



TAY HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Agenda
March 7, 2023
Remote Video and Telephone Conference

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The Committee will be meeting remotely by video and telephone conference. For details on how to view the video conference meeting visit <https://www.tay.ca/Meetings>. To listen to the meeting by telephone call 705-999-0385 (a local telephone number) or 1-647-558-0588 and enter meeting ID: **895 6266 3520**.

1. Call to Order

2. Acceptance of Agenda

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

4. Review Draft Workplan

5. Terms of Reference

5.1 Motions for updates to time and election of chair

6. Annual CHO Conference – June 2023

7. Correspondence Received

7.1 CHOnews Winter Newsletter

7.2 2023 Doors Open Simcoe County

8. Next Meeting: April 4, 2023

9. Adjournment

Township of Tay
Tay Heritage Committee
2023 Work Plan

2023 Meeting Dates (please review attached calendar):

Task / Activity	Objectives	Action Plan	Target Date	Completion Date
Municipal Heritage Registry	To update and maintain the Municipal Heritage Registry to Provincial Government standards.	1. Research amendments and new requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act and any changes from Bill 23.	Ongoing	July 2023
		2. Review current registry and update according to research. (ie. compile descriptions, and remove homeowner information)	Ongoing	July 2023
		3. Network with other heritage committees and/or Municipalities for potential assistance with reports to council for required maintenance and possible designation requirements.	Ongoing	July 2023
Website/Blog	History: Member Terry Fegarty runs a blog on Heritage in Tay Township. (https://taytownshipheritage.wordpress.com/) Terry is looking for assistance with maintenance of this blog. Action plan has some suggestions. Committee to discuss.	1. Create new website (previously proposed). Steps may require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost/budget • Maintenance • Future member responsibilities 	TBD	TBD
		2. Propose having the information migrated from to the Tay Township website on a Tay Heritage page. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify with Township IT department if this can be done. • Committee to decide if they would like to maintain and add new content or keep as a historical record. • Content creation. • Staff resources and assistance. 	TBD	TBD

Township of Tay
Tay Heritage Committee
2023 Work Plan

Task / Activity	Objectives	Action Plan	Target Date	Completion Date
Heritage Signs including QR Signs	History: Previous Committees have paid for signage to have installed throughout the Township providing information on local heritage. Over time the signage has seen wear or vandalism and some signs require repair or replacement.	1. Create map of signage. • Report from previous member attached for review. • Check QR codes. • How are QR codes maintained or linked?	TBD	TBD
		2. Budget • Information has been received from the Manager of Parks and recreation regarding signage purchased by a Committee. The signage is the responsibility of the Committee and requires the Committee to maintain and cover replacement costs.	TBD	TBD
		3. Maintenance Schedule	TBD	TBD
Heritage Street Signs	History: previous Committee and planning staff were unsure if all the historical street signage purchased for Port McNicoll had been installed.	1. Map where the signs would need to be installed.	TBD	TBD
		2. Budget quote on signage provided by Operations department. • Reserves will be required to cover costs.	TBD	TBD
	The project was completed. All signs were installed. There are none at the office. Does the committee want to expand upon the previous project and add more signs to the Port McNicoll area?	3. Create report to Council to approve the use of reserves budget.	TBD	TBD

Township of Tay
Tay Heritage Committee
2023 Work Plan

Task / Activity	Objectives	Action Plan	Target Date	Completion Date
Marketing Plan	History: previous committee discussed marketing strategies that they may like to pursue to garner more interest and committee involvement.	1. Review previous marketing plan. Is this something the current committee would like to pursue? Updates required?	TBD	TBD
		2. Set out goals of the marketing plan. Create workplan to execute goals.	TBD	TBD
		3. Community calendar of events the Committee would like to attend and present at.	TBD	TBD
Century Plaque Program	History: the program was previously offered but not maintained or transferred to new committees. Is this a project that the committee would like to continue?	1. Create: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget/cost Select vendor and choose design. Create applications including a payment process – that is current to possible rising cost of product. Create ordering process. Plan to verify eligibility of applicants (age of home). Select committee coordinator for project.	TBD	TBD
		2. Advertisement plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sheets/brochures Tay website page Other places to advertise? Send flyer to homes that qualify?	TBD	TBD
		3. Program launch	TBD	TBD

Township of Tay
Tay Heritage Committee
2023 Work Plan

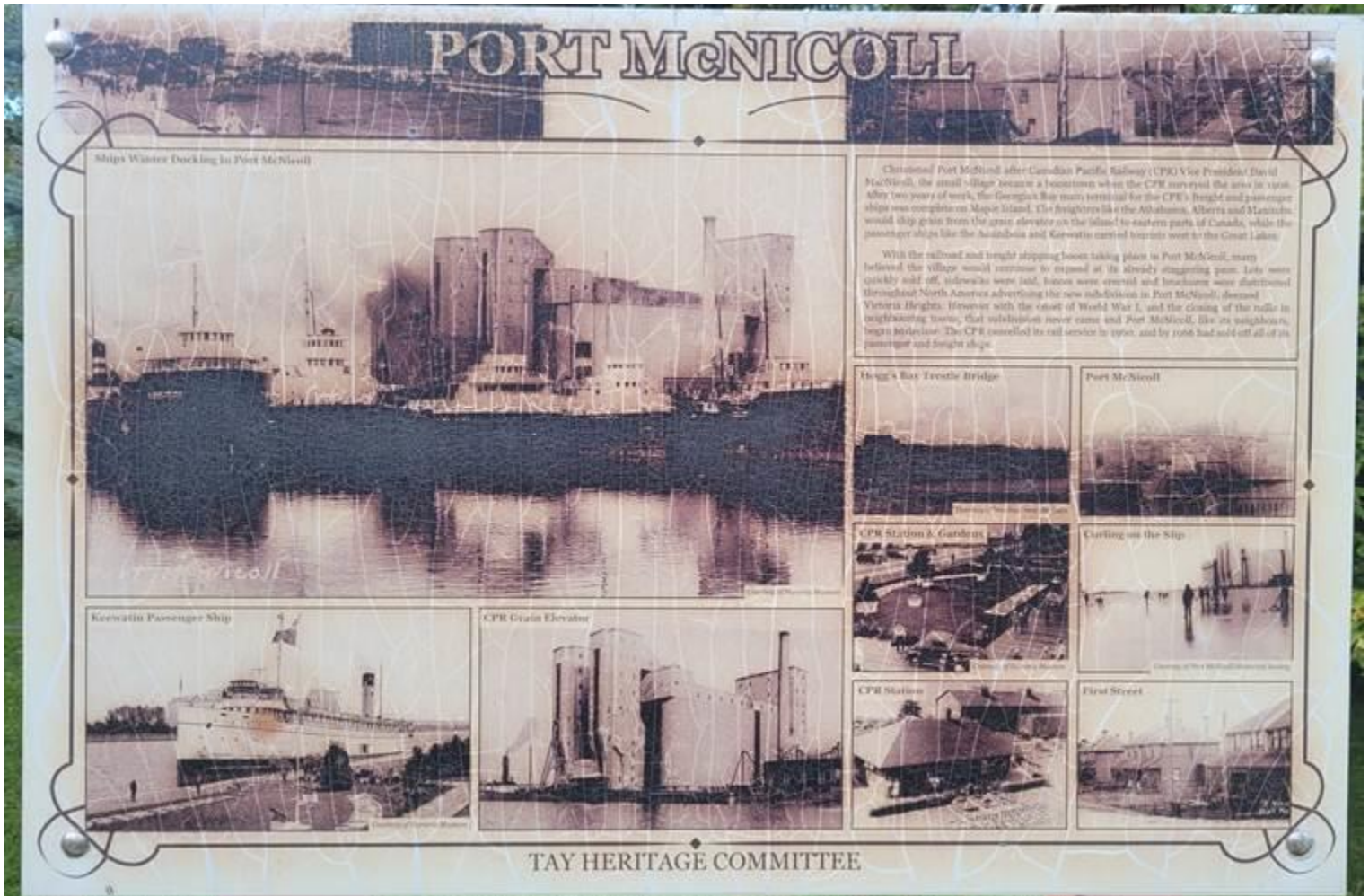
Task / Activity	Objectives	Action Plan	Target Date	Completion Date
Hole in the Wall Recognition	History: previous committee wanted to place a plaque commemorating the historical significance of the "Hole in the Wall"	1. Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create design of plaque. Size, information, pictures, site plan, etc. 	TBD	TBD
		2. Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much will the project cost? Will a report to council be required? 	TBD	TBD
		3. Apply for Permit from MTO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land is not owned by the Township and an MTO permit is required. 	TBD	TBD
Central IT Repository	Create a digital space where documents can be accessed by committee members.	1. Liaison with new IT department. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research available options. Determine if a new program would be required. Determine costs. Document safety and privacy. 	TBD	TBD

