

A Guide to Thunder Bay's

# MUNICIPAL HERITAGE REGISTER

Municipalities in Ontario are required by *Section 27* of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to keep a publically accessible register of the City's formally designated heritage properties as well as properties deemed culturally, historically, or architecturally interesting. Properties are added to the Heritage Register by Council upon the recommendation of the Heritage Advisory Committee.





The Heritage Advisory Committee is in place to advise City Council on the protection of Thunder Bay's built and natural cultural heritage.

The Committee also has a focus on educating and promoting awareness of this heritage. It is also in place to assure that future planning and development takes into consideration the rich history of these assets.



**The Ontario Heritage Act** defines the work of Municipal Heritage Committees. *Ontario Heritage Act Section 28. (1)*

The act requires every municipality to keep a register of heritage properties. *Ontario Heritage Act Subsection 27. (1)*

If a Heritage Advisory Committee has been formed, Council shall consult with the committee prior to adding or removing a property from the Municipal Heritage Register. *Ontario Heritage Act Section 27. (1.3)*



**A Municipal Heritage Register** is a list of properties (buildings and structures, cultural heritage landscapes, archaeological sites) that have cultural heritage value and interest within the community. This register assists in setting priorities and developing strategies in planning conservation. It is a key component of any municipal heritage program.

#### **Benefits of a Municipal Heritage Register:**

- recognizes properties of cultural heritage value in the community.
- fosters civic identity and pride by drawing attention to the heritage and development of the community.

- promotes knowledge and enhances an understanding of the community's cultural heritage.
- provides easily accessible information about cultural heritage value for land-use planners, property owners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public.

## City of Thunder Bay Municipal Heritage Register includes:

**50**  
non-designated  
properties  
listed

**Non-designated** properties listed on the Municipal Heritage Register are recognized to be of historical interest. They have been added to the register through Council's ratification of a Corporate Report submitted by the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC).

Non-designated properties listed are protected from demolition for a period of 60 days, allowing for a decision to be made on whether or not to begin the designation process, which would provide the property with protection against demolition or alteration.

**26**  
formally  
designated  
properties

**Designated** properties have gone through a formal process governed by the *Ontario Heritage Act* which recognizes and reinforces the historical, cultural, and / or architectural importance of heritage properties considered worthy of preservation. Formal designation is done through a City By-law and provides the property protection against demolition or alteration.

**1**  
heritage  
conservation  
district

Properties within a **heritage conservation district** have the same protections of those properties individually designated on the Municipal Heritage Register. The Waverley Park Heritage Conservation district, Thunder Bay's only Heritage Conservation District, was designated in 1988. The district includes nearly 60 properties and landscapes centred upon Waverley Park.



**Placement on the Municipal Heritage Register** begins with identifying the property for consideration. A property can be brought forth by a member of the public, a property owner, HAC, and even City Council. Once identified, research and evaluation will take place. HAC will also consult with the property owner.

Recommendations from HAC to add a property to the register go before City Council. City Council is the decision maker regarding additions to the Municipal Heritage Register.

**Non-designated properties** are listed on register through City Council's ratification of a corporate report. This identifies that the property, though not being formally designated, is deemed to have cultural heritage value or interest to the community.

When a motion to **designate a property** is passed by Council, the property owner, as well as the Ontario Heritage Trust, must be notified. A *Notice of Intention to Designate* must also be published in the newspaper. If no objections are received within 30 days, Council can proceed and pass a By-law designating the property. The designating By-law is then registered on the property's title.

**Continually adding to the Municipal Heritage Register is important;** it protects our local history and reduces the loss of these heritage resources. Heritage buildings and structures are a non-renewable resource.

**Economic impacts** of preserving heritage structures includes area revitalization, increased tax revenue (property value), and heritage tourism.

**Green impacts** also exist with heritage structures. These buildings were built to last centuries; reusing reduces the need for new construction while also avoiding thousands of tonnes of debris being added to our landfills.

