

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LINCOLN

BY-LAW NO. 2026-26

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE GRAND OAK TREE
LOCATED ON THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY
AS 4600 VICTORIA AVENUE, IN THE TOWN OF
LINCOLN, AS BEING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE
OR INTEREST PURSUANT TO THE ONTARIO HERITAGE
ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER. O. 18.

WHEREAS:

1. Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O, 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, authorizes the Council of the municipality to enact by-laws to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and
2. In order for a municipality to designate a property under Section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, it must be demonstrated that a property meets two or more of the criteria as prescribed under Ontario Regulation 9/06; and
3. The Grand Oak Tree located at 4600 Victoria Avenue was evaluated against said criteria, and it was determined that it has cultural heritage value or interest; and
4. The Town of Lincoln Committee of the Whole approved Report PD-06-26: Notice of Intention to Designate – 4600 Victoria Avenue, Vineland, on February 23, 2026; and
5. The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln has caused to be served on the owner of the lands and premises known as 4600 Victoria Avenue, in the Town of Lincoln, in the Province of Ontario, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the Grimsby/Lincoln NewsNow, newspaper having general circulation within the municipality in their publication of March 12, 2026; and
6. No notice of objection to the proposed designation was served to the Clerk of the Town of Lincoln; and
7. The reasons for the designation being the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest as set out in Appendix "B" hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF LINCOLN ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. To designate under the authority of Section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, as being of cultural heritage value or interest, the property known as 4600 Victoria Avenue, in the Town of Lincoln, in the Province of Ontario, more particularly described in Appendix "A" hereto.
2. That a copy of the Designating By-law shall be registered against the property affected in the proper land registry office.
3. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the owner of the lands described in Appendix "A" hereto and on the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper with general circulation within the municipality.
4. That the Town of Lincoln reserves the right to install a designated property plaque or interpretative panel.

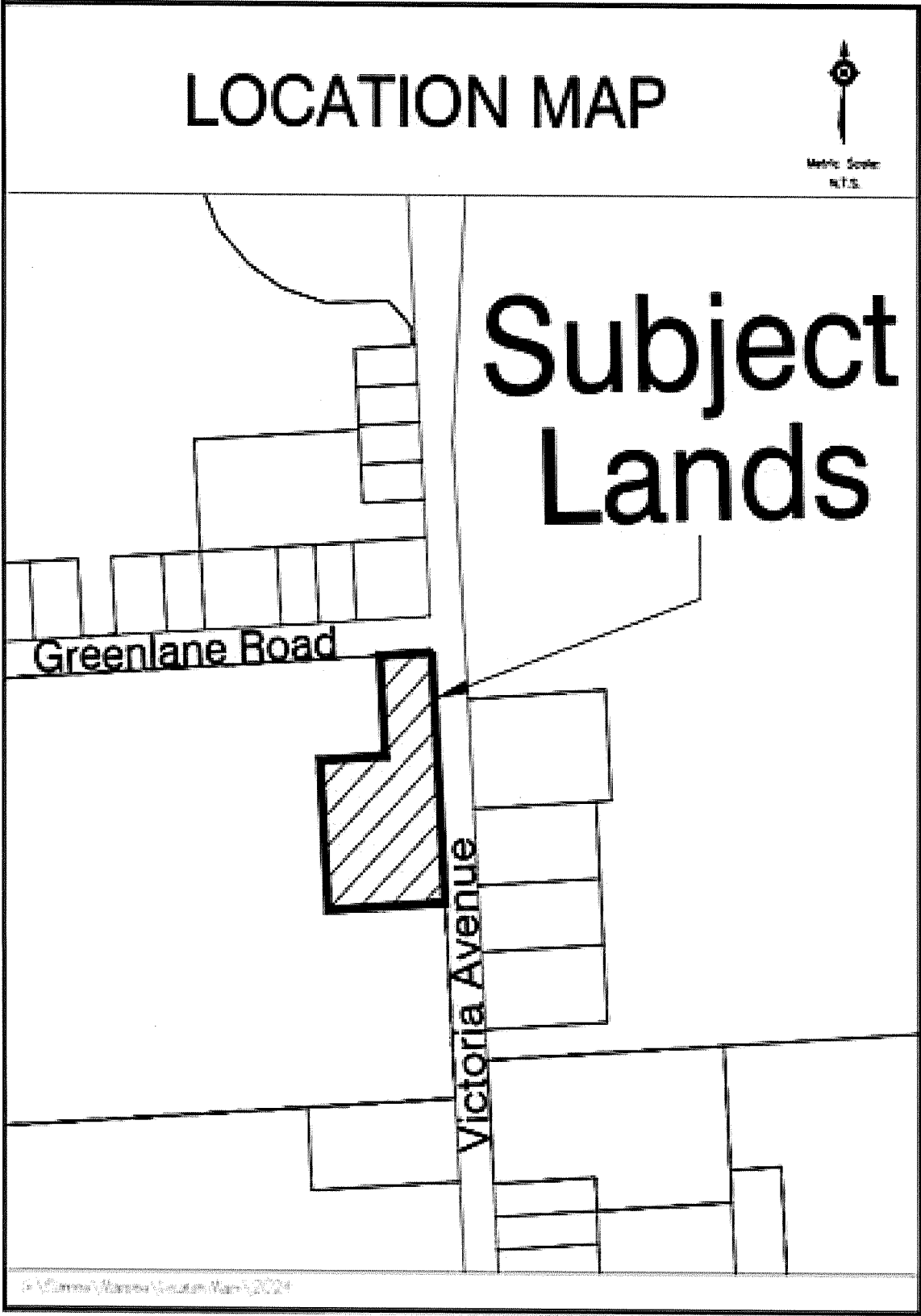
5. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its final passing.

