



## **Seguin Township Staff Report to Council**

**Prepared for:** Mayor and Members of Council

**Subject:** Notice of Intention to Designate

**From:** Dominique O'Brien, Director of Community Services

**Agenda Date:** May 13, 2024

**Report No:** CS-2024-006

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### **Executive Summary:**

This report recommends that Council state its intention to designate the Rosseau Memorial Hall under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its heritage value.

A statement of significance has been issued by ERA Architects and determined that the building meets the criteria required for municipal designation under design/physical and contextual values. As such, the property is a significant built heritage resource.



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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommend that Council state its intention to designate the Rosseau Memorial Hall under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in accordance with the Statement of Significance attached as Schedule A from ERA Architects.

### **Background & Analysis:**

As per Council direction at the December 4 Council meeting, a Statement of Significance has been drafted and finalized by ERA Architects to support the designation of the Rosseau Memorial Hall under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The conservation of cultural heritage resources is an integral component of current and future planning, contributing to a sense of place, economic prosperity, and healthy communities. Cultural heritage resources are considered irreplaceable and valuable assets that must be protected and managed as part of planning for future growth and sustainability.

The designation will ensure that any future changes to the building are undertaken with careful consideration for its historical significance, preserving the unique character that contributes to the cultural value of our community. The timing for pursuing the designation aligns well with the Rosseau Memorial Hall Master Plan process that has occurred over the last year.

If Council passes a motion of intention to designate, a public notice will be posted. The public will have thirty days to provide the Clerk with any written objections. If no objections are received, staff will prepare the designation by-law for Council's approval at a future meeting. If passed, staff will register the by-law with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

### **Financial Impacts:**

No further funding is required to complete the heritage designation process. If the designation is passed by Council, additional funding streams may be available to support the Rosseau Memorial Hall renovation project.

### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

Goal #1: Lead

- 1.1 Advocate for infrastructure and services that support a healthy, active, and engaged community.

Goal #2: Grow

- 2.3 Create Opportunities to be an attractive tourism destination.

- 2.4 Expand infrastructure and services to meet emerging needs.

### **Conclusion:**

Preserving the Rosseau Memorial Hall through heritage designation aligns with our commitment to honoring and protecting our community's history. Staff recommends that Council state its intention to designate the Rosseau Memorial Hall under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its heritage value.

### **Prepared by:**



**Dominique O'Brien, Director of Community Services**

**Approved by:**



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**Jason Inwood, CAO**

**Attachments:**

- Schedule "A" – Rousseau Memorial Hall Statement of Significance

# Rosseau Memorial Community Hall

Rosseau, ON

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

March 26, 2024



Project # 22-219  
Prepared by PE / SI / ZC / JG / PW

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# 1 LOCATION PLAN



2024 aerial photograph of the town of Rosseau, showing the Site shaded blue (Google earth, annotated by ERA).

## 2 CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS



The principal (south elevation) of the building (ERA, 2023).



The east elevation of the building, with a basement entrance to the Rosseau branch Library (ERA, 2023).



The west elevation of the building, with a stone chimney (ERA, 2023).



The west elevation of the building (ERA, 2023).



The rear (north) elevation of the building, with a 1950s addition clad in horizontal siding (ERA, 2023).



South and east elevations of the building (ERA, 2023).

## Heritage Attributes



The scale, massing and composition of the building (ERA, 2023).



The scale, massing and composition of the building (ERA, 2023).



Primarily naturally-shaped fieldstone masonry with thick mortar, cut stone lintels and rusticated granite window sills (ERA, 2023).



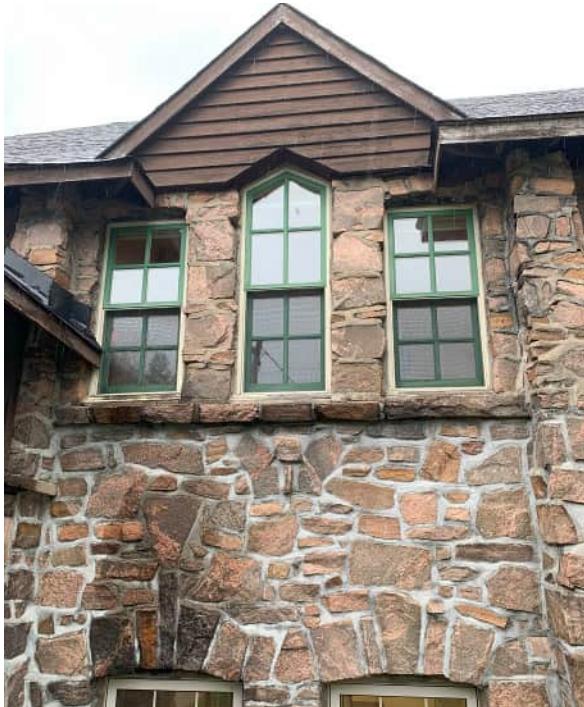
On the east elevation, including fan medallions, and a date-stone with a braided arch (ERA, 2023).



