

Heritage Conservation in Centre Wellington:

Protecting Cultural Heritage Landscapes and the Pierpoint Settlement

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Manager of Planning Services



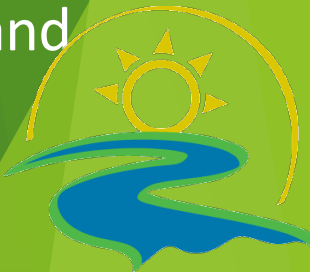
Agenda

- Heritage Conservation Mandate and Framework
- Conservation Tools
- Cultural Heritage Landscape Study and Inventory
- Pierpoint Settlement Area



Defining Heritage

- “**Heritage** is everything we have inherited that we value and wish to preserve for future generations. It is a living legacy that helps us understand our past, provides context for the present and influences our future”. (Ontario Heritage Trust)
- “**Heritage value**: The aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance for past, present or future generations. The heritage value of an historic place is embodied in its character-defining materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meaning.” (Parks Canada)
- **Tangible heritage** – physical places and objects (embody intangible components)
- **Intangible heritage** – stories, songs, celebrations that evolve over time
- Evolving themes of truth, reconciliation and expanding heritage narratives (marginalized communities)



Heritage Conservation: Global Perspective



- ▶ “United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection, and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity”.
- ▶ World Heritage Convention, 1972 – international treaty on heritage conservation, signed by many countries including Canada (1976), links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties.
- ▶ In Canada over the past 30 years, 21% of Canada’s historic building stock has been demolished due to factors such as economic pressures, social changes, and lack of public awareness (Source: National Trust for Canada)
- ▶ In the U.S. only 4% of existing buildings are formally protected, lower in Canada





Canada's
Historic Places

Lieux patrimoniaux
du Canada

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
HISTORIC PLACES IN CANADA

A Federal, Provincial and Territorial Collaboration



Second Edition

Canadian Standards for Conservation

- ▶ Parks Canada issued “Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada” as a nation-wide guiding document based on internationally accepted heritage conservation principles
- ▶ Staff and Municipal Heritage Committees use this document as a key reference
- ▶ Conservation can be seen as a sequence of actions — from understanding the historic place, to planning for its conservation and intervening through projects or maintenance
- ▶ Most to least preferred approach





Why Conserve?

Social, Economic, Cultural
and Environmental Impacts

- ▶ Local/National Identity and Community Impact
- ▶ Tourism
- ▶ Jobs and Economic Vitality
- ▶ Sustainability and Climate Change





Heritage Conservation Planning

- ▶ **Managing change** to historic places guided by well-established core principles and practices
- ▶ Planning for the **identification, protection and promotion** of the heritage resources that we value



Elora, 1910

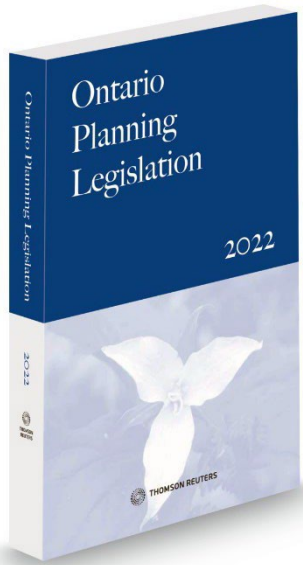
Photo: Wellington County Museum & Archives



Elora, 2014

Photo: S. Galbraith

Source: S. Galbraith



Provincial Heritage Mandate

- ▶ Planning Act states council “shall have regard to”:
 - the conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest
- ▶ Provincial Policy Statement (PPS 2020) encourages heritage protection:
 - “Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes **shall be conserved**” (PPS 2020)





Ontario Heritage Act

- ▶ Gives councils power to protect
 - ▶ individual properties
 - ▶ heritage conservation districts
 - ▶ archaeological resources
- ▶ Provides criteria for establishing heritage value and significance
- ▶ Provides rules for protection
- ▶ Establishes “Register” of heritage properties
- ▶ Establishes heritage committee



Source: S. Galbraith



Source: S. Galbraith



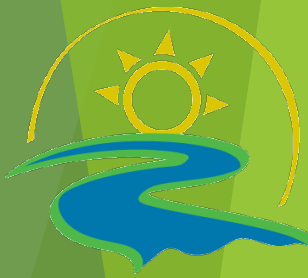
Significant Means...

“Resources that have been determined to have **cultural heritage value or interest**.

Processes and criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest are established by the Province under the authority of the Ontario Heritage Act”. (PPS 2020)



Heritage Criteria (O. Reg. 9/06):



Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

1. The landscape has **design or physical value** because it:
 - i. Is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a landscape
 - ii. Displays a high degree of design or aesthetic appeal/scenic quality, or
 - iii. Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
2. The landscape has **historical value or associative value** because it:
 - i. Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community
 - ii. Yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
 - iii. Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community
3. The landscape has **contextual value** because it:
 - i. Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area
 - ii. Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
 - iii. Is a landmark.



