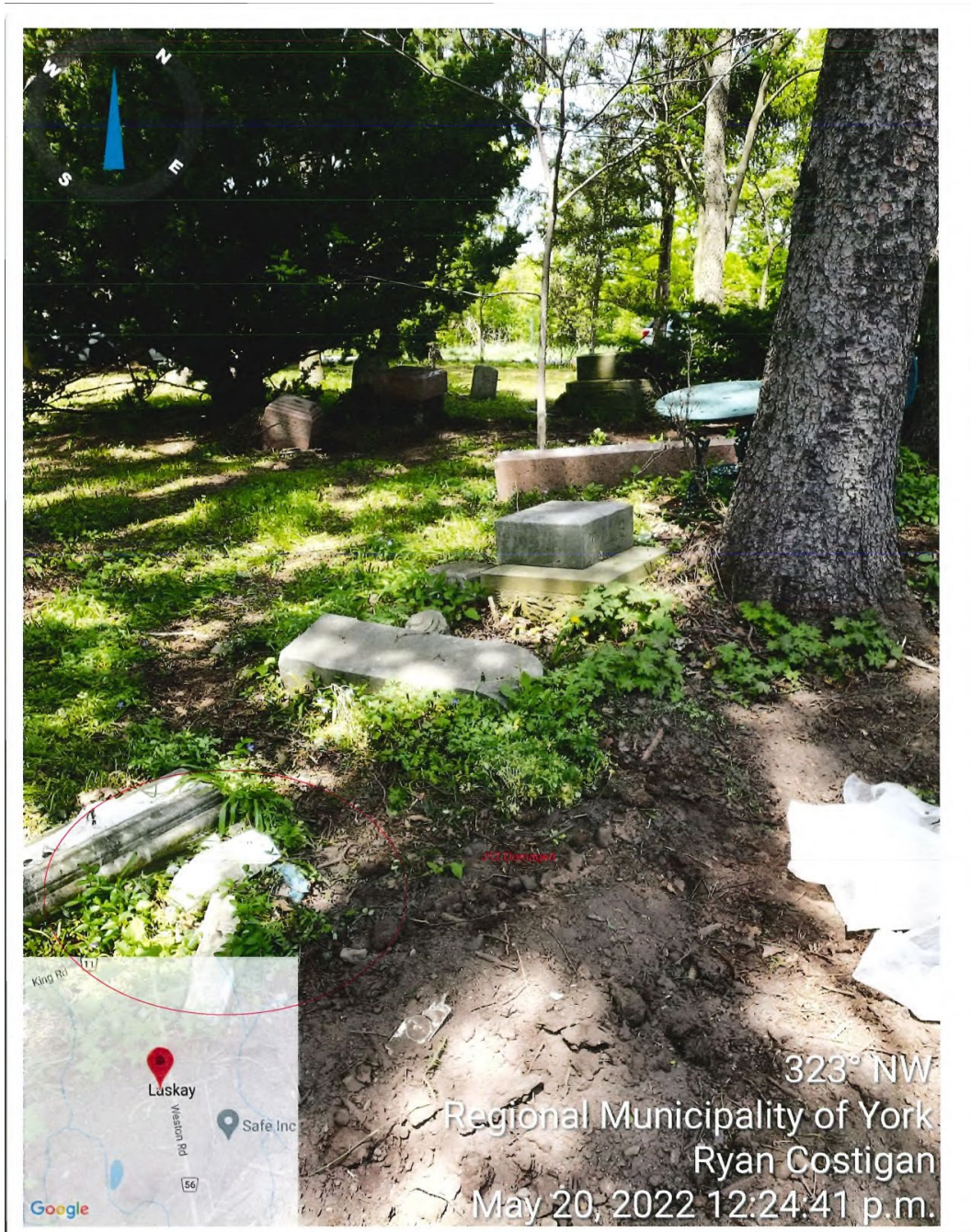


Figure 24: Marker J13, circled in red, May 2022 (Ryan Costigan, 2022).





Figure 25: Marker J13, September 2023 (A.S.I., 2023).

## Grave Markers J14-1, J14-2 and J14-3

### J14-1

Style of Marker (2018): Two Stage Square Marker / Missing Top / Probable Obelisk

Material (2018): Granite (Stage 2) / Unidentifiable Cut Stone Base (Stage 1)

Colour (2018): Grey

Structural Condition (2018): Sinking into Ground / Missing Top Pillar

Overall Condition (May 2022): Moved.

Overall Condition (September 2023): The marker appears to be in the same location as it was when the 2021 photographs were taken.

### J14-2

Style of Marker (2018): Obelisk Pillar

Material (2018): Granite

Colour (2018): Grey

Structural Condition (2018): Lying on Ground / Fragmented at Bottom

Overall Condition (May 2022): Moved.

Overall Condition (September 2023): The marker appears to be in the same location as it was when the 2021 photographs were taken.

### J14-3

Style of Marker (2018): Urn

Material (2018): Granite

Colour (2018): Grey

Structural Condition (2018): Lying on Ground / Fragmented at Bottom / Sinking into Ground



Overall Condition (May 2022): Moved.

Overall Condition (September 2023): The marker appears to be in the same location as it was when the 2021 photographs were taken.

### Photographs of J14-1, J14-2 and J14-3



Figure 26: J14-1 (A.R.A., 2018).





Figure 27: J14-2 (A.R.A., 2018).



Figure 28: J14-3 (A.R.A., 2018).





Figure 29: J14-1, J14-2 and J14-3 at left (King Township, 2021).



Figure 30: J14 markers (King Township, 2021, white arrows and text added by A.S.I.).







Figure 31: J14 markers (Ryan Costigan, 2022, blue arrows and text added by A.S.I.).





Figure 32: J14 markers (A.S.I., 2023).



## Grave Markers J16-1 and J16-2

### J16-1

Style of Marker (2018): Standard Obelisk

Material (2018): Four Stage Standard Obelisk [Base]

Colour (2018): Red / Unidentifiable Base (Stage 1)

Structural Condition (2018): Severe Lean / Obelisk Pillar Sitting Beside Marker (J16-2)

Overall Condition (May 2022): Moved approximately 20 feet westerly and stones disassembled.

Overall Condition (September 2023): Moved approximately 6 metres (20 feet) westerly and stones disassembled. Additionally, A.S.I. observed scratches from construction equipment to the bottom stone and the middle (red) stone also has damage from equipment: gouged edge approximately 10 m.m. in size and chipped corner approximately 50 m.m. in size.

### J16-2

Style of Marker (2018): Standard Obelisk

Material (2018): Obelisk Pillar

Colour (2018): Red

Structural Condition (2018): Severe Lean / Sitting Beside Associated Marker (J16-1)

Overall Condition (May 2022): Moved approximately 20 feet westerly and toppled over.

Overall Condition (September 2023): Moved approximately 6 metres (20 feet) westerly and toppled over.



