



CHOnews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY HERITAGE ONTARIO/PATRIMOINE COMMUNATAIRE DE L'ONTARIO

HAUNTING RUINS AND HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN COBALT

PAUL R. KING

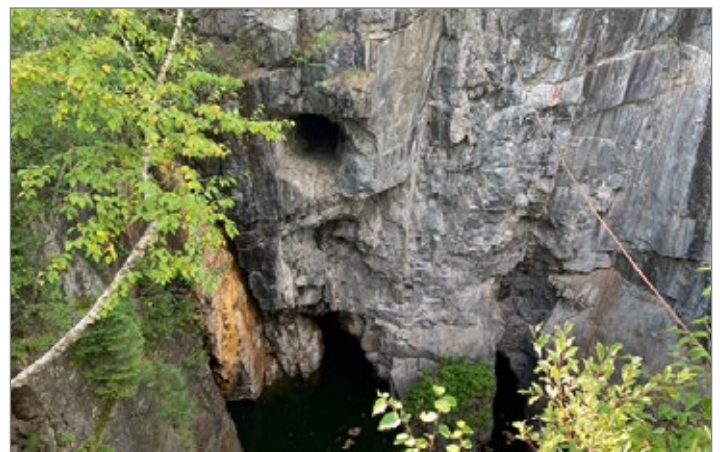
Parks Canada designated the Cobalt Mining District as a National Historic Site. In addition, one of the remaining properties is subject to an Ontario Heritage Trust easement and is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Last August, I visited this Northern Ontario town of Cobalt. If you are unaware of this small town with a current population of less than 1,500 citizens, you might be surprised by the heritage ruins and surviving heritage structures. I was surprised, intrigued and haunted by what I learned while visiting the Cobalt townsite and the trails in the surrounding area.

The mining industry in Canada is known for its boom and bust cycles – boom when minerals are discovered and mined, and bust when the mining operations shut down. Sometimes the cycles repeat. In 1903, silver was discovered in the Cobalt area. The Cobalt boom made this area the fourth largest producer of silver in the world and resulted in this town's population rapidly growing to 10,000. The Cobalt bust occurred in the 1930s when most silver mines ceased operating. There was some renewal of operations in the 1950s but it did not last. What remains today are the haunting remains of the hard rock mining operations that blasted into the bedrock, ripped apart the landscape, and dumped tailings without any environmental concerns or stewardship and without any consent from Indigenous people in the area. Get that silver, no matter the consequences!

There were devastating fires in 1909 and 1977 which destroyed much heritage but some remarkable heritage buildings remain. In terms of boom and bust cycles,



McKinley-Darragh Mill (above) and, remains of an open pit mining operation (below)



there is now a renewed interest in cobalt, an important component in the manufacture of batteries for mobile

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



During a recent municipal heritage committee workshop, two issues were raised that all committees should be aware of – preventing demolition by neglect and providing financial assistance to designated property owners. In addition, we are seeking new members to serve on the CHO/PCO Board.

Preventing Demolition by Neglect

Under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Sections 35.3 and 45.1), a municipal council may pass a by-law to “prescribe minimum standards for the maintenance of the heritage attributes” and that properties which do not comply with the minimum standards “be repaired and maintained to conform with the standards”. Such a by-law would form part of existing property standards by-law enacted under the *Building Code Act* and would apply to both individually designated properties and properties within Heritage Conservation Districts. The heritage standards by-law would enable municipal councils to prevent the deterioration of structures on designated properties. A number of municipalities have adopted such heritage maintenance by-laws which can be used as a guide to preparing a by-law for your municipality.

Financial Assistance to Owners of Designated Properties

Loans or grants - Sections 39 and 45 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* permits a municipality to pass by-laws providing grants or loans to designated property owners “for the whole or any part of the cost of alteration of designated property” under terms established by the municipality. A number of municipalities have such grant programs which are usually for exterior work on a cost shared basis.

Property Tax Relief – Section 365.2 of the *Municipal Act* permits municipalities to provide municipal tax relief (between 10 to 40 percent) to designated property owners subject to any criteria the municipality may establish including the requirement to enter into a Heritage Conservation Agreement.

CHO/PCO hopes to commission a study of the benefits and experience of municipalities in undertaking such financial assistance programs.

