

## Heritage Sub Committee Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Monday, February 24, 2025  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives  
 286 King St, Port Colborne, ON L3K 4H2

**Pages**

- |     |   |  |    |
|-----|---|--|----|
| 1.  | Call to Order   |  |    |
| 2.  | Adoption of the Agenda                                  |  |    |
| 3.  | Disclosures of Interest                                 |  |    |
| 4.  | Approval of Minutes                                     |  |    |
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| 5.  | Staff Updates   |  |    |
| 5.1 | Heritage Week (February 17-23, 2025)                    |  | 5  |
| 5.2 | Firelane 2 Pillars                                      |  |    |
| 6.  | Order of Business                                       |  |    |
| 6.1 | Former INCO Recreation Hall Heritage Research Report    |  | 8  |
| 6.2 | Draft Alternative Notice Policy                         |  | 14 |
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| 7.  | New Business  |  |    |
| 8.  | Adjournment   |  |    |

## Heritage Sub Committee Meeting

**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2025  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives  
286 King St, Port Colborne, ON L3K 4H2

Members Present: Cheryl MacMillan  
Jeffrey Piniak  
Gary Hoyle  
Joseph (Luke) Brazeau  
Bonnie Schneider  
Micheal Healy (from Museum Board)

Staff Present: Stephanie Powell Baswick, Director of Museum and Culture  
Steve Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works  
Diana Vasu, Planner  
Michelle Vosburgh, Archivist  
Laura Blain, Project Manager – Facilities

### 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

**Moved By** Gary Hoyle

**Seconded By** Cheryl MacMillan

That the Heritage Subcommittee agenda dated January 20, 2025, be adopted as amended.

**Carried**

### 3. Disclosures of Interest

### 4. Approval of Minutes

#### 4.1 October 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**Moved By** Bonnie Schneider  
**Seconded By** Cheryl MacMillan

That the minutes of the October 15, 2024, Heritage Subcommittee meeting be approved as presented.

**Carried**

## **5. Staff Updates**

### **5.1 Progress on Heritage Policies**

The Planner advised that an Alternative Notice Policy for designating heritage properties is forthcoming, with the advice of the Committee included, then advised that the Finance Department confirmed there is no budget available for heritage designations. The Planner noted that notice of the forthcoming policy can be placed in the print newspaper to inform residents of the upcoming change of notification methods, and requested additional feedback regarding the best ways to ensure appropriate public engagement in the Alternative Notice Policy.

Member MacMillan suggested posting required notices on the City's social media channels.

The Director of Public Works suggested notice of the Alternative Notice Policy could be included with tax/water bills.

The Director of Museum and Culture suggested preparing a 2025 tactical plan could assist in requesting additional funding from Council to support designating heritage properties using print newspapers, if required.

### **5.2 2024 Meeting Summary**

The Heritage Subcommittee requested that a 2025 meeting schedule be prepared, then noted the next meeting would be on February 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the L. R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives (286 King Street, Port Colborne).

### **5.3 Process for Heritage Property Designation and Heritage Conservation District Establishment**

Member MacMillan suggested that, if the City were to consider establishing a Heritage Conservation District on West Street, the property owners should be polled before beginning the process to confirm their support.

Member Schneider suggested that, if the City were to consider establishing a Heritage Conservation District on West Street, this project should wait until after 2027 to allow the heritage designation project to be completed first.

## **6. Order of Business**

### **6.1 Updated Heritage Register**

The Planner presented an updated Heritage Register to the Heritage Subcommittee, noting that no information on the previous Register was removed, just reformatted for clarity. The Planner then requested assistance in identifying any data entry errors which may have arisen over the years.

The Archivist and the Archives Assistant offered their support in finding any data entry errors.

