



2022 ANNUAL REPORT
ATTACHMENT 1: ACTIVITIES

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EDMONTON HISTORICAL BOARD

MANDATE:

TO ADVISE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS RELATING TO CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORICAL ISSUES AND CIVIC HERITAGE POLICIES. TO ENCOURAGE, PROMOTE, AND ADVOCATE FOR THE PRESERVATION AND SAFEGUARDING OF HISTORICAL PROPERTIES, RESOURCES, COMMUNITIES, AND DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE.

MISSION:

In particular, the Board will undertake the following activities in fulfilment of its purpose:

- publicly acknowledge the efforts of individuals and groups who have:
 - worked towards the preservation and promotion of Edmonton's history or significant historical issues; or
 - made significant contributions to the historical development of Edmonton;
- provide advice to increase public awareness of the history of Edmonton through education or promotion;
- on behalf of the City, and with the approval of the City Manager, the Board may apply for and receive grants from foundations and other orders of government to carry out specific projects

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Mayor Sohi, Councillors, and Citizens of Edmonton,

On behalf of the **Edmonton Historical Board**, I am pleased to submit our **2022 Annual Report**, as approved by the Board on February 22, 2023. Included in the report, you'll find a summary of this past year's activities of the Board and our work to deliver on our mandate to promote and advocate for the preservation of Edmonton's heritage.

The Edmonton Historical Board (EHB) was established as a Council Committee under the Edmonton Historical Board Bylaw (Bylaw 13601). The bylaw defines the Board's mandate as "...[to] advise Council on historical issues and heritage policy; and to encourage, promote, and advocate for the preservation and safeguarding of historical properties, resources, communities, and documentary heritage." The EHB has a strong connection to the history of this city. The Board's timeline stretches back to 1947 with the creation of the Archives & Landmarks Committee then renamed the Edmonton Historical Board in 1966. In our 75-year history, we have been at the forefront of preserving the history and memories of our city. From the first register of historic resources in 1984 to the present, the City has now identified over 1000 historic properties, landmarks, and features across the city, and has protected over 160 Municipal Historic Resources. For our part, the Board has been pleased to support this process, recommending unique properties for the Inventory of Historic Resources, those then becoming eligible for designation as Municipal Historic Resources. While our focus on conservation only grows with the passage of time, the pressures threatening the conservation of heritage resources remain the same.

This was the second year since the re-organization of the Board's committees and their areas of focus. This streamlining of work is realizing success with an enhanced emphasis on Council's mandate for the

Board to provide advice on historical issues and the city's built heritage. In my view one of our main challenges this year has been the fact that the entire Board including myself as Chair are relatively new at their positions. Most of the Board started their appointments in 2021 in the deepest part of the pandemic. We have only met once or twice in person but many times virtually. We now have a better understanding of the issues, the processes that we utilize, the challenges that we face and the opportunities in front of us. The Board is mindful of the vast diversity of stories and heritage that are woven through thousands of years of history in Edmonton. Over the past several years we have taken several positive steps forward, including engagement with the broader community and experts to provide us with advice and meaningful recommendations on the path forward. In this past year, our sub-committees have worked diligently to meet our mandate. We continue to build our relationship with Council, Administration and heritage partners including the Edmonton Heritage Council and Edmonton & District Historical Society. I am particularly excited about our Planning and Policy Committee's work on the relationship between preservation of built heritage and climate change action, through a jurisdictional scan of existing literature and the preparation of a draft information guide that would be shared with City Council. I am also excited to further our work on a Social Media Plan to assist us in sharing information on Edmonton's historical properties.

...continued

In the coming year, we expect to refine our processes and structure, create new pathways for citizen engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, and launch several initiatives to better support and advise Council on the conservation of Edmonton's heritage. Our heritage is our legacy. Protecting that legacy is our responsibility to you and the citizens of Edmonton. I thank my Board colleagues for their dedication to this task, and as always, we look forward to future engagement with you to fulfill that mandate.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rees', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Rees
Chair, Edmonton Historical Board

2022-23 TERM HIGHLIGHTS

6

Meetings with Council

200 +

Volunteer hours

2

Letters to Council

11

Inventory of Historic
Resources Additions

8

Municipal Historic
Resource Designations

2022 Designations



Sheldon Power Residence



Canada Permanent Building



St. Luke's Anglican Church

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

HISTORIC PLAQUES COMMITTEE

The work of the Historic Plaques Committee within the Edmonton Historical Board is year round. The committee oversees the creation of plaques for historic resources that have been preserved in the city, as well as maintaining the “Edmonton’s Architectural Heritage” (EAH) website.

This year, the committee coordinated the creation of six plaques for designated buildings and locations. We also reviewed two applications and approved one. In total we wrote seven plaques.

We updated some text on the EAH website on some public feedback. The committee also added a contact form, following the suggestion of Rob Houle, who in 2020 completed a website evaluation for us.