Half height fieldstone piers on the east elevation (ERA, 2023).



Full height fieldstone piers and stone entrance walls on the principal (south) elevation (ERA, 2023).



Example of the triple-grouped divided sash windows under the gable dormers on the principal (south) elevation (ERA, 2023).



Fenestration on the east elevation (ERA, 2023).



Cornerstone that reads "E. Skat Petersen architect, builder, contractor, Beaverton ONT" (ERA, 2023).



Cornerstone with the names of the building committee 1924 (ERA, 2023).



Cornerstone with the year 1924, the date of construction (ERA, 2023).



Metal plaque set into red stone commemorating the soldiers from the area that served in the First and Second World War



The fieldstone chimney stack on the west elevation (ERA, 2023).

## Interior Attributes



Large open reception space (ERA, 2023).



The stage with its arched and painted decorative proscenium (ERA, 2023).

## 3 BACKGROUND

### Pre-Colonial and Contact Eras

*This section of the report was written from a non-Indigenous perspective, based on archaeological research and available written records. It does not claim to reflect or represent the entirety of the rich history of Indigenous Peoples in this area.*

The Muskoka region has been home to Indigenous Peoples for thousands of years, including most recently the Anishinaabeg, and specifically the Ojibwe people. Waterways were central to Ojibwe lifeways and economies in the pre-Contact and early colonial periods, as places to gather, fish, and hunt; present-day Lake Rosseau is known in Ojibwe as “Waanakiing” which means “the place of the big water.” The Anishinaabeg people of the Muskoka area followed a seasonal cycle of movement and resource harvesting and relied upon the dense forests of the Canadian Shield and the lake system.

Before the 1850s, the Indigenous populations in Muskoka had minimal contact with Euro-Canadians. In 1850, the Robinson Treaty (Treaty #61) was signed between the British Crown and Ojibwe Chiefs from Lake Huron and Lake Superior. It ceded the land east of Georgian Bay and the northern shore of Lake Huron. Indigenous peoples were given “full and free privilege” to hunt and fish in the ceded territory except in areas that become private property. Much of the Muskoka region remained unceded.

Despite the lack of a formal treaty in much of the Muskoka region, the British Crown encouraged European settlement to the area in the 19th century, which led to the large-scale displacement of the Anishinaabeg people, who were left with small reserves.

#### Williams Treaty of 1923

In 1923, the Williams Treaty was signed between the Canadian government and the Mississauga and the Chippewa peoples and ceded a total of 12,944,400 acres in Southern Ontario which included all of the Muskoka region. The Williams Treaty of 1923 was disputed by its Indigenous signatories and was settled in 2018 between the Williams Treaties First Nations together with the Governments of Ontario and Canada.

### 3.1 Historical Context

#### Helmsley: 19th Century European Settlement

Following the Robinson Treaty of 1850, the British Crown surveyed the areas around the Muskoka Lakes and began to establish townships and villages. In 1866, the Township of Humphrey was created within the District of Parry Sound, covering the land around Lake Rosseau and Lake Joseph. In the same year, Helmsley, present-day Rosseau, was established as a village at the head of Lake Rosseau in the Township of Humphrey and was surveyed into lots.

To support settlement in the newly established townships, the Canadian government began constructing a series of roads that cut through the Canadian Shield in the areas between the Ottawa Valley and Lake Huron. Approximately 20 roads, which came to be known as “colonization roads”, were constructed. Construction of the Rosseau Nipissing road that provided access to the village of Helmsley began in 1866 and was completed for winter travel in 1874.

Loggers had been working in much of the Muskoka region by the mid-19th century, however, the first significant wave of European settlement in the region followed the Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868. Prospective European settlers were offered the title to 100 acres of land with the requirement to clear a portion of the land, build a dwelling and remain on the property for five years.

Early settlers optimistic for agricultural potential in the Humphrey Township were met with the realities of the Canadian Shield landscape. Glacial deposits from the Precambrian period had created an environment of rocky outcroppings and stone deposits, with thin, acidic soils, that was not conducive to commercial agriculture. Many of the new settlers were forced to work in the logging industry to supplement incomes and turned to raising livestock and other forms of subsistence farming to support their families.

The farmers that remained in the Township of Humphrey despite the conditions were forced to remove the rumble bedrock, called fieldstone, from their fields before farming. The area around Helmsley, like many places around the Ontario Lakes, proved to be an abundant source of this fieldstone which was employed locally as a building material to construct buildings, foundations, and other elements like fireplaces, chimneys, and fences.

