

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

**DATE:** 2019 March 21

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION &  
CULTURAL SERVICES

**FILE:** 77000 20  
Reference: Ceperley House

**SUBJECT: BURNABY ART GALLERY - RESTORATION OF FIRESIDE ROOM**

**PURPOSE:** To provide background information regarding the restoration of this interior space of this designated civic heritage site.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be received for the information of the Commission.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The regular meeting of the Community Heritage Commission for April 4, 2019 will be held in the Fireside Room of the Burnaby Art Gallery (Ceperley House) at 6344 Deer Lake Avenue. This location has been selected to provide the Commission with the opportunity to view the interior restoration work on this heritage building that was initiated by Cultural Services Division, and which has recently been completed. This report provides background on the Ceperley mansion and this project for the information of the Commission.

The Henry and Grace Ceperley Mansion “Fairacres” is a civic-owned heritage resource that was formally designated as a heritage site in November 1992. Its Statement of Significance identifies the quality of craftsmanship of interior finishes and materials as integral to the heritage value of the site. The 1911 home’s lavish interior spaces were designed for entertaining, including the billiard room which is now known as the “Fireside Room.” Character-defining elements in this space include the imported Italian smalti glass tiles on the fireplace hearth; interior carved woodwork (including a carved motto above the fireplace) by artist George Selkirk Gibson, Hope’s English window hardware, and leaded art glass. The space also speaks to the overall British Arts and Crafts design of the estate house, designed by architect Robert MacKay Fripp and constructed by prominent Burnaby contractor James Charles Allen.

The recent project, managed by Burnaby Art Gallery Curator/Director Ellen van Eijnsbergen, required the gallery to be closed between January 14, 2019 and March 14, 2019. The City engaged architect and conservation specialist Barry McGinn to oversee a restoration program with H & S Carpentry. The project saw layers of paint stripped from the original douglas fir paneled walls. The stripped panels were repaired and stained to reflect their original design and

To: Community Heritage Commission  
From: Director Planning and Building  
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Re: Burnaby Art Gallery - Restoration of Fireside Room  
2019 March 21 ..... Page 2

finishing. Ceiling timberwork and beams and plaster walls were painted in a complimentary colour scheme. Radiators were restored to operating condition, and cleaned and repainted.

A special feature of the room is the inglenook with benches, which were stripped and refinished. New upholstered seat cushions are in progress of being manufactured. Entrance doors and the built-in cabinet were stripped and refinished, and original hammered brass hardware was cleaned, repaired and reinstalled.

Restoration work balanced honouring the original architecture of the space with its adaptive re-use as the Burnaby Art Gallery. Modern picture hanging hardware was powder-coated brown to blend with the surroundings, and room décor (including a contemporary chandelier) reflect the contemporary art focus of the gallery. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services division staff and Engineering – Facilities Management are to be commended for recognizing the exemplary importance of this room to the heritage character of the mansion and for undertaking the work to a high standard following the best conservation principles.

It is noted that further restoration work is in progress. Staff are reviewing the current condition of the fireplace hearth and tiles for further conservation. Additional work will see the exterior lower window casement sash with its leaded art glass restored and conserved.

## 2.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK

The proposed approach aligns with the following goals and sub-goals of the Corporate Strategic Plan:

- A Dynamic Community
  - City Facilities and Infrastructure –  
Build and maintain infrastructure that meets the needs of our growing community
- A Thriving Organization
  - Reliable services, technology and information –  
Protect the integrity and security of City information, services and assets

This report is for the information of the Commission.

  
Lou Pelletier, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

  
Dave Ellenwood, Director  
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

LC:sa

cc: City Manager  
Director Engineering  
City Clerk