



Rideau Lakes

TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
Minutes

Thursday, August 15, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Municipal Office, Chantry

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

Members Absent: Dustin Bulloch, 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 9:34 a.m.

Roll Call

Regrets were received from Dustin Bulloch, Ted Stewart, and Councillor Paula Banks.

Additions/Amendments to the Agenda

The Chair called for any additions or amendments to the agenda. None were heard.

Adoption of the Agenda

RECOMMENDATION 44-2024

Moved by Allison Smith
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

Doors Open Working Group - Verbal Update: Sabina Barrett

The Doors Open Working Group met on August 9. Affirmative sites include:

- Old Stone Mill
- Stone Manor Studios
- St. Mary's Church in Newboro
- Newboro Branch of the Rideau Lakes Public Library
- McKinney House
- Red Brick School
- The Tipped Ship / Dargavel Store
- Blair House
- Wood Mausoleum
- Emmanuel Heritage Centre
- Chaffey's LockMaster's House

The website live, and can be found at: www/rideaulakes.ca/DoorsOpen

Next steps include gathering photos of all potential sites.

RECOMMENDATION 45-2024

Moved by Sabina Barrett

Seconded by Diane Haskins

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee recommends to Council that two municipal properties be included in the Doors Open event taking place on August 16 and 17th, 2025; Woods Mausoleum and the Newboro Branch of the Rideau Lakes Public Library.

Carried

Heritage Centre Working Group: Verbal Update: Dustin Bulloch

Sue Warren reported that the summer student, Tyson Legault, has been working in the archives for 8 weeks and his last day is August 15, 2024. Tyson has shown an avid interest in his genealogy, having documented his own family tree back to 8 generations. He is very tech savvy and there has been a tremendous amount of organization done, and consideration has been given to the benefits of saving items to the cloud.

The Delta Mill Society has acquired archival materials from the Bastard and South Burgess Historical Society, including a series of diaries dating from 1907-1931, kept by an individual travelling by horse and buggy between cemeteries.

In addition, Delta Mill Society has also received 6 boxes of materials from the 1960s, specific to The Old Stone Mill. All are being housed at the archives; a total 9 boxes added to the archives in 2024.

Members noted that several items have been uploaded to the Lakes and Islands online database over the summer, and that the amount of material about Chaffeys Lock is due to the contributions made by summer staff at the Chaffeys Lockmaster's House since 1982.

More images and materials regarding Portland would be useful. The Portland on the Rideau Historical Society (PHRS) may have their own collections.

The goal would be to scan all images and documents from heritage societies and upload them to the online database.

Discussion about locations for archival space. Adequate archival space is needed.

For information, it was noted that a public input session about the Chantry Municipal Offices will be taking place on Sept 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Ronald E. Holman Centre.

Rideau Lakes Strategic Plan - MHAC Input (For Discussion): Councillor Paula Banks

The draft Strategic Plan was circulated by email. Suggestions include:

- **Identify regions of villages that have a heritage significance**
 - Plan and budget for sidewalks (composed of brick, heritage looking light standards) to enhance "historic village districts" to increase property values and encourage residents to embrace the heritage

Councillor Sue Dunfield departed at 10:11 a.m.

- **Streetscape design guidelines for villages**
 - community guided - trees, traffic calming, lighting, benches
 - bring all departments to align
 - sidewalk improvements prioritized for heritage areas
 - Prioritize planting of Sugar Maple Trees; the maple tree and maple bushes are a significant attribute to our landscapes and heritage, build fall colour tourism
- **Creative ways to slow traffic**
 - wavy lines, planters, incorporate greenspace and trees and pedestrian areas
 - at Forfar in 1974, trees were planted, maples have stood the test of time