In the late 19th century, Humphrey Township was primarily comprised of English, Irish, Scottish, and German immigrants. The settlers employed fieldstone construction techniques in different ways according to



Rocky outcroppings in Muskoka made commercial agriculture nearly impossible for early settlers (Rousseau Historical Society).



Muskoka region surveyors (Patrick Boyer).

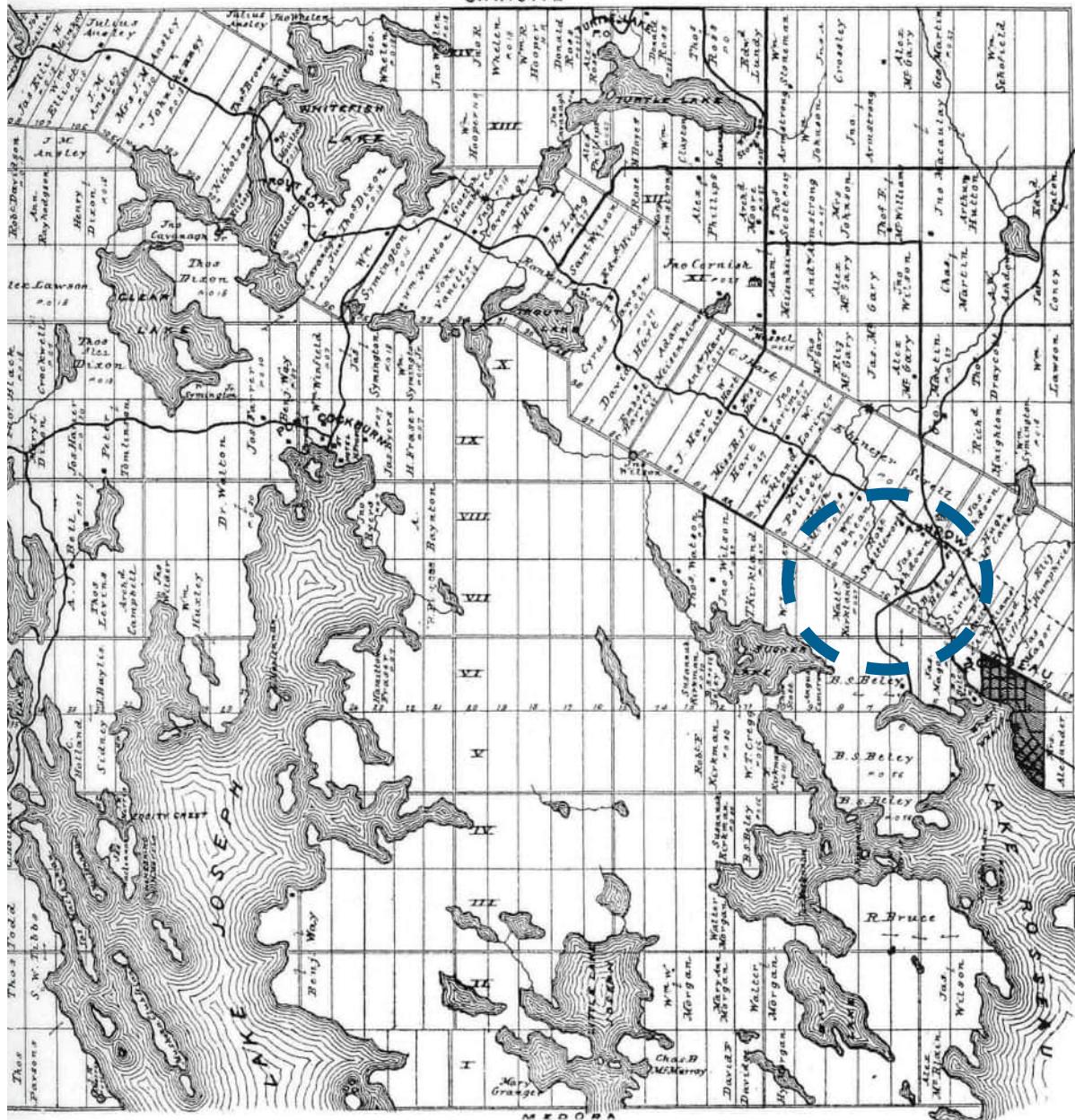


Burgess Memorial Church, featuring the Germanic tradition of fieldstone masonry in Bala attributed to Erik Skat Petersen (Muskoka Region).



An example of the Scottish tradition of cut fieldstone masonry in Ontario (Raise the Hammer).

MAP OF HUMPHREY TOWNSHIP.



