

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: HERITAGE PROGRAM UPDATE FOR 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 2021 February 22, received and adopted the attached report outlining the activities of the Heritage Program for 2020 and identifying work plan initiatives for 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan
Chair

Councillor P. McDonell
Vice Chair

Copied to:	City Manager Director Engineering Director Corporate Services Director Finance Director Public Safety and Community Services Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services City Clerk
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2021 February 1

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 3520 20
Reference: CHC Projects - General

SUBJECT: HERITAGE PROGRAM UPDATE FOR 2021

PURPOSE: To outline the activities of the Heritage Program for 2020 and identify work plan initiatives for 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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2. **THAT** this report be advanced to Council for information.
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REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

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. Over the past 33 years, the CHC has identified and provided advice on matters concerning management and preservation of heritage resources in Burnaby. 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 its 2019 November 28 meeting, the CHC approved a work plan for 2020 and 2021. This report provides an overview of the activities of the heritage program since that time, and outlines key activities planned for 2021.

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:

- ***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 RECENT HERITAGE PROGRAM INITIATIVES

In 2020, the CHC advised Council on a range of heritage conservation and heritage recognition applications and initiatives, management and preservation of heritage buildings and landmarks, and initiatives to increase awareness and conservation of the City's heritage resources. The work was guided by the 2020-2021 Community Heritage Commission Work Plan, as well as responding to applications and emerging issues. The work of the Commission was challenged by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the cancellation of the April meeting and a pause in the Chinese Canadian history research project. However, work to fulfill the work plan and support priority areas continued. These activities are outlined below.

3.1 Heritage Conservation

The CHC advises Council on the conservation of a broad range of heritage resources, including those owned by the City, and those that are publically and privately owned.

3.1.1 Policy and Projects to Advance Conservation of Heritage Properties

Heritage Revitalization Agreement – Lonsdale Guardhouse Residence (6985 Canada Way): A Bylaw authorizing amendments to the original Heritage Revitalization Agreement for the Lonsdale Guardhouse Residence was adopted by Council.

Heritage Applications: Meetings were held with six property owners interested in potentially conserving their properties through a Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA). Discussions are ongoing with three of the owners, and there is one active application for subdivision through an HRA. One property on the heritage inventory received a demolition permit: the F.J. Butler Residence at 7125 Frederick Avenue.

3.1.2 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 was completed.

Designation of the Alta Vista Reservoir Vent (5172 McKee): A Heritage Designation Bylaw was adopted to protect the Alta Vista Reservoir vent, following salvage of the vent during the demolition of the Alta Vista Reservoir and completion of a condition assessment.

3.1.3 Review and Monitor Conservation Projects in Progress for Civic Heritage Resources

Fairacres Estate (6344 Deer Lake Avenue): An adaptive re-use study for the Fairacres Garage and Stables building was completed, and Council adopted the CHC's recommendations to undertake design development for re-use of the ground floor of the building as a visual arts studio, and the upper floor as administrative offices.

3.2 Heritage Recognition

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.

3.2.1 Publication Projects to Recognize Burnaby's Community Heritage

History of Burnaby Schools: *Inkwells to Internet: A History of Burnaby Schools* was printed, and also made available as a digital book at www.heritageburnaby.ca. One hundred pre-sale copies were sold through the Burnaby Retired Teachers Association in December 2020, and a \$1,300 contribution was made to the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship and Bursary fund managed by the Vancity Community Foundation.

Tram Memories: The publication *Tram Memories: In Celebration of the Restoration of Interurban 1223* was reprinted, and also made available as a digital book at www.hertiageburnaby.ca

Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby: Research for a Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby resource guide was completed, though publication of the guide was delayed due to COVID-19.

3.2.2 Recognizing Burnaby's Diverse Community Heritage through Partnerships and Interpretation

Stewardship of Indigenous Heritage: Planning was completed for a training session for the CHC on Identification and Stewardship of Indigenous Heritage Resources. The session has been postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19.

