



TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
Municipal Office, Chantry

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

Members Absent: Councillor Paula Banks

Staff Present: Marie White, Economic Development and Cultural Heritage Coordinator, Rosanne Lake, Heritage Event Program Assistant

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Regrets were received from Councillor Paula Banks.

Public members in attendance who signed in:

- Saoirse Carroll

Additions/Amendments to the Agenda

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

- New Business - Item 9.1 Gallagher Property - Carriage House Roof (For Information)

Adoption of the Agenda

RECOMMENDATION MHAC 2025-29

Moved by Allison Smith
Seconded by Sue Warren

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.

Business Arising

Doors Open Rideau Lakes - Update: Rosanne Lake (For Information)

Rosanne Lake presented an update on Doors Open. An itinerary document was presented on screen. Highlights:

- A Doors Open Meet and Greet took place at the Portland Community Hall, where site packages (visitor survey, maps and signs etc.) were distributed to host site representatives in attendance.
- Met with the Elgin CEC, planning to provide refreshments with a heritage feel.
- Met with Chairperson Mary Roantree of the Elgin and Area Heritage Society to finalize the Elgin Walking Tour.
- Met with the South Elmsley CEC regarding the Wood Mausoleum site. Tony Humphries will be available. Ted and Marion Outerbridge have scheduled three talks.
- The Delta CEC received information. On Sunday, a showcase of Rideau Lakes documentaries will take place at the Old Town Hall.
- A tri-fold event brochure has been created, and being printed.
- A detailed Itinerary has been drafted for digital use on the Rideau Lakes website and social media platforms. This was a suggestion of the working group as an addition to Doors Open Ontario website. A link to the itinerary can be added.
- A media release was created and sent out.
- Event signs have been ordered.
- A Photographer has been booked.

- A Seniors Bus Tour is in development

Next steps:

- site visits / brochure distribution / buttons
- working on detailed hand outs

Members asked if there is a button for the property owners/main site contacts or "Hosts" to wear. Discussion took place about the number of sites and activities on the tour, and that visitors may not be able to visit all the sites. It was mentioned that people will build their own tours based on personal interests. Other Doors Open locations take the same approach, offering several options. For example, Doors Open Cornwall and South Dundas & Glengarry Counties take place the same weekend. Some members consider the sites a great blend of heritage and commercial opportunities appealing to different interest groups. '

Councillor Dustin Bulloch thanked the committee, and announced that this will be his last meeting as a member of the committee. It has been a positive experience. At the Council table, heritage interests will be represented.

Chairperson George German thanked Councillor Bulloch for the contribution of his knowledge and skills to the committee and further stated that while it is a win to have Dustin on Council, its is also a loss of a strong member on MHAC.

Councillor Dustin Bulloch left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Early History Statement - Update: Marie White (For Information)

Committee members discussed the recommended statement as attached. Discussion highlights are as follows:

- Archeologically speaking, up until 1,000 years ago it is difficult to determine which groups resided in Rideau Lakes. It also depends on what period of time is being looked at, since there were changes over the years. Overall, it is most accurate to say that the Anishinaabe were the main peoples in this area.
- Indigenous presence in the area can now be established up to 10,500 years.
- The complex history cannot be explained in a paragraph. Lots of descendants in this community today.

Suggestions include:

- "The Anishanaabe, who were known historically as Algonquins...", could read "Indigenous peoples..."
- The complex history can be expanded on the website, with links to sources and local research documents.

- Include the geomorphology, provide reference the glaciers and the Champlain Sea abutting the Frontenac Arch. Mention the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve and the Rideau Canal; two UNESCO world heritage sites. Add some ecological history about the ice age. Members offered to help with the description.

The first paragraph of the Early History statement as presented is recommended for the 2026 map.

Howard French left the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

RECOMMENDATION MHAC 2025-30

Moved by Sue Warren

Seconded by David Gwynne

That the Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the following statement be included in the 2026 Rideau Lakes Road map:

"Early History of Rideau Lakes

Archeological evidence shows that that Indigenous peoples have continuously lived in the Rideau lakes area for at least 9,000 years. Indigenous artifacts have been found around all of the lakes in this area."

Carried

Minutes

Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held June 19, 2025 were distributed to Committee as part of the Agenda package. The Chair asked for any errors or omissions. One formatting request was made:

Under Reports from Committee Members, the following information should be separated into two bullet points as shown below:

- 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.

RECOMMENDATION MHAC 2025-31

Moved by Allison Smith

Seconded by Sue Warren

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee approves and adopts the Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held on June 19, 2025 as amended.

