

3.0 HERITAGE

Since 1979, the City of Kamloops has actively encouraged the preservation of valuable heritage buildings and sites. That year, the City established the Kamloops Heritage Advisory Committee, now called the Kamloops Heritage Commission, to advise Council on matters pertaining to heritage. While some important heritage structures have been demolished since then, awareness of the importance of heritage buildings has grown considerably. There is now a substantial inventory of residential, commercial, and public structures that have been recognized as significant heritage resources.

Buildings and property that are officially designated by by-law must maintain certain standards of appearance and maintenance in order to protect their heritage value. Designation, heritage covenants, and heritage revitalization agreements provide legal, permanent protection of heritage resources. Ten buildings in Kamloops are legally protected heritage resources, including:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Original Owner/Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
118 Victoria Street	Bank of Commerce	1904
7 Seymour Street West	Court House	1909
245 St. Paul Street	Stuart Wood School	1907
5225 Yellowhead Highway	Seven-O-Ranch	1867
850 Lombard Street	Chinese Cemetery	1887
Columbia Street West	McIntosh Memorial	1932

<u>Address</u>	<u>Original Owner/Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
961 Lorne Street	Sheep Breeders Building	1929
159 Seymour Street	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	1887
500 Lorne Street	CNR Station	1926
405 Victoria Street	Plaza Hotel	1926

Heritage recognition, as opposed to designation, is a voluntary conservation program undertaken by the Kamloops Heritage Commission. It has no legal restrictions on construction materials or additions. In order to receive heritage recognition, however, the building must substantially retain its original appearance. There are currently over 55 properties which have received a heritage recognition plaque. The list of properties can be obtained from the Development and Engineering Services Department. Additional buildings and resources are expected to receive plaques as new applications are received from property owners.

Another mechanism to protect heritage resources is a Heritage Registry which will be developed by the City and the Kamloops Heritage Commission over the next five years. Properties in Kamloops will be evaluated to determine their historic significance. The Registry does not provide official protection of a site; however, it does provide City Council with additional protection measures for heritage properties as identified in the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

The City of Kamloops, through legislation established under the *Heritage Conservation Act* and the *Local Government Act*, is offering a Tax Incentive Program (TIP) to property owners to assist with the costs of preservation, restoration, and/or rehabilitation of an eligible Heritage Resource within the City of Kamloops. The Tax Incentive Program has evaluation criteria.

A Historic Buildings Inventory is also being developed to identify resources that have historical value.

Among recent accomplishments within the heritage field are the heritage protection for the CNR Station and the Plaza Hotel under Heritage Revitalization Agreements and relocation of the Wilson Street House to 115 Tranquille Road. In future, the Development and Engineering Services Department will work towards the creation and implementation of a heritage management plan.

The Kamloops Heritage Commission is working on several projects including the Heritage Recognition Plaque Program, hosting the annual heritage achievement awards reception, development of a heritage open house to coincide with Heritage Week, promoting Kamloops heritage through the use of publications and printed material, and working towards a public art program based on historic events, themes, or people such as the Overlanders statue in front of City Hall.

GOAL

- To preserve, enhance and promote the community's cultural heritage for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

Heritage Policies

- 3.1 The City will identify and conserve the community's cultural heritage through designation, recognition plaques, completing a Heritage Registry, and installing public art reflecting historically significant Kamloops events, themes, and residents.
- 3.2 The City will place \$20,000 per year in a Heritage Conservation Reserve Fund. City Council may use these funds to preserve, maintain, enhance, educate, and purchase the City's historic places. The Kamloops Heritage Commission will develop guidelines on how funds will be allocated. These guidelines will be adopted by City Council.
- 3.3 The City will initiate a Heritage Statue program by commissioning a statue each year for ten years. These statues will commemorate famous Kamloops residents or significant cultural and historical events from the City's history.
- 3.4 The City will continue to recognize historically significant heritage resources that should be preserved for the benefit of future generations through the Heritage Recognition Plaque program.
- 3.5 The City will work with the Kamloops Heritage Commission and other groups to develop a *Heritage Strategic Plan*. The aim of the plan will be to:
 - review and update the heritage resources inventory,
 - review the management of heritage resources and provide policy recommendations to the City which will guide the City's approach to heritage preservation, and
 - recommend to the City the best use of the tools provided for by Part 27 of the *Local Government Act*, including the possible creation of heritage conservation areas in the West End, downtown east, and South Shore neighbourhoods.
- 3.6 The City will, wherever possible, preserve heritage buildings in their original location. Where this is not possible and as a last resort, the City will encourage relocation and restoration in an appropriate alternative site.
- 3.7 The City will assist the Kamloops Heritage Commission on collaborating with cultural and heritage organizations in Kamloops to continue fostering open communications.

Section IV

Quality of Life

- 3.8 The City will retain the Tax Incentive Program and consider ways to promote and publicize this program.
- 3.9 The City and Kamloops Heritage Commission will pursue heritage education opportunities for all ages.
- 4.0 The City will support in principle the construction of a heritage railway museum in order to reclaim the cultural railway history of Kamloops and the surrounding region.