

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

**Community Development**

**Planning Services**

**Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Anthony Jas  
Planner I, Planning Services

**Date:** January 21, 2020

**Subject:** Municipal Heritage Committee - 2019 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 2019 activities. A copy of the 2019 Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report is attached as Appendix A.

**Consultation**

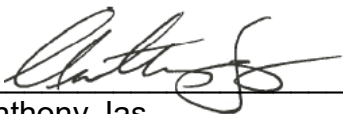
No other departments were consulted.

**Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:



Anthony Jas  
Planner I, Planning Services



Ryan Jacques, MCIP, RPP  
Manager, Planning Services

Reviewed By:

Reviewed By:



Bruce McAllister, MCIP, RPP  
Director, Planning Services



John Norton  
General Manager  
Community Development

Attachment: Appendix A – Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report 2019

C Municipal Heritage Committee

P:\RTC\Community Development\2020\Planning Services\Mar 2-2020 Municipal Heritage Committee 2019 Annual Report.docx

**Chatham-Kent  
Municipal Heritage Committee  
Annual Report 2019**



*Heritage Chatham-Kent*  

---

*Municipal Heritage Committee*



## Contents

Chatham-Kent	1
Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report 2019	1
Heritage Conservation in Ontario	3
Role of Municipal Council	3
Role of Municipal Heritage Committee	3
Committee Membership	4
Statutory Role of Municipal Heritage Committee	4
Non-Statutory Role of Municipal Heritage Committee	4
Activities of the Municipal Heritage Committee	5
Statutory activities of the Municipal Heritage Committee	5
Non-Statutory Activities of the Municipal Heritage Committee	7
<i>Heritage Property Tax Relief Program</i>	7
Community Engagement and Non-statutory Activities 2019	7
Goals of the Municipal Heritage Committee in 2019	9
Proposed 2020 Municipal Heritage Committee Budget	9

## **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

The 2019 – 2022 Municipal Heritage Committee was appointed following the Municipal Election in 2018. Committee Members are Dave Benson, Gerri Delannoy, Lisa Gilbert, James Griffin, Patricia Pook, Melanie Simpson, Susan Simpson, Katharine Smyth, Loretta Storey, John Taylor, Ron Vanrabaey, Chris Williams (Chair), and Councillor John Wright.



## *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.

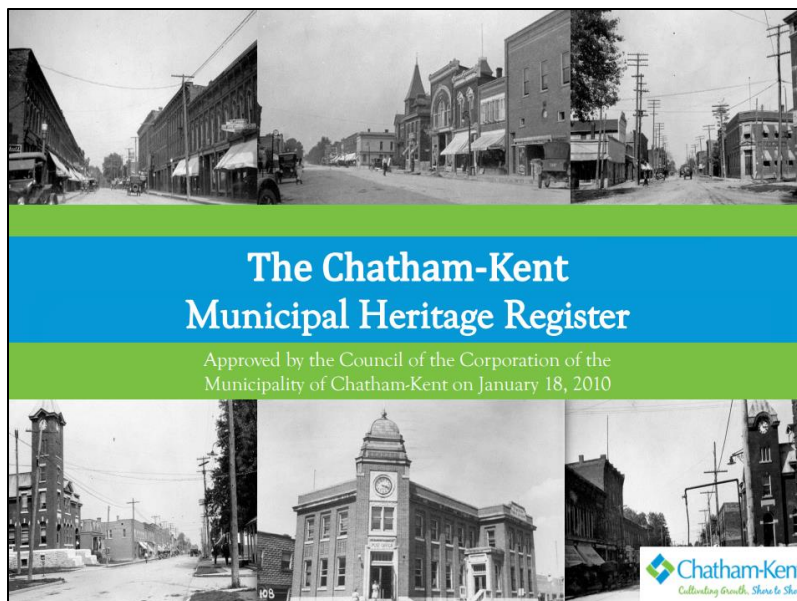
Advise on amendments to the Official Plan and Heritage Property Tax Relief Program.

## **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*. In 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 83 properties designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in Chatham-Kent.

