



TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
Municipal Office, Chantry

Members Present: Dustin Bulloch, Howard French, George German, Chair, David Gwynne, Diane Haskins, Allison Smith, Sue Warren, Sabina Barrett

Members Absent: Ted Stewart, Councillor Paula Banks

Staff Present: Marie White, Economic Development and Cultural Heritage Coordinator

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Roll Call

Councillor Paula Banks and Ted Stewart send their regrets.

Public members in attendance who signed in:

- Saoirse Carroll
- Rosanne Lake

Additions/Amendments to the Agenda

The Chair called for any additions or amendments to the agenda. One was heard:

The Agenda states the meeting time as 9:00 a.m. The start time of the meeting should read 9:30 a.m.

Adoption of the Agenda

RECOMMENDATION MHAC 2025-27

Moved by Sue Warren

Seconded by Dustin Bulloch

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) adopt the agenda as amended.

Carried

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

The Chair called for disclosure of any pecuniary interests. None were declared.

Delegations

Bill Stevens - Powhattan Lodge Renovation (For Information)

Former owners of Powhattan Lodge, Bill and Denise Stevens attended the meeting. Mr. Stevens presented the story of how Powhattan Lodge came into their possession, and how they carefully renovated the historic property. Located at 1 Pine Island in Newboro, the lodge was built in 1907-1908 from Hemlock logs that were harvested in the winter and transported over the ice from the Mill on Perth Road to the island. It has a two-seater outhouse and the original ice box in the kitchen. Arnold Warren (Margaret) delivered the ice.

Mr. Stevens shared that the original owner was Mr. Latham, and that his sons Hugh and Paul were contacted to help with the restoration of the property. Son Hugh Latham offered to help, and arrived by train having travelled from his home at the Benedictine Monastery in New Hampshire wearing a buck skin jacket. Hugh and Paul also have a half brother. It is thought that Latham, an architect, named the structure Powhattan Lodge after the father of Pocahontas, and that Mr. Latham may have been a descendant of Pocahontas.

During the restoration, the tongue and groove oak ceiling was repaired. A mill in Perth was able to match the original thickness of the boards. The stone masonry work was done by Reg Kumm, owner/operator of The Bay Barn antiques in Seeley's Bay.

The restored Lodge was featured in Cottage Life Magazine (April 2011 edition), and features an impressively large fireplace.

In order to keep the main lodge true to its original form, a second log cabin was built as a bath house with a shower and toilet connected to a septic.

A piece of local indigenous furniture from the Lodge, a chair referred to as "stick furniture" built in Jones Falls was brought to the meeting. The seat would have been made of wicker, now missing.

An original letter and photos were circulated, as follows:

1. Construction of Powhattan Lodge - Bell Family
2. Three men in a skiff, one is Mr. Latham, the original owner. The skiff canoe was built in Newboro.
3. A photo of Pine Island without Pine Trees
4. Interior photo of the Lodge
5. Negatives of the photos above

MHAC members thanked Bill and Denise Stevens for the treasured documentation. It was noted that the printed material will be housed at the Rideau Lakes History Centre (archives), and that the chair should reside with the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS).

Business Arising

Doors Open Meet and Greet - Update (For Information)

Rosanne Lake presented an update, and shared the contents of the site package as information. The Agenda for the Doors Open Meet and Greet, and a series of draft posters were included in the meeting package.

MHAC members expressed their enthusiasm and gratitude for all the hard work that has gone into coordinating Doors Open Rideau Lakes. A Meet and Greet for the 18 sites takes place on June 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Portland Hall. There will be an information exchange and site packages will be provided in preparation for the August 16th & 17th event.

Heritage Spaces and Picnic Places - 2025 Experience Guide: Marie White (For Information)

The final version of the Picnic Guide was included in the agenda package. Staff noted that comments from the Economic Development Committee suggest that "Points of Interest" in Morton should be reviewed, as some buildings are in disrepair and may be historical notes rather than points of interest.

MHAC members suggested the following changes in 2026:

- On the page for Morton & Jones Falls, omit Judd House as a point of interest, and change storyboard "Historic Morton" font to bold.
- Please add James Fullard Trail along Opinicon Lake
- Consider the addition of the new Whitefish property operated by RWLT

Minutes

Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held May 15, 2025 were distributed to Committee as part of the Agenda package. The Chair asked for any errors or omissions. None were noted.

RECOMMENDATION 2025-28

Moved by Howard French
Seconded by Allison Smith

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee approves and adopts the Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held on May 15, 2025.

