



Municipal Heritage Committee

“Preserving Gravenhurst’s Past and Present for our Future”

2026 Committee Work Plan



The Municipal Heritage Committee’s Vision:

“Preserving Gravenhurst’s Past and Present for our Future”

Heritage resources add value, quality and diversity to our communities and need to be protected for the future. As our communities mature, our past shall not be lost to insensitive renovation or demolition, but rather retained as assets adding unique contributions to our future. The Town of Gravenhurst values its rich history, architecturally significant structures and cultural heritage values.

“Our heritage is more than a record of the past. It is the common ground that sustains our communities in a world of change, and anchors our sense of who we are. It is a source of inspiration and confidence about what we can achieve.”

– Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

2026 MHC WORK PLAN

ROLE	OBJECTIVES	GOAL
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT	Advise Council	Provide advice to Council regarding potential alterations or demolition on designated properties and potential demolition on listed properties, as well as any other Heritage related matters.
	Municipal Register	Update as needed. Provide details to Ontario Heritage Trust.
	Designation of Properties	Subject to Staff and Committee Obligations – Prepare material for Council to Designate Listed Properties
	Committee Education	Stay apprised of changing Provincial legislation. Participate in available Training Opportunities, including Indigenous Training.
PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS	Property Recognition	Prepare Education Information for various Recognition Options. Plaque up to Two (2) properties
	Ongoing promotion and website updates	Ongoing promotion in the form of updates to brochures, Heritage Designation Guide, rack cards, the Town’s website, articles and working with partner organizations.
	Built Heritage Awards	Heritage Recognition Working Group to review criteria for awards. Review recommended buildings. Awards to be distributed Summer 2026.
	Community Activities	Be available for Town Events (for example leading walking tours)
	Interpretive Signage	Working Group to work with Gravenhurst Archives and Town of Gravenhurst Economic Development Division to implement Heritage Signage Program
	Doors Open	Seek out new properties for potential 2027 Doors Open Event

2026 MHC WORK PLAN

SURVEY, INVENTORY, RESEARCH & DOCUMENT	Properties of Interest	Heritage Recognition Working Group to continue to review and evaluate properties.
	Continue to update Heritage Inventory	300+ buildings in inventory. More to be added as they are discovered.
	Mapping of Heritage properties	Continue to update available mapping Collect GPS coordinates through Heritage inventory. Work with Town Staff to map this data.
	MuskokaBuilt	Work with ACO Muskoka Branch to include Register information on their digital MuskokaBuilt platform.
MUNICIPAL REVIEW	Zoning By-law	Review and comment on proposed changes to Comprehensive Zoning By-law Comment on site specific planning applications, when appropriate.
	Official Plan	Review and comment on Official Plan policies.

“**Conserving cultural heritage** is closely linked to quality of life, sense of place and identification with the past, and contact and cooperation across cultures and age groups. **Engagement in cultural heritage** can foster a sense of belonging to a wider community, increasing social cohesion and a sense of inclusion. Access to **cultural heritage** also broadens opportunities for education and lifelong learning.”

– Government of Ontario