Call for New Board Members

Many thanks to Tracy Gayda, who recently retired from the Board, for her years of service. As a result, we are looking for new members to fill this vacancy and others that are anticipated in the near future. If you are interested in volunteering to be on the CHO/PCO Board, please contact any member of the Board or the Secretary/Treasurer. We usually meet four times a year and each Board member serves on at least one committee. Most of our meetings are now conducted virtually, although transportation and accommodation costs are paid when we meet in person.

Wayne Morgan

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Submitted articles must be in Microsoft Word format. Images must be sent as .jpg attachments in high quality resolution (300 dpi). Do not embed the images in the text of the article. Captions and credits must be provided.

Newspaper articles as updates to MHC activities cannot be used without permission of the newspaper and/or the original author. Text written by the MHC is encouraged.

Articles are published in the language they are received.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER AND THE RESPONSE



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July 13, 2022

Honourable Neil Lumsden
Minister of Heritage, Tourism, Culture and Sport
6th Floor, 438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Mr. Minister

At the 2022 Ontario Heritage Conference held in Brockville in June 2022, the Conference attendees passed the following two resolutions:

1. That the Ministry of Heritage, Tourism, Culture and Sport update and make publicly available the *Ontario Heritage Toolkit* as soon as possible; and
2. That the Ministry of Heritage, Tourism, Culture and Sport hold training workshops throughout the province to educate municipal heritage committee members and municipal heritage staff on the implementation of the amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that came into effect on July 1, 2021.

The first resolution deals with a publication that has proved important to both heritage committee members and municipal staff in working with the *Act*. However, it needs to be updated to deal with amendments to the *Act* which came into effect July 1, 2021.

The second resolution seeks training sessions on the same amendments to the *Act*. Such training workshops would enable participants to interact with workshop facilitators in understanding the ways in which the amendments are to be implemented.

Your assistance in addressing these resolutions would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted

Wayne Morgan
President, Community Heritage Ontario

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391-2022-447

Mr. Wayne Morgan
President
Community Heritage Ontario
wayne.morgan@sympatico.ca

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Congratulations on a successful 2022 Ontario Heritage Conference. I appreciate you sharing the conference resolutions with me.

Heritage conservation has economic, social, and environmental benefits for local communities. It revitalizes older properties and historic neighbourhoods, enhances tourism, attracts businesses, supports local skilled jobs, and reduces waste going to landfills.

The *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA) is the cornerstone of Ontario's framework for conserving cultural heritage resources.

I understand that ministry staff provided training sessions on the OHA amendments in June 2021. These sessions reached nearly 600 people across the heritage sector, including heritage committee members. Training was also provided to municipal heritage committees at their request.

Ministry staff are available to answer any questions relating to the OHA. If a municipal heritage committee member or municipality has any questions about the OHA amendments or the new regulation, they can contact Chris Lawless at chris.lawless@ontario.ca or Jim Sherratt at jim.sherratt@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for writing to me. I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Lumsden', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Neil Lumsden
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Continued from page 1.

devices and electric vehicles. (Are EVs really effective in fighting climate change when taking into account the origin of EV components? I do not know the answer – I just pose the question.)



Ruins of a hoist from the Cobalt Lake Mine & Hellens Mill

The Directory of Federal Heritage Designations portion of Parks Canada's website describes the importance of the Cobalt Mining District as follows: (i) it is a rare cultural landscape consisting of vestiges and buildings associated with the evolution of hard rock mining in Canada; and (ii) it reflects an important period of hard rock mining in Canada, between 1903 and the late 1920s, that established a more secure investment environment for mining speculation and created financial capital for large-scale Canadian mining development in the first half of the 20th century.¹ Some of the character-defining elements are:

- ◇ the geological setting with its numerous veins of native silver located amid a rolling topography of the glaciated Canadian Shield with its abundant lakes;
- ◇ the principal mine and milling sites from the pre-1930 era, including some nine headframes, capped mine shafts with shaft houses, open cuts, adits, tailings, waste rock piles, roads, trails, vestiges of compressed air pipelines, systematic trenching, deforestation, overburden removal, and footing of aerial tramways, four lake beds partly filled with tailings and the completely

filled Cart Lake;

