



COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

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DATE: February 26, 2021

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Ian Wells, Acting Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Prince George Heritage Commission 2020 Annual Report

ATTACHMENT(S): City of Prince George Heritage Commission Bylaw No. 8133, 2008

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council RECEIVES the report dated February 26, 2021 from the Acting Deputy City Manager, titled "Prince George Heritage Commission 2020 Annual Report", and APPROVES the Prince George Heritage Commission 2021 work plan as outlined in the report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Mayor and Council on the progress of the Prince George Heritage Commission for the year 2020.

The Prince George Heritage Commission advises in matters regarding the protection, conservation, and interpretation of heritage resources and buildings within the Community. The committee consists of nine volunteer citizens appointed by Council, with terms of reference for the Committee guided by the City of Prince George Heritage Commission Bylaw No. 8133, 2008 (attached).

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE DURING 2020

The only Heritage Committee meeting to occur in 2020 was held on February 13, 2020. The topics discussed were the Heritage Commission 2020 Meeting Schedule and Staff Support, 2019 Annual Report to Council and 2020 Work Plan.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 24, 2020 all Council Committees were suspended from meeting in person. This suspension was in place until Council approved the use of electronic participation in Council Committee meetings on December 7, 2020. Thusly, as the Prince George Heritage Commission did not formally meet during their 2020 term, much of their 2020 Work Plan has been carried over to the 2021 Work Plan.

GOALS AND WORKPLAN FOR THE COMING YEAR

The Commission's 2021 Work Plan is outlined below with key priorities including:

- Add new sites to the Heritage Register;
- Propose inaugural 'Heritage Recognition Area' to the Heritage Register;
- Work with Downtown Prince George to add Downtown Heritage properties to the Heritage Register (using their Business Façade Grant);
- Engage younger audiences via heritage colouring sheets, Regional Heritage Fair Creative Spirit Award and the artifact box; and
- Seek opportunities to build heritage capacity with the community

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Heritage Commission's work helps support the following City of Prince George Corporate Goals and Council Focus Areas:

Corporate Goals:

- **Clear identity and pride:** Knowledge of local heritage helps build this identity and pride.
- **Cultural Richness:** Heritage events, activities and education contribute to a rich cultural mosaic.
- **Supportive and Engaged Community:** Commission presents opportunities for community engagement through membership, events, Heritage Register participation, etc.
- **Market downtown for development and growth opportunities:** Awareness/celebration of and pride in downtown heritage buildings leads to revitalization and future growth opportunities.

Council Focus Areas:

- **Reconnect to create an inclusive and proud community:** Commission initiatives and activities promote reconnection to and pride in our City's roots.
- **Celebrate success of our citizens and our community partners in order to foster civic pride:** Commission's Heritage Recognition Program recognizes and celebrates heritage-themed activities and achievements by community members.
- **Continue initiatives related to youth engagement and education:** New Commission initiatives speak directly to youth (e.g. colouring sheet; artifact box re: school history).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Heritage Commission continues to encourage the protection and conservation of heritage buildings as well as provide support for heritage resources within the Community.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Ian Wells, Acting Deputy City Manager

PREPARED BY: Melissa Nitz, Staff Liaison for the Prince George Heritage Commission

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/03/08