



CHOnews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY HERITAGE ONTARIO/PATRIMOINE COMMUNATAIRE DE L'ONTARIO

A HEFTY LIFT FOR ERNIE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

JIM BROWNELL

Since 1992, the Lost Villages Historical Society has operated a museum in the Township of South Stormont (formerly the Township of Cornwall) at Ault Park, the municipality's oldest park. The museum consists of ten heritage structures arranged in a village-like setting, and they tell the story of the six "Lost Villages" and three hamlets lost to the St. Lawrence Seaway and Hydro development projects of the 1950s.

From August 10, 1954, to July 1, 1958, a huge relocation project developed as communities stood in the way of the inundation that was to happen on Dominion Day 1958. Lake St. Lawrence was created by the waters being held back by three dams and covering over 16,000 hectares of land on both sides of the Canadian and USA border west of Cornwall, Ontario. The Lost Villages Museum tells the story of the two projects and the upheaval in the lives of 6,500 people, forced to relocate to higher lands.

While some of the heritage buildings at the museum site came from the "Lost Villages", others were relocated to Ault Park from surrounding farms and communities. In 1998, the Ernie McDonald Blacksmith Shop was relocated to the museum site through the kind donation of Ms. Dorothy McDonald, the Bob Buiting family

and the advocacy of auctioneer Flora Grant-Dumouchel. For many years, it had served as a blacksmith shop on the McDonald farm on Lot 1, Concession 3, Township of Cornwall. Ernie McDonald was the last to operate the shop which had been replaced by a new and modern facility established many years before the move of the old shop to the museum site in 1998.

A team of Lost Villages Historical Society members undertook the relocation and restoration of the Ernie McDonald Blacksmith Shop, under the leadership of Alex

McGillivray. Members of the team included Alan Rafuse, Donald Alguire, and Jim Brownell. Alex, Alan, and Donald have passed on, but their strong passion for history preservation lives on at the museum site. Under the direction of Terry Brownell, the move began at the McDonald farm site at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 8, 1998. While the brick chimney collapsed during the move, because of old and defective mortar, the move was successful and the structure was placed on "old material" sills.



Ernie McDonald Blacksmith Shop in 2021

This proved to be a huge mistake! Luckily, all the bricks were salvaged!

The restoration project was completed over the next year, and it was a wonderful Canada Day celebration on July 1,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Task Force on Housing Affordability and Heritage Conservation

In February of this year, the Task Force appointed by our provincial government issued its report on housing affordability. The report focus was on increasing the housing supply through relaxing of planning regulations to accelerate housing production and supply, even in established neighbourhoods.

In its report, three recommendations were made regarding heritage conservation. These were:

1. prohibiting the use of bulk listings on heritage registers;
2. prohibiting reactive heritage designations after Planning Act applications had been filed; and
3. requiring municipalities to compensate property owners as a result of heritage designation.

CHO/PCO submitted a letter to the Minister of Housing, with copies to related heritage organizations, refuting the premises on which the recommendations were made, noting in the case of the second recommendation that this had already been addressed in a recent *Ontario Heritage Act* amendment, and, in the case of the last recommendation, providing an alternative that would encourage the provision of municipal incentives to encourage heritage resource conservation in new development. We also noted, with a concrete example, that heritage resource conservation can go hand-in-hand with increasing the supply of housing. A copy of our letter has been posted on the CHO/PCO website.

We have yet to review the recently issued draft legislation resulting from the Task Force's report.

Conserving Places of Pain, Sorrow or Injustice

Municipalities have been reasonably successful in conserving places of heritage beauty but less successful in conserving places where we, as a society, inflicted pain, sorrow or injustice on our fellow citizens. This would include industrial homes, institutions for the "mentally feeble", jails and penitentiaries, residential schools, training schools, mental institutions and jail farms. Such places can be readapted for modern uses, although, for some of the residents of such places, there can be a strong desire to obliterate them. Yet, we as a society, should keep them as potent and visible reminders of the way in which we once treated our fellow citizens who were different, who had noticeable disabilities or who had broken society's rules. Conserving such places can be an educational tool to remind us all of what we did and why we should not do it again.

Wellington County successfully converted its 'Industrial Home' to a County Museum and Archives that includes information on what it was like to live in such a place. Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie has retained an Indian residential school and devoted part of the space to explaining the impact the school had on residents and succeeding generations. Oxford County has converted its jail to offices for County services. Kingston and the federal government are involved in readapting the Kingston Penitentiary.

