

**City of North Bay**

**Report to Council**

**Report:** CSBU 2015 – 03

**Date:** January 6, 2015

**Originator:** Peter Carello, Secretary-Treasurer, Municipal Heritage Committee

**Subject:** 2014 Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC) Annual Report

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**Recommendation**

That the 2014 Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report be received and referred to Committee.

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**Background**

Attached is the Annual Report of the Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC).

The Committee's primary accomplishments in 2014 were the completion of a Site Evaluation Report for St. Joseph Scollard Hall, community promotional work and, in partnership with the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Department, the placement of four Heritage Site Plaques.

A full listing of Committee activities is contained in the attached report. As 2014 was the final year of the Heritage Committee's term, the attached Annual Report does not contain a work plan for 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Carello, Secretary-Treasurer  
Municipal Heritage Committee

PC/dlb

SIRE / C11 / RTC CSBU #2015-03 / P CARELLO / 2014 MHC ANNUAL REPORT

attach.

We concur with this report and recommendations.

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Beverley Hillier  
Manager, Planning Services

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John Severino, P.Eng., FEC, M.B.A.  
Managing Director (Interim), Community  
Services

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Jerry D. Knox  
Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance: Secretary-Treasurer, Municipal Heritage Committee

The City of North Bay  
Municipal Heritage Committee

2014 Annual Report



City of North Bay  
Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC)

2014 Annual Report

**Introduction**

This report to City Council is submitted pursuant to Clause 6(g) of By-law No. 38-96, as amended, of The Corporation of the City of North Bay (the MHC By-law).

**Background**

This report reflects activities undertaken by the North Bay MHC during 2014.

**Committee Highlights – 2014**

**Committee Membership – 2014**

Peter Handley, Chair (Community Representative)  
Jennifer Buell, Vice Chair (Community Representative)  
Andrew Bruce-Payne (North Bay Society of Architects)  
Naomi Rupke (North Bay Museum)  
Councillor Judy Koziol (City Council Representative)  
Dr. Robin Gendron (Community Representative)  
Amber McCarthy (Community Representative)  
Aaron Northrup (Community Representative)  
Margaret Surtees (Community Representative)  
Ex-officio: Caroline Loiselle (Ministry of Citizenship and Culture)  
Staff: Peter Carello, Secretary-Treasurer (Senior Planner)

The only change in membership was Paul Walker previously attended meetings as an ex-officio member representing the North Bay Public Library. This appointment was unofficial, as the by-law establishing the MHC does not provide for an appointment for the Library. However, Mr. Walker has attended meetings and provided valuable insight and history for many years. Mr. Walker retired at the beginning of 2014 and continued to attend MHC meetings without an official capacity as a member of the public.

**Meetings of the Committee**

A total of eleven (11) meetings of the Committee were held during 2014. Ten (10) of the meetings occurred at City Hall and one (1) was held at the Discovery North Bay Area Museum.

**Property Evaluations**

The Committee continued its examination of properties with potential heritage significance in 2014. These evaluations make up the mandated core of the MHC's activities.

The MHC completed work on the re-evaluation of St. Joseph Scollard Hall, presently classified as a Priority-Two heritage site. At the time of the 2013 Annual Report, the Committee had conducted a tour of the property and completed the scoring chart, which determined the building is a Category-One heritage site.

Since that time, the Committee completed the property report and are currently discussing the location of a glass plaque with representatives from the School Board. This is expected to occur shortly, with an unveiling projected to occur in early 2015.

Also in 2014, the Committee conducted a site visit at the Masonic Temple building (183 First Avenue West). The Committee has completed the scoring of the property and are presently in the process of completing the property report. The property was determined to be a Level-One site. A glass plaque will be installed in 2015.

### **Heritage Site Plaque Program**

In 2008, the Committee developed a "Heritage Site Recognition Program". This program is consistent with Section 6 D) of By-Law No. 38-96, which states the MHC is "to implement programs and activities to increase public awareness and knowledge of heritage conservation issues". The proposed program does not only highlight sites of historic interest in the City, it also fits in with historic walking tours of the City.

In 2013, the Committee prepared an additional two (2) plaques as part of this program. The chosen sites were the former hospital sites and a plaque recognizing the Bomarc missile. These two plaques were designed, produced and installed in 2014. The Committee anticipates one of these plaques will be unveiled as part of Heritage Awareness Week celebrations in February 2015.

The MHC has begun work on the 2015 heritage site plaques. The scripts for the three plaques to be produced and installed in 2015 are for the former Empire Hotel, the original Chief Commanda/Transportation on Lake Nipissing and the North Bay Public Library (Carnegie Library). The Committee is working in collaboration with the Public Library Board to produce the plaque and using donated funds for the Empire Hotel.