- to build climate resiliency, install plantings
- boulevards at the entrance to each historic village
- lesser use of flashing speed signs
- Prioritizing Indigenous Interests
- **Prioritize Indigenous Heritage**
 - MHAC is pursuing Indigenous research to reflect our history beyond the most recent 200 years
 - Work with Parks Canada
- **Display Heritage**
 - Any new construction should include heritage elements to achieve multiple goals such as beautification, tourism, heritage
 - Parts of archeological interest at Lower Beverley Lake Park should be publicly accessible
- **Digitization of Cemetery Information**
 - to enable easy access by the public who may be researching their family history in "Old Ontario"
- **Establish and maintain adequate Reserves and Reserve Funds.** The need for reserves and reserve funds . Read Reserves and Reserve Fund Policy City of London Ontario 1 example Read about MFOA perspective on reserves and reserve funds

In the Strategic Planning document:

1. Cultural Heritage should have its own category

- In the 9 categories, Cultural Heritage was combined with Recreation and Quality of Life
- Tourism is closely related to Heritage

2. In the Environment category

- UNESCO designation of the Canal was mentioned ...
- Add: UNESCO designation of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere North South from Algonquin Park to Adirondacks which folds in the Indigenous aspects of our heritage; a strong tourism draw
- Add: Protect the Water quality of the Rideau Watershed. Identified in the Mission statements of the Lower Beverley Lake Association since it's inception and the Mission statement of the Big Rideau Lake Association since the mid 1940's. The initiative in 1989-1990 by the Council of Bastard and South Burgess

convinced RVCA to study and address water quality in the Rideau system. This also contributes to Tourism.

- Partner with RVCA and CRCA

3. Establish 5 main goals, then a set of objectives/activities, then a plan of tasks by year with budget allocation

MHAC intends to provide comment to the draft Strategic Plan.

Gallagher Property Site Plan - MHAC Input (For Discussion): Councillor Paula Banks

Members of the committee discussed the history of the property and discussed ideas including:

- An open timber-frame structure with a grassy floor (such as a pavilion) with storyboards
 - Highlight history of the Gallagher and Bresee House
 - Press a button to hear the history
- Highlight Boat Building in Bastard and South Burgess Ward
 - William Dowsett's Boat Building Factory was on Water Street
 - PHRS has recently been gifted with a Dowsett Boat, plus Halladay Boats built in Delta
 - Big Rideau Lake is important for Tourism, both currently and historically
 - Display Boats under roofed structure, with Heritage Storyboards as a Tourism Draw (The interior of the new Library in Portland is being themed to resemble a cottage environment, which would align well with the Boat history)
 - Dowsett House is in Portland - built like a Ship
 - Christmas Lights such as those used in Delta to illuminate the park
- Heritage-style Light Standards and sidewalks along Water Street (Streetscape Design for Water Street)
- Space for Community Barbeques and events

The lot is a prominent location in the village of Portland. MHAC acknowledges the requests from other groups for Washrooms, Laundromat, Parking, and a Playground.

Staff noted that a replica of the Passenger Shelter at the Portland Harbour is planned for 2025, that sidewalks in Portland are being constructed this year, and the business community has requested a pedestrian pathway from the harbour to the commercial section on Hwy 15.

Sue Warren left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

It was agreed that a heritage element be included in the plan for the Gallagher Property.

Minutes

Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held July 18, 2024 were distributed to Committee as part of the Agenda package. The Chair asked for any errors or omissions. None were noted.

RECOMMENDATION 46-2024

Moved by Diane Haskins

Seconded by David Gwynne

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee approves and adopts the Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held on July 18, 2024.

Carried

Reports from Committee Members

Diane Haskins:

- Author Charlotte Gray visited the Red Brick School to view the Clifford Pennock Exhibit

Allison Smith:

- Portland Documentary in production, and expected to be completed in advance of the Film Viewing on Oct 18 to coincide with the Heritage Meet and Greet. The Emmanuel Heritage Centre would be an appropriate venue given that AV equipment is available.

Questions from the Public

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m. A special meeting of MHAC will be held on September 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the Municipal Offices in Chantry.

George German, Interim Chair

Marie White, Secretary