Conservation Tools: Designation (Individual Property, Part 4)

- ▶ **Regulates** individual property and its heritage attributes identified through designation by-law; appeal rights (owner consent not required)
- ▶ By-law is **registered** on title of the property (entire property)
- ▶ **Heritage permit** is required if a property is to be altered or demolished
- ▶ Designation **DOES NOT** freeze a property or impact property value
- ▶ Intended to **guide** appropriate changes, cannot be demolished



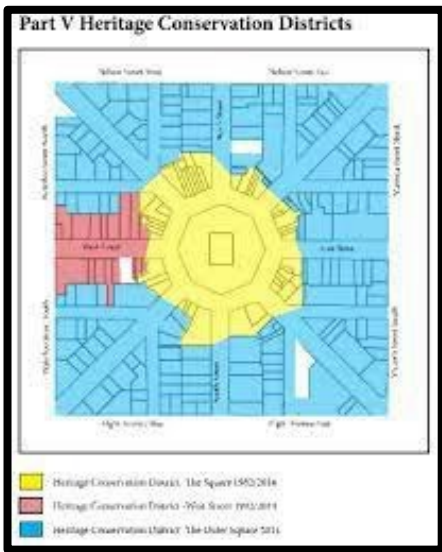
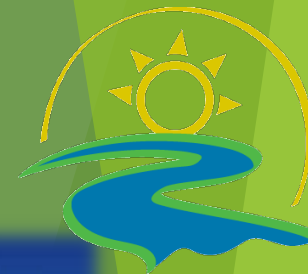


Conservation Tools: Designation (Heritage Conservation District, Part 5)

- ▶ **Regulates** all properties within a defined boundary as documented in an HCD Plan
- ▶ Designation by-law is **registered** on title of each property located within the district
- ▶ **Heritage permit** is required if a property is to be altered or demolished
- ▶ HCD Plan specifies the types of major, significant alterations that will require a heritage permit and which **may be excluded**



Examples of HCDs in Ontario



HERITAGE OTTAWA
50 YEARS
50 STORIES

21
BYWARD MARKET
HERITAGE
DISTRICT



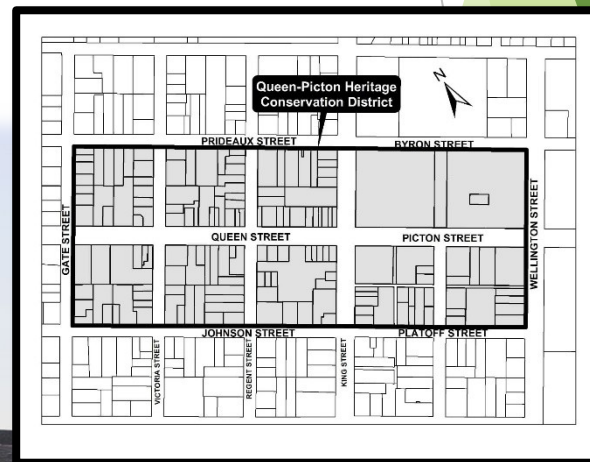
Byward Market HCD, Ottawa



Markham Village HCD, Markham



Town of Goderich HCDs



Queen-Picton HCD
Niagara on the Lake

Other Heritage Conservation Tools



Tool	Individual Properties	Multiple Properties
Designation of an individual property under the OHA (Part IV)	X	
Listing non-designated properties on the heritage register	X	
Private and street tree protection by-laws	X	X
Zoning by-laws	X	X
Designation of an area as a Heritage Conservation District (HCD) under the OHA (Part V)		X
Designation of an area as a CHL in the Official Plan		X
Special policy area defined by prevailing character		X
Scenic road or corridor designation		X
Heritage Areas		X

Other Heritage Conservation Tools



- ▶ Property Standards By-law (for designated properties, to maintain heritage attributes identified)
- ▶ Heritage Tax Relief Incentive Program
- ▶ Heritage Loan/Grant Program
- ▶ Official Plan Polices (planning tool)
- ▶ Development Permit System (planning tool)
- ▶ Urban Design Guidelines (planning tool)
- ▶ Commemoration Strategies
- ▶ Public Education and Awareness

What is a Cultural Heritage Landscape?



- ▶ Defined geographical area modified by human activity of cultural heritage value or interest



Designed

Garden at Fulford Place,
Brockville



Evolved

Scotsdale Farm, Halton Hills



Associative

Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung,
Manitou Mounds, Stratton

- Watercourses
- Historic villages
- Early transportation routes
- Parks and trails
- Agricultural properties
- Historic industrial sites

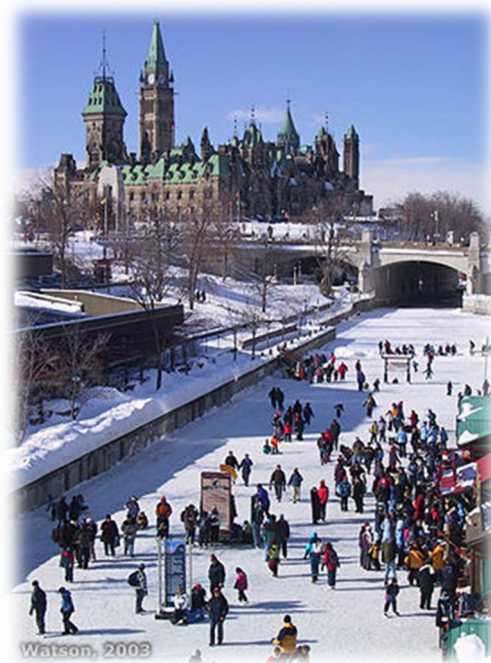


Why Identify and Manage CHLs?

