

Good morning. Thank you to the chair of the Committee of The Whole and committee members

My name is Andy Lyster and I'm the Vice Chair of Heritage Burlington. Due to a potential conflict of interest our Chair person felt it was appropriate to step aside so I am here representing the Heritage Burlington committee members and their recommendations.

With respect the staff report DGM-10-25 "Heritage Response to Bill 23 – Evaluation of Shortlist of Designation Candidates" and ***by unanimous vote our committee recommends Option 2 -Designate 26 Properties, as Recommended by Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee.***

Our committee strongly felt the need to delegate at your meeting to provide support and additional guidance on this matter.

As you know our committee is a group of volunteer citizens with a range of knowledge regarding built heritage and heritage landscape. We are not paid Heritage Consultants but we do have a collective knowledge of this community and its history. We understand that we can't stop change but we have a strong desire and mandate to preserve our heritage and manage the change.

With the introduction of Bill 23 our committee has been very busy over the last 2 years.

1. There was an undertaking to develop a short list of priority properties from our Heritage Registry that should be designated. This short list development was supported by committee member expertise in architecture, and planning, along with designated property owners.
2. In 2024 our committee successfully advocated for the 2 year extension of the Bill 23 deadline to Jan 1 2027
3. Starting in the fall of 2024 and continuing into 2025, our committee attended 27 heritage consultant presentations and reviewed 944 pages of reports.
4. It is estimated that each consultant report cost \$5000. So my math tells me that we have heard \$135,000 of expert advice.
5. So what did we get for our investment? We agreed with 23 reports and disagreed with 4.

To help understand the significance of these 4 additional properties let's take a step back and look at some numbers. The heritage experts (both currently and in the past) have decided that there are 281 properties in all of Burlington that are significant enough to either already be registered under the Ontario heritage act or could be.

So what do our numbers look like in Burlington?

74,000 residential properties in Burlington

281 properties on the Heritage Registry or 0.379%
196 non-designated
85 Designated 0.114%
27 identified and shortlisted
22 recommended
5 rejected by Stantec the heritage consultants 0.005%

Some local examples...

City	Households	Heritage Registry	Designated	%
Burlington	74,000	281	85	0.12
Oakville	73,000	910	700	1.00
St. Catharines	59,000	1000+	1000	1.70
Port Hope	7,000	270	200	2.90

How hard do we have to fight to save 4 significant properties? We note in the staff report that of the 27 consultant property reports only 7 property owners agreed with the designation, 5 rejected, and 14 are unknown. Worse case scenario is only 7 properties get added to our historical legacy

As a reminder there are 9 criteria for qualifying as a Heritage Property under the Heritage Act. These are broken down into 3 groups of 3 criteria. A property must meet 2/9 criteria to qualify.

1. Design or Physical Value
2. Historical or Associative Value
3. Contextual Value

“The contextual value for heritage designation considers a property’s role in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area, its physical, functional, visual, or historical links to its surroundings, and whether it serves as a landmark”

It is our hope that you will see the benefit in recommending our committee findings and put forward Option 2 from the staff report.

- 5 short listed properties were rejected by the Heritage Consultant report. 4 of these we deemed to have qualified under the “Contextual Value” of the heritage act criteria by our committee

If your committee is not in support of Option 2, we would support an Option 3 that prioritizes adding 458 Elizabeth St and/or 513 Locust St. to the recommended list.

- 458 Elizabeth is surrounded by Heritage Properties. 461 Elizabeth Knox Presbyterian Church is across the street, The Iron Duke building 451 Elizabeth is kitty corner, and our original library 482 Elizabeth and 490 Elizabeth. This is one of Burlington's largest clusters of designated properties.
- 513 Locust St., The Elgon Harric House now known as the Different Drummer is a landmark in city and helped define downtown Burlington.

Thank you for your time and contribution to protecting Burlington's heritage properties.