

Heritage Advisory Committee

"Preserving and Promoting Our Past"

The Vision:

Thunder Bay is a city rich in history, buildings, archaeology and cultural heritage. These Heritage Resources add value, quality and diversity to our daily lives and community, and need to be protected for the future. As the city matures, our past shall not be lost to insensitive renovation or demolition, but retained as assets adding unique and irreplaceable value to our future.

Committee Role:

This Committee provides City Council with recommendations for the conservation of heritage buildings, sites and resources, and their integration in development.

Specific tasks required to provide these recommendations include:

1. Identify heritage resources and evaluate their condition and community value.
2. Recommend by-laws to establish processes for the conservation of heritage resources.
3. Monitor, review and take protective actions on a property-by-property or area-wide basis.
4. Undertake promotion programs to advise City Council and the public of the value of heritage resources, to encourage awareness, appreciation, involvement and participation in heritage conservation activities.

1. Identify Heritage Resources:

Identify and create an inventory of properties of heritage value and heritage resources, to provide City Council and the public with a clear understanding of their heritage significance including – what, when, where, who and why.

Goal A **Inventory.** Maintain a list, and develop an inventory through research and documentation, of heritage properties and heritage resources within the City of Thunder Bay, that could be considered for heritage designation.

Goal B **Pro-Forma.** Develop and maintain an objective methodology for evaluating the relative significance of heritage properties and heritage resources, taking into account the following key heritage value factors:

- Archaeological significance –Being a site containing significant archeological remains or evidence.
- Historical Personage –Being associated with the life of an outstanding member of community.
- Historical Event –Being associated with a significant historic event.
- Cultural significance –Being associated with a person or group of persons significant to the history of the social development of the community.
- Urban significance –Being a significant contributor to the quality and variety of the city through landscape, streetscape or quality of urban space.
- Architectural significance –Being a good example of a particular architectural style or period.
- Design significance –Being a work of outstanding design quality in its aesthetics, exterior or interior treatment of materials or space.
- Designer significance –Being the work of an important architect, designer or builder.
- Structural significance –Being an example of a significant engineering accomplishment or method of construction.
- Integration potential –Being of such size, quality or condition that extra effort is warranted to attempt to economically re-use the heritage resource.

Goal C **Recommendations.** Conduct pro-forma evaluations of heritage properties and resources to identify their comparative score and make recommendations to City Council on the type and level of heritage conservation actions that would be most appropriate in each case.

Goal D **Heritage Resources Master Plan.** Guide the development and preparation of a Heritage Resources Master Plan for the City of Thunder Bay.

Objectives

1. Identify the types of Heritage Resources in the City.
2. Identify the geographic distribution pattern of Heritage Resources.
3. Review heritage resource protection options.
4. Recommend a City Master Plan, including policies and implementation requirements.

2. Protect Heritage Resources:

Recommend by-laws for protective processes be adopted by City Council, for the conservation of heritage resources, as empowered by the Ontario Heritage Act, the Planning Act and other applicable legislation.

Goal A **Individual Properties.** Recommend City Council pass heritage designation by-laws for individual properties, as provided for under Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

- Objectives
1. Undertake the heritage property designation process.
 2. With the consent of owners of heritage properties, erect heritage plaque with associated public ceremony.
 3. Direct owners of designated heritage properties to funds and programs available for heritage conservation.

Goal B **Heritage Districts.** Advise City Council to undertake the necessary studies and pass heritage conservation district property designation by-laws, as provided for under Part 5 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

- Objectives
1. Identify and study unique areas for evaluation of their heritage significance, and propose areas for designation as heritage conservation districts, by by-law.
 2. In coordination with owners of heritage properties, and City public works divisions, encourage appropriate improvements and recognition.
 3. Direct owners of lands within designated heritage conservation districts to funds and programs made available for heritage conservation.

Goal C **Heritage Programs.** Recommend City Council pass by-laws to authorize and adopt heritage conservation policies and programs; that would provide owners with the benefit of tax relief for designated heritage properties; and would allow for heritage easements, heritage development agreements, loan agreements and other similar municipal implementation measures.

- Objectives
1. Establish a Heritage Tax Relief program.
 2. Establish procedures for Heritage Easements, Heritage Conservation Agreements and other property development measures.