**Photographs of J16-1 and J16-2**



Figure 33: J16-1 (base) at left and J16-2 (obelisk) at right (A.R.A., 2018).



Figure 34: J16-2 (obelisk) at left and J16-1 (base) at right (A.R.A., 2018).



Figure 35: J16-1 (base) in foreground and J16-2 (obelisk) in background (A.R.A., 2018).





Figure 36: J16-1 disassembled, with top stone at left and bottom and middle stones at right (Ryan Costigan 2022).





Figure 37: J16-2 (Ryan Costigan, 2022).





Figure 38: J16-1 disassembled with top stone at left and bottom and middle stones at right (A.S.I., 2023).



Figure 39: J16-1 scratches on bottom stone from machinery, looking east (A.S.I., 2023).





Figure 40: J16-1 scratches on bottom stone from machinery, looking south (A.S.I., 2023).



Figure 41: J16-1 gouge in middle stone from machinery (A.S.I., 2023).







Figure 42: J16-1 chipped corner on middle stone from machinery (A.S.I., 2023).



Figure 43: J16-2 (A.S.I., 2023).



## Grave Marker J17

Style of Marker (2018): Two Stage Square Marker / Missing Top / Probable Obelisk

Material (2018): Marble or Limestone (Stage 2) / Unidentifiable Cut Stone Base (Stage 1)

Colour (2018): Unidentifiable

Structural Condition (2018): Sinking into Ground / Rock Placed Under Corner of Base (Stage 1) for Support

Overall Condition (May 2022): Moved approximately 3 feet westerly.

Overall Condition (September 2023): Moved approximately 0.9 metres (3 feet) westerly.

### Photographs of J17



Figure 44: J17 (A.R.A., 2018).





Figure 45: J17 (A.R.A., 2018).





Figure 46: J17 circled in white (Ryan Costigan 2022, white circle added by A.S.I.)





Figure 47: J17 (A.S.I., 2023).



## Grave Marker J18

Style of Marker (2018): Unidentifiable / Too Sunken into the Ground

Material (2018): Unidentifiable / Very Little Visible

Colour (2018): N/A

Structural Condition (2018): Almost Entirely Underground / Only Small Portion Visible

Overall Condition (May 2022): Not visible, possibly removed with significant disruption to area from machinery and vehicles.

Overall Condition (September 2023): Marker is sunken into ground with small portion of top visible.

## Photographs of J18



Figure 48: J18 (A.R.A., 2018).





Figure 49: General location of J18 circled in white (Ryan Costigan, 2022, white circled added by A.S.I.)





Figure 50: Top of J18 (A.S.I., 2023).







Figure 51: Top of J18, circled (A.S.I., 2023).



## Grave Marker J19

Style of Marker (2018): Unidentifiable / Too Sunken into the Ground

Material (2018): Unidentifiable / Very Little Visible

Colour (2018): N/A

Structural Condition (2018): Almost Entirely Underground / Only Small Portion Visible / Two Fragments Visible

Overall Condition (May 2022): Not visible, possibly removed with significant disruption to area from machinery and vehicles.

Overall Condition (September 2023): Marker is sunken into ground with small portion of top visible.

## Photographs of J19



Figure 52: J19 2018 (A.R.A.).





Figure 53: General location of J19 circled in white (Ryan Costigan, 2022, white circled added by A.S.I.)





Figure 54: Top of J19 (A.S.I., 2023).





Figure 55: Top of J19, circled (A.S.I., 2023).



## Grave Marker J20

Style of Marker (2018): Cut Stone Base

Material (2018): Unidentifiable

Colour (2018): Unidentifiable

Structural Condition (2018): Almost Entirely Underground / Only Small Portion Visible / Two Fragments Visible

Overall Condition (May 2022): This marker was not identified in the *Summary of Damage*.

Overall Condition (September 2023): Stone is sunken into ground with only the top edge of the stone visible. Two gouges from machinery on edges near corner of stone, approximately 30 to 40 m.m. in size.

### Photographs of J20



Figure 56: J20 (A.R.A., 2018).





Figure 57: J20 (A.S.I., 2023).





Figure 58: J20 – Gouges from machinery (A.S.I., 2023).





## 5.0 Conservation Approach

This section presents the recommended conservation treatments for the site and the grave markers within the cemetery. The Statement of Significance (Section 3.0) identifies that the original grave markers and their placement, the mature trees and bushes, and the park-like setting are all heritage attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the cemetery. Therefore, efforts should be made to conserve and restore these heritage attributes.

The section below follows the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (Parks Canada, 2010). *Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries – Repairing Tombstones* (Anson-Cartwright, 2003) was also referenced in the preparation of this section.

### 5.1 Site

The *Restoration Plan* provides a characterization of the landscape typically found in pioneer cemeteries that helps to inform the conservation approach:

Pioneer cemeteries are typically not designed landscapes, meaning that assigned burial plots did not exist. This haphazard method of burial resulted in a distinct distribution of graves. Instead of the typical rows of burials found in planned cemeteries, pioneer cemeteries exhibit clustered burials. Most pioneer cemeteries did not include formal landscaping, such as curated vegetation or designed paths. However, some pioneer-era cemeteries had fencing or a natural wooded area/agricultural land separation to mark the division between the sacred and profane. (Archaeological Research Associates Limited, 2018:17-18)

Based on this characterization, it is possible that some trees in pioneer cemeteries, including Laskay Cemetery, may have been deliberately planted at some time, but overall, pioneer cemeteries can be considered utilitarian in layout and likely would not have had many ornamental plantings. Therefore, a restoration of the landscape to a specific period in time is not an appropriate objective. Further, the Township has identified that long-term plans for the



cemetery should reduce the amount of vegetation included in the cemetery for the overall health of the plantings and prioritize the use of native species over historical species that may be non-native when new plantings are made.

The recommended primary treatment for vegetation that was damaged or removed in May 2022 is rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is defined within the *Standards and Guidelines* as: “The action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use for a historic place, or of an individual component, through repair, alterations and/or additions, while protecting its heritage value” (Parks Canada, 2010:17).

The Township has indicated a desire to develop a longer-term plan to implement a landscape rehabilitation strategy on the site. To that end, Appendix A contains a list of trees, shrubs and vines that would be suitable for planting as the Township develops a long-term plan for the cemetery. This list prioritizes native plants that are suitable for Ecodistrict 6E-7 (Oak Ridges) and Plant Hardiness Zone 5b, within which the cemetery is located. When choosing plant material for the cemetery, site conditions such as light availability, intensity and duration; water availability; exposure to wind and temperature extremes; soil type, drainage, and compaction; plant hardiness zone; competition from existing plant material; design intention; and applicable laws, by-laws and policies should all be taken into account. Coordination with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario will also be required when undertaking any landscaping or planting in the cemetery.

