

City of North Bay

Report to Council

REPORT: CSBU 2017 – 02

Date: January 3, 2017

ORIGINATOR: Peter Carello, Secretary-Treasurer – Municipal Heritage Committee

SUBJECT: 2016 Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC) Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2016 Municipal Heritage Committee Annual Report be received and referred to Committee.

BACKGROUND:

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

The Committee's primary accomplishments in 2016 were the completion of a Site Evaluation report for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry building on Trout Lake Road, the Celebration of the Committee's 20th Anniversary, community promotional work and, in partnership with the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Department, the placement of three Heritage Site Plaques.

A full listing of Committee activities in 2016 and a proposed work plan for 2017 is contained in the attached report.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Carello, Secretary-Treasurer
Municipal Heritage Committee

Attach.

We concur with this report and recommendations.

Beverley Hillier
Manager, Planning Services

John Severino
Managing Director, Community Services

Lea Janisse, MHRM CHRL
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

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

The City of North Bay
Municipal Heritage Committee

2016 Annual Report



City of North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC)

2016 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 2016.

Committee Highlights – 2016

Committee Membership – 2016

The following are all individuals who are or were members of the Heritage Committee in 2016:

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 Jeff Serran (City Council Representative)
Simon Blakely (Community Representative)
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 (Planning Department)
Jordan Jackson, Policy Planning Intern (Planning Department)

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. Mr. Walker retired from the Library at the beginning of 2014 and has continued to attend MHC meetings since that time without an official capacity as a member of the public. Also throughout the year 2016 other members of the public attended MHC meetings.

Meetings of the Committee

A total of eleven (11) meetings of the Committee were held during 2016. All meetings occurred at City Hall.

Property Evaluations



The Committee continued its examination of properties with potential heritage significance in 2016. These evaluations are the Committee's primary activity.

In November 2015, the Committee conducted an evaluation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry building located at 3301 Trout Lake Road. The Committee scored the property a Priority 3 and a report discussing the history and heritage characteristics of the building was completed in early 2016.

In 2016, the Committee conducted two evaluations; Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (725 Ferguson Street) and Surtees Residence (853 Main Street West). The Surtees Residence evaluation was completed on July 12, 2016 and scored a Priority One. The Lutheran Church received a score of a Priority 2 and was evaluated by the Committee in November 2016. Final reports for the evaluations will be completed in early 2017.

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 2015, the Committee began researching content and photographs for the former Empire Hotel. This plaque was funded by a donation previously received by the Committee. The Committee and the Empire Living Centre held a joint unveiling celebration for both the plaque and their new library on September 6, 2016.

The MHC began working in 2015 on two heritage site plaques for the Capitol Centre and the former Wallace Park. The North Bay Sports Hall of Fame funded the costs associated with the Wallace Park plaque. These two site plaques were completed and installed in 2016.

The MHC has begun working on the 2017 heritage site plaques. A script for the Barry Building Explosion of 1975 has been drafted.

MHC 20th Anniversary

The MHC recognized the Committee's 20th Anniversary and Ontario Heritage Week with an open house event held at the Discovery North Bay Museum in February 17, 2016. The event provided the opportunity to highlight the work and accomplishments the Committee has achieved since its establishment in 1996. The North Bay Architects Society sponsored the event which was well attended by members of the public.

Century of Service Program

In 2016, the Committee introduced A Century of Service Program. This new program recognizes businesses in North Bay that have been in service for 100 or more years



and the contributions their business have to North Bay heritage. The Committee first discussed this program idea in 2015 and made it one of their goals to implement for 2016.

Kennedy Insurance Brokers Inc. was the first business to receive the Century of Service recognition and was awarded a certificate in November 2016.

The Committee will continue to offer this program in the future.

Dionne Quints Home

Peter Handley (Chair) and Peter Carello (Secretary-Treasurer) participated in an advisory capacity in a Sub-Committee to determine the status of the Dionne Quints Home located on Seymour Street and Highway 11 North. Future decisions on the Dionne Quints Home will be made by Council in 2017.

City Hall Lobby Display

The Committee was approached by City staff to create a program that would establish a City Hall Lobby Display Program to showcase artefacts, memorabilia, and information related to North Bay's Heritage. The Committee is interested in being involved in a Lobby Display Program and the matter will be discussed further in 2017.

Doors Open

The Committee was one of the organizations approached by a representative of the Provincial Government to host Doors Open in 2017. The Committee agreed that the Heritage Committee could not be the body responsible for such an undertaking, but would be willing to sit on a separate board that would be responsible for Doors Open. It seems unlikely that Doors Open would be held in 2017, but if a Doors Open Committee can be organized, it might be possible in 2018. Individual members of the Committee continue to explore the possibility of having a Doors Open in North Bay.

