

Municipality of South Huron Heritage Advisory Committee

To: Members of South Huron Council

**Mayor Maureen Cole
Deputy Mayor: Dave Frayne
Councillors**

**Craig Hebert
Wayne DeLuca
Ted Oke
Marissa Vaughan
Tom Tomes**

Dan Best: Chief Administrative Officer Genevieve Scharback: Clerk

The South Huron Heritage Committee wishes to take this opportunity to respond to the comments made by Mayor Maureen Cole which appeared in the June 28th edition of the Exeter Times Advocate with respect to its role as a Committee of Council.

Since its inception in 2010, the Municipality of South Huron Heritage Committee has, in accordance to its mandate and as outlined in its Terms of Reference created an annual work plan to identify projects, the purpose of which are to promote and maintain the historical importance of those communities within the Municipality.

In the past seven years, the Committee has worked with two Councils and with Council's budgetary support, has seen a number of its proposed projects successfully completed. In addition to its own work priorities, the Heritage Committee has worked in partnership with Communities in Bloom, ArtaRound Town, the Exeter Business Improvement Association, the Exeter and District Heritage Foundation as well as other Huron County volunteer organizations in support of community initiatives hosted by the aforementioned. Two major heritage projects identified as priorities in the Heritage Committee's first four year mandate was the identification of century farms in the former townships of Usborne and Stephen. Partnering with the Huron County Junior Farmers and its "Century Farm Sign" project and the Exeter and District Heritage Foundation, an evening of celebration was held for those families who had a farm or farms in Usborne and Stephen wards that, when researched by the Heritage Committee, could be proven to have been owned by the same family for a century or longer. All who qualified were presented with a 'Certificate of Recognition' in appreciation by the Heritage Committee.

The year 2012 marked the 125th anniversary of the Olde Town Hall originally built in 1887 and a number of events were sponsored by the Heritage Committee throughout the year, some of which included:

- an invitation to the public to suggest names for the two meeting rooms in the town hall followed by an Open House to announce the room names Carling and Verity and to share the planned events for the 125th Town Hall celebrations;

-partnering with The Exeter and District Heritage Foundation, Communities in Bloom and the Exeter Legion for the creation of the Legacy Garden at the Public Library;

-hosting a 125th “Birthday Party” for the community with a re-enactment of the First Council Meeting of 1887. All public and separate elementary school students in South Huron were invited to create pictures, write poems, or tell a story of what their thoughts about what life in South Huron might have been like when the Town Hall was built;

-in October the final event to commemorate the Town Hall’s 125th was participation in Huron County’s “Doors Open”. Artifacts and memorabilia were on display in the newly-named “Verity Room” and both local residents and visitors to the event had an opportunity to learn about the area’s first settlements of Stephen and Osborne townships and the town of Exeter, all of which became the Municipality of South Huron in 2001.

Although much was accomplished in the Committee’s first 4 year term, some projects that had been included in its original work plan but not completed have been carried forward into the current term one of which is the “*Plaque Recognition Program*” the aim of which will be to identify those properties in the Municipality which are considered to be of historical significance with the research being undertaken by The Heritage Committee.

2017 is a year of celebrating this Country we call home and in May, the Heritage Committee held a very successful “Canada 150” event, specifically designed for elementary school aged children in South Huron. The event was high-lighted by the creation of a Time Capsule and the students in attendance were invited to place articles into the Capsule, which is to be opened on July 1st 2067 when Canada celebrates her 200th birthday!!!

The Committee has functioned according to the Terms of Reference since it was appointed in 2010 and again in 2014. To better perform its duties the Committee members have attended training sessions and sought assistance at times from the Huron County Cultural Development Officer who serves as a resource for the Committee when necessary. Each year in developing its work plan the Committee is guided by item 2.7 of its mandate: *the role of the Heritage Committee is “to advise and assist with the development and maintenance of an inventory of the Municipality’s heritage resources.”* This work plan is approved by Council. As well the Minutes of all Heritage Committee meetings are forwarded to Council for review and approval. The Committee takes seriously item 6.5 of its Mandate “ *to promote the heritage resources, architectural preservation and the role of the MOSHHC.*”

It is the sincere hope of the Heritage Committee that Council will continue to support the Committee's initiatives with a positive and collegial manner while keeping in mind its members are residents of South Huron and who believe in this Community and want to see its rich heritage preserved.

Thank you for your consideration of this correspondence.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laurie Dykstra Co-Chair

Marion Creery-Co-Chair

On behalf of the South Huron Heritage Advisory Committee.

September 26th, 2017