

Heritage Advisory Committee Orientation

1. Introduction to Heritage Planning
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 - The Municipal Register
 - Designation
 - Heritage Permits
3. City of Guelph Heritage Policy
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 - Cultural Heritage Action Plan
4. Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
 - Provincial Guidelines
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5. Bill 23
6. Current Heritage Projects

Heritage Planning

"The process of rational dialogue, application of legal tools, and creative resolution is called heritage planning... Heritage planning seeks solutions to the proposed loss of a historic place. In contrast to advocacy, it seeks to do so in a non-activist and non-confrontational manner. It is a collaborative process that channels advocates' enthusiasm into rational dialogue among various community interests"

- Kalman and Letourneau, *Heritage Planning*


Types of cultural heritage resources

- Buildings - residential, industrial, commercial
- Structures - water tower, culvert, fence, bridge
- Any other built/immoveable fixture attached to real property
- Spiritual sites
- Cemeteries, gravestones
- Monuments - cenotaph, public art or a statue



- Ruins
- Natural features
- Cultural heritage landscapes
- Building interiors
- Areas of archaeological potential
- Archaeological sites

Ontario Heritage Act

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Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

[Versions](#) [Regulations under this Act](#) [Revoked/spent regulations under this Act](#)

current [October 19, 2021 – \(e-Laws currency date\)](#)

[July 1, 2021 – October 18, 2021](#)

[June 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021](#)

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Municipal Heritage Register

- Publicly recognizes a property's cultural heritage importance
- Requires property owners to provide the City with 60 day's notice prior to intention to demolish
- Permits the City to consider designation in response to Planning Act applications
- Changes made in Bill 23 mean that all non-designated properties will be removed from the Register on January 1, 2027

Designation: What does it do?

- Publicly recognizes a property's cultural heritage importance
- Promotes good stewardship and conservation
- Protects the property's heritage value for the benefit of present and future generations
- Prohibits alteration, demolition and removal without the consent of the municipality

Designation: What it does not do

Heritage designation does not:

- Prevent the sale of a property
- Prevent another use
- Permit public access to the property
- Prevent change to a property

Heritage designation is all about guiding changes that are made, so that the property is enhanced without compromising its cultural heritage value

Designation: OHA Parts IV and V

Part IV – Individual Designation:

The designation of an individual property and identification of its heritage attributes in a statement of significance



Part V - District Designation:

A single designation involving multiple properties in a defined area is called a heritage conservation district (HCD).



To be individually designated a property must meet **2** of the following **9** criteria

Part IV Designation Criteria: O.Reg 9/06

Design or physical value

- Rare or unique style/construction
- Craftmanship/artistic merit
- Technical/Scientific achievement



Bell-O'Donnell House
96-98 Water Street

Historical or associative value

- Direct association with theme/event/person
- Yields information about community/culture
- Reflects work of artist/architect/builder/theorist



McCrea House
108 Water St

Contextual value

- Important in defining character of an area
- Physically/historically linked to surroundings
- Is a landmark



Mill Lofts
26 Ontario St

Designation: Heritage Attributes

- The parts of a property protected through a designation by-law
- Recognizes the features of a property that contribute to its heritage value
- Alteration to heritage attributes require an approved heritage permit
- Maintenance, repair, restoration, and conservation of heritage attributes do not require a permit

Heritage Permits

The City is enabled to manage physical change to designated cultural heritage resources.

The principal tool is the heritage permit application process



City of Guelph Heritage Policy

Official Plan Section 4.8

4.8 Cultural Heritage Resources

Cultural heritage resources are the roots of the community. They may include tangible features, structures, sites or landscapes that either individually or as a part of a whole are of historical, architectural, scenic or archaeological value. *Cultural heritage resources* may also represent intangible heritage such as customs, ways of life, values and activities. These resources may represent local, regional, provincial or national heritage interests and values. They include *built heritage resources*, *cultural heritage landscapes* and *archaeological resources*.

Cultural Heritage Action Plan



City of Guelph Heritage Planning Organizational Structure

Infrastructure, Development, and Environment



Planning and Building Services



Policy Planning



Heritage Planning

City of Guelph Heritage Advisory Committee

The committee's role is to advise and make recommendations to council.
Common functions of an MHC may include:

- Advise and provide recommendations to council on matters set out in the OHA
- Provide knowledge and expertise
- Facilitate community awareness, support and education about the issues at hand
- Assist in the work of the municipality by ensuring open dialogue on specific issues
- Enable and share best practices
- Be sensitive to the range of views in the community which it represents
- Act as a liaison between politicians, organizational staff, members of the public, and other stakeholders
- Create a climate of sharing and participation among committee members

City of Guelph Heritage Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference Approved by Council in March 2025

The Heritage Advisory Committee contributes strategic input and advice to City Council and City staff on matters pertaining to conservation of cultural heritage resource in the City of Guelph, including identifying, protecting, conserving, and promoting cultural heritage resources in the community through designation, education, and stewardship... Within its advisory mandate, the ACOC cannot direct City Council or City staff. However, the City of Guelph is committed to taking each ACOC's advice seriously and adhering to the mandate and legislative requirements for operating the ACOC.

Guelph's "Heritage Ecosystem"

- **City Council:** Make decisions on designation, demolition, heritage permits, and removal of properties from the Municipal Register
- **Heritage Advisory Committee:** Provide advice to City Council and staff
- **Heritage Planning staff:** Provide advice and expert opinion to City Council and the Heritage Committee
- **The Public:** Provide feedback on heritage projects, delegate to the Heritage Advisory Committee, or delegate to Council
- **Advocacy Groups:** Advocate for the conservation of cultural heritage resources in the City of Guelph

Bill 23

- In 2022, the “More Homes Built Faster Act” made changes to the Ontario Heritage Act
- These changes included:
 - Requiring properties meet 2 of the 9 designation criteria
 - Removing all non-designated properties from Municipal Registers by the end of 2026
 - All properties removed from the register cannot be added for 5 years
 - Any properties added to a Municipal Register after January 1, 2027, will only be listed for 2 years and removed if not designated

Current Heritage Projects

- Three Heritage Conservation District Projects
 - Ontario Reformatory (status: finalization of Plan and Guidelines)
 - Downtown Guelph (status: drafting of Plan and Guidelines)
 - Ward West (status: presentation of district study to Council June 10)
- Individual Designations
 - Heritage Planning staff have challenged ourselves to designate 50 properties by the end of the year
 - A call for property owners to volunteer their properties for designation was sent out in February – staff have received over 80 responses
- Official Plan Update
 - Updating the Official Plan to align with changes made by Bill 23, as well as the 2024 Provincial Policy Statement

Thank you!

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