- ▶ These spaces, corridors and complexes are hallmarks of a municipality
- ▶ Contribute to the 'character' of a community
- ▶ Places for tourism, environmental stewardship, recreation, and community collaboration



High Park, Toronto



Rideau Canal, Ottawa



West Montrose Cultural Heritage Landscape

Cultural Heritage Landscape Study: An Overview



- ▶ Between 2019 and 2021, ASI conducted a CHL study in Centre Wellington to identify, evaluate, inventory and map significant CHLs located in the Township
- ▶ Through research, field review, understanding local features, and engagement with the community, 18 significant CHLs were identified



the **landplan**
STUDIO INC.

FOTENN
Planning + Design

Cultural Heritage Landscape Study & Inventory of the Township of Centre Wellington - Volume 1

Prepared for the Township of Centre Wellington
June 2021, last edited August 31, 2021



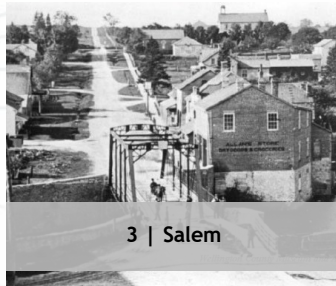
Significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes



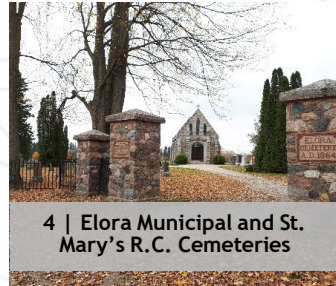
1 | Grand River Corridor



2 | Elora Cataract Trailway



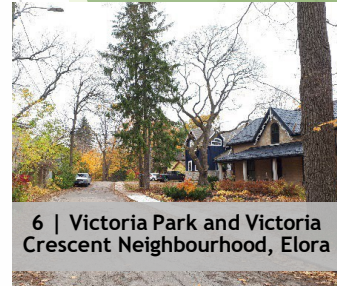
3 | Salem



4 | Elora Municipal and St. Mary's R.C. Cemeteries



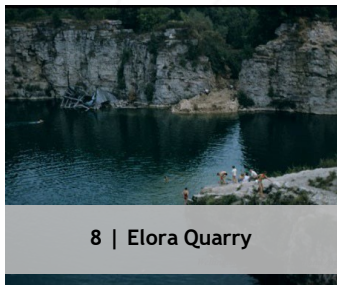
5 | Elora Gorge



6 | Victoria Park and Victoria Crescent Neighbourhood, Elora



7 | Elora Historical Village Core



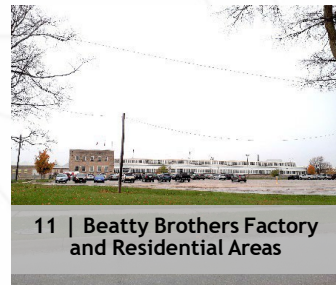
8 | Elora Quarry



9 | Trestle Bridge Trail



10 | Allan Farmstead



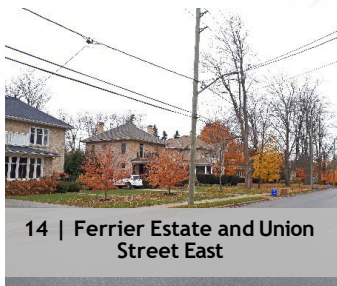
11 | Beatty Brothers Factory and Residential Areas



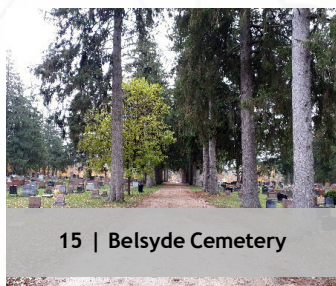
12 | Fergus Historical Village Core



13 | Churchill Crescent Neighbourhood



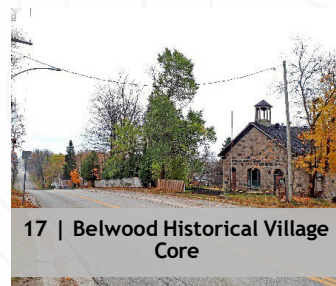
14 | Ferrier Estate and Union Street East



