

Community Heritage Register



This brochure describes the Community Heritage Register, and explains what a listing on the Register means for affected property owners.

What is a Community Heritage Register?

A 'Register' is a list of properties that are formally recognized by a local government for their heritage value or character. It is a tool for understanding and managing our community's heritage resources, and for accessing heritage conservation and incentive tools enabled by the Local Government Act.

In November 2007, Council established the West Vancouver Community Heritage Register and recognized Hollyburn Lodge as the first heritage resource to be listed on the Register.

How was the 'Register' created?

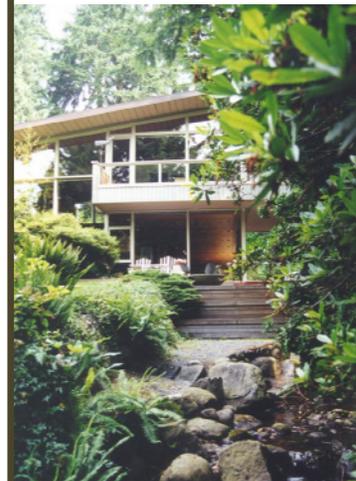
The preparation of a Community Heritage Register was approved by Council as the key implementation action of the Heritage Strategic Plan (adopted June 2006). Council appointed a citizens' Working Group to work with a heritage consultant and District staff to establish the framework and selection criteria for the Register; and to begin identifying and evaluating nominated resources for inclusion on the Register.

West Vancouver's existing heritage inventories provided a starting point for developing a list of nominations for the Register:

- West Vancouver Heritage Inventory (1988)
- Heritage Landscape Inventory (1988)
- Survey of Significant Architecture: 1945-1975 (1994)

Through a review and update of these documents, and submissions from the public, a list of 171 nominations to the Register was developed. All nominations were reviewed against the selection criteria (see page 3) and presented to Council for information in June 2008.

Council added 33 of the nominated resources to the Register at that time, and authorized District staff to consult with the owners of the 138 other nominated sites for their input.



What are the benefits to having the Heritage Value of your property formally recognized on the Register?

- The District of West Vancouver will be examining conservation and incentive tools within the Local Government Act and Community Charter to determine which are most appropriate or viable for encouraging conservation of West Vancouver's heritage resources. Properties listed on the Community Heritage Register would be eligible for consideration of possible District incentives for heritage conservation.
- Properties listed on the Community Heritage Register may also be eligible for access to senior government funding (e.g., planning, feasibility, or conservation work). However, much of this funding is currently limited to properties owned by public agencies and non-profit organizations; and for conservation of commercial heritage properties.
- In exchange for benefiting from these incentives, there would be an expectation of some form of legal protection of the property – e.g., via heritage designation or heritage revitalization agreement.
- Recognized heritage properties may be eligible for special provisions within the BC Building Code Heritage Building Supplement. These provisions allow for code equivalencies when current standards are not achievable or desirable.

Does a Listing on the Register affect what you can do with your property?

- A listing on the Community Heritage Register does not prevent the owner of the property from altering the property in accordance with existing laws, such as Zoning, BC Building Code, etc.
- A listing does allow the local government to invoke temporary protection measures if it was determined, by Council resolution, that a significant resource was threatened; but the intent of temporary protection is to provide an opportunity for discussion with the owner to see whether a conservation option might be viable.
- The decision whether to conserve, alter or demolish a property listed on the Community Heritage Register would be that of the property owner.



How are Resources selected for Nomination to the Register?

Types of Heritage Resources:

- Buildings
- Structures
- Groups of buildings or structures (*streetscapes, historic districts*)
- Landscape features (*trees, gardens*)
- Cultural landscapes
- Historical archaeological sites (*post-1846*)



Eligibility for Nomination:

- Eligible for listing on the Register, under Provincial legislation
- Association with West Vancouver's heritage should be direct and easy to understand
- Resource is at least 20 years old
- Resource is either on an existing inventory or has been nominated for inclusion by a community member
- A written statement of value, responding to the criteria listed above, is supplied with the nomination, or a Statement of Significance (see page 4) has been prepared
- The current condition respects the integrity of design
- The boundaries of the historic place have been clearly described

Criteria for Selection:

The selection criteria for additions to the Register are values-based (*the kind of value is shown in parentheses*):

- The place is closely and meaningfully associated with one or more heritage themes, events, periods of time, or traditions considered important in the history of West Vancouver. (*History*)
- The place is strongly associated with the life or work of a person or group of persons considered important in West Vancouver's history. (*History*)
- The place represents an exceptional creative achievement in design, planning, or technology valued in West Vancouver. (*Aesthetic*)
- The community, or a group within the community, is deeply attached to the place for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons. (*Social, Cultural, Spiritual*)
- The place, by virtue of its location, status, or some other element, serves to communicate the heritage of West Vancouver to a broad audience. (*Educational*)
- The place could yield important information/data that will contribute to understanding West Vancouver's past. (*Scientific, Educational*)
- The place is exceptional or rare (stands out for its difference) or it is very representative of a theme, type, period, or cultural tradition/way of living; i.e., it can educate about similar places. (*Educational, Scientific*)



What is a Statement of Significance?

A Statement of Significance (SOS) is a brief document which describes an historic place, defines its heritage value, and articulates its character-defining elements. An SOS provides a basis for understanding the significance of a particular resource, and would be used in guiding heritage conservation efforts, particularly in relation to the use of any municipal incentive tools.



To date, approximately 26 SOSs have been prepared for nominated and listed heritage resources. Additional SOSs will be prepared as time and resources become available, or on an as-needed basis.



How can I get more information?

For more information about the Community Heritage Register, please log onto www.westvancouver.ca/heritage or contact the West Vancouver Planning Department at 604.925.7055.