Port McNicoll at 4th and Talbot, beside the gazebo.

This sign is 36" by 24" and faces South.

The sun has cracked and faded the surface, and it is in need of replacement.

Location -Never would have found it were I not out hunting for it.

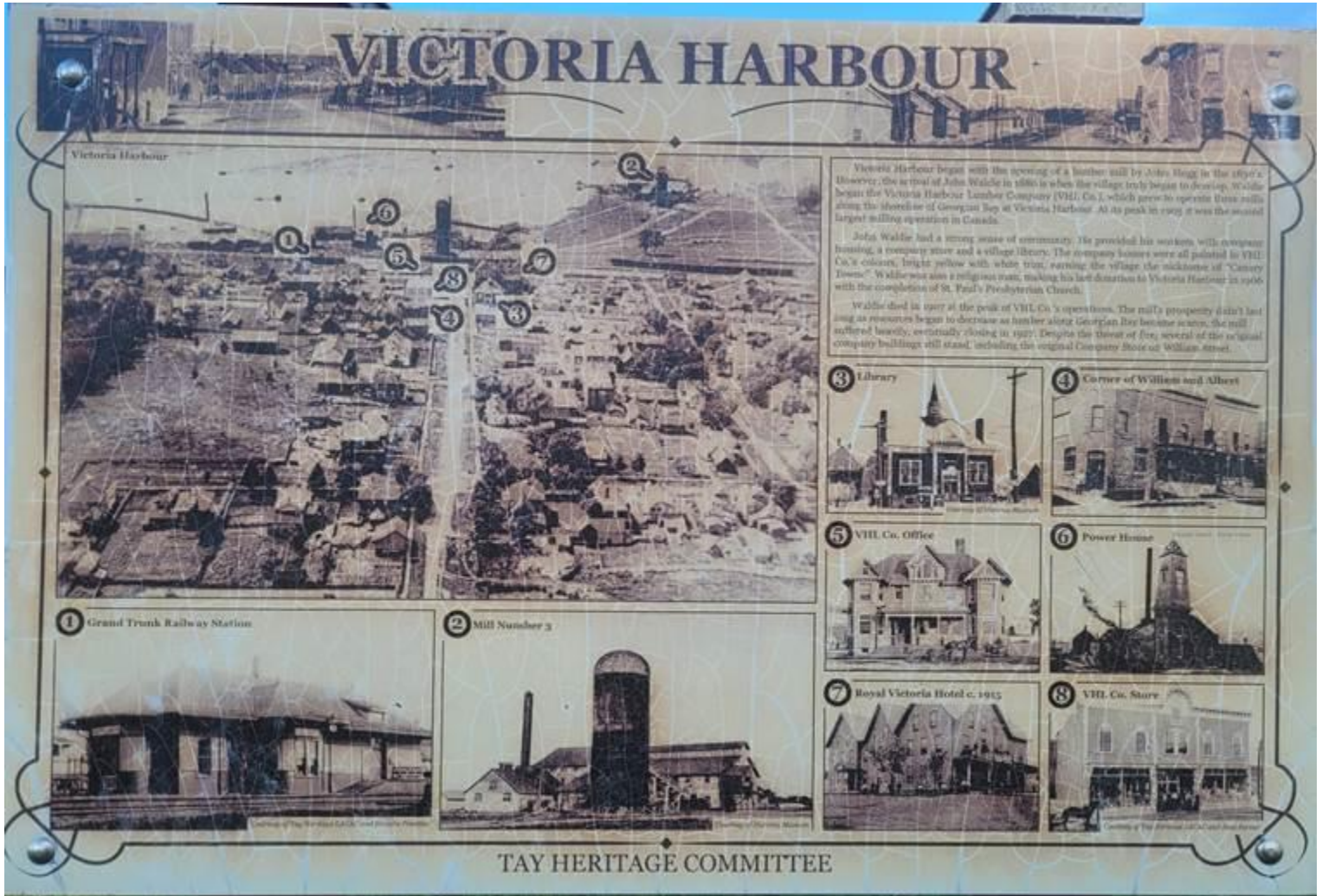


Victoria Harbour – foot of Albert Street

This sign is 36" by 24" and faces South.

The sun has cracked and faded the surface, and it is in need of replacement.

In a great spot, with plenty of tourist foot traffic.



Victoria Harbour – Range Light

This sign is 36" by 24" and faces South. However it is shaded all day long.
It has a very slight bit of cosmetic scuffing, but is not in need of replacement.
It is also done in colour

VICTORIA HARBOUR RANGE LIGHT

BRIDGEVIEW Shipwreck

Marquette Shipwreck

Popular Shipwrecks for Diving:

- Little Whiff
- Marquette
- Marquette
- Marquette

Georgian Bay has consumed many ships over the years, from the Bruce Peninsula over to Parry Sound. The Southern Georgian Bay area has had it's share of shipwrecks as well, with an estimated 30 wrecks in its waters. With so many rocky shoals hidden below the surface of the bay it is nearly unrecognizable without the aid of charts and navigational aids.

