

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Community Development

Planning Services

Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Ryan Jacques, Planner
Planning Services
Date: January 24, 2018
Subject: Municipal Heritage Committee - 2017 Annual Report

This report is for the information of Council.

Background

The Municipal Heritage Committee advises and assists Council on matters relating to Part IV and Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and other heritage matters as Council may specify.

Comments

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Municipal Heritage Committee have prepared a report outlining its 2017 activities and its goals for 2018. A copy of the 2017 Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report is attached as Appendix A.

Consultation

No other departments were consulted.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

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Attachment: Appendix A – Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report 2017

C Municipal Heritage Committee

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Chatham-Kent Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report 2017



Heritage Chatham-Kent
Municipal Heritage Committee



Chatham-Kent
Cultivating Growth, Shore to Shore

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Heritage Conservation in Ontario

Our inheritance of architecture and cultural and natural landscapes is an important and irreplaceable asset and resource. The conservation of these resources is fundamental to creating community pride and identity, and attracting new residents and tourism, all of which have important economic impacts on our community. As well, the benefits from the conservation of our heritage architecture, and cultural and natural landscapes occur not only to the present generation but also to generations in the future. The immediacy of such conservation and heritage planning comes from the fact that, unfortunately, what is not saved and preserved today cannot be saved and preserved tomorrow.

In Ontario, the task of conserving this inheritance of historically, architecturally, and/or contextually significant properties is primarily a municipal responsibility. The *Ontario Heritage Act* provides a framework within which municipalities can act to ensure the conservation of these properties.

Role of Municipal Council

Under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, Council is empowered to:

- Add individual properties to the Municipal Heritage Property Register
- Designate individual property by by-law
- Amend a designating by-law
- Repeal a designating by-law
- Issue or refuse permits to alter a designated property
- Issue or refuse permits to demolish a designated property
- Purchase or lease individually designated property
- Expropriate designated property
- Enter into easements and covenants with designated property owners
- Provide grants and loans to designated property owners
- Designate districts or areas
- Initiate a prosecution for failure to comply with a designation by-law and the Act

Role of Municipal Heritage Committee

Under Section 28 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, a council of a municipality is authorized to establish, through by-law, one Municipal Heritage Committee that is made up of five (5) or more people.

The Municipal Heritage Committee, as an advisory committee of council, is representative of the community and, is recognized as the legitimate vehicle for co-ordinating and conveying community concerns. It therefore plays an important role by enabling the community to participate more directly in the decision-

making process. In general, the role of a Municipal Heritage Committee is a dual responsibility.

Committee Membership

Committee members are Dave Benson, Brad Eagen, Lisa Gilbert, Marion Matt, Joe Nagle, Patricia Pook, Susan Simpson, Katharine Smyth, Lindsay Swackhammer, John Taylor (Chair), Ron Vanrabaeyns, Chris Williams, and Ward 6 Councillor Michael Bondy.



Heritage Chatham-Kent

Municipal Heritage Committee

Statutory Role of Municipal Heritage Committee

Chatham-Kent Council is required under the Ontario Heritage Act, to consult with the Municipal Heritage Committee during the designation and/or repeal of designation process for individual properties or districts and on applications to demolish and/or remove structures from, or otherwise alter designated properties. Council must also consult the Municipal Heritage Committee prior to entering into any easements or covenants pertaining to designated properties.

Non-Statutory Role of Municipal Heritage Committee

The Municipal Heritage Committee is to:

Be a resource for Municipal Council when considering projects that may have heritage resources involved.

Work to educate individual property owners and the community as a whole on the heritage resources within the community.

Work with other local Heritage Groups and Affiliates in the preservation of heritage properties and landscapes.

Undertake community recognition for architectural preservation through sponsorship of plaquing initiatives, awards for restorations and best practices renovations, etc.

Advise on municipally, provincially, and federally-owned heritage properties and sites.

