



# Rideau Lakes

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

**Thursday, October 17, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Municipal Office, Chantry**

Members Present: Dustin Bulloch, Howard French, George German, David Gwynne, Diane Haskins, Allison Smith, Sue Warren, Chair, Councillor Paula Banks

Members Absent: Ted Stewart, Sabina Barrett

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

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## **Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

## **Roll Call**

Round Table introductions were made for the benefit of public members in attendance.

MHAC member David Gwynne joined the meeting virtually.

Tom Sled, Richard Brouse and Bob Sneyd from the Portland on the Rideau Historical Society (PRHS) and Dale Jones from Halladay Burial Place were public members in attendance.

Regrets from MHAC members Ted Stewart and Sabina Barrett.

## **Additions/Amendments to the Agenda**

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

**Adoption of the Agenda**

**RECOMMENDATION 52-2024**

Moved by Diane Haskins  
Seconded by Dustin Bulloch

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) adopt the October 17, 2024 meeting agenda as presented.

Carried

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Chair George German asked if any MHAC member had a pecuniary interest in any Item on the Agenda and if so, the Nature of that Interest and the following was declared:

I, Howard French, do declare a direct pecuniary interest in accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 190, c. M.50* in regards to item 10.7 the Draft 2025 Budget on the regular MHAC Meeting Agenda dated October 17, 2024.

The declared interest is of the following general nature: MHAC Oct. 17/24 Agenda item 10.7 line item Cemeteries Lumbar, Briar Hill, Philippsville Baptist.

**Presentation: Richard Brouse, Tom Sled and Bob Sneyd, Portland on the Rideau Historical Society**

Diane Haskins introduced the 3 presenters. Tom Sled spoke first, and introduced the opportunity to showcase the Boating Heritage of Portland, and boat building of the indigenous people such as the rice canoe, boat construction and its history in Rideau Lakes for all ages. Funding options include RTO9 and other government programs to tell the story of the indigenous people. Displays may include classic boats and other historical artifacts to promote heritage to residents and visitors.

A concept sketch for the Gallagher property was displayed on screen and circulated to the in person committee members as handouts. A "ghost building" to honour the former Bresee house could include a concrete floor, window hangings, and a reproduction door.

Regarding the boat display, PRHS has the storyline for the Dowsett storyline and two pristine Dowsett Boats.

Then Bob Sneyd spoke to examples of artifacts and display ideas.

It was suggested that the storyline could be broadened to include the food related elements of the story, such as a "fish fry", smoking fish, and the women's role in the

process. Expanding the story may involve more volunteers and participation from different aspects of the community.

In response to the presentation, it was explained that the Township has made a significant investment in the acquisition of this piece of real estate due to its key location in the "downtown" core of Portland. It was noted for context that there are competing ideas to consider from other groups such as the Portland CEC, and that parking in Portland is a significant issue. However, the Gallagher Property may be seen as too valuable for a parking lot. The parking issue in Portland must be addressed. There are ideas about a partnership with commercial property owners on Hwy 15 that may be able to provide an option for parking.

Guest Tom Sled Parking added the idea of a valet type service using golf carts to transport people between the parking areas and the harbour, providing an opportunity for summer staff to monitor parking, and collect fees for boat launching and docking.

Further discussion noted that the Gallagher property may also be seen as too valuable for boat storage. It was suggested that a public open house would be helpful for groups and residents to work together for the best use of the property. It was emphasized that the PRHS needs to work together with the Portland CEC and collaborate before the public meeting. PRHS indicated that they are willing to work with the Township.

Other MHAC members congratulated PRHS on the heritage concept, and noted that there is an indigenous canoe at the Queens University Biological Station (QUBS) in Chaffeys Lock; a rare artifact.

The display would be ideal for the upcoming anniversary of the Rideau Canal in 2026. An opportunity was mentioned, as the Smiths Falls Visitor Centre displays are being decommissioned by Parks Canada, which may be a timely and appropriate acquisition.

PRHS clarified that the proposal suggests a series of boats could be displayed in the ghost building, and that sheds in the back are for winter storage of the boats. The proposed heritage interpretive centre could display the exhibit from the Emmanuel Heritage Centre.

Discussion brought forward the idea that the new documentary film on Portland could be played on a loop as part of the display.

In closing, it was remarked that proposal will bring life to Portland and could be a great tourism draw.

### **RECOMMENDATION 53-2024**

Moved by Councillor Paula Banks  
Seconded by Dustin Bulloch

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee recommends to the Gallagher Property Steering Committee that the proposed heritage concept for the Gallagher Property as presented by the Portland on the Rideau Historical Society (PRHS) at the October 17, 2024 MHAC meeting be considered; specifically:

- To support local heritage as an element of the property to celebrate the boating history of Rideau Lakes.

Carried

### **Business Arising**

#### **Heritage Property Research (For Review and Approval)**

Members were asked to submit feedback to staff by email.

#### **Heritage Meet and Greet - Update: Marie White (For Information)**

Staff reported that 31 people are registered for the MHAC Meet 7 Greet on Friday, October 18th from 10 am to 2pm. Set up and a/v testing will take place on Thursday afternoon (today). An updated program attached for review.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the MHAC Meeting held September 19, 2024 were distributed to Committee as part of the Agenda package. The Chair asked for any errors or omissions. None were noted.

