

## **Woolwich Heritage Committee Terms of Reference**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Cultural heritage resources are important in the Township of Woolwich because they remind us of the stories, places and events of the people who shaped our community of communities. The Township of Woolwich Official Plan defines cultural heritage resources as consisting of built heritage resources, including contextual landscapes associated with these built heritage resources, archaeological resources, and cultural heritage landscapes.

In Ontario, the task of conserving cultural heritage resources is primarily a municipal responsibility. The *Ontario Heritage Act* and the *Planning Act* provide a framework within which municipalities can act to ensure the conservation of cultural heritage resources.

Under Section 28 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, a council of a municipality is authorized to establish, through by-law, one Municipal Heritage Committee that is made of five or more people.

### **2.0 Purpose of the Woolwich Heritage Committee**

The purpose of the Woolwich Heritage Committee is:

- 2.1 To provide advice to Council on cultural heritage matters in the Township of Woolwich;
- 2.2 To more specifically provide advice to Council on matters relating to designation under Part IV (individual properties) and Part V (heritage conservation districts) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and with regards to the process of listing non-designated property of cultural heritage interest on the Township's Register of Heritage Properties;
- 2.3 To promote cultural heritage awareness, education, stewardship and conservation; and
- 2.4 To recognize excellence in the cultural heritage community within Woolwich.

### **3.0 Statutory Role**

3.1 Council will, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and through the Engineering and Planning Services Department, consult with the Woolwich Heritage Committee:

- a) When updating the Township's Register of Heritage Properties;
- b) Before serving notice of intent to designate a property;
- c) Before amending a by-law of designated property;
- d) Before repealing a by-law, or part thereof, designating a property;
- e) Before considering an application from an owner of a designated property to repeal the by-law, or part thereof, designating the property;
- f) On an application to alter a designated property where the alteration is likely to affect the heritage attributes as set out in the by-law designating the property;

- g) Before delegating power to an employee or official of the municipality to consent to minor alterations of individually designated property;
- h) On an application to demolish or remove any building or structure on designated property; and
- i) Before passing by-law to establish easements or covenants with owners of real property for conserving properties of cultural value or interest.

3.2 Council will, under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and through the Engineering and Planning Services Department, consult with the Woolwich Heritage Committee:

- a) Before passing a by-law to define a study area for a future heritage conservation district;
- b) Before a proposed heritage conservation district plan is passed;
- c) Before Council delegates by by-law, its power to grant permits for the alteration of property situated in a heritage conservation district; and
- d) On an application to demolish or remove any building or structure on property in a heritage conservation district.

#### **4.0 Organization of the Woolwich Heritage Committee**

4.1 The Woolwich Heritage Committee will be composed of people who demonstrate a strong commitment to the conservation of heritage resources in the Township.

4.2 A minimum of seven and up to twelve Committee members will be appointed by Council of the Township of Woolwich. In making appointments to the Heritage Committee Council will have regard to geographical representation across the municipality and to the technical and professional qualifications of applicants concerning cultural heritage conservation. Appointed members shall be at least 18 years of age and shall reside or be employed in The Township of Woolwich. Council may appoint one of its members to the Committee.

4.3 The term of committee members is four years coinciding with the term of Council that has made the appointment. Additional members may be appointed throughout the four years for the duration of the term. A committee member may apply for re-appointment for any number of consecutive or non-consecutive terms.

4.4 One member will be chosen by vote of the committee at the first meeting of each new year to chair the meetings for that year. The committee will similarly at the first meeting of each new year choose a vice chair who will chair the meetings in the absence of the chair person.

#### **5.0 Meetings**

5.1 The Woolwich Heritage Committee will meet once a month, but not in the months of July, August or December. Additional meetings may be held as required at the call of the Chair.

5.2 The date and time of regular meetings will be established for the following twelve months at the first meeting in the new year. For ease of planning, every attempt will be made to hold the regular meetings on a consistent day.

5.3 Agendas and minutes from the previous meeting will be sent via email to committee members two weeks prior to the next meeting.

5.4 A majority of Council appointed Committee members will constitute quorum for the transaction of business.

## **6.0 Procedural By-law**

6.1 Section 26.2 of the Township of Woolwich's Procedural By-law 45-2014 says:

The provisions of this by-law, with necessary modifications, shall apply to the various Local Boards and committees appointed by the Council unless specific terms of reference have been adopted by Council.

## **7.0 Work Plan and Annual Report**

7.1 The Woolwich Heritage Committee will prepare a work plan for Council's consideration and approval. This work plan will consist of objectives established within the four purposes (or goals) of the Committee, and strategies aimed at achieving the objectives established by the Committee. This work plan will be presented to Council in October each year together with any budget requests. This timing will enable budget requests made by the Committee to be considered in the broader municipal budget process that begins in the autumn of each year.

7.2 In addition to presenting a work plan to Council each October, the Committee will present an annual report as well. This annual report would document work toward the previous year's work plan objectives that had been accomplished in the intervening year.

## **8.0 Role of Municipal Staff**

8.1 The Engineering and Planning Services Department will provide staff support to the Woolwich Heritage Committee. A staff person appointed by the Director of the Engineering and Planning Services Department will hold the position of recording secretary to the Committee. Members of municipal staff do not have a vote on the Committee.

8.2 Other staff support to be provided to the Committee will include undertaking an orientation with Committee members at the first meeting after Council's selection of the Committee, preparation and distribution of agendas, preparation and administration of the Committee's budget, and generally acting as a resource to the Committee.