#### **6.1.1 Listed and Ranked Heritage Properties**

#### **6.1.2 Designated Heritage Properties**

#### **6.1.3 Clarification of Data on Listed Properties**

### **6.2 Humberstone Township Hall - Proposed Redevelopment**

The Director of Public Works and Laura Blain, the Project Manager - Facilities, provided a presentation on the proposed redevelopment of 76 Main Street West, the old Humberstone Township Hall, into a childcare facility.

The Archivist provided a brief overview of the history of the property.

The Heritage Subcommittee emphasized their desire to protect the heritage features of the property, but noted their preliminary support of the proposal, subject to the redesign protecting the heritage features.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Firelane 2 Pillars**

The Heritage Subcommittee requested further information on when Public Works would be addressing the deterioration of the pillars at the easternmost point of Firelane 2.

The Director of Public Works confirmed that a site visit would be scheduled with the new Fire Chief, and that an update on the status of the

pillars would be provided at the next meeting of the Heritage Subcommittee.

**7.2 Tennessee Gates Update**

The Director of Public Works confirmed that the Tennessee Gates project was completed.

**8. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m.

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Chair

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Staff Liaison

PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM

# 2025 HERITAGE WEEK

Click and Connect



## PORT COLBORNE

February 11, 2025

Mover Councillor Beauregard  
Seconder Councillor Aquilina

**WHEREAS** the third week of February marks Heritage Week, in which we celebrate Heritage in all its forms (cultural and natural, architectural, archaeological, and collections) and its diverse traditions and cultural expressions; and

**WHEREAS** Heritage Week provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals and communities to reflect on their contributions to Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** how heritage is conserved, promoted, and commemorated, and how they might shape the future; and

**WHEREAS** During Heritage Week 2025, the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum will be celebrating the theme of 'Click and Connect' by highlighting the different ways history can be digitized. Join us all week to explore online exhibitions, access new databases, and watch new heritage videos on local history.

**NOW THEREFORE I**, Deputy Mayor Ron Bodner, do hereby proclaim February 17th – 23rd, 2025 as "Heritage Week" in Port Colborne.



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Ron Bodner  
Deputy Mayor

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## Heritage Week 2025 Resources

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From Meghan Chamberlain <Meghan.Chamberlain@portcolborne.ca>

Date Tue 2/18/2025 1:55 PM

To Diana Vasu <Diana.Vasu@portcolborne.ca>

 2 attachments (674 KB)

Heritage Week 2025 Proclamation.pdf; Heritage Week 2025 Graphic.jpg;

Hi Diana,

Here are the resources that will be shared for Heritage Week. Below are links to the online exhibits featured on our website, the Museum's new online collections database, and a new video featured on the Museum's YouTube channel following the property history of Steele St. Public School.

- [Online Museum Exhibits](#)
- [Online Collections Database](#)
- [Building History: Reports on Port Colborne's Architectural Legacy](#)

I have also included the proclamation for Heritage Week 2025 and the graphic we are using across our platforms. This year we are focusing on the theme of *Click and Connect* by highlighting the different ways history can be digitized.

If you need anything else, just let me know!

Thank you,  
Meghan



**PORT COLBORNE**



[www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca)

**Meghan Chamberlain**  
**Community Engagement Coordinator**  
**City of Port Colborne**

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## Heritage Research Report Inco Recreation Hall

189 Davis St.

Part Lot 26 Concession 1 Humberstone Township

### Architectural Features:

The former International Nickel Company Recreation Hall sits on the northeast corner of Nickel and Davis Streets (now 189 Davis St.). The oldest and original part of the building faces south onto Nickel Street, and was built in 1918 as a residence first for the construction workers who were building the plant, and then, once construction on the plant was completed, it became the mechanics' boarding house.<sup>1</sup> This original portion is a two-storey structure built of red-brown brick, with east and west wings, and a raised basement. It has a symmetrical, nine-bay façade with six over six-paned windows, which all appear to be original and intact, and features a central window on the second storey with narrow, four over four-paned sidelights. The five-paned transom window over the front door is also still intact. The window lintels and sills on the first storey appear to be made of terra cotta tile, a line of which also serves visually to distinguish the basement from the first and second storeys. A single, decorative band of vertical brick runs horizontally around the building under the second-storey windows, and there is brick quoining on the corners of both the main portion of the building and its wings (making eight quoined corners altogether).