- ◇ the location of former milling and processing plants on hillsides to allow for gravity feed;
- ◇ surviving vestiges, including right-of-way, raised bed, rock cuts, and station related to the former Kerr Lake streetcar line;
- ◇ surviving in-situ mining-related machinery in its materials, form and location;
- ◇ the unplanned, frontier character of the pre-1930 townsite of Cobalt with its commercial buildings clustered near the railway station at the intersection of Prospect and Silver streets, its residential area with its mix of housing types ranging along narrow streets and laneways, and its three former mine sites;
- ◇ the location and route of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway line;
- ◇ the distinctive mining architecture, notably the form and timber-frame, wood and corrugated sheet-metal materials of the rockhouses, headframes, and support buildings;
- ◇ the pre-1930 commercial and financial buildings in their location, form and materials, notably the poured-in-place concrete three-storey former Royal Exchange Building, the prefabricated form and materials of the former Imperial Bank of Canada building (now Township of Coleman Office), and the T&NO Railway Station;



Cobalt headframe

¹ https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?i=73665&id=1975

- ◇ the pre-1930s residences in their location, form and materials, including two mine managers' and four miners' houses in town and houses at mine sites including the O'Brien Mine Manager's House and three houses at Kerr Lake; and
- ◇ the underground mining works, notably the network of excavations under the district in the distribution, form and materials.²

I include a number of photos that I took in August. I am particularly enamored with the Cobalt railway station, which by the way, is currently for sale. The description of this station on the Canada's Historic Places website, includes the following:

The Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway (T. & N.O.) station is one of the finest railway stations in Northern Ontario. Designed in the Edwardian Classical style by Toronto architect, John M. Lyle (1872 - 1945) and constructed of red brick, with a slate roof and stone detailing, the quality of the Cobalt station contrasted sharply with most of the other modest, wood-frame, T. and N.O. depots. Inspired by the great halls of English domestic architecture, the structure's interior features a lofty waiting room with a timber-truss roof and clerestory windows. The exterior features distinctively curved gables, characteristic of English Renaissance architecture, with round headed windows, combined with typical railway architectural features such as broad, flared



Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway Station (c. 1905)

*eaves with heavy timber braces. Indicative of its original function, numerous doorways for passenger flow and freight and baggage handling punctuate the building.*³

This T. & N.O. Station is subject to an Ontario Heritage Trust conservation easement and the property is designated by the Town of Cobalt under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Do not under-estimate what you can learn from unique attractions in Ontario. I highly recommend visiting the Cobalt Mining District.

Paul R. King is a past board member of CHO/PCO. Photography by P.R. King.

² https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?i=73665&id=1975

³ <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=10423&pid=0>

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DEMOLITION THREATENS STRATFORD'S FIRST PUBLIC HOSPITAL

HOWARD SHUBERT

A new group – SAVE AVON CREST! – was formed in Stratford in July 2022 to protect Stratford's first public hospital from demolition. The Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance intends to demolish the building in Spring 2023. Avon Crest (1891) is located at 86 & 90 John Street South. SAVE AVON CREST! believes the building can and should be repurposed and redeveloped, to protect its heritage and to avoid economic and environmental waste. SAVE AVON CREST! was formed when Stratford City Council ignored a Heritage Stratford proposal to designate the 130-year-old landmark and brushed aside their own staff, who also recommended that the building be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

In 1887 Mayor J.C. MacGregor urged the establishment of a hospital in Stratford. Citing the increasing number of industrial accidents, he recalled sending an injured man to jail, the only place then available for the purpose. A determined group of women responded, organizing a public meeting in November 1888, which resulted in the creation of the City of Stratford General Hospital Trust. Within a month over \$7,000 had been raised, enough to construct a wing and tower of what would be a building capable of expansion. But there was no need for such half-measures. According to Nancy Z. Tausky and Lynn D. DiStefano, "So efficient were the money-raising efforts, complete with bazaars and amateur theatricals, that the \$13,361 structure opened debt-free in 1891."¹ Stratford citizens contributed 75% of those construction costs and the city council granted the five acres of land upon which the building now stands.



Avon Crest

Designed in the High Victorian Queen Anne Style, the yellow-brick, symmetrical building presents a picturesque appearance on John Street and an imposing sight when viewed from the T. J. Dolan parkland below. Avon Crest is among Stratford's most important architectural landmarks.

Its architect, George F. Durand (1850-1889), also designed: the old Pumphouse (1883, now Gallery Stratford), the Perth County Court House (1887), and the Jail (1886).

