



## **2003 Annual Report**

### **Introduction**

Heritage Oshawa (LACAC) was established in July 1995 to advise and assist Council on matters relating to the preservation of heritage properties in Oshawa. The committee has completed its 8<sup>th</sup> year of operation and is pleased to provide the following report of its activities for 2003.

The committee currently consists of thirteen voting members, one of whom is a member of City Council, the remainder of whom are residents or property owners in the City of Oshawa. A non-voting staff member, appointed from the Department of Development Services, acts as the Secretary-Treasurer, and a second non-voting staff member, who is a planner, is also appointed from the Department of Development Services. Monthly committee meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month supplemented by various sub-committee and task group meetings as required.

Heritage Oshawa has three active sub-committees that carry out the key activities of the committee. The designation sub-committee is responsible for activities related to heritage property designation proposals, the inventory sub-committee is responsible for the development of heritage property inventory system, and the communications sub-committee is responsible for activities related to community awareness initiatives.

The following is an overview of the achievements of the committee in these three areas:

### **Property Designation Proposals**

An administrative protocol including a comprehensive building evaluation criteria to determine the architectural and historical significance for the designation process were developed in 1999.

We were very pleased to bring forward to Council a request for designation by the owner of 3188 Grandview Street North, Mr. Morley Terwillegar. The formal research report was augmented by the owner's possession and recollection of elements relevant to the designation process and the designation report was duly submitted. Also, council approved the designation of 268 Winchester Road known as the "Magner Robson House" based on the designation report provided by Heritage Oshawa. The designation proposals were approved by council and are currently undergoing the composition of the respective by-laws which we anticipate should be passed in early 2004.

Heritage Oshawa has also brought forward to Development Services Committee, a designation report for the 420 Wing No. 10 Building at the Oshawa Airport, which committee is awaiting a report from staff. Although the building may not appear to be of any architectural significance, the building is of cultural and historical significance due to the airport's role during World War II.

It should be further noted that due to recent amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act, it was necessary for Heritage Oshawa to revise and update the format of the designation reports and the process of correspondence and supporting documentation. Over the course of 2003, members of Heritage Oshawa met with representatives of the following:

1. Willsonia Industries Limited - "GM Staff Garage" at the northwest corner of Ritson and Bond Street: We are pleased to confirm that the incorporation of salvaged brick and the unique "GMC" logo plaques, an exterior "Heritage Plinth" at the original building location, gateways designed to reflect the architecture of the original building and an interior "Heritage Wall" to display historical photos of the original G.M. headquarters, staff garage etc. are in place at the new "Cliff Mills GM Dealership".
2. Windfields Farm: The Committee requested in 2002 that an "Heritage Impact Assessment Report" be done in view of the magnitude of the proposed development. This Report was prepared by Unterman McPhail Associates, Heritage Resource Management Consultants, and presented by John Kennedy of Windfields Farm to Heritage Oshawa at its February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The extensive report contained recommendations with options for the restoration, incorporation, relocation and removal of buildings. No significant building is in any imminent danger and some elements of the site are to be retained and maintained by the UOIT.
3. 3622 Simcoe Street North: The single family dwelling at this location was built in 1806 and is deemed to be the oldest house within the City limits. The lands are being developed into a golf course and as part of the rezoning process, the owner is to consult with Heritage Oshawa. The Chair attended at the site with the owner's agent and Heritage Oshawa's planner liaison to view the building and subsequently met with city staff, to discuss the owner's proposal for future use of the building and a verbal request to demolish the building. The request to demolish the building was denied by the Chair.
4. 268 Winchester Road "Magner Robson House" – Ministry of Transportation Archeologist, Charlton Carscallen: The MTO requested our research report to assist in the preparation of its heritage assessment report as it related to its proposed extension of the 407 in the corridor in which the subject house is situated. MTO also requested input from Heritage Oshawa as to method of advertising the availability of the building to potential buyers to which Heritage Oshawa suggested that all levels of government be offered the building for re-use and/or relocation. MTO supported the

designation of the house which was passed by council and the composition of the by-law is in progress.

5. Parkwood Estate: Brian Malcolm has made presentations at two meetings this past year relating to the heating and ventilation systems at Parkwood as well as their landscape conservation plan.
6. Regent Theatre: Mr. Paul Taalman made a presentation to Heritage Oshawa relating to the initiatives for fundraising and refurbishing of the theatre. It was noted that approval for issuance of a building permit will be required.
7. Residential homeowners requesting designation and those who the committee advised their properties were being researched.

## **Heritage Property Inventory**

Since its inception in 1995, Heritage Oshawa, has researched and catalogued approximately 800 properties and this is an on-going process. The inventory is readily accessible to city staff on database when responding to general enquiries, review of development applications as well as demolition and building permit applications. In addition, a computer generated map of the City further identifies heritage inventory.

In addition to responding to requests for heritage designation and evaluating specific sites in the City for future designation consideration, Heritage Oshawa also photographs and documents properties at risk or those scheduled for demolition. These records will be maintained on our Heritage and Architectural Archival System for future reference and research.

We anticipate increasing our inventory not only to include buildings, but also to include areas of heritage cultural interest as the scope of heritage has been expanded under new provincial legislation.

Heritage Oshawa realizes that not all buildings or other sites on its heritage inventory would meet the criteria for designation, however, a "heritage pride program" may be a viable alternative recognizing the sites by a small placque and in this regard, Sharon Kennedy of the Uxbridge municipal heritage committee did provide us with some information as to their program in which the property owner provides his own research and contributes to the cost of the placque.

## **Public Awareness Initiatives**

Heritage Oshawa prepared displays, made presentations and participated in a number of heritage and community events throughout the year. During Heritage Week, the Committee hosted the "Discover Our Heritage" display at the Oshawa Centre which

brought together local heritage groups such as Parkwood Estate and the Oshawa Historical Society. We also participated in “Communities in Bloom” as well as the annual “Heritage Festival” hosted by Oshawa Public Library.

We are very pleased to report that we are responding to more telephone enquiries from the public and overall awareness in the community. We have issued press releases to the local media on various activities as well as replying to media enquiries.

Heritage Oshawa does from time to time receive requests to acknowledge the anniversary of a local business or institution as they are part of our local culture. Accordingly, a letter of congratulations and acknowledgement will be provided upon receipt and review of such requests.

## **Planned Activities for 2004**

The Committee anticipates a number of goals for 2004 in fulfilling its mandate:

- “DOORS OPEN”: This is a province wide heritage event which will make its debut in Oshawa on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Local sites will be identified for the public.
- Complete designation process of 3188 Grandview Street North, 268 Winchester Road and 420 Wing No. 10 Building at Oshawa Airport
- Consultative process with city staff to revising operating procedures
- Designation proposals at the request of property owners for urban and rural residences
- On-going expansion of the building inventory to include cultural and landscape areas
- Continue research activities of selected heritage properties and other areas of interest previously brought to the attention of the committee
- Increase awareness and use of Heritage Oshawa archives and making same more accessible to the public (perhaps at McLaughlin Library)
- Increase use of Heritage displays to increase public awareness of Oshawa’s heritage properties
- Working with the public, city staff and council