### **5.1.1 Recommended Conservation for Site**

In consideration of the long-term plans for the cemetery, in-kind replacement of the damaged and removed trees and other vegetation is not required. Where ruts left by construction equipment are prominent, they should be regraded.

The development and implementation of a vegetation maintenance plan for the cemetery is recommended and will aid in the long-term preservation of the grave markers and enhance the cemetery’s cultural heritage value.



## 5.2 Grave Markers

The recommended primary treatment for the grave markers moved or damaged in May 2022 is restoration. Restoration is defined within the *Standards and Guidelines* as: “The action or process of accurately revealing, recovering or representing the state of an historic place, or of an individual component, as it appeared at a particular period in its history, while protecting its heritage value” (Parks Canada, 2010:17). In this case, the grave markers should be restored to their condition prior to the damage that occurred in May 2022.

Many grave markers in the cemetery would also benefit from additional conservation work beyond the scope of this plan. It is recommended that the *Restoration Plan* be used as a primary reference for this work, as it provides a detailed assessment of each grave marker in the cemetery and specific conservation treatments for each one, as well as a detailed description of conservation methods.

### 5.2.1 Recommended Conservation for Grave Markers

Table 1 below presents conservation recommendations to address the damage to grave markers that occurred in May 2022.

Table 1: Conservation Recommendations to Address May 2023 Damage to Grave Markers

ARA Marker ID	A.S.I. Existing Conditions	A.S.I. Conservation Recommendations
<b>J13</b>	Cracked/broken from machinery tracks running over tombstone. The broken pieces have been placed on top.	Repair and consolidate stone using an appropriate mortar and/or pins.



<b>ARA Marker ID</b>	<b>A.S.I. Existing Conditions</b>	<b>A.S.I. Conservation Recommendations</b>
<b>J14-1</b>	The marker appears to be in the same location as it was when the 2021 photographs were taken	No action required.
<b>J14-2</b>	The marker appears to be in the same location as it was when the 2021 photographs were taken	No action required.
<b>J14-3</b>	The marker appears to be in the same location as it was when the 2021 photographs were taken	No action required.
<b>J16-1</b>	Moved approximately 20 feet westerly and stones disassembled. Bottom stone has scratches from machinery and the middle (red) stone also has damage from machinery: a gouge on an edge approximately 10 m.m. in size and chipped on the corner approximately 50 m.m. in size.	Reassemble J16-1 and J16-2 into a complete marker, and relocate marker to its original location, using photos in 2018 <i>Restoration Plan</i> and 2021 photos as a reference. The scratches, gouge and chipped corner are not repairable.



<b>ARA Marker ID</b>	<b>A.S.I. Existing Conditions</b>	<b>A.S.I. Conservation Recommendations</b>
<b>J16-2</b>	Moved approximately 6 feet westerly and toppled over.	Reassemble J16-1 and J16-2 into a complete marker, and relocate marker to its original location, using photos in 2018 <i>Restoration Plan</i> and 2021 photos as a reference.
<b>J17</b>	Moved approximately 3 feet westerly.	Relocate marker to its original location, using photos in 2018 <i>Restoration Plan</i> and 2021 photos as a reference.
<b>J18</b>	Marker is sunken into ground with small portion of top visible.	No action required.
<b>J19</b>	Marker is sunken into ground with small portion of top visible.	No action required.
<b>J20</b>	Stone is sunken into ground with only the top edge of the stone visible. Two gouges from machinery on edges near corner of stone, approximately 30 to 40 m.m. in size.	Gouges are not repairable.

While the *Restoration Plan* provides a map showing the location of the grave markers (Figure 7), the map is not at a sufficient resolution to provide a



definitive degree of precision for their relocation. As such the following procedure should be undertaken. Relocation of the grave markers should be guided by photographic documentation from 2018 and 2021, using the trees and vegetation as reference points. The final locations will be approximate, however best efforts should be made to locate grave markers in their original positions.

It is recommended that the Township seek compensation for any damage to grave markers that is not repairable.



## 6.0 Implementation

In order to implement the conservation work recommended in Section 4.0, the Township will need to obtain a heritage permit before doing work on the cemetery, as it is a designated heritage property. It is recommended that Township staff work with the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee to present the results of this Scoped Conservation Plan as documentation of the means, methods, and appropriateness of the proposed work, thus facilitating approval of the permit. Coordination with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario will also be required. The Township will need to hire a practitioner to carry out the work. It is recommended the work be undertaken in warm weather.

*Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries – Repairing Tombstones* (Anson-Cartwright, 2003), provides technical guidance on tombstone repair and it is a recommended reference document for the implementation of the conservation work.

Care must be taken when work is being carried out in Tree Protection Zones within the cemetery, including when grave markers are being moved or repaired. The site should be treated as a construction site and an I.S.A. certified arborist must be on site when work is being conducted. *Managing Trees During Construction* (Fite, 2016) outlines ways and means for determining tree conservation suitability, mitigating soil compaction, cutting and filling of soil within a root zone, tree root zone and trunk protection, pruning, and post construction monitoring. This book should be referred to for guidance on how to properly complete work within Tree Protection Zones. Any contractors working on site must follow the direction of the I.S.A. certified arborist with regards to tree mitigation and protection measures. Appendix B contains additional notes on tree preservation.



## 6.1 Selecting a Practitioner

A range of conservation treatments are recommended in Table 2 for the grave markers that were moved and/or damaged in May 2022. This conservation work should be carried out by a qualified practitioner. Table 2 identifies the practitioners that are suitable for each type of conservation work. This is based on guidance from *Landscapes of Memories: A guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries – Repairing Tombstones* (Anson-Cartwright, 2003).

Table 2: Suitable Practitioners for Conservation Work

Type of Conservation Work Required	Recommended Practitioner
Masonry repair of broken base	Conservator
Reassembly of multi-stone marker	Monument builder or conservator
Relocation of grave marker	Contractor, monument builder, or conservator

The Canadian Association of Professional Conservators provides a detailed guide to selecting a practitioner, available at this link: <https://capc-acrp.ca/en/what-is-conservation/selecting-a-conservator>.

In general, when selecting a practitioner, the following is recommended:

- Ensure they have knowledge of best practices
- Ensure they have experience undertaking work of the same nature
- Request examples of past work
- Request references





## 7.0 Monitoring Program

A monitoring program will be conducted in two stages to confirm that the grave marker conservation work carried out by practitioners engaged by the Township is completed appropriately and satisfactorily. Stage One of the monitoring program will include a review of the plans produced by the practitioners to assess alignment with the intent and recommendations of the Scoped Conservation Plan. This includes one virtual meeting between A.S.I., the Township and the practitioners for the purpose of providing feedback.