As part of our mandate to make Edmonton’s history accessible to all citizens, the Board decided to have a plaque presentation in conjunction with *Open Doors Edmonton* and District Historical Society later in 2023. This presentation will include information on how to designate a historic house, as well as recognize sites not formally presented over the past few years because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Board continues its ongoing discussions with City Administration on the appropriate avenue to transition the Recognition Awards program, to ensure recognition of the many dedicated and long-standing volunteers working to encourage, promote, and advocate for Edmonton’s built and documentary heritage.

Some of the sites recognized over the past few years include:



Edmonton Incline Railway



Griffith Residence



Harbin Gate



Delton Grocery

POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2022-2023 EHB term was the second for the Policy and Planning Committee, which has spent this term focusing on how the preservation of built heritage can help combat climate change. This topic was determined to be the focus at the end of the 2021-2022 EHB term, as the Committee noted its importance in advancing the heritage preservation effort in the City of Edmonton. Building on work undertaken during the previous term, the Committee further explored how preserving built heritage is a form of climate action, through a jurisdictional scan of existing literature and the preparation of a draft information guide that would be shared with City Council. The guide's intent is to introduce the importance of built heritage and climate change, explain the impacts of building construction on climate change, identify the benefits of heritage preservation holistically, draw links between heritage preservation and climate action and provide actions that can be taken to advance heritage preservation efforts as a form of climate action. The remainder of the 2022-2023 term will be spent finalizing the information guide prior to sharing with City Council for information.

The Committee has continued to monitor upcoming rezoning applications for any that could impact built heritage and prepared briefings to Council outlining the EHB's position on rezoning applications that would have an adverse impact on built heritage. Monitoring of planned work on bridges with historical significance in Edmonton has also been underway this term to ensure the EHB is aware of any projects that would impact the bridges' historic significance. The Committee attended an engagement on the replacement of the Latta Bridge early in the term and provided advice

to the project team. Briefing notes were prepared throughout the term that explored the impacts of provincial legislation on heritage preservation, requested the City of Edmonton to designate a City-owned heritage home to avoid demolition and recommended priorities for heritage work in the City's 2023-2026 Operating Budget. These briefing notes were prepared by the Committee and shared with the EHB, the latter two which were forwarded to City Council for information.

HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW PANEL (HRRP)

2022 IN REVIEW

The Historic Resources Review Panel (HRRP) actively identified potentially viable properties for review and recommendation onto the Inventory of Historic Resources. Aiding in this process is a dedicated and diverse body of individuals, chiefly City of Edmonton Heritage Planners David Johnston, and Scott Ashe, alongside graduate planner Jared Althouse. City Archivist Kathryn Ivany provides invaluable support, as do other staff members at the Archives, members of the EHB, community members at large, historians, architects, and advisors from the Province. These volunteers and professionals provide a wide breadth of expertise, opinion, and experience that provides for engaged dialog and informed recommendations. We would like to especially thank David Murray, architect for his longstanding commitment to the HRRP.

REVIEWED SUBMISSIONS

As funding constraints did not provide an opportunity to conduct a neighbourhood inventory to identify potential properties of interest, this year the HRRP relied solely on submissions from interested owners. Further, the HRRP engaged in discussions and brainstorming exercises to explore increasing the quantum of applications brought forward for review.

The heritage planners worked closely with building owners to explain the process of research, application, review and eventual designation. We were gratified to see continued interest in the program from the community, with several applications from the community received and reviewed, including

notable submissions from the City of Edmonton. The properties were diverse not only in their types and ages, but also in their utilization, condition, zoning, scale, and architectural styles. In addition, the HRRP has continued to review and compile a list of places of interest to enhance the quantity of potential properties to be included on the inventory.

Edmonton Historical Board 2022-23 Members

STEPHEN REES, CHAIR | First Appointed: 2021

Steve is a proud born and raised Edmontonian. He has worked in Healthcare Engineering for over 40 years. He recently retired from the Chief Program Officer of Capital Management position at Alberta Health Services (AHS). Steve continues to work at AHS as a Special Advisor in Corporate Services. He also serves as Vice President of the International Federation of Healthcare Engineering (IFHE). Steve has a true passion for the history of Edmonton and the protection of our heritage infrastructure.

SHALENE WILLIAMS, VICE CHAIR | First Appointed: 2021

Shalene grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia, and since moving to Edmonton in 2015, she has developed a strong interest in the history of Edmonton and its built heritage. Particularly, in how built heritage shapes our identities, relationship to spaces and understanding of the past. She looks forward to contributing to the development of a policy agenda on heritage and planning matters and working with stakeholders. Shalene currently works for the Government of Alberta and holds a bachelor's degree in history and a Masters of Archival Studies degree from the University of British Columbia.

