

SAANICH HERITAGE FOUNDATION WORKSHOP
FACILITATED BY LAURA SARETSKY, MA,
HERITAGE PROGRAM OFFICER, HERITAGE BC
HELD IN THE KIRBY ROOM (POLICE ANNEX)
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019 AT 1:30 P.M

Present from the Heritage Foundation:

Mark Brown, President; Sheila Colwill; Veronica McEllister; Vicki Sanders; Brad Shuya (2:00); Robert Townsend; Katherine Whitworth; and Councillor Ned Taylor, Council Liaison

Regrets:
Staff:

Ross O'Connell, Vice President; Art Joyce, Treasurer
Megan Squires, Planner; and Shirley Leggett, Secretary

Guests:
Planning Staff:

Councillor Brownoff
Gina Lyons, Planner; Matt Blakely, Senior Planning Technician, Research and Analysis; Cam Scott, Manager, Community Planning; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Manager of Current Planning; Liz Gudavicius, Subdivision Coordinator, Current Planning; and Sarah deMedeiros, Planning Technician

Heritage BC is a charitable not-for-profit supporting heritage conservation across BC through education, training and skills development, capacity building in heritage planning, and funding through the Heritage Legacy Fund.

OVERVIEW – HERITAGE BASICS

What is Heritage?

The heritage of a community is any physical, cultural, or social resource that is unique to and valued by a community and can be passed from generation to generation.

Heritage is very broad – it can cover everything from land and natural environments, to buildings and landscapes, museum artefacts, archival material, art collections, and even intangible heritage such as language, memory and cultural traditions.

Heritage Conservation: What is it?

Over the last several decades, heritage conservation has evolved to include values-based process. Values-based conservation strives to protect heritage values, rather than focussing on aesthetic or historic elements of places alone. The values-based approach ensures that a community first determines and understands what it holds as significant about its past, and about its community heritage identity, before deciding what or how it will conserve.

Heritage planning today attempts to include a consideration of the perspectives of all citizens and groups in a community to determine heritage value. Heritage value is the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social, or spiritual significance of a resource for past, present and future generations.

In a community such as Saanich, there is the opportunity to cast a wide net and reveal many types of heritage places. Heritage sites can include building and structures, but also infrastructure, parks and trails, cultivated agricultural land, abandoned industrial sites, natural landscapes, gardens, beaches, roadways, spiritual sites, and more.

Heritage Conservation: Why do we do it?

Cultural and Social Sustainability: Creates meaning within a community; contributes to shared values; supports cultural heritage; and, promotes care and respect for the environment, community and residents.

Economic Sustainability: Incremental change in communities; heritage promotes local tourism; creates jobs and household income; revitalization projects; increases property values; and, indirect economic contributions.

Environmental Sustainability: Social equity, economic and environmental factors; the re-use of heritage buildings, structures, and infrastructure and materials has both physical and social benefits; maintains important historical landscapes land-use patterns, enhances community open space; and, protects agricultural lands.

Legal Tools for Heritage Conservation: The Local Government Act

Part 15: Heritage Conservation: Provides legal framework for community heritage registers, heritage designation, heritage revitalization agreements, heritage conservation areas, and more.

Part 15, Section 598: Established by a resolution; lists heritage property – must give rationale; requires notification of the property owner; often the purview of community heritage commissions, or similar groups.

Part 15, Section 611- 613: Steps to enact heritage designation bylaw; provides legal protection to a historic place; requires a Heritage Alteration Permit for subsequent work on the historic place.

Part 15, Section 610: Guidelines for entering into Heritage Revitalization Agreements: up to the local government to create process; supports heritage conservation community revitalization; and agreement between property owner and local government to engage in heritage conservation in exchange for zoning or permit relaxations, or support through incentives.

Part 15, Section 614 – 615: Guidelines for creating heritage Conservation Areas; Supports heritage conservation and community revitalization; designated in of the Official Community Plan; and includes justification, objectives, lists of significant places and level of protection, guidelines.

Writing Statements of Significance (SoS)

- The SoS explains the heritage value of the historic place
- A historic place is defined as: “A structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site or other place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value by an appropriate authority within a jurisdiction.”
- Values-based management
- It's one of the first steps in conservation planning
- By identifying the key elements of an historic place, the SoS becomes a critical link between heritage value and conservation actions
- It provides guidance to property owners, architects, developers, and others who are making an intervention to the historic place

- The SoS is part of the mandatory documentation for the Canadian Register of Historic Places and the BC Register of Historic Places
- It informs how the Standards and Guideline for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada will be applied
- Consistent format of the SoS ensures that heritage values are communicated in an effective manner that bridges the differences between jurisdictions
- An SoS statement is required for Heritage Legacy Fund application process through Heritage BC
- It does not replace other statements of value, character, policy, but supplements them.

Steps for Writing the SoS

- Collect background information on the historic place and its significance to the community
- Solicit input from the community about the historic place
- Visit the historic place and take note on the description, layout, physical features and take photos for reference
- Review all material and write draft of the SoS and have it reviewed by others, such as a Community Heritage Commission

Components

Why: Heritage Value

- Description of the significance (2 to 3 sentences)
- Core heritage values: aesthetic, scientific, historic, cultural, social, spiritual

How: Character Defining Elements

- Principle features that contribute to heritage values
- Point form list
- What needs to be preserved to maintain heritage values

An effective SoS

- All possible types of heritage value have been addressed. Refer to categories: aesthetic, scientific, historical, social/cultural, spiritual
- Clear identification of the key heritage values. Key values should be introduced as early as possible in the value statement.
- SoS assesses how an historic place represents an existing heritage conservation program and identifies values
- It informs the conservation process by working in tandem with the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada
- It identifies what part of history and historic places, illustrating how today's society recognizes the significance of the places that embody its heritage character

An ineffective SoS

- Information which does not relate directly to the historic place. Such as lengthy context statements, irrelevant information about persons, events, history, other places, etc.
- Use of language that is highly technical or difficult to understand
- Overly-architectural analysis
- Character-defining elements that are unrelated to the value statement

- Excessive use of statements of fact

Tips

- **Brevity is important. For inclusion in the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP) each of the three sections is limited to 4,000 characters in length (about 1.5 pages in text)**
- Statements of value rather than statements of fact
- Description, heritage value, and character-defining elements which are all related
- Language predominantly in the present tense
- Provides reasoning behind value with words like: because, is valued as, evident in, evokes, express, reflects, an example of, unique
- It explains the heritage value of the historic place and its significance to the community
- It is a conservation planning tool
- It describes what the place includes
- It defines why the place has been determined to have heritage value
- It describes how the heritage value is physically and spatially embodied in the place

About the BC Register of Historic Places

- Over 4,000 Historic Places across BC
- Includes sites protected or recognized by heritage Conservation Act, Local Government Act and Vancouver Charter
- Local governments are **required** to notify the province of all newly recognized municipal historic places within 30 days
- Fully documents records on BCRHP are added to the Canadian Register of Historic Places

The workshop ended at 4:00 p.m. with the Regular Heritage Foundation meeting to follow.