

**2024 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

On behalf of the **Edmonton Historical Board**, I am pleased to submit our **2024 Annual Report**. 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 preservation of heritage resources remain the same.

This was the fourth 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. Most of the Board started their appointments in 2021 in the deepest part of the pandemic and we have four new members that started their two-year term this past year. I feel that the Board now has 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. We are currently working with the Edmonton Heritage Council and the City of Edmonton in looking at ways we can work together more effectively.

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 a number of new ideas and our Historical Plaques Committee's work on our website rebuild.

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We also have a new Historian Laureate, Donna Coombs-Montrose who is involved in a number of projects and we look forward to working with in the future.

In July 2024 we held the Historical Plaques Presentation in unison with the Edmonton and District Historical Society's Historic Festival and Doors Open Event. The celebration was held at the newly designated St. Luke's Anglican Church and highlighted the presentation of 8 new plaques to newly designated buildings. There were also presentations that explained the mandate of the Edmonton Historical Board, its rich history and the process of having a heritage building designated as a Municipal Historic Resource. It was exciting to see the well attended event go extremely well.

In the coming year, we expect to refine our processes and structure, create new pathways for citizen engagement, increase the collaboration with the Edmonton Heritage Council and other 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,



Stephen Rees
Chair, Edmonton Historical Board

2023-24 TERM HIGHLIGHTS

3

Meetings with Council

200 +

Volunteer hours

6

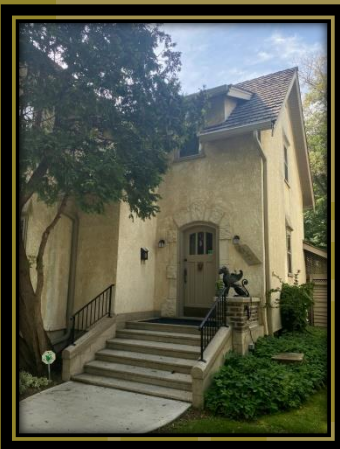
Letters to Council

7

Inventory of Historic
Resources Additions

3

Municipal Historic
Resource Designations



Crawford Residence



Field Log House



Alexander Circle

2023 Designations

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.

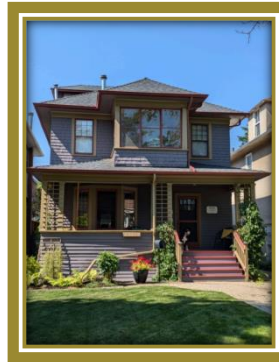
This year, the committee coordinated the creation of six plaques for designated buildings and locations. We received a community plaque submission from Al-Rashid Mosque. Our committee also updated some plaques that were either stolen or missing. The stolen plaque honoured Laurent Garneau, and the committee consulted his descendent David Garneau regarding appropriate edits. We will next reach out to the Metis Nation of Alberta to ensure this plaque is accurate and appropriate. The missing plaque was for a previous designation, which did not receive a plaque at the Mill Creek House at 9734 - 88 avenue. In total we will have seven to nine plaques printed, depending on the consultation for the Garneau Plaque as well as the Mill Creek House.

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Some of the sites added to the Inventory in 2024 include:



Auld Residence



Garrett Residence



Harcourt House



Gilpin Residence

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

47th Annual Historic Plaques Presentation Ceremony



Elizabeth Cytko (seated) and Councillor Anne Stevenson (standing)

We worked with David Panzarella, to review and recommend updates for the Edmonton Historical Board Website. The Board approved the Discovery and Backend Migration suggestions. This work continues on into 2025.

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 *Doors Open Edmonton* and District Historical Society later in 2024. This was held at St. Luke's Church, on a very hot day, to a large crowd. This presentation included information on how to designate a historic house, as well as recognize past plaque recipients. Coming into 2025 the Historic Plaques Committee is planning its next *Open Doors Edmonton* event, to highlight the latest recipients as well as to promote the designation process.

Respectfully yours,

Elizabeth Cytko, HP Chair



Principal Heritage Planner David Johnston (left) with Stein Residence Owners

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Edmonton Historical Board established the Policy and Planning Committee in 2021. This year, the committee includes two members from the previous Board, Harrison Sheremeta and Jared Althouse, and three newly appointed members, Vanessa Zembal, Kyle Schole, and Mark Minenko. Since the Board's May 2024 transitional meeting, when board members volunteered to serve on various committee, this committee has formally met almost every month.

The committee has a lofty goal. Its primary focus is to assist the Board in coordinating and conducting research, synthesizing and articulating a proactive policy agenda and platform of recommendations on heritage policy and planning matters. With no paid staff, the chair of the committee suggested that the members take on two achievable projects which are focused less on the Board's long-held objective of preserving buildings and landmarks and more on developing the stories to go along with Edmonton's historical buildings and landmarks.

The first of these two projects is Edmonton's Hidden History. This project's objective is to identify Edmonton's hidden historical treasures, e.g., the underground streetcar ties which were discovered during LRT construction and/or riverbank sites of interest and map these sites on a publicly available digital map.

The anticipated completion date is late 2025. The working group is chaired by a committee member assisted by community members.

The second project recognizes the efforts of hundreds of groups and organizations in Edmonton who continue to document their own history and contribution to Edmonton. Temporarily titled the Stakeholder Information Working Group, committee members are currently developing a list of these stakeholders. Stakeholders include not only indigenous and ethnic groups, but sporting, military, hobby, and community league associations. Representatives of these groups will be invited to a large group meeting where everyone will have an opportunity to share how best to celebrate Edmonton's diversity and history. The Working Group will send all stakeholders a series of 3 or 4 questions which will be the focus of the group meeting. It is anticipated that these groups will have several weeks to discuss these questions within their organization prior to their attendance at the large group meeting.

