

TO: Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk & Accountability Committee

FROM: Michele Camacho, Chair, Heritage Burlington

SUBJECT: 2022 Annual Report for Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee

DATE: February 2, 2023

Purpose

This report updates City Council on the activities and achievements of the Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee during 2022 and provides the Committee's work plan for 2023.

Background

The Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee was established by the City of Burlington in accordance with legislative requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act to advise City Council on issues related to the preservation of Burlington's built and natural heritage including the registration and designation of properties of heritage interest. The Committee also has a mandate to promote all aspects of Burlington's heritage to its residents and visitors.

2022 Highlights

Due to the 2022 Municipal Election, committee meetings were paused between August and October; however, some subcommittees continued to be active. Considering that the COVID virus was and is still active and that City Hall was and continues to undergo renovations, committee and subcommittee meetings have been virtual via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. The only exception has been some onsite visits by members of the Evaluations subcommittee.

Even though committee meetings were limited due to the Municipal Election, this was a very successful year in terms of fulfilling our mandate. Our success this year is largely attributable to the efforts of our new and very knowledgeable Heritage Planner, John O'Reilly; the support of the Mayor and City Council; the ongoing direction and advice of the Office of the City Clerk through Jo-Anne Rudy; and the tireless work of the volunteers that make up the Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee.

The following summarizes the Committee's activities and achievements during 2022:

- 33 buildings (including 795 Brant Street) were added to the Municipal Heritage Register.
- Recommended the heritage designation of 795 Brant Street.
- Reviewed and provided comments on the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report.
- Worked with the Burlington Historical Society, Burlington Public Library, Burlington Museums, Freeman Station, Kilbride History Group, Halton Black Awareness Society, Royal Botanical Gardens, History Pix, City of Burlington Community Gardens Program and the Beach Canal Lighthouse Group to organize and implement multiple events for a very successful Heritage Week held August 1-7.
- Ongoing review of "B" inventory properties through the Evaluations Subcommittee for consideration for addition to the Municipal Cultural Heritage Register.
- Worked with the City's Heritage Planner on the activation of the Downtown Cultural Heritage Landscape Study.
- Provided comments on 2 heritage grant applications and 3 Committee of Adjustment applications.
- Ongoing discussion with Roads, Parks and Forestry Department staff on the identification and preservation of heritage trees in Burlington.
- Provided feedback on Bill 23 "More Homes Built Faster Act".
- Provided feedback on amendment to Heritage Designation Bylaw for 398 Mountain Brow Road.

More Homes Built Faster Act 2022 - Bill 23

Bill 23, which was introduced on October 25, 2022, and received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022, made many critical, damaging amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act with the stated intent of providing more affordable housing. The Ontario Heritage Act had already been amended as recently as 2021 under Bill 108 – More Homes More Choices. While we are supportive of providing more affordable housing, we see no conditions in this legislation that will guarantee this objective. Working within the confines of Bill 23 will severely limit the ability of municipalities to protect heritage and cultural properties and sites. As such, the 2023 Work Plan must be specifically

designed to further our heritage protection objectives within the confines of this latest legislative framework.

2023 Work Plan

Our 2023 Work Plan is attached and highlights our priorities and identified budget to accomplish our goals.

Outstanding Initiatives

“The New Approach”, approved by City Council in October 2012, contained numerous recommendations, reflective of various positions on heritage and the management of heritage properties in Burlington. This document is currently being reviewed by our Heritage Planner and any outstanding items will be assessed for relevance in relation to current conditions. The Committee will work with the Heritage Planner on an updated Strategic Plan for Heritage Conservation in Burlington.

Conclusion

The volunteer members of Heritage Burlington are committed, engaged and passionate about carrying out the role Burlington’s City Council has given to us and I would like to thank each member for their time, contribution, and dedication to the committee. Our Vice Chair, Donald Thorpe, is leaving the Committee after many years of service to become the Vice Chair of the Burlington Historical Society. In addition to his in-depth knowledge and many important contributions, Don has chaired and been responsible for the very successful Heritage Week events for the past 2 years. We thank him for his excellent efforts and his local trivia questions at the close of each meeting. He will be sorely missed.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to Councillor Rory Nisan, our outgoing Council liaison, for his support and advocacy on our behalf throughout the previous City Council term. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Council liaison, Councillor Shawna Stolte, as we look forward to a very challenging year and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Camacho, Chair
Heritage Burlington