Range lights were used to assist the inshore navigation of ships, vessels and other watercraft into defined channels or harbor entrances. They consist of two fixed lights that are separated in distance and elevation, so that when they are lined up vertically, with one above the other, they provide a bearing for safe travel.

Front Light (F. B. 24 ft. 2 m. 11)

Rear Light (R. B. 100 ft. 2 m. 11)

History:

Two range lights were constructed in the Village of Victoria Harbour in 1910 for the increased shipping traffic of Canadian Pacific at Port McNeill. The front range light was built on the shore at Berge Point and the rear range light was built on the hill above Williams Street.

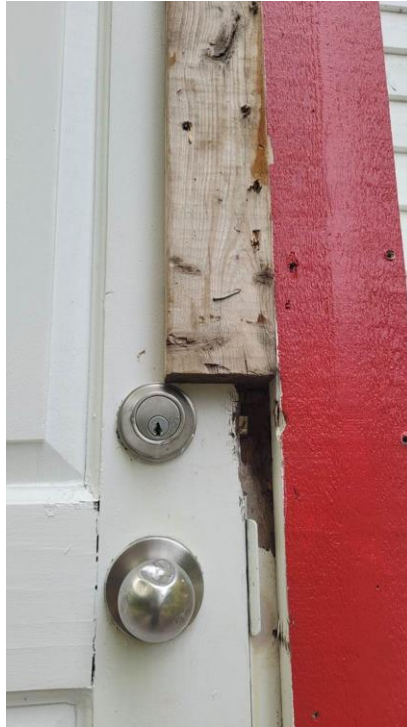
The first range light keeper, Charles Berge, lit the kerosene lamp wicks for the first time on October 15, 1910. Upon his death in 1912, Robert Belcher was appointed keeper on May 24th, 1912. When Robert succumbed to cholera on July 10th that same year, his brother Ray took over. During the war, when Ray was shipped overseas, Charles Sykes kept the light going. Ray returned to his position in 1918, and continued to maintain the lights until 1923, when the kerosene lamps were replaced with electric lights. He last keeper was W. B. Cooke. He maintained the lights until Canadian Coast Guard Base Parry Sound took over operations in 1966.

In June of 1960 the front light was replaced with a steel skeleton with a fixed red light. Unfortunately that same year, Ray Belcher passed away. In 1965 the rear light was renovated to its existing condition.

TAY HERITAGE COMMITTEE

As an aside, the edge of the front door and the jamb need to have a steel strip installed over them, which is neither a tough nor an expensive job.

It obviously wasn't patched up with the weathered 2x4 just yesterday.



The Colour plaque on the door is flawless, as are the rest of these 5 ½ x 8" plaques that have more recently been placed outside of our heritage homes.

All of the QR Codes that I tested were working.

MUSEUM TOWN

In Partnership with Tay Township Heritage

VICTORIA HARBOUR RANGE LIGHT



In the early 1900's marine traffic in the area had increased to the point where there was a need for range lights to guide lumber schooners and steamers to and from Port McNicoll and Victoria Harbour. Two square wooden lighthouse towers, surmounted by kerosene, later electric, lamps were constructed in 1910.

The front range light was erected on Bergie Point and the second was placed here, high on the hill overlooking the harbour, and 1400 yards from the front tower. A metal skeleton tower replaced the front light in 1968 and the rear light was no longer needed. In the 1990's the front tower was removed and Tay Township assumed ownership of the rear tower. It was refurbished in 2010.



For more info visit

taytownshipheritage.wordpress.com

Scan this QR code using your smart phone's QR code reader application to access more information about this location.



See more at huroniamuseum.com

Location: Victoria Harbour Range Light

Waubushene – Sturgeon Bay Rd. and Pine St. Parkette.

This sign is 36" by 24", faces South, and is shaded for much of the day.

While not in terrible condition, it is starting to peel and delaminate at the top edge.

I can't be sure how faded these signs are, as I did not see them when they were new.

Location -Never would have found it were I not out hunting for it.



Visible only to users of the Trail



Waubushene – Government Dock Rd.
Visible only to users of the dock.



Vasey - Vasey Rd and Rumney Rd.
This sign is 24x36 and faces East.
It is in very good condition.



Tay Heritage Draft Marketing Plan – Updated September 28, 2022

Role & Mission

As a Committee of Council, the Heritage Committee is responsible for advising and assisting Council to ensure that appropriate heritage conservation practices are followed in accordance with the Heritage Act.

In addition, the Committee's mission is to promote the awareness and significance of heritage within the Township.

This marketing plan focuses on increasing heritage awareness, creating a sense of pride in our heritage and educating the public about heritage designation.

Target Audience

The township comprises the villages and rural hamlets of Ebenezer, Elliots Corners, Melduf, Mertzs Corners, Ogden's Beach, Old Fort, Paradise Point, Port McNicoll, Riverside, Sturgeon Bay, Triple Bay Park, Vasey, Victoria Harbour, Waubaushene and Waverley.

Our targets include all ages of individual citizens and out-of-town tourists.

Demographics

In the 2021 Census of Population conducted by Statistics Canada, Tay had a population of 11,091 living in 4,535 of its 5,301 total private dwellings. Future growth is projected to be modest. The median income is \$65,000.

Goals and Objectives

These goals are set for the next four-year term, October 24, 2022 to October 23, 2026. Committee to prioritize projects, assign responsibilities, set objectives and measure results.

Goal: Establish our Brand

	Responsibility	Completion Date
Develop our brand identity. Use consistent core messaging to help frame our marketing efforts and reinforce the main theme of heritage preservation in Tay. Develop a tagline Such as "Tay. History Begins Here", or "Tay Heritage. We've Got History." Or "Find History Here"		

Goal: Enhance Public Relations

Correct negative comments about heritage designation on social media and comment with information that educates and creates positive awareness.		
Include indigenous history wherever possible in our heritage activities.		
Maintain/replace heritage signage as required to keep our history well presented.		
Commission illustrations of significant houses, suitable for use as colouring pages, Christmas cards, social media posts, fact sheets printed on reverse side of walking tour maps, etc.		
Write press release with photo for century homes that acquire a Tay Heritage plaque. Submit to local publications and post on social media.		
Award community points to students that help with local events throughout the year.		

Create colouring pages of local heritage homes, complete with simple explanation of the history illustrated, hand them out (with crayons) to children attending Tay events.				
Using the same drawing(s), develop activity page for older students (word search, etc.), ask schools to send them home with students, i.e. Christmas break, Easter Weekend etc.				
Using the same drawing(s), develop fact sheet(s,) disguised as a word search, that name recognizable architectural elements found in Tay. Distribute in company cafeterias, at Tay events, on social media. Link to Cultural Alliance stories where possible.				
Car Rally, offer a cash prize to be donated to a local charity.				
Write articles about the advantages of heritage designation and dispel negative theories such as high insurance premiums and lack of ability to redecorate. Publish on social media.				
Update tourist map.				
Feature heritage homes in Newsletters, utility inserts, community boards, on social media.				