Committee members have also been active in bringing various issues to the attention of the Board and have prepared letters focused on District Planning and River Valley Planning Modernization. These and other letters were forwarded to City Council for their consideration.

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COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the hours spent during meetings to review and report on various issues and projects, committee members have dedicated dozens of additional hours working to increase awareness of Edmonton's history.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Minenko, CD, PhD, LLM, LLB
Chair, Policy and Planning Committee

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW PANEL (HRRP)

2024 IN REVIEW

The Historic Resources Review Panel (HRRP) actively identified potentially viable properties for review and recommendation onto the City of Edmonton's 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 Sydney Gross. 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. The number of properties on the Inventory of Historic Resources being demolished continues to outpace additions to the Inventory of Historic Resources, which the HRRP views as a significant concern and serious threat to the preservation of Edmonton's built heritage.

As funding constraints continue to impede large scale neighbourhood inventories for the purpose of identifying potential properties of interest from being conducted, the HRRP has had to rely solely on applications brought by interested property owners, which culminated in only a limited quantity of properties being reviewed, an amount significantly below the HRRP's capacity.

Respectfully yours,

James McTague, HRRP Chair

REVIEWED SUBMISSIONS

The heritage planners have 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 applications from the community received and reviewed. The properties were diverse not only in their types and ages, but also in their utilization, condition, zoning, scale, and architectural styles.

Edmonton Historical Board 2023-24 Members

STEPHEN REES, CHAIR | First Appointed: 2021

Steve is a proud born and raised Edmontonian. He retired from the Chief Program Officer of Capital Management position at Alberta Health Services (AHS) in 2021 after being in the healthcare engineering field for over 40 years. Steve also serves as Past 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.

HARRISON SHEREMETA, VICE CHAIR | 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 managing an affordable housing investment program. He lives in a heritage home in Alberta Avenue with his wife, son and dog and can often be seen on foot or bike exploring Edmonton's historic neighbourhoods.

MICHAEL AYTENFISU | First Appointed: 2024

Michael Aytenfisu is a life-long Edmontonian. Raised in Duggan, he went on to attend the University of Alberta where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts and a law degree. He is an avid student of history, and is committed to working to preserve Edmonton's built history and historical traditions.

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 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.

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.

MARK MINENKO | First Appointed: 2024

Mark Minenko is a legal historian and has been a lawyer for almost 40 years. After completing a Master of Laws in international law at the University of Alberta, he was awarded a Doctorate in Law at King's College London, England where he researched the impact of First World War emergency legislation on civil liberties in Canada. During his doctoral studies he published a paper which compared how the enforcement of Alberta's Spanish Flu masking laws by Edmonton and Calgary resulted in over almost 300% more infections and deaths in one city than the other. Mark was also a member of the Canadian Armed Forces medical services for 36 years including a tour of duty in Bosnia, served as the Deputy Speaker and Member of the Manitoba Legislature, and is currently a board member of the several community and university boards.

KYLE SCHOLE | First appointed: 2024

An avid freediver, Kyle studied at the University of Calgary and interned with the federal Minister of Agriculture. He has served in hospitality and adventure-tourism and has nearly a decade of municipal experience during which he led an intermunicipal initiative to see the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta nominated and designated under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Kyle has received an Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) Award for Planning Excellence, the Alberta Minister's Award for Municipal Excellence, an Alberta Heritage Award, and the King Charles III Coronation Medal. He also serves on the Boards of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, the Edmonton Heritage Council and the Edmonton Regional Search and Rescue Association.

DARREN N. WAGNER | First Appointed: 2022

Darren Wagner is a lawyer and a historian. He grew up in Parkland County and attended the University of Alberta for his undergrad and his law degree. He also has a doctorate in the history of medicine. He held research and teaching positions as a postdoctoral fellow at McGill University and the Charité University of Medicine in Berlin. He now acts as a lawyer for the Government of Alberta. He believes buildings are like trees—they are best when old and still standing.

VANESSA ZEMBAL | First appointed: 2024

Vanessa (she/her) is a design researcher with a background in human centred design thinking and material culture, in particular exploring the impact of boom bust cycles and design on the winter city planning. She is a Professional Human Ecologist and has spent the past 15 years exploring the relationships between people, our things, and the spaces around us. She is also a journeyman electrician and has worked on a diverse range of structures, including multiple 100 year old barns and 70 year old houses. With a good understanding of the impact boom bust cycles on Edmonton's landscape and having many childhood experiences in small towns and old buildings, she is looking forward to exploring the ways in which we can find connection to this place through our history, the stories we can glean from spaces and people, and advocating at various levels for the material culture and physical structures that can help share these stories.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HISTORIC PLAQUES COMMITTEE

- Elizabeth Cytko (EHB, Chair)
- Michael Aytenfisu (EHB)
- John Beamish (EHB)
- Kyle Schole (EHB)

POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Mark Minenko, (EHB, Chair)
- Jared Althouse (Community Member)
- Kyle Schole (EHB)
- Harrison Sheremeta (EHB)
- Vanessa Zembal (EHB)

HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW PANEL

- James McTague (EHB, Chair)
- Joshua Budinski (EHB)
- Dorothy Field (Historic Places Stewardship Section Representative)
- Joe Friedel (Community Member)
- Ian Morgan (Architect)
- Dane Ryksen (Historian)
- Harrison Sheremeta (EHB)
- Darren N. Wagner (EHB)



Newly cast historic plaques



**EDMONTON
HISTORICAL
BOARD**

PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURIES

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