

**CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE
AND PUBLIC ART POLICIES
PROPOSED VAUGHAN OFFICIAL PLAN**

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**Prepared for:
THE OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Prepared by:



UNTERMAN McPHAIL ASSOCIATES
HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

in association with
Wayne Morgan, Heritage Planner

Introduction

Unterman McPhail Associates, in association with Wayne Morgan (the heritage consultants), were retained by the Vaughan Recreation and Cultural Department to prepare cultural heritage resource and public art policies for input into the City's new official plan. The proposed policies were to be comprehensive, cutting edge, defensible and relevant to the context in Vaughan.

This report highlights the process used in developing the policies and the major thrusts of the proposed policies. The final policies which were input into the Official Plan process are contained in Attachment One (Cultural Heritage Resource Policies) and Attachment Two (Arts Policies).

Experience of the Heritage Consultants

The heritage consultants have many years experience advising municipalities, the province, private sector firms and public agencies on the management of cultural heritage resources. They have prepared cultural heritage resource management policies for other municipalities, conducted numerous heritage impact assessments and been employed by municipalities to manage the implementation of those heritage policies, including ensuring that heritage resource issues are addressed in development applications made under the *Planning Act*. They have also defended their proposed policies and recommendations before judicial tribunals (the Ontario Municipal Board and the Conservation Review Board).

Policy Development

Review of Other Municipal Heritage Policies:

To ensure that cutting edge policies were proposed for Vaughan, the following recently developed municipal heritage resource management and public art policies were reviewed and assessed:

- Kingston,
- Ottawa (heritage resource policies only),
- Toronto,
- Brampton,
- Hamilton,
- Mississauga,
- Burlington (heritage resource policies only) and
- Caledon (heritage resource policies only).

Review of Provincial Policies:

In 2005 the *Ontario Heritage Act* underwent extensive amendments which provide a substantially different context for municipal heritage resource management policies. The heritage consultants reviewed the *Act* to ensure that proposed policies were consistent with the requirements of the *Act*.

Also in 2005, the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) issued under the *Planning Act* was amended with respect to the requirements for Cultural Heritage. The heritage consultants reviewed these policies to ensure consistency and that the cultural heritage requirements of the PPS were satisfied.

Since the changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the PPS, some decisions of the Ontario Municipal Board have impacted cultural heritage resource management. The consultants considered these decisions in the drafting of the proposed policies.

Review of Vaughan Heritage Resources and Policies:

Vaughan staff provided the heritage consultants with copies of the Vaughan heritage resource inventory, plans for the four heritage conservation districts and Vaughan heritage management policies. The consultants reviewed these materials and considered them in the development of the proposed policies.

Input from Vaughan staff and the public:

The heritage consultants circulated drafts of the proposed policies to Vaughan staff for review and comment. These comments were used in revising and improving the proposed policies.

The heritage consultants also attended the Vaughan Official Plan public meetings to obtain input from the public.

Policy Highlights

- *Heritage Resources and their Conservation are Important to Vaughan:*

The proposed policies identify cultural heritage resources and their conservation as important to the community and its future development. The policies take into

consideration not only change to the resource itself, but how adjacent development might impact the resource.

- *Supports City Councils Powers Under the Ontario Heritage Act:*

The proposed policies reinforce and support City Council's powers under the *Ontario Heritage Act* when dealing with development and the management of change to cultural heritage resources.

- *Makes explicit that Conservation of Heritage Resources is part of the Planning Process:*

The proposed policies ensure that full consideration will be given to the conservation of cultural heritage resources when dealing with planning applications. This includes early identification of potential heritage resources in the Registry; conducting cultural heritage surveys early in the planning process; cultural heritage assessments as a submission requirement for planning applications involving heritage resources and the means to secure conservation of the heritage resource once the planning application has been approved.

- *Reinforces Heritage Conservation District Designation:*

The proposed policies support and reinforce the existing heritage conservation district plans and provide opportunities for securing additional Districts should an area process one or more of the attributes defined in the proposed Official Plan.

- *Provides Opportunities to Conserve Cultural Heritage Landscapes:*

The proposed policies provide City Council with the opportunity to protect cultural heritage landscapes which include cemeteries, roads and associated landscapes.

- *Provides Opportunities to Conserve Cultural Heritage Character Areas:*

There may be cultural heritage areas in the municipality that may not be worthy of designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, but that has value to the community. These have been defined in the Official Plan policies as cultural heritage character areas. The proposed policies of the Official Plan provide City Council with the opportunity to identify and conserve such areas.

- *Defines Good Heritage Conservation Practice:*

The proposed policies define ‘good heritage conservation practice’ and require that alterations to and/or development associated with cultural heritage properties conform to good heritage conservation practice.

- *Encourages Public Awareness of the Community Heritage Resources:*

The proposed policies identify a number of measures to promote public awareness of cultural heritage resources.

- *The City will be a good steward of Heritage Resources which it owns:*

The proposed policies indicates ways in which Council will be a good steward of conserve cultural heritage resources which it owns.

- *Encourages the provision of public art in accessible places*

The proposed policies encourage the provision of public art such as murals, paintings, sculptures, fountains, lighting displays, banners, plaques, memorials, gateways, walkways and pavement design in public and private sector developments.

- City Council will prepare management Plans for Public Art and the Conservation of Cultural Heritage Resources.

The proposed policies set out that Council will prepare management plans for Public Art and Cultural Heritage Resources.

Summary

The proposed cultural heritage resource and public art policies provide City Council with the tools to conserve those resources and secure public art. They are state of the art policies that are consistent with Provincial legislation and policies.