



North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee

The Heritage Herald

Summer
2017

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Who is the Municipal Heritage Committee?

The Ontario Heritage Act allows municipalities to establish a Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC). A MHC provides advice to City Council on matters and properties with architectural and/or historical significance. The Committee also evaluates properties that have heritage significance in order to develop and maintain a list of heritage properties in the community.

Members Include: Peter Handley (Chair), Jennifer Buell (Vice-Chair), Jeff Serran (City Council), Andrew Bruce-Payne (North Bay Society of Architects), Naomi Rupke (North Bay Museum), Amber McCarthy (Community Representative), Robin Gendron (Community Representative), Aaron Northrup (Community Representative), Margaret Surtees (Community Representative), Simon Blakeley (Community Representative), Caroline Loiselle (Ex-Officio) & Peter Carello (Secretary-Treasurer).

North Bay Regional Heritage Fair 2017

The North Bay Regional Heritage Fair is an exciting community event where local museums, historical associations, businesses and multicultural groups come together to offer displays, demonstrations, and entertainment. The event begins with the opening ceremonies followed by a showcase and adjudication of student projects. Fair participants and local school classes also participate in educational workshops and cultural

performances. The fair ends with a closing ceremony and presentation of awards.

The North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee was very active in the Heritage Fair this year as two committee members, Naomi Rupke and Robin Gendron, were judges and Committee Chair, Peter Handley, presented the Municipal Heritage Committee Award to a deserving student project. The winning project was entitled "Le Complexe

Souterrain de North Bay" and focused on the history AND significance of the NORAD Underground Complex at the 22 Wing/CFB North Bay.



Megan McArthur

Heritage Plaque Program Prominent in North Bay

In 2008, the North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee began to examine the possibility and feasibility of developing a "Heritage Site Recognition Program". This program would be 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 would not only highlight sites of

historic interest in the City, but it would also fit in with any planned historic walking tours of the City.

The purpose of the Heritage Plaque Program is to recognize the community's heritage and to provide information to residents and visitors. The heritage site plaques are approximately 2'X3' in size and recount the story of a site that no longer stands in its original condition. There are presently twenty-two located throughout the

community and six of these were placed in the last three years.

The most recent additions to the program include Heritage Site Plaques commemorating the Commerce on Lake Nipissing, The Empire, the Carnegie Library, Wallace Park, the Capitol Theatre and the Barry Building Explosion.



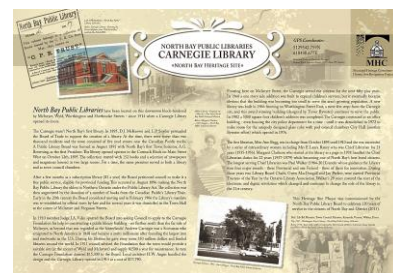
Commerce on Lake Nipissing Heritage Site Plaque

The rivers and lakes of Northern Ontario have been used by the first nations and European explorers as highways for travel and commerce for hundreds of years. Commercial shipping began in 1881 and over the next century it increased drastically. The Chief Commanda launched in 1946 and was the first large diesel powered ships on Lake Nipissing and signaled the beginning of the end of the steam era on Nipissing.



The Empire Heritage Site Plaque

For almost five decades, the Empire was not only the finest hotel in North Bay, but also the social and business hub of the city. The Empire had ornately crafted features in the lobby, dining and ball rooms. The Empress Room, specifically, played host to many bands and groups and other local musicians at the height of the dance band era.



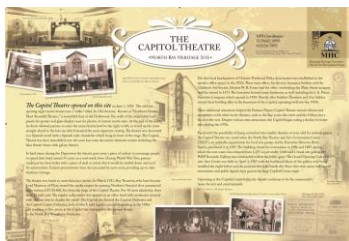
Carnegie Library Heritage Site Plaque

North Bay Public Libraries have been located on this downtown block since 1914 when a Carnegie Library opened its doors. In 1910, member judge J.A. Valin spurred the Board into asking Council to apply to the Carnegie Foundation for help in constructing a public library. Local architect H.W. Angus handled the design and The Carnegie opened in 1914 at a cost of \$17,790.



Wallace Park Heritage Site Plaque

For over fifty years, this block of land enclosed by King, Victoria and Ferguson Streets was known as Wallace Park and later became known as Memorial Gardens. The large field served as a home to a plethora of sports, teams and games until 1947 when Wallace Park and the North Bay Arena combined to form Memorial Gardens. The park became known as Memorial Stadium until it was demolished in 1962



The Capitol Theatre

The Capitol Theatre opened on June 1, 1929. It was known as "Northern Ontario's Most Beautiful Theatre," as it resembled that of old Hollywood. The theatre has housed more than just celebrities as the Ontario Provincial Police, Children's Aid Society, Dentist, W.R. Foster, I.K.P. Furniture and the Salidas' Bowling Alley all occupied the space at one point. Operating as the Capitol Centre today, the theatre continues to be the community's home for arts and entertainment.



Barry Building Explosion

In 1975, an accident occurred during a routine excavation involving the severing of a natural gas line. This caused a violent explosion that tore through the Barry Building, lifting the roof off and starting an uncontrollable fire. The accident led to the death of nine people and is known as the largest tragedy in North Bay's history.

Number of Recognized Heritage Sites Rising

The Municipal Heritage Committee's primary responsibility is to evaluate and document properties throughout North Bay that have heritage value to the community. With the property owner's permission, members of the Municipal Heritage Committee conduct a site evaluation. Properties are scored based on a series of criteria, ranging from architectural features, construction materials, historical context, etc.