Public Awareness Initiatives

The Municipal Heritage Committee undertakes a number of activities on a year-to-year basis with the intention of raising the community's awareness of local heritage. Several examples of the Committee's outreach efforts are listed below:

- Farmers' Market: The MHC set up a booth at the Farmers' Market on October 1st, 2016. This date was chosen as it coincided with Culture Days. Committee members volunteered their time to operate the booth, handing out information material and speaking with community members. The Committee was pleased with the interest received and hope to attend the Farmers' Market again in 2017.
- Heritage Fair: The MHC once again participated at the Heritage Fair. The annual event, which occurs in the spring at Nipissing University, is an opportunity for local youth to research a topic and prepare a display. A panel of



judges evaluates the different projects and awards are given in a variety of categories. The Committee awarded a \$25 Gift Certificate donated by the Downtown Improvement Area as part of their prize.

- North Bay Favourite Heritage Site: The Committee approached BayToday to post a poll to determine the community's favourite Heritage Site. This poll is not scientific and was intended to as a light-hearted effort to have citizens think about some of North Bay's more historically prominent sites. The poll was posted in February 2016 and the Gateway Arch received the most votes. A total of 1145 votes were cast and complete results of the poll are attached to this Report in Appendix A.
- Mystery Post: The Committee received an inquiry about the significance of a stone post on Britton Street. None of the Committee members were certain what the purpose of the post was. The Committee worked with BayToday to publish an article asking if the public knew anything about the post. Many offered thoughts, suggestions and leads. However, it was ultimately determined that the mystery post was one of several entranceways into a subdivision in the area.
- Unveiling of the former Empire Hotel: The Heritage Committee unveiled a plaque recognizing the former Empire Hotel and its role in the community on the corner of McIntyre Street West and Fraser Street. The event was jointly held with the Empire Living Centre, which was opening their new library within their facility. The event was well attended by local media.
- Downtown Waterfront Master Plan Consultation: The City's Planning Services completed a series of public consultation events for the creation of the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan. Naomi Rupke and Amber McCarthy attended several events to ensure the MHC was being represented in the preparation of the Plan.

Operating Budget

The 2015 operating budget was \$2,250. 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 Discovery North Bay. The museum has partnered with the MHC on multiple occasions over the years, including hosting events during Heritage Awareness Week and some of the Committee's meetings. Discovery North Bay is represented at the MHC by their museum director/curator, Naomi Rupke.



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.

2016 Summary

1. Completed the design, production and installation of three (3) heritage site plaques.
2. Began work on the script for one (1) heritage site plaque, which would be installed in 2017.
3. Completed the evaluation report for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Building on Trout Lake Road.
4. Toured the Surtees Residence. A draft report summarizing this property is prepared and should be finalized in early 2017.
5. Toured the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. A draft report summarizing this property been prepared and should be finalized in early 2017.
6. Attended the Farmers' Market during Culture Days.
7. Reviewed applications made under the Planning Act.
8. Implemented the Century of Service Program.
9. Participated in a Sub-Committee to make recommendations on the Dionne Quints Home.

2017 Outlook

The Municipal Heritage Committee anticipates working on (but not limited to) the following programs and activities:

1. Continue to evaluate local properties and prepare reports summarizing the property's heritage characteristics.
2. Continue work with Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services staff to prepare one Heritage Site Plaque commemorating a property with identified heritage significance to be installed in 2017. A short description of the plaque is attached as Appendix B to this report. The Committee will also begin plans for a plaque in 2018.
3. Participate in Heritage Awareness Week.
4. Attend the Farmers' Market on at least one occasion.



5. Produce a Committee newsletter, with distribution to be completed both electronically and hard copy.
6. Participate in the local heritage fair.
7. Continue to receive appropriate heritage training, when available and applicable.
8. Participate in applicable heritage recognition programs.
9. Review of the available Provincial and Federal financial assistance programs in conjunction with the GAP Officer/Development Planner.
10. Review of planning applications from a heritage perspective.
11. Work with community members in creating a Doors Open event for 2017 or 2018.
12. Continue to Implement the Century of Service Program.
13. Continue to work with the City to establish a Lobby Display at City Hall to showcase local heritage.
14. Discuss the possibility of publishing an information brochure.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signature on File

Peter Handley

Chair, Municipal Heritage Committee



Appendix A

Poll Results

What do you consider your favourite North Bay heritage site?

the Pro-Cathedral church

313 votes 27.34 %



the Gateway Arch

439 votes 38.34 %



the Capitol Centre

134 votes 11.70 %



the Discovery North Bay Museum

69 votes 6.03 %



the War Memorial Cenotaph

190 votes 16.59 %



Total votes: 1145

Added: Feb 9, 2016 5:30 PM

*Results Courtesy of BayToday.ca



Appendix B

Short Description of the Proposed Heritage Site Plaques to be installed in 2017

1) Barry Building Explosion of 1975

The plaque would recognise North Bay's most tragic single event, the Barry Building explosion. This plaque will provide a summary of events that occurred on the day of the explosion as well as the significance the event had on changing provincial legislation when a natural gas leak is detected. The plaque will also serve as a memory to North Bay community members who died as a result of the explosion.