15 | Belsyde Cemetery



16 | Victoria Park, Fergus



17 | Belwood Historical Village Core

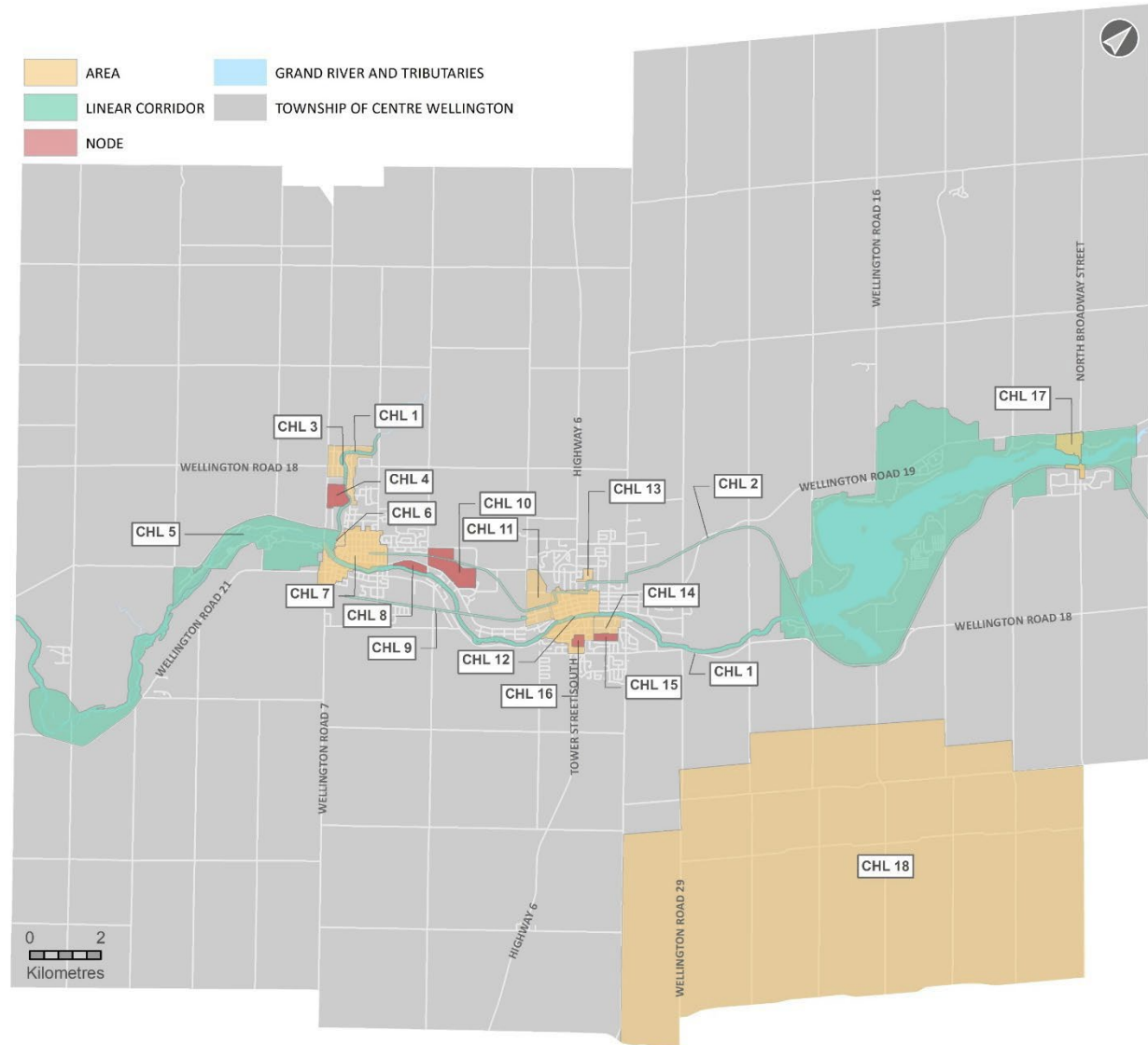


18 | Oustic

Significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes



- The CHLs are spread out across the Township, concentrated along the Grand River Corridor
- Several CHLs are located within Elora and Fergus



CHL Study: Pierpoint Settlement Recommendations



- The CHL Study & Inventory determined the Pierpoint Settlement to be an area that required further research

RECOMMENDATION:

- Further research to understand its potential for historical integrity and boundary delineation
- Specific consultation with the Black community to further understand community value
- Consideration for an interpretation plan to disseminate the history of the area to the broader community