1879 map of the Township of Humphrey, the centre of Helmsley (now Rosseau) that includes the approximated area of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall outlined in blue (Rosseau Historical Society, annotated by ERA).

their European heritage. German immigrants followed their tradition of retaining the natural, rough shape of the fieldstone, and set the fieldstone in thick mortar. Conversely, Scottish immigrants had a long history of stone masonry and the ability to cut through very hard stone, therefore local Scottish masons cut the fieldstone into precise blocks for building. The local Scottish stone masons set the fieldstone with thin mortar, often in a light colour to enhance the hues of the natural stone.

The lack of the agricultural potential in Helmsley, and the Muskoka area more broadly, necessitated an alternative local industry to promote economic growth. With the awareness of the burgeoning back-to-nature movement that was taking place across cities in Canada and the northern United States in the late 19th century, entrepreneurs recognized the potential of the Muskoka Lakes as a place for adventure and seasonal recreation.

The extension of the railway from Barrie to Gravenhurst in 1875, along with the establishment of a steamboat navigation company that provided comfortable travel through the Muskoka Lakes, encouraged seasonal travel to Lake Rosseau and brought about a period of growth for the village of Helmsley.

In 1871, the first resort on the Muskoka Lakes, named Rosseau House, was established in Helmsley by New York entrepreneur William Pratt and his wife Lucy. It had the outfitting of a luxury hotel set in the wilderness of the Canadian Shield. Rosseau House offered a post office as part of the hotel, and as mail was directed to and stamped for Rosseau House, soon the village of Helmsley became known as Rosseau.

Rosseau House burnt down in 1883 and was not rebuilt, yet it led to the emergence of other resorts within the Muskoka Lakes that brought tourism and a new economic driver to the area.

During the 1870s and 1880s, Muskoka's tourism growth spurred an expansion of the community in Rosseau. During this period, the community constructed multiple churches, an Orange Hall, schoolhouses, a general store, a trading post, and the marina.



Rosseau General Store's store on the steamship "Constance" (Rosseau General Store).



Rosseau House, Muskoka's first resort (Rosseau Historical Society).



The 1866 "Wenonah", the first of Alexander Cockburn's Muskoka Navigation Company's fleet (Muskoka Steamships and Discovery Centre).



1874, Church of the Redeemer constructed in Rosseau, then called Helmsley (Rosseau Historical Society).

## Rosseau: 20th Century Development

As tourism expanded at the turn of the century, wealthy families from Toronto and the other nearby cities began purchasing permanent summer properties around Lake Rosseau. The emergence of cottage ownership created an increased seasonal population invested in Rousseau's development and improvement.

The First World War slowed development in Rousseau, yet the community emerged in the 1920s motivated to establish Rousseau more formally. In 1922, Rousseau became an unincorporated village, followed by its incorporation as a town in 1926.

During this period of local civic organization, plans for the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall were initiated by the community. The building was constructed in 1924 and dedicated to the soldiers from the area who served in the First World War.



The Eaton family's country home "Kawandag" on Lake Rosseau, now Rousseau Lake College campus (Muskoka Region).



1924, opening ceremony of the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall (Rousseau Historical Society).

### 3.2 Rousseau Memorial Community Hall

In the late 19th and early 20th century, Rousseau (then Helmsley) had a small Orange Hall that served as the village's gathering place for concerts, Christmas celebrations and dances. By the 1920s, the Orange Hall had become overcrowded and a larger space was required for the growing community. In 1922, local resident Clarence V. Shaw called prominent cottagers and local citizens to his home for a meeting to survey their opinion on a new Rousseau community hall. All were in agreement that the community needed a handsome gathering place, and Shaw, together with Reverend Joseph Ditchburn, canvassed the entire community for donations to build the community hall. Some cottagers and residents offered money, while others promised their manual labour to facilitate its construction.

Dr. S. A. Foote, E.J. Sirett, W.J. Wright, George Jackson, G.L.B. Atkinson, Alfred W. Clubbe and G. Grenke took over the management of the construction once the funds and commitments for labour were secured.

There are conflicting records on the architect responsible for the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall in historical resources. In the absence of original building records or architectural drawings, it is difficult to make a definitive statement on the architect responsible for the plans of the building. A few historical accounts indicate that Sir John Eaton, prominent Rousseau cottager, had his personal architect "Mr. Stevenson" draw up building plans that were then built by Danish immigrant and master stonemason Erik Skat Petersen of Beaverton. The corner stone on the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall gives credit entirely to Petersen, as the architect, builder and contractor.

The Rousseau Memorial Community Hall was formally opened in a ceremony on August 27, 1924. A tablet of red granite inscribed with the names of those local residents who served in the First World War was unveiled on the building's principal facade. The ceremony included speakers, among them Erik Skat Petersen, who spoke to the stone masonry and his relevant early training in Norway, as well as ceremonial songs and an evening concert and dance.

