



North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee

The Heritage Herald

Summer 2018

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North Bay Regional Heritage Fair 2018

The North Bay Regional Heritage Fair 2018 took place at Nipissing University on Friday, May 11, 2018. There were approximately 100 projects from five of the region's School Boards.

The North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee Chair, Peter Handley, had the honour of

presenting the Municipal Heritage Committee Award to a deserving Student Project. The winning project was a bilingual project entitled "North Bay's Streets" and focused on the history of certain street names in North Bay and those who they were named after.

The winner, McRae Cazabon, stated that he enjoyed going to the public library and researching some of the city's founders and their stories. He discovered just how important individuals like John McIntyre Ferguson were to the founding of our city.



MHC Chair, Peter Handley, with McRae Cazabon

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 Loisel (Ex-Officio) & Peter Carello (Secretary-Treasurer).

A Century of Service for Local Shoe Store

The North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee handed out their second Century of Service Award to Deegan's Shoe Store for more than one hundred years of service to the community.

MHC Chair, Peter Handley, alongside other members of the Committee presented the certificate to owners Ralph Diegel and his wife Pat Kenzie-Diegel, at their Main Street location.

Ralph Diegel has proudly carried on the Deegan's family tradition since he began working for his uncle, George Deegan, shortly after returning from service during WWII. Deegan had no children of his own, so Ralph took over the business and continued Deegan's legacy.

Deegan's Shoe Store is one of the oldest businesses in the area that remains operational. The store opened its doors in 1889 and has been a destination for footwear for residents of North Bay ever since. In fact, Deegan's Shoe Store is considered the oldest independent shoe store in Canada.



MHC Members present certificate to Ralph Diegel and wife Pat Kenzie-Diegel

Unveiling of the 'Barry Building Explosion' Heritage Site Plaque

The Heritage Site Plaque commemorating the horrific Barry Building Explosion was unveiled by the North Bay Municipal Heritage Committee on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

The Municipal Heritage Committee was joined at the unveiling by North Bay Fire and Emergency Services, North Bay Police Services' Colour Guard and North Bay Paramedic Services. Also present were representatives of North Bay City Council and many friends and family members of those who suffered as a result of the Barry Building Explosion.

The Municipal Heritage Committee began the evaluation of the Barry Building site as a possible location for a Heritage Site Plaque in early 2017. The Committee's search for information involved the consultation of both family members of those affected by the incident as well as those who witnessed the event.

The Municipal Heritage Committee received many thoughtful and heartfelt responses from the public and would like to thank all those who contributed.

The finalized plaque that now

stands between 118 and 128 McIntyre Street West in Downtown North Bay describes how, in 1975, an accident occurred during a routine excavation involving the severing of a natural gas line causing a violent explosion to tear through the Barry Building, lifting the roof off and starting an uncontrollable fire.

The plaque stands in memory of the nine individuals who lost their lives as a result of the accident and recognizes the fact that said explosion is the largest tragedy in North Bay's history.



MHC Chair and Vice-Chair, Peter Handley and Jennifer Buell, unveil the Barry Building Explosion Plaque alongside Deputy Mayor, Sheldon Forgette.



Sister of one of the explosion victims reads the newly unveiled Heritage Site Plaque.



North Bay Police Services' Colour Guard stands at attention during moment of silence.



North Bay Paramedic Services look on as the new Heritage Site Plaque is unveiled.

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.

There are currently forty-four Recognized Heritage Sites in North Bay and two of these have been evaluated within the last year. The most recent sites to be evaluated include the Sisters of the Precious Blood Monastery and the Tuncali/Gould Residence.

More information on both sites can be found at cityofnorthbay.com/heritage.

MHC Youth Photography Contest

This spring, the Municipal Heritage Committee introduced a new Heritage Photography Contest for local youth, aged 18 and under. The purpose of the contest was to determine which aspects of local heritage are most important to the youth of North Bay.

Participants were encouraged to explore and capture the culture and heritage of North Bay in a way which was unique to their own interpretation of it. They were challenged to think about what they saw and provide a short caption explaining why their photo was important to them. Youth participants were also asked to consider how their photograph relates to one of three broadly defined categories, the first being "Built," the second being "Natural" and the third being "Human."