### **RECOMMENDATION 54-2024**

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 September 19, 2024.

Carried

### **Staff Report: MHAC Action Listing (For Information)**

A detailed Action Listing on MHAC projects and their status was included in the Agenda Package. Staff highlighted the progress made to date.

**RECOMMENDATION 55-2024**

Moved by Sue Warren  
Seconded by Councillor Paula Banks

Be it resolved the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) acknowledges the discussion on the Action Listing at the MHAC meeting held October 17, 2024.

Carried

**New Business**

Documentary Films - Update: Allison Smith (For Discussion)

The documentary film was circulated to MHAC members by email for review prior to the meeting. The film was well received.

**RECOMMENDATION 56-2024**

Moved by Howard French  
Seconded by Sue Warren

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) approves the new documentary film, "Middle Class Vacations in 19th-Century Portland and Rideau Lakes" by filmmaker and committee member Allison Margot Smith at the regular MHAC meeting held October 17, 2024.

Carried

Financial Update (For Information)

An updated financial statement was included in the Agenda Package.

**RECOMMENDATION 57-2024**

Moved by Dustin Bulloch  
Seconded by Councillor Paula Banks

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) acknowledges the discussion on the Financial Update held on October 17, 2024.

Carried

Heritage Centre Working Group: Archive Feasibility Study - Quotes Received (For Discussion)

Dustin, Sabina, Diane and Sue are members of the Heritage Centre Working Group. Dustin spoke to the staff report that was circulated as part of the Agenda package, and introduced the option to fund archives through a federal grant program entitled, 'Documentary Heritage Communities Program'.

In 2016, a partnership between the Chaffeys Lock and Area Heritage Society (CLAHS), the Delta Mill Society (DMS) and the Rideau Lakes Public Library (RLPL) were successful with an application to the program and were awarded \$15,000 for archives.

At the October 18th Meet and Greet event, the presentation by Dustin and Sue will include survey questions (circulated to in person members of the committee) that will help facilitate a discussion to guide us forward.

To provide context, the office building discussions taking place at the Municipal Services Committee (MSC) were mentioned, updating the committee on the possibility for approximately 1,500 sq. feet allocated for future growth could be temporarily available for archival materials to be assessed.

It was suggested that the existing archive space in Delta could be better supported and potentially expanded if an application to the program is successful.

Further discussion about archival space and storage took place. Options including leasing climate controlled space or requesting additional space from the libraries may be considered.

Items at risk may include the school registers in a barn owned by Diane Haskin of EAHS and the Cheese Factory information housed by Mary Carty of PRHS. An inventory would be very helpful.

If an archive study should move forward, it was suggested that best practices be articulated, a comparison to other small communities could be included, and additional funding opportunities may exist.

It was noted that a comparable community is the Leeds and Thousand Islands.

A case study on Kawartha Lakes was presented as a best practice. The annual budget of \$700,000 for archives is offset by \$504,000 in revenues. 42% of visitation are non-residents. The Town of Lindsay [in Kawartha Lakes] is projected to double in size. There is strong support from community and council. The staff person volunteered for 2 years before the new model was introduced. The archive budget was \$38,000. A virtual meeting would be valuable information. Provided details to staff by email.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 58-2024**

Moved by Allison Smith  
Seconded by Howard French

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) recommends to Council that the Archive Study does not proceed in 2024, as presented in MHAC report HER-2024-04;

And FURTHER THAT funding should be sought to advance the archive project on behalf of Heritage Societies and other partners.

Carried

Doors Open - Update: Marie White (For Discussion)

The Doors Open Working Group meeting discussions resulted in two requests.

**RECOMMENDATION 59-2024**

Moved by Councillor Paula Banks  
Seconded by Allison Smith

Be it resolved that the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) recommends to Council that parking in Newboro be organized in partnership with Parks Canada for the Doors Open event planned for August 16 and 17, 2025.

Carried

**RECOMMENDATION 60-2024**

Moved by Sue Warren  
Seconded by David Gwynne

Be it resolved the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) recommends to Council that Community Halls be open to provide public washroom facilities during the Doors Open event planned for August 16 and 17, 2025.

Carried

Presentation of Truth and Reconciliation events: Howard French (For Information)

Deferred.

Chaffeys Lock Walking Tour Content (For Review)

The Chair asked that members please send comments to staff.

Chaffeys was a launch point for WW1 soldiers to Fettercairn. A QR code or link to the documentary film could be included in the next edition.

Draft 2025 MHAC Budget (For Discussion)

Deferred.

**Reports from Committee Members**

Councillor Paula Banks

The Portland CEC met about the Gallagher Property. Laura Jensen is the new Chair. The proposal from PRHS should be shared for feedback.

Dustin Bulloch

Athens has a new storyboard. The Canal Museum owned by Parks Canada is officially closed and display items will be dispersed.

David Gwynne

Looking forward to gathering photos of historic homes when the leaves drop.

Sue Warren

Delta Mill has hired a collections manager. NAHS is hosting Sue as a guest speaker in November. CLAHS is applying for a panel on aboriginal history.

**Questions from the Public**

Dale Jones of the Halladay Burial Place asked that MHAC consider software that will assist with cemetery records. The Cemetery Working Group will review the request and report to MHAC at a future meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.

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George German, Interim Chair

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Marie White, Secretary