The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee Report

Report Number KLMHC2020-09

Meeting Date: March 5, 2020

Title: Heritage Inventory Framework

Description: Background on proposed heritage inventory and brainstorming session

Ward Number: All

Author and Title: Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

Recommendation(s):

That Report KLMHC2020-07, **Heritage Inventory Framework**, be received;

That a presentation from the Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning be received; and

That the Municipal Heritage Committee participate in a brainstorming session regarding a framework for heritage inventorying.

Background:

One of the items in the Heritage Planning work plan for 2020 is the development of a heritage inventory for the municipality. At the moment, there is no complete inventory of heritage resources within the municipality which identify potential heritage properties and outline their significance.

Previous inventories of heritage resources in some areas of the municipality have been undertaken in the 1990s. These pre-date both amalgamation and the current regulations under the Ontario Heritage Act. The vast majority of the current inventory is from the Lindsay LACAC and was undertaken using forms provided to Ontario LACACs for this purpose. While the data captured in these forms is useful, it does not relate to current evaluation criteria nor is it accessible or easy to use for either staff or members of the public because it exists mostly as scanned PDFs. A sample of the data captured in these inventories is attached as Appendix A. The property in the example, 57 Albert Street North, is currently a designated property and, based on current evaluation criteria, has both architectural and historic value, the latter of which is not captured in the inventory sheet. More robust data collection would allow both historical and contextual information to be captured in the inventory process which is mostly missing from legacy surveys and data.

The intention of undertaking a holistic inventory of the municipality is to create a record of historic properties within the municipality for future management which is based on both current legislation and policy guidelines and accepted data management standards. It is intended that, on the completion of this inventory, that the municipality will possess a complete dataset of the historic properties within its geographic range, encompassing buildings, structures, nature features, and cultural heritage landscapes. This process involves identifying and evaluating properties with historic value and creating an accessible system where that data can be store and shared. This dataset will be organized and presented geospatially for ease of access and use and it is intended that there will be both internal and public facing components. There are a number of aspects of this program which are required to be developed which are outlined below:

Evaluation Frameworks: In order to make the inventory useable, inventoried properties will have to be evaluated based on established criteria. It will be imperative for long term usefulness of the inventory to ensure that each property inventoried has attached data to provide more information about the property. Namely, this will mean ensuring each property has architectural, thematic/historic and/or contextual data attached to it. In order to ensure the data is consistent, evaluation frameworks will need to be created. These frameworks will need to be developed prior to inventorying taking place and will form the core data standard for collection.

Data Management System: A data management system will need to be put in place in order to manage data collected through inventorying and surveying. Ideally, the system will include two components: a component for data collection and a component for data management and access. This system will use the evaluation frameworks as the core standard for sorting, storing, and sharing data. By building the frameworks into the data management system, collected data will be usable. Inbuilt framework will also inform how data is collected and input into the system. This system will be implemented internally by City staff. Eventually, this should include both internal and external systems that can be accessed by staff and the public respectively. The system will be geospatially based for ease of use.

Inventorying Process: A process will need to be put in place for how properties are inventoried. This will include who inventories properties, how the inventories of certain areas are carried out, and how the process is communicated to the public and relevant stakeholder groups. This process will be developed after the inventorying framework is put in place.

This is a multi-year process because of the breadth of potential resources within the municipality as well as its geographic size. The goal for 2020 is to develop a framework for inventorying and evaluation, initiate a digital system for collecting and storing the data, and undertake several small pilots throughout the municipality. The pilots will allow the framework and processes to be tested to ensure that they are efficient and are producing the information needed to develop and maintain a thorough inventory. Changes to the system can be made at this time as necessary prior to a larger scale inventorying taking place.

The first step in this process is developing the evaluation framework. Brainstorming historical and architectural categories, in particular, that can be used to identify and sort property data will be helpful in this regard. In particular, consistent frameworks for evaluation with associated keywords will make property data searchable, which will be important to the end user.

Rationale:

The development of heritage inventories is recognized as an international best practice for managing heritage resources and, particularly in Europe and the United States, is an important part of how municipalities and local authorities understand their heritage assets. The goal of this process is to ensure that heritage planning within the municipality is driven by clear and consistent data which relates to provincial legislation and criteria. At present, the ability of the municipality to manage its heritage resources through various planning mechanisms is limited because there is virtually no data to inform decision making. Similarly, the ability to have this data at hand through the implementation of a data management system will ensure that accurate data can be accessed

quickly as necessary, particularly with regard to incoming development applications which may have an impact on historic resources.

One notable heritage survey that has been undertaken recently is the Los Angeles Historic Resource Survey, also known as SurveyLA, which undertook field surveys between 2010 and 2017 and resulted in the development of Historic Places LA, an online inventory platform which is accessible to the public and provides significant information about specific heritage resources within the city. A link to the online platform is included as Appendix B. The data is categorized thematically by time period, architectural type, and theme and complies with international standards for heritage data collection. It also complies with local, state, and federal regulations regarding heritage evaluation, making the data useable for long term heritage management. While the context in Kawartha Lakes is significantly different, the SurveyLA project provides a model from which to work and develop a similarly useful tool for heritage management in Kawartha Lakes.

Establishing the framework for inventorying and data management is an important first step in undertaking this project. The identification of historic and architectural themes and types will form the basis of the framework. These themes and types should be directly related to the Kawartha Lakes context so that the data is both usable when analyzing properties within the municipality and specific enough to provide useful information. A sample thematic framework from the SurveyLA project at attached as Appendix C. As part of the SurveyLA project, each theme was identified and further defined as the project developed. A brainstorming session will assist in identifying these potential themes for inclusion within the framework to ensure that data can be accurately categorized.

Other Alternatives Considered:

There are no recommended alternatives.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There are no financial impacts associated with the recommendations of this report.

Consultations:

N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A – Example Legacy Data – 57 Albert Street North LACAC Survey

PDF

57 Albert St. N.,
Preliminary Survey.p

Appendix B – Link to Historic Places LA http://historicplacesla.org
Appendix C – SurveyLA Thematic Framework

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