



**To:** Council  
**From:** Heritage Committee  
**Date:** November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
**Subject:** **Annual Summary Report**

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**ORIGIN:**

Pursuant to the section, *Reporting and Monitoring of the Township of Lake of Bays Heritage Committee Terms of Reference* the committee is to submit an annual report summarizing its activities to Council.

These accomplishments highlight the efforts put forth by the committee to preserve, protect and promote our irreplaceable built, natural and cultural heritage.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Township of Lake of Bays Heritage Committee has worked diligently this year towards achieving the objectives, roles and responsibilities as set out in the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Heritage Committee has accomplished or is in the process of achieving the following:

- Developed terms of reference;
- Developed criteria for natural, built and cultural heritage significance;
- Created a budget that was approved by Council and have been able to work within the budget;
- Developed a computer program to house a database of significant heritage properties within the Township of Lake of Bays;
- Started a resource library of heritage books and reference material;
- Receiving donated materials, documents and historic references;
- Performed research and collected important heritage information on the significant built, natural and cultural heritage features of the township;
- In accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, created a list of heritage sites with potential heritage designation possibilities (will be required to be adopted by Council in the next term);
- Participated in nominating and recognizing significant heritage sites through awards programs
  - Muskoka Heritage Foundation Built & Cultural Heritage Awards (2005 – Springsyde Dock & Path and 2006 – Billie Bear Lodge) – both nominees were successful recipients.
  - Province of Ontario Community Heritage Leaders (2006 Built Heritage, Cultural Heritage, Natural Heritage, Heritage Garden Conservation, Lifetime Achievement awards);
- Participating in the Provincial Plaque program through the Ontario Heritage Trust (applied for 2007 prestigious plaque to commemorate the historic Portage Flyer Steam train – if successful the plaque will be erected in Spring of 2007 at South Portage dock);

- Participated in community events that raise awareness of local heritage (i.e. Dorset Heritage Days);
- Created and distributed a brochure with respect to the Heritage Committee and its responsibilities;
- Assisted in bringing the Ontario Visual Heritage project to the District of Muskoka through letters of support, funding, raising public awareness of the project and accumulating local participation and involvement;
- Successful networking and joint participation in projects with other local organizations;
- Presented a report to Council recommending the implementation of a Heritage Tax Relief Program.

#### **Current Projects (still in progress)**

- Ontario Visual Heritage Project (committee members sit on the board of directors for the project) Estimated time of completion 2010.
- Heritage Property Database.
- The development of an archives system and resource library.
- Provincial Plaque Program (Ontario Heritage Trust)
  - 2006 application for the Portage Flyer Steam Train, if successful, will be erected in the spring of 2007 and requires a celebration with dignitaries.
  - Other organizations and local residents have already lobbied the committee for their support to apply for other historical sites (i.e. Gilmour Tramway, North Portage, etc)

#### **List of Heritage Properties (pursuant to Ontario Heritage Act)**

A lot of work, including hours of research, evaluation and editions, has gone into the Heritage Properties List. The list is in its final draft stages to be adopted by Council by January, 2007.

#### **Obstacles**

- **Designation** - The committee was approached by St. Ambrose Anglican Church with a request to be designated as a Heritage Property. As it was a learning process for both parties they worked together co-operatively to complete the required steps of designation. This project was unfortunately put on hold when the Province of Anglican Diocese of Ontario decided that no churches will be designated until the outcome of two current court cases in Toronto are decided. The Diocese has approached the Minister of Culture with recommended amendments to the Act.
- **Composition of Committee** – The committee found it difficult to complete the amount of research and evaluation that was required and also found it difficult to achieve a quorum for some of the meetings. It is recommended that the Heritage Committee increase its members so that it eliminates these obstacles in the next term.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Tapley, Chair*