

HERITAGE HALDIMAND
Regular Meeting

Monday February 24, 2025, 7:00 pm

Haldimand County Administration Building, 53 Thorburn Street South, Cayuga

Present: Deb Zynomirski (Chair), Ryan Graham (Vice Chair), Sylvia Weaver, Rick Monture, Cathy Blott; **Regrets:** Toshia Shurr; **Staff:** Katerina Schmitz, Manager, Community Development & Partnerships; Anne Unyi, Supervisor, Heritage & Culture.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair at 7:00 p.m.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Recommendation by Ryan Graham and Sylvia Weaver that the Minutes of the Heritage Haldimand Committee dated January 27, 2025 be approved as presented. **APPROVED**

4. Business Arising

5.1 Review: Selected Properties of Potential Heritage Significance

- No new information to present at this time.

5.2 Dunnville/Port Maitland Storyboards Review

The Manager, Community Development & Partnerships stated that Tracy Gibbs would be taking on this project. Additional information will be presented at the April meeting.

Once the Committee is provided with specifications the Chair will reach out to area contractors re. assisting with future storyboard installation.

5.3 Harvard Memorial Aircraft (Dunnville)

Discussion deferred to April meeting.

5.4 Street Cemetery

Designation of the Cemetery is nearing completion. The Supervisor, Heritage & Culture will notify the Ontario Heritage Trust and arrange to have the designation by-law registered on title.

5.5 Insurance: Designated Properties

Toshia Shurr provided a brief outline of key points related to resources that may be helpful to owners securing insurance for their heritage properties.

1. Partner with Specialized Insurers

Work with insurance companies experienced in heritage properties. These insurers understand the unique needs of older and historically significant homes and can offer tailored coverage options. ([Ecclesiastical Insurance](#))

2. Maintain the Property

Regular maintenance and repairs to key systems (e.g., roofing, electrical, and plumbing) demonstrate good stewardship, reduce risks, and make the property more attractive to insurers. ([Community Heritage Ontario](#))

3. Upgrade Safety Features

Install modern fire suppression and security systems, upgrade outdated wiring, and ensure structural integrity. These upgrades mitigate risks and increase the likelihood of obtaining insurance. ([National Trust Canada](#))

4. Document Everything
Keep detailed records, including photos, appraisals, and proof of upgrades or renovations. This documentation reassures insurers of the property's condition and helps during claims or policy reviews. ([Ontario.ca](#))
5. Understand Replacement Cost Coverage
Seek policies with "replacement cost" coverage, ensuring the cost to restore the property to a similar quality is covered. Provide appraisals to demonstrate the cost of restoring heritage features. ([Ecclesiastical Insurance](#))
6. Request By-Law Endorsement Coverage
Heritage properties benefit from by-law endorsement coverage, which can cover the cost of repairs that meet heritage or building code requirements. Share the designation by-law with insurers to ensure compliance. ([Ontario.ca](#))
7. Mitigate Risk Perceptions
Address common insurer concerns, such as water damage, fire risks, and structural instability, by proactively managing these risks through preventive measures like sump pumps, updated roofing, and fire-resistant materials. ([National Trust Canada](#))
8. Explore Group Policies or Advocacy
Some municipalities or organizations offer group insurance for heritage properties, which can provide better rates and terms. Advocacy groups also work with insurers to address challenges specific to heritage homes. ([Community Heritage Ontario](#))
9. Communicate Designation Realities
Make insurers aware that a heritage designation does not always require exact restoration of lost features after damage. Property owners can opt for practical solutions within the designation's parameters. ([Ontario.ca](#))
10. Be Prepared for Higher Premiums
Understand that while a heritage designation itself doesn't raise premiums, the age and condition of the property may. Addressing insurer concerns through upgrades and thorough documentation can help secure better rates. ([National Trust Canada](#))

5.6 Outreach 2025

- Emancipation Day (August 1, 2025)
The Committee discussed inviting a guest speaker to the event and other ways to keep this event fresh and exciting.
Supervisor, Heritage & Culture asked to book the Canfield Hall.
- Two Row on the Grand Paddle (July 15 – 25, 2025)
Discussion related to this event including banners created by local artists placed along the route and possible guest speaker and refreshments at one of the stops along the route.
Rick Monture to head a sub-committee; Rick will reach out to members of the Two Row on the Grand Paddle and invite them to the April meeting to discuss the event and outcomes.

6. New Business

6.1 Demolition Permitting Process

The Supervisor, Heritage & Culture will contact the Manager, Community & Development Services regarding the process related to the issuance of demolition permits for properties in Haldimand County; findings will be brought to the April meeting.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 Save the Date: Joint Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting, Thursday April 24, **The Gaukel Memorial Community Centre**, located at [7 Gaukel Drive, St. George.](#)

8. Discussion/Comments from the Floor

- 8.1 Public Arts & Culture Strategy

The Manager, Community Development & Partnerships provided a brief presentation to the Committee and discussion followed.

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

March 31, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Haldimand County Administration Building, Haldimand Room, 53 Thorburn Street South, Cayuga.