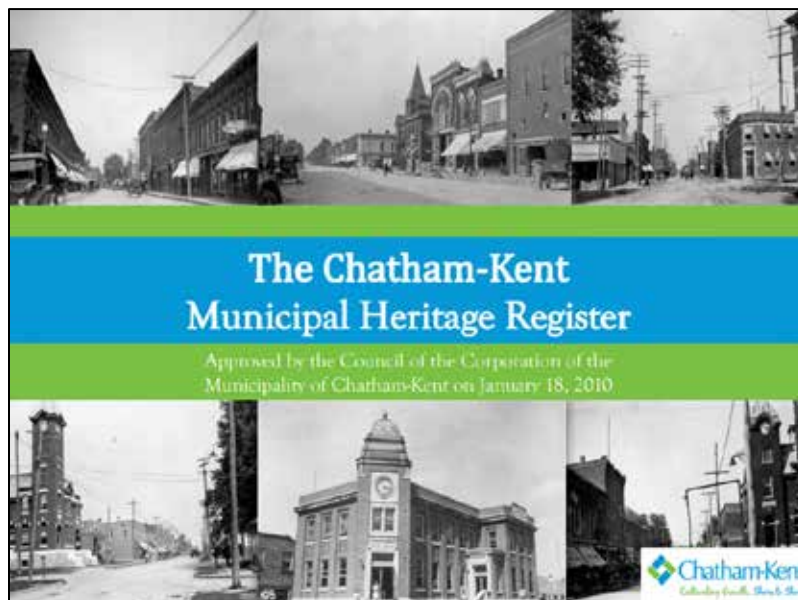
Advise on amendments to the Official Plan and Heritage Property Tax Relief Program.

Activities of the Municipal Heritage Committee

Statutory activities of the Municipal Heritage Committee

Municipal Heritage Property Register

Section 27 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* requires the clerk of every local municipality to keep a current, publicly accessible Municipal Register of properties of cultural heritage value or interest situated in the municipality. Prior to 2005, this Register would have included only individual properties formally designated under Part IV and districts designated under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. 2005 changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* have had the effect of conferring broader authority to Council. This allows municipalities to add properties to the Register that have not been designated, but which Council believes to be of cultural heritage value or interest. These properties are referred to as being “listed”.



On January 18, 2010, Council approved the first Chatham-Kent Municipal Heritage Register and directed the Municipal Heritage Committee to continue to work with owners of properties of cultural heritage significance, to ensure their conservation in a manner that respects both public and private interests.

There are 81 properties designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in Chatham-Kent.

Ontario Heritage Act Activity in 2017

- Ø The Committee prepared Designation Reports for 317 Queen Street, Chatham.
- Ø The Committee prepared Designation Reports for 14240 Talbot Trail, Orford.
- Ø The Committee considered an application to repeal Designation By-law 130-2012.

Non-Statutory Activities of the Municipal Heritage Committee

Heritage Property Tax Relief Program

Well-maintained heritage properties enrich our quality of life and give communities their unique character and sense of place. Throughout Ontario, conserving heritage properties has helped revitalize historic town centres and attract residents, businesses and visitors to communities. Although heritage properties provide benefit and enjoyment to the whole community, most of these properties are privately owned. Due to the higher cost involved maintaining these heritage features versus a newer building, many owners have asked the Province and Municipalities for incentives.

On September 12, 2011, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent passed a by-law to adopt the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program. This program provides a tax incentive to owners to make regular investments in the ongoing conservation of their heritage properties. With continuous care and maintenance, major restoration projects and their high costs can often be avoided.

There are currently 39 properties enrolled in the program. Tax Relief payments are funded from a municipal base budget allocation of \$87,762.

2018 Heritage Property Calendar

As part of its non-statutory role to, “work to educate individual property owners and the community as a whole on the heritage resources within the community,” the Committee has produced a 2018 wall calendar featuring Chatham-Kent properties.

The calendar was sold at Municipal Centres at a cost of \$10.00 (incl. HST).

A local group called The Viewfinders is responsible for the photography. Members of The Viewfinders involved in this project are Chad Barry, Keith Blackwell, Mike Blazek, Vince Gagnier, Chris Jorgensen, Larry Kearns, Les McCracken, Dave Noordhoff, Carson Plant, Jim Pollock, Gavin Stuart, Clarke Warner; and guest, Hans Mulder.

