

Built Heritage Preservation

In Kawartha Lakes

The towns, villages, and rural landscapes that make up Kawartha Lakes have their own unique history and heritage that makes them special places to live, visit and work. Our historic buildings are an important part of our identity and integral parts of the history and everyday life of our communities. Built heritage preservation celebrates and protects our heritage so that our communities remain the special places that we cherish and love.



There are many ways that Kawartha Lakes can protect its heritage properties. The municipality works with owners to create long term strategies for ensuring that our heritage is protected. These tools exist through the Ontario Heritage Act which provides a framework for protecting our heritage. Using these tools, we can ensure the conservation of important properties for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Heritage Designation

Properties can be designated as individual properties if they qualify using specific criteria under the Heritage Act which evaluate architectural characteristics, historical associations, and contextual value of the property. Properties are protected by a by-law passed by Council. The goal of designation is to manage change so that our cherished buildings remain an important part of our community. Alterations, additions and changes that are compatible with a property's heritage character can still be made to make sure that our heritage buildings are usable and functional while still maintaining their historic appeal.

What's the benefit?

Designation recognizes the historic value of a property and celebrates its importance in the community.

Designated properties are also shown to hold their value as well or better than non-designated properties.

There are financial incentive programs available through the municipality to help with conservation and restoration projects.

A bronze plaque is created for each property to celebrate its significance.



Heritage Conservation Districts

Heritage conservation districts (HCDs) are areas comprised of a group of buildings or structures or a cohesive landscape which merits designation as a whole because of shared heritage features. Districts can be found in both urban and rural environments and can consist of main streets, residential areas, hamlets, or rural landscapes. They are managed by a Heritage Conservation District plan which provide guidelines for the growth and development of these areas with the aim to maintain the heritage character of an area while still allowing them to grow, flourish and be real, livable spaces for our communities.

Kawartha Lakes has two heritage conservation districts: Downtown Lindsay and Oak Street, Fenelon Falls. These areas both have important historic character that makes them unique and is worth preserving. There are many other areas in Kawartha Lakes worthy of district designation.

Listing

Listed properties are properties that are identified by the municipality as having heritage value, but are not designated. These properties aren't managed by the municipality and there are no restrictions on alterations or changes to a property, even if those changes compromise its heritage character. Listing is intended to provide interim protection for a property if it is proposed for demolition.

Owners of listed properties must provide 60 days notice to the municipality if they wish to demolish their property. This allows the municipality to assess the property and decide if additional heritage protection is warranted.

Listed properties are not eligible for the same financial incentive programs as designated properties because they are not expected to be managed to the same heritage standard.



If you are interested in heritage preservation in Kawartha Lakes or would like more information about protecting your property, contact:

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