Stage Two of the monitoring program will include an on-site review of the restoration work completed at the cemetery. It is suggested that A.S.I. staff visit the cemetery for one day to work with the practitioner in flagging the locations that the grave markers should be relocated to, to assist in their accurate placement. A memorandum will be produced at each stage of the monitoring program to identify gaps in work or approach to be addressed and/or to provide documentation and/or feedback on the completed works.



## 8.0 List of Resources Consulted

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## **Appendix A: List of Plants Suitable for Laskay Cemetery**



	Botanic Name	Common Name	Native Hedgerow
Coniferous Trees	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> <i>Picea mariana</i> <i>Pinus resinosa</i> <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern Red Cedar Black Spruce Red Pine Eastern White Cedar Eastern Hemlock	
Deciduous Trees	<i>Acer rubrum</i> <i>Acer saccharinum</i> <i>Acer saccharum</i> <i>Betula papyrifera</i> <i>Betula alleghniensis</i> <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> <i>Carya cordiformis</i> <i>Craetagus punctata</i> <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> <i>Fraxinus nigra</i> <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> <i>Populus balsamifera</i> <i>Populus deltoides</i> <i>Populus grandidentata</i> <i>Populus tremuloides</i> <i>Prunus serotina</i> <i>Quercus velutina</i> <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> <i>Quercus rubra</i> <i>Quercus alba</i> <i>Tilia americana</i> <i>Ulmus rubra</i> <i>Ulmus americana</i>	Red Maple Silver Maple Sugar Maple White Birch Yellow Birch Blue Beech Bitternut Hickory Dotted Hawthorn American Beech Black Ash Red (Green) Ash Ironwood Balsam Poplar Eastern Cottonwood Largetooth Aspen Trembling Aspen Black Cherry Black Oak Bur Oak Red Oak White Oak Basswood Slippery Elm White Elm	

	Botanic Name	Common Name	Native Hedgerow
Evergreen Shrubs	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	
	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	Creeping Juniper	
	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	American Yew	
Deciduous Shrubs	<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Mountain Maple	
	<i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i>	Striped Maple	
	<i>Alnus icana</i>	Speckled Alder	Yes
	<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Serviceberry	
	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry	Yes
	<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>	Serviceberry	
	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Serviceberry	
	<i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i>	Serviceberry	
	<i>Amelanchier humilis</i>	Serviceberry	
	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Chokeberry	Yes
	<i>Betula pumila var. glandulifera</i>	Dwarf Birch	
	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	
	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	Leatherleaf	
	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-leaf Dogwood	Yes
	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Yes
	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	Yes
	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	Round-leaved Dogwood	
	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	
	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Beaked Hazel	
	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Hazelnut	Yes
	<i>Craetagus mollis</i>	Downy Hawthorn	Yes
	<i>Craetagus flabellata</i>	Fanleaf Hawthorn	Yes
	<i>Craetagus chrysocarpa</i>	Fireberry Hawthorn	Yes
	<i>Craetagus succulentata</i>	Fleshy Hawthorn	Yes
	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Bush Honeysuckle	
	<i>Dirca palustris</i>	Leatherwood	
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-hazel		
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	Yes	

	Botanic Name	Common Name	Native Hedgerow
	<i>Lonicera canadensis</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	
	<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	Glaucus Honeysuckle	
	<i>Lonicera oblongifolia</i>	Swamp Fly Honeysuckle	
	<i>Nemopanthus mucronata</i>	Mountain Holly	
	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	Yes
	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	
	<i>Prunus nigra</i>	Canada Plum	
	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	
	<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>	Pin Chery	
	<i>Prunus pumila</i>	Sandcherry	
	<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	Alder-leaved Buckthorn	
	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	Yes
	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac	
	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	
	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	Prickly Wild Rose	
	<i>Rosa blanda</i>	Smooth Wild Rose	
	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Samp Rose	Yes
	<i>Rosa elganteria</i>	Sweetbrier	
	<i>Salix serissima</i>	Autumn Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>	Bebb's Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix myricoides</i>	Blue-leaved Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	Bog Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix cordata</i>	Heart-leaved Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peachleaf Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussywillow	Yes
	<i>Salix candida</i>	Sage-leaved Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix exigua</i>	Sandbar Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix lucida</i>	Shining Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix petiolaris</i>	Slender Willow	Yes
	<i>Salix humulis</i>	Upland Willow	Yes



	Botanic Name	Common Name	Native Hedgerow
	<i>Salix eriocephala</i>	Willow	Yes
	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	American Elderberry	Yes
	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red Elderberry	
	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	Buffalo Berry	
	<i>Sorbus americana</i>	American Mountain Ash	
	<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	Broad-leaved Meadowsweet	
	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Narrow-leaved Meadowsweet	Yes
	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeple-bush	
	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	Bladdernut	
	<i>Symphiocarpus albus</i>	Snowberry	
	<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>	Downy Arrow-wood	Yes
	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	High-bush Cranberry	
	<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>	Hobble Bush	
	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	Yes
	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	Prickly Ash	
Vines	<i>Lonicera hirsuta</i>	Hairy Honeysuckle	
	<i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i>	Virginia Creeper	
	<i>Rhus radicans</i>	Poison Ivy	
	<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank Grape	

#### Notes

1. Ecodistrict plant list from: Forest Gene Conservation Association.  
[https://fgca.net/map\\_pdf/6E-7.pdf](https://fgca.net/map_pdf/6E-7.pdf)
2. The Ecodistrict plant list includes plants that are very commonly found, uncommon to locally found, and naturally rare, very rare and extremely

rare. For the purposes of this list, only those plants originally noted as, very commonly found, have been included.

3. Native hedgerow shrubs adapted from: Jones, Jim. *Hedgerow Planting at the Menno-Reesor Restoration Project/Toronto Wildlife Centre and Wider Applications for Hedgerow Networks in the Rouge National Urban Park: A Technical Report to the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, 2019.*
4. When choosing plant material for the Laskay Cemetery, site conditions such as light availability, intensity and duration; water availability; exposure to wind and temperature extremes; soil type, drainage, and compaction; plant hardiness zone; competition from existing plant material; design intention; and applicable laws, by-laws and policies should all be taken into account.

## Appendix B: Tree Preservation Notes



## GENERAL TREE NOTES

1. Possession of a municipal permit/site plan approval to cut down or injure a tree, does not give you the automatic rights to do so. A municipal permit does not cancel out anyone's property rights to a co-owned(boundary) tree or otherwise tree. You must get permission of the adjoining landowner, with whom you share ownership of the tree in question, to remove/injure that tree, in writing and submit same to the municipality.
2. All arboricultural work performed on trees shall be conducted by an ISA Certified Arborist in accordance with the approved mitigation plan.
3. Tree protection hoarding to be erected prior to the commencement of any construction or grading and maintained throughout the duration of the work.
4. Tree Protection Zone is delimited by tree protection hoarding shown on the drawings.
5. Tree removals (if required) will be undertaken in compliance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Efforts will be made to remove vegetation outside the General Nesting Period (April 1 - August 31) for regions C1 and C2 of Ontario. In the event vegetation must be removed within the General Nesting Period, a qualified avian biologist is to review the site prior to removal to ensure compliance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act.
6. Any soils and vegetation within tree protection zone damaged by the contractor shall be restored to the satisfaction of the municipality, by the contractor, at no additional cost to the owner.