Based on the scoring a property achieves, it is given a priority ranking. Buildings scoring in the highest priority category are denoted with a glass plaque that commemorates their status and importance to the community.

North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee

There are currently forty-one Recognized Heritage Sites in North Bay and four of these have been placed within the last three years. The most recent sites to be evaluated include the Former Scollard Hall Boys' College (St. Joseph-Scollard Hall), The Masonic Temple, The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Building and the Surtees Residence.



Former Scollard Hall Boys' College

This building was constructed in 1930 as a Catholic high school for male students. It would subsequently house the original accommodation for a planned university which later became Nipissing University. In 1985, St. Joseph's College would merge with the original Scollard Hall Boys' College, thus becoming the present St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School of the Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board.



North Bay Masonic Temple

This Temple was built in 1928 and was first used as a meeting and dance hall. During the Second World War, it served as a centre for medical examinations of those local residents contemplating military service. The Masonic order has ensured that continuing usage has persisted over three quarters of a century in the purpose for which the building was designed.



Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Building

This property was first home to Milne Lumber Company. The Milne Family moved to North Bay from Trout Creek in 1896 and established lumber operations here. These operations ceased around 1940 and the Lands and Forests Building was erected within the next decade. The building has undergone a few name and structural changes, but has withstood the test of time and remains functional under the same use as when first constructed.



Surtees Residence

This residence located in the historic residential west end of North Bay. The residence at 853 Main Street West is found within a grouping of four homes with a similar style. Although each of the four homes flanking the property have distinguishing features, it is clear that the four homes were constructed at a similar time with a common theme. It is believed that local architect, H.W. Angus, built these other homes for his children as the buildings exhibit a sibling relationship that reflects the kinship of their original owners.

The MHC's First Century of Service Award

The Municipal Heritage Committee appreciates the contributions that businesses have on North Bay's heritage. The North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee is pleased to share that we have introduced a new program recognizing these long-time businesses in the community, titled the "Century of Service Recognition Program". The goal of the program is to acknowledge the contributions that these businesses have made to the City of North Bay. Kennedy Insurance Brokers Inc. is currently the only Centurion of Service recognized by the MHC.

Kennedy Insurance Brokers Inc. was first established in 1912 by C.V. Shea and W.K.P. Kennedy.

The 1916-1917 Vernon's Directory, the City's oldest directory, provides record of WKP Kennedy who at the time was the City Clerk and also provides record of Patton Thos. J. who was in the profession of real estate and insurance. The 1930 Vernon's Directory shows record of Kennedy WKP working for Patton and Kenney Insurance Agency and that between 1916-1917 and 1930 Mr. Patton and Mr. Kennedy established Patton & Kenney Insurance Agency.

Kennedy Insurance Brokers Inc. has not only been a long serving member of the North Bay business community but has also supported various projects throughout the city.

Message from the Chair

The Municipal Heritage Committee was created in 1996 and since that time has been recognizing significant heritage buildings and structures in North Bay. The Committee has always 'recognized' rather than 'designated' such edifices because official designation puts some potentially onerous responsibilities on the owner, or potential owner, of a property. Recognition of the structure, as determined by the MHC, is similar to designation, however there is no official legislation and the only pressure the committee can apply to property owners is moral suasion. Putting that aside, the MHC would be happy to aid in the designation process should any property owner wish to have a structure evaluated this in mind. City Council is the body that grants designation as a heritage building to any North Bay structure. Therefore, anyone wishing to have his or her home evaluated with designation in mind should direct their concerns to City Council, through the City Clerk. The matter would be placed on the Community Services Committee file when it came to City Council and Community Services would ask the Municipal Heritage Committee to conduct an evaluation of the property in question. Community Services is not obligated to refer the item to the MHC, but given the Committee's past involvement in evaluating structures over the last twenty years, it is a logical course of action. On being asked to evaluate the home, the MHC would, as always, research and discover the history of the property and examine it inside and out before sitting down and applying what is known and seen to the various criteria on our Evaluation Form. The form that the MHC uses to evaluate properties with is similar and equal to those used by heritage groups that regularly designate properties. The evaluation criteria includes - architecture (35%), history (30%), environment (15%), usability (10%) and integrity (10%) and all told there are 19 separate categories in those five classes - each with its own range of marks. No MHC evaluation takes place without the presence and input of a Representative from the North Bay Society of Architects, and Andrew Bruce-Payne has filled this role over the last decade. Should the property receive 90 points or more (out of 100), it would be classed as worthy of official Designation (or, as in our own regular Recognition program - eligible for a MHC glass plaque). A full report would be written and passed on to the Community Services Committee of City Council with a recommendation as to whether it should be designated. If Community Services agrees with the matter, it would then be passed to the City Council for a final binding decision. This is the process that would be followed if anyone wished to have their property designated. It is the same process that the MHC has in the Heritage Site Recognition program, but with added involvement of City Council. Some advice for anyone considering official designation - consider the responsibilities involved for current and future owners of a property that is designated as compared to one that is recognized before evaluating.

Future Projects

The overarching goal of the North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee is to achieve conservation through community recognition and awareness. Since its inception, the MHC has recognized over sixty properties for their heritage characteristics.

The North Bay Municipal

Heritage Committee is currently working together to commemorate past and current heritage sites within the area through the Heritage Site Recognition and Heritage Plaque Programs.

The Municipal Heritage Committee's last Heritage Site Evaluation was the Sisters of the

Precious Blood Monastery, now owned by Nipissing University and a report is currently underway.

The Municipal Heritage Committee's 2018 Heritage Plaque will tell the story of the North Bay Jail including the story of Donald Kelly and his escape.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.cityofnorthbay.ca/heritage>

