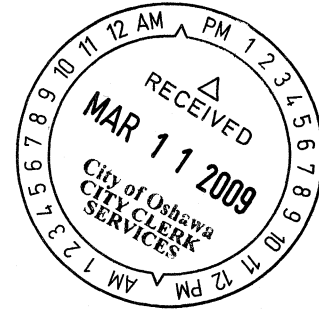




HERITAGE OSHAWA
MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE

March 9, 2009

Melissa Pringle, Committee Coordinator
Development Services Committee
City of Oshawa,
50 Centre Street South
Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7



RE: Heritage Oshawa – Annual Report 2007 & 2008

Heritage Oshawa, the Municipal Heritage Committee, has completed its thirteenth successful year. Please find attached a copy of the Annual Report for 2007 & 2008. We request that the attached be forwarded to the Development Services Committee for information.

2008 was a disappointing year for heritage. The needless demolition of Rundle House and the termination of the Simcoe Street North Heritage District Study were blows to the community at large. Yet, those losses were balanced by the initiation of the Heritage Plaquing Program and the expansion of the Municipal Registry to include non-designated properties. Official Plan amendments in 2009 will be the chance to strengthen the City of Oshawa's commitment to heritage.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteer members of Heritage Oshawa who have donated hundreds of hours this year and to Planning Staff, especially Jennifer Mutton and Aimee Powell, who have supported and guided us through this challenging time. After five years as Chair of Heritage Oshawa, I have stepped down and handed the reins over to the very capable Cathy Clarke.

In closing I would like to reiterate that heritage preservation is NOT a backward looking activity. It is a planning process that respects a community's history and identity. It allows a community to recognize and commemorate what it values, what contributes to its sense of place. A commitment to heritage is crucial to economic vitality, cultural tourism as well as community sustainability, development and engagement.

If you require further information or clarification please contact the newly elected Chair, Cathy Clarke through Jennifer Mutton, at x 2444.

Sincerely,



Rose Mary Mason
Heritage Oshawa

www.heritageoshawa.ca

2007 & 2008 Annual Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to overview:

- Heritage Oshawa's mandate, membership and meetings held
- Achievements for 2007 & 2008
- Ongoing Activities
- Planned Activities for 2009
- 2009 Budget
- Response to the Community Strategic Plan

Mandate, Membership and Meetings

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 **thirteenth** year of operation and is pleased to provide the following report of its activities for 2007 & 2008.

In 2008, the committee consisted 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 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, September to November, January to June, supplemented by various sub-committee, special and task group meetings as required.

Heritage Oshawa has three active sub-committees and one partnership committee that carry out key activities. The communications sub-committee is responsible for activities related to public awareness initiatives and the Doors Open committee consists of members of Heritage Oshawa as well as key community figures. 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.

Achievements and Ongoing Activities

1) Public Awareness Initiatives

Now in its third year, the Heritage Oshawa Web Site at www.heritageoshawa.ca is 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 provides visitors with opportunities to share historical information, ask questions and to volunteer.

New for 2007 & 2008 are web pages on Oshawa's Architects, Architectural Styles, an illustrated Walking Tour of Downtown Oshawa, a Feature of the Month, Polls, a Heritage Reading Room, and Save This Building. Statistics show that last year 8,178 unique visitors visited the site 9,390 times and viewed 34,301 pages.

Other public awareness initiatives include:

- 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
- Six Heritage Walks
- A fourth themed walking brochure produced in conjunction with the Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres
- A workshop on Restoring Older Buildings by Edifice Magazine
- Two Memories of South Oshawa events in partnership with the Oshawa Public Library and OSCC
- Displays at the following events:
 - i) Heritage Festival hosted by the Oshawa Public Library
 - ii) Swing into Summer Senior Festival
 - iii) Earth Day
 - iv) Jazz and Blues Festival
 - v) Celtic Festival
 - vi) McLaughlin Day at Parkwood
 - vii) Awards evening for Garden of the Week and Festive Lighting
- Attendance at Communities in Bloom and Community Strategic Planning meetings.
- Participation in a Rogers television show on The Regent Theatre
- Assistance in producing the award winning LIVCOM submission

2) Doors Open Oshawa

The committee's greatest public awareness initiative is the annual presentation of Doors Open Oshawa that takes place each September. In 2008 twenty-five heritage sites were opened to the public, free of charge. Guided tours of sites, walking tours and special events including concerts and lunches resulted in an amazing 3,403 recorded site visits bringing the five year total to almost 15,000.