## TREE PROTECTION ZONE

Applies to all trees located within or immediately adjacent (within 6m) to the site. Unless specifically marked for removal, these trees are to be preserved. Where shown on the tree preservation plan, tree protection hoarding shall be installed to establish the tree protection zone. Any damage to trees such as broken limbs, damage to roots, or wounds to the main trunk or stem systems are to be reported to the consulting arborist so that the damage can be assessed immediately, and mitigation can be promptly implemented. Within a tree protection zone there is to be:

1. No construction.
2. No altering of grade by adding fill, excavating, trenching, scraping, dumping or disturbance of any kind.
3. No storage of construction materials, equipment, soil, construction waste or debris within the drip line.
4. No movement of vehicles, equipment.
5. No parking of vehicles or machinery.
6. No digging, boring.
7. No rigging cables shall be wrapped around or installed in trees.
8. No contaminants will be placed over root system.
9. No contaminants will be dumped or flushed where feeder roots of trees exist or where it may travel by overland flow to the feeder roots of trees.

#### CONSTRUCTION WITHIN MINIMUM TREE PROTECTION ZONE

1. An ISA Certified Arborist must be present on-site during construction activities within the MTPZ to confirm and/or modify mitigation measures for trees to be preserved.
2. Use trenchless methods (e.g. horizontal directional drilling) to install underground services (e.g. sanitary sewers and water lines) within minimum tree protection zones.

#### EXISTING UNDERGROUND SERVICES WITHIN TREE PROTECTION ZONES

1. Existing sanitary/storm sewers and water mains to be discontinued within the tree protection zones will be filled (as needed) and abandoned as described on the site servicing plans and specifications.
2. Excavation and access for construction/removal of abandoned underground services will be conducted outside of tree protection zones.

#### FINISH GRADING WITHIN TREE PROTECTION ZONES

Where finish grading of cuts and fills, and including swales occurs within tree protection zones, the following steps are required.

#### GRADE CUT:

1. Excavate by hand or Air-spade technology to a maximum depth of 100mm.
2. Roots encountered are to be assessed by an ISA Certified Arborist to determine the extent of roots to be pruned. Based on findings, other treatments may be required (e.g. crown reduction, tree removal), and which may require approval from the municipality.
3. Based on root findings, local, minor adjustments to grading within the tree protection zone may be required based on field consultation between an ISA Certified Arborist and the Project Civil Engineer.
4. No access by heavy equipment into tree protection zone is permitted. Fine grading to be carried out using light equipment and/or by hand.

#### GRADE FILL:

1. Add topsoil to meet grade requirements to a maximum of 150mm.
2. No topsoil to be added onto trunk base or above-ground section of trunk base flare.
3. Maintain positive drainage away from the trunk base.
4. Based on root findings, local, minor adjustments to grading within the tree protection zone may be required based on field consultation between an ISA Certified Arborist and the Project Civil Engineer.

#### TREE REMOVAL ADJACENT TREE TO BE PRESERVED:

1. At base of tree to be removed, excavate a 400 wide trench, by hand or Air-spade technology, to expose existing roots.
2. Roots encountered are to be assessed by an ISA Certified Arborist to determine the extent of roots to be pruned. Based on findings, other treatments may be required (e.g. crown reduction, tree removal), and which may require approval from the municipality and/or the land owner.
3. Based on root findings, local, minor adjustments to grading within the tree protection zone may be required based on field consultation between an ISA Certified Arborist and the Project Civil Engineer.
4. No access by heavy equipment into tree protection zone is permitted. Fine grading to be carried out using light equipment and/or by hand.

#### TREES OWNED BY OTHERS:

1. Trees owned by others require permission (i.e. written consent) from the landowner(s) prior to activities that may damage or destroy trees. Trees owned by others are Offsite Trees and Shared Trees:
  - a. Offsite Trees - trees on property adjacent to the subject property.
  - b. Shared (Boundary) Trees - trees whose trunk, including the basal trunk flare growing on the boundary between the subject property and adjoining property (refer also to the Ontario Forestry Act).

#### THE PROVINCIAL FORESTRY ACT, R.S.O. 1990 (Section 10):

*10. (2) Every tree whose trunk is growing on the boundary between adjoining lands is the common property of the owners of the adjoining lands. 1990, c. 18 Sched. I, s. 21.*

*10. (3) Every person who injures or destroys a tree growing on the boundary between adjoining lands without the consent of the land owners is guilty of an offence under this Act. 1998, c. 18, Sched I, s. 21.*

#### ROOT SENSITIVE EXCAVATION:

All root sensitive excavation must be performed under the supervision of an ISA Certified Arborist. All roots exposed must be documented by the supervising arborist. Every effort should be made to preserve as many exposed roots as possible. Roots approved for pruning should be cleanly cut with a sharp, non-vibrating tool such as a handsaw, secateurs, chainsaw at face of trench that no further disturbance of the roots are to be expected once mechanical excavation begins. All root pruning is to be performed by the arborist only, per guidelines below and provincial health and safety requirements.

1. When root sensitive excavation is performed regarding the installation of a deep site feature such as a foundation, roots of less than 5cm diameter can be cut sharply, if necessary, unless an abundance of smaller roots are involved. If roots of 5cm diameter or greater or an abundance of smaller

roots are exposed in the excavation areas inside or just outside the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) of bylaw trees, they should be preserved.

2. When root sensitive excavation is performed regarding the installation of site features such as post holes, all roots exposed of under 5cm diameter may be cleanly cut at face of hole such that no further disturbance of the roots are to be expected once mechanical excavation begins for the lower portion of the holes (below hand dug area). If roots of 5cm diameter or greater are uncovered they should be preserved, the holes filled in with viable soil and the hole moved at least 0.5 metre away to avoid significant roots.
3. When root sensitive excavation is performed regarding the installation of site features such as driveways, walkways, curbs, etc. roots less than 5cm diameter can be cut sharply, if necessary, unless an abundance of smaller roots are involved. If roots of 5cm diameter or greater or an abundance of smaller roots are exposed in the excavation areas inside or just outside the TPZ of bylaw trees they should be preserved.
4. When root sensitive excavation is performed regarding the installation of utilities such as water lines or sewers, every effort should be made to preserve as many exposed roots as possible by installing the utilities underneath the roots without root pruning. If roots of 5cm diameter or greater are uncovered, they should be preserved.

#### TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION GENERAL COMMENTS:

The survival rates for trees, which are in proximity to construction sites are dependent on the resultant changes to a variety of environmental and anthropogenic factors. These construction activities bring about changes to a variety of environmental features including the existing microclimate including winds, temperature, soil moisture, amount of available sunlight, soil quality, and the level of the water table. Increased human activities may also damage the structure and / or physiological activities of the trees. The full effects of the damage may not appear until several years after its occurrence. Thus, it is essential that both vegetative clearing and preservation methods follow the



guidelines noted here-in and those generally accepted as keeping with good horticultural and construction practices.

Notwithstanding the recommendations and conclusions made in this document, it must be realized that trees are living organisms, and their health and vigour constantly change over time. They are not immune to changes in site conditions, or seasonal variations in the weather conditions, including severe storms with high-speed winds.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KING**

**BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-103**

**A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE  
THE SECESSIONIST PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY  
AS A HERITAGE SITE UNDER THE  
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

**WHEREAS** Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.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 cultural value or interest,

**AND WHEREAS** the Council ('Council') of the Corporation of the Township of King ('Township') has determined that the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery (Laskay) located on lands described as Concession 6, Part Lot 4, West Part of Lots 24 and 25, Plan 167, and municipally known as Rear of 12868 Weston Road, in the Hamlet of Laskay in the Township of King in the Regional Municipality of York (the 'Lands') shall be designated as a property of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to Section IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, 1990, c.O.18;

**AND WHEREAS** Council has caused to be served on the Ontario Heritage Trust notice of intention to so designate the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery for the reasons set out in Appendix "A" attached to this By-law, and has caused such notice of the intention to be published in the local newspaper 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 the Corporation of the Township of King **HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

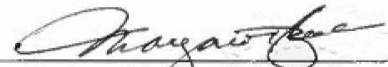
1. The property known as the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery located on lands described as Concession 6, Part Lot 4, West Part of Lots 24 and 25, Plan 167 in the Hamlet of Laskay, Township of King in the Regional Municipality of York is designated pursuant to Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.

...2

2. The Township Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the Lands as described in Clause 1 above in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The Clerk is authorized and directed to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the *Ontario Heritage Trust* and to cause notice of passing of this By-law to be published in the local newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

**READ a FIRST and SECOND** time this 30th day of November, 2009

**READ a THIRD** time and **FINALLY PASSED** this 30th day of November, 2009



Margaret Black, Mayor



Chris Somerville, Clerk

## APPENDIX 'A' TO BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-103

### SECESSIONIST PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY, LASKAY, TOWNSHIP OF KING

#### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:

**Property Name:** Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay  
**Street Address:** Rear of 12868 Weston Road  
**Location:** Concession 6, Part Lot 4, west part of lots 24 and 25 Plan 167  
**Municipality:** Township of King, Regional Municipality of York  
**Assessment Roll:** #041 059      **Property Owner:** Township of King

The Township of King Heritage Committee wishes to advise King Township council the property known municipally as the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay is recommended for designation for its cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. It meets criteria for municipal designation prescribed by *Ontario Regulation 9/06* under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value and contextual value.

#### Description of Property

The Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay is an inactive, small, rural, mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century community cemetery located at 12868 Weston Road. Measuring approximately 7,685 square feet, it is situated to the rear of the one time Laskay Presbyterian Church, on the southwest corner of Weston Road and Mill Street, fronting on Second Street. It is located on Concession 6 Part Lot 4, the west part of lots 24 and 25 Plan 167, in the hamlet of Laskay.

#### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value of the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay is related to its design/physical value as a good example of a small, mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century, local community cemetery situated in a rural setting. Characterized by burial sites with simple limestone slabs and more elaborate granite markers arranged in an apparent unstructured layout amidst mature trees and bushes it serves as a reminder of the peaceful, undisturbed setting intended as the final resting place for the deceased of the community.

The cultural heritage value of the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay is related to its historical/associative value as the burial site of members of a number of the original families of the hamlet of Laskay. Senator David Reesor set aside portions of his 50 acres of land for a Presbyterian church, manse and the cemetery established circa 1858. Sharing property with the one time Laskay Presbyterian Church, its approximately 13 markers and monuments, dating from 1854 to 1892, list the names of 18 of the last remaining burial sites of adults and children of the community, some Scottish immigrants, following the later reinterment of many others.

The cultural value of the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay also relates to its contextual value for its more than 150 years influence on the continued rural character of the immediate landscape. Its rustic and treed setting serves as a spiritual and visual landmark and important reminder of the rural past to the community.

#### Description of Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery, Laskay related to its cultural heritage value as a small, mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century, rural burial site of early settlers of the hamlet of Laskay, its influence on the rural character of the landscape, and its spiritual and visual landmark value to the community are portrayed by:

- the variety of styles and material of its original markers and monuments, with their surviving inscriptions
- its placement of the original markers and monuments
- the original placement of gravesites
- the mature trees and bushes
- the park like setting
- its location and dimensions

*Reference: Clerks Department Report CL-2009-35, October 19th, 2009.*

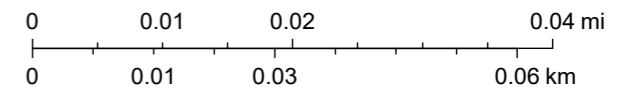
# 12868 Weston Road



2024-06-05, 11:36:34 a.m.

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:lightcoral; border:1px solid black;"></span> Override 1 | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:lightblue; border:1px solid black;"></span> Cemeteries | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border:1px solid black;"></span> Zoning By-law                        | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:blue; border:1px solid black;"></span> Blue: Blue |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border-bottom:2px solid black;"></span> Roads                            | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border:2px solid yellow;"></span> Parcel Fabric                         | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span> Image          | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border:2px solid purple;"></span> Municipal Boundary               |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border-bottom:2px solid blue;"></span> Regional Road                     | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border:2px solid yellow;"></span> MPAC (Q2 2024)                        | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:green; border:1px solid black;"></span> Red: Red     |  |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border-bottom:2px solid black;"></span> Urban Road                       |   | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:green; border:1px solid black;"></span> Green: Green |  |

1:1,128



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### 5.10 Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery

The Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery is an inactive, small rural mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> century cemetery located at 12868 Weston Road. The property measures approximately 7,685 square feet and is located behind the former Laskay Presbyterian Church on the southwest corner of Weston Road and Mill Street. The cemetery is located within the village of Laskay on Concession 6 Part lot 4 (CTK 2009h).

The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS 1992g) estimated that the cemetery contained 13 markers, however 23 were noted during the site investigation including subcomponent markers, fragments, and possible stone fencing posts. The markers are primarily made of marble and some constructed of granite. One is made of limestone and another of concrete. Some marker materials were deemed unidentifiable as they were too heavily covered in accretions or inaccessible during the site visit.