Carried

MHAC Action Listing - Verbal Update: Marie White

A detailed update on MHAC projects and their status was provided by staff. Highlights of the verbal report are as follows:

- The Woods Mausoleum repairs are complete
- The process of amending heritage by-laws is underway for The Pimple and Sheldon House
- A draft designation by-law for Newboro Community Hall is in development
- Historic Settlement signs - Fosterville installed, location for Ballentine identified. Second sign for Halladay Quarry ordered. (Red Brick School tag bar? "Home of Elgin Days" Chaffeys Hall?)
- Documentary - Based on the status report received from Allison regarding her work with the Ottawa Heritage Society, the line item in the 2025 MHAC budget allocated to Documentaries will not be spent this year. Redirect funds to Doors Open.
- The Township is scheduling a seniors bus trip for the Doors Open event
- A coach tour for Doors Open weekend is being offered by 1000 ways Tours
- Washrooms in all community halls will be open for the Doors Open event on Aug 16 and 17, 2025

The required steps in the process to amend the existing 2 By-laws are as follows:

- MHAC receives updated By-laws and recommends the amendments to Council
- If approved, notice of proposed amendments is served on property owner; the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT); and published as per the Public Notice Policy.
- If no objections are received within thirty (30) days then Council may amend the by-law.
- The amending by-law is passed and Registered on Title.
- The Notice of Amendment is served on property owner, OHT; and as per the Public Notice Policy
- Municipal and provincial registers are updated
- Canadian Register is updated

New Business

Gallagher Property - Carriage House Roof (For Information)

The Carriage House at 14 Water Street (known as the Gallagher Property) in Portland is of concrete construction. Cement was made in Brooks Bay (near Jones Falls) for the Rideau Canal (at the time, locks were held together with cement). However, the facility closed around the 1940s. Based on the timeline, concrete used to build the Carriage House likely did not come from Brooks Bay.

It was noted that the Carriage House was altered and the upstairs windows were changed.

Comments from the committee:

- Plans for the Gallagher Property should include homage to the former buildings on the property. For example, a ghost structure was suggested (similar to a open roof gazebo) to represent the Bresee home circa 1840s (simple frame), or the Gallagher House from the 1920s (a more complicated Georgian structure).
- A storyboard would be appreciated
- Portland on the Rideau Historical Society would like to see the Carriage House as an Interpretive Centre
- Recommendations have been made to the working group

Correspondence/Events

Councillor Deborah Anne Hutchings - Great West Saddle Company (For Information)

The committee enjoyed the document.

Reports from Committee Members

Sabina Barrett

- Ontario Barn Preservation's barn counting project is underway. At risk structures or particularly unique barns are of interest.

Diane Haskins

- In Portland, July 26 is Heritage Boat Day. Locally built and restored Hull Boat will be on display.
- Portland on the Rideau Historical Society received a donation of two restored Dowsett Boats
- A speaking engagement is planned for Monday, July 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Newboro to present the history of the Poplars Resort from 1947 to 1960 while operated by the Simmons family, plus a story by Steven Knowlton Bresee
- Would like to see panels in Community Halls. The panels in Newboro are a good example. Consider in 2026 budget.
- Heritage Barns - When you drive south between Portland and Crosby on Hwy 15, Bob Chant has a fascinating barn with three sections. The

wooden section in the middle appears to be the original, with additions on both sides. Another Heritage Barn on Freeland Road may also be of interest.

Allison Smith

- Submitted an article about 1920s and 1930s that was published by the Ottawa Historical Society
- If a museum for Rideau Lakes is being considered, boat building history is a fascinating subject
- Heritage Barns - Norwood Barn (collapsed)

Ted Stewart

- On June 21, a third talk was held in Newboro called, "Indigenous People of Rideau Lakes" attended by over 95 people. Six panels in Newboro Hall have been produced on the subject. The printing cost \$1,300 (Howling Designs) plus graphic design \$600. People from New Zealand attended, and noted that there is very little information for tourists on the Indigenous in Canada. People from Ottawa and Kingston also attended.
- On June 20, the local indigenous beading group volunteered to make chili and 74 tickets were sold at \$20
- Upcoming, John Gray will speak about Benjamin Tett (former Member of Parliament); a 2-part talk
- Five groups approached Ted to speak; Chaffey's Lock, Leeds & Thousand Islands, two places in Lanark (including the ABC Hall in Bolingbroke), and Portland
- Heritage photo brought forward by Howard French is 5" by 7" in size. Upon close examination, there are 7 flags - red ensigns (prior to maple leaf), which dates the photo to 1870-71-72. A treaty. One person is wearing 3 buffalo horns, indicating the location is out west near Winnipeg River in Manitoba. Ribbon skirts and beadwork offers additional clues. Pictures of treaties are not common - a historically significant image.

Sue Warren

- At Chaffey's [Lockmaster's House] Museum, the Textile Exhibit should be on display in time for Doors Open. If not ready, the exhibit on early cottages is on display
- The [Rideau Lakes History Centre] archives have been really busy; people researching the history of Delta Fair, people from Leeds Grenville Genealogical Society doing research. A summer student, MacKenzie, is at the Archives for 3 hours a week, making spreadsheets of oral and film assets to be preserved.

- On social media, the Genealogy page is followed by over 6,000 and the Rideau Lakes Community Forum is followed by over 11,500 people
- Morton Hall and Chaffeys Hall are seeking help for interpretation during Doors Open
- Rideau Lakes Museum - Fish guiding is a major part of Rideau Lakes History
- Heritage Barns - Several collapsed barns in the Township

Questions from the Public

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 p.m.

George German, Chair

Marie White, Secretary