Carried

MHAC Action Listing - Verbal Update: Marie White (For Information)

Staff provided a verbal update on MHAC projects. In particular:

- It was suggested at the Economic Development Committee meeting that MHAC consider including the addition of "Historic Settlement" Tag Bars to all Historic Settlement signs in order to differentiate them from the Village signs. For example, in Elgin, the sign for Cheney's Corners is near to the village sign, causing confusion. In the draft 2026 MHAC Budget, include approx. \$4,000 for consideration ($\$200 \times 17 = \$3,400$ plus taxes and installation, plus some signs are two sided, such as Freeland). MHAC members would also like to add a website to these tag bars. The webpage could include historic maps of the settlements.
- Map distribution took place the week of May 20
- Guide distribution took place the weeks of June 9th and 16th
- QR code labels for Documentaries were shared with the Harbormaster for the Portland Harbour and the Newboro Harbour

MHAC members mentioned that the sign for Halladay Quarry is not facing traffic. One solution would be to order a second side.

New Business

Cemetery Research Working Group - Verbal Update (For Information)

Howard and George updated the committee on the upcoming Cemetery Meet and Greet, scheduled for Thursday, October 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Newboro Community Hall. A draft agenda was circulated at the meeting. MHAC members discussed the convenience of online cemetery plot maps for properties such as Forfar Cemetery.

Correspondence/Events

Letter from Newboro and Area Heritage Society (For Discussion)

MHAC received the proposal by the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS) for information purposes as per recommendation 2025-30 from the Economic Development Committee.

Ontario Heritage Toolkit - As published May 9, 2025 (For Information)

For information, Section 6 outlines the process for amending designation by-laws.

Call for Projects 2025-2026 - GLAM Incubator - Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (For Information)

For your information, to support the work of organizations in galleries, libraries, archives, and museums, the Incubator will lend, purchase, or assist with the **acquisition of technological equipment** and software required for the project. It will also assist with project tasks such as event facilitation, graphic design, social media, research expertise, knowledge mobilization activities, project management, and other supports as necessary. The Incubator will help project leads secure external funding to sustain projects after incubation. Due August 1, 2025.

Leeds Grenville 175 Years - Request for Content (For Discussion)

John Kalivas of the United Counties of Leeds Grenville reached out regarding the 175th Anniversary of Leeds and Grenville. Rideau Lakes is invited to submit engaging stories, features, photos, and other content that highlight the rich history, vibrant communities, and unique attributes of our region.

MHAC members suggested that content submitted may include:

- Documentaries
- Storyboards
- "Did you know" sections from the Picnic Guide
- Lakes and Islands
- Photos
- Articles such as, "Must see Museums"

Reports from Committee Members

Sabina Barrett

- Ontario Barn Preservation would like to collaborate with Rideau Lakes to document Barns older than 1961. The process of identification will ideally take place from late Fall to early Spring, when the leaves have fallen.

Howard French

- Attended an excellent historical presentation by Ross Lambert at St. Mary's Church in Newboro
- Also attended local celebration on the June 1 anniversary of the United Church of Canada
- Attended event held in honour of St. Mary's 175th anniversary in Newboro
- Attended Spirit of the Drum Pow Wow in Smiths Falls

- Suggestion to invite John Kalivas from UCLG to an upcoming MHAC meeting

George German

- Interested in the Barn Preservation project

David Gwynne

- Portland photos in progress

Diane Haskins

- Historic Rideau Canal 1900-1920 - Kingston Mills to Ottawa Photographic Display is at the Red Brick School in Elgin
- Recent donation of two beautifully restored Dowsett Boats to Portland on the Rideau Historical Society (PRHS)
- The Minister of Culture and Heritage called from Queens Park regarding the senior volunteer awards, mentioning that 21 people were selected in 2025. Diane recalls how her own volunteer journey was sparked by a call from Sue Warren's mother circa 1969 extending an invitation to get involved. Last year, the Diane and Keith Haskins Award for community service was established with the high school in Elgin, and the first ever bursary will be awarded to a deserving student on Thursday, June 26, 2025.

Allison Smith

- Submitted an article to the Ottawa Historical Society (OHS) newsletter about the 200th anniversary of the Rideau Canal, spanning 6 years from 2026 to 2032 . A film is in development about the early planning of the Canal, the consideration of other routes, a tramway, etc. to be completed in October, 2025.

Sue Warren

- The Rideau Lakes History Centre archives are very busy with researchers
- Donations have been received from the Anna Greenhorn estate, including items related to Phillipsville and Forfar
- Chaffeys Locks and Area Historical Society (CLAHS) is working on a new textile exhibit for the Doors Open event in August
- CLAHS student is actively re-cataloguing items at the Lockmaster's House Museum

Questions from the Public

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

George German, Chair

Marie White, Secretary