The entryway incorporates an element of Edwardian Classicism into the building's architecture, with a prominent lintel sitting upon squared terra cotta pilasters on either side of the doorway. The lintel piece seems to be relatively intact, although it is partially hidden by a porch covering that was a later addition (See Appendix 1). The symmetrical façade and window style are reminiscent of the Georgian style of a century earlier, yet the dark brick gives the building a decidedly Arts and Crafts appearance. There is even a touch of the Italianate style in the form of the long, overhanging eaves and dentilled soffit (the dentils have since been removed). This building represents an amalgamation of architectural styles, which was one of the hallmarks of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The rear (northern) portion of the building was built and opened in 1937, marking the beginning of its use as the Inco Recreation Club. Although the addition is significantly larger than the original portion of the building, its design was unobtrusive, and in keeping with the look of the original building; it does not interfere at all with the original façade. The decorative brick quoins of the original are echoed in the brickwork along the walls of the addition, though the brick itself is reddish in colour, not red-brown like that of the original building. The horizontal line of terra cotta tile is also continued at the same height as that on the older portion.

The main portion of the extension, on the west side, served as a gymnasium and auditorium. It is two storeys, with mainly slot windows under the eaves, and one second storey window on the

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<sup>1</sup> *Construction*, published by H. Gagnier Ltd., February 1919, Volume XII No. 2. pp.56-59.

east side. The eastern portion of the extension, which held the bowling alley, is one storey, also has just one window, and has a door featuring sidelights and transom window. All these features are in keeping with the style of the original building as closely as possible.

### **History:**

After two years of planning and construction, the International Nickel Company of Canada opened its Port Colborne refinery in 1918. The construction, and presumably the architectural design, too, was carried out by the Foundation Company. The first buildings to be erected within this planned industrial complex were two lodging houses: one, on the north side of Nickel St. (189 Davis St.), for the engineers and technicians working on the plant's construction, and the other, on the south side of Nickel St., for company executives. At this time, Port Colborne did not have boarding houses of the scale required for the large influx of people that the building of the plant occasioned, and the construction and architectural detail of these lodging houses speak to the grandeur of the project that was being undertaken. As mentioned above, once the plant opened in 1918, the boarding house on the north side of Nickel St. continued as the mechanics' boarding house; the lodging on the south side of the street became the superintendents' club house. The buildings were heated by steam, which was fed underground from the main plant.

As noted above, construction on the addition to 189 Davis St. began in July of 1937, and the Recreation Club opened to the public in December of the same year. The mechanics' lodging house was renovated and incorporated into a Recreation Club for Inco employees and their families, and for the larger community. The opening of this recreation facility coincided with the creation of Inco's Employee Welfare Association, and a similar facility was opened at the Sudbury plant around the same time. The former lodging house now held the club's kitchen, reading and reception rooms, and women's locker and shower rooms on the first floor, while the second floor held the lobby, the men's locker and shower rooms, and a billiard room. The new addition featured a 96' x 60' "aud-gym", for the purpose of hosting both athletics, including badminton, volleyball, basketball, tennis, and golf (with a one-storey "annex" for bowling); as well as entertainment in the form of concerts, dances, the Port Colborne Festival of Music, Port Colborne High School theatrical productions, Port Colborne Operatic Society's productions, etc. (See Appendix 3). The building additionally served the community by hosting events such as political debates and blood donation clinics.<sup>2</sup> In 1989, Inco donated the building to Christianview, and it continued to be used as a place to serve the community as a "drop-in centre, soup kitchen, and meeting place" (*Inco Triangle*, December 1993).