## *Ontario Heritage Act Activity in 2019*

- The Committee prepared Designation Reports for properties whose owners requested designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. These properties include:

- 8800 Talbot Trail, Community of Harwich (Sicklesteel-Newkirk-Thompson Inn)
- 9388 Cedar Hedge Line, Community of Chatham-Township (Prince Albert Church)
- 30 Ellwood Avenue, Community of Chatham (City)

The associated recommendations for the Intention to Designate and passing of a by-law for Sicklesteel-Newkirk-Thompson Inn and Prince Albert Church were approved by Council. It is expected that 30 Ellwood Avenue will be considered by Council in 2020.

- The Committee prepared a Designation Report for the Ridge House Museum property known municipally as 53 Erie Street South, Community of Ridgetown. This is a municipally-owned property that was designated by By-law 83-35 under the *Act* in 1983. The intent of the Designation Report is to amend the Designation By-law to bring it into conformity with the requirements of the *Act*. It is expected that this report will be considered by Council in 2020.
- The Committee considered two separate proposals to remove properties from the Chatham-Kent Municipal Heritage Register, to facilitate the removal of existing structures from these properties. The Committee provided advice to Council which included:
  - Bringing forward a Designation Report for 595 Wallace Street, Community of Wallaceburg, to demonstrate that this property warrants further evaluation of its historical, architectural and contextual significance prior to removal from the Municipal Heritage Register.
  - Supporting the removal of the property known as 68 London Road, in Community of Thamesville, from the Municipal Heritage Register, due to its current dilapidated state and concern for public safety.



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

### Community Engagement and Non-statutory Activities 2019

- The Committee initiated their “New Heritage Home Owners Gift Basket” initiative which is to welcome new homeowners of designated heritage properties in Chatham-Kent with the presentation of a gift basket that includes locally grown and produced foods, information on the local community, and information about owning a designated property. In 2019, the Committee presented welcome packages to the new owners of:
  - 90 Park Street, Community of Chatham (City)
  - 495 King Street West, Community of Chatham (City)
  - 8296 Starkweather Line, Community of Chatham Township

The Committee followed each presentation with a media release to recognize the event and to further promote heritage in Chatham-Kent.

- A Municipal Heritage Committee member attended the 2019 Ontario Heritage Conference held in Bluewater and Goderich Ontario from May 30 – June 1, 2019. The conference theme was heritage economics and featured a program focused on how the agricultural, marine, industrial, and tourist economics in Bluewater and Goderich has shaped the built and natural

heritage of their communities, and the interplay between heritage and tourism.

- The Committee welcomed two presentations over the course of the year that were intended to build connections in the Chatham-Kent community and further promote Heritage in Chatham-Kent. The presenters included:
  - Municipality of Chatham-Kent Tourism Development – representatives from Tourism Development addressed the Committee and reviewed the key focus areas for tourism in CK.
  - Howard Mutual Insurance – a representative attended a meeting as a question and answer session relating to insuring designated properties.
- The Committee attended the Chatham-Kent Association of Realtors – Annual Board Meeting in December 2019. Members set up a display booth that included pictures of heritage home sales in Chatham-Kent and provided attendees with general information regarding heritage properties.



## Goals of the Municipal Heritage Committee in 2020

### 1. Mayor's Heritage Preservation Awards

The Committee will be working to bring back the Mayor's Heritage Preservation Awards in the second year of the term. An effort will be made to hold the event during Heritage Week and in conjunction with Heritage Day. The event recognizes owners of properties who have undertaken considerable effort in preserving the historical significance of their properties for the benefit of the Chatham-Kent community.

### 2. New Heritage Home Owners Gift Basket

The Committee will continue to welcome new owners of designated properties in Chatham-Kent with a gift basket containing local product and information. There were three baskets presented in 2019 and two that will be presented in early 2020.

### 3. The Committee will continue their work on an update of the Municipal Heritage Register. Part of this work will include reviewing the current Register and identifying properties that should be included in the next update.

### 4. The Committee will continue to advise heritage property owners in best practice restoration and preservation of their cultural landscapes and architecture as requested.

## Proposed 2020 Municipal Heritage Committee Budget

The chart below illustrates a breakdown of the Municipal Heritage Committee's 2020 budget for submission to Council. A \$7,508 base budget allocation is subject to approval of the 2020 Municipal Budget.

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