Look at your community and see whether there are such places that deserve conservation.

Wayne Morgan

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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.

1999, when Bob Buiting and his family cut the ribbon to officially open the restored blacksmith shop. Occasionally, visitors to the site witnessed the forge in action, with smoke billowing from the restored chimney, completed by Jim Brownell. Unfortunately, due to deterioration with the sills of the structure, the blacksmith shop had to be closed in 2011, and it sat closed for almost a decade, awaiting a plan and funds for the construction of new sills. Thankfully, Gordon Construction Inc. of Cornwall completed this work, under the direction of Jeff Vandrish, president of the company, and through the financial support of the Township of South Stormont.

On October 26, 2021, McGregor Crane Service Limited of Cornwall, Ontario, arrived at the museum site to lift the blacksmith shop off its old foundation and onto the new, timber sills that had been constructed to the north of the former site. The move was successful, and much work was required to finish the project before the forge, anvil, tools, and blacksmithing artifacts were moved back into the restored building on December 16, 2021, by a team of volunteers from the historical society and the Township of South Stormont.



Lowering the shop in place

The Lost Villages Historical Society looks forward to throwing open the doors to this heritage structure to visitors in the summer of 2022. We welcome you to visit the Lost Villages Museum and Archives.

Jim Brownell is President of the Lost Villages Historical Society. Photography by J. Brownell.

HILLSBURGH DAM BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION

LAURIE DASILVA

After decades of need, years of planning and months of work, the Hillsburgh Dam Bridge on Station Street officially opened on December 18, 2020.



Reconstructed Hillsburgh Dam Bridge

The Hillsburgh Dam Bridge built in 1917, was a single-span solid concrete slab. It carried two lanes of Station Street traffic over the spillway separating Hillsburgh Pond and Ainsworth Pond in the historic Erin Township, in Wellington County. The bridge is owned and maintained by the Town of Erin.

Identified in 1973 as needing replacement, the bridge had many issues including, but not limited to: missing spindles, asphalt wearing surface of the bridge deck, wingwalls and abutments parged through which significant deterioration was visible, spalling and delamination, cracking, exposed corroded rebar, efflorescence, and scaling.

An inspection revealed that the original bridge featured a rigid frame, poured-in-place concrete deck, and concrete abutments. The original railing system was still in existence and featured concrete posts connected by concrete rails,

separated by concrete spindles. A sphere adorned the southeast concrete railing endpost, indicating that similar spheres likely existed atop the other endposts of the bridge.



Original bridge

The structure was found to meet the Criteria of Regulation 9/06 under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and therefore eligible to be considered for municipal designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

In 2018, the Town of Erin received approval to reconstruct

the bridge and rehabilitate the dam, preserving Hillsburgh Pond. The Hillsburgh Dam and its associated pond are considered a landmark feature within the community of Hillsburgh. They represent a large part of the village's history, dating back to as early as 1867. The pond itself has since held aesthetic value within the community as well as serving as a habitat for a wide range of wildlife species.

Construction began in the summer of 2019, and works included the following:

- Steel sheet pile wall
- Installation of precast C-Span structure
- Bridge widening and extension
- New cast in place concrete flow control structure
- Cofferdam and temporary flow bypass
- Traffic Control
- Site Restoration

Some of the historic railings from the original bridge were saved and installed on the Hillsburgh Library grounds. Bronte Construction and Triton Engineering, who were



Hillsburgh Pond

retained to complete the work on the bridge and dam, graciously donated their time and materials to complete the project.

Laurie DaSilva is Co-Chair of the Town of Erin Heritage Committee. Photography by L. DaSilva.

ONTARIO HERITAGE CONFERENCE 2022

TRACY GAYDA

As the pandemic continues to take us on a roller coaster ride for planning, our local organizing committee has been very busy finalizing plans. Visit <https://www.ontarioheritageconference.ca/> for all the conference details. Registration opened Friday, April 8!

We welcome you to Brockville and area, June 16-18, to experience Ontario Heritage Conference 2022: *The Light at the End of the Tunnel*. We have planned a wide range of sessions that we think will appeal to a wide variety of heritage interests.

