



MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES PLANNING SERVICES

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Municipal Heritage Register – Information Letter

What is the Municipal Heritage Register?

The Municipal Heritage Register is the official list or record of cultural heritage properties that have been identified as being important to the community. Prior to 2005, only designated heritage buildings were recorded on the register. In 2005, the *Ontario Heritage Act* was amended by the Province to allow properties that have not been designated, but that Municipal Council believes to be a cultural heritage value or interest, to be placed on the register. Non-designated properties added to the Municipal Heritage Register are referred to as “listed properties.”

Why has the Municipality of Chatham-Kent compiled a Heritage Register?

Municipalities have a responsibility to identify, evaluate and conserve cultural heritage resources that have lasting cultural heritage value or interest in their community. Listing a property of cultural heritage value or interest is the very first step a municipality should take in the identification and evaluation of a property that may warrant some form of heritage conservation, recognition and/or long term protection. Such listing will provide accessible information about the cultural heritage value of properties for property owners, land use planners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public.

What is the Municipality of Chatham-Kent’s Role in Heritage Conservation?

Municipalities have the responsibility to identify, evaluate and conserve resources that have lasting cultural heritage value or interest in their community. “Listing” property is the very first step a municipality should take in the identification and evaluation of a property that *may* warrant some form of heritage conservation, recognition and/or long term protection. Heritage Conservation is supported by:

- The Community Strategic Plan which includes the goal to “Develop a comprehensive inventory of heritage, arts, and cultural organizations, facilities, sites and landscapes.”
- The Chatham-Kent Official Plan which includes an Objective to “Encourage the documentation, display, interpretation and celebration of the Municipality’s cultural heritage.”

What is the Impact of Having my Property Listed on the Municipal Heritage Register?

Listing properties on the Municipal Heritage Register is an administrative process rather than a legal process. It serves to formally identify that certain properties are of cultural heritage value or interest to the Municipality.

A listed property on the Municipal Heritage Register **does not:**

- Involve any kind of Heritage Permit process through Heritage Chatham-Kent or Council
- Include additional obligations for a property owner before proceeding with renovations, additions or the type of building materials used
- Have any restrictions or covenants registered on title
- Provide any protection under the *Ontario Heritage Act*
- Necessarily lead to designation

A listed property on the Municipal Heritage Register **does:**

- Increase the amount of time municipalities have to process demolition applications made under the Ontario Building Code to up to 60 days to provide sufficient time to evaluate whether the property merits some form of protection, such as designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, which is subject to a separate formal legal process.

How are Properties Evaluated?

Heritage Chatham-Kent (Municipal Heritage Committee) has prepared a list of properties that meet the evaluation criteria for listing a property that is of cultural heritage value or interest. Heritage properties are evaluated for inclusion on a Municipal Heritage Register using a set of criteria that measures architectural, contextual and historical significance.

How are Properties added to the Municipal Heritage Register?

All properties identified by Heritage Chatham-Kent to be included on the Municipal Heritage Register must be approved by Council. All affected property owners will be consulted and notified by letter before the property is presented to Chatham-Kent Council for approval.

What if I disagree with the information provided for my property on the Municipal Heritage Register or just object to the property being included?

A Municipality is not required to consult with property owners or the public to list non-designated properties in the Register. However, Heritage Chatham-Kent and Planning Services feel that this is an important step in undertaking the exercise.

A questionnaire will be sent to all property owners identified by Heritage Chatham-Kent for addition to the Municipal Heritage Register in order to receive feedback, identify errors and to record objections. In addition, an Open House will be held in the fall of 2009, at a public place, to discuss any questions or concerns citizens may have.

All objections raised by property owners will be summarized and provided to Council prior to any decision to include a Non-Designated Property on the Municipal Heritage Register.

Where can I find more Information?

Heritage Chatham-Kent Website:

<http://www.chathamkent.ca/business+resources/building+and+development/development/heritage+chatham-kent/Heritage+Chatham-Kent.htm>

Ministry of Culture Website:

<http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/index.html>