

**City of North Bay**

**Report to Council**

**REPORT:** CSBU 2016 – 09

Date: January 28, 2016

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

**SUBJECT:** 2015 Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC) Annual Report

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the 2015 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 2015 were the completion of a Site Evaluation report for the Masonic Temple, 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 2015 and a proposed workplan for 2016 is contained in the attached report.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Carello, Secretary-Treasurer  
Municipal Heritage Committee

PC  
Attach.

We concur with this report and recommendations.

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Beverley Hillier  
Manager, Planning Services

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John Severino  
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

2015 Annual Report





## City of North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC)

### 2015 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 2015.

#### **Committee Highlights – 2015**

##### **Committee Membership – 2015**

The following are all individuals who are or were members of the Heritage Committee in 2015:

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 Sheldon Forgette (City Council Representative)  
Councillor Jeff Serran (City Council Representative)  
Simon Blakely (Community Representative)  
Robin Gendron (Community Representative)  
Amber McCarthy (Community Representative)  
Ayla Morland (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)

Ms. Morland accepted a job that limited her ability to attend meetings and as a result resigned from the Committee in February 2015.

Councillor Forgette resigned from the Committee in May 2015 and was replaced by Councillor Jeff Serran.

The Planning Department hired a student employee named Elise Blohm Gagné to assist with Planning Department and Heritage Committee projects during the summer months. Ms. Blohm Gagne participated in several outreach projects, including a summer newsletter, preparation of information materials to be distributed at the Farmers' Market and updating the Committee's Illustrative Guide.



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.

### **Meetings of the Committee**

A total of eleven (11) meetings of the Committee were held during 2015. All meetings occurred at City Hall.

### **Property Evaluations**

The Committee continued its examination of properties with potential heritage significance in 2015. These evaluations are the Committee's primary activity.

The MHC conducted an inspection in 2014 of the Masonic Temple Building (183 First Avenue West). In 2015, the Committee completed work on the report and awarded the property a Priority-One heritage status. A glass plaque has been installed on the building.

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 has scored the property and a report discussing the history and heritage characteristics of the building has been prepared.

### **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 2014, the Committee began researching content and photographs for three plaques. These three plaques were the former Empire Hotel, the original Chief Commanda/Transportation on Lake Nipissing and the former Carnegie Library. Since that time, the three plaques have been produced and installed. It is important to note that the plaque for the Carnegie Library was prepared in cooperation with the North Bay Public Library. The plaque for the former Empire Hotel was funded by a donation previously received by the Committee.

The MHC has begun work on the 2016 heritage site plaques. The scripts for the two plaques to be produced and installed in 2016 are for Capitol Centre and for the former Wallace Park. The North Bay Sports Hall of Fame is funding the costs associated with the Wallace Park plaque.



## 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 September 26th. 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 2016.
- 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 2015 Heritage Committee Award winner was Sierrah Stolz, whose project the "50 Year Mystery" reviewed the disappearance of the Campbell family on Trout Lake and their discovery 50 years later.
- Recognition of Ontario Heritage Week: The MHC recognized the annual Ontario Heritage Week celebrations by hosting a public event on Family Day (February 16th). The Committee unveiled one of the new Heritage Site Plaques, recognizing the New Ontario Brewery.
- Unveiling of the Bomarc Plaque: The Heritage Committee unveiled a plaque recognizing the role the City of North Bay played during the Cold War and the presence of Bomarc missiles in the community. The unveiling included the participation of members from CFB North Bay and was well attended by local media.
- St. Joseph's Scollard Hall Unveiling: The Heritage Committee was joined by representatives from the School Board to unveil the glass plaque at St. Joseph Scollard Hall, recognizing the building as a Priority One Heritage site.

## Operating Budget

The 2015 operating budget was \$2,350, a 10% drop from previous years. Through stringent management, the Committee finished 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.

## **2015 Summary**

1. Completed the design and production of three (3) heritage site plaques.
2. Began work on the script for two (2) heritage site plaques, which would be installed in 2016.
3. Completed the evaluation report for the Masonic Temple Building (183 First Avenue West).
4. Toured the MNR Building on Trout Lake Road. A report summarizing the tour has been prepared and should be finalized in early 2016.
5. Attended the Farmers' Market during Culture Days.
6. Reviewed applications made under the Planning Act.
7. Updated the Illustrative Guide to incorporate new heritage sites and plaques and made the document accessible.
8. Held five public heritage presentations/celebrations.

## **2016 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 two Heritage Site Plaques commemorating properties with identified heritage significance to be installed in 2016. Short descriptions of the two plaques are attached as an Appendix to this report.
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. Film new heritage public service segments with Cogeco
12. Create a one-week poll to determine “North Bay’s Favourite Heritage Site”
13. Implement the Heritage Business Recognition Certificate Program
14. Recognize the 20th Anniversary of the MHC
15. Continued representation on the Committee discussing the future of the Dionne Quints Home.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Handley  
Chair, Municipal Heritage Committee



## Appendix

Short Description of the two Proposed Heritage Site Plaques to be installed in 2016

### **1) Capitol Centre**

The plaque would recognize the history of the Capitol Centre and its longstanding role as North Bay's home for arts and entertainment. The plaque will also discuss some of the lesser known facts surrounding the property, such as some of the early uses that collocated at the Capitol Centre. These include Northern Ontario's first radio station (CFCH, established by Roy Thomson), the first local headquarters of the OPP and a bowling alley.

### **Wallace Park**

The plaque will review the story of North Bay's original Memorial Gardens, which began in 1910 and wound up in 1962 when the property bounded by Ferguson, King and Victoria Streets was sold to a developer. The Park involved outdoor sports and public celebrations. The "King Street Arena" saw North Bay's first artificial ice surface.