

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

**DATE:** 2019 November 14

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**FILE:** 3520 20

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION 2019 OVERVIEW AND  
TWO YEAR WORK PLAN

**PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of activities of the Heritage Program for 2019, and outline  
a two year work plan for 2020 and 2021.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** the Community Heritage Commission approve the work plan for 2020 and 2021 as outlined in Section 4.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** the report be advanced to Council for information.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Community Heritage Commission (CHC) was established in 1988 by Burnaby City Council under bylaw following the provisions of the *B.C. Heritage Conservation Act*. The purpose of the CHC is to advise Council on matters concerning the identification, management and preservation and/or restoration of buildings and sites with historical significance in Burnaby. Powers and duties derive from the *Local Government Act* (Part 15), the *Community Charter* (Part 5, Division 4, 143) and *Burnaby Community Heritage Commission Bylaw* (No. 9029).

Over the past 31 years, the CHC has identified and provided advice on matters concerning management and preservation of heritage resources in Burnaby. Initiatives resulting from this work include creation of the Heritage Burnaby website (2007), publication of an inventory of built heritage resources (2011) and implementation of interpretive signage programs, including the *Burnaby Then and Now: Celebrating Burnaby 125 with Heritage Markers* project (2017). The City's heritage program consists of two main components, conservation and management of heritage resources, and recognition of civic heritage assets and historical events.

The CHC advises Council on applications related to heritage resources. Part 15 of the *Local Government Act* (Heritage Conservation) identifies powers of local governments in relation to management of heritage property. These powers enable Council to protect privately-owned

properties and to recognize heritage value, character, and other aspects of the community's heritage.

At the March 26, 2019 meeting, the Community Heritage Commission requested staff to bring forward a two year work plan. This report provides an overview of activities in 2019 and outlines a two year work plan for 2020 and 2021. Creation of a work plan enables the City to allocate staff and financial resources to priority projects, including requesting funding as part of the City's annual budget process.

## **2.0 POLICY SECTION**

Recognition and conservation of heritage is identified in Burnaby's Official Community Plan, which identifies Heritage Planning as one of its goals: "To provide opportunities for increased awareness and the conservation of the City's unique natural, cultural, archaeological and built heritage."

Heritage conservation activities are aligned with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan, and directly support the following goals and sub-goals of the Plan:

### **A Connected Community**

- Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities, and governments.

### **An Inclusive Community**

- Celebrate diversity – Create more opportunities for the community to celebrate diversity.
- Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging.

### **A Healthy Community**

- Community involvement – Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community.

### **A Dynamic Community**

- Community development – Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging.

### **A Thriving Organization**

- Reliable services, technology, and information – Protect the integrity and security of City information, services, and assets.

Heritage recognition and conservation work also supports the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy (2011), particularly *Strategic Priority 2: Celebrating Diversity and Culture*, and *Strategic Priority 5: Enhancing Neighbourhoods*. Heritage recognition and conservation promotes inclusiveness by making diverse stories of Burnaby's history accessible, and enhancing neighbourhood character.

### **3.0 OVERVIEW OF 2019 ACTIVITIES**

In 2019, the CHC advised Council on a range of heritage conservation and heritage recognition applications and initiatives, and provided advice on management and preservation of heritage buildings and landmarks, and on initiatives to increase awareness and conservation of the City's heritage resources.

#### **3.1 Heritage Conservation**

The following heritage conservation issues and projects were reviewed and/or advanced by the CHC in 2019:

- Schou Street School (4041 Canada Way): A Heritage Revitalization Agreement was negotiated in partnership with the Burnaby School District to designate the historic Schou Street School (1914), and relocate the District's administration offices. The agreement results in protection, conservation, and adaptive re-use of the original school building.
- Fairacres Estate (6344 Deer Lake Avenue): Restoration of the Fairacres Garage & Stables was completed, following its damage by fire in 2018. Work was initiated to determine an adaptive re-use of the building. The Fairacres Estate Gate and Greenhouse Foundation Wall were protected through a heritage designation bylaw. A major restoration project was completed at the Fireside Room in the Fairacres Mansion by staff in the Cultural Services Division, guided by the CHC and the City's heritage policy for the conservation of protected civic heritage landmarks.
- Mather's House (6450 Deer Lake Avenue): a Heritage Alteration Permit was reviewed and approved for restoration works at the Mather's House, which include the porte cochere, turret, and reception hall.
- Heritage Inventory, Simon Fraser University Burnaby Campus (8888 University Drive): in response to an application for a demolition permit for the Madge Hogarth House, staff were directed to undertake an inventory of the significant architecture at the SFU Burnaby campus, in cooperation with the University.

#### **3.2 Heritage Recognition**

The following heritage recognition work was reviewed and/or advanced by the CHC in 2019:

- Burnaby Civic Employees Union Centenary: the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Burnaby Civic Employees Union was supported by issuing a proclamation to recognize Burnaby Civic Employees Union Month, developing historical signage banners, and hosting a labour history presentation as part of the City's annual Neighbourhood History Series.
- Waterways of Burnaby map: the popular map poster featuring Burnaby creeks and streams and their history was updated and reprinted.

- Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby: a multi-year project was approved to expand knowledge of, and access to, the history of Chinese migration to Burnaby and the contributions of Chinese Canadians to the development of Burnaby.
- Signs & Plaques: The City's inventory of heritage interpretive signs was managed by staff, and monitored by the CHC to ensure signs are maintained and installed as directed. An official unveiling event was organized for November 28, 2019 at the McGill Library, for the Great Northern Railway Disaster plaque, created in collaboration with the BC Labour Heritage Centre. The plaque is located on the Central Valley Greenway, a few metres from where the event took place. The site is adjacent to where Lost Creek flows into the Brunette River

#### **4.0 WORK PLAN: 2020 AND 2021**

This report outlines a two year work plan for the CHC for 2020 and 2021. Creation of a work plan enables the City to allocate resources to priority projects, including securing project funding as part of the City's annual budget process. Outside of the work plan, the CHC will continue to review heritage development applications and administer the City's heritage program.

It is anticipated that new opportunities for heritage recognition will arise throughout the two year work plan period, and reports will be advanced to advise Council on projects not anticipated by this report as they arise.

#### **4.1 Heritage Conservation**

The CHC advises Council on the conservation of a broad range of heritage resources, including those owned by the City, and also those that are publically and privately owned. Advice can include the review of development applications referred by staff or Council, and can also include advice on a range of issues related to conservation and management of community heritage resources. To support this work, the CHC may recommend retaining the services of consultants to undertake studies and research to identify, conserve, and manage heritage resources.

The work planned for 2020 and 2021 includes:

##### ***4.1.1 Policy and Projects to Advance Conservation of Heritage Properties***

- Official Community Plan (OCP) Review: As part of the City's ongoing work to review its OCP, a review of the City's heritage program will be conducted, and recommendations made for updates to the heritage section of the plan.
- Heritage Homeowners Workshop: An annual workshop information program will be initiated, to provide property owners support for the protection and conservation of heritage buildings. The workshop will be targeted for owners and/or occupants of properties on the civic heritage inventory and/or community heritage register.

#### **4.1.2 Stewardship of Civic Heritage Resources**

- Review of Civic Monuments and Historic Landscape Features: In cooperation with staff in Parks Operations, a review of masonry resources listed on the City's Community Heritage Register and Heritage Inventory is underway. Masonry objects include cenotaphs, arches (i.e. the Central Park arch) and concrete and stone features (i.e. the remaining foundations and structures of the North Pacific Lumber Company mill at Barnet Marine Park). The review and its recommendations will guide future maintenance, conservation, and interpretation of these civic resources.
- Building Safety and Security Review: A safety and security review for civic owned heritage buildings will be conducted. The review will evaluate building safety and security systems and recommend emergency preparedness measures appropriate for these civic assets.

#### **4.1.3 Review and Monitor Conservation Projects in Progress for Civic Heritage Resources**

- Mather's House (6450 Deer Lake Avenue): Review and monitor restoration works at the Mather's House, which include the porte cochere, turret, and reception hall.
- Fairacres Estate (6344 Deer Lake Avenue): Monitor development of detail design drawings for an adaptive re-use of the Fairacres Garage & Stables building, and make recommendations to Council on an appropriate use. Review and manage impact of planned paving and urban trail upgrades to Deer Lake Avenue on the Fairacres Estate Gate, and the historical context of the estate property.

### **4.2 Heritage Recognition**

Heritage recognition (as outlined in Section 599 of Part 15 of the *Local Government Act*) empowers local governments to "recognize the heritage value or heritage character of a heritage property, an area or some other aspect of the community's heritage." The CHC advises Council on a range of heritage recognition initiatives, from interpretive signage and publications, to presentations and digital access initiatives. Recognition work includes research to identify and understand heritage resources and landmarks.

Work planned for 2020 and 2021 includes:

#### **4.2.1 Publication Projects to Recognize Burnaby's Community Heritage**

- History of Burnaby Schools: Complete the publication of a book about the history of Burnaby's schools, including publicizing release of the book, organizing a book launch event, and distribution.
- Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby: Develop and publish a Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby resource guide, and develop and publish a Big Bend farm tour map.

To: Community Heritage Commission  
From: Director Planning and Building  
Re: Community Heritage Commission 2019 Overview  
and Two Year Work Plan  
2019 November 14 ..... Page 6

- Burnaby Heights Walking Tour Map: Research and publish a “Heritage on the Heights” walking tour map of North Burnaby, featuring the diverse history of the Burnaby Heights neighbourhood.

#### ***4.2.2 Recognizing Burnaby’s Diverse Community Heritage Through Partnerships and Interpretation***

- Neighbourhood History Series: Participate in the annual Neighbourhood History Series organized by Burnaby Public Library and Burnaby Village Museum to raise awareness of Burnaby’s diverse histories.
- Build Partnerships: Research and advise Council on opportunities to undertake collaborative projects to advance awareness of Burnaby’s cultural history, and Indigenous histories of Burnaby.
- Signs & Plaques: Maintain, update, and recommend the creation of new heritage plaques and interpretive signage to increase the awareness of Burnaby’s diverse community heritage.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

Since 1988, the Community Heritage Commission has been advising Council on matters concerning the identification, management, and preservation of buildings and sites with historical significance in Burnaby. This work has focused on increasing awareness and advancing conservation of the City’s unique community heritage, and wider awareness of its history.

This report outlines a two year work plan, as requested by the CHC at its March 26, 2019 meeting. Staff recommend the approval of the two year work plan as set out in this report, and that the report be provided to Council for information.



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LC:sa

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