



# Rideau Lakes

**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES**  
**Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes**

**Thursday, April 16, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Municipal Office, Chantry**

Members Present: Howard French, Committee Chairperson David Gwynne, Allison Smith, Sue Warren, Councillor Paula Banks, Sabina Barrett

Members Absent: Diane Haskins, Ted Stewart

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

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## **Call to Order**

Committee Secretary Marie White called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the April 16 meeting of the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC). Acknowledgment of outgoing member and Chairperson George German was given for his years of service as a member of MHAC.

Staff clarified that five 5 members constitutes a quorum and that quorum is present.

## **Roll Call**

Regrets from Diane Haskins and Ted Stewart. Sue Warren joined the meeting virtually. Councillor Paula Banks joined the meeting virtually at 9:55 a.m.

Public members in attendance who signed in: Dale Jones.

## **Selection of a Chairperson: Marie White, Committee Secretary**

This being the first meeting since the resignation of MHAC Chair George German, the selection of a Chairperson is necessary. Secretary Marie White conducted the nomination process. Nominations were called 3 times. David Gwynne was nominated and accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. It was resolved that David Gwynne will assume the position of Chairperson for the remainder of the term.

**RECOMMENDATION MHAC 2026-07**

Moved by Allison Smith  
Seconded by Sue Warren

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee elects David Gwynne as the Chairperson for the remainder of the term of Council.

Carried

**Additions/Amendments to the Agenda**

David Gwynne took the chair and called for any additions or amendments to the agenda. None were heard.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

**RECOMMENDATION MHAC 2026-08**

Moved by Howard French  
Seconded by Sue Warren

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

Carried

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

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

**Business Arising**

MHAC review of Planning Committee Applications: Allison Smith

**Councillor Paula Banks joined the meeting virtually at 9:55 a.m.**

Members of the committee discussed both the importance and mechanisms to protect heritage in Rideau Lakes. For example:

1. Protected Views
2. Designated Cultural Landscapes
3. Heritage Streetscapes

Members are interested to know if current planning policies acknowledge the UNESCO World Heritage Site, and suggested a review of the Strategic Plan, Official Plan and Community Improvement Plan. Suggested amendments to the Official Plan may result. The option to appoint a heritage representative to the Planning Committee was discussed.

It was noted that the former / original By-Law establishing the MHAC committee, (Schedule A to By-Law 2005-71 defining MHAC's committee Role), stated "reviewing zoning by-laws to ensure they have regard for and implement heritage conservation." It was suggested that MHAC review Planning Committee Applications for zoning changes. This item to be discussed further at the next meeting.

The committee's interest in zoning is specific to their affect on the heritage status of the Rideau Canal System, and its recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**RECOMMENDATION MHAC 2026-09**

Moved by Councillor Paula Banks

Seconded by Sabina Barrett

Be it resolved that MHAC recommends to Council that Planning Applications be circulated to the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee in the same way that the Lake Associations are informed.

Carried

Staff Report: MHAC Action Listing

A detailed Action Listing on MHAC projects and their status was included in the Agenda Package.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held March 19, 2026 were distributed to Committee as part of the Agenda package.

**RECOMMENDATION MHAC 2026-10**

Moved by Allison Smith

Seconded by Howard French

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee approves and adopts the Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held on March 19, 2026.

Carried

**New Business**

Lombardy Walking Tour - Update: Sabina Barrett (For Discussion)

Member Sabina Barrett updated the committee on the idea for a Historical Walking Tour Lombardy. The first phase may take the form of a brochure, with a companion web component and storyboards phased in later. At the meeting the draft concept map will be recirculated for discussion.

## **Reports from Committee Members**

Sabina Barrett

- Dry Stone Wall Workshop on October 3 and 4, 2026
- South Elmsley CEC may be a good partner for the Lombardy Walking Tour
- Status on Archives project and how it relates to the acquisition of material from Parks Canada. A partnership with RLPL may be an option.

Howard French

- Correspondence from Collingwood, so nice to visit "Old Ontario"
- Presentation by Alison Gibson as part of the NAHS speaker series
- Is there anyone tracking feedback from visitors regarding Heritage Tourism

Allison Smith

- Online resources include Ontario Barn Preservation
- Parks Canada must consult with Library and Archives Canada as part of the deaccessioning process
- PBS is showing Rideau Lakes documentaries
- Open caption versions of the films have been received (showing subtitles)
- Francois Brega Award received for the film on the Rideau Canal

Sue Warren

- Rideau Lakes History Centre has had a few people in, scanning a few photos. On April 27, a training session with 12 RLPL staff will take place on how to answer questions of local history. Projects in 2027 include inventory and proper storage of newly acquired items. Rideau Lakes Public Library (RLPL) is the legal owner of the Archive Materials. Friends of the Rideau has been an involved partner.
- The Ginormous Book Sale takes place this weekend at the Old Town Hall in support of DMS and RLPL
- The Chaffeys Lock and Area Heritage Society (CLAHS) was approved for 2 summer positions at the museum. The Textile exhibit continues. Catherine Carbino will manage the Lockmaster's House Museum again this season.
- Elgin and Area Heritage Society - 1950s Elgin exhibit at the Red Brick School, featuring the Old Continuation School. EAHS Facebook has 6,000 followers.

- Parks Canada is closing their library collection. Would like to preserve the 1977 interviews of people that worked at the Elgin Quarries. Friends of the Rideau has uploaded several records. Printed documents available on microfiche may be considered duplicates. Material may of interest to the Township or local heritage groups.
- NAHS - Working on a display featuring the Newboro Canning Factory and a patent on a watch designed in Newboro

Councillor Paula Banks

- 200th anniversary of the Rideau Canal - event organizers may be approached to take part in celebrations. Looking at conducting a Town Crier competition.
- Alto Pinning Party taking place in Elgin April 21 from 5 until 9 pm

David Gwynne

- Photo project nearly complete
- Article in Cottage Life Magazine by Chris Nichols entitled, "Time Frame" Nick Ales book is referenced. Shield to Lake Champlain and earlier waterbodies.

**Questions from the Public**

Public attendee Dale Jones:

- Documentaries could be played at Elgin Days in the community room on a continuous loop
- For Geology enthusiasts, there is a new rock cut on Division
- Architecture

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

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David Gwynne, Chair

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Marie White, Secretary