

2006 Annual Report

Introduction

Heritage Oshawa, the Municipal Heritage Committee, was established in July 1995 to advise and assist Council on matters of cultural heritage value and interest. The committee has completed its **eleventh** year of operation and is pleased to provide the following report of its activities for 2006.

The committee currently consists of eleven 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 a 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 updating and issues surrounding the properties listed on the inventory of heritage properties and the communications sub-committee is responsible for activities related to public awareness initiatives.

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

Designations and Heritage Conservation Districts

The committee assisted with The Simcoe Street North Heritage Conservation District Study by communicating with residents through mailings, phone calls and personal contact, appointing two members to the Steering committee, meeting with the consultant and providing input for the OMB hearing.

We also continued to attend meetings with the Oshawa Hospital Foundation about the fate of Rundle House, supporting the request for a building audit (turned down by the foundation), and allowing that the Carriage House be removed from the designation proposal to allow for expansion out the back. The committee passed a motion that would bring the designation proposal back to the table should the Interim Control By-Law be rescinded, to prevent the demolition of the property.

In regards to the Heritage Conservation District Study, Heritage Oshawa continues to maintain its support as this area of Oshawa is a highly visible and cohesive heritage resource. We recognize that the proposed Heritage Conservation District Study is a positive step in our long term plan in preserving our City's historical integrity and cultural assets.

In celebration of International Museums Day, a plaquing ceremony for the three designated museum buildings at the Lake was held in partnership with the Oshawa Historical Society.

The designation process for the 420 Wing No 10 Building (and possibly a Heritage Conservation District), the Trevail House 1090 Townline Road North and Kedron Church 540 Conlin Road East are all still at various uncompleted stages.

Heritage Property Inventory

(Update March 2007, attached)

Since its inception in 1995, Heritage Oshawa has photographed, catalogued and classified approximately 1,000 properties and this is an on-going process. The inventory is readily accessible to city staff and flagged in the OLI system. It is to be consulted when responding to general enquiries, review of development applications, façade loan 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 2005 a new category of Heritage Conservation District Study Areas was added to identify the individual properties affected by the Simcoe Street study and now includes an inventory of Columbus as well.

The *Inventory of Heritage Properties* for 2005 is presented in the following order:

- Designated Properties
- The A List, denoting properties with the highest architectural, historical, contextual and cultural significance
- The B List, denoting properties with good architectural, historical, contextual and cultural significance
- Heritage Conservation District Study Areas
- Heritage Lost, heritage buildings that have been demolished since Heritage Oshawa’s inception in 1995

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 2006 six more sites with a high potential for designation were identified to be researched by a heritage professional. The total number of researched sites is now almost 70. 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 continued to research the details of a “heritage pride program” that will recognize heritage sites (other than those already designated) by a bronze plaque. We applied for and were successful in obtaining funding for the program and hope to launch it in September 2007.

In 2006 Heritage Oshawa

- Added over 150 properties with architectural, historical and cultural value to the Inventory
- Photodocumented and salvaged items from eight properties scheduled for demolition.
- Commented on Façade Loan Applications pertaining to heritage properties
- Reviewed numerous development applications and plans for alterations
- Continued to work with Shin Properties regarding 3622 Simcoe Street North
- Supported the relocation and adaptive reuse of 2300 Simcoe Street North as a Fire Hall
- Identified the Columbus and King Street East areas as potential Heritage Conservation Districts
- Attended meetings and provided input for the 407 Extension and John Street Extension
- Participated in the development of the Downtown Master Plan
- Attended meetings on the Waterfront Master Plan
- Initiated discussions with staff regarding the status of the Inventory on the Municipal Register
- Dealt with the issue of proposed development adjacent to a heritage property, 103 Park Road South
- 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. The committee organized Discover Our Heritage during heritage week at the Oshawa Centre. This event invites heritage organizations from the community to present their services to the public. Heritage Oshawa participated in Communities in Bloom, the annual Heritage Festival hosted by Oshawa Public Library, Swing into Summer Senior Festival, McLaughlin Day at Parkwood and attended Community Strategic Planning meetings.

An exciting accomplishment was the launch, during Heritage Week February 2006, of the Heritage Oshawa Web Site at www.heritageoshawa.ca. Filled with information, photographs and maps, the site presents heritage updates, a searchable inventory, practical resources, links to other heritage sites, local community heritage events, a Lost Forever photo gallery as well as information on designations, heritage conservation districts, legislation, alternatives to demolition and Doors Open. It is an interactive site providing visitors with opportunities to share historical information, ask questions and to volunteer.

Heritage Oshawa members attended seminars and workshops over the last year amounting to many hours of professional development. Plans were formulated to present a Historic House Workshop during Heritage Week in 2007 and the display board photos were updated.

The committee’s greatest public awareness initiative is the annual presentation of Doors Open Oshawa that takes place each September. In 2006 twenty 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 an amazing 3,479 recorded site visits bringing the three year total to over 8,300. In 2007 Doors Open Oshawa will take place September 22 and 23. One of our members participated in the Arts Smarts Program with the Grade 8 students from Gertrude Colpus. Heritage buildings featured during Doors Open and other properties documented in the Thomas Bouckley Collection of Historical Photographs were visited. The students then made sculptures depicting the same. These heritage building models were exhibited at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery during Doors Open Oshawa 2006.

