

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Community Development

Planning Services

Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Anthony Jas
Planner I, Planning Services

Date: April 14, 2021

Subject: Municipal Heritage Committee - 2020 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 (MHC) has prepared a report outlining its 2020 activities. A copy of the 2020 Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report is attached as Appendix A.

It should be noted that 2020 presented challenges for the MHC to convene regular meetings due to the COVID-19 Emergency declaration. However, following Council's passage of By-law 30-2020, that amended the Procedural By-law to permit electronic meetings for Council, Local Boards and Committees, the MHC convened six (6) times to fulfil their role in advising Council on Ontario Heritage Act matters and to continue work on promoting heritage in Chatham-Kent. The Annual Report outlines the work and accomplishments of the MHC over this past year.

Consultation

No other departments were consulted.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Prepared by:



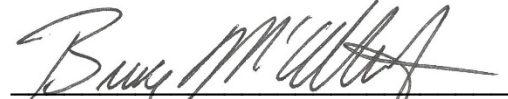
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Attachment: Appendix A – Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report 2020

C Municipal Heritage Committee

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**Chatham-Kent
Municipal Heritage Committee
Annual Report 2020**



Heritage Chatham-Kent

Municipal Heritage Committee



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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

The 2019 – 2022 Municipal Heritage Committee was appointed following the Municipal Election in 2018. Committee Members are Lindsay Swackhammer (Chair), Gerri Delannoy, James Griffin, Patricia Pook, Susan Simpson, Katharine Smyth, Loretta Storey, John Taylor, Ron Vanrabaey, Chris Williams, 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.

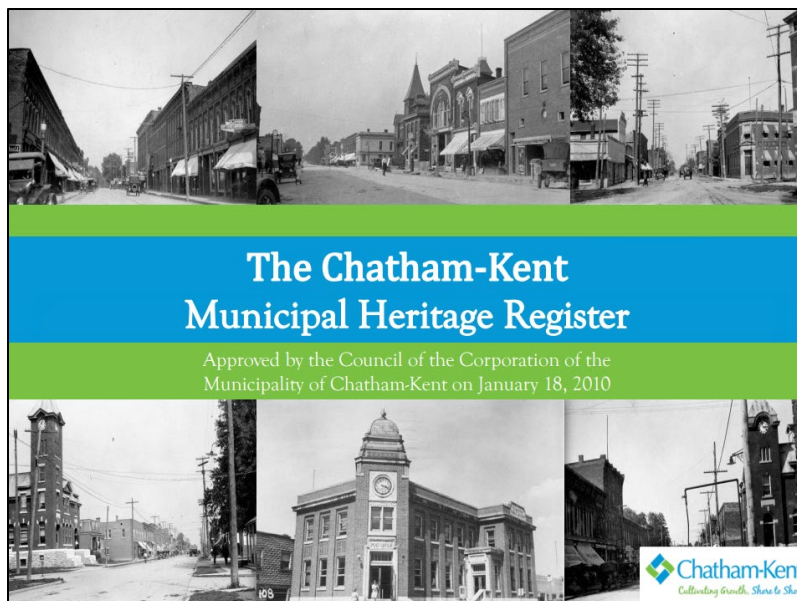
Advise on amendments to the Official Plan and Heritage Property Tax Relief Program.

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 2020

- The Committee prepared a Heritage Designation Report for 201-203 King Street (The Boyd Block), Community of Chatham (City), whose owner requested designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The Report was brought before Council with a recommendation that the property be designated. Council moved forward with the designation process culminating in the by-law to designate the property being approved at the September 18, 2020 meeting.
- An Alteration Permit application from the owners of 367 Wellington Street, Community of Chatham (City), was submitted to the Committee for review. The Committee determined the submission was very comprehensive and professional, and that the work being undertaken would greatly add to the architectural presence of the house and streetscape. The Committee recommended Council approve the alteration. The application was subsequently approved by Council at the July 20, 2020 meeting.
- The Committee considered two (2) separate requests to remove properties from the Municipal Heritage Register:
 - 24254 Winter Line Road, Community of Dover (Pain Court)
The Committee reviewed the request and recommended that Council remove the property from the Register due to extensive structural damage/decay of the existing structure. The property was removed from the Register
 - 49 George Street, Community of Blenheim
The Committee prepared a Heritage Designation Report for this property and recommended that Council move forward with the Intention to Designate this property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The property was removed from the Register by a decision of Council at the November 9, 2020 meeting.

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 2020

The Committee continued their “New Heritage Home Owners Gift Basket” initiative which is to welcome new homeowners of designated properties in Chatham-Kent with a gift basket that includes locally sourced food product, information on the local community, and information about owning a designated property. In 2020, the Committee presented a welcome package to the new owners of 317 Queen Street, Community of Chatham (City). Mayor Canniff also participated in the presentation.

Goals of the Municipal Heritage Committee in 2021

1. New Heritage Home Owners Gift Basket

It is the intent of the Committee to continue to welcome new owners of designated properties in Chatham-Kent.

2. 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.

3. The Committee will continue to explore initiatives focused on education regarding heritage matters in Chatham-Kent. This will include engaging with heritage property owners and the general public by providing information on best practice restoration and preservation of cultural landscapes and architecture.

4. Mayor’s Heritage Preservation Awards

The Committee will consider holding the Mayor’s Heritage Preservation Awards this term. 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. Planning for this event will continue in 2021.

2021 Municipal Heritage Committee Budget

The chart below illustrates a breakdown of the Municipal Heritage Committee's 2021 budget. A \$7,508 base budget allocation has been approved by Council for 2021.

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