



MEMORANDUM

TO: Heritage Markham Committee

FROM: Regan Hutcheson, Manager-Heritage Planning

DATE: February 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Training / Conference
Ontario Heritage Conference – June 13-15, 2024, Gravenhurst

Purpose: To inform members of the upcoming conference.

Background

- Ontario Heritage Conference sponsored by Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) in cooperation with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) and the Ontario Association of Heritage Professional (OAHP) will be held on June 13-15, 2024 in Gravenhurst.
- See attached information on the Program being proposed for the Brockville conference.
- Registration Costs have not been posted yet: usually Full is \$250-275. The Thursday evening is a meet and greet with the conference beginning on the Friday morning and concluding Saturday afternoon.
- In past years, members of Heritage Markham have attended the conference and the City has paid for the registration, mileage and in some cases, overnight accommodation. Conference organizers indicated that due to demand for accommodation during this period in Gravenhurst, people wishing to attend are encouraged to book a hotel room by the end of February and then cancel if necessary.

Staff Comment

- The 2024 budget proposal for committee member attendance at workshops/training is \$2,000.
- If one or more members are interested in attending for one day or both days, the Committee should support the allocation of training funding in the recommendation. For example, the recommendation could be as follows:
 - THAT _____, be authorized to attend the Ontario Heritage Conference 2024 in Gravenhurst and be reimbursed for registration and mileage (and accommodation) to an upset limit of \$XXX from the Heritage Markham budget (Technical Workshops- Training for Volunteers).

Suggested Recommendation for Heritage Markham

THAT the information on the 2024 Ontario Heritage Conference be received as information.

Gravenhurst's Heritage Conference is full steam ahead

It's Full Steam Ahead for the Ontario Heritage Conference June 13-15, 2024.

With less than 6 months to this year's conference, things are heating up in Gravenhurst, despite the snow and cold temperatures in the past few weeks. The theme for 2024's Conference is "Community Embracing Heritage". The local organizing committee has been focusing on breaking down silos between the various parties who are passionate about heritage.

So frequently, we all get stuck in a familiar way of assessing, operating and organizing projects and forget that sometimes a shift in perspective can help break through mind blocks, open up the creative process and allow us to find solutions that were in front of us all along. This has inspired the local organizing committee to focus on breaking down silos between the various parties who are passionate about heritage.

Our goal for this conference is to shake up the traditional format and blend together learning while being



Telegraph on board the RMS Segwun, the oldest operating steamship in North America. (Photo courtesy the Town of Gravenhurst)

a tourist. Ever had an exciting webinar or session booked that lands on the first sunny day in months, and you are torn between attending the event and seizing the day - well why not be on a historic steamship sailing the lake, while hearing about and seeing actual heritage projects right in front of your eyes... yup, we are

doing that!

Or touring an adaptive reuse building while drinking a heritage-inspired beer and hearing about the heritage that has driven a state-of-the-art brewery to become a community hub...yup we're doing that too!

So what are some of the topics? How about: the Lifecycle of a Tree – from roots to roofs; Lost Airmen of Muskoka Project – far reaching impacts of war; Building for the Future – the 90s are retro now! There will be walking tours, a bus tour, a visit to our airport, panel discussions on development and debunking the myths of "Heritage", and of course, mapping tools and new technology topics too!

Join us on Thursday night at Sawdust City Brewery for our welcome reception! Sawdust City is a showcase for heritage adaptation as this former Canadian Tire building has been serving the community in its new capacity for over 10 years! Come early for dinner and then join us at 7 pm for the welcome recep-

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Inside the opera house, built in 1901. This building was adapted from a former town hall into a community hub. (Photo courtesy the Town of Gravenhurst)

Book Gravenhurst rooms, speaker spot in February

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tion and special live trivia session featuring local and provincial heritage questions, balanced with music and general knowledge questions. Fully accessible, ample parking and located centrally in Gravenhurst.

What's the catch?

Gravenhurst is a busy summer destination, so we don't want you to miss out on booking your accommodation now! We have created a handy website www.Gravenhurst.ca/HeritageConference where you can find all the hotel information, activities and attractions in the area, a sneak peek of the program and photos of the area.

We HIGHLY recommend that you book your hotel first as some preferred locations have limited room blocks held until the end of February. The accommodations listed on our site all offer flexible cancellation policies, in case plans change. The website also includes tips for other things to see and do while you're in town. Consider extending your stay and take advantage of your time in beautiful Gravenhurst, Muskoka. For some inspiration check out our video teaser that was presented at the conference in 2023 in London. Don't delay...head to the website, book your hotel. Conference registration will be open soon!

Some openings for speakers

Last but not least – we still have some openings for speakers. We are looking for architects interested in speaking about:

- ◆ Urban Design Guidelines: balancing current design with "heritage aesthetics"
- ◆ addressing sustainability and climate change through design and building
- ◆ insuring your heritage property appropriately
- ◆ conservation vs adaptation of heritage assets
- ◆ the economic benefit of heritage tourism

So if you have a great topic that will fit in, want to be part of a panel or would like to represent one of our partner organizations in a session, please let us know by February 29th. You can send your proposals or expressions of interest to Amy Taylor – amy.taylor@gravenhurst.ca