**Visible reminders** that can be used as a way to share and preserve our stories.

**Heritage designation:**

**Recognizes** the importance of a property to the local community;

**Protects** the property's cultural heritage value;

**Encourages** good stewardship and conservation; and

**Promotes** knowledge and understanding about the property.

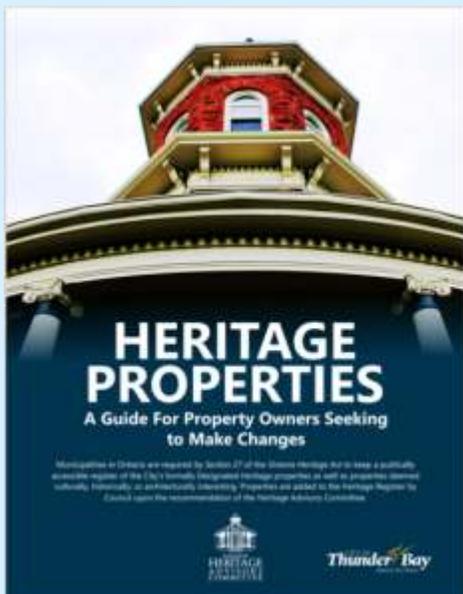
**Alterations to Heritage Properties**

All properties on the Municipal Heritage Register are flagged when building permits are applied for. (Demolition permits are also flagged.)

**Non-designated Properties:** Property owners are encouraged to discuss their plans for alterations with HAC, though approval is not required.

**Designated Properties:** A building permit will not be issued for formerly designated properties until the scope of work has been reviewed and approved by HAC.

A separate publication, *Heritage Properties, A Guide For Property Owners Seeking to Make Changes*, covers this topic in more detail. It can be found at online at: [thunderbay.ca/heritageproperties](http://thunderbay.ca/heritageproperties)

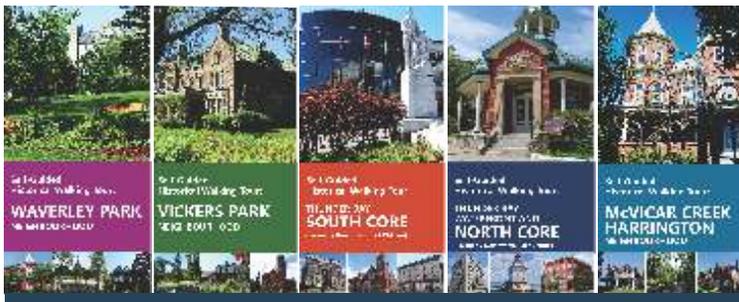




**Sharing and Celebrating our Heritage** is one of the many important focuses of HAC. This includes the promotion of Thunder Bay's heritage and heritage properties through programs to advise City Council and the public of the value of our heritage resources. These programs not only encourage awareness, foster appreciation, and educate, they are also meant to inspire volunteer involvement and participation in heritage conservation activities.



**Heritage Properties** on the City of Thunder Bay's Municipal Heritage Register are published online at [thunderbay.ca/heritageproperties](http://thunderbay.ca/heritageproperties). Information on heritage property protection and making changes, along with additional heritage features, are also published here.



**Self-guided historical walking tours** for Thunder Bay have been produced by the Heritage Advisory Committee. A total of 117 sites, many of which appear on Thunder Bay's Municipal Heritage Register, are featured on five different tours located in different parts of the city.

**Guided walking tours** are also led by the Heritage Advisory Committee during events such as Jane's Walk and Culture Days.

### Further Information

Inquiries about Heritage Properties and/or the Municipal Heritage Register can be directed to the City of Thunder Bay's Heritage Researcher at:

[archives@thunderbay.ca](mailto:archives@thunderbay.ca)



**The Thunder Bay Tours app** includes the series of heritage walking tours produced by HAC. Free to download through your app store, this app directs you along using GPS technology. The app also features integrated audio so you can listen while enjoying your surroundings.



**Doors Open Thunder Bay** is another way in which our heritage is shared and celebrated. Held every other year in September under the supporting partnership of Doors Open Ontario and the Ontario Heritage Trust, this event offers residents and visitors alike the opportunity to step through the doors and experience first-hand Thunder Bay's remarkable architecture, unique structures, and heritage sites - all FREE of charge! Visit [thunderbay.ca/doorsopen](http://thunderbay.ca/doorsopen) for event details.

### Additional Resources

The Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Cultural Industries website also offers resources regarding heritage properties at:

[www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/tools.shtml](http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/tools.shtml)