Based on the summarized findings in Table 22 and Table 23:

- 17% (4) require immediate action;
- 35% (8) require action within 1 year;
- 22% (5) require action within 2 years;
- 17% (4) require action within 2–5 years;
- 4.5% (1) require action within 5–10 years; and
- 4.5% (1) require scheduled monitoring every 2–5 years.

The most common forms of deterioration within the cemetery are extensive overgrowth, extensive leans and sinking of markers, as well as the fragmentation and the collapse of markers. 70% of the markers were in poor condition. The vegetation, in combination with the soft ground in the area, has resulted in many of the markers disappearing into overgrowth, sinking into the ground, as well as leaning and collapsing. This included the entrance sign to the cemetery that has fallen and is leaning against a tree. It is recommended that a vegetation maintenance plan be developed (see Section 8.1.4) and that an assessment for resetting identified markers be performed as per the recommended solutions found in the *King Township Pioneer Cemetery Database\_ARA 2018*.

Lastly, after comparing observations made by the OGS in 1992 (OGS 1992g) and ARA's 2018 findings, only six of the marker's inscriptions could be matched with the 13 OGS identified markers. Seven of the markers noted by the OGS in 1992 are possibly missing or unconfirmed as a result of poor marker conditions (OGS 1992g). Initially, a total of ten additional markers were located, three of the ten were confirmed sub-components of OGS identified markers and four were posts. Therefore, three additional markers were identified.

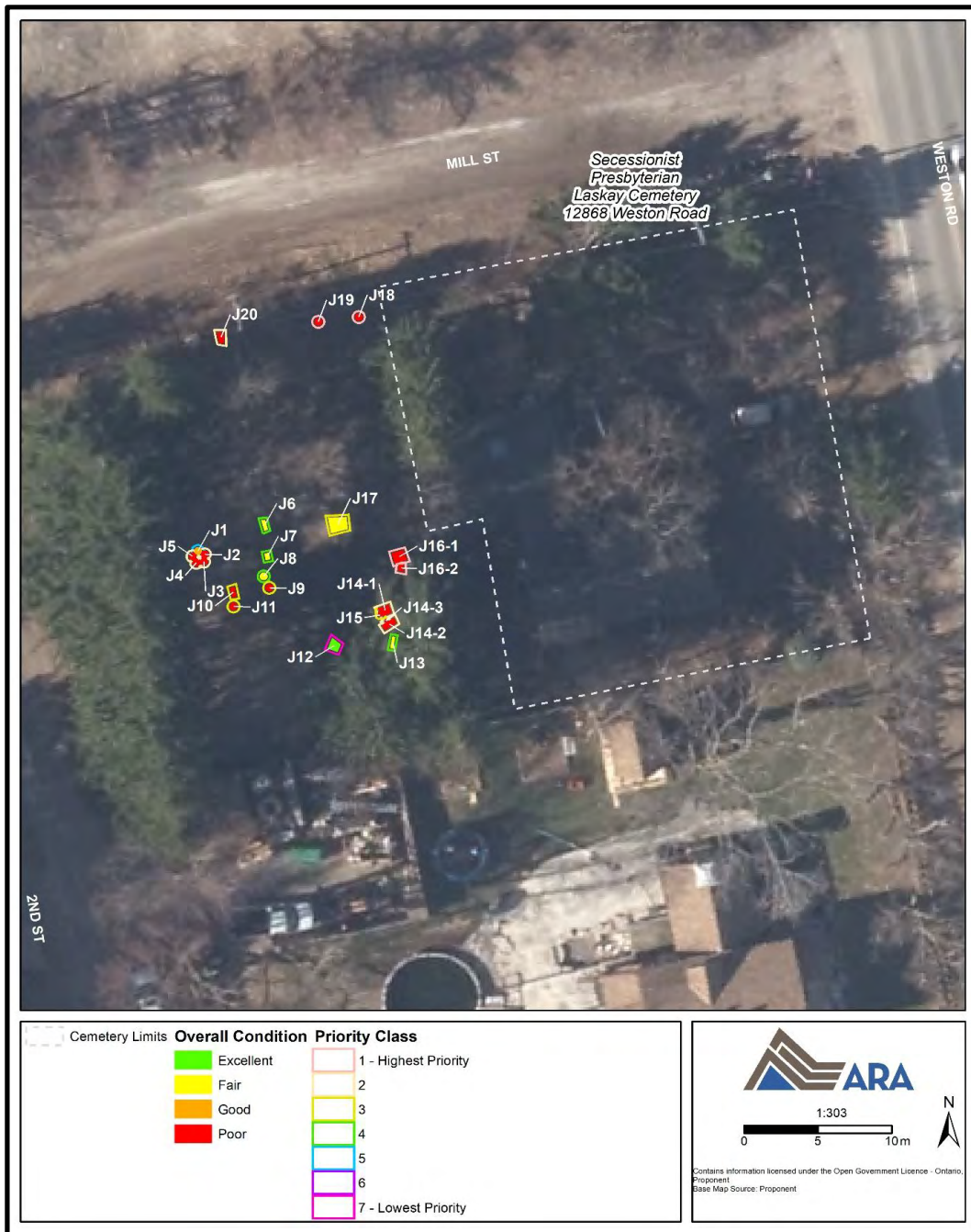
**Table 22: Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery Marker Conditions**

Condition Status	Number of Markers	Percentage (%)
Poor	16	70
Fair	5	22
Good	1	4
Excellent	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 23: Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery Marker Priority Class**

<b>Priority Class</b>	<b>Number of Markers</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>1</b>	4	17
<b>2</b>	8	35
<b>3</b>	5	22
<b>4</b>	4	17
<b>5</b>	1	4.5
<b>6</b>	0	0
<b>7</b>	1	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>

Map 11 shows the location of the markers found within the cemetery and their overall condition and priority class rating.