Local school boards, clubs and other service providers throughout the City of North Bay were invited to share details of the photography contest and encourage participation among local youth. The MHC offered prizes of DIA Gift Cards for the winners of the contest. First prize was worth \$100, second prize was worth \$50 and third prize was worth \$25.

After receiving many outstanding entries to the Youth Heritage Photography Contest, winners were chosen by the Municipal Heritage Committee. The results of the competition were announced at the Heritage Fair that took place at Nipissing University on Friday, May 11, 2018.

First prize was awarded to Hope for her photo "Exfoliating" (Fig. 1). Second prize was awarded to Michael for his photo "Bridge to Nowhere" (Fig. 2). Evelyn's photo "Ice Waves" (Fig. 3) and Elora's photo "War Memorial" (Fig. 4) tied for third prize. Photos are shown below.



Message from the Chair

The Municipal Heritage Committee came into being as the Local Architectural Conservation Committee (LACAC) in 1996 and, since that time has been evaluating standing structures and existing heritage sites within the city. Shortly after the creation of the committee, its mandate was broadened by a name change. I began to think about historic buildings that, over the years had been lost by fire or demolition to determine if we could recognize them in some way, shape or form. The MHC agreed, TWG Communications was consulted and out of this came the Heritage Site Plaque Program, which neatly coincided with the Parks and Recreation Department, under Jamie Houston, which was looking into signage for the Black Forest. The MHC's project and the Parks Department's Project merged and the department agreed to support the Heritage Site Plaque Project, which the Municipal Heritage Committee could not have handled alone.

Currently, there are 22 Heritage Site Plaques around the city, many are located in the Downtown/Waterfront area and are two-by-three foot tablets on two pedestals that share a unique story using words and pictures. We began by recognizing buildings that were no longer there including the first City Hall and Court House and then expanded to changing structure stories such as the Cormack Block and the Empire. Most recently, we have recognized a few impactful stories like the Bomarc Missile and the Barry Building Explosion. The Barry Building Explosion, which occurred in 1975, cost more lives than any other event in North Bay's history and thus was a supremely sensitive matter. Thankfully, our city liaison, Peter Carello, approached family members and survivors for input and interest and they were made part of the process that culminated in an official commemoration and unveiling in many of this year at the site of the explosion. A number of survivors and family members were present along with the North Bay Police Services' Colour Guard, members of the EMS First Responders, and the Fire Department. The ceremony included a moving moment of silence to remember the deceased, during which time the Colour Guard with flags came to attention. North Bay did not forget.

As Chair, I want to thank all members of the Municipal Heritage Committee for their work during the 2014-18 term, which saw the continuation of our site evaluations, the Heritage Site Plaque Program and the Heritage Fair Award as well as the inauguration of the Century of Service Award as well as the Youth Photography Contest. Each and every member of the MHC contributed to these programs and offered thoughts and ideas on various heritage matters. Vice-Chair Jennifer Buell has improved the structure of our evaluation reports and, through much work and research, has taken the lead in the Youth Photography Contest, which was originally suggested by member Simon Blakely. Community Members Robin Gendron and Aaron Northrup have contributed many hours to the Heritage Site Plaque Program while Amber McCarthy, Margaret Surtees, Museum Curator Naomi Rupke, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport Representative Caroline Loiselle, Councillor Jeff Serran and researcher Paul Walker have all made their presence felt and contributed significantly to the committee's work. Andrew Bruce Payne has been our Society of Architects Representative for a number of years and his valued thoughts, skills and knowledge have led us through each of our evaluations. Summer Student, Kealey Ducharme, who is back for a second year, has brought our Illustrative Guide up to date, written two newsletters, worked on the website, compiled a scrapbook and proved that work ethic is still alive and well. Peter Carello of the Planning Department has been our Secretary Treasurer for more than a decade and we thank him for keeping us in check, for his sense of humour and for his continuing interest in heritage matters.

Peter Handley, Chair

Future Projects

Since its inception, the MHC has recognized over sixty structures and sites 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 Glass 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 underway

The Municipal Heritage Committee has committed itself to two Heritage Site Plaques in 2019. The first will tell the story of the North Bay Jail and Donald Kelly's escape and the second will recognize Lee Park, Amelia Park and the main highway to North Bay.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

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

