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Date December 16, 2024 **Report No.** 2024-722

To Chair and Members
Brantford Heritage Committee

From Patrick Vusir – Intermediate Planner, Long Range Planning
Planning and Development Services

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item

Item For Consideration

2.0 Topic **Additional 2025 Brantford Heritage Committee Priorities [Financial Impact = none (\$9,515 budgeted)]**

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report 2024-722, titled “Additional 2025 Brantford Heritage Committee Priorities”, BE RECEIVED.
- B. THAT with respect to Priority 5 in Appendix A to Report 2024-722, the following neighbourhoods be shortlisted for research:
 - 1) _____; and
 - 2) _____; and
 - 3) _____.
- C. THAT with respect to Priority 5 in Appendix A to Report 2024-722, the following Brantford Heritage Committee members be appointed to a research subcommittee:
 - 1) _____; and

2) _____; and

3) _____.

4.0 Background

At its meeting on November 25, 2024, the Brantford Heritage Committee considered [Report 2024-652](#) respecting 2025 Brantford Heritage Committee Priorities. The Committee passed the following resolution after discussing that Report:

“THAT the following item BE REFERRED back to staff for the inclusion of an additional goal related to education and heritage awareness:

Brantford Heritage Committee Priorities for 2025 [Financial Impact = none (\$9,515 budgeted)], 2024-652”

During discussion of the above noted Report, the Committee considered the results of consulting various neighbourhoods about interest in designation as a heritage conservation district (refer to [Report 2024-677, which also on the November 25, 2024 Brantford Heritage Committee agenda](#)). Despite the lack of interest in designation, respondents to the process in several neighbourhoods were interested in their neighbourhoods’ histories being researched. The Committee expressed interest in such a project. Sharing neighbourhood history can help increase awareness and support for heritage preservation. Staff have updated the list of 2025 Brantford Heritage Priorities from Report 2024-652 accordingly to add a historic research project for neighbourhood commemoration and appended this updated list to this Report as **Appendix A**.

5.0 Conclusion

From 2017 through to 2024 the Brantford Heritage Committee has established annual Heritage Committee Priorities. This initiative has allowed the Committee to focus on improving the fulfillment of its mandate. Members of the Brantford Heritage Committee should be solicited for feedback and improvements. The Committee has the opportunity to discuss, approve, or amend the priorities as needed and the final list of Priorities will draw from the current 4-year budget allocation. The amended list of 2025 Brantford Heritage Committee Priorities (**Appendix A**) is a result of that process.

Prepared by:



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Reviewed By:



Alan Waterfield, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Long Range Planning

Attachments:

Appendix A: Updated 2025 Brantford Heritage Committee Priorities

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required yes no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk yes no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? yes no

Appendix A: Updated Draft 2025 Brantford Heritage Committee Priorities

1.0 Heritage Register Alternatives

Description: Continue with the alternatives to the Heritage Register Project as approved by Council (refer to [Report 2023-153](#)), specifically research properties in Priority Group A or properties where owners have expressed interest in a heritage conservation district (continuing from the consultations held in 2024) for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Goals: Complete sufficient research to recommend 2 - 3 properties be designated by Council.

Staff involvement: Staff will coordinate property research received from Committee members for Part IV designation candidates with BHC input and reporting to Council.

Budget: \$25,528 remaining in a dedicated account, refer Report 2023-153.

2.0 Sustaining Prominence Point

Description: The Prominence Point Subcommittee and Brantford Heritage Committee will review and consider nominations for individuals to be recognized on Prominence Point. Council will consider the matter once Brantford Heritage Committee makes a recommendation. A budget line has been established to update a plaque (glass panel) in 2025.

Goals: Prominence Point Subcommittee will meet in 2025 as needed to review nominations put forward.

Staff involvement: Staff will coordinate with the Prominence Point Subcommittee and Brantford Heritage Committee as necessary.

Budget: \$8,015 projected in 2025, part of the four-year budget cycle.

3.0 Development of the Committee: Attending the Ontario Heritage Conference

Description: Selected members will attend the Ontario Heritage Conference to learn about heritage matters across the province.

Goals: Have any members who attend the conference report back to Committee on the details of the conference and share what they learned.

Staff Involvement: coordinating conference registration.

Budget: \$1,500

4.0 Heritage Grant Program

Description: The Heritage Grant Program provides financial assistance to owners of designated properties to support projects that preserve heritage buildings. The Heritage Committee will review applications to the program through 2025. Consider strategies for adaptive reuse incentives.

Goals: Provide financial assistance to property owners and provide feedback to Staff.

Staff Involvement: Administer the Heritage Grant Program and report to Council on any new program recommendations.

Budget: The budget for funding heritage grants has nearly been exhausted, when accounting for grants approved, allocated and paid in 2024. As of the preparation of this Report, Planning Staff are coordinating with Finance Staff to prepare a report for early 2025 which will request additional funding for the Heritage Grant Program. The Brantford Heritage Committee will receive an update in early 2025 and have a chance to provide comments to Council.

5.0 Historic Research and Heritage Education

Description: This project will see members of the Brantford Heritage Committee conduct historic research on selected neighbourhoods drawn from those consulted for interest in becoming a heritage conservation district. This project will also consider other strategies to raise awareness of community history and heritage recognition. A Sub-committee may be established to oversee this priority.

Goals: Research a selected number of neighbourhoods for historic commemoration and consider other strategies to raise awareness of community history and heritage more broadly.

Staff Involvement: Staff will assist by providing existing research and acting as a resource to Committee members with respect to:

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- Existing information collected through the heritage conservation district project; and
 - Existing education material prepared by the City.

After research is completed, Staff will assist with drafting information signage using research and sources provided by Committee members.

Budget: None for 2025. A budget to implement will be requested from Council through a future report.