



Over the next year the Tecumseh Heritage Committee will be shedding light on Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Act) and will explain the responsibilities of a municipality as it relates to creating and maintaining a listing of properties that it recognizes as having a cultural heritage interest or value. Once properties have been identified, they may move to the next stage to see if they qualify for Heritage Designation. While these lists are similar, they are also different, and over the next months, your Heritage Committee will help you understand the meaning, process and responsibilities of the Heritage Committee, Council and the Property Owner as it relates to the Act.

INTRODUCTION:

Every community in Ontario has its own unique culture and heritage.

Our cultural heritage is what we value from the past, and what we want to preserve for future generations.

Identifying and protecting places in our communities that have cultural heritage value is an important part of planning for the future, and helping to guide change while keeping the buildings, structures and landscapes that give each of our communities its unique identity.

Municipalities have a key role to play in conserving places that have cultural heritage value. The designation of individual properties under the Act is one tool that municipalities have used to protect thousands of heritage properties in hundreds of communities across Ontario.

HERITAGE DESIGNATION:

- RECOGNIZES the importance of a property to the local community;
- PROTECTS the property's cultural heritage value;
- ENCOURAGES good stewardship and conservation; and
- PROMOTES knowledge and understanding about the property.

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGNATION:

Designating Heritage Properties

Designation under the Act applies to real property and helps to recognize and protect the heritage features on that property.

Property designation is not limited to buildings or structures but can include groups of buildings, cemeteries, natural features, cultural landscapes or landscape features, ruins, archaeological and marine archaeological sites, or areas of archaeological potential.

Designation not only publicly recognizes and promotes awareness of heritage properties, it also provides a process for ensuring that changes to a heritage property are appropriately managed and that these changes respect the property's heritage value. This includes protection from demolition.

Designation Process:

There are **six key steps** to designating an individual property under section 29 of the Act, which include:

1. Identifying the property as a candidate for designation;
2. Researching and evaluating the property;
3. Serving Notice of Intention to Designate, with an opportunity for objection;
4. Passing and registering the designation bylaw;
5. Listing the property on the municipal register; and
6. Listing on the provincial register.

Once designated, the property is also eligible for listing on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

Please visit the Town of Tecumseh Heritage Committee News for the continuing installment of this series; next article will cover details of the 6 steps noted above.