3) Designation and Heritage Conservation Areas

- Simcoe Street North Heritage Conservation District: participated by attending steering committee and public meetings as well as provided input when asked
- Columbus Heritage District: took part in the Council initiative by speaking with area residents, conducting an inventory of the area, assisting in setting out boundaries, attending meetings and commenting on the design of the proposed gas station
- The Regent Theatre: The committee worked with City Staff, the owner and architect to facilitate the renovation of the theatre, even holding a special meeting in August to accelerate the process

- Rundle House: worked diligently with all parties involved to come to a reasonable conclusion, but it was not to be
- Genosha Hotel: provided a letter of support and look forward to advising on the project
- Simcoe Street United Church : advocated for funding for the Heritage Grant Program
- Thornton Dundee and Parkwood: commented on alterations
- Historic Places Initiative: advanced properties for inclusion on this National Registry
- There were 5 requests for designation in 2007 & 2008.

4) **Heritage Property Inventory**

Since its inception in 1995, Heritage Oshawa has photographed, catalogued and classified well over 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 2007 & 2008 Heritage Oshawa:

- Had 11 bronze plaques manufactured and presented to owners of significant heritage resources
- Requested to add significant heritage properties, that were not designated, to the Municipal Registry, finalized with staff procedures to add properties and have nominated 8 to date
- Identified and had researched, six more sites with a high potential for designation bringing the total number of researched sites to almost 80
- Added properties with architectural, historical and cultural value to the Inventory
- Photo documented and salvaged items from over 25 properties scheduled for demolition.
- Commented on Façade Loan Applications pertaining to heritage properties
- Reviewed numerous development applications and plans for alterations
- Attended meetings and provided input for the 407 Extension and Gibb/Olive Extension
- Attended meetings on the Waterfront Master Plan
- Commented on FarmTech's Ethanol plant proposal
- Initiated discussions with property owners about the donation of land for a Heritage Sub-Division
- Responded to 40 inquiries per year from the general public regarding their heritage properties

5) **Committee of the Whole**

In 2007 & 2008 the Committee:

- Logged over 1,400 volunteer hours
- Attended seminars and workshops, subscribed to heritage magazines and renewed memberships in heritage organizations amounting to many hours of professional development.
- Continued to lobby for stronger heritage policies in the Oshawa Official Plan
- Chair received the Ontario Heritage Trust Award
- Updated the Terms of Reference

Planned Activities for 2009

In addition to our regular tasks, Heritage Oshawa anticipates tackling the following:

- *Doors Open Oshawa*, as part of a province-wide heritage initiative, the event, in its sixth year, will be held on Saturday, September 26th and Sunday September 27th
- Promote the local plaquing program to identify more heritage resources in Oshawa, thereby raising public awareness and pride in our built history
- Continue to develop the Heritage Oshawa web site as an excellent communication tool
- Increase the numbers of displays and presentations
- Encourage the designation of two properties
- Continue to add to the Inventory and to the Municipal Registry
- Research and evaluate significant properties
- Publish a Guide for Owners of Designated Properties
- Recommend to staff changes to the Official Plan to afford more protection to our built environment
- Continue to monitor and implement changes to the Ontario Heritage Act
- Update and reprint Heritage Oshawa brochures to increase public awareness of Oshawa's heritage
- Work with the public, city staff and council to strike a balance in heritage preservation

2009 Budget

Heritage Oshawa has requested a budget of \$10,600 to carry out planned activities (Attachment 1).

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 has assisted with all these goals.

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 was 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. Nominating these natural areas to the Registry adds another layer of protection.

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. In the urban areas, Heritage Oshawa has advised on the reuse of Rundle and the renovations to the Regent as well as a variety of other sites.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Rose Mary Mason
Heritage Oshawa

Heritage Oshawa 2009 Budget

ITEM						BUDGET
(1) STAFFING						
	1A - Consultant/Contract					\$1,500.00
(2) PROPERTY DESIGNATIONS						
	2A - Designations					\$1,000.00
	2B- Plaques					\$1,000.00
	2C - Installation					\$50.00
(3) HISTORICAL INVENTORY						
	3A - Supplies (film, processing, stationary, binders, photo digitizing)					\$150.00
(5) PROMOTION AND EDUCATION						
	5A - Promotion and Education (pamphlet printing, display materials, etc)					\$300.00
	5B - Seminars/Workshops (registration fees)					\$400.00
	5C - Special Events					\$300.00
	5D - Doors Open					\$5,000.00
	5E - Website Maintenance					\$800.00
(6) MISCELLANEOUS						
	6A - Annual Memberships (societies, groups)					\$50.00
	6B - Subscriptions (journals, newsletters, etc.)					\$50.00
TOTAL						\$10,600.00