On request of staff, the Committee worked for several months and provided a long-term plan for the Heritage Site Plaque Program.

### **Cogeco Segments**

The Municipal Heritage Committee was approached by the local Cogeco channel to film some short segments discussing MHC activities. The purpose of the videos would be to introduce the public to the Committee and inform them of some of the programs the Committee has put in place.

Several segments were filmed, written and presented by the Chair. These vary either in length of segment (to allow Cogeco different opportunities to air the segments) or on topics. Cogeco assigned a producer to film the Committee during an evaluation (St. Joseph Scollard Hall), which provided footage used during the Cogeco segments. This was supplemented by generic imagery of heritage sites and plaques found throughout the community.

The segments now air regularly on Cogeco TV. The Committee has received positive feedback regarding the segments and it was recommended we submit the pieces for an award from the Canadian Heritage department.

## **Public Awareness Initiatives**

Promoting the community's heritage through awareness initiatives is one of the MHC's core functions. In order to reach the largest number of people as possible, the Committee seeks to participate in numerous different types of activities and events. Some examples are listed below.

The Municipal Heritage Committee annually participates at Summer in the Park. The MHC operates a booth, with information materials available for distribution and promotional displays that have been acquired over the years by the Committee. 2014 also marked the second year of the MHC's children's Scavenger Hunt, which challenges local youth to visit heritage plaques found throughout the downtown.

The MHC also operated a booth at the Culture Days event in 2014. This marked the Committee's first involvement with this festival. Committee members were generally pleased with the interactions with the public.

The MHC continued its participation at the annual Heritage Fair, which occurs every Spring at Nipissing University. Local youth prepare a display on a topic of their choosing. A judging panel ranks the projects and awards are presented in a variety of categories. The MHC sponsors the local heritage category and presents an award to a deserving project. The 2014 winner was Ms. Kate Mah of WJ Fricker Public School.

The Municipal Heritage Committee annually recognizes Ontario Heritage Awareness week. This year, the Committee unveiled a heritage site plaque recognizing the community's historical arenas.

## **Operating Budget**

The 2014 operating budget was \$2,600. As of the date of this report, the Committee will finish the year under budget.

## **Memberships**

The North Bay MHC is a member of Community Heritage Ontario, a province-wide organization which provides information and advice to heritage groups. CHO's mission is to *"be an advocate for heritage in Ontario, to encourage the development of municipally-appointed heritage advisory committees and to further the identification, preservation, interpretation and wise use of community heritage locally, provincially and nationally."*

The MHC is also a member of two area museums, Discovery North Bay and the Dionne Quints museum. This supports the operations of these two museums, while offering the Committee access to their facilities, their records and their inventory.

The MHC is a member of the Ontario Historical Society. The MHC receives a regular newsletter (5 times annually), which offers the Committee insights regarding trends in heritage and history throughout the province.

## **2014 Summary**

1. Completed the design and production of two (2) heritage site plaques.
2. Began work on the script for three (3) heritage site plaques, which would be installed in 2015.
3. Completed the evaluation report for St. Joseph Scollard Hall Secondary School.
4. Toured and re-evaluated the Masonic Temple.
5. Participated at Summer in the Park 2014, maintaining a booth over the course of the weekend and hosting a children's Scavenger Hunt.
6. Aired a series of information pieces on Cogeco Cable. These segments were nominated for a Canadian Heritage department award.
7. Reviewed applications made under the Planning Act.

## **2015 Outlook**

It is hoped the newly constituted Heritage Committee will carry on the programs and initiatives implemented by previous Heritage Committees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Handley  
Chair, Municipal Heritage Committee

## Appendix

Short Description of the three Proposed Heritage Site Plaques to be prepared in 2014 for installation in 2015

### **1) Transportation on Lake Nipissing**

Plaque reviewing the history of the various crafts that have travelled Lake Nipissing and their role in the development of North Bay, including both Chief Commanda vessels. The plaque would be proposed to be erected somewhere in the vicinity of the marina.

### **Empire Hotel**

Plaque discussing the history of the former Empire Hotel (presently the Empire Living Centre). The plaque would cover the entire history of the building, from the initial construction to the most recent addition, including major events that have occurred at the site and its local significance.

### **Carnegie Library**

Plaque detailing the history of libraries in North Bay, including the initial library in the Cormack Block, the Carnegie Library at the corner of Wyld and McIntyre and the current library. The plaque is proposed to be located near the site of the current library.