Goal: Upgrade Technology

Centralize access to heritage information, records, project status reports and training modules for councillors, new and existing committee members, staff and student hires.				
Implement tracking system to summarize the status of each project at hand, making information readily available to all when needed.				
Provide easy digital access to heritage information with an updated web presence and QR code program.				

Goal: Support Community Activities

Provide social publicity about local businesses and Tay events both inside the township borders and beyond to stimulate visits to local businesses and heritage sites.				
Establish a Tay Heritage stop, at a well travelled location, providing heritage information and maps along with a community board to promote local heritage. Add an ice cream stand to increase community and tourist traffic to the site thereby building awareness of Tay Heritage.				
Stock pamphlets showing local attractions, walking trails etc. at hotels, restaurants, attractions and retail locations.				

Goal: Secure Adequate Funding

Source available community funding to supplement budget and expand activities.				
Use carry-over funds from previous year(s).				
Hire a heritage coordinator /grant finder.				

Goal: Website Redevelop

Utilize the blog website to redo and update to a more modern form, creating new pages on the website that don't require constant updating.				
Establish the website as a main source of information/direction for interested parties. Use the Heritage Ottawa website as an example on what to strive for HeritageOttawa.org .				
Use the existing Tay Heritage brochures to draw and promote the website.				

Next Steps

1. Committee to decide which goals are to be included for the 2022 – 2026 four year term.
2. Set objectives for each goal, get costs, set timelines, select vendor(s).
3. Submit vendor quote to Planning Manager with request to purchase.
4. Work with vendor (or volunteers or social media manager) to complete the project.
5. Measure the impact our activities are having, i.e. increased visits to the heritage web site, expanded demand for brochures, number of century home signs sold, etc. We need to know if our efforts are effective.

A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HERITAGE DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

TERRY FEGARTY AND NANCY MATTHEWS

As we celebrate Black History Month in Ontario, we are reminded of the incredible influence that people of African descent have left — and continue to leave — on the cultural fabric of our country. Their early history and important legacy can still be seen and felt in many Ontario communities.

Slavery in Early Canada

Many Canadians are unaware that Indigenous and African people were enslaved in the many territories now known as Canada from as early as the 1600s. Later, many Blacks came to Canada as “property” of American Loyalists arriving after the American Revolutionary War. By the 1790s, there were about 2,500 enslaved Black people in the Maritimes, 300 in Lower Canada (Québec), and 500 to 700 in Upper Canada (Ontario).

In 1793, Upper Canada became one of the first colonies in the British Empire to introduce a statute that imposed limits on, but did not abolish, African enslavement. In 1834, all slavery was finally abolished throughout the British Empire, which freed almost one million people worldwide. As a result, Upper Canada became a preferred destination for American Black people seeking freedom from slavery and oppression, and many settlements became an important base for the abolitionist movement.

“Black Resistance” is the 2023 theme for Black History month. Over many years, Black people resisted enslavement in different ways. Some enslaved Blacks, mainly women, left their owner’s property for short periods of time without

permission. Other forms of personal rebellion included feigned illness or injury or filing legal challenges against their owners to fight against their slave status and poor treatment. On both sides of the border, young Black men enlisted with British forces, eventually being liberated in exchange for their service. The most profound protest was running away in pursuit of liberty, often using the Underground Railroad. Since then, Black resistance continues to demand equal treatment and an end to systemic racism.



Routes of the Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad

Between 1800 and 1865, and particularly after 1850 when slavecatchers were operating in the Northern States, approximately 30,000 Black people came to Upper Canada via the Underground Railroad, the network of secret routes and safe houses used by enslaved Africans with the support

Continued on page 3.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Celebration of Black Heritage during Black History Month	1	2023 Ontario Heritage Conference	7
President's Message	2	Sheffield Black History Museum	8
Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church	3	Toronto's Campbell House turns 200	10
The Buxton National Historic Site and Museum	5	News from the Board of Directors	11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The provincial government gave us an unwelcome Christmas present in the form of further amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA) and associated regulations that will affect municipal heritage committee operations and municipal council efforts to conserve heritage resources. The changes, which were made supposedly to increase the supply and affordability of housing, are effective January 1, 2023. Some of the more dramatic changes are discussed below.

Time Limit on Listing Heritage Properties

Listing of properties will have a two-year time limit after which they will cease to be listed and cannot be listed again for five years. Given this change, I suggest that municipal heritage committees should review all listed properties and identify those which Council should express its intent to designate within the next two years. Priority could be given to properties of greatest community significance and/or which might be under threat of redevelopment or demolition. It is suggested that those listed properties that will be removed from listing after two years, but have not been designated, be added to a council recognized Heritage Inventory. While such an Inventory would not enable Council to delay demolition applications, it would give notice that the properties have potential cultural heritage value. Reference to the Heritage Inventory in municipal planning policy could bolster the value of the Inventory. Further, properties may be designated at any time including within the five years after having been delisted.

Criteria for Designation

While the three groupings of nine heritage value criteria of regulation 9/06 have not changed, only been renumbered, effective from January 1, 2023, properties listed must meet one of the criteria, while properties designated (Part IV of the OHA) must meet any two of the criteria. Further, for new heritage conservation districts (Part V), 25% of the properties of new districts must meet any two of the criteria. The wording of the last three criteria dealing with contextual values has been changed slightly for districts to make them relevant to district designation.

While it is my opinion that these amendments will not have a noticeable impact on the provincial housing supply or affordability, they will increase the workloads of municipal heritage committees and municipal staff. Let's move forward to meet this challenge in our efforts to conserve our community's heritage resources.

Wayne Morgan

CHOnews

WINTER / HIVER 2023

CHOnews is published quarterly by Community Heritage Ontario.

Editor: Julie Driver

Community Heritage Ontario,
24 Conlins Road,
Scarborough, ON M1C 1C3
416.282.2710

info@communityheritageontario.ca

Contributors permit further copying of their works only for the purposes of educating the public on heritage matters. Copyright remains with the author or creator. Credit must be given to the author or creator and to the source, CHOnews, on all copies made. No work can be reprinted in any published form without permission of the copyright holder.

The content of CHOnews does not contain nor reflect any opinion, position, or influence of the Board of Directors or the Editor.

The financial support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport is gratefully acknowledged.

 facebook.com/CHOntario

 twitter.com/CHOntario

ISSN 1201 – 9852



Submitted articles must be in Microsoft Word format. Images must be sent as .jpg attachments in high quality resolution (300 dpi). Do not embed the images in the text of the article. Captions and credits must be provided.