Avon Crest was constructed as part of a larger push across the country in the 19th century to build lay general hospitals in Canada's growing cities, often sited at some distance from the city centre, for the protection of both the patients and the healthy population. According to Annemarie Adams:

From roughly the Crimean War to World War I, hospitals looked like other reform institutions that featured big, open wards. This is the hospital of Florence Nightingale, where 30-some patients lay in parallel rows of narrow beds. Ventilation, ventilation and ventilation were the three main planning ideas driving the form of this largely philanthropic institution, often called the pavilion plan because the buildings were surrounded by fresh air.²

Stratford's first public hospital commemorates the contributions of health professionals over the past 130 years and is one of only a handful of surviving 19th-century hospital buildings in Canada. When it opened in May 1891, Stratford Hospital was a symbol of progress in science and technology, one that represented Stratfordites' belief in the welfare of all its citizens. Today it is a repository of personal memory and collective social meaning, a place intimately associated with birth, illness and death within the community.

Unnecessarily demolishing Avon Crest is irresponsible, both economically and environmentally. Architects, environmentalists and governments now recognize the damaging impact of needless demolition. We now understand that demolishing an existing building, with its footprint of embodied carbon, is a staggering act of conspicuous consumption. "The greenest building is one that is already built," says Carl Elefante of the Climate Heritage Network (<https://climateheritage.org/>). Mark Thompson Brandt of MTBA Associates in Ottawa says, "Heritage conservation is environmental conservation. They're one and the same thing."

SAVE AVON CREST! is planning to commission a feasibility study to fully explore realizable options for a repurposed Avon Crest. One proposal that we will be actively considering involves working with United Way – Perth Huron who want to build housing for the approximately 170 homeless people in our region.

To learn more about Avon Crest and efforts to preserve it, go to <https://saveavoncrest.ca/>.

Howard Shubert is a member of the group Save Avon Crest!

1 Tausky, Nancy Z. and Lynn D. DiStefano. *Victorian Architecture in London and Southwestern Ontario: Symbols of Aspiration* (Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1986).
2 Annemarie Adams. "Canadian hospital architecture: how we got here," CMAJ March 15, 2016 188 (5). (<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/188/5/370>).

FORMER RAILWAY LINE HOLDS HISTORIC DISTINCTION

C. SCOTT HOLLAND

Like other small Ontario communities during the 1800s, Leamington was an isolated town until railways began connecting the province and the country. Its first railway line had the distinction of receiving a federal grant without meeting the required criteria, which was to connect adjoining counties.

This unique story surrounding Sir John A. MacDonald's railway plan, occurred in 1885, when Essex-South MP Lewis Wigle petitioned the Prime Minister and parliament for funds to build a railway line. At the time, the federal government offered grants to adjoining counties to build railway lines between them so that eventually the entire country would be connected.

The Prime Minister was aware of Essex-South's long growing season and that with such a grant, agricultural products from the region would be more readily available. But Wigle's proposed line did not inter-connect Essex with its neighbour Kent County. Despite this, a grant of \$3,200 per mile was given to the Essex South riding to cover the approximate 14-mile railway.

The Leamington and Lake St. Clair Railway (later owned by the Michigan Central Railway, New York and Penn Central Railways, and CN Railway) had been conceived and was ready for construction in the early 1870s but lacked the necessary funds. In 1877, the Ontario Legislature gave the railway company its charter but everything remained on hold until 1884, when its plans were revived. Petition for a government grant was considered but never given in both 1884 and 1885.

The Federal government had stalled on its promise to render a subsidy for two years after it was first debated; MP Lewis Wigle revisited the issue during the 4th Session of the 5th Parliament (Apr. 20 to June 2, 1886). The Prime Minister conceded the rail line would be valuable for Essex-South and the country, after MP Wigle had pleaded that "everything is arranged to commence within a week to build a railroad from Leamington North to the Canada Southern (and connect to) the Grand Trunk." The grant was approved during a Parliamentary session in 1886.

Starting in April 1887, work began on the new line. It would run as far as Comber and not connect with the neighboring county of Kent, contrary to the government's guidelines for giving such capital. It became the only railway line to secure federal funds (\$50,000) for a venture which cost \$75,000 in total.

The foundations for Leamington's first railway station were started in October 1886 and on June 3, 1887, the line's first iron tracks were laid. The line opened on September 9, 1887, with terminals in place at both Leamington and 15 miles

north, at Comber. Surprisingly, both those board and batten structures still exist today although there is no railway line connecting the two.