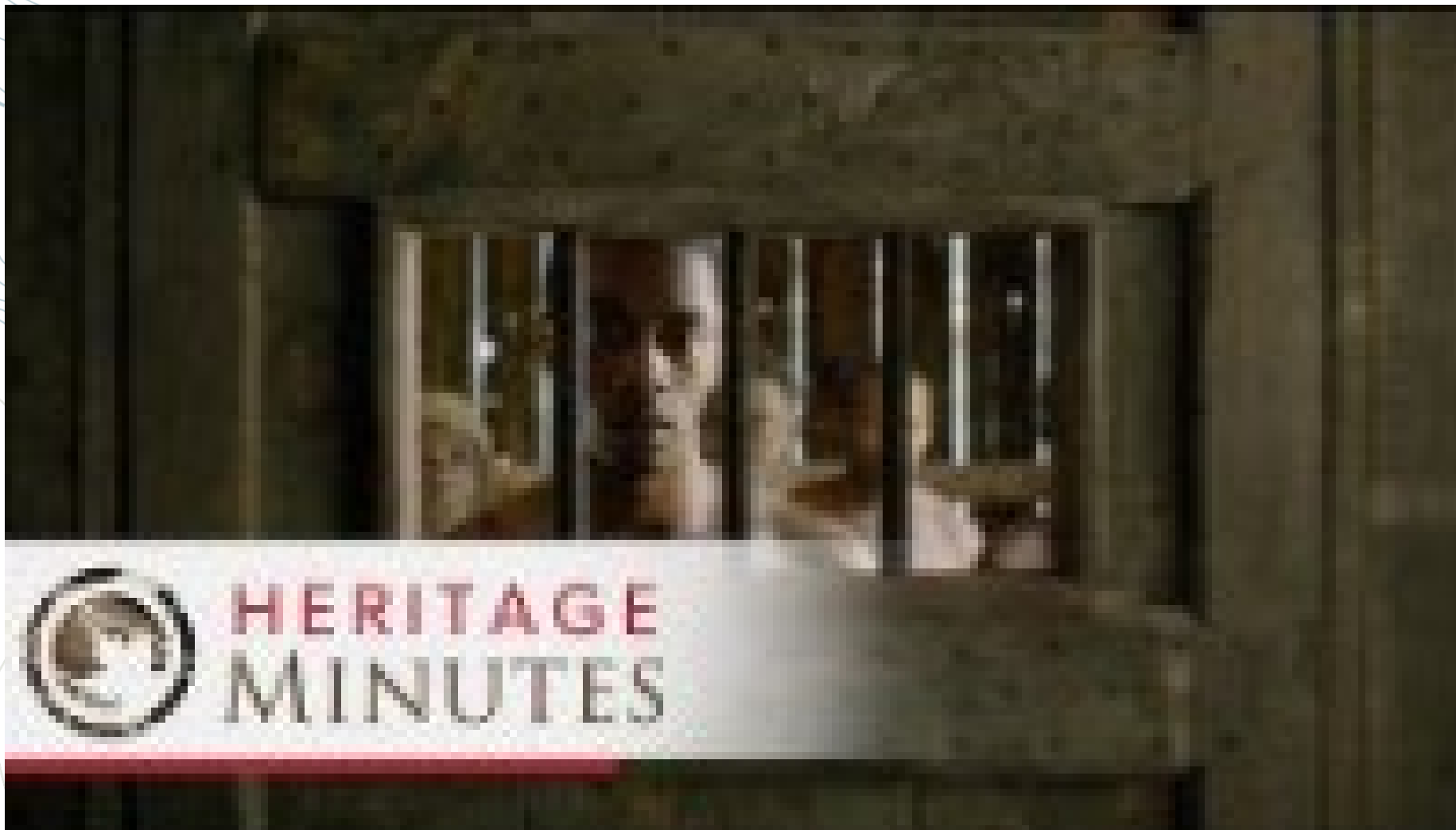
Outline of Pierpoint's land grant

Protecting Significant Places and Stories: Richard Pierpoint



North East Half of Lot 6, Concession 1

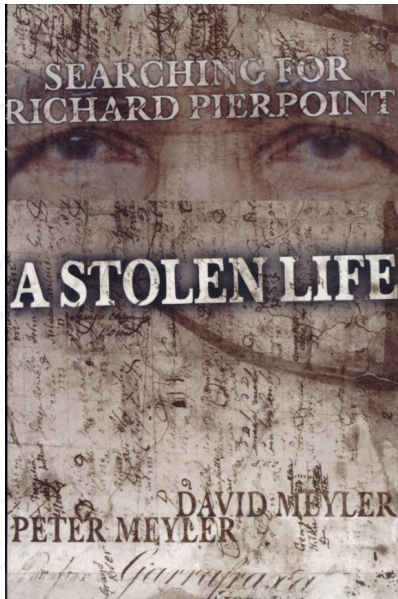
Richard Pierpoint



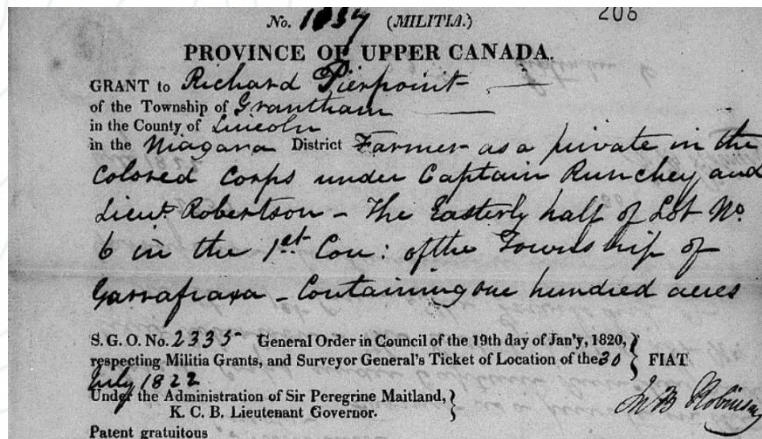
Pierpoint Research Project Methodology



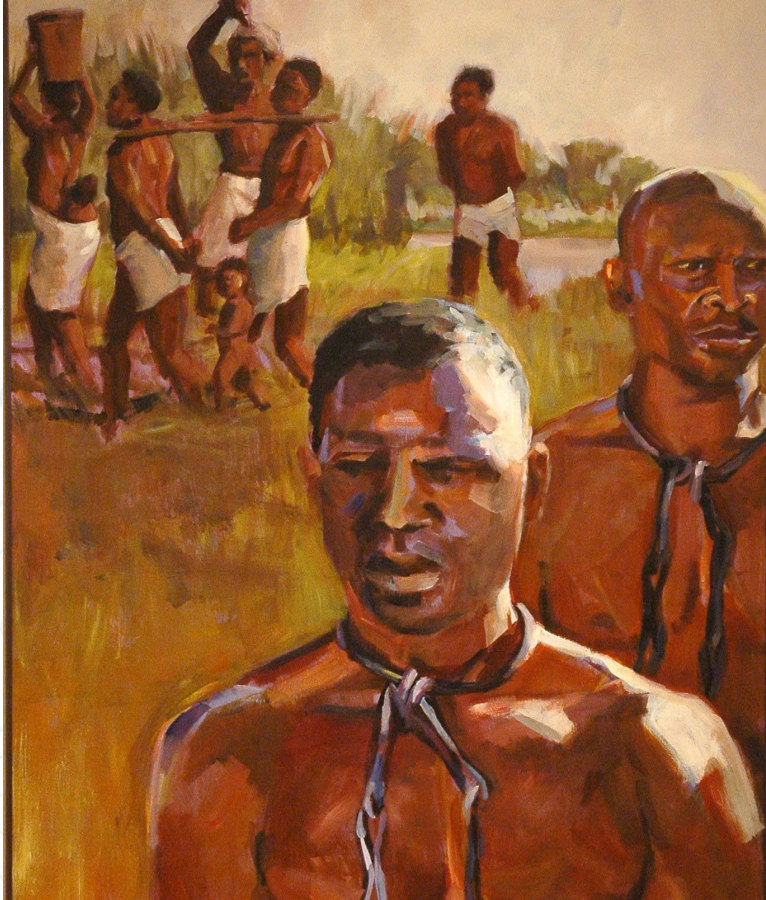
Pierpoint History Research



- Historical mapping and aerial photographs
- Published accounts of oral history
- Available archival records
- Secondary source publications
- Consultation with archivists, librarians, and historians
- Wellington County Museum and Archives
- Archives of Ontario
- Niagara Falls Museum



Pierpoint Historical Research



Meredith Blackmore, 2012. Image:
Wellington County Museum and Archives, Art 1147

- In 1760, as a 16 year old boy, Richard Pierpoint began a journey that took him from West Africa to the colonies of America.
- Sold at a slave auction to a colonial officer whose name was likely Pierpoint (Parepont), as it was common practice for enslaved individuals to be given the surname of their enslaver.
- After twenty years of slavery, Pierpoint escaped into the Niagara region and joined the battalion known as Butler's Rangers. His name first enters the historical record in 1780 as 'Parepont, Richard' in the roster of Butler's Rangers.
- In 1784, after peace was signed, Butler's Rangers disbanded. Richard Pierpoint had regained his freedom.
- In 1791, granted 200-acre land grant in Grantham Township (present-day St. Catharines), eventually selling it in 1806 after struggling to settle it

Pierpoint Historical Research



Meredith Blackmore, 2012. Image:
Wellington County Museum and Archives, Art 1148

- In War of 1812, he established the Corps of Coloured Men, though it was led by white officers. Pierpoint, nearly 70, joined the Corps as a private.
- In 1822, the government awarded Pierpoint a land grant for his service, situated in an unsettled area along the Grand River called 'Garafraxa' (Fergus), among several white Niagara-area war veterans.
- In a petition to Lieutenant-Governor Maitland, Pierpoint described his life as an enslaved man and loyal soldier and made clear that "he was above all desirous to return to his Native Country" of Bondou [Bundu] in West Africa.
- The government ignored his petition.
- In the early 1820s, before the village of Fergus was settled nearby, Richard Pierpoint arrived to take up his land grant in the wilderness of Garafraxa.