For a century, the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall has been at the centre of communal and civic life in Rousseau. The Hall has been the meeting place for many local organizations, such as the Women's Institute, the Lion's Club, the Agricultural Society, the Rousseau Horticultural Society, the Rousseau Historical Society, Rousseau Active Women, and town functions. The Hall has also been an integral part of the community's social life, as a place for family celebrations, weddings, and reunions.



Long list of local contributors to the building of the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall (Rousseau Historical Society).



Rousseau Memorial Community Hall under construction (Rousseau Historical Society).



Corner stone on the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall reads "E. Skat Peteren, architect, builder and contractor" (ERA, 2023).

## 4 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall is a large one-storey Arts-and-Crafts-style fieldstone masonry community hall building, with a basement at grade accessed from the east elevation.

The principal (south) elevation, features two entrances accessed by stone-walled stairs, and gable porticos added after the building's construction. The principal (south) elevation is further composed of stone piers that divide the facade into bays of tripartite four-over-four single-hung sash windows topped by gable dormers (originally designed with half-timbering). The fenestration on the south elevation is decorated with cut stone lintels and rusticated stone window sills.

The east elevation features an entrance to the Rosseau branch library, half-height stone piers, fenestration of six-over-six and three-over-three single-hung sash windows, as well as stone fan medallions and a braided, arched carved date stone.

The rear (north) elevation follows a similar composition to the south elevation, with the exception of the entrances. The tripartite fenestration with pointed-arch windows, stone piers and gable dormers are seen on north elevation.

The west elevation is mostly obscured by the neighbouring building, however a fieldstone chimney stack rises from the west portion of the building and defines this elevation.

The Arts and Crafts architectural style is expressed in the building's use of local fieldstone, deep eaves, pointed-arch window openings, and gable dormers. The building also features traditional Nordic architectural forms, seen in the exaggerated gable roof on the south and north elevations (originally clad in red clay tiles), as well as the Jerkinhead roof profile at the east and west elevations, derived from the Dutch or Germanic roof style.

The fieldstone masonry of the building is particularly unique and notable as it incorporates naturally-shaped fieldstones, reflective of the local German style of masonry, planned and set with great precision and attention to detail.

The interior follows a typical community hall building type and features a large, double-height open space, with a raised stage and arched proscenium.

## 5 HISTORIC CONTEXT

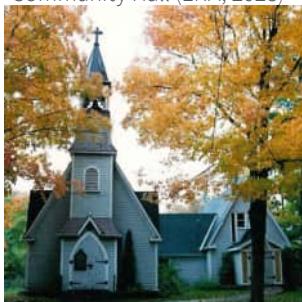
The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall is part of a remaining collection of buildings from Rosseau's period of growth in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which includes the original Township Hall, the Church of the Redeemer, the Rosseau General Store, and the Hilltop Interiors shop. Together, the properties are historically linked as part of a hub of civic, ecclesiastical and commercial buildings at the centre of the town that support the historic character of Rosseau's main streets.

1

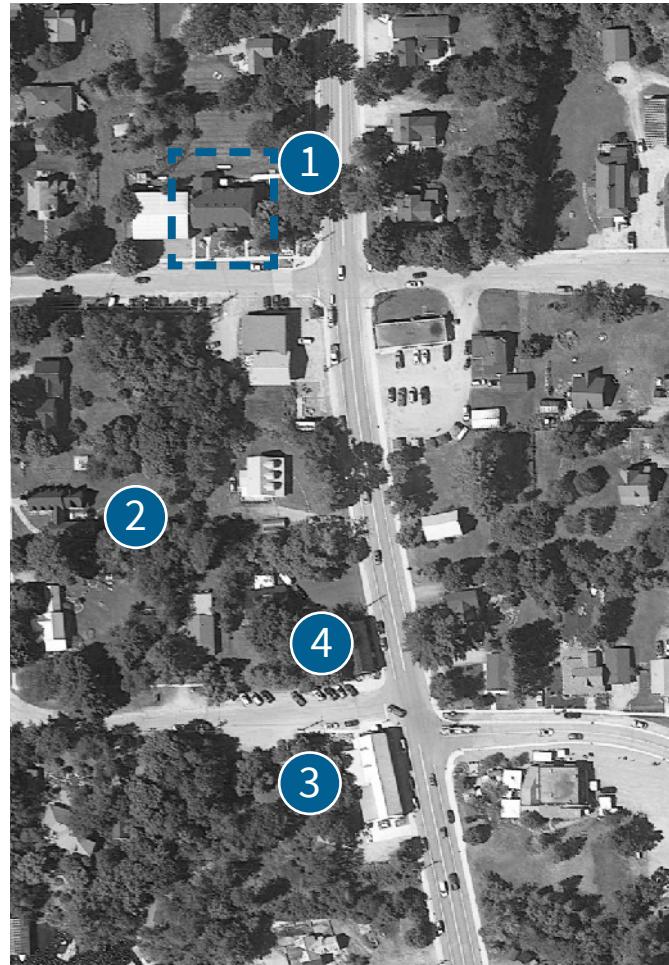


Original Township Hall located at #1142 Highway 141 just east of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (ERA, 2023)

