



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Heritage Markham Committee

**FROM:** Regan Hutcheson, Manager-Heritage Planning

**DATE:** January 10, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Studies/Projects  
**HERITAGE DAY AND HERITAGE WEEK 2024**

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**Heritage Day – February 19, 2024** (also Family Day in Ontario – a statutory holiday)  
**Heritage Week – February 19 – 25, 2024**

### **Background**

- See National Trust for Canada's info on the importance of Heritage Day/Week
- the Ontario Heritage Trust also invites Ontarians to celebrate **Heritage Week in Ontario** – to celebrate heritage in all its forms (cultural and natural, architectural, archaeological and collections), its diverse traditions and cultural expressions (see attached material).

### **Staff Comment**

- Staff suggests that Heritage Markham Committee may wish to create a small sub-committee to brainstorm/organize possible events or activities that committee may want to sponsor or undertake in February 2024.
- In the past, Heritage Markham has hosted an evening skating party at Cedarena, sponsored a heritage speaker and held a heritage window repair workshop.
- The Committee may wish to hold an education forum perhaps be ZOOM to allow questions and answers regarding heritage conservation initiatives in Markham
- Heritage Section staff plan to install a small heritage display in the Civic Centre for Heritage Week
- The City of Markham traditionally proclaims the week as Heritage Week in Markham and the Prince of Wales Prize flag is flown at the Markham Civic Centre for the week (see attached).

### **Suggested Recommendation for Heritage Markham**

That Heritage Markham receive the information on Heritage Day and Week 2024 as information;

That Heritage Markham supports the proclamation of Heritage Week in Markham (February 19-25, 2024) and the flying of the Prince of Wales Prize flag as the Markham Civic Centre for the week.

*(and if the Committee wishes...)*

That a Special Events Sub-Committee (Heritage Week 2024) be created to co-ordinate the planning of a program for Heritage Week 2024 consisting of the following Heritage Markham members:

- (list members)

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## Ontario Heritage Trust

### **In 2024, Heritage Week will occur from February 19-25.**

Each February, the Trust invites Ontarians to participate in Heritage Week in Ontario – to celebrate heritage in all its forms (cultural and natural, architectural, archaeological and collections), its diverse traditions and cultural expressions. Heritage Week provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals and communities to reflect on their contributions to Ontario, how heritage is conserved, promoted and commemorated, and how they might shape the future.

Since 1974, the third Monday every February has been identified as Heritage Day in Canada.

In 1985, the Ontario government designated the third week in February as Ontario Heritage Week, with the federal Heritage Day kicking off the week.

Many heritage organizations and municipalities have used Heritage Day and Ontario Heritage Week as vehicles to stimulate awareness of heritage resources and heritage-related issues within their communities, and to honour the organizations and volunteers who have worked to protect Ontario's irreplaceable heritage resources.

## National Trust for Canada

**Why celebrate Heritage Day?** Because Canada's collective story is told through our special places, whether they are historic lighthouses or schools, places of faith, industrial complexes, or cultural landscapes. Our shared heritage in all its forms has the power to create a sense of belonging.

Gathering places like town squares, and pow wow grounds, and cultural objects such as artifacts, regalia, and family memorabilia are tangible touchstones with the past that can root us in place and nourish the spirit. Intangible heritage – languages, traditional rituals, music, dance, storytelling, and more – is at the heart of family and community.

In celebration of our past and our future, we encourage all Canadians – young and old, deeply rooted or new to Canada – to celebrate our museums, historic sites, cultural landscapes and cultural centers, and connect with traditional knowledge keepers, educators, parents and grandparents to enjoy heritage on Heritage Day and beyond.

## History of Heritage Day

In 1973, as a brand-new charity and not-for-profit entity, the National Trust named Heritage Day – the third Monday in February – as a national focal point for celebrating Canada’s diverse heritage. Over the years, the Trust has worked with provincial heritage organizations and not-for-profits to set themes that we hoped would inspire local celebrations.

The National Trust for Canada continues to promote the celebration of Heritage Day nation-wide, and encourages governments and organizations to set themes that resonate for their part of the country. We invite you to contact your provincial/territorial heritage organization or provincial/territorial government department responsible for heritage to learn about regional plans for Heritage Day. Keep us posted on what you are up to, and don’t forget to use the hashtag **#HeritageDayCanada** so that we can amplify your activities on Social Media.

Every year, Heritage Day is the third Monday in February!