### **Architectural and Historical Significance:**

The Foundation Company was a construction firm which had a great impact on Canada's built landscape. The company was founded in New York in 1902, and this is an example of their work within their first decade of operations in Canada, before the official Canadian subsidiary was

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<sup>2</sup> For information, consult the Inco Recreation Hall file in the L.R. Wilson Archives' Local History files

formed in 1924, at which point it became the Foundation Company of Canada Limited. The company has since undergone several acquisitions and amalgamations, and is today a part of Aecon Group Inc. During the First World War, they hired many immigrants, particularly from eastern Europe. Despite the worker shortage in wartime Canada, war industries were reluctant to hire so-called “enemy aliens,” immigrants from nations which Canada was at war with, so many of these men ended up in construction work; and once the Inco facilities were completed, many of those workers transitioned into jobs with International Nickel. The company’s hiring practices for plant personnel continued to favour ethnic and linguistic minorities for many years, creating a vibrant and ethnically-diverse community in Port Colborne.

Inco’s Recreation Hall is also significant in its greater physical context, as part of a complex of buildings which represented the company’s influence and importance, including the company’s main administration building, right at the main entrance to the plant. Though the administration building, the mechanics’ boarding house, and the club house are all slightly different, there are architectural similarities present that create a visual unity between the three. Each is a two-storey building that features a symmetrical façade, and each has a unique, yet similarly monumental entryway, though that on the administration building is grandest, incorporating the window above on the second storey into its frame. The administrative building is further distinguished from the former residential buildings by its flat roof, which serves to align it aesthetically with the factory buildings as well. Of the three buildings discussed, the former recreation hall is the only one to retain its original windows.

The Inco Recreation Hall holds a great deal of historical and cultural significance in Port Colborne. The Recreation Hall, its facilities, and its activities was a central part of International Nickel’s corporate welfare initiatives at the Port Colborne refinery to maintain good employee and community relations. The Recreation Hall occupied a prominent site within the refinery’s extensive complex, across from the main administration building, and adjacent to the main entrance, offering visibility and easy access, especially for Port Colborne’s working-class community which surrounded the plant. During the Second World War, the hall hosted blood donor drives, first aid training, and fundraising activities for Canada’s war effort. The recreation hall was a central gathering place, not just for the refinery workers and their families, but for the whole community, most notably Port Colborne’s working classes, and a gathering place for the east side neighbourhood.

**Appendix 1** – Photograph, ca. 1917, from the collection of M. Hili, scanned 2025



**Appendix 2 – PCHMM 992.16.133**



**Description:**

Photograph of Nickel St. ca. 1919. Left: Mechanics' Boarding House; Centre: General Office; Right: Superintendents' Club House

**Appendix 3 – 2015.3.23**



**Circa:** 1946

**Description:**

Photograph of the cast of the Port Colborne Operatic Society's production of H.M.S. Pinafore in 1945-1946 on the stage at the Inco Recreation Hall. The performance was part of the annual production done at the INCO Recreation Hall. Mr. Raymond Coghlin is listed as the director of this show.

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## **1. Policy statement**

The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne (the City) values and encourages public engagement and is committed to facilitating an ongoing dialogue with community members to develop and deliver service to support the needs of the community. The City supports the use of online communications to promote open, inclusive communications, the conservation of cultural heritage, and environmental sustainability, in accordance with City policies and procedures. This policy will facilitate a more cost-effective designation process, while still allowing for traditional means of providing notice if considered appropriate by City staff.

## **2. Purpose**

The objective of this policy is to establish an alternative method for the City to provide public notice required under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA) by publishing notices on the City website, whereas currently these public notices are published in the local newspaper. This policy aids to provide timely, clear, and accessible communication that is fiscally and environmentally sustainable.

## **3. Policy**

When required under the OHA, the City will provide public notice on the City's corporate website, [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca).

This policy applies to all City staff who provide public notice in accordance with the OHA. All notices published in accordance with the OHA must adhere to all municipal policies.

