



## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Heritage Markham Committee

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

**DATE:** December 11, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Heritage Markham 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (October 28, 2025)  
Sub-Committee Meeting

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**Project:** Heritage Markham Anniversary Celebration – 50<sup>th</sup>

**Background:**

- On June 12, 2024, the Committee recommended that preparation begin as soon as possible to ensure ample time to create a meaningful commemoration.
- Councillor Reid McAlpine confirmed that either himself or Councillor Karen Rea would participate in the 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee as well.
- The Committee passed the following motion:
  - THAT a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sub-Committee be created to consider possible projects to celebrate this special anniversary consisting of the following Heritage Markham members:
    - Lake Trevelyan
    - Tejinder Sidhu
    - David Butterworth
- In July 2024, Lake Trevelyan emphasized the importance of early planning for the 50 Year Anniversary of Heritage Markham, suggesting that the sub-committee begin meeting this September to ensure impact and awareness within the community. Councillor McAlpine agreed to schedule a kickoff meeting in September.

*Information Regarding Heritage Markham Committee*

- 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).

*Information on Previous celebrations:*

- **20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – October 25, 2000. Held at the Markham Theatre, the evening included: presentation of the HM 25<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **30<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **40<sup>th</sup> 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**

- The Committee should consider arranging a meeting date for some time in January 2025.

## **Suggested Recommendation for Heritage Markham**

THAT the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sub-Committee will meet on \_\_\_\_.

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