We will begin Thursday, June 16, with a car rally/tour of our area. You may also enjoy a nostalgic trip to Heritage Place Museum in Lyn, just minutes away from the hotel section,

to explore the history of mills and stories of early settlement in Elizabethtown-Kitley. Thursday evening a Welcome Reception will be hosted at the Aquatarium. You may also stroll to the Brockville Tunnel to experience the light show, which is magnificent at night.

Friday, June 17, the Opening Ceremonies will begin at the Brockville Arts Centre with keynote speaker Miranda Jimmy, who will expand our knowledge about heritage and its role in truth and reconciliation. Afterward, take an architectural bus tour or listen to a presentation on heritage railways and the Brockville Tunnel at the Brockville Museum. Or you can learn more about the recently introduced changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* and how



The Aquatarium at Tall Ships Landing



Brockville Museum

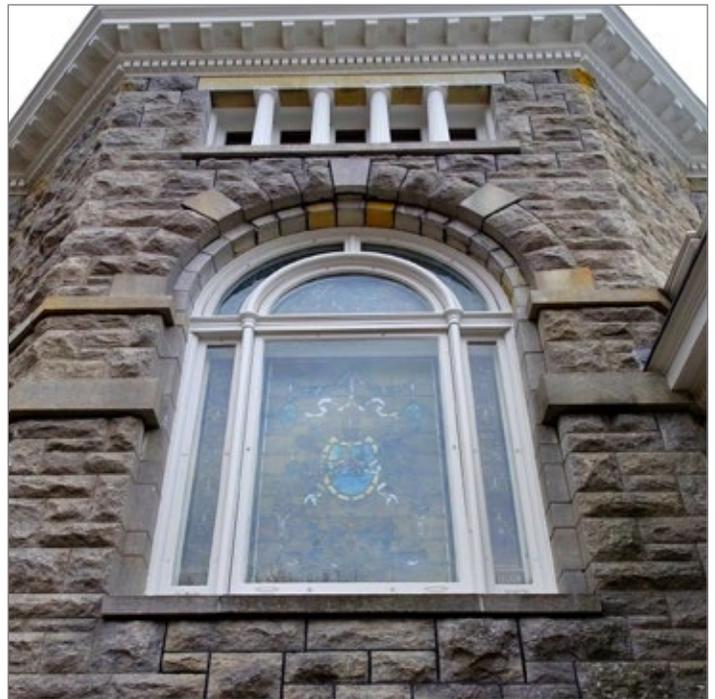
heritage professionals, municipalities, and Municipal Heritage Committees are dealing with these changes. Over lunch, explore Brockville's heritage downtown and taste the many local flavours at a variety of restaurants. That afternoon the sessions will be held at Fulford Place Museum; might you be interested in homeowners' adventures in conservation or a heritage garden tour? Or perhaps you will want to attend the heritage windows restoration workshop at the newly renovated Brockville Armories.

Friday night's Gala Dinner will be at the Brockville Convention Centre and the keynote speaker will be Mark Denhez. He will speak on the need to rebrand "heritage buildings" to "older buildings", and the positive impact reuse has on the climate crisis while retaining the local ambiance of community and neighbourhoods. The Convention Centre is located near the hotel grouping, just off the 401.

Saturday's sessions will be at the Convention Centre and a Holiday Inn meeting room across the parking lot. There is a wide range of interesting sessions from climate change, heritage for the future, and headstone maintenance. The day will end with a presentation that will traverse the history of the St. Lawrence River, through to the resurrection the iconic river landmark, Cole Shoal Lighthouse.

OHC 2022 will be the first in-person conference since the pandemic started and we are excited to see and network with old friends, heritage professionals, local and provincial organization representatives, who all make this conference such a special event for heritage enthusiasts. We hope to see you soon to welcome faces new and familiar.

Tracy Gayda is a Vice-President of CHO/PCO. Photography by T. Gayda.



A window at Fulford Place Museum (above) and Brockville Armories (below)



STRATFORD LAND REGISTRY OFFICE PROPOSED DEMOLITION: A DISTURBING DECISION

PAUL R. KING

In Stratford Ontario there is a 2,600 square foot 111-year-old building, owned by Perth County, which was originally the land registry office for Perth County. This building was later used for the Perth County archives but it has been empty and neglected since 2014. Last December 16th, Perth County Council voted unanimously to declare this significant heritage building surplus and to demolish it without paying any attention to its heritage attributes, its visual and historic link to its surroundings nor its noteworthy associative heritage value. [Note: Perth County December 16, 2021, regular council meeting online video at <https://perthcounty.civicweb.net/portal/>] This decision by Perth County Council is disturbing not only because there was

no concern about the building's heritage value but also because, in making its decision, the Perth County Council paid no attention to its obligations under Section 2 of the *Planning Act*:

The Minister, the council of a municipality, ... in carrying out their responsibilities under this Act, shall have regard to, among other matters, matters of provincial interest such as, ...