Goal D **New Programs.** Promote adoption of incentive programs to broaden the City's power to encourage the protection, improvement or development of heritage properties and heritage resources.

- Objectives
1. Continue to research and make recommendations for the adoption of heritage incentive programs.
 2. Liaise and co-ordinate activities with other levels of government for programs supporting heritage development.
 3. Encourage public and business community participation in the movement for more heritage conservation incentive programs.

3. Monitor Development:

Work with City staff to monitor, review and take effective actions regarding designated heritage properties or districts, and the appropriate development of identified heritage resources.

Goal A

Permit Review. Review applications for building, renovation, plumbing, demolition or other permits, and where necessary, recommend approvals not be issued unless applicants have shown desirable regard for heritage matters

Objectives

1. Establish and maintain a line of communication with the Building Division regarding permits and applications.
2. Meet with owners of heritage properties prior to their submission of permit applications and offer direction, access to expertise or practical alternatives.
3. Forward review recommendations to City Council, make any related representations and provide information and advice to City Divisions
4. Provide follow-up related to the implementation of Heritage Advisory Committee recommendations.

Goal B

Public Involvement. Investigate and act on concerns raised by the public about heritage issues, properties or heritage resources.

Objectives

1. Encourage the public, developers and City Council to use this Committee to address heritage issues.
2. Respond to public inquiries.
3. Provide follow-up on issues raised.

4. Promote Public Participation:

Be a voice and an ear for heritage matters. Help make heritage conservation programs work in the City. Inform developers, the Public and City Council about the valuable contribution of heritage resources conservation, to quality of life and the development of Thunder Bay. Encourage public involvement in heritage matters.

Goal A

Designation Process. Communicate with those involved in the heritage property designation process to ensure it is understood, supported and works smoothly.

Objectives

1. Communicate with City Council during the designation process to ensure their support of the designation procedure is maintained.
2. Communicate with owners of historical properties to inform them of the process required and the benefits of heritage designation.
3. Communicate with special interest groups within the community, i.e. lawyers, architects, real estate persons, to make them aware of the various technical aspects of the designation process that may interface with their particular area of specialty.
4. Communicate with the public, and work with City staff to place required notices and generally facilitate the designation process.

Goal B

Public Education. Provide the public, City Council, property owners and the development community with clear, timely and effective information, supporting the cause of heritage property and heritage resource conservation.

Objectives

1. Develop a program of seminars, slide shows, talks and information sessions on the historical fabric of Thunder Bay, designed for presentation to schools, community groups and service clubs.
2. Collect a library of information, materials or sources for use by teachers to foster appreciation of heritage preservation in general and an awareness of Thunder Bay's heritage properties and resources in particular.
3. Collect a library of technical material about the repair, restoration and alteration of historical properties for use by the Committee, property owners and the public.
4. Contribute articles and essays on matters pertaining to historical properties to newspapers and other publications in Thunder Bay.

Goal C

Public Relations. Develop and maintain an ongoing public relation program to bring the issue and cause of heritage preservation to the public's attention, through the news media.

Objectives

1. Develop and organize programs, events or activities involving the citizens of Thunder Bay at a local level in the cause of

heritage preservation, i.e. Heritage Day, Walking Tours of historic areas, etc.

2. Support organizations interested in historic preservation or supportive of Committee objectives in their broadest scope. Seek their assistance in various endeavors, and for the provision of additional volunteers, to initiate activities that go beyond local or Committee mandate limitations.

Goal D

Public Participation. Develop a structured, clear Committee model and annual plan process, to provide interested persons and volunteers with a clear set of goals, objectives and tasks and therefore simple opportunities for involvement and achievement.

Objectives

1. Develop and strive to maintain an up-to-date and transparent Committee mandate document.
2. Prepare and adopt annual strategic plans.
3. Identify and publicize the annual work plan to the widest extent possible.
4. Facilitate public involvement.
5. Reward and celebrate achievements.

Note: STRATEGIC PLAN was adopted by LACAC resolution on **April 10, 2003**. LACAC Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved in the Committee of the Whole Agenda on June 16, 2003, and the Committee of the Whole Minutes were ratified by City Council on June 23, 2003.

City Council replaced the former Committee name: LACAC – Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, with the new name: Heritage Advisory Committee, on March 9, 2004, by By-law Number 47-2004, and adopted the slogan Preserving and Promoting our Past.