Newspaper articles as updates to MHC activities cannot be used without permission of the newspaper and/or the original author. Text written by the MHC is encouraged.

Articles are published in the language they are received.

Continued from page 1.

of abolitionists to escape into free American states and Canada. A great many of these refugees only arrived safely due to the heroic efforts of “conductors”, among them, celebrated Black Resistance icons like Josiah Henson and Harriet Tubman.

Upon arriving, many refugees from slavery settled in towns close to convenient border crossings into southwest Ontario, such as Amherstburg, Chatham, London, Woolwich, and Windsor. Others made their home further inland, to Oro,

Owen Sound, Guelph, and Toronto. In fact, there are some 20 known Underground Railroad sites in Ontario. In this issue, articles about the 1819 Black Loyalist settlement in Oro and about the 1849 planned refugee settlement in Chatham-Kent at Buxton, both highlight the living conditions of early Black settlements in Ontario, as do the many displays at the Sheffield Museum in Thornbury.

Nancy Matthews and Terry Fegarty are board members of CHO/PCO.

ORO AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANDRIA LEIGH

When the Oro African Church was built in the 1840s, the logs were visible on the exterior and interior. About a decade later, the exterior was covered with clapboard to protect the logs and block the wind and cold. By the end of the 19th century, two west windows and the wainscot were added, and the pulpit was likely reconstructed. The founding congregation ended their active use of the church in the 1920s. By the 1940s, the church had decayed to such an extent that local residents and some descendants were concerned that this important landmark would be lost. What followed was continuing decades of stabilization and revitalization. The deteriorating log foundation was reinforced with stone and concrete, the original floors, ceiling, window sashes and exterior clapboards were replaced several times and the center chimney was moved to the east wall. Serious damage was done in 1981 when trucks hit the west and north walls and the process of stabilization and revitalization was commenced.

The Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church was designated by the Township through By-law 2018-101 in November 2018, in order to recognize and promote awareness of the Church as a heritage property. It also established a process for the consideration and management of future changes to ensure they respect the property's heritage value. The designation by-law identifies the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value as the “Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Line 3 North and Old Barrie Road West. This modest church constructed of hand-hewn logs, is the last built remnant of a community of early African Canadian settlers in Simcoe County. The British government granted 25 plots to Black settlers in Oro Township from 1819-1826. By 1831, thirty more families joined the settlement and the church construction was completed by 1849. The Church was active until 1900 when the community faded away and was declared abandoned in 1916. It was designated a National Historic Site in 2000.



Oro African Church 2022 (T. Fegarty)

An unmarked cemetery is also located on the property. A stone cairn displays plaques commemorating the history of the former church, including the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque and a stone tablet engraved with the names of the families buried in the cemetery.”

The Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church was built between 1846 and 1849. It is one of the last existing buildings erected by a community of African Canadians whose roots were uniquely anchored in the history of the United Empire Loyalists. It represents both the significant role that Black militiamen played in the defense of Upper Canada during the war of 1812 and the Upper Canada land policy. This Church is one of, if not the oldest, African log churches still standing in North America. It stands as a

testament to both the Black Settlers who carefully crafted and cared for it for nearly 75 years and a community of passionate volunteers who have worked diligently to preserve it since its abandonment in the 1920s.

This modest place of worship is more than a National Historic Site. From the first day of worship until today, the African Church has engendered heartfelt emotions from many people regardless of race, gender, age, or religion. In 2013, a nationwide fundraising campaign was launched to save this important historical building and thanks to many generous donations, the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church was completely restored. Restoration was guided by recommendations contained in a Cultural Heritage Assessment completed for the Township that assessed the building condition and developed a long term strategy for its preservation.

All works and restoration completed on the church to date have not been attempts to make the church new again. The conservation approach has respected the evolution of the church from the 1840s to the 1920s, when all work was "touched by the Black hands" of the congregation. What is seen at the site today is based on a 1941 photograph, the only known depiction of the church taken before the start

of the first stabilization work that decade, and on evidence revealed by extensive examination. All new work is labelled to distinguish it from the original artifact. Some may be critical of the sagging roof, less than straight walls, windows, wainscot and the creaking floor. This is not how the church was built, but how it aged. After 170 years, the church can settle into its old age and its future, with a solid foundation, waterproof roof, warm walls and a fresh coat of whitewash. Its significant story in Canadian history can continue to be told for generations to come

On August 17, 2016, the doors of the church were re-opened during a celebration that included dignitaries, friends and supporters, as well as descendants from all over the world.

The church is owned and maintained by the Township of Oro-Medonte. The Township works in collaboration with the Simcoe County Museum to provide interpretive services to visitors to the church.

The Oro African Church is located at 1645 Line 3 N., Oro-Medonte.

Andria Leigh is former Director, Development Services at the Township of Oro-Medonte. Additional images are courtesy the Township of Oro-Medonte.



Church in 1941 (above), 2013 (below, left) and 2018 (below, right)



THE BUXTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND MUSEUM

TERRY FEGARTY AND NANCY MATTHEWS

The Buxton National Historic Site and Museum, near Chatham, is a tribute to the Elgin Settlement, the largest and most successful of four planned Ontario Black settlements. The others were Dawn near Dresden, Wilberforce near Lucan, and Oro near Barrie. The Elgin Settlement was established in 1849 by Rev. William King and others who included Lord Elgin, then the Governor General of Canada. King, a former slave owner turned abolitionist, together with his colleagues, bought 9,000 acres of swampy, forested Crown land, 12 miles south of Chatham.

The tract was 6 miles in length and 3 miles in width, situated between the Great Western Railway and the north shore of Lake Erie. King brought fifteen of his former American slaves with him from Louisiana, so that they could now live a free life. He believed that Black people could function successfully in a working society if given the same educational opportunities as Whites. When news of the Elgin settlement spread, White settlers became worried, and attempted to block its development with a petition. These objections were surmounted and plans for the settlement went ahead.

