

June 30, 2021

Samuel Wesley
Programs and Services Branch – Heritage, Tourism and Culture Division
401 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 0A7

Dear Mr. Wesley;

RE: Ontario Heritage Toolkit Comments and Recommendations

The Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee has reviewed the new drafts of the Ontario Heritage Toolkit posted on the Environmental Registry and would like to offer the following comments:

- In general, the Committee finds the drafts very informative and an improvement from the older version of the Toolkit. They present the Ontario Heritage Act processes in a straightforward way which is accessible to Committee members and members of the public with good illustrations and examples.
- The previous versions of the toolkit had a greater number of diagrams and pictures that could assist readers in understanding architectural elements and technical language which the Committee feels would be helpful in this guide as well.
- The documents discuss the provision of notices in a newspaper but as readership declines, the Committee feels that you should also recognize the ability to provide public notice digitally.
- The Committee feels there should be a greater discussion of heritage resources that have not been traditionally recognized in order to encourage the protection of different types of heritage resources, particularly those in rural areas. These may include agricultural accessory buildings, bridges, industrial works, and natural features.
- The Committee would like to see a more in depth discussion of the value of adaptive reuse, the processes for adaptively reusing heritage properties, and the impact on the heritage value of properties, either positive or negative.
- The new guides should provide better information on the protection of contemporary buildings and some more specific examples of worthy examples (such as the York Regional Headquarters designed by Cardinal).
- The Committee would like to see the guides be more inclusive and include different types of built and natural heritage which have significance to different communities in the province, including First Nations communities. The Committee feels it is vital that the Toolkits encourage the municipalities to celebrate and protect diverse voices across the province. The Committee would

also like to see more detailed guidance about engaging with First Nations communities as part of the heritage planning process.

- The Committee regularly provides comments on Planning Act applications and would like to see an updated version of the Heritage Resources in the Land Use Planning Processes guide.
- For the non-specialist reader, the flowcharts provided with the draft Toolkit are not particularly readable and are intimidating. It would be helpful if the flowcharts were better differentiated using colours and shapes and integrated into the Toolkit documents themselves so that they are more understandable and more immediately accessible.
- The Committee understands that the updated Toolkit will be provided in an electronic-only format and feels that there should also be options to obtain hard copy versions of the Toolkit documents for accessibility and portability. The documents should be supplied in a specified order so that they make sense to the reader going through them.

The Committee is committed to the long-term preservation of our province's cultural heritage and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Toolkit which assists municipal heritage committees and community members in understanding how we protect our heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Athol Hart".

Athol Hart
Chair, Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee
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