(d) the conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest;

(e) the supply, efficient use and conservation of energy and water; ...

- (g) the minimization of waste; ...
- (r) the promotion of built form that,
 - (i) is well-designed,
 - (ii) encourages a sense of place, and
 - (iii) provides for public spaces that are of high quality, safe, accessible, attractive and vibrant;
- (s) the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to a changing climate.

nor to Section 2.6.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement: *“Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved.”*

The Perth County Council relied on a surplus property report prepared by Lori Wolfe, Perth County CAO, and John McClelland, Director of Public Works. [Note: Surplus Property Report dated December 16, 2021, attached to the Perth County Council Agenda at <https://perthcounty.civicweb.net/portal/>.] Neither of these County employees have any heritage expertise. Perth County staff engaged NA Engineering Associates Inc. (NAE), a subsidiary of Westinghouse, *“to provide guidance on the processes of demolition and severance of the building and to have the footprint put back into green space”*. NAE specializes in nuclear, civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, building science, environmental, fire protection & life safety, and land surveying engineering, but not built heritage matters. [Note: <https://www.naeng.com/>] It is perhaps noteworthy that neither Perth County nor the four townships under its jurisdiction have a heritage advisory committee. In Perth County, the only heritage advisory committees are in St. Marys and Stratford, but these latter two municipalities are separate one-tier municipalities that are not subject to the second-tier jurisdiction of Perth County.



Old Perth County Land Registry Office

The above-noted surplus property report mentions that the building is in *“very poor condition”* but there is no detailed

analysis provided to explain this statement other than a statement that the building contains asbestos and mold. (Of course, the process of remediating these substances is commonly undertaken under expert supervision.) There are members of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals with appropriate credentials who could have done a proper analysis of this building to determine its true condition and to estimate the cost of restoring the building for an adaptive reuse. There was, however, no reliance on any such experts. By the way, this building was built in 1910 to house significant land registry records, so it was constructed under extremely high standards and constructed to be as fireproof as possible. The walls, including the interior ones, are solid masonry. Also, in order to support the weight of the paper records, the main floor consists of “I” beams every 6 feet with corrugated metal arches between supporting concrete from 6 to 12 inches thick across the floor. [Note: <https://www.stratford-perthcountybranchaco.ca/> under Buildings at Risk tab] The building still has sewer, water, hydro and gas service connections. So, the unsupported statement that the building is in *“very poor condition”* is highly questionable. Furthermore, what about environmental factors in this anthropocentric era of climate change? There is a saying that the greenest building is an existing building. Considering the energy already spent to construct this building, plus the energy that would be required to demolish this building and transport the material to a landfill site, it is questionable whether demolition of this solid building is a responsible decision.

The above-noted surplus property report states that the building is *“located in [a] Heritage Conservation District (not designated)”*. This statement is a clear indication that the authors of the surplus property report do not have a fulsome understanding of the provisions in the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The property, where the building is situated, is not individually designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* but, by being in the Heritage Conservation District, it is designated under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Furthermore, the property is part of a significant precinct which includes the County jail and the stunning County Courthouse (completed in 1887 and located strategically for a magnificent view of the building as one approaches along the western portion of Ontario Street). The 1910 land registry office was architecturally-designed to harmonize with the jail and the courthouse in order to create a unified streetscape along St. Andrews Street. This is still the case today. These details were not mentioned in the surplus property report nor during the Council meeting.

The surplus property report did mention that, due to the building being located in the Heritage Conservation District, obtaining a demolition permit requires the consent of the City of Stratford Council, after that Council consults with



**Old Perth County Land Registry Office on the left,
Perth County Courthouse on the right**

the Stratford heritage advisory committee. If the Stratford Council does not approve the demolition permit, Perth County has the right to appeal the matter to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

What is disturbing about the Perth County Council's decision is the lack of concern about the significant heritage

value of this building, the neglect of the building for the past 7 years, the failure to imaginatively consider adaptive reuse options for the building, the lack of concern about the environmental impact of demolishing this building, and lastly the failure to comply with the Council's obligations under the provisions of the *Planning Act*, including the requirement to take into consideration the provisions of the *Provincial Policy Statement*. Unfortunately, this scenario is all too common across Ontario.