Establishing the Settlement

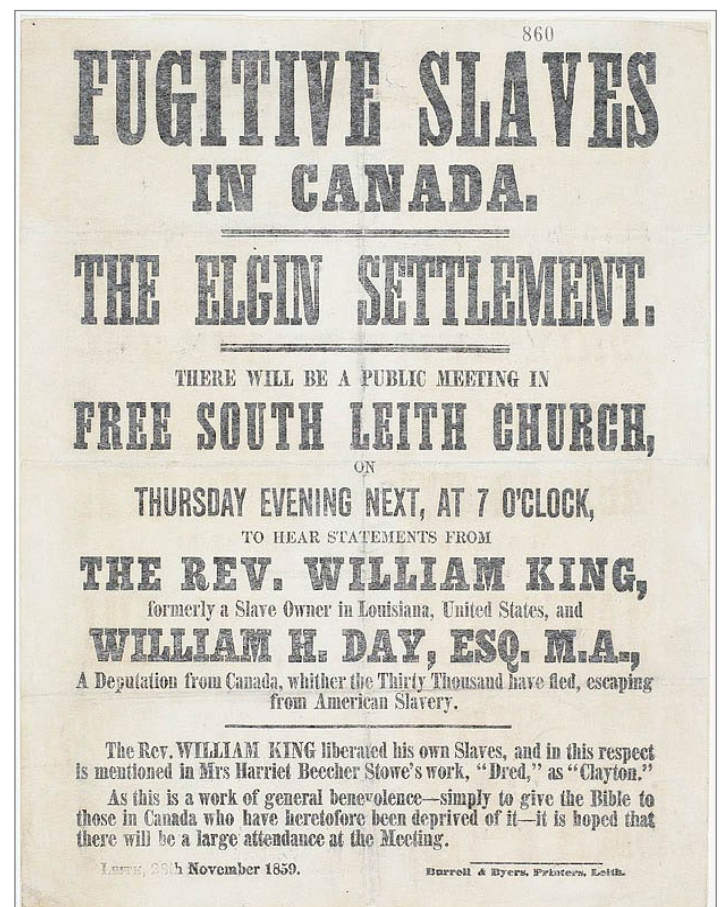
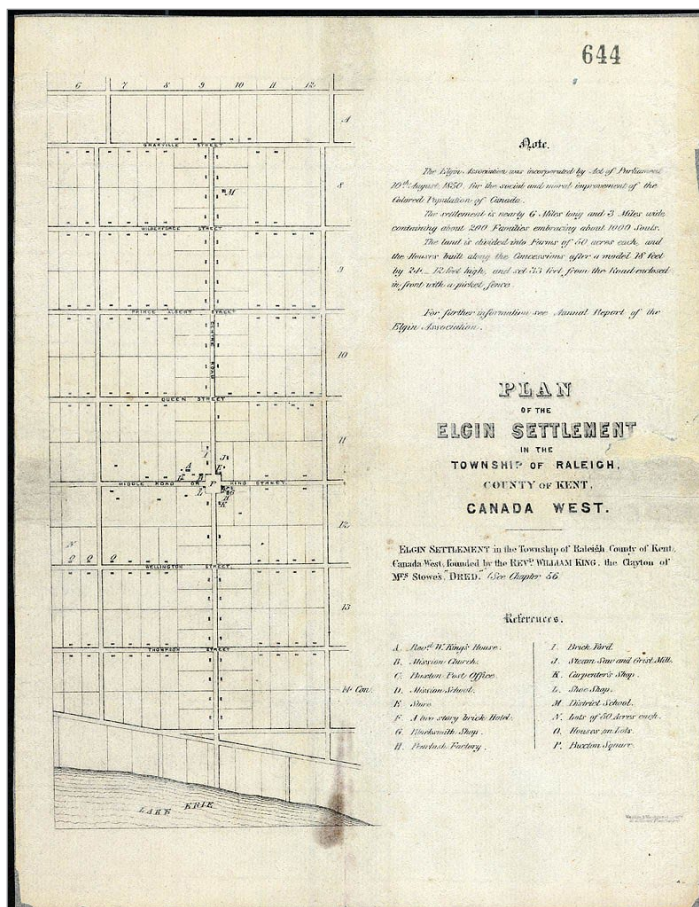
The Elgin settlement was divided into 50-acre lots sold to settlers for \$2.50/acre, financed with loans at 6% interest, to be repaid over the course of up to ten years. The land was drained and cleared then developed to required standards.

Roads and ditches were built, fences and boundaries set, homesteads and settlements created, public buildings erected, industries established.

The settlers were given no money, no grants of land, no farming tools, just protection and advice. Nevertheless, for many this was the final stop on their journey to freedom.

By 1859, the settlement reached its peak population of over 1,000 free Blacks, fugitives from slavery, and their descendants. The community had two churches, three integrated schools, two temperance hotels, a general store, a post office, a sawmill, a brickyard, a grist mill, and a potash factory. It also enjoyed a reputation for the superior education provided to its students, both Black and White, at the local Mission School.

The following is part of an 1863 report about the Elgin Settlement presented to the Lincoln Administration:



Plan of the Elgin Settlement, 1850 (Library and Archives Canada/William King collection/e000755345) and meeting poster, 1859 (Library and Archives Canada/William King collection/e000755353)

"There are signs of industry and thrift and comfort, everywhere; signs of intemperance, of idleness, of want, nowhere. There is no tavern and no groggery; but there is a chapel and a schoolhouse. Most interesting of all are the inhabitants. Twenty years ago, most of them were slaves who owned nothing, not even their children. Now they own themselves; they own homes and farms, and they have their wives and children about them. They are enfranchised citizens of a government which protects their rights. They have the great essentials of human happiness, "something to love, something to do, and something to hope for" and if they are not happy it is their own fault."

After the Civil War, Buxton's population, declined sharply. Some families returned to their former homes in the United States. Many young people journeyed south to aid in reconstruction or moved away for better employment opportunities. Today the hamlet of North Buxton has a population of approximately 250, over half of whom are proudly descendant Black Canadians. On Labour Day weekend, every year since 1924, some 3,000 descendants and their families return to Buxton for a Homecoming celebration.

Designation

The Buxton Settlement National Historic Site of Canada is a designated "cultural heritage landscape" containing the original 9,000 acres where surviving land-use patterns and historic buildings illustrate a successful planned settlement for Underground Railroad refugees. The property features the originally surveyed road grids, original drainage ditches, many homesteads, period houses and cemeteries

associated with churches and/or homesteads. The area is dotted with many surviving 50-acre fields and woodlots. Opened in 1967, The Buxton Site is Ontario's second largest national historic site. What is largest? The Rideau Canal system?

The Buxton Museum was built by descendants of Buxton's founding residents and is staffed by people who have ancestral ties to the community. The Museum complex includes the main building, which houses original artifacts and exhibits about the community and its history, St. Andrew's United Church built 1849, an 1861 schoolhouse, an 1854 log cabin and a barn. Local historic church cemeteries are next to the museum.

For information, visit the following links:

Buxton Museum

https://buxtonmuseum.com/history/OLD-ARTICLES/new-article_blackpower.html

Elgin Settlement | The Canadian Encyclopedia

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/elgin-settlement>

North Buxton | Crossroads: Beyond Boom & Bust | A TVO Original - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNFJYPC7eeM&t=2701s>

Parks Canada - Buxton Settlement National Historic Site of Canada

https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=1868

North Buxton - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Buxton

Terry Fegarty and Nancy Matthews are directors of CHO/PCO. Images below are courtesy the Buxton National Historic Site & Museum.

¹ *The refugees from slavery in Canada West. Report to the Freedmen's inquiry commission, by S.G. Howe.*

Howe, S. G. (Samuel Gridley), 1801-1876., United States. American freedman's inquiry commission.