ELYSE ABMA-BOUMA | First Appointed: 2021

Elyse is Senior Research and Writing with On This Spot creating digital walking tours for cities across Canada. She came to Edmonton to study history at The King's University and briefly left to pursue an MA in Public History at the University of Victoria. Elyse has lived in Edmonton for ten years and has worked on many different heritage projects throughout the city including oral histories and climate conservation projects within the heritage sector.

JOHN BEAMISH | First Appointed: 2022

John was born, raised and educated on Treaty Six territory and is a long-term Edmonton resident. He is an emeritus professor of physics at the University of Alberta following a career teaching and doing research in Canada, the US and France. Since retirement he has devoted most of his time to his life-long fascination with local history, exploring Edmonton's old neighbourhoods on his bicycle and preparing material for archives. His interest in finding and restoring historic photographs of the city led him to the Edmonton Historical Board where he is a member of the Historic Plaques Committee.

JOSHUA BUDINSKI | First Appointed: 2022

Joshua is a graduate of Grant MacEwan University. He is currently a Senior Manager with the Canadian Aviation Transportation Security Authority at the Edmonton International Airport. He is a former Board member of the Alberta Transportation Safety Board and served as Vice President of Elmwood Park Community League where he continues to assist in different capacities.

ELIZABETH CYTKO | First Appointed: 2021

Passionate about learning, Elizabeth has a Masters of Information and a Masters of Museum Studies from the University of Toronto. She is intensely curious about the history of Edmonton and how the stories we tell influence how we understand the city today. Elizabeth spends her time engaging with Edmontonians through creating pop-up exhibitions, volunteering for the Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future, and writing fiction based in the city.

CARRIE-ANN LUNDE | First Appointed: 2020

Originally from Edmonton, Carrie has a BA in English & Ancient/Medieval History, MA in Public History, and GCert in Professional Communications Management. Specializing in marketing & communications, digital, and brand management strategies, she has actively worked in furthering the arts, culture, heritage and non-profit sectors for over ten years. She is currently Director of Product, Marketing & Brand at United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, and an Associate at Hatlie Group, a Canadian Museum Consulting firm. An avid world traveler, Carrie is an active volunteer and has sat on numerous boards and committees for a variety of organizations including museums, tourism, and community groups.

KOKULAN MAHENDIRAN | First Appointed: 2022

Kokulan is the Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Energy (ON). His past professional experience has included stints at the Government of Alberta, the International Air Transport Association, and the United Nations Development Programme.

He holds a Masters in Diplomatic Studies from Oxford University, a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University, and has completed graduate coursework at Harvard University.

Kokulan has a passion for history, heritage, and volunteerism.

JAMES McTAGUE | First Appointed: 2019

James is a lifelong resident of the Edmonton area. He holds a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Science, and a Juris Doctor, all from the University of Alberta.

He has a passion for history, the restoration of historic structures, and the preservation of the unique impact historic structures have on our community. James works as a civil lawyer with a firm that has been part of the Edmonton community for over a century. James values the integration of historic resources into our City and appreciated the notable impact such structure have on our sense of community and connection with the past.

HARRISON SHEREMETA | First Appointed: 2021

Born in Edmonton but raised in Athabasca, Harrison holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Honours Planning from the University of Waterloo. He is passionate about built heritage and is an advocate for the preservation of architecturally-significant buildings in Edmonton. Harrison works as a principal planner at the City of Edmonton where supports the development of affordable housing and surplus civic land. He lives in Alberta Avenue with his wife and dog and can often be seen on foot or bike exploring Edmonton's historic neighbourhoods

CINDY YAN | First Appointed: 2022

Cindy has lived in Edmonton all her life but is passionate about travelling around the world, experiencing different cultures, and witnessing cultural monuments. She has an undergraduate degree in Commerce and a Masters in Business Administration degree and has worked in the architecture/construction industry for over 15 years. As an Edmontonian, she's committed to bringing more awareness and participation in preserving Edmonton historic buildings and sites for younger generations or new Edmontonians to appreciate and learn from.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HISTORIC PLAQUES COMMITTEE

- Elizabeth Cytko (*EHB, Chair*)
- John Beamish (*EHB*)
- Cindy Yan (*EHB*)

POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Harrison Sheremeta (*EHB, Chair*)
- Elyse Abma-Bouma (*EHB*)
- John Beamish (*EHB*)
- Shalene Williams (*EHB*)
- Jared Althouse (*Community Member*)

HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW PANEL

- James McTague (*EHB, Chair*)
- Joshua Budinski (*EHB*)
- Harrison Sheremeta (*EHB*)
- Dane Ryksen (*Historian*)
- David Murray (*Architect*)
- Dorothy Field (*Historic Places Stewardship
Section Representative*)
- Ian Morgan (*Architect*)
- Joe Friedel (*Community Member*)
- Ken Tingley (*Historian*)



**EDMONTON
HISTORICAL
BOARD**

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