Four months have passed since the Perth County Council decision but the heritage building is still standing, the County has not applied to the City of Stratford for a demolition permit, and whatever might be going on behind closed doors between the County and the City has not been made public. The Heritage Stratford Committee Chair has confirmed that the Committee continues to monitor the situation, which remains very high profile with lots of public interest in maintaining that building.

*Paul R. King is a past board member of CHO/PCO.
Photography by P.R. King.*

STUDENT SUBSIDY FOR OHC 2022

Students interested in attending the conference can apply for a subsidy. Visit the website for details.

<https://ontarioheritageconference.ca/student-subsidy>

LEAMINGTON ONTARIO'S ICONIC TOMATO TOURIST BOOTH

C. SCOTT HOLLAND

Since the late 1920s Leamington has been known as the Tomato Capitol of Canada and for several decades boasted that it was the Tomato Capitol of the World.

Tomatoes had been grown in the area since the 1880s and became a popular crop in 1910 when the H.J. Heinz Co. of Canada began producing ketchup at their nearby, newly formed Canadian factory.

By the late 1950s Leamington sought to have a permanent tourist booth to replace a rather small, portable one. An idea was conceived by the Leamington Chamber of Commerce to create a booth resembling a tomato. Late in 1959, the H.J. Heinz Co and its engineers formally stated that they would support the project and transform the idea into reality by creating that large tourist booth they envisioned.

However, full approval and a site for it came a year later.

The site was a small, triangular section of property on the west side of, and adjacent to town's the Federal Building, which had housed Leamington's original Post Office from 1911 to 1959 and later its customs office. It was a natural spot where a majority of vehicles coming to town along highway 3 from Windsor and Detroit, would spot the unique structure.

The bright red tomato-shaped booth adorned with a green stem on top, would become an icon and popular tourist stop for photographs. Upon its completion, the booth measured fourteen feet high and about twenty feet in diameter. Its interior was wood with a fiberglass outside.



The booth prior to its opening in 1961

At its opening in May 1961, Leamington's own Frank T. Sherk, who was president of the H. J. Heinz Co. and the Canadian Tourist Association, along with Canadian Chamber of Commerce president, Joseph Jeffery, cut the ribbon to officially open the information booth. Initially its hours of operation were 9 am to 7 pm but by the 1970s the hours were shortened to 10 am to 4 pm.



Tomato family figurines

Since its opening, it has undergone numerous facelifts, repairs and paintings, while the grounds around it have undergone numerous transformations as well. One of the most important things done was having town council pass legislation that severed the small triangle of land (in 1993) from the overall property which today houses the Leamington Arts Centre. That same year, tomato family figurines (four in total) were added and in October 1995 an information kiosk was erected to the east at a cost of \$6,000. The kiosk would provide information at all times and serve the public when the booth was closed.

Although figures on the number of visitors stopping at the booth are not available for any of the years, in the mid and late 1980s, the booth reported that it was not unusual to have nearly 1,000 people stop per week. In 1986, the total for the season (Victoria Day weekend to Labour Day weekend) was over 16,689 and in 1987 by late September, the booth had hosted 21,774 visitors. One of the more impressive facts

to consider, is that during reconstruction of Talbot St. West in 1988, the booth still managed to draw nearly four hundred visitors per week.

Over the course of its history the booth has served small cans of Heinz tomato juice as part of its welcome - and the tapping of a tomato keg became symbolic of its May opening. Volunteers have helped operate the booth and for a number of years via government funding (including the Southwestern Ontario Tourist Association) helped provide summer jobs for students. It was also the center of attention in the early 1990s when Leamington District Secondary School had tourism classes which made daily visits to discover the local attractions and how the volunteers helped serve the public.



Tomato Booth in 1986

The booth has remained a national and international symbol of Leamington's vibrant agricultural community for over half a century. It is still a magnet for people from around the world when they pass through the area, despite the fact it has serious structural damage and needs to be replaced. Leamington's council has debated about its replacement or repair and with the high cost of such work, sadly the decision is on hold.