Boston: Wright & Potter, printers, 1864.



S.S. #13 Raleigh (Buxton) Schoolhouse, 1861



Colbert/Henderson Cabin, 1854

The London Local Organizing Committee is excited to open our doors to all of you this June as we host the Ontario Heritage Conference for 2023 in beautiful downtown London, at the Forks of the Antler River (also known as the Thames).

The Conference will run from June 15-17, and there will be so much to talk about this year. New opportunities and challenges lie ahead that will require us to think in new ways about how we preserve, and for whom. There is no better way to face it all than by learning about, and from, each other.

On Thursday June 15 your visit will begin with a self-guided walking tour of one of our many beautiful Heritage Conservation Districts. There are many historic sites in the area around our major Conference venues for you to explore as your own desires lead you. That evening, we will gather at historic Chaucer's Pub for our casual welcome gathering, and if you wish you will be able to take a stroll afterward along a self guided tour of local historic pubs and restaurants.

Friday June 16, Opening Ceremonies will take place at the DoubleTree Hilton - steps from the Downtown London Heritage Conservation District where you will spend much of your time throughout the conference. Our Keynote Session is entitled "The Vision SoHo Alliance Project: Community Stories, Built Heritage, and Heritage Conservation". This conversation will be led by Dr. Ariel Beaujot (award-winning Professor of Public History at the University of Wisconsin) and Dr. Michelle Hamilton (award-winning Professor of Public History at Western University) and will consider the unique program: "Hear, Here", which uses digital technology to decolonize public spaces and make available voices of historically underrepresented peoples.

Following lunch in the restaurants of London's Downtown Heritage Conservation District we will move on to our afternoon sessions. All held at the DoubleTree Hilton, you will have an opportunity to learn about Bill 23 and how it will be addressed in our cities, towns and rural areas; woodwork restoration; engaging youth in heritage; the inspiring story of the Mill House in Lakefield; and more.

Friday night's Gala Dinner will feature an engaging discussion by Cory Crossman (Music Industry Development Officer) about London's exciting induction as Canada's first Unesco City of Music, coupled with a musical performance.

Saturday's Indigenous learning sessions will be at the beautiful Centre at the Forks, riverside in Museum London, where all of our morning sessions will be held. In the afternoon we will move to one of London's most innovative and exciting adaptive reuse projects, "100 Kellogg Lane". This is a modern and exciting project, based on the repurposing



of beautiful, but once-neglected industrial buildings in our City. It will be an inspiration to us all. Throughout the day you will have a chance to tour Eldon House; hear about how London's Museums are becoming more inclusive; take a musical tour of London; see the core area through the eyes of Jane Jacobs; consider rivers as a focus of heritage interest; and much more. If you still want to learn more about London, stick around for the ACO London Region's "Geranium Home Tours" on Sunday – moved to a new date to accommodate this conference!

Ontario Heritage Conference 2023 in beautiful London Ontario will give you the opportunity to learn, to wander, to discuss and to consider our next steps in these unique times. London is a city rich in heritage resources with many successes and many challenges, just like the place that you are from. We have spectacular heritage buildings throughout our City, as well as a rich mosaic of beautifully preserved Heritage Conservation Districts, a vibrant and vast network of museums, and a multitude of organizations working together to keep London on track as a distinct city that sees its roots clearly and holds on to the lessons of the past. We can't wait to welcome all of you in June.

Registration: <https://www.ontarioheritageconference.ca/>

Wes Kinghorn is a board member of CHO/PCO and Local Organizing Committee Chair of OHC 2023.

SHEFFIELD BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

NANCY MATTHEWS

Carolynn Wilson and her sister Sylvia are 7th generation descendants of Black Canadian families who emigrated to Canada. The museum was founded by their mom and uncle and is named after their Sheffield Grandparents who ran a business in Collingwood.

Some of the Sheffield ancestors were part of the Old Durham Road Black community established near Priceville, 1845-1880. One of the headstones preserved in the 2015 monument at the Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery (currently under consideration to become a National Historic Site) is James Handy, their great-great-great paternal grandfather who eventually had crown deeds for 300 acres in 50 acre lots.

Not formally called a museum until 1990, a collection of artefacts had existed on the Clarksburg site prior to then. Ever since, the 11-acre site is regularly visited by people from all over the world, many of whom have subsequently sent artefact donations.

The large main museum building began as a place to house family and community souvenirs and artefacts collected over several generations. Over the years the displays have grown to include slavery relicts, emancipation documentation, Black cultural artwork, clothing and fabrics, many other educational displays of artefacts and information.

The extensive grounds have several wide pathways and interconnected looping trails with outdoor displays and much natural vegetation. Along the trails, a variety of smaller, more rustic buildings illustrate the lifestyle of Black settlers, many of whom would have managed their trade from the

front room of a very small cabin. On your trek along the trails, among the buildings you can visit the barber, a woodworker, the blacksmith or a tailor/dressmaker. The schoolhouse, the church with cemetery and a restored Black-community restaurant also located on the grounds, all contain many artefacts and additional displays of information.

This family-friendly and highly educational museum is located at 241 Clark St, just south of Thornbury. It is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, mid-May to mid-October. Group visits and private tours can be arranged. Nearby attractions include the scenic harbour on Georgian Bay with its associated sand beach, and many shops & restaurants in the nearby historic village which is dotted with Victorian mansions of Great Lakes Captains and shipping magnates.

Location link : <https://goo.gl/maps/Wt5KSFT7tZbtiuci9>

Website: <https://www.sheffieldparkblackhistory.com/>

Nancy Matthews is the chair of nearby Heritage Grey Highlands. Information provided in consultation with Carolynn and Sylvia Wilson. Photography by N. Matthews.



Carolynn Wilson



Outdoor trails with machinery on display and places to sit or have a picnic



James Handy headstone



Slavery artefacts and information



Classroom with many examples of text books and other educational artefacts



Typical display found throughout the many buildings



Dishes and food prep equipment that might be used in a restaurant

TORONTO'S CAMPBELL HOUSE TURNS 200

GEORGE DUNCAN

On September 22, 2022, I had the pleasure of attending a reception at the Campbell House Museum at 160 Queen Street West. It was a celebration of two significant anniversaries: the 200th anniversary of the completion of the house in 1822, and 50 years since the house was saved from demolition by relocation to its present site.

This fine old residence was originally located at 54 Adelaide Street, just east of Toronto's First Post Office. It was built for Sir William Campbell, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, at a time when Toronto was known as the Town of York. The house is a prime example of late neo-classical domestic architecture; a simple, beautiful, composition of mellow red brick and refined details. The Campbell House, with its quiet dignity, is a rare remnant of the city during the late Georgian period. This residence, along with The Grange at the Art Gallery of Ontario, provides a hint of the lost architectural grandeur of Toronto's past, somewhat akin to how King Tutankhamun's intact tomb hinted at the lost glories of the tombs of the pharaohs of Ancient Egypt.



