



The Corporation  
of the City  
of Cambridge

## REPORT

To: **COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: October 27, 2008

Prepared by: Valerie Spring, on behalf of the Cambridge  
Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee

Department: Planning Services

Date to Management Committee: October 22, 2008

Report No.: P/08-57

File No.:

Ward No.: City Wide

Subject:

**CAMBRIDGE MUNICIPAL  
HERITAGE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (MHAC)**

**2008 ANNUAL REPORT AND  
2009 WORK PLAN**

---

### Recommendations:

THAT Cambridge Council receive the Cambridge Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) 2008 Annual report and 2009 Work Plan for information as contained in Report P/08-57.

### **BACKGROUND**

Each year advisory committees prepare reports to Council outlining accomplishments and identifying plans for the next year.

The Cambridge Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) was established in 1976. The Cambridge MHAC acts in an advisory capacity to Council by recommending ways in which Council can protect, conserve and enhance properties of cultural heritage significance.

The activities of the Cambridge MHAC are supported at a staff level through the Heritage Planner who is part of the Planning Services Department. Bradley Paddock continues in the role of Chair and Sandi Nicholls Hill has the role of vice-chairperson. Councillor Pam Wolf is the Council's representative. The Committee has also benefited from the addition of three new members to bring its complement up to nine.

For the first time in its history, MHAC has recommended the designation of a tree. While other municipalities have done so, the Oak Tree in the Sculpture Gardens is the first tree in Cambridge to be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

As well, three owners volunteered the designation of their properties bringing the total of designated properties up to 115. Part IV designations are individual designations and include residential, commercial and institutional properties.

Approximately two hundred properties are designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. Part V designations are district designations and include the Village of Blair and the commercial block on the south side of Main Street between Ainslie and Water Streets. The district designation for the area referred to as Dickson Hill was completed in 2005 and designates the city-owned facilities and public roadways within the area. The features included in the designation are Dickson, St. Andrews and Victoria Parks, Mountview Cemetery and the ornamental street lighting.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2008**

### 1. Completion of the Heritage Master Plan

A representative of MHAC has been on the Heritage Master Plan Steering Committee since its inception acting as the liaison between the two Committees. The Heritage Master Plan is a very exciting project for MHAC as it will provide the framework for the Committee's activities for the next ten years. The Committee is particularly interested in the concept of Heritage Character Areas and will be working with the proposed Implementation Committee to develop the guidelines and policies for these areas.

### 2. New Designations under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

This year, the Committee recommended the designation of four properties: 175 Cooper Street, 23 Lansdowne Road North, 40 Wentworth Avenue and the Oak Tree in the Sculpture Gardens. As well, staff has sent out several information packages to interested property owners and answer questions about the process on a weekly basis.

### 3. New Designations under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act

Currently, there are three districts designated in the City of Cambridge: the south side of Main Street from Ainslie to Water Streets, the Village of Blair and the city-owned lands within the Dickson Hill area. While there are no new district designations in the City of Cambridge, MHAC continues to maintain the existing designation through its involvement with applications for new construction, alterations, signage and severances.

The Committee, in its partnership with the University of Waterloo, School of Architecture and Cambridge and North Dumfries Community Foundation, continues to update the inventory of designated and significant properties. This partnership is beneficial to the architectural students hired to undertake the research and assessment work as it provides practical skills in their education and the Committee benefits from the work produced.

#### 4. Development Review

The Committee has been involved in the processing of two Heritage Impact Assessments. Both assessments were conducted in response to severance applications affecting built heritage resources. The Committee has also heard presentations regarding development proposals including plans of subdivision for the Limerick Road area and Mill Pond. The Committee commented on the amendment to the Zoning By-law for the property at the corner of Myers Road and Water Street South as the property is adjacent to a built heritage resource. The Committee has processed two requests for alterations to designated properties. The Conservation Master Plan for the Historic City Hall has also been vetted through the Committee.

#### 5. Funding for Heritage Properties

The City of Cambridge has a Heritage Conservation Fund, which was established in 1986 with monies from both the province and the municipality. The purpose of this Fund was to provide financial assistance to worthwhile restoration projects. In 2004, Council established, through the Operating Budget, a grant programme with a \$30,000 budget. Initially, the grants were in the amount of \$3,000.00 per property, but this year the Council increased the grant amount to \$5,000.00 allowing for the award of six grants. The Committee requested this increase because the costs associated with conservation work has increased but the grant amount had not changed since 1987. At the time of writing this report, MHAC had endorsed the approval of two grants. One grant is assisting in the repair of structural components and the other will see the installation of a cedar shingle roof. At present, there are two requests for funding being considered by the Committee. One grant is for repointing work and the other is for repairs to important wood trim details. It is anticipated that MHAC will, in fact, approve all six grants by the end of the year.

#### 6. Volunteers

Each year the Committee members are asked to record the number of hours spent on a monthly basis on heritage related matters. The total number of volunteer hours exceeds 500. These hours include not only attending the monthly Committee meetings and sub-committees, but also representing the Committee at Council meetings and attending workshops. The Committee has established four standing sub-committees to deal with issues such as assisting property owners through the grant process, disseminating information about the heritage conservation districts and developing workshop programmes for heritage home owners. Both the Planning and Grants sub-committees are extremely busy and involve meeting with developers and property owners.

Volunteer commitment to heritage matters cannot be understated. Volunteers carry out project that would not otherwise be completed. This dedicated group of people work tirelessly to ensure that the community's heritage resources are protected for the future.

## 7. Workshops and Information Sharing

The Committee hosted a highly successful Spring Workshop in partnership with the County of Brant Heritage Committee. More than 100 people participated in this workshop which focused on energy conservation in older homes. Speaker Don Eaton, an expert in energy conservation and an engaging speaker, provided the participants with useful tips and answered their questions. The Committee received a very favourable response from the Spring Workshop. The Committee anticipates building on this success by holding another Workshop in the Spring of 2009. There are several topics of interest to the owners of heritage homes including window repair and landscape design. The Committee also used the workshop as a venue to showcase local business and promote the Committee's activities.

The Heritage Planner, as a member of the Grand River Heritage Working Group, participated in the organization of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Day Workshop held in Cayuga on February 18, 2008. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Day Workshop will be held in Wilmot Township on February 16, 2009.

### **PROPOSED 200 WORK PLAN**

The following is a summary of the activities which the Committee anticipates undertaking in 2009. The Committee will continue to respond to the request of all designated property owners seeking technical advice, approval for alterations and additions, signage and financial assistance as required.

1. Participate in the Heritage Master Plan implementation process.
2. Facilitate funding to Central Presbyterian Church by working with the congregation to find possible funding sources for the 1.3 million dollar restoration project.
3. Participate in the organization of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Day Workshop.
4. Host a Spring Workshop for owners of designated properties.
5. Continue to work with the owners of designated properties in any development applications.
6. Pursue opportunities to educate the community about the role of the Cambridge Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and matters relating to heritage.
7. Continue to recommend properties for designation.
8. Conduct the research necessary for the designation of properties
9. Recommend the approval of grants through the 2009 Operating Budget and work with the owners to ensure the successful completion of the project.

10. Continue to work with applicants through the Heritage Impact Assessment process.

11. Participate in the Official Plan Review process.

12. Participate in the Region's Cultural Heritage Landscape initiative.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

2008 was a very busy and exciting year for the Cambridge Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee. The Cambridge Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee is pleased to process designation of properties volunteered for designation. The Cambridge Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee is looking forward to the year 2009 and any challenges it may hold.