Eventually the railway would serve the H. J. Heinz Company and whisk passengers to the splendor of Seacliff Park near the town's Lake Erie shoreline. During its first 50-year span it served the region delivering mail, freight and passengers, and formed a connection to the east and west via the Grand Trunk Railway.



A view of the station which sat just to the east of Lewis Wigle's home which he donated to be used as a high school in 1895. This photo was taken circa the 1960s.

At its peak during WW1, over 100,000 passengers traveled on it yearly. By the late 1930s its sole purpose was delivering freight to and from Leamington. It remained a primary carrier of materials and products for and by Heinz until 1990.

Leamington's MCR station's unusual history like its current, deteriorating condition, is fading. Over 125 years have passed since its opening glory but its future as a stopping point along Leamington's trailway (the former railway line) is in jeopardy. Its history is an important part of our heritage and future generations should merit a glimpse at how things



The backside (south side) of the station as seen in the 1940s.



Leamington's MCR station as it looked in 1996 when it was shuttered and closed. A fire would destroy the ticket booth which jutted out on its west side a few years later.

were over a century ago.

The site has deteriorated but does hold a Heritage designation. It has been owned by the town since 2000 with the Leamington and Mersea Historical Society being its caretakers, 'to oversee any possible renovations.' However, the Society itself does not have the funds to start such a project and despite past urgings for the community to help save the landmark, interest and funds are lacking.

If one wishes to help in any way with the project the Leamington and Mersea Historical Society can be reached at leammerseahs@gmail.com.

C. Scott Holland is a freelance writer who serves on Leamington's Heritage Committee. Images courtesy of the C. Scott Holland Collection.

ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO A NEW MINISTRY

Please note that effective October 17, 2022, units responsible for cultural heritage matters have been transferred from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM). Responsibility for the *Ontario Heritage Act* and associated matters is now held by MCM under minister Michael Ford. Responsibility for museums, libraries and arts will remain with the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

CHO/PCO looks forward to having more detailed information about the changeover for the winter edition. Meantime, we are assured that Individual staff roles and contact information remain unchanged so if needs be, MHCs should continue to contact Jim Sherratt or Chris Lawless for guidance or support on matters related to the OHA.

You can reach Jim Sherratt by phone: 519-955-0734 or
by email: jim.sherratt@ontario.ca

You can reach Chris Lawless by phone: 437-243-2539 or
by email: chris.lawless@ontario.ca

CHO/PCO MISSION STATEMENT

To encourage the development of municipally appointed heritage advisory committees and to further the identification, preservation, interpretation, and wise use of community heritage locally, provincially, and nationally.

BOARD MEETINGS

CHO/PCO Board of Directors meetings are open to any MHC member. Meetings will be held virtually until further notice. Please contact the Corporate Secretary if you wish to attend.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES: ONTARIO VERNACULAR

GEORGE DUNCAN

Does your community have any one-of-a-kind heritage buildings? A local landmark with a unique design? Toronto has the flat-iron building, so often featured in photographs of the city. The village of Sharon, in East Gwillimbury, has the Temple of the Children of Peace, which looks like a wedding cake. Hamilton has stately Dundurn Castle perched on its “mountain.” Some one-of-a-kind buildings were designed and built at one time, and others evolved into what they are over time. Some are strikingly beautiful; some are exceptionally well crafted; some are simply odd. All are noteworthy.

In Markham, we have the Miller-Mason house at 180 Main Street North as a one-of-a-kind heritage building. It began as a one storey brick residence in the northern section of Markham Village, built for one John Miller about 1855. We don't know much about John Miller, but the building he was responsible for creating represents an enduring legacy. From 1862 to 1872, this was the home and office of Dr. John McCausland, one of several doctors to serve the community in the nineteenth century. The house must have been adequate for Dr. McCausland's needs because it did not change from its simple, symmetrical form during his period of ownership. A classic Greek Revival doorcase with a one-panelled door was the most impressive feature of its earliest phase.



The Miller-Mason House, in the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District, is an architectural oddity that defies being assigned to any specific stylistic category. (2021)

The next owner was William Mason, who purchased the property from Dr. McCausland in 1872. His son, Reuben Arthur Mason, became a successful druggist in the village,

with a business that lasted from 1882 to 1931. The Mason drug store still stands at 114 Main Street North. The family evidently prospered, which allowed them to expand and improve their residence in the highly decorative style of building that was in vogue during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Locally, in the 1880s a number of large, two-storey houses were built in brick for the business elite of the village. These impressive houses were designed in the Queen Anne Revival style, with irregular plans, large windows with leaded glass transom lights, and exuberant wood decoration in their gables. The Mason family raised the one storey dwelling to two storeys circa 1885. They kept the block-like plan outline of the original building but added architectural details of the Queen Anne Revival style as seen in the new houses of the most successful business owners that were their neighbours.