In addition to public notice, the OHA requires notices to be sent to the Ontario Heritage Trust and to owners of property that is subject to a decision made under the OHA. This policy does not apply to those requirements, and they remain in effect.

Public notice required under the OHA may still be given in the local newspaper, in addition to the website and the City's social media channels, if considered by staff to be beneficial and appropriate.

## **References**

*Ontario Municipal Act*, section 270 (1)

*Ontario Heritage Act*, section 26 (4)

*Ontario Heritage Act*, section 39.1 (3)



**To:** Port Colborne Heritage Subcommittee  
**From:** Diana Vasu, Planner  
**Date:** February 19, 2025  
**Re:** Draft 2025 Tactical Plan

The following tactical plan has been prepared to guide the Heritage Subcommittee's efforts for the remainder of 2025. Planning staff encourage feedback on this plan to ensure the goals of the Committee are accurately aligned with the efforts of Planning staff.

**Legend**

**Goal #:** What is the Committees Goal?

**Objective:** Provide Goal description.

**Activities:** How is the Committee going to accomplish the chosen objective?

**Who is responsible?:** Who will be responsible for the activities?

**Timeline:** When will the activities begin and end?

**Expected Outcome:** What are the Committee's desired results?

**Evaluation:** How is the Committee going to measure the outcomes?

**Budget Impact:** What funds will be required for this activity?

**Goal #1: Alternative Notice Policy**

<b>Objective</b>	Pass an Alternative Notice Policy to assist with heritage designations
<b>Activities</b>	The Committee will review the draft policy and provide feedback
<b>Who is Responsible?</b>	Planning staff and Heritage members
<b>Timeline</b>	Draft policy is anticipated to be brought to Council on March 11, 2025; final policy is anticipated to be brought to Council for approval on April 8, 2025
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	Allow more properties to be designated under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> (OHA) in a more cost and time effective manner
<b>Evaluation</b>	Alternative Notice Policy approved by Council
<b>Budget Impact</b>	N/A if policy is approved; TBD if policy is not approved



## Goal #2: Designate Key Heritage Properties

<b>Objective</b>	Designate the 14 properties listed on the Heritage Register, as per the Heritage Committee's direction: 736 Pinecrest Road, 5222 Second Concession Road, 48 and 50 Neff Street, 44 King Street, 599 King Street, 55 Charlotte Street, 123 King Street, 19 Tennessee Ave, 5446 Sherkston Road and 825 Pleasant Beach Road, 214 Steele Street (210 Steele on the Heritage Register), 115 Kent Street, 172 King Street, 143 King Street, and 83 Tennessee Avenue
<b>Activities</b>	Designate each property as provided for under the OHA
<b>Who is Responsible?</b>	Planning staff
<b>Timeline</b>	Must be completed before January 1, 2027
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	14 new properties designated under the OHA
<b>Evaluation</b>	All identified properties get designated before 2027
<b>Budget Impact</b>	TBD based on whether Alternative Notice Policy is approved

## Goal #3: Continue Reviewing Heritage Register

<b>Objective</b>	Continue reviewing properties on the Heritage Register to confirm whether any further properties should be designated
<b>Activities</b>	Committee members will review Heritage Register and recommend revisions to Planning staff
<b>Who is Responsible?</b>	Heritage members and Planning staff
<b>Timeline</b>	Should be completed by Q3 2026 at the latest to allow enough time for designating additional properties, if applicable
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	The conservation of additional properties with cultural heritage value
<b>Evaluation</b>	An updated Heritage Register and potentially more designated properties
<b>Budget Impact</b>	TBD based on whether Alternative Notice Policy is approved and if any additional properties are recommended for designation

### Questions to guide discussion:

- Should additional goals be established for 2025?
- Are the responsibilities for each goal appropriate?
- Are there additional metrics that should be tracked to measure success?
- Should additional key dates be added to the timelines?

Any additional comments will be incorporated into the February 24, 2025, Heritage Subcommittee meeting minutes.