

The Social and Economic Importance of Heritage Preservation



Special Council Meeting
Monday March 6, 2017



What Is Heritage?



- Complex term
 - The natural and cultural inheritance of a community that helps to define its **identity**

Why Is Defining an Identity Important?



- Contributes to a truly livable community and 'Pride of Place'
- Assists in marketing for economic development and tourism initiatives

Heritage and Identity



- Built environment and cultural landscapes:
 - Reflects who we are as a community
 - Differentiates between towns and cities

Heritage and Identity



- Colchester Centre
 - Pioneer History



Heritage and Identity



- Harrow Centre

- Strong Agricultural roots, ties to the railroad and a strong sense of community



Heritage and Identity



- Essex Centre
 - Railway/Transportation History



Heritage and Identity



- **McGregor Centre**
 - Railway; Sawmill and St. Clement's Church



How Can Heritage Preservation and Promotion Assist?



- Towns and cities that preserve their heritage see an economic benefit
 - Attract and retain residents
 - Attract and retain businesses
 - Attract tourists

Heritage to Attract and Retain Residents



- A truly livable community
 - Makes residents feel personally connected
 - Hard to feel a connection if there is no distinctive character



Heritage to Attract and Retain Residents



Heritage to Attract and Retain Residents



Heritage to Attract and Retain Businesses



- Investors are attracted to buildings with architectural significance



Heritage to Attract and Retain Businesses



Heritage to Attract and Retain Businesses



Heritage to Attract and Retain Businesses



- Adaptive Reuse



Heritage to Attract and Retain Businesses



Heritage to Attract Tourists



- Tourists and Travellers are seeking a **cultural heritage experience**
 - 25% of Ontarians travel for arts or cultural experience
 - 27% participate in a cultural experience as part of trip

Heritage to Attract Tourists



- Cultural Tourists main motivation
 - Historic sites
 - Interpretive and cultural centers
 - Museums

Loss of Heritage



- **20** percent of heritage buildings have been demolished over the last 30 years

How to Preserve our Heritage

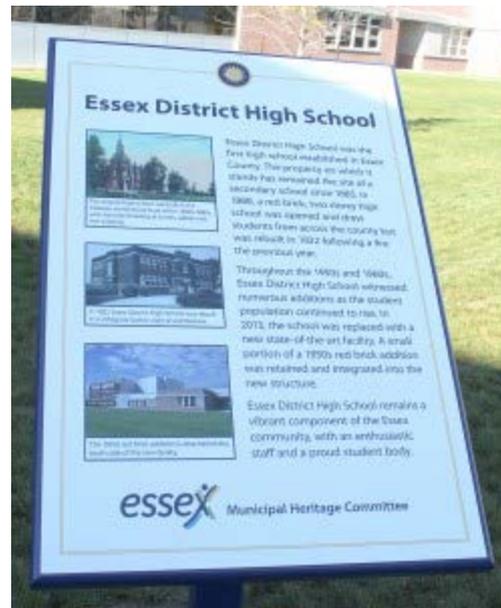


- Essex Municipal Heritage Committee (EMHC)
 - Resource base for information and knowledge for Council, Administration and the community on all matters of heritage
 - Fewer than **40 percent** of communities in Ontario have volunteer Heritage Committees

How to Preserve our Heritage



- Programming
 - Heritage Plaque Program
 - Heritage Week
 - Blasts from our Past



How to Preserve our Heritage



- People who designate properties protect our heritage for future generations



How to Preserve our Heritage



- **Town of Essex Heritage Grant Program**
 - Applies to all owners of properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (Part IV or V)
 - Excludes commercial, institutional or industrial properties within the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) area, unless the proposal is not eligible under the CIP

Town of Essex Heritage Grant Program



- Eligible Grants
 - Repair or Restoration Grant
 - ✦ 50 percent of total costs up to \$10,000
 - ✦ To conserve, reconstruct, repair or restore significant components of built and cultural landscape resources
 - ✦ Significant components are those identified in the Designation Bylaw

Town of Essex Heritage Grant Program



- Eligible Grants
 - Professional Heritage Services Grant
 - ✦ \$2,000 maximum fee for service
 - ✦ For professional heritage services (architect, archeologist, engineer, historian)

Town of Essex Heritage Grant Program



- Eligible Grants

- Development Permit Fee Grant

- ✦ Grant equivalent of the development permit fee or combination of fees charged by the Town for the approved project
- ✦ Permits required under Building Code or Planning Act (building permit or minor variance)
- ✦ Must be utilized in combination with the repair or restoration grant

Town of Essex Heritage Grant Program



- **Application Process**

- Pre-consultation and quotes required, no retroactivity
- Section 33 of the Ontario Heritage Act
 - ✦ Needs to be reviewed by Heritage Committee
 - ✦ Needs approval from Council
- Acknowledgment Agreement signed before work is undertaken
- Payment is disbursed and agreement registered on title

Town of Essex Heritage Grant Program



- **Implementation**
 - 5 year time period
- **Financial Consideration**
 - \$25,000 (2016)
 - \$25,000 (each of 2017-2021)
- **Monitoring and Assessment**
 - Will maintain an inventory of applications
 - Annual report to Council on Effectiveness
 - ✦ To assist in preservation of heritage resources and promote heritage designation