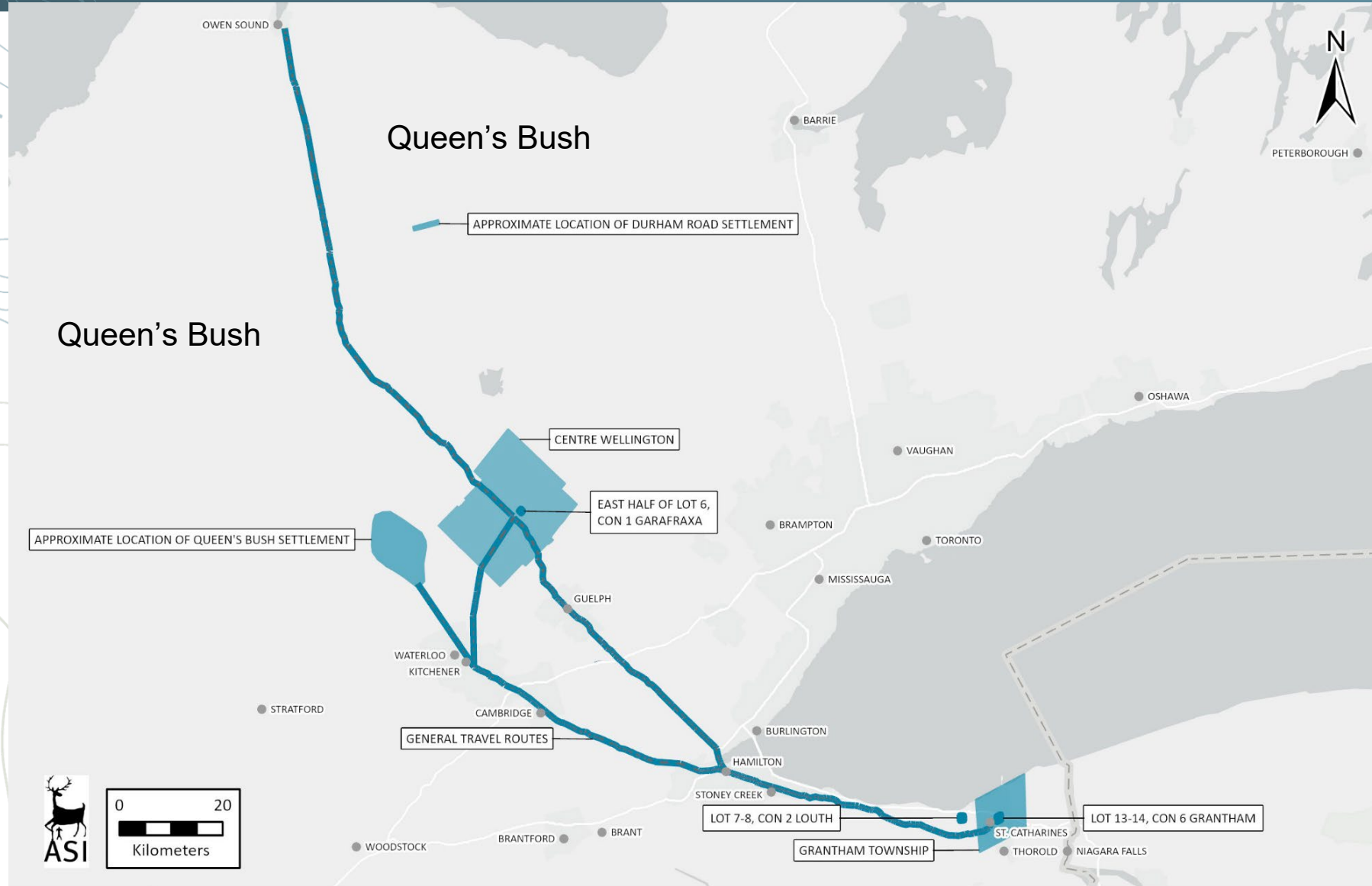
Pierpoint Historical Research



Image: Fergus, Upper Canada, 1837, by Janet D. Fordyce. Wellington County Museum and Archives, Art 176.

- To claim their land from the Crown, each settler had to clear 5 acres of bush, build a cabin and complete a road allowance along their property. Pierpoint, who had never married and was now in his 70s, would have relied on the assistance of his friends to complete the tasks. He was granted ownership in 1826.
- In January 1828, Richard signed his will stating that “having no heirs or relations,” his land and possessions were left to Lemuel Brown, an African friend from his years in the Niagara region.
- Richard Pierpoint died in September 1838 at the age of 94.

Research Findings



Community Workshop



- Community Workshop held on December 1, 2022 at the Elora Community Centre
- Over 70 people attended the session
- The session provided a summary of the Pierpoint project's research, findings, and recommendations
- Following the presentation and short Q&A, participants were asked to partake in discussions at their tables

Community Workshop: What we heard



Annotated maps from the Community Workshop

What is significant about Richard Pierpoint and his property? What are the stories that should be protected and shared?

- Pierpoint's military service and history of Black Loyalists in Upper Canada
- Pierpoint's role as an early settler in the area
- Importance of Pierpoint's property as a stopping point for Black travelers on the route north from Niagara to the Queens' Bush near Owen Sound
- History of strict restrictions on Black land ownership in Upper Canada

Results & Recommendations : Stories



Engagement with the community revealed that there were many significant stories to tell, both within the property and more broadly, including:

- Richard Pierpoint and his property are part of the larger story of waves of Black settlement and displacement in Upper Canada in the late 18th and early to mid-19th century.
- His property has been identified as a stopping point, a place of rest and refuge, for Black individuals and families on their own journey to set down roots in what was known as the Queen's Bush to the north.
- Following Pierpoint's death and the sale of his property in 1838, the property saw the establishment of a mill and early bridge crossing, as well as associations with potential agriculture land uses as suggested by associations with Blackburn Farms.
- Pierpoint's property, more specifically the part of the property that was donated to the Township to create the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve, has since developed into a site of commemoration, recreation, stewardship, and community development.
- **What was once Richard Pierpoint's property could be considered as a significant evolved and associative cultural heritage landscape**