2



Church of the Redeemer at 15 Oak Street, the original portion dates back to 1874, and is one of the oldest Anglican churches in Muskoka (Rosseau Historical Society).



Aerial image of the area surrounding the Site in Rosseau, with the Site outlined in blue (Google earth, annotated by ERA).

3



Rosseau General Store at 1 Rice Street, opened in 1874 as Homer & Co. and also operated as a travelling supply store on the Constance steamboat (Rosseau Historical Society).

4



Hilltop building at #1150 Highway 141, rebuilt in the 1920s as a replica of an earlier building on the site that had burnt down (Hilltop Interiors).

## 6 EVALUATION UNDER ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06

The Site has been evaluated against the Ontario Regular 9/06 (“O. Reg. 9/06”) “Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest” under the Ontario Heritage Act (“OHA”).

O. Reg. 9/06 was developed for the purpose of identifying and evaluating the cultural heritage value or interest of a property proposed for protection under Section 29 of the OHA. The purpose of the criteria is to provide a consistent approach for the evaluation of heritage properties.

O. Reg. 9/06 states that “the property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest”. Based on historical research and community engagement, it is our professional opinion that the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall meets the O. Reg 9/06 criteria for design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual value in connection with the following:

- Design/physical value as a unique and representative example of an Arts-and-Crafts-style community hall constructed from fieldstone, and a high degree of craftsmanship in its masonry construction with unique Nordic architectural influences;
- Historical/associative value for its significance to the community of Rosseau, and its potential to yield information that contributes to a greater understanding of the community’s history; and,
- Contextual value for defining, maintaining, and supporting the late-19th and early-20th-century village character of Rosseau, and as a local landmark in the community.

Value (quoted from Ontario Reg. 9/06)	Y/N	Assessment of 2 Victoria Street West, Rosseau
<p><i>Design/Physical Value:</i></p> <p>1. <i>The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.</i></p>	Yes	<p>The Rosseau Memorial Community Hall is a unique and representative example of an Arts-and-Crafts-style community hall constructed from fieldstone, a locally-sourced material used for a variety of building purposes in Muskoka.</p> <p>The Arts and Crafts style is expressed through its use of local materials (fieldstone), and the building's deep gable eaves, pointed-arch windows, and gable dormers on the south and north elevations.</p> <p>The property features Nordic architectural influences found in the exaggerated roofscape, and the Dutch or Germanic Jerkinhead roof profile on the east and west elevations. The fieldstone masonry of the property reflects the local German tradition of employing naturally-shaped fieldstone in construction.</p>
<p>2. <i>The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.</i></p>	Yes	<p>In the local context, the property demonstrates a high degree of craftsmanship, evidenced by the intricate fieldstone masonry construction with its precise detailing, window lintels, rusticated sills, and decorative elements (i.e. stone medallions, carved date stone, braided arch).</p>
<p>3. <i>The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.</i></p>	No	<p>The property's construction methods, although executed by a highly-skilled mason, do not constitute innovative building methods.</p>

<p><i>Historical/Associative Value:</i></p> <p>4. <i>The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Rousseau Memorial Community Hall is significant to the community of Rousseau, as the local residents and cottagers were responsible for the initiation, planning, financing and construction of the Hall in the 1920s. Since the Hall opened in 1924, the community of Rousseau have continued to be its stewards, and the Hall has been at the core of the social, communal and civic life of the town for generations.</p>
<p>5. <i>The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The building's cornerstones that list the names of the building committee and architect, as well as the plaque commemorating the local soldiers that served in the First and Second World Wars, provide insight into the early-20th-century development of Rousseau, and have the potential to yield a greater understanding of the community's history and culture.</p>
<p>6. <i>The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.</i></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>According to the building's cornerstone, stonemason Erik Skat Petersen was responsible for the design, construction, and stonework.</p> <p>Erik Skat Petersen immigrated to Beaverton, Ontario from Denmark, and was trained as a master builder in Norway.</p> <p>The Petersen family claim that Erik Skat Petersen was also responsible for the Burgess Memorial Church in Bala which bears remarkable similarities to the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall.</p> <p>Although Petersen was a skilled mason who may have built other buildings in the area, there is no evidence in the historical record to indicate that he was significant to the community beyond his contribution to the construction of the Hall.</p>

