

# *THE CITY OF VAUGHAN*

# *BY-LAW*

## **BY-LAW NUMBER 239-2024**

**A By-law to designate 65 Royalpark Way, in the City of Vaughan, in the Regional Municipality of York, Province of Ontario, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18.**

**WHEREAS** Pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended, the council of a municipality is authorized to enact a by-law to designate real property within the municipality, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

**AND WHEREAS** section 29(1.1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 requires the Council of a municipality to cause notice of intention to designate a property to be given by the Clerk of the municipality;

**AND WHEREAS** the property described in Schedule "A" to this By-Law, municipally known as 65 Royalpark Way is deemed to contain cultural heritage value or interest;

**AND WHEREAS** section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 requires a notice of intent to designate to be served on the Property Owner, on the Ontario Heritage Trust, and to be published in a newspaper;

**AND WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2024 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan caused notice of intention to designate 65 Royalpark Way as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, with the notice served to the Ontario Heritage Trust and to the owners of 65 Royalpark Way.

**AND WHEREAS** section 270 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 requires a municipality to adopt and maintain policies with respect to the specific form and manner of the provision of notices;

**AND WHEREAS** sections 26(4) and 39.1(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 permit a municipality to publish notices in accordance with a policy adopted by the municipality under section 270 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25;

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Vaughan enacted By-law 021-2024 on January 30, 2024 pursuant to section 270 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 which allows for

notice to be provided by way of the City's website;

**AND WHEREAS** on September 18, 2024, the City of Vaughan published a notice of intention to designate 65 Royalpark Way on the City of Vaughan's website in accordance with By-law 021-2024;

**AND WHEREAS** no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served within the thirty-day timeline prescribed by section 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the City of Vaughan ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That pursuant to Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the property located at 65 Royalpark Way (the "Property"), in the City of Vaughan, in the Regional Municipality of York, Province of Ontario, being more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law, shall be and is hereby designated as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. That the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for the Property explaining the reasons the Property is of cultural heritage value or interest is attached hereto in Schedule "B" and forms a part of this By-law.
3. That the City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law and its Schedules to be registered against the title to the Property in the proper land registry office.
4. That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law and its Schedules to be served on the Property Owner and on the Ontario Heritage Trust.
5. That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to publish notice of this By-law on the City of Vaughan's municipal website.

Voted in favour by City of Vaughan Council this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024.

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Steven Del Duca, Mayor

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Todd Coles, City Clerk

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Authorized by Item No. 18 of Report No. 17 of the Committee of the Whole.  
Adopted by Vaughan City Council on May 22, 2024.  
City Council voted in favour of this by-law on December 17, 2024.

**SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 239-2024**

Description of Lands

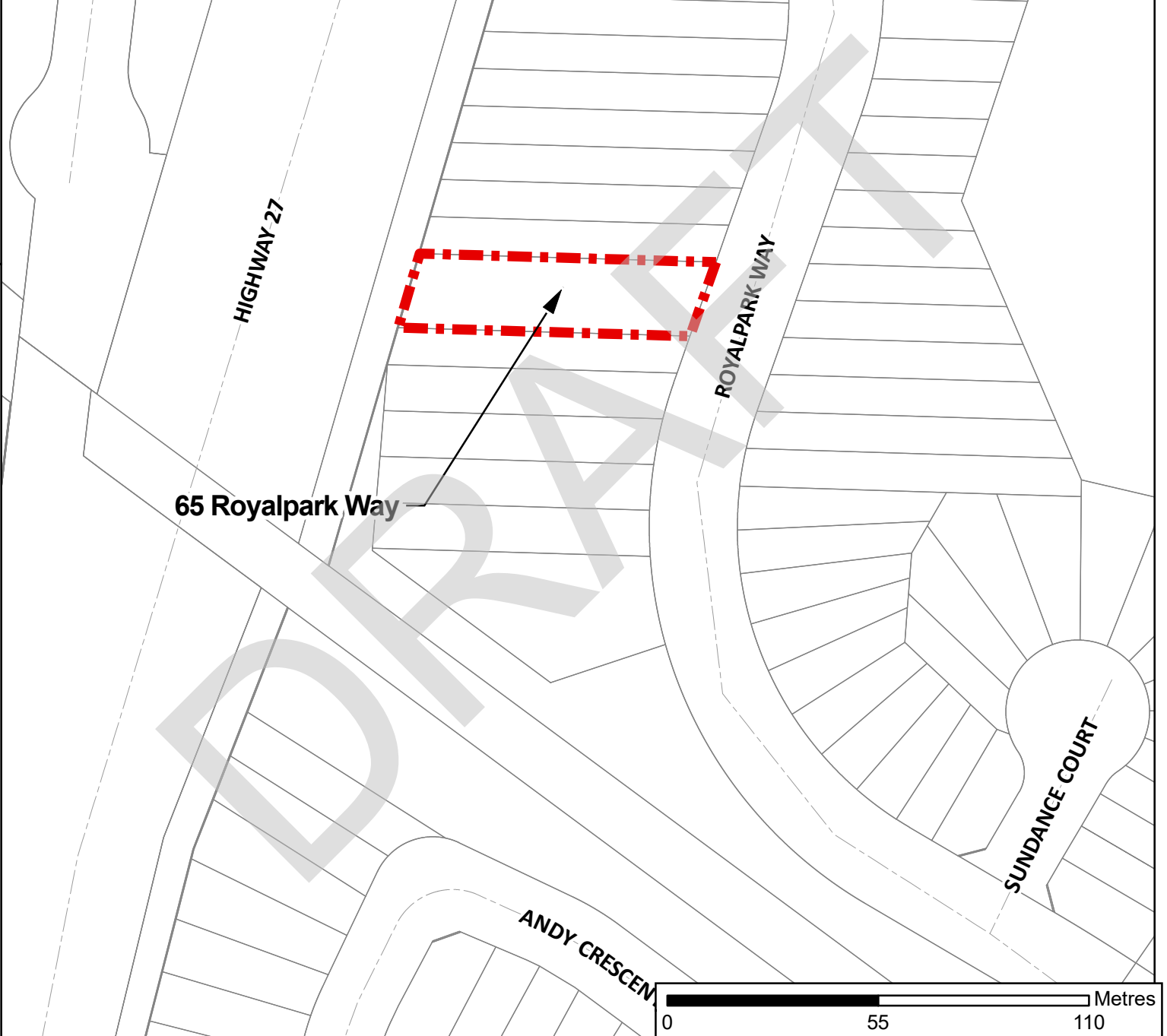
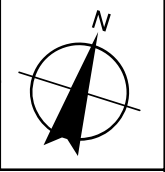
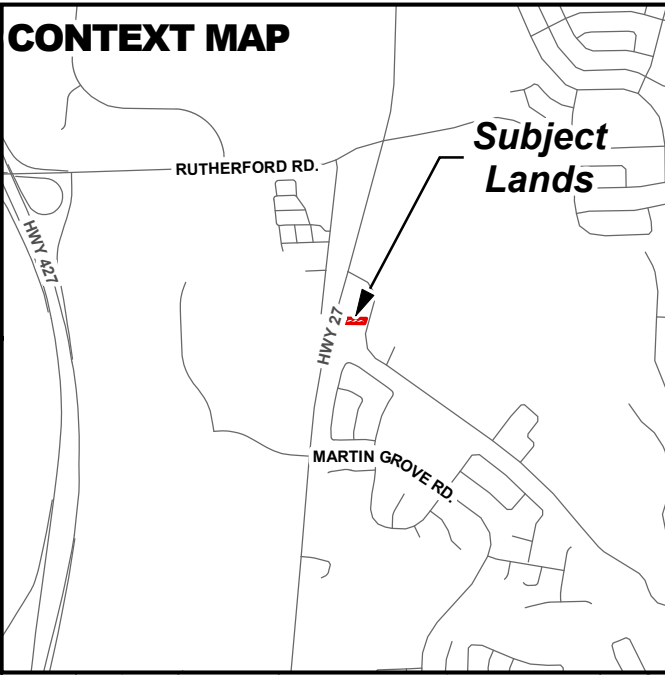
PIN : 03307-1211(LT)

LOT 7 on PLAN 65M3157, VAUGHAN

Municipal Address: 65 Royalpark Way

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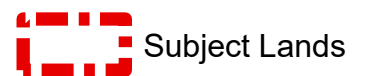
**CONTEXT MAP**



**Location Map  
To By-Law 239-2024**

**Location:** 65 Royalpark Way  
Part of Lot 14, Concession 8

**City of Vaughan**



# **STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE**

## **DESCRIPTION**

Municipal Address: 65 Royalpark Way

Legal Description: LOT 7 on PLAN 65M3157, VAUGHAN

Brief description: 2-Storey Georgian Stone House

## **OVERVIEW**

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 65 Royalpark Way meets the criteria set out by the *Ontario Heritage Act* under Province of Ontario Regulation 9/06 for the categories of design/physical, historical/associative and contextual value.

