



# **Halton Hills' Cultural Heritage Strategy (formerly Cultural Heritage Master Plan)**

**September 18, 2023**

# Project Background

- CHMP identified in the Official Plan:
  - Implement the Town’s cultural heritage objectives
  - Make recommendations on HCDs and area-specific policies
- Identify and study the Town’s resources, and provide recommendations to address and protect them
- OP policy also identifies a potential Cultural Heritage Landscape Inventory as a potential component

**GOALS | VISION | STRATEGY | RECOMMENDATIONS**

# Project Objectives

- Goals of heritage conservation
- Cohesive vision that reflects community values
- Relationships with Indigenous communities
- Heritage policy framework
- Apply best practices for a strategic approach
- Overcome barriers to conservation
- Conserve individual resources

# Phase 1 – Existing Conditions Report

- Historic Context Statement
- Heritage Register & Inventory
- Heritage Policy Framework
- Mapping – Opportunities
- Public Engagement
- Indigenous Consultation



# Phase Two – Cultural Heritage Strategy Overview

- May 2022: First Draft (Internal)
- April 2023: Second Draft (For Public Review)
- Sept 2023: Final Version



# Cultural Heritage Strategy Contents

- **Historic Context Statement**
- **Legislative & Policy Framework**
- **Vision & Objectives**
- **32 Recommendations**
  - 7 Core to the Heritage Program
  - 18 for Strategic Program Areas
  - 7 More for the Heritage Program



# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 12 Objectives: *The heritage program will...*

1. Recognize, celebrate, emphasize and conserve the **character and identity of the historic settlement areas**.
2. Recognize and conserve the **rural character between the historic settlements**.
3. Embody a cultural landscape approach, and rely on a **variety of tools to conserve cultural landscapes** of heritage value.
4. **Reflect community interests and values**, and conduct active outreach to engage underrepresented voices, including those of Indigenous rights holders.
5. Accept that **urban density and heritage conservation can co-exist**, and model best practices for intensification in the right places.
6. Help **facilitate cultural economic development** and programming.
7. Recognize that the Halton Hills **climate emergency** necessitates high-priority responses that **must be balanced and embedded with heritage conservation**.
8. Be **transparent, balanced, and defensible**.

# Cultural Heritage Strategy Contents

- **Historic Context Statement**
- **Legislative & Policy Framework**
- **Vision & Objectives**
- **32 Recommendations**
  - 7 Core to the Heritage Program
  - 18 for Strategic Program Areas
  - 7 More for the Heritage Program





# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 7 Core Recommendations

**Historic Context  
Statements as  
Planning Tools**

**Conserving  
Single Properties  
with Designation**

**Conserving  
Character Areas  
with Many Tools**

- HCSs for all small settlement areas in HH, to be used as a planning tool to guide future change.

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 7 Core Recommendations

### Historic Context Statements as Planning Tools

- HCSs for all small settlement areas in HH, to be used as a planning tool to guide future change.

### Conserving Single Properties with Designation

- Rolling evaluations for designation of properties on the permanent Inventory
- Research intern to facilitate designations in a timely manner.
- Process for heritage review of properties proposed for redevelopment.

### Conserving Character Areas with Many Tools

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 7 Core Recommendations

### Historic Context Statements as Planning Tools

- HCSs for all small settlement areas in HH, to be used as a planning tool to guide future change.

### Conserving Single Properties with Designation

- Rolling evaluations for designation of properties on the permanent Inventory
- Research intern to facilitate designations in a timely manner.
- Process for heritage review of properties proposed for redevelopment.

### Conserving Character Areas with Many Tools

- Develop an inventory of significant character areas, nodes, corridors.
- Itemize character-defining properties and prioritize for conservation.
- Choose the best tool / set of tools to conserve each character area.

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 18 Strategic Program Recommendations

Truth & Reconciliation

Farmsteads

Adaptation & Resiliency

Community Institutions

Cultural Economic Dev

### THE MOCCASIN IDENTIFIER PROJECT

The Moccasin Identifier is a project developed in the 2010s by former MCFN Chief Carolyn King, in partnership with the MCFN and the Greenbelt Foundation. According to its website, its goal is to promote public awareness of significant cultural historic sites and the ancestral presence of First Nations, Metis and Indigenous Communities.

The Moccasin Identifier comes in two forms: educational kits for classrooms, and site installations, both working with four stencils of moccasins traditional to the peoples of this region (Anishinaabe, Seneca, Huron and Cree), created by artist Philip Cote.

The site installations are meant to be placed on cultural historic sites, which may include treaty / territorial lands; Indian Reserves; ancestral villages; burial grounds; sacred sites; medicine sites; trails, summer / winter camps; hunting / fishing / gathering / harvesting sites; and almost always along waterways. Site installations present opportunities for Indigenous-led communication of ancestral presence and cultural heritage value.



Trillium Park, Toronto Waterfront (West).



MCFN Hagersville Early ON Child Care Centre (Earthscape).