<p><i>Contextual Value:</i></p> <p>7. <i>The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The town of Rosseau retains a collection of buildings from its initial period of growth in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the Rosseau General Store, the original Township Hall (now an antiques store) and the Church of the Redeemer. Much of the historic building stock in Rosseau follows simple Colonial or Gothic revival architectural styles and employs wood siding as a common cladding material. Fieldstone masonry is often seen in building foundations and fences, however the fieldstone Rosseau Memorial Community Hall is a unique structure within this context. Along with the other remaining buildings that date to Rosseau's major period of growth and development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall support a context with definable historic character that is desirable to conserve and maintain.</p>
<p>8. <i>The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The property is functionally and historically linked to its surroundings as part of a hub of civic, institutional, ecclesiastical, and commercial buildings at the centre of Rosseau developed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Other buildings from this period in Rosseau include the Rosseau General Store, the original Township Hall, and the Church of the Redeemer.</p>
<p>9. <i>The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The property is a local landmark, recognized for both its impressive and distinctive architecture, and its significance to the community as the centre of social and civic life in Rosseau for 100 years.</p>

## 7 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Description of Property — Rousseau Memorial Community Hall, 2 Victoria Street West

The Rousseau Memorial Community Hall is a 1-storey hall, with a basement walk-out on the east side, built in 1924, located on the north side of Victoria Street West in the town of Rousseau.

#### Statement of Significance of Cultural Heritage Value

The Rousseau Memorial Community Hall is valued as a unique and representative example of an Arts-and-Crafts-style community hall constructed from fieldstone, with unique Nordic architectural influences. This is expressed through the hall's deep gable eaves, pointed-arch windows, and gable dormers on the south and north elevations typical of the Arts and Crafts style; and its exaggerated roofscape, and the Dutch or Germanic Jerkinhead roof profile on the east and west elevations influenced by Nordic architecture. The property is distinguished by its high-quality fieldstone masonry construction, executed with a high degree of craftsmanship using the German construction technique of naturally-shaped masonry.

Built and financed by local residents and cottagers in 1924 and stewarded by the community since this time, the Hall is significant to the community of Rousseau as the centre of social, communal and civic life in the town for the past 100 years. In many ways, the Hall is a physical manifestation and symbol of the local community's engagement, identity, and pride. The Hall's plaque commemorating the local soldiers who served in the First and Second World War, as well as the three cornerstones, yield information that contributes to an understanding of the town's history and its residents during the early 20th century.

The Rousseau Memorial Community Hall is also valued for its contribution to the late-19th and early-20th-century village character of Rousseau. As a fieldstone building, the Hall is a unique and defining structure in this context, and serves as a local landmark in the community. Together with the nearby Rousseau General Store, original Township Hall, and the Church of the Redeemer, the Hall is part of a hub of civic, ecclesiastical, and commercial buildings at the centre of Rousseau developed during the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

## Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that express the value of the Rousseau Memorial Community Hall as a unique and representative example of a fieldstone Arts and Crafts style community hall building, with Nordic/Germanic architectural influences:

- Scale, form, and massing of the one-storey hall, with its rectangular plan, basement accessed at grade from the east elevation, and gable roof with dormers on the north and south elevations, and the Jerkinhead roof profile on the east and west elevations.
- Composition of the facades, which are organized vertically by stone piers, and feature tripartite segmental and pointed arch window openings, and double entrance on the south elevation accessed by stone-walled steps and porticos.
- Fieldstone materials, including naturally-shaped fieldstone set in dark mortar, stone piers, cut stone window lintels, rusticated stone window sills, stone chimney, medallions and carved cornerstone and datestone.
- Wood windows, including four-over-four and six-over-six single-hung sash windows.
- Large open reception space with a stage and arched/ decorated proscenium in the interior.

Key attributes that demonstrate the property's high degree of craftsmanship:

- Fieldstone masonry, including naturally-shaped fieldstone set in dark mortar, stone piers, cut stone window lintels, rusticated stone window sills, stone chimney, stone medallions and carved cornerstone and datestone.

Key attributes that express the property's direct association with and significance to the community of Rousseau:

- Large open reception space with a stage and arched/ decorated proscenium in the interior.

Key attributes that yield information that contributes to a greater understanding of the community's history:

- The plaque dedicated to the local soldiers that served in First and Second World Wars, and the corner stones which list the names of the builder and committee members that constructed the building.

