



## **2004 Annual Report**

### **Introduction**

Heritage Oshawa (LACAC), the Municipal Heritage Committee, 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 **ninth** year of operation and is pleased to provide the following report of its activities for 2004.

The committee consists of thirteen voting members. One is a member of City Council and the remainder are residents or property owners in the City of Oshawa. Two non-voting staff members are appointed from the Department of Development Services; a planner and support staff who acts as Secretary Treasurer. 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 the 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**

Both the designations of the Terwillegar House, 3188 Grandview Street North and the Magner-Robson House, 268 Winchester Road West were completed and the by-laws passed in 2004. Designation and plaquing ceremonies are planned for the two sites in 2005.

Heritage Oshawa also brought forward to Council the designation report for The Genosha Hotel, 70 King Street East. The owner registered an objection to the designation and the matter was referred (as per the Ontario Heritage Act) to the Conservation Review Board. The Chair of Heritage Oshawa supplied testimony on the architectural, historical and contextual significance at the hearing. The Conservation Review Board's findings were in favour of the designation. A report regarding the continuation of the designation process will be forwarded to Council shortly.

The designation report for the 420 Wing No. 10 Building at the Oshawa Airport was forwarded to Development Services Committee and referred back to staff. Heritage Oshawa took into consideration leasing arrangements, the condition report on the hangars, the success of the Robert Stuart Aeronautical Collection and Camp X exhibit, the historical significance of the site and has requested to look into the possibility of a Heritage Conservation District for the south complex of the Oshawa Airport lands.

Over the course of 2004, members of Heritage Oshawa met with representatives of the following:

1. Barry Bryan Associates presented their Executive Summary, Building Condition Audit and Feasibility Study regarding Hangars Nos. 1 & 2 at the Oshawa Airport.
2. C.Y.Lee Architect approached the committee regarding 3622 Simcoe St. North. After a request to demolish the building, the owners came back to the committee with a new proposal that included the reconstruction of the main façade and retention of the original footprint.
3. The Regent Theatre, 44-52 King Street East, liaised with Heritage Oshawa regarding the roof repair. Heritage Oshawa also supported a grant proposal that will see the restoration of the façade and provision of office space for local groups, including Heritage Oshawa.
4. Tim Dwyre, Manager, Revenue and Taxation Services addressed the committee on the Farm Tax Rebate in relation to the designation of 3188 Grandview Street North. The issue of the Heritage Tax Rebate was also discussed.
5. Mark Robinson, Manager, Property Development updated and sought the opinion of the committee on the restoration work being done on the designated Guy House, Oshawa Community Museums and Archives, 1450 Simcoe Street South.
6. Lennis Trotter, Architect for the Genosha Hotel, 70 King Street East, brought forward a proposal regarding replacement windows.
7. Paul Greenway of Kelly, Greenway, Bruce and Korb, 114 King Street East, met with the chair to review plans for an addition on the back of the building.

## **Heritage Property Inventory**

Since its inception in 1995, Heritage Oshawa has photographed, catalogued and classified approximately 850 properties and this is an on-going process. The inventory is readily accessible to city staff and flagged in the OLI system to be consulted when responding to general enquiries, review of development applications as well as demolition and building permit applications. A computer-generated map of the City further identifies the heritage inventory.

In 2004 the format of the *Inventory of Heritage Properties* changed in response to the increasing numbers of properties. The decision was made to only include those properties that had been evaluated and classified as “A” – having a high or the most potential for designation because of architectural, historical and contextual significance and “B” – having a good potential for designation. The properties that have been classified as “C” – having little or no potential for designation have been removed from the Inventory. However they are flagged in the OLI system and Heritage Oshawa is notified if a demolition or development application is received that affects them.

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.

In 2004 six more sites with a high potential for designation were identified to be researched by a heritage professional. This brings the total number of researched sites up to almost sixty. Research reports are used as the basis to evaluate a property’s potential for designation and as part of a designation report.

We have expanded 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 plaque. Part of the increase to the budget request for 2005 is to develop this plaquing initiative.

The committee commented on several proposed projects that would affect resources on the inventory including the “A Wing” at City Hall and the homes on Charles and Athol expropriated for new Sports and Entertainment Complex. We have also responded to many inquiries from the general public regarding their heritage properties.

## **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 showcases local heritage groups. We also participated in “Communities in Bloom”, the annual “Heritage Festival” hosted by Oshawa Public Library, “McLaughlin Day” at Parkwood and the Chair was invited to and attended the Community Strategic Planning Sessions.

The contents of the committee’s Library was offered to and accepted by the Oshawa Public Library, McLaughlin Branch thereby making the contents readily available to the public.

Heritage Oshawa members attended many seminars and workshops over the last year amounting to 30 hours of professional development.

We also nominated committee member Jim Wilkinson for a Volunteer Recognition Award for his nine years of service to Heritage Oshawa.

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.

Perhaps the committee’s greatest success was the inaugural Doors Open Oshawa that took place September 25th. Twelve heritage sites were opened to the public, free of charge. Guided tours of sites, walking tours of downtown and special events including concerts and lunches resulted in a remarkable 2,712 site visits.

## **Planned Activities for 2005**

The Committee anticipates a number of goals for 2005 in fulfilling its mandate:

- “Doors Open Oshawa”, as part of a province-wide heritage initiative, will hold the event for a second year on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. With more sites participating this year’s attendance is expected to grow, bringing attention to Oshawa’s heritage for residents and visitors alike
- Develop a plaquing program to identify heritage resources in Oshawa, thereby raising public awareness and pride in our built history

- The launch of the expanded, updated, interactive Heritage Oshawa web site
- Complete the designation process for the following properties:
  - a) The Genosha Hotel, 70 King Street West,
  - b) Adelaide House, YWCA, 33 McGrigor Street
- Investigate the designation of the following properties:
  - a) Kedron Church, 540 Conlin Road East
  - b) Trevail House, 1090 Townline Road
  - c) Oshawa House, 62-68 King Street West
- Research the possibility of a Heritage Conservation District for the south complex of the Oshawa Airport
- On-going expansion of the Inventory of Heritage Properties
- Continue research and evaluation activities of selected heritage properties as well as prepare designation proposal at the request of property owners
- Monitor and implement upcoming changes to the Ontario Heritage Act (Bill 60)
- Increase use of displays as well as update and reprint Heritage Oshawa brochures to increase public awareness of Oshawa's heritage properties
- Working with the public, city staff and council to strike a balance in heritage preservation