- Town to continue developing meaningful nation-to-nation relationships
- Support Indigenous participation in Town initiatives (e.g. cultural heritage mapping) via capacity funding
- Joint stewardship and celebration of the Credit River

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 18 Strategic Program Recommendations

Truth &  
Reconciliation

Farmsteads

Adaptation &  
Resiliency

Community  
Institutions

Cultural  
Economic Dev

- Criteria to identify what would make a *farmstead* a candidate for designation
- Designate buildings and landscape attributes – but be flexible on the way some attributes (e.g. rolling fields) may be conserved amid redevelopment
- Incentivize retention of non-designated farmhouses and barns because they contribute to agricultural landscapes
- Develop urban design guidelines for sensitive farmstead redevelopment

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 18 Strategic Program Recommendations

Truth &  
Reconciliation

Farmsteads

Adaptation &  
Resiliency

Community  
Institutions

Cultural  
Economic Dev

- Grants for energy-efficiency upgrades to designated heritage properties
- Incentives for floodproofing for private properties that support historic character areas in floodplains (e.g. in Glen Williams, Norval, Georgetown)
- Public works to implement flood mitigation measures in historic character areas in floodplains
- A longer-term *Cultural Resource Vulnerability Strategy*

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 18 Strategic Program Recommendations

Truth & Reconciliation

Farmsteads

Adaptation & Resiliency

Community Institutions

Cultural Economic Dev

St. John's United Church, Georgetown



Built in 1880, St. John's has ~270 congregants today. The Church hosts programs ranging from quarterly concerts to Food for Life pre-packaged grocery bags. Some church spaces have been rented to not-for-profit organizations (ERA, 2022).

Boston Presbyterian Church, Scotch Block



The church, built 1868 with adjacent cemetery c. 1820s, is designated under Part IV of the OHA, and included on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. Its congregation includes ~50 families. The church hosts several not-for-profit organizations as well as Sunday Worship Services (Town of Halton Hills, n.d.).

Norval Presbyterian Church, Norval



Built in 1873, the congregation hosts ~55 families. In addition to worship services and local and international outreach, the Church is known for its association with Lucy Maud Montgomery and her reverend husband. In 2017, the congregation sold their home (the manse) to the Heritage Foundation of Halton Hills (ERA, 2022).

- Designate historic rural schoolhouses
- Incentivize adaptive reuse that includes public / community uses
- Criteria to identify what would make a *church* a candidate for designation
- Provide congregations with support to maintain and stay on their heritage-designated sites in the long term

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 18 Strategic Program Recommendations

Truth &  
Reconciliation

Farmsteads

Adaptation &  
Resiliency

Community  
Institutions

Cultural  
Economic Dev

### EVERGREEN BRICK WORKS, TORONTO

Evergreen Brick Works is a community hub at a former industrial brick works, a 16.4 hectare site in Toronto's Don River Valley. In 2003, the social enterprise Evergreen won an RFP for site's adaptive reuse, proposing a Community Environmental Centre.

Today, the site is a vibrant hub for locals and tourists. It includes flexible market space, a natural playground, a trail system, children's programs, incubators and businesses including a cafe and a bike shop, a winter skating rink and summer garden centre, and conference and event spaces, the revenue from which is used to facilitate the site's programming.



*A complex of historic and contemporary buildings, activated with commercial and community uses, at Evergreen Brick Works (DTAH).*

- Designate local landmarks identified by communities in their Historic Context Statements
- Incentivize adaptive reuse of large-scale historic economic resources (e.g. mills, farms) with cultural drivers and public uses
- Heritage Interpretation Plans for significant character areas / corridors



# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 7 More Recommendations

### Heritage Halton Hills Committee

### Town's Heritage Planning Website

### Heritage Planning Policy

- 3-4 positions reserved for key demographic reps (e.g. ages 17-30)
- Advertise vacant HHH positions in new ways to reach new audiences
- Ensure HHH webpage is clear and accurate

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 7 More Recommendations

### Heritage Halton Hills Committee

- 3-4 positions reserved for key demographic reps (e.g. ages 17-30)
- Advertise vacant HHH positions in new ways to reach new audiences
- Ensure HHH webpage is clear and accurate

### Town's Heritage Planning Website

- Heritage Register publicly available and up-to-date, including an interactive map
- Could publish Inventories of Prospective Heritage Resources and Character Areas

### Heritage Planning Policy

# Cultural Heritage Strategy

## 7 More Recommendations

### Heritage Halton Hills Committee

- 3-4 positions reserved for key demographic reps (e.g. ages 17-30)
- Advertise vacant HHH positions in new ways to reach new audiences
- Ensure HHH webpage is clear and accurate

### Town's Heritage Planning Website

- Heritage Register publicly available and up-to-date, including an interactive map
- Could publish Inventories of Prospective Heritage Resources and Character Areas

### Heritage Planning Policy

- Council to adopt *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*
- Revise municipal heritage definitions to be consistent with provincial policy

# Cultural Heritage Strategy Implementation

- Update Official Plan Heritage Policies
- Prioritize Core Recommendations
- Pursue Strategic + Additional Recommendations collaboratively
- Use Vision / Objectives as guidance for the heritage program moving forward



# Questions & Discussion