Key attributes that express the value of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall in defining, maintaining, and supporting the late 19th and early 20th century character of Rosseau:

- Fieldstone masonry.
- Location proximate to the original Township Hall, the Rosseau General Store, and the Church of the Redeemer.

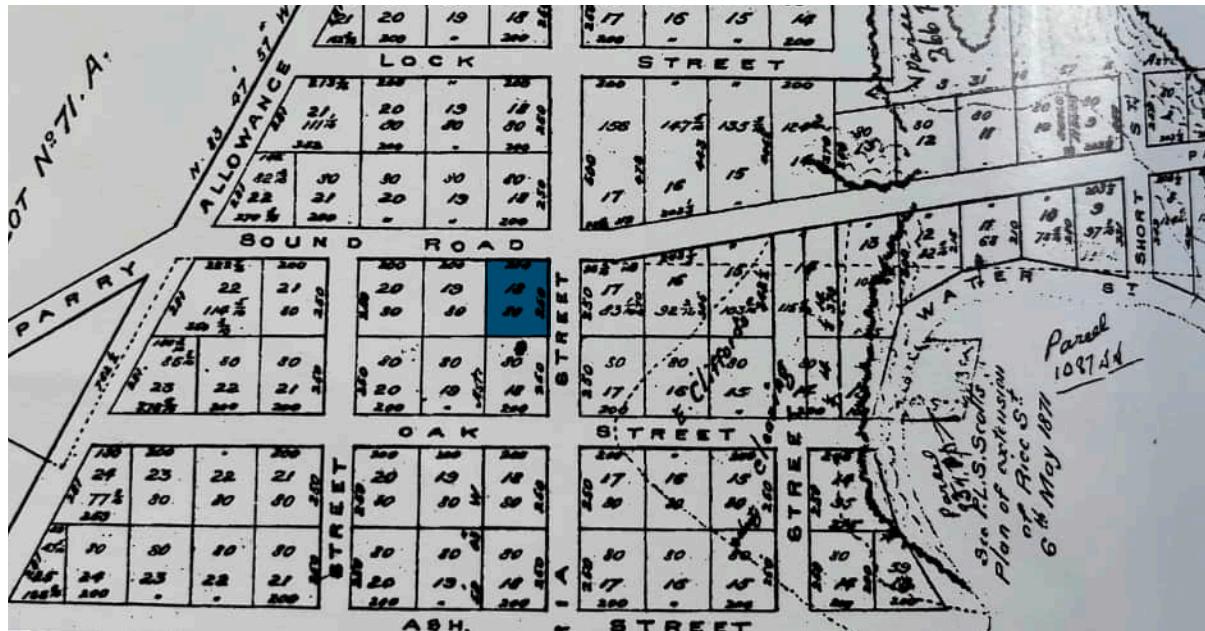
Key attributes that contribute to the value of the property as visually and historically linked to its surroundings:

- Location proximate to the original Township Hall, the Rosseau General Store, and the Church of the Redeemer.

Key attributes that express the value of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall as a local landmark in Rosseau:

- Scale, form, and massing of the one-storey hall, with its rectangular plan, basement accessed at grade from the east elevation, and gable roof with dormers on the north and south elevations, and the Jerkinhead roof profile on the east and west elevations.
- Fieldstone masonry.

## 8 VISUAL EVIDENCE



Year unknown, the building of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall, pile of fieldstone, the original Township Hall seen in the background (Rosseau Historical Society).



1923, Rosseau Memorial Community Hall under construction (Rosseau Historical Society).



1924, Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1924, prior to the plaques revealed on the south elevation of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1924, the south elevation of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1924, spectators watching the reveal of the dedication plaques during the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall open ceremony (Rosseau Historical Society).



1924, opening ceremony of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1924, opening ceremony of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1924, interior of the reception space of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall, stage and proscenium seen in photo (Rosseau Historical Society).



Year unknown, south and east elevation of the property photographed (Rosseau Historical Society).



Year unknown, south elevation seen at a distance, an early iteration of the entrance portico and flagpole installed by this time (Rosseau Historical Society).



1927, performers standing outside the east side entrance of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



Year unknown, performers standing outside the east side entrance of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1932, people outside of the east entrance of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1940s, people outside of the east entrance of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



Year unknown, children outside of the east entrance of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1967, children performing during a Christmas concert (Rosseau Historical Society).



1961, northwest view of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall, entrance porticos added by this date (Rosseau Historical Society).



1974, unveiling ceremony of the Rosseau Nipissing Road plaque outside the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



1978, south elevation of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall, flagpole and historical plaque photographed (Rosseau Historical Society).



Year unknown, south elevation of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall (Rosseau Historical Society).



2004, photographs of the Rosseau Memorial Community Hall as seen with adjacent buildings (Rosseau Historical Society).

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