Name: Andrew McClure House

Date Built: 1859

Location: West side of Royalpark Way and East of Highway 27 and south of Rutherford Rd. in Woodbridge

Condition: good

## **DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE**

Affectionately known as “the Stone Pile”<sup>1</sup>, this 2-storey vernacular Georgian Stone house was built in 1859 by Andrew McClure. It is designed in a “T” shape and has a side-gabled roof and symmetrical arrangement of chimneys, windows and doors on the front façade. The front door has a fan light, which is done in Classical style. Two basement windows appear on both sides of the gabled roof (north and south). A sunroom was added to the east side of the house by Col. William Laurie in the early 1950s. The house is a stunning example of the simple, solid and symmetrical style of Georgian architecture, which was most prominent in Ontario during the 1780s – 1860s<sup>2</sup>.

The stone used to build the house came from an area  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile east of the 9<sup>th</sup> Concession, in a valley on the south side of Elder’s Sideroad<sup>3</sup> in Elder’s Mills (Woodbridge). Photographs from the McClure Family Fonds at the City of Vaughan Archives give us great insight to how the area looked pre-1950s.

Today (2024), the house is part of a sub-division with the east side of the house facing the street entrance and operates as a business.

## **HISTORICAL / ASSOCIATIVE VALUE** **ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

The general area surrounding the subject property does not have any documented potential for archaeological findings, although potential does surround the outskirts of the property.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Box 5, Interviews, McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>2</sup> Ontario Architectural Style Guide, University of Waterloo, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Box 5, McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>4</sup> Arc-GIS, City of Vaughan

## McClure Family (1844-1921)

The Crown patent land for Lot 14 Concession 8 had been awarded to Augustus Jones and transferred through several hands, until Sam Snider purchased and began to sever portions of the property, selling and registering to Andrew McClure in 1842<sup>5</sup>.

McClure had emigrated from County Down, Ireland in 1833 where he joined his uncle John Waugh in Etobicoke. Soon after he purchased and settled on Lot 14 and 15 Concession 8, Woodbridge, becoming one of the first settlers in the area. He became a prominent settler, being a carpenter by trade, he assisted with the building of many grist and sawmills along the Humber River. He married Mary Ann Hamilton in 1836 and had 9 children. Shortly after his marriage, he built the subject property in 1859<sup>6</sup>. McClure's granddaughter, Janey, recalls, "I remember my Grandpa McClure as a rather stern man, but with a soft heart."<sup>7</sup>

The 1851<sup>8</sup> census of Canada West records represent Andrew McClure as a successful farmer, farming both Lots 14 and 15 in Concession 8. With a total acreage of 107, he had 58 ½ acres under cultivation and 44 ½ acres under crop. The garden and orchard were 1 acre, wheat crop under 20 acres, peas under 5 acres, oats under 6 ½ acres, potatoes under 1 acre, and turnips under ½ an acre. He produced hay, tallow, fulled cloth, and flannel. He also had several animals, such as bulls, oxen, steers, milk cows, horses, sheep, and pigs. From the animals he produced butter, cheese, beef and pork. This lifestyle helped to feed his family and have enough to sell at market. The 1861<sup>9</sup> census shows McClure and his family living in a stone house, thus confirming the 1859 build date.

McClure died in 1878 at the age of 65, and his son William inherited the property<sup>10</sup>. William McClure<sup>11</sup> was the eldest child of Andrew and Mary Ann. In 1876 he married Ellen Nesbitt, and the two of them continued the farm. The McClure's loved to entertain and often held Garden Parties, as seen in attachment 2<sup>12</sup>.