Committee of the Whole

In 2006 Heritage Oshawa:

- Logged over 700 volunteer hours
- Requested staff to investigate a Heritage Subdivision
- Assisted Ken Ridge in the application for two Provincial Heritage Plaques
- Accepted the donation and restored a Williams Piano Sign. It is in climate controlled storage at the Robert McLaughlin gallery and is used in displays.
- Continued to lobby for stronger heritage policies in the Oshawa Official Plan
- Finalized and used the Application to Alter a Property Designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.
- Approved procedures for Processing an Application to Demolish a Property of Potential Interest to Heritage Oshawa
- Approved the Application for Class 2 Alterations
- Requested that a Heritage Tax Rebate/Grant Program be investigated
- Participated in the submission for the International Awards for Liveable Communities.
- Wrote and participated in the launch of the Heritage Walk brochure through a grant partnership with the Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres
- Sat on the selection committee for the inaugural Walk of Fame
- Updated the Heritage Oshawa Strategic Plan 2006-2011

Community Strategic Plan

The following are excerpts from the plan that relate to heritage issues facing Oshawa:

Goal A: A Vibrant, Strong, Progressive Community

One aspect of this goal is a “stronger awareness of Oshawa’s assets – its strategic, economic advantages and its **unique heritage** and ‘hidden treasures’. Heritage Oshawa’s new web site and Doors Open are two high profile approaches to attaining this goal.

Other strategies to achieve Goal A include encouraging visual (aesthetic) improvements as part of the residential and commercial development and redevelopment which Heritage Oshawa sees as an opportunity to enhance our historical architecture by emphasizing its uniqueness, and not by demolishing or covering it up.

The plan cites support for the renovation of the designated Regent Theatre, as well as the development of grant programs for arts, culture and heritage organizations and a call to “encourage more events like Doors Open”. Heritage Oshawa encourages the development and maintenance of Grant programs.

Goal B: A Green and Sustainable Community

One important strategy to achieve this goal is to “**protect heritage buildings**, natural features and agricultural land” by encouraging “**the re-use and protection of heritage buildings, establishing limits to urban development and encouraging development that takes into account natural features.**” The inclusion of non-designated heritage resources on the Municipal Registry is one opportunity to protect heritage properties. The Simcoe Street Heritage Conservation District Study is another important opportunity to protect a highly visible, cohesive heritage area.

Heritage Oshawa promotes the retention of green space and has completed research reports on Alexandra Park, Lakeview Park, Memorial Park, a preliminary report on Camp Samac and has included Second Marsh and the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens as Doors Open sites.

A balance between rural and urban is requested and Heritage Oshawa supports the need to manage growth and use land wisely. In response to the threat to Oshawa’s rural properties, many with farmhouses dating from the 1860 to 1900, the committee continues to advocate for their reuse. For example 1090 Townline used to sit in the middle of farmland and is now surrounded by development. The committee is attempting to convince the owners to consider designating the remaining vestiges of our rural history. Interestingly enough, the houses that back onto the farm are being sold at a premium and those potential buyers have also contacted the committee seeking assurances that it will remain farmland.

In the urban areas, Heritage Oshawa has been involved in the brownfield redevelopments by working with the ACSYS site, participating in the public discussions of the Fittings Site as well as documenting and salvaging the houses on the site of the courthouse.

Heritage Oshawa supports the vision put forth in the Oshawa Community Strategic Plan and looks forward to working with the community, City staff and Council on its continued implementation particularly in the area of heritage.

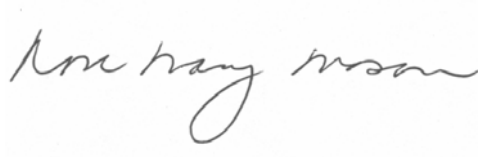
Planned Activities for 2007

In addition to our regular tasks (see attached 2007 Operational Plan), Heritage Oshawa anticipates tackling the following:

- “Doors Open Oshawa”, as part of a province-wide heritage initiative, the event, in its fourth year, will be held on Saturday, September 22nd and Sunday September 23rd.
- Implement a plaquing program to identify heritage resources in Oshawa, thereby raising public awareness and pride in our built history
- Continuing to improve the Heritage Oshawa web site
- Advocate to public and council regarding the Simcoe Street Heritage Conservation District Study
- Encourage the designation of two properties
- Continue to add to the Inventory

- Encourage Council to allow non-designated properties to be listed on the Municipal Registry to provide an added layer of protection
- Continue to monitor and implement changes to the Ontario Heritage Act (Bill 60)
- Increase use of displays and number of presentations as well as update and reprint Heritage Oshawa brochures to increase public awareness of Oshawa's heritage properties
- Work with the public, city staff and council to strike a balance in heritage preservation

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Mary Mason". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Rose Mary Mason
Chair, Heritage Oshawa