The 1972 move

The preservation of the Campbell House, orchestrated by the Advocates' Society of Ontario in the early 1970s, occurred prior to the enactment of the Ontario Heritage Act. With no official protection, what a tragedy it would have been if this important early building had been lost. Its significance was identified in classic books on Ontario's heritage

buildings, including The Ancestral Roof and Toronto, No Mean City. I recall reading an article in a weekend edition of the Toronto Star about the efforts to save this landmark of old town Toronto, about a year before its move in 1972. There was some question as to whether the house could withstand the move to its proposed new location in front of the Canada Life Building.



The Campbell House, 1822, a landmark example of late neo-classical domestic architecture, 2021

Happily, the experts decided that the venerable old structure, in spite of some issues stemming from alterations over its long history, could be moved intact. In 1972, I was in Grade 8, and just starting to become interested in old buildings. On the day of the move in early March of that year, my mother and sister and I took the TTC downtown to witness the relocation process. The move seemed to proceed very slowly at times, and at other times, a greater amount of ground was covered. Sometimes the house would pause in one location for an extended period and the crowd was not certain how far it would continue on its journey through the city streets. I had never seen a building moved before, and the relocation and preservation of the Campbell House made quite an impression upon me. I made a model of it out of Bristol board that I brought in to show my class at Highbrook Senior Public School in Scarborough. This was a prelude to a future career in heritage conservation.

Today, Campbell House is both a historic house museum and an event venue, owned by the City of Toronto and operated by the Sir William Campbell Foundation. At the reception, presentations were

made to honour the two anniversaries being celebrated, including a description of the engineering that went into the relocation of the building. In the ballroom upstairs, classical musicians provided an elegant soundtrack to the exhibit of archival photographs that chronicled the history of the house on its original site, as well as the move to the new site. In the basement kitchen, museum volunteers had baked a variety of desserts from historic recipes. Some were even gluten-free. I found myself visiting the array of fruit tarts and other tasty morsels laid out on the large table in front of the cooking fireplace more than once, but the bakers didn't mind. A truly memorable evening was had by all in attendance at this superb example of heritage conservation at its finest.

George Duncan is a former Senior Heritage Planner with the City of Markham. Images courtesy the Campbell House Museum.



ADVERTISE IN CHOnews!

Reach a province-wide readership composed of all Municipal Heritage Committee members, heritage societies, municipal officials, and heritage-conscious individuals!

DISPLAY ADS must be supplied in camera-ready tiff or pdf format.

CLASSIFIED ADS are \$12.00 per column inch.

Location of ads is at the discretion of the Editor.

Cost is per issue:

Full Page	\$300
Half Page	\$150
Third Page	\$100
Quarter Page	\$75
One Sixth Page	\$50
Business Card	\$25

Contact Rick Schofield

416.282.2710

schofield@communityheritageontario.ca

CHO/PCO MISSION STATEMENT

To encourage the development of municipally appointed heritage advisory committees and to further the identification, preservation, interpretation, and wise use of community heritage locally, provincially, and nationally.

BOARD MEETINGS

CHO/PCO Board of Directors meetings are open to any MHC member. Meetings will be held virtually until further notice. Please contact the Corporate Secretary if you wish to attend.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK SCHOFIELD

The Board of Directors met in Scarborough on the last Sunday of November.

The President summarized a report which included: CHO/PCO response to Bill 23, an update on the insurance study of heritage properties, a Smith Falls workshop and an update on the upcoming conference.

Membership renewals for 2022 totalled 87 MHCs and 13 individuals. Renewal forms for 2023 have been circulated and are slowly trickling in as MHCs begin to meet once again. It appears several MHCs have not met because the pandemic shut down most preservation activities.

Ontario Historical Society's annual Honours and Awards nomination applications were circulated but no recommendations were made up to the November Board meeting.

The Treasurer outlined the status of the annual budget and noted that there were several outstanding issues which affected our budget. The audited financial report for 2022 shows a substantial deficit as disbursements for the archaeological research study were made. The pandemic severely reduced our in-person activities and a surplus was reported in each of the past few years. Those surpluses were reduced

as CHO/PCO began to open up new activities such as the research study. Thankfully, most MHCs continued to support CHO/PCO over the past few years

Planning by the Local Organizing Committee for the 2023 Ontario Heritage Conference to be held in London in June, is moving along well. It was agreed that CHO/PCO would handle the banking responsibilities this year as the London MHC does not have a separate banking account.

Updates on CHOnews included a good compilation of articles in the Fall issue leaving a couple of articles on reserve for the next issue.

A review of Bill 23 revealed that one major concern is the requirement for designating a property by meeting at least two of the criteria categories. Other issues also need to be examined as we try to deal with this unique bill.

As we move into 2023, the Board needs to address: CHO/PCO continuity in a stressful time of heritage challenges, recruitment of new Board members to fill vacancies and possible candidates for upcoming executive positions (President, Vice Presidents, Program Officer, Recording Secretary and next year's Conference Chair). These will be reviewed again at the March meeting of the Board.

A few back issues of CHOnews have been bound, hard cover, into three volumes, 1993-2000, 2001-2010 and 2011-2020. These are available for \$15.00 each, plus shipping. Prepaid orders can also be picked up at the AGM which will be held during the conference in June. Contact the Corporate Secretary for further information.

Rick Schofield is the Corporate Secretary/Treasurer of CHO/PCO.

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Wayne Morgan

Sutton West 905.722.5398

waynemorgan@communityheritageontario.ca

Vice-Presidents

Ginette Guy Mayer

Cornwall 514.207.6675

ginetteguy@communityheritageontario.ca

Regan Hutcheson

Markham 905.477.7000 Ext. 2080

reganhutcheson@communityheritageontario.ca

Chair of Finance

Terry Fegarty

Tay 705.538.1585

terryfegarty@communityheritageontario.ca

DIRECTORS

Matthew Gregor

Scarborough 647.204.7719

matthewgregor@communityheritageontario.ca

Nancy Matthews

Grey Highlands 519.924.3165

nancymatthews@communityheritageontario.ca

Wes Kinghorn

London 519.858.1900

weskinghorn@communityheritageontario.ca

Corporate Secretary/Treasurer

Rick Schofield

Scarborough 416.282.2710

schofield@communityheritageontario.ca

Program Officer **Ginette Guy Mayer**

DISCLAIMER

The content of CHOnews does not contain nor reflect any opinion, position, or influence of the CHO/PCO Board of Directors or the Editor of CHOnews. Submissions received for publication in CHOnews are changed only for the purposes of legibility and accuracy to the extent that can be readily determined.

ARTICLE DEADLINES

JANUARY 10

MARCH 10

JUNE 10

OCTOBER 10

Article submissions are always welcome.