



MEMORANDUM

TO: Heritage Markham Committee

FROM: Regan Hutcheson, Manager-Heritage Planning

DATE: June 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Heritage Markham 50th Anniversary
October 28, 2025

Project: Heritage Markham Anniversary Celebration – 50th

Background:

- In 1975, the newly proclaimed Ontario Heritage Act encouraged municipalities to create local heritage advisory committees to assist in the conservation of the province's heritage resources.
- In Markham, a Local Architectural conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) was formed by Council on October 28, 1975.
- The first meeting of the Committee was held on November 17, 1975 at the municipal offices in Buttonville. The Committee consisted of six members of the community and an observer from the Society of the Preservation of Historic Thornhill (SPOHT).
- One of first actions of the new committee was to recommend that Council support the placing of plaques on buildings of significant heritage merit.
- By January 1976, six additional members were appointed to address the daunting amount of work including Inventory, Designation, Inspection and Negotiations.
- **October 28, 2025** will be a major milestone for the volunteer committee (which may be the longest serving advisory committee in the municipality)
- Previous celebrations:
 - **20th Anniversary** – Nov 15, 1995. Held at the Markham Civic Centre, events included the Presentation of Designation Plaques; staff presentation “A Reflection of 20 years of Heritage Conservation Accomplishments” (Regan Hutcheson); guest speaker Mike Filey (Heritage Columnist, Toronto Sun); refreshments/cake; and anniversary photo.
 - **25th Anniversary** – October 25, 2000. Held at the Markham Theatre, the evening included: presentation of the HM 25th Anniversary Awards (which in 2001 became the HM Awards of Excellence program); recognizing and awarding Markham as the first recipient of the Prince of Wales Prize including a video address by his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, the unveiling of the Prince of

Wales Banner and the Flag; greetings/congratulations from Heritage Canada; staff presentation “25 years of Heritage Markham” (Regan Hutcheson); refreshments and an anniversary photo of all current/former members and heritage staff.

- **30th Anniversary** – Nov 16, 2005 at the Markham Museum, Historic Baptist Church Building. Events included: presentation of the HM Awards of Excellence; staff presentation “30 Years of Preservation” (Regan Hutcheson); guest speaker Ken Hoyle- Urban designer/Landscape Architect (“Conserving and enhancing Landscape Character”); and refreshments.
- **40th Anniversary** – publication of a HM commemorative book called “*Heritage in Markham – Celebrating 40 years of Preservation Excellence*” (a total of 40 projects were highlighted from a long list of winners for HM Awards of Excellence). All former HM members, local heritage organizations and Markham Council attended a celebration event the Heintzman House with displays of former days; the “Top 10 Heritage Achievement Countdown” (Regan Hutcheson); release of the commemorative book; presentations; refreshments/cake; and anniversary photo of current/former members/heritage staff.

Status/ Staff Comment

- Heritage Markham members may wish to give some consideration as to an appropriate form of acknowledging the 50th anniversary of the committee. The type of project, event or celebration may also have budget implications which would need to be addressed in a HM recommended budget for 2025. It is suggested that \$2,000 be included in the 2025 HM Budget request at this time.
- Interested members should form a 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee to further explore potential opportunities. The Sub-Committee may wish to consider an invitation to specific former members who may be interested in assisting.
- 50th Anniversary Events could include: walking tours of key heritage areas; speaker series on heritage topics; heritage workshop; Photo Contest (favourite heritage site in Markham).

Suggested Recommendation for Heritage Markham

THAT a 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee be created to consider possible projects to celebrate this special anniversary consisting of the following Heritage Markham members:

- (list members)

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