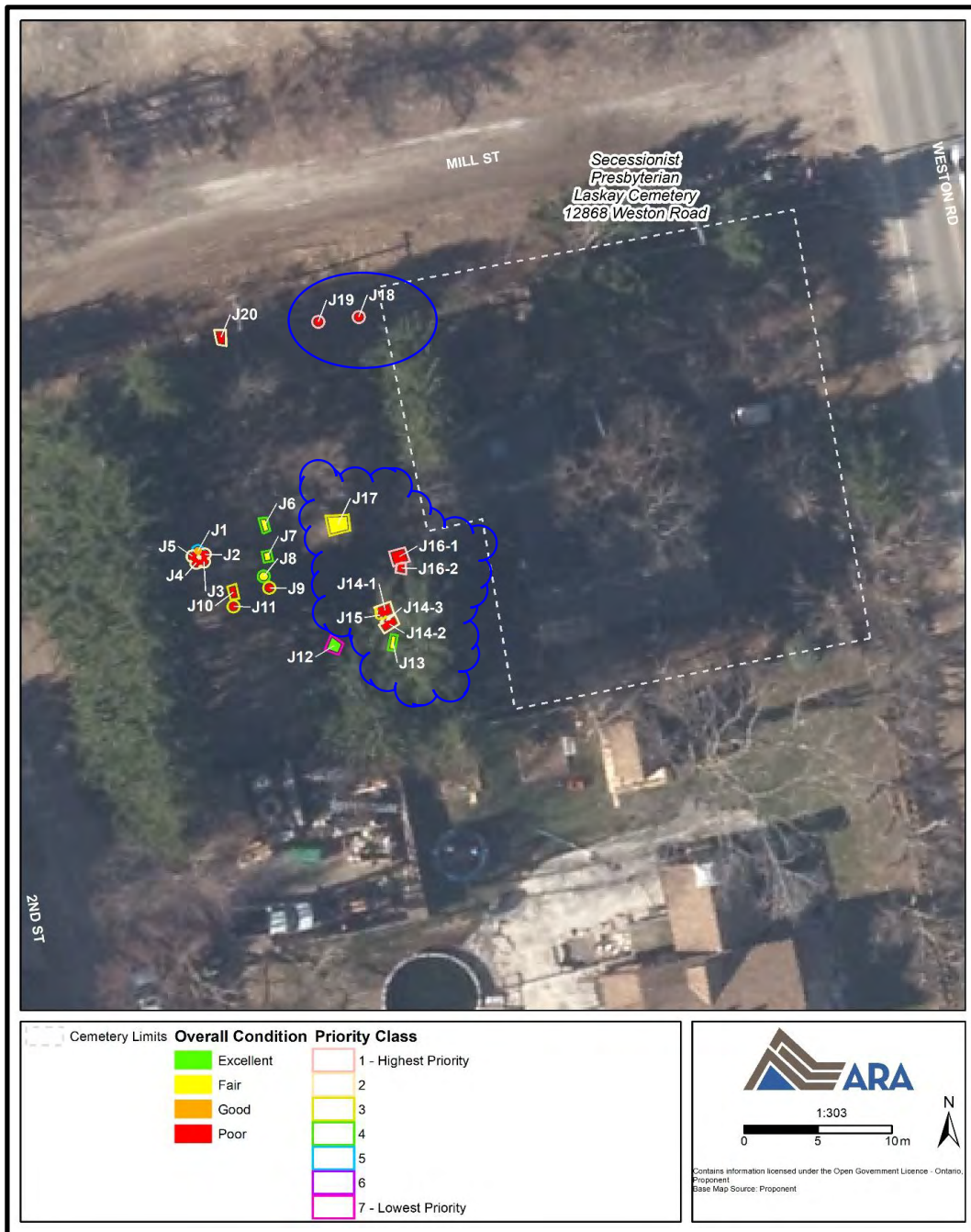


**Map 11: Aerial Image of Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery, Showing Condition and Priority Class Ratings**  
(Produced by ARA under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri;  
Base Map Provided by The Township of King)





Figure 8: Aerial image from *Summary of Damage to Laskay Cemetery* with blue indicating area of significant damage to grave markers and vegetation and orange indicating area of minor damage to vegetation only (Costigan, 2022)



**Map 11: Aerial Image of Secessionist Presbyterian Laskay Cemetery, Showing Condition and Priority Class Ratings**  
(Produced by ARA under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; Base Map Provided by The Township of King)

METRIC: DISTANCES AND COORDINATES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE IN METRES AND CAN BE CONVERTED TO FEET BY DIVIDING BY 0.3048.

I REQUIRE THIS PLAN TO BE DEPOSITED UNDER THE REGISTRY ACT.

PLAN 65R-40798

DATE FEBRUARY 16, 2024.

RECEIVED AND DEPOSITED

DATE February 20, 2024

*[Signature]*  
DAN DZALDOV  
ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR

*[Signature]*  
REPRESENTATIVE FOR LAND REGISTRAR FOR THE REGISTRY DIVISION OF YORK REGION No. 65

SCHEDULE

PART	LOT	REGISTERED PLAN	PIN	AREA (m <sup>2</sup> )
1	PART OF 24 AND 25	167	ALL OF 03363-0044(R)	713.0

PLAN OF SURVEY OF  
PART OF LOTS 24 AND 25  
REGISTERED PLAN 167  
TOWNSHIP OF KING  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK  
SCALE 1 : 200



SCHAEFFER DZALDOV PURCELL LTD.

NOTES

- DENOTES PLANTED MONUMENT
- FOUND MONUMENT
- SIB STANDARD IRON BAR
- IB IRON BAR
- PB PLASTIC BAR
- CC CUT CROSS
- RIB ROUND IRON BAR
- IP IRON PIPE
- P1 SURVEY BY J.C. MOORE, O.L.S., DATED JUNE 4, 1987
- P2 PLAN 65R-37677
- P3 SURVEY BY MCBAIN & HULME, O.L.S., SURVEY DATED MARCH 29, 1974
- M REGISTERED PLAN 167
- M MEASURED
- M&H MCBAIN & HULME, O.L.S.
- 110 R.D. TOMLINSON, O.L.S.
- JDB J.D. BARNES LIMITED
- OU ORIGIN UNKNOWN
- BF BOARD FENCE

BEARINGS ARE UTM GRID, DERIVED FROM OBSERVED REFERENCE POINTS A AND B, UTM ZONE 17, NAD83 (ORIGINAL).  
DISTANCES ARE GROUND AND CAN BE CONVERTED TO GRID BY MULTIPLYING BY A COMBINED SCALE FACTOR OF 0.999717.

OBSERVED REFERENCE POINTS (ORPs); UTM ZONE 17, NAD83 (ORIGINAL) COORDINATES TO URBAN ACCURACY PER SEC. 14(2) OF O.REG. 216/10

POINT ID.	NORTHING	EASTING
ORP A	4863261.042	614246.528
ORP B	4863248.244	614182.425

COORDINATES CANNOT, IN THEMSELVES, BE USED TO RE-ESTABLISH CORNERS OR BOUNDARIES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

I CERTIFY THAT:  
1. THIS SURVEY AND PLAN ARE CORRECT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SURVEYS ACT, THE SURVEYORS ACT, THE REGISTRY ACT AND THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THEM.

2. THE SURVEY WAS COMPLETED ON THE 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2024.

*[Signature]*  
DAN DZALDOV  
ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR

THIS PLAN OF SURVEY RELATES TO AOLS PLAN SUBMISSION FORM NUMBER 2208521



SCHAEFFER DZALDOV PURCELL LTD.  
ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

64 JARDIN DRIVE CONCORD, ONTARIO L4K 3P3 TEL.(416)987-0101

CALC. WMF DRAWN ACAD/LW CHECKED WMF SCALE 1:200 JOB NO. 23-495-00A

PLOT SIZE : 18X24 FEBRUARY 13, 2024