A later generation of the Mason family added an Edwardian Classical verandah in the early twentieth century. It is fairly typical in its design with heavy Tuscan columns resting on brick pedestals, but unusual for a second-storey sunroom capped with a closed gable containing a nineteenth century style Gothic Revival window. The massive columns of the main floor verandah extended to support the roof of the sunroom. Was the gable an earlier feature that was brought forward from the main roofline of the house when the sunroom was created? It seems somehow out-of-place.

It is interesting that each period of development of the Miller-Mason House can be read in its architectural features. For decades, the brickwork was painted over, disguising the difference in the brickwork between the first and second storeys. When the paint was removed a few years ago, the colour difference became evident, and the owner at the time had the brick tinted to create a harmonious effect. In terms of style, for those who enjoy classifying heritage buildings in this way, the Miller-Mason House, with all of its idiosyncrasies, presents a challenge. As it stands today, it is difficult to label this house anything but Ontario Vernacular, given its mix of stylistic features. One-of-a-kind.

George Duncan is a former Senior Heritage Planner with the City of Markham.



ONTARIO HERITAGE WEEK 2022 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER

JENNIFER MARSHALL

In celebration of Ontario Heritage Week, the Township of Springwater's Heritage Advisory Committee presented a virtual tour of several local heritage properties. The series, named "Heritage at Home", was intended to help the Springwater community learn more about its history as well as the Township's process for heritage designation.

Staff reached out to the owners of designated heritage properties to pitch the idea. Interested participants were given a series of questions about their home in advance, and staff met with the homeowners on-site to take photos and record video interviews. Homeowners were required to sign a release form giving the Township permission to post the photos/videos and information regarding their property to a special platform created on the municipality's website. If uncomfortable on video, homeowners were given the option to provide a written submission instead.

A social media campaign with daily posts was conducted during Ontario Heritage Week to promote the Heritage at Home (<https://springwater.ca>) platform. The series was well received by the public, with over 800 virtual visitors, a great deal of engagement, and many positive comments. The webpage was one of the top five most visited pages in February.

Jennifer Marshall, AMP, is the Deputy Clerk for the Township of Springwater.



Martingrove House



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Contact Rick Schofield at 416.282.2710 or schofield@communityheritageontario.ca

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK SCHOFIELD

The Board of Directors met in Scarborough on Sunday, September 25th to discuss the regular business of the Corporation. Following approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, the President, Wayne Morgan,

reported on his workshop presentation in Tiny Township, correspondence to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport regarding updating the Heritage Tool Kit, as well as Ministry workshops for MHCs. He also mentioned issues

establishing a MHC in Lanark Highlands. Wayne notified the Board that having served as President for the past eight years, he would not be standing for re-election following the London Conference but will remain active on the Board.

The Executive Secretary/Treasurer reported difficulty in establishing renewal communications with several MHC who were not active during the pandemic. With renewals slow to come in but expenses continuing, CHO/PCO is facing a higher than usual deficit which will need to be addressed toward the end of the year.

Ginette Guy Mayer, who is chairing the Conference Committee until the end of the upcoming London conference, advised the Board that everything is moving smoothly for 2023 and she is now looking for a municipality to step forward to host in 2024. The recent conference closed with a small surplus thanks to the support of the many attendees who came out so soon after pandemic mandates

were relaxed. The committee is also looking into the costs related to video taping selected sessions.

The Board has initiated a property insurance study relating to heritage properties but there is much detail still to be worked out, as property owners' rights and privacy must be a priority.

The Nominating Committee is looking to fill a vacancy as a result of the retirement of Tracy Gayda. Four members elected at the AGM in Brockville have one year remaining and the Board would be interested in hearing from anyone wanting to volunteer for the term running from June 2023 to June 2025. The Board meets four times annually, one in-person meeting in Scarborough and three Zoom meetings during the rest of the year.

Rick Schofield is the Corporate Secretary/Treasurer of CHO/PCO.

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