PASSED AND ENACTED on the 13th day of April 2026.


MAYOR: SANDRA EASTON


CLERK: JULIE KIRKELOS

4600 Victoria Avenue, Concession 2, Part Lot 1, RP 30R7878; Part 1, Clinton, in the Town of Lincoln.



Description of Property

The Grand Oak tree is a mature white oak (*Quercus alba*) located at the northeast corner of the property municipally known as 4600 Victoria Avenue, at the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Greenlane Road in Vineland Station, Town of Lincoln. The tree stands within a lawn area adjacent to a two-story commercial building and parking lot, with its northern crown extending toward the Greenlane right-of-way. It has a trunk diameter of approximately 160.5 cm at breast height, a crown width of about 26 metres, and a trunk base measuring roughly 3 metres in diameter. The tree exhibits good trunk integrity, crown structure, and vitality, with minor issues such as exposed roots, bark scuffs, and occasional broken branches noted during inspection.

The Grand Oak tree holds physical, historical, associative, and contextual value as an increasingly rare example of old-growth white oak (*Quercus alba*) in southern Ontario. While white oak is a common species, centuries of deforestation within its Eco-district have rendered mature specimens of this stature increasingly rare. Based on its size and comparison to similar Ontario specimens, the Grand Oak is estimated to be 300 to 450 years old, making it one of the oldest documented white oaks in the region.

Historical Value

The Grand Oak possesses historical and associative value through its connection to both Indigenous presence and early Mennonite settlement. Likely germinating between 1575 and 1725, the tree predates colonial settlement and stands as a living witness to the region's layered history. Its lifespan encompasses a period of Indigenous stewardship and diplomacy, followed by the establishment of the historical "Twenty" Mennonite settlement in 1799. The tree is historically linked to land originally patented in 1803 and held by the Culp family, prominent Mennonite settlers who shaped the agricultural and cultural development of the community.

Physical Value

The tree's physical value is reinforced by its striking appearance and majestic form. Its survival offers insight into pre-settlement forest conditions, species longevity, and ecological resilience within the Lake Erie–Lake Ontario Ecoregion (Eco-district 7E-3 Grimsby).

Contextual Value

The tree's contextual value lies in its contribution to the character of the historical "Twenty" settlement and its role as a remnant of the Carolinian forest ecosystem that once dominated the region. Despite centuries of land use change including deforestation, agriculture, and infrastructure expansion, the Grand Oak remains a visual and ecological anchor within its original context.

Its stature and prominent location at Victoria Avenue and Greenlane Road make it a recognizable landmark in Vineland. Through its exceptional age, rarity, and enduring presence, the Grand Oak tree embodies the natural and cultural heritage of the region, offering a tangible link to both Indigenous and settler histories and contributing to an understanding of ecological and cultural continuity in southern Ontario.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Heritage attributes include the following:

- Botanical identity as white oak (*Quercus alba*)
- Trunk diameter of (at least) 160.5 cm, crown width of 26 meters, and trunk base of 3 meters
- Majestic form and aesthetically striking appearance
- Physical presence as a remnant of the Carolinian forest ecosystem
- Prominent location at Victoria Avenue and Greenlane Road