

## **Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1**

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| <b>Date:</b>             | August 14, 2007  |
| <b>To:</b>               | Planning and Growth Management Committee                     |
| <b>From:</b>             | Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division |
| <b>Wards:</b>            | All  |
| <b>Reference Number:</b> | pg070064   |

### **SUMMARY**

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The City's Official Plan heritage policies and Culture Plan recommendations reflect the growing importance of heritage preservation in our city and indicate the need to develop a Heritage Management Plan for the City of Toronto. The Heritage Management Plan involves a comprehensive and evolving strategy which sets out the goals and objectives for the preservation and management of Toronto's heritage resources.

Heritage preservation has been identified in provincial policy statements as a key provincial objective. The City's Official Plan and Culture Plan also make strong statements about the importance of heritage preservation and state that it is Council's policy and objective to preserve the archaeological, cultural and built heritage of the City by all means available.

In September of 2006, Heritage Preservation Services staff retained the services of a consortium of consultants lead by Office for Urbanism to prepare for consideration the City of Toronto Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1.

The Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1 resulted in three distinct groups of work:

- a. Identify goals and objectives for the protection of the City's heritage resources,
- b. Develop criteria and strategies for identification of heritage resources, and
- c. Identify resources available and needed to achieve goals and objectives.

The resulting Plan has laid out six principles for heritage preservation in Toronto which encourage protection, city building, managing change, fostering awareness, collaboration and partnerships, and consistency. These six principles will help guide the recommendations of the Plan and help to further develop policy and procedures for Heritage Preservation Services.

This report outlines the next steps toward the completion and implementation of the Heritage Management Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **The City Planning Division recommends that:**

1. Council adopt in principle the Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1.
2. Council direct staff to consult with other City divisions and stakeholders on further assessment and development of recommendations of the Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1.
3. Council direct staff to further assess, develop and report to Council on recommendations of the Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

Section 3.1.5, policy 13 of the City of Toronto Official Plan (approved by the OMB July, 2006) states that “A Heritage Management Plan will be prepared and adopted. The Heritage Management Plan will be a comprehensive and evolving strategy for the conservation and management of Toronto’s heritage resources.”

Recommendation 33 of the City of Toronto Culture Plan (approved by Council June, 2003) calls for the Culture Division<sup>1</sup> to “work with the heritage community to develop a City of Toronto Heritage Management Plan.”

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Section 2.6.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement of 2005 states “Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved.” In addition, both the City of Toronto Official Plan and the City of Toronto Culture Plan identify the need for the City to develop a Heritage Management Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Heritage Preservation Services was brought into the Planning Division as a result of a comprehensive reorganization in 2005. Any references to the Culture Division should now be read as the Planning Division.

The Heritage Management Plan was needed to identify key directions and strategies for heritage conservation planning in light of the revised Ontario Heritage Act (2005) which, in addition to other changes, provides municipalities with demolition controls for designated heritage properties. Additionally, new criteria for the determination of cultural heritage value were created and mandated by the provincial government under Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the Ontario Heritage Act. The new criteria govern the decision making process for evaluations resulting in the designation of heritage properties.

Heritage Preservation Services (HPS) retained the services of the Office for Urbanism and their associated team to commence work on the City of Toronto Heritage Management Plan. The Management Plan was conceived in multiple phases due to limited consultant funding and staff resources. Office for Urbanism was retained to complete Phase 1 of the Plan. The goal of the Plan was to address three key areas of work in order to provide a policy framework for consistent decision making:

- a. goals and objective for HPS,
- b. criteria for evaluation and designation of heritage resources under parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act, and
- c. identifying resources and tools to meet the other objectives identified as part of the plan.

The consultant team held stakeholder sessions with staff, provincial representatives, and members of the heritage community to get direction for the development of the Plan. Subsequent feedback was elicited from the same stakeholder groups to refine and edit the Plan.

The result of the Plan is a series of recommendations for action by staff to develop tools to help in the identification, evaluation and protection of heritage resources in the City which include updating the inventory, encouraging involvement from the private and public sectors and identifying new sources of funding. The Plan also identifies the need to complete additional phases of the management plan in order to address issues such as the identification of cultural landscapes, which are also identified as a priority in the City of Toronto Official Plan.

## **COMMENTS**

The City of Toronto Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1 provides staff of Heritage Preservation Services with the framework to begin assessment, development and implementation of key directions for the program. A number of actions are recommended. While some of the recommendations are complete, others will need further examination, consultation and development before implementation. The continued assessment and development of the recommendations will be completed through a combination of staff time and subsequent phases of the Heritage Management Plan.

Further refinement of some key recommendations will be brought to Council for adoption, in the future. This will allow HPS to fully implement components of the Heritage Management Plan such as the adoption of documents such as *the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (<http://www.historicplaces.ca/nor-sta/request.aspx?req=index>) as standard documents to guide interventions to heritage properties. The Standards and Guidelines, in concert with further policy development, will ensure a solid basis for consistent decision making.

To thoroughly assess and develop the recommendations of the Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1 staff of HPS will begin consultation with other City divisions and relevant external stakeholders. Consultation will be done on an issue by issue basis as recommendations of the plans are considered.

Key to the success of this Plan is the completion of subsequent phases of the management plan which will address more refined details of the Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1 and objectives for heritage conservation outlined in the Official Plan and Provincial Policy Statement. These include, but are not limited to, cultural landscapes, mapping of potential HCDs, inventory development and further policy work.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment no. 1 – City of Toronto Heritage Management Plan, Phase 1

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