C. Scott Holland is a freelance writer who serves on Leamington's Heritage Committee. Images courtesy of the C. Scott Holland Collection.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE CAPITOL THEATRE

SHIRLEY BAILEY

At a special meeting of the Heritage Kingston Committee in April 2021, members considered the matter of retaining the façade of the Capitol theatre at 223 Princess Street through a heritage easement. Staff proposed a two-step process, the first to allow demolition of most of the building which extends from Princess to Queen Streets, and the second to ensure the proponent would return to the Committee with more specific plans of the

heritage easement: how the façade on the listed property will be protected, what the marquee will look like, how the terracotta tile will be protected, and so on.

The history of the iconic structure in Kingston's historic core is worth reviewing, and an article dated February 21, 2020, from the recently digitized copies of the *Daily British Whig* provides an insight into the origins of the Allen Enterprises.

A jeweller from Bradford, Pennsylvania, Bernard Allen, had two sons, who determined in September 1906 that they wanted to go into the movie business. Jule and Jay J. Allen were completing high school. They had searched Hamilton for a readily available location, with no luck, and then found a store in Brantford, Ontario. This first location, the Theatorium, was no larger than a “tobacco shop,” where they put up a cotton sheet and squeezed in 150 kitchen chairs. With a projector showing 15-minute reels, they charged five cents for a show, to enormous success. The population of Brantford at the time was about 15,000 people, and on the first day 2,000 paid a nickel to see the movies. The shows ran continuously, and the first movie theatre outside Toronto and Montreal was born. With that success, two more similar establishments were located in Brantford. The Allen brothers had cornered the market in the movie picture business, all while in their teens.

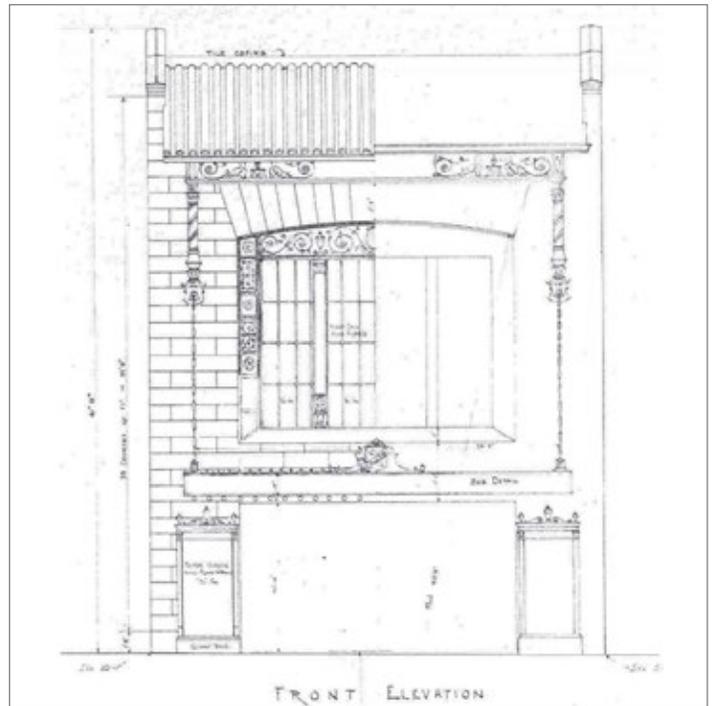
In ten years, the duo had established a network of theatres across Ontario. They hired and trained staff and promoted from within. They sold stock in many of the theatres but retained the bulk of the common stock in every case, and most often retained full ownership. Throughout 1920, several ads in newspapers advertised the business, and offered stocks for sale.

Their business expanded over the decade to the point where the Allen brothers retained architect Howard Crane, who had already been designing theatres in the United States. Crane was not yet licensed in Ontario, so the local associate was the architectural firm of Hynes, Feldman and Watson for two theatres in Toronto. Over the next few years, the Allen brothers contracted Crane to devise plans for at least fifteen more theatres, including Winnipeg (1920), Vancouver (1920), and Calgary (1921), each with nearly 2,000 seats, and a larger movie theatre with 2,600 seats in Montreal (1921). The Crane designs followed a pattern: large frontage, second-level windows, and a terracotta frieze above the window.

