



- Developing a Thematic Framework (*for understanding our diverse heritage resources*)
- Developing Selection Criteria for the Register
- Reviewing and updating existing building inventories
- Issuing a call for public nominations
- Developing a Nomination List of 171 heritage resources (*156 drawn from existing inventories, and 15 from public nominations*)
- Assisting with research and writing of Statements of Significance
- Participating in 15 Working Group meetings, and seven reports/presentations to Council

On June 9, 2008, Council adopted the selection criteria for the Register, received for information the list of 171 nominations, added 33 resources to the Register, and authorized staff to consult with the owners of the remaining 138 properties. Staff have now completed this work, and are reporting to Council on October 27, 2008 with recommendations for further additions to the Register, and a process for future Register updates. Staff will be reporting to Council later in the year on the status of Heritage Strategic Plan implementation, including priorities for 2009-2010.

## **2.0 THE 'WORKING GROUP' EXPERIENCE**

The process for the Community Heritage Register project was developed by District staff, who also secured project funding from the BC Heritage Branch. This was a unique project in that the key products of our contributions were embodied in a document prepared by a professional heritage consultant (Commonwealth).

The timing for this work largely driven by Provincial funding time-lines, which required substantial completion by March 31, 2008. Staff were able to negotiate an extension to May 30, 2008, with a report to Council on June 9, 2008. While our work on the project was technically completed at this point, staff had to undertake further consultation with property owners, before a final report and recommendations could be presented to Council.

On October 3, 2008, the Working Group reviewed the findings of that consultation process, and concurs with the staff recommendations outlined in the report from the Sr. Community Planner, dated October 17, 2008.

The Working Group model was well-suited to a 'project' such as the Community Heritage Register, which was clearly defined in scope and duration. During the tenure of this Working Group, our members also participated in the 2007 North Shore Heritage Weekend, and the 2008 Heritage Achievement Awards. These activities, however, require some kind of ongoing community engagement (as outlined below).

### **3.0 FUTURE REGISTER UPDATES**

The Community Heritage Register is a planning tool for understanding our heritage resources, and establishing eligibility for municipal conservation incentives and senior government funding.

The Working Group believes it will need to be updated on a regular basis – by adding further resources, and removing some which will inevitably be lost. The Working Group encourages Council to support annual reporting by staff on the status of the Heritage Register.

The Register itself is a 'list' of properties which are recognized for their heritage value or character. The other key planning tool is a Statement of Significance (or "S.O.S"). This document (which is explained in the staff report) describes a heritage resource, articulates its heritage value, and identifies its character-defining elements. It helps the community to understand the importance of its heritage resources, and is used by local government and property owners to guide conservation planning. Additional S.O.S.'s should be prepared as part of future Register updates.

### **4.0 HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN WEST VANCOUVER**

The District has made significant progress in heritage conservation over the past few years. Some major achievements include:

- An award-winning Heritage Strategic Plan
- A new Heritage Register, with 34 listed resources to date
- Highly acclaimed Museum exhibits and speakers' series
- The annual Heritage Achievement Awards program, which has honoured 75 individuals and groups since its inception in 1995
- Growing interest from property owners wishing to conserve their heritage properties

Some key challenges remain. There are a number of community heritage groups active in West Vancouver. These groups need to work together to ensure effective communication and co-ordination. This is needed to avoid duplication of efforts, potential conflicts and competition for limited funding and other resources.

For the District, continued implementation of the Heritage Strategic Plan is strongly encouraged and is discussed in Section 5.0.

## 5.0 STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

A number of recommended actions in the Heritage Strategic Plan were contingent on the establishment of the Community Heritage Register. Now that this work has been completed, we believe the following actions should be the next priorities for Plan implementation:

### 1. *Heritage Conservation Incentives:*

- a. Implement heritage incentives on a demonstration basis (*Heritage Strategic Plan Action 3.1*)
- b. Introduce 'non-monetary' incentives (*Heritage Strategic Plan Action 5.1*) e.g., zoning amendments, subdivision variances, parking relaxations, building code equivalencies, access to external funding, etc.
- c. Allow for accelerated consideration of conservation-related development proposals (*Heritage Strategic Plan Action 5.3*)

### 2. *District-Owned Resources and Internal Processes*

The District has made significant progress in the delivery of heritage-related awareness programs and special events, and in the stewardship of District-owned heritage resources. The exhibit and speakers' series at the Museum is highly acclaimed, as noted above, and the District's recent approach to Hollyburn Lodge and Gleneagles Golf Course are positive examples of embracing stewardship of District-owned heritage resources. The District is also working in partnership with the West Vancouver Historical Society to address conservation challenges at the Point Atkinson Lighthouse.

District staff is strongly encouraged to:

- a. use these examples to learn about what is working well and what requires further attention, both in terms of co-ordination and stewardship (*Heritage Strategic Plan Action 4.3*); and
- b. continue to produce heritage stewardship plans for District-owned heritage properties (*Heritage Strategic Plan Action 3.2*).

### 3. *Education and Awareness*

- a. Facilitate heritage workshops for District staff and Council on a regular basis (*Heritage Strategic Plan Action 6.4*)
  - b. Encourage and support festivals and special events that commemorate the diverse heritage of West Vancouver (*Heritage Strategic Plan Action 9.2*)
  - c. Facilitate communication and cooperation between community heritage groups (*Heritage Strategic Plan Action 10.3*)
- The Heritage Achievement Awards are an excellent opportunity to raise heritage awareness.

Date: October 17, 2008  
To: Mayor and Council  
From: Tom Wardell, Chair and Lori Cameron, Vice-Chair  
Re: **COMPLETION OF COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER PROJECT AND  
WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 'NEXT STEPS'**

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Page: 5

- A further opportunity for the District to raise heritage awareness, would be to encourage a 'heritage' presence at community events such as Community Day and the North Shore Heritage Weekend.

As noted in the staff report (October 27, 2008 Council agenda item), and previous presentations to Council, these and other Plan implementation actions would be eligible for Provincial funding through the BC Heritage Branch for consultant expertise. To date, these programs have paid part of the cost of developing West Vancouver's Heritage Strategic Plan, context planning, community workshops, and the Community Heritage Register.

## 6.0 FUTURE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Overall Heritage Issues

- We believe that some type of umbrella group or committee is necessary to better coordinate community efforts in conserving our heritage resources.

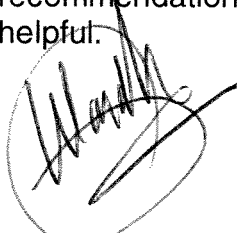
### Heritage Achievement Awards

- It would be ideal for a multi-year Working Group, drawing members from the many heritage groups in the community, to administer and promote the Heritage Achievement Awards program. Given that the Heritage Achievement Awards are to be presented in February 2009, we strongly recommend that an Awards Committee be struck as soon as possible. In the interest of time, members of our current Working Group have indicated that they would be interested in serving in such a capacity.

### Defined Implementation Actions

- The concept of project-specific working groups is an excellent engagement tool for clearly-defined implementation actions. The composition of any future working group should include individuals with particular skills and experience related to the task(s) at hand.

On behalf of the Heritage Working Group, we hope this memorandum provides Council with a thorough assessment of our experience on this project, and that you will find our recommendations for Plan implementation priorities and future community engagement helpful.



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Tom Wardell, Chair



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Lori Cameron, Vice-Chair

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