

**TO:** Planning & Development Committee

**FROM:** Howard Bohan, Chair, Heritage Burlington

**SUBJECT:** 2017/2018 Annual Report for Heritage Burlington Citizen Advisory Committee

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## **Purpose**

This report is meant to update City Council on the activities of Heritage Burlington during the years 2017 and 2018; highlight the committee's achievements over that time; provide an update on the implementation of "A New Approach to Conserving Burlington's Heritage" (The New Approach) approved by Council in 2012; and articulate the Committee's initiatives for 2019.

## **Background**

The Heritage Burlington Citizen Advisory Committee was established by the City to advise City Council on issues related to the preservation of Burlington's built heritage including the designation of properties of heritage interest. The Committee also has a mandate to promote all aspects of Burlington's heritage to its citizens.

This report provides an update on Committee business in both 2017 and 2018. A 2017 update report was not provided to Council last year due to workload constraints as Committee leadership transferred to a new Chair and interim Vice-Chair. In lieu of a 2017 update report the new chair conducted one-on-one meetings with every member of Council in the spring of 2018.

## **2017 Highlights**

The following summarizes the Committee's activities and achievements as outlined in the interim annual update provided to Council on September 26, 2017:

- Appointment of Kate White as Chair and Howard Bohan as Vice Chair.
- Five new members added to the Committee.

- Workplan reprofiled to a more manageable five-year timeframe.
- Virtual tour of Brant Street launched in June with a hyperlink from the Heritage Burlington website.
- Property Tax rebate had a steady increase in applicants.
- Heritage Burlington's departing Chair, Jim Clemens awarded the Burlington's Best Heritage Award for 2016.

## **2018 Highlights**

- Mid-year appointment of Howard Bohan as Interim Chair and Pauline Laing as Interim Vice Chair.
- Five new members added to the Committee.
- New heritage evaluation process drafted and ready for testing.
- Plaques and Markers Policy drafted and under review with city staff.
- Initiated a review of the recommendations of the "New Approach to Heritage in Burlington".
- Advised city staff on the development of a study area for the downtown Mobility Hub.
- Clarified limits of using the Burlington Community Foundation as a trust vehicle for renovation fund for designated and non-designated properties on the Register.
- Proposed to Council that the idea of a trust or other vehicle could be a solution for "fair compensation" issue which resulted in Council directing staff to investigate that option.
- Participation in community events such as:
  - Ireland House Christmas
  - Doors Open Burlington
  - Heritage Month

## **Update to "A New Approach to Heritage in Burlington"**

"The New Approach", approved by Council in 2012, contained numerous recommendations, 8 of which have been completed; 12 are ongoing; and 4 have been superseded or are no longer relevant. A list of the completed recommendations and those that have been superseded or are no longer relevant is attached. The ongoing activities related to the recommendation that remain open are being reformatted into a new "New Approach" which will be presented to Council for approval in Fall 2019.

## 2019 Goals

The following goals have been identified for 2019/2020:

- Test and finalize the new Heritage Evaluation Process, including training for committee members in heritage evaluation.
- Finalize Plaques & Markers Policy including design specs (requires Council approval).
- Revamp Committee webpage and its management.
- New approach to public engagement including social media.
- Update downtown Heritage Tours and explore opportunities for tours in other parts of the City.
- Re-evaluate selected downtown "B" properties.
- Review and update 2012 New Approach recommendations.
- Complete review & make recommendations for fair compensation program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Howard Bohan, Chair  
Heritage Burlington

## **Complete or Obsolete 2012 New Approach Recommendations**

### **2. Transition Plans and Register**

- 2.1) Approve designation of 61 properties - **COMPLETE**
- 2.2) Continue listing of "A" properties under Kalman System on the Register - **COMPLETE**
- 2.3) Approve removal of "B" properties - **COMPLETE**
- 2.4) Modify Directory of Heritage Properties on Heritage Burlington website - **OBSOLETE - Heritage Burlington website will provide link to listing on City's website**
- 2.5) Discontinue Heritage Clearance system and develop advisory service – **COMPLETE - Advisory service limited to resource assistance**
- 2.6) Re-commitment to 120 turnaround - **COMPLETE**

### **4. Incentives**

- 4.1) Tax rebate program - **COMPLETE**
- 4.4) Establish a Burlington Heritage Trust – **OBSOLETE - Alternate initiative being developed by City**
- 4.6) Sponsor Heritage Person of the Year Award - **COMPLETE**
- 4.7) Fair Compensation – **NOT IMPLEMENTABLE**

### **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 Approve Budget for Heritage Initiatives - **COMPLETE**
- 5.2 Five-year budget plan (2014 – 2018) - **OBSOLETE**