THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH

By-law Number (2006) – 17929

A by-law to designate the property municipally known as 611 Silvercreek Parkway North and legally described as Part Lot 2, Concession 4, Division "D" (formerly Guelph Township), (as described in Instrument No. MS28677), City of Guelph, as being of cultural heritage value and interest.

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, or portions thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Guelph has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known as 611 Silvercreek Parkway North notice of intention to designate portions of the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" hereto; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the said property designation has been served upon the clerk of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, portions of the building and property known as 611 Silvercreek Parkway North to the extent more particularly described in Schedules "C" to this By-law.

2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" to this By-law in the proper land registry office.

3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Guelph.

PASSED this TWENTY-FOURTH day of JANUARY, 2006.

K.M. QUARRIE - MAYOR

TINA AGNELLO – DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SCHEDULE A
By-law Number (2006) – 17929

The property municipally known as 611 Silvercreek Parkway North is legally described as Part Lot 2, Concession 4, Division "D" (formerly Guelph Township), (as described in Instrument No. MS28677), City of Guelph.

SCHEDULE B
By-law Number (2006) – 17929

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION
611 SILVERCREEK PARKWAY NORTH, GUELPH

- An excellent surviving example of mid 19th century one-room schoolhouse architecture with distinctive Gothic corbie-stepped gable façade
- Fine example of limestone architectural elements – window and door surrounds, as well as gable copings, used in an institutional building
- Fine example of granite fieldstone masonry
- An important rural cultural heritage resource for its role as a centre of learning and community life

The site on which the subject property is located was first settled in 1834 by John Shortreed, who arrived in Guelph with his parents from Hawick, Scotland in 1831. In 1846, Shortreed donated land for the construction of the first School Section # 4, a log building, just south-east of the present schoolhouse. Sons John Jr. and George became prosperous in both the farming and lumber business.

The first school trustees, Messrs. Alexander White, Wm. Porter and Richard Baker were elected January 12, 1847. In 1865, Guelph-based architect Mr. David Murray was selected by the trustees to draw the plans and supervise the construction of a new school at a cost of $764.17. David Murray is most well-known as the architect/builder of St. Andrew's Presbyterian in Fergus (1862), and was one of three architects considered for the building of St. George's Anglican in Guelph. The wood bell tower was added in 1899 at a cost of $47.00 and built by George Steven.

In 1905, an experiment to transport all Guelph Township students to the new MacDonald Consolidated School left the building closed, only to reopen once again in 1907. Electricity was added to the school in 1930. In 1949, a block addition was added to the rear of the main schoolhouse including a teacher's room, kitchen, two washrooms and a basement with a forced air heating system.

The school was closed in 1962 and sold to Local 541 of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America. Local 541 is now known as the Canadian Auto Workers Local 541.

School Section # 4 was built of local split-faced granite fieldstone. Mortar jointing consisting of heavy over-pointing of the rough blocks, with a ruled white tuckpoint was added to the give the appearance of regular coursed masonry. The front window surrounds, lintels, sills, side elevation window quoins, and gable copings consist of dressed limestone. Notably, the window and door lintels on the front façade are carved in two styles – a neoclassical styled pediment over the central windows, and a curved arch over the entry doors.

The distinctive front façade consists of a corbie-stepped (or crow-stepped) and corbelled gable with a double entrance and unusually tall narrow central windows. Corbie-steps were a medieval Flemish/Dutch element which saw very limited use in Gothic revival architecture in Ontario. Architect David Murray was heavily influenced by Gothic revival styles in the 1860's, evident in his design of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Fergus. Similar examples of this gable treatment in Guelph could be found on the now-demolished Senior Girls School , formerly at the north side of Central School on Dublin

Street and at the Crowe Foundry Building on Norfolk Street.

Throughout its life, and still today, the schoolhouse has been used as a community meeting facility for local events and celebrations.

SCHEDULE C
By-law Number (2006) – 17929

WHAT IS TO BE PROTECTED BY DESIGNATION
611 SILVERCREEK PARKWAY NORTH, GUELPH

On the Exterior:

- All original door and window openings, including sills, surrounds, and dressings
- The front stone façade facing Silvercreek Parkway (excluding wood medallion)
- The north and south stone sidewalls
- The bell tower

On the Interior:

- The interior open layout of main classroom

It is intended that non-original features may be returned to documented earlier designs or to their documented original without requiring City Council permission for an alteration to the designation.