It was during the incredible year of expansion across Canada that the Kingston theatre opened on December 30th. The *Daily British Whig* reported on the opening. Mayor Nickle congratulated the Allen brothers on the construction of a theatre holding 1,300 people which had been built at the cost of \$180,000. The Kingston theatre was one of eleven

new movie houses added across the country in 1920.

By October 1921, the company was overextended in its attempt to compete with the Famous Players Canadian Corporation. Raising money by selling shares was not enough to deal with the competition. Also, an economic depression in 1921 meant that attendance in movie theatres plummeted, and in 1923, the brothers were forced to sell their buildings to Famous Players at a fraction of their value. As occurred in Kingston, most were renamed *Capitol*. The Allen brothers went on to develop a new theatre chain in the 1930s and '40s.



Drawing for Kingston's Capitol theatre in 1920 developed by Norman McLeod Ltd. Engineers and Contractors of Toronto (Library and Archives Canada)

Many of the Allen Theatres across Canada have now been protected for their heritage value and repurposed. The façade of the theatre at 223 Princess Street will now be protected after a long and controversial process of community involvement to reduce the height of a proposed condominium development from twenty-one storeys to nine.

Shirley Bailey is President of the Frontenac Heritage Foundation.

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.

LISTING PROPERTIES TO THE MUNICIPAL REGISTER

NANCY MATTHEWS AND WAYNE MORGAN

Since 2005, the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA) allowed municipalities to include undesignated properties of cultural heritage value on the municipal register. Commonly known as "listing", this formally identifies properties that may have cultural heritage value or interest to the community and permits council up to 60 days to delay issuing its permission to demolish should such an application be made. The 60 days starts from when council is notified of the application, not from the date of the application. For proposals to demolish on a listed property, applications must be made under **both** the OHA and *Building Code Act*. During the 60 days, council must decide whether to express its intent to designate if it wishes to prevent the demolition which would provide long term heritage protection of the property. Failure to make a decision within the 60-day period would result in the approval of the demolition.

Old guidelines for "listing" a non-designated property

- The only information required under the OHA was a description sufficient to identify the property, such as the property's street address.
- Detailed research and evaluation of the property was not required, although it was suggested that a brief rationale explaining why the property may have heritage value be provided.
- A municipality was not required to consult with property owners or the public to list non-designated properties in the register.
- Notifying owners of the listing of properties was recommended but not compulsory.

New guidelines for "listing" a non-designated property

OHA, ss.27(3) effective July 1, 2022: *When a municipal council decides to include a property that has not been previously designated in the municipal register of heritage properties, council shall, within 30 days after including the property in the register, provide the owner of the property with notice that the property has been included in the register. As in OHA, ss.27(5-6), the notice must include the following:*

- a statement explaining why the council of the municipality believes the property to be of cultural heritage value or interest.
- a description of the property that is sufficient to readily ascertain the property.
- a statement that if the owner of the property objects to the property being included in the register, the owner may object to the property's inclusion by serving on the clerk of the municipality a notice of objection setting out the reasons for the objection and all the relevant facts.

To meet these requirements, the municipality should prepare the statement explaining why council believes the property is of cultural heritage value or interest as per Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest in Ontario Regulation 9/06 under the OHA. This statement should be based on some preliminary research about the property.



Rob Roy School

The information needed for a new listing will look very much like a general property description for a designation but need not go into elaborate detail or define any specific attributes. The following is an example prepared for the Rob Roy School in the municipality of Grey Highlands:

1. *Property identification (location and name if any):* OSPREY MUSEUM / ROB ROY SCHOOL, 634632 Pretty River Road at the northeast corner of the junction with Grey Road 12.
2. *How the property was/is used:* Rob Roy SS#10 is a rectangular one-room brick schoolhouse of neo-classical design built in 1889 by Osprey Township. Since 1961 the building has served as a museum with an extensive collection of local artefacts.
3. *Brief statement of heritage values:* The property has significant heritage cultural value and interest for:
 - a. its historic association with educating early pioneering children;
 - b. its ongoing value as a community hub that celebrates local agricultural history; and
 - c. its design value for balanced classical proportion of the schoolhouse is enhanced by attractive and intricate brickwork in rust red with contrasting yellow brick in solid corner quoins and pilasters, textured vousoirs above the elegant door and window "fan lights," and an ornate frieze.

Once a listing has been made by a council, the owner must be notified within 30 days that the property has been listed. The owner may object to council about the listing, although no time limit for the objection is specified in the Act. If an objection is lodged with the council, it must consider the objection and advise the owner of its decision to retain or remove the listing. Again, no time limits are specified for council to decide.