The calendar features the following 14 properties, covering the months spanning December 2017 to January 2019:

| Address | Community | Historic/Modern Name | OHA Designation By-law |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 143 William Street South | Chatham | Avenel | 8563 (Chatham) |
| 9 Victoria Street | Thamesville | B's Hive | 84-2011 |
| 7725 Eighth Line | Raleigh Township | Jordan House | 48-2007 |
| 20 Canal Street West | Tilbury | Lanoue Log Cabin | 128-2009 |
| 12591 Talbot Trail | Morpeth | McCollum-Hawkins-Wade House | 46-2007 |
| 2 King Street West | Chatham | Merrill Hotel/Retro Suites | 194-2011 |
| 12561 Ridge Street | Morpeth | Morpeth United Church | 126-2005 |
| 20226 A.D. Shadd Road | North Buxton/Raleigh Township | North Buxton Train Station | 92-2015 |
| 21975 A.D. Shadd Road | North Buxton/Raleigh Township | Colbert-Henderson Cabin at Buxton National Historic Site Museum | 267-2008 |
| 14226 Talbot Trail | Palmyra/Orford Township | Crazy 8 Barn | 143-2014 |
| 383-395 King Street West | Chatham | Riverside Terrace | 198-2011 |

| Address | Community | Historic/Modern Name | OHA Designation By-law |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 514 Peter Street | Bothwell | St. Ignatius Church | 533-90 (Bothwell) |
| 14242 Talbot Trail | Palmyra/Orford Township | Talbot Trail House | <i>Proposed</i> |
| 138 King Street West | Chatham | Victoria Block | 24-2015 |

Mayor's Heritage Preservation Awards

In 2004, Chatham-Kent Council approved the establishment of the Mayor's Heritage Preservation Awards in order to:

- Publicly recognize acts of good property stewardship
- Educate the public on best practices of heritage preservation, restoration, and renovation
- Ultimately encourage increased heritage stewardship
- Raise the profile of the community's heritage assets in general, both within Chatham-Kent and among visitors/tourists
- Raise the profile of Heritage Chatham-Kent and the role that this committee plays in the community

The awards are intended to reward property owners that demonstrate 'best practice' preservation, restoration, or renovation work on their heritage properties. The properties themselves do not need to be designated or be of historical importance as the purpose of the awards is to encourage a methodology that can apply to any older building or property. The Mayor's Heritage Preservation Awards did not take place in 2017. The Heritage Committee decided the program will be revisited in 2018.

Community Engagement and Non-statutory Activities 2017

- Ø Committee members continued to conduct research on several significant Chatham-Kent properties.
- Ø The Committee has produced a 2018 wall calendar featuring Chatham-Kent properties.
- Ø The Committee reviewed the now-defeated federal Bill C-323 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Rehabilitation of Historic Property). It was

proposed to create tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic properties.

- ∅ The Committee considered proposed amendments to the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program By-law.
- ∅ The Committee began work on a new and updated heritage preservation information pamphlet.
- ∅ The Committee arranged for MPP Rick Nicholls to make a Members' Statement in the Ontario Legislature.

Goals of the Municipal Heritage Committee in 2018

1. The Committee will consider organizing the 14th Mayor's Heritage Preservation Awards.
2. Finalize and distribute a new heritage property information pamphlet.
3. Contribute one article to Community Heritage Ontario's *CHOnews* publication. Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) is a provincial umbrella organization and advisory body for Municipal Heritage Committees.
4. The Committee will continue to advise designated and other heritage property owners in best practice restoration and preservation of their cultural landscapes and architecture as requested.
5. Prepare a heritage education package for the incoming Council (2018-2022).
6. Attempt to complete the back-log of waiting additions to the Chatham-Kent Municipal Heritage Register.
7. Prepare two property designation reports.
8. Consider producing a 2019 Heritage Property Calendar.
9. Represent the Committee at a heritage related conference.
10. Prepare a list of local tradespeople and companies who specialize in built heritage.
11. Consider reviving the plaquing program.
12. Continue to focus on educational & outreach opportunities in the community.

Proposed 2018 Municipal Heritage Committee Budget

The chart below illustrates a breakdown of the Municipal Heritage Committee's 2018 budget for submission to Council. A \$7,508 base budget allocation was approved for the Municipal Heritage Committee in 2018.

| Expense | Allocated Budget \$ |
|--|----------------------------|
| Car Allowance & Local Mileage | \$2,000 |
| Conference/Seminars/Training-Development | \$708 |
| Project Costs | \$2,100 |
| Meeting Expenses | \$2,500 |
| Membership/Affiliation Fees | \$200 |
| Total | \$7,508 |