

City of North Bay

Report to Council

Report No: CSBU 2014 – 09

Date: March 11, 2014

Originator: Peter Carello, Municipal Heritage Committee Secretary-Treasurer

Subject: 2013 Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC) Annual Report

Recommendation

That the 2013 Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report be received and referred to Committee.

Background

Attached is the Annual Report of the Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC). The Annual Report was adopted by the Municipal Heritage Committee at their regular meeting held on January 22, 2014 and describes the activities of the Committee over the past year.

The Committee's primary accomplishments in 2013 were the evaluation of two properties to document their heritage characteristics, the continuation of the Heritage Site Program, participation at Summer in the Park 2013 and the preparation of information segments currently airing on TV Cogeco.

A full listing of Committee activities and a workplan for 2014 is contained in the attached report.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Carello, Secretary-Treasurer
Municipal Heritage Committee

PC/dlb

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attach.

We concur with this report and recommendations.

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Beverley Hillier
Manager, Planning Services

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Peter Chirico
Managing Director, 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

2013 Annual Report



City of North Bay
Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC)

2013 Annual Report

1) 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).

2) Background

This report reflects activities undertaken by the North Bay MHC during 2013 and plans for 2014.

3) Committee Highlights – 2013

a) Committee Membership – 2013

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: Paul Walker (North Bay and Area Public Library)
Ex-officio: Caroline Loiselle (Ministry of Citizenship and Culture)
Staff: Peter Carello, Secretary-Treasurer (Senior Planner)

There were no changes to the Committee's membership in 2013.

The City of North Bay applied for a grant on behalf of the MHC in order to hire a summer student in 2013. This application was approved. Eden Plante assisted the Committee for seven (7) weeks from June until August. Ms. Plante's primary responsibility was to plan for Summer in the Park. However she also did valuable research for the Committee and updated our records.

b) Meetings of the Committee

A total of eleven (11) meetings of the Committee were held during 2013. Each of the meetings occurred at City Hall.

c) Property Evaluations

The Committee continued its examination of properties with potential heritage significance in 2013. These evaluations make up the mandated core of the MHC's activities.

The MHC completed work on the St. Vincent de Paul evaluation that was commenced in 2012. The building was deemed to be a Priority-One heritage site and was recognized with a plaque at a public ceremony attended by the Mayor and a number of parishioners to celebrate Heritage Day in February.

The Committee undertook a tour and evaluation of the Parfitt farm and residence on Four Mile Lake Road. It was charted as a Priority-Two site.

Work is currently underway to complete a heritage re-evaluation of St. Joseph Scollard Hall, presently classified as a Priority-Two heritage site. The Committee conducted a tour of the property on October 25th. Since that time, Committee members have met to discuss the scoring of the property and are working on the preparation of the report. It was deemed to be a Priority-One site and will receive a glass plaque in the near future.

Our 2014 plans could include a re-evaluation of the Masonic Temple and/or evaluation of a property on Main Street West

Six new glass plaques have been ordered. Two of these shall be used to replace damaged plaques at the ONR Building on Oak Street and the former D. Carruthers School on McPhail Street in 2014.

d) 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 that 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 New Ontario Brewery and a plaque recognizing our early arenas. The Arena plaque has been installed; the Brewery plaque will be installed in the Spring, which will bring the total to fourteen (14) plaques throughout the City.

The two Heritage Site Plaques to be installed in 2014 are to celebrate the Bomarc Missile and St. Joseph's and Civic Hospitals.

The MHC is discussing Chief Commanda I, the former Winnipeg Hotel (207 Ferguson Street) and the former McMurchy Hospital with regards to a 2015 Heritage Site Plaque installation

e) Items from Former Hospital

In 2012, the MHC was asked to tour the former hospital sites to document the heritage characteristics of the property. As part of these visits, the MHC was asked if there were any artefacts or components that should be preserved. The MHC identified a few items that would be of interest to organizations within the community, e.g. the cornerstones as well as the stained glass windows from the chapel at St. Joseph's.

The MHC was able to facilitate an arrangement between the property owners and the administration of the new hospital to have the cornerstones physically relocated from the former hospitals and North East Mental Health Centre to the new Health Centre on Highway 17 West. The cornerstones will be put on display at the new hospital site as part of a landscaping initiative, likely within the next eighteen (18) months.

The stained glass windows were successfully removed from the chapel and were to be transferred to the Pro-Cathedral on Algonquin Avenue. A miscommunication between the demolition company and the Pro-Cathedral resulted in the windows being sent to Toronto. The two organizations have come to an agreement to have them reshipped from Toronto to the Pro-Cathedral. Though this has not yet occurred, the Committee understands that this should occur in the coming months. The MHC is grateful to Ms. Celia Teale, agent for the property owner, for her diligent efforts in facilitating the agreement between the demolition company and the Pro-Cathedral.

f) Public Awareness Initiatives

The MHC undertakes initiatives, events and projects throughout the year to promote the community's heritage.