Commemorating Diverse Community Heritage in Burnaby: An approach to recognizing the histories of diverse settlement and Indigenous communities in Burnaby was outlined and advanced to Council for information. The report identified an upcoming review of the heritage program in preparation for an OCP update as an opportunity to further consider this work.

Neighbourhood History Series: The annual historical lecture series organized by the Burnaby Village Museum and Burnaby Public Library pivoted to an online delivery model, with 433 people attending during the livestream, and subsequent viewings via Facebook. The seven talks included presentations on heritage landmarks organized in coordination with heritage planning staff.

Building Partnerships: A partnership between the City, retired historian Dr. Allen Seager, and the Solidarity Notes Labour Choir was initiated to deliver an interactive session on Burnaby's history at the Pacific Northwest Labour History Conference. The event was later cancelled due to COVID-19.

Signs and Plaques: Repair and maintenance of the existing stock of heritage plaques and signs included reprinting the Deer Lake Heritage interpretive signs and modifications to the design of the signs and sign mounts to improve their durability was undertaken.

4.0 THE YEAR AHEAD – 2021

2021 is the second year of the two year work plan adopted by the CHC. A work plan for 2022 and 2023 will be advanced at the 2021 November 18 meeting. Activities for 2021 include a review of the Heritage Program as part of an overall review of Burnaby's Official Community Plan and continuing work to raise public awareness of Burnaby's history and heritage resources. The activities highlighted below include projects outlined in the work plan, as well as work that has subsequently been identified.

4.1 Heritage Conservation

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 of properties on the civic heritage inventory.

4.1.2 Stewardship of Civic Heritage Resources

Conservation Planning for Civic Monuments and Historic Landscape Features: To follow up on the review of civic monuments completed in 2020, conservation planning will take place for resources

identified as requiring repair and intervention, with recommendations advanced to Council through the CHC.

Restoration of the Alta Vista Reservoir Vent (5172 McKee): Pending approval of funding for conservation through the 5-year financial plan, work will begin for repair and restoration of the Alta Vista Reservoir Vent, and its reinstallation at Alta Vista Reservoir Park with an interpretive sign.

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 resources.

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

Fairacres Estate (6344 Deer Lake Avenue): Monitor development of detailed design plans for adaptive re-use of the Fairacres Garage and Stables building as a visual arts programming space.

Mather's House (6450 Deer Lake Avenue): Review and monitor restoration works at the Mather's House, which include restoration of the porte cochere, turret, and reception hall.

Capitol Hill Community Hall: Review and monitor accessibility upgrades to the hall, and develop and install interpretive signage outlining the history of the hall and the Capitol Hill Community Hall Association.

4.2 Heritage Recognition

4.2.1 Publication Projects to Recognize Burnaby's Community Heritage

History of Burnaby Schools: Officially launch *Inkwells to Internet: A History of Burnaby Schools* in February 2021, in conjunction with Heritage Week.

Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby: Publish the Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby resource guide, and initiate work on a Big Bend farm tour map that includes the history of Chinese Canadian family farms.

Burnaby Heights Walking Tour Map: Initiate research for 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

Stewardship of Indigenous Heritage: Participate in a training session on Identification and Stewardship of Indigenous Heritage Resources.

Neighbourhood History Series: Participate in the annual historical lecture series organized by the Burnaby Village Museum and Burnaby Public Library to raise awareness of Burnaby's diverse histories.

Building Partnerships: Initiate a historical research project that includes capturing stories of Burnaby's veterans.

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Signs and Plaques: Update the Deer Lake Heritage interpretive signs to incorporate new research and to meet the City's corporate brand standards; update the "Heritage on the Heights" signs to meet the City's corporate brand standards while modifying the sign mounts to improve durability.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the activities of the Heritage Program in 2020, and outlines key activities planned for 2021. It is recommended that the Community Heritage Commission receive the report for information purposes, and advance it to Council for information. It is also recommended that a copy be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.



E.W. KOZAK, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

LC:sa

cc: City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Corporate Services
Director Finance
Director Public Safety and Community Services
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Clerk