## Nattress Family (1921-1940)

It is possible that William McClure had been sick for a while, because he sold the property to William Reid Nattress, who was the husband to his niece<sup>13</sup>, Jane, in 1921 shortly before he died in the same year. Jane was the daughter to Samuel, William's brother, who was also a prominent figure in the development of Woodbridge. William and Jane were married in the parlour room of the McClure home (stone house) on January 31, 1906.<sup>14</sup>

The Nattress family all worked hard and did their part to continue to run the farm. William's daughter, Agnes, recalled in an interview that there was a "small field south of the railway

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<sup>5</sup> Ontario Land Titles, Historic Books; [www.onland.ca](http://www.onland.ca)

<sup>6</sup> Reaman, G. E. (1971). *A History of Vaughan Township: Two centuries of life in the township. Vaughan Township Historical Society*. Pgs. 208, 278

<sup>7</sup> Memories, Box 5, McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>8</sup> 1851 Census of Canada

<sup>9</sup> 1861 Census of Canada (stone house is listed)

<sup>10</sup> McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>11</sup> 1878 Tremaine Map of York

<sup>12</sup> 1886 Garden Party, Lot 14 Con 8, Map Cabinet, McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>13</sup> Vital Statistics, Ancestry- Library Edition; [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) (Vaughan Public Libraries)

<sup>14</sup> Memories, Box 5, McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives

tracks; it was triangular in shape with the long side lying on the north fence line.... Some years later a train wreck upset a car of acid onto the field. For many years nothing grew where the acid had soaked in the soil.”<sup>15</sup>

William and Jane’s daughter, Jennie “Janey”, recalled in an interview in 1991 how “the Stone Pile, or our stone house, was built by the McClure side of the family and was quite large and very cold in the winter. Water would freeze in our bedrooms; there wasn’t a furnace until later...There was no electricity, no water on tap, no bathrooms inside and no hospital bed”<sup>16</sup>.

## **The Lauries**

Colonel William Little Laurie and his wife Charlotte Francis (Valentine) Laurie purchased the property in 1946 off Audrey A Williams (who had only owned the property for two years). William was a decorated man of service, having served in both World Wars, and he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.<sup>17</sup>

Sometime around the late 1940s to early 1950s, Laurie had a sunroom installed to the east portion of the house. Several photographs<sup>18</sup> of the stone house were in the McClure Family Fonds, providing many angles of the house and what it looked like in the early 1950s (attachment 4).

## **CONTEXTUAL VALUE**

The property located at Con 8 Lot 14, Woodbridge, is one of the earliest, stone residential structures in Vaughan in its original location. It is a stark reminder of what once existed surrounding the sub-division it has now had built around it.

From where the house is situated, it likely had a pleasant view looking out in every direction. For over a century the property was used as a farm and contextually relates to the agricultural history and colonial settlement of Vaughan. Knowing the history of who lived in the house helps to generate an understanding of the life this property lived and continues to live. From its humble beginnings of a pioneering settler family, clearing land and starting to grow crops and raise animals, to providing shelter, life and memories to several families, many of whom were prominent individuals in the settlement of Elder’s Mills and Woodbridge itself.

The house and property gave space for birth, death and marriage. It held joyous family gatherings and garden parties. It had great success in farming and then destruction and hardship, but the people of the property prevailed and kept it going, and now the stone house is still standing today, a reminder of what once was.

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<sup>15</sup> Agnes Agar, Memories, Box 5, McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>16</sup> Memories, Box 5, McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>17</sup> Learn more about Colonel Laurie and his military achievements [Laurie, William Little - RCSigs.ca](http://Laurie, William Little - RCSigs.ca)

<sup>18</sup> Laurie Stone House Photos, McClure Family Fonds, City of Vaughan Archives



## **SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE**

### **Physical/Design Value**

- Pre-Confederation construction; built in 1859.
- A rare, surviving stone-clad vernacular Georgian House
- Side gabled roof
- Symmetrical arrangement
- Small paned windows, 6 over 6
- Centred, plain, single door with a transom and decorative, single paned windows outlining it, as well as an unusual fanlight in the Classical style.
- Intricate brickwork above doorframe

### **Historical/Associative/Contextual Value**

- connection to specific historic settler families such as the McClures
- Over a century of the property staying within the same family
- the subject property reflects some of the earliest settler architecture and siting, giving insight into settler practices.
- the subject property is contextually linked to Vaughan's agricultural history from initial settlement and land clearing, early 19<sup>th</sup> farming practices.