Any property owner objection to a listing should be based on valid reasons that council must consider before deciding whether to continue listing the property.

Although notification before the listing occurs is not required, it is strongly recommended that the owner be consulted prior to consideration of listing by the heritage committee and council. Some municipalities may wish to save time and effort by gaining owner permission prior to the listing. Since 2012, such a policy in the Municipality of

Grey Highlands has helped foster good community relations between the heritage committee and heritage property owners. Other municipalities have a brochure explaining listing and its effect that is provided to owners when they are notified that either the heritage committee or council is considering listing.

Listing of properties by a council in its heritage register is a relatively simple tool for a council to provide basic protection for some of its heritage resources. In adding or removing a property on the Register, council is required to consult with its heritage committee, if one has been established.

Note: Rob Roy School is listed on the Grey Highlands register. More information about the building can be found here: <https://greyhighlands.civicweb.net/document/212139>

Nancy Matthews and Wayne Morgan are board members for CHO/PCO. Photography by N. Matthews.

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Cost is per issue. CLASSIFIED ADS are \$12.00 per column inch. DISPLAY ADS must be supplied in camera-ready tiff or pdf format. Location of ads is at the discretion of the Editor.

Contact Rick Schofield at 416.282.2710 or schofield@communityheritageontario.ca

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK SCHOFIELD

The Board of Directors met virtually by Zoom on Sunday, March 27th, 2022.

The President is working toward finalizing speakers for the conference sessions presented by CHO/PCO which will deal primarily with MHC issues in rural and remote areas, as well as recent amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Wayne Morgan provided workshops in Old Thornhill with another planned for Gravenhurst in May, and assisted Alnwick/Haldimand in drafting statement of cultural heritage values. Efforts were made to reestablish an MHC in Lanark Highlands. Finally, it was suggested that a few, good designation bylaws should be added to the website for referencing.

The Corporate Secretary reported membership stands at 64 MHCs with a slower than usual renewal rate due to Covid issues affecting many MHC activities. A letter was sent to Minister Steve Clark regarding the Ontario Housing

Affordability Task Force. Former CHO/PCO President Paul King expressed concern over the threatened demolition of the historic, former Perth County Land Registry building. The Secretary noted that paper copies of CHOnews had been mailed to the MHCs who have requested hard copies.

The Treasurer reported revenue of \$24,550 with disbursements of \$43,800 which will be covered by our current surplus. Confirmed speakers for the Ontario Heritage Conference 2022 (OHC 2022) are being provided with an advance payment to cover their expenses. An initial payment has been made to the Board-approved Archaeological Research project. The Treasurer also reported that the auditor has completed the corporation's audit for 2021 and found no issues.

Program Officer Ginette Guy reported on her activities regarding OHC 2022 in June and working with ACO and OAHF regarding budget issues. Registration is expected to

open in early April. She is also responsible for mailings of CHOnews to those preferring electronic copies.

Tracy Gayda, OHC 2022 Committee Chair, provided a report on the ongoing development of speakers and programs. Registration fees have been adjusted to reflect inflationary changes and the budget is on track in obtaining sponsors.

The Communications committee noted that the Winter issue of CHOnews was very successful, with several new submitters, lots of good articles and positive feedback.

Matthew Gregor, Chair of the Awards Committee indicated agreement of this year's recipients for (i) contributions to their local MHC and (ii) exceptional service to CHO/PCO. The awards will be handed out at the conference Gala Dinner.

With the cost of gas rising substantially in recent months, the Board approved an increase in the CHO/PCO travel

allowance to 57¢/km. This is the first change in several years and is used to partially cover travel expenses for Board members, workshop and conference speakers and anyone traveling on Board-approved activities.

The Board is looking for one or two new Board members, effective July 1st. Nominations for those wishing to serve on the Board of Directors for the two-year term 2022-2024, will remain open until May 31st. The majority of those serving on the Board must be members of a local MHC or authorized by a local MHC to represent them. Nominations, along with a brief resume outlining one's heritage preservation background or related activities should be sent to the Corporate Secretary at the CHO/PCO office in Scarborough.

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

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ARTICLE DEADLINES

JANUARY 10

MARCH 10

JUNE 10

OCTOBER 10

Article submissions are always welcome.