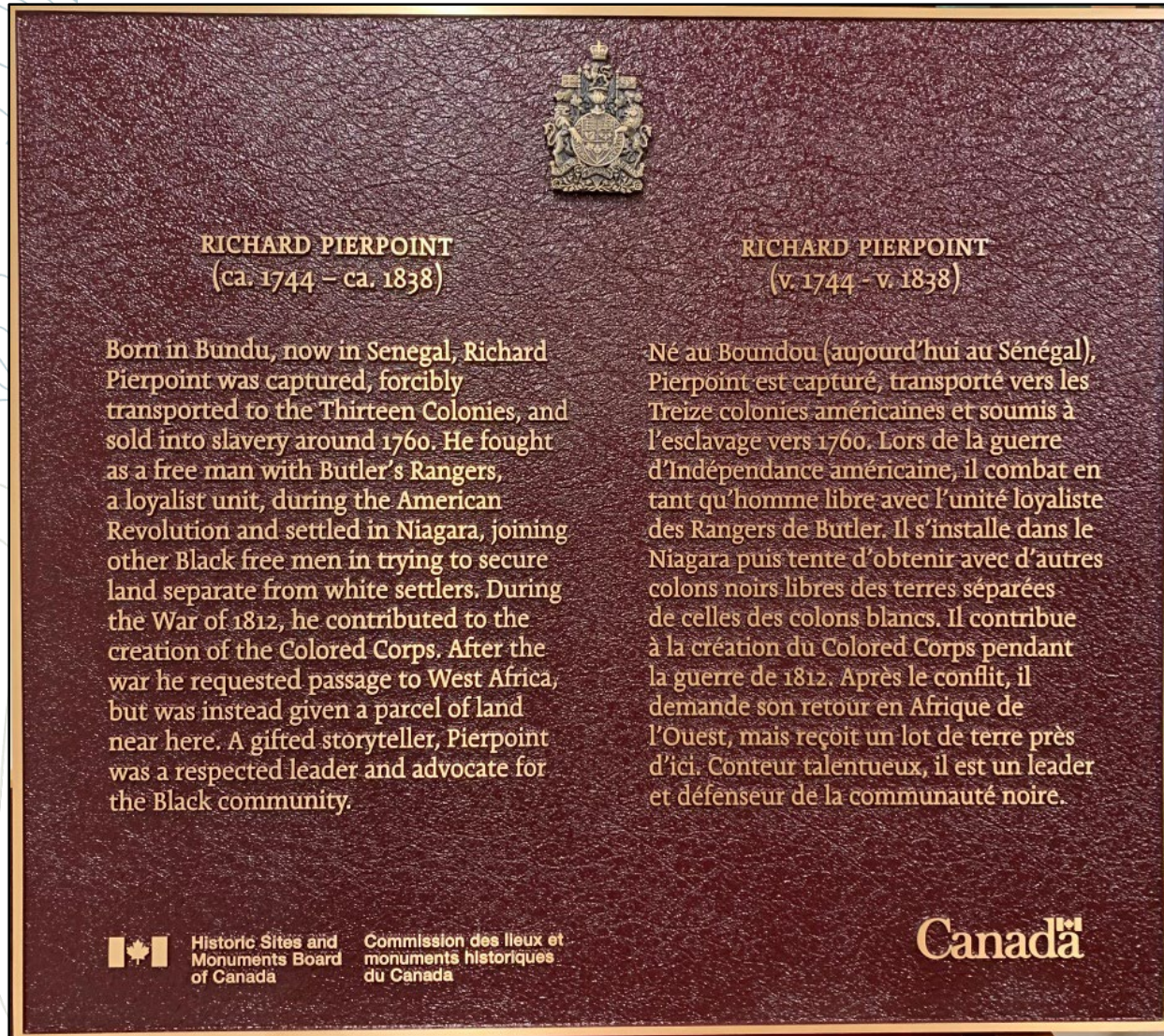
Recommendations and Conclusions



1. Add the section of Richard Pierpoint's property that now encompasses the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve as a **Significant C.H.L.**
2. Develop a **Community Working Group** to advance work associated with the Pierpoint property



National Historic Person Plaque – Parks Canada



RICHARD PIERPOINT
(ca. 1744 – ca. 1838)

Born in Bundu, now in Senegal, Richard Pierpoint was captured, forcibly transported to the Thirteen Colonies, and sold into slavery around 1760. He fought as a free man with Butler's Rangers, a loyalist unit, during the American Revolution and settled in Niagara, joining other Black free men in trying to secure land separate from white settlers. During the War of 1812, he contributed to the creation of the Colored Corps. After the war he requested passage to West Africa, but was instead given a parcel of land near here. A gifted storyteller, Pierpoint was a respected leader and advocate for the Black community.

RICHARD PIERPOINT
(v. 1744 - v. 1838)

Né au Boundou (aujourd'hui au Sénégal), Pierpoint est capturé, transporté vers les Treize colonies américaines et soumis à l'esclavage vers 1760. Lors de la guerre d'Indépendance américaine, il combat en tant qu'homme libre avec l'unité loyaliste des Rangers de Butler. Il s'installe dans le Niagara puis tente d'obtenir avec d'autres colons noirs libres des terres séparées de celles des colons blancs. Il contribue à la création du Colored Corps pendant la guerre de 1812. Après le conflit, il demande son retour en Afrique de l'Ouest, mais reçoit un lot de terre près d'ici. Conteur talentueux, il est un leader et défenseur de la communauté noire.



Historic Sites and
Monuments Board
of Canada

Commission des lieux et
monuments historiques
du Canada

Canada

Located in Pierpoint Fly
Fishing Nature Reserve,
255 Lamond Street,
Fergus



Thank you



Malcolm Jones
Canadian War Museum/1.E.2.4-CGR2



Wang Qijun
The Kids Book of Black Canadian History



Historica Canada &
Christopher Hemsworth Creative



Detail of painting by Meredith Blackmore, 2012
Wellington Museum and Archives, Art 1149



Website:

www.connectcw.ca/CHL

www.connectcw.ca/pierpoint-settlement-research-project

More Information and Resources

Questions

For more information contact:

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