On February 18th, the MHC recognized Ontario Heritage Awareness Week by unveiling a heritage site plaque at St. Vincent de Paul Church. The property is considered a Priority-One site. The Mayor, the Chair of the MHC and St. Vincent de Paul's priest each spoke. Approximately 30 parishioners, several local media outlets and members of the MHC attended the event.

For the third consecutive year, the MHC participated in the annual Summer in the Park event held during the August long weekend. The Committee successfully applied for funding to hire a Summer Student to produce materials for this event. A Scavenger Hunt targeted at local youth was organized. The Committee was able to secure contributions in order to offer prizes to the children who completed the hunt. Each successful entry received two (2) tickets on the Heritage Carousel or Mini-Train and was entered into a draw for one of two grand prizes - a family pass for the Chief Commanda and a new bike.

The Committee considers the Scavenger Hunt to have been a successful project, as over three dozen youth successfully completed the course. This event received positive coverage from local media.



The Committee completed work on a series of public service segments to air on Cogeco Cable 12. These features are a variety of lengths, and may lead to a 30 minute or hour program. Individual properties are highlighted, with narration by the Chair and footage provided by Committee members. As part of this series, Cogeco accompanied the Committee on its evaluation of St. Joseph Scollard Hall.

Committee member Margaret Surtees and Vice Chair Jennifer Buell led the production of a Summer newsletter.

This annual newsletter publicizes the Committee's works and is distributed through a variety of community partners, including Discovery North Bay Area museum, the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce and the local Hotel Association.

g) Operating Budget

The 2013 operating budget was \$2,600. The Committee finished the year under budget.

h) 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.

4) 2013 Summary

1. Developed and designed two (2) heritage site plaques commemorating former buildings and sites with local heritage significance.
2. Began work on the script for the placement of two (2) heritage site plaques in 2014.
3. Completed the evaluation of the St. Vincent de Paul church and held a press conference unveiling the plaque.
4. Toured and re-evaluated St. Joseph Scollard Hall Secondary School.
5. Toured and evaluated the Parfitt farm and residence on Four Mile Lake Road.



6. Operated a booth at Summer in the Park 2013. As part of its participation at Summer in the Park, the Committee organized and operated a Scavenger Hunt.
7. Completed a series of public service information segments to air on Cogeco Cable 12.
8. Produced and distributed a Summer 2013 newsletter.
9. Reordered six (6) Priority-One glass plaques.
10. Reviewed applications made under the Planning Act.

5) 2014 Work Program

The Committee and staff are preparing a formal work program for 2014. This program may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The identification of additional buildings, sites and structures that should be for evaluated or re-evaluated for their heritage characteristics.
2. Continue work with Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services staff to prepare Heritage Site Plaques commemorating properties with identified heritage significance to be installed in 2015. A short description of the plaque (and alternate) is attached as an Appendix to this report.
3. Replace two damaged glass plaques.
4. Participate in Heritage Awareness Week.
5. Participate in Summer in the Park festival.
6. Produce a Committee newsletter, with distribution to be completed both electronically and hard copy.
7. Participate in the local heritage fair, if it is re-established.
8. Continue to receive appropriate heritage training, when available and applicable.
9. Participate in applicable heritage recognition programs.
10. Review of the available Provincial and Federal financial assistance programs in conjunction with the GAP Officer/Development Planner.
11. Review of planning applications from a heritage perspective.
12. Work with Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Department, Discovery North Bay Area Museum and the Downtown Improvement Area to expand the heritage walking tour in the downtown core.



Respectfully submitted,

Original Signature on File

Peter Handley

Chair, Municipal Heritage Committee

Appendix

The following is a short Description of the proposed Heritage Site Plaque to be prepared in 2014 for installation in 2015.

Hotel Winnipeg

The Cornerstone Hotel was constructed in 1885/86 as the Hotel Winnipeg. Over the past 130 years, it has continued to be a hotel/rooming house. It has also been called the King George and the Belmont Hotel. It is the oldest business and permanent structure in North Bay.

Should the above prove unfeasible, the Committee's second option to be prepared would be the following:

Chief Commanda

The Chief Commanda I is included among the largest of many vessels that once ferried tourists and residents alike across the glistening waters of Lake Nipissing and the French River. Launched in 1942, she was named for Chief Raymond Commanda, a much revered First Nations Chief who tragically drowned in the French River in 1944. Today, the original Chief Commanda sits dry docked at the North Bay Marina in tribute to the many marine tourism operators in the first half of the last century. Travelers who once embarked on a journey aboard the Chief stopped at the historic lodges along the French River such as the Keystone Lodge and the Solid Comfort Fishing Lodge. At these checkpoints, both passengers and freight were delivered.

Today, she is joined at the marina in the warmer months by her successor, the Chief Commanda II.