



EDMONTON HISTORICAL BOARD

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ATTACHMENT 5

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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.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Mayor Iveson and Council,

On behalf of the Edmonton Historical Board, I am pleased to provide our 2020 Annual Report outlining the highlights and successes of the recent year.

The past year has challenged the Board in many ways. In 2020, the Board adjusted to our virtual reality to deliver on the core activities of our three subcommittees. In addition to fulfilling our regular workplan, we have also accomplished several additional initiatives including an audit of our website, a strategic review of the Board, commissioning a documentary on built heritage, and joining the Climate Heritage Network.

We have also listened diligently to the voices in our community bringing attention to systemic racism and discrimination. We recognize that the historic preservation movement has not adequately represented the full story of our city. For our part, the stories we share, our plaques and awards, and the landmarks we work to protect have not always reflected the difficult, but necessary, conversations about the legacies of racism, discrimination and inequality in our past.

While the Board has made strides in adding more diverse voices to our work, we know there is more work to do. The Board is committed to listening to diverse voices, and to creating opportunities for more inclusive and equitable representation in our work, and in structures and narratives that promote our city's shared history.

This past year our city embraced an ambitious new City Plan that will redefine our urban future. We firmly believe that heritage conservation can offer sustainable community-oriented solutions to support the realization of this new vision. Aligning heritage policy and programs to this vision is vitally important in order to be proactive in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the conservation, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of our heritage, specifically Modernist architecture from the mid-century period.

Above our regular activities, the Board has been actively advancing a strategic review of our mandate, activities, and committee structure to better align our work to support Council decision-making related to Edmonton's heritage. Through refinements to our work plan and two new committees, a Policy & Advisory and an Engagement Committee, the coming year will see the Board work definitively demonstrate to Council the contributions heritage can make to environmental sustainability, our local economy, and enhancing our sense of community connection.

We cannot leave our history behind. Our city's heritage must be a starting point for sustainable development; not a barrier. Proactive identification and protection of historical properties and landmarks continues to be a challenge. To this end, a comprehensive review of the Historic Resource Management Plan remains a top priority for the Board and the many partners

with whom we work to promote and advocate for the preservation of Edmonton's heritage.

As always, my colleagues and I extend our gratitude to Council for their continued support, our administrative staff, our advisors in the Heritage Management Unit and the City of Edmonton Archives, as well as our partners in the heritage community. 2021 brings renewed optimism and a necessary evolution of the work of the Board. As we reimagine our future, we look forward to providing leadership to the conservation of Edmonton's architectural heritage.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Rose,
Chair, Edmonton Historical Board

2020-21 TERM HIGHLIGHTS

219

Estimated volunteer hours

12

Committee Community Members

2289

Facebook followers

2

U of A Graduate Student Interns

2

Issues of e-newsletter

3

Inventory of Historic Resources additions

- Provided comment and recommendations to Council and Administration on over a dozen policy and planning proposals, including: Garneau and Highlands Neighbourhood Redevelopment, 106/107 street streetscape redesign, Touch the Water Promenade, new Indigenous Ward Naming, Hangar 11, and the Baron proposal, among others.
- Supported Edmonton's successful bid to host the (virtual) 2020 National Trust for Canada and Association for Preservation Technologists joint national conference.
- Completed the recruitment of a Edmonton's 6th Historian Laureate.
- The work and recommendations of the EHB featured in 10 print and news media stories on heritage conservation.
- Officially joined the Climate Heritage Network.
- Continued to advocate for the renewal of the Historic Resource Management Plan.

HERITAGE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE EVENT

On January 20, 2021, the Board co-hosted a virtual roundtable event with the Centre for Race and Culture: "Removal and Renaming: Public Memory in Public Space." The discussion was moderated by Senator Paula Simons and panelists included EHB Chair Dan Rose, Shannon Studen Bower, Robert Houle and Deborah Dobbins. The roundtable provided a space for thought leaders to explore the complex issues around collective memory and public space as it pertains to commemorative naming, statues and monuments, and to examine potential ways forward for our city, our province and our country. More than 220 people attended the 1.5 hour event, hosted on EventBrite, and the facebook live event, hosted on CFRAC's page, has since received more than 780 views. While the Board was forced to cancel our signature plaques and awards event due to Covid-19 restrictions, this virtual roundtable event was an effective way to still engage our community in a timely subject related to heritage preservation.

EDMONTON'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE WEBSITE

The Heritage Outreach Committee continues to manage and develop Edmonton's Architectural Heritage website (EdmontonsArchitecturalHeritage.ca). While the content on the site has remained static since its launch, it continues to see high web traffic. This year, the total number of annual visitors was 34,000, which is triple the number of 2019, which was 12,000 visitors.

Since the site launched in 2015 there have been almost 140,000 visitors. Based on the Indigenous heritage report submitted by EHB graduate, Elise Sammons, in 2019 we launched a website review to ensure that the website content reflects Edmonton's rich and diverse Indigenous perspectives. In November 2020, we contracted researcher Robert Houle to conduct this review. He has since submitted his interim report and the board will decide on next steps in the new year.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Launched in mid-2018, the Heritage Outreach Committee creates and distributes a quarterly e-newsletter from the Edmonton Historical Board. Last year, we added a pop-up window on our website to encourage visitors to sign-up for our e-newsletter. The number of e-newsletter subscribers has since increased from 440 to 753. Our analytics far exceed industry standards, with 58% open rate and a 15% click rate, which suggest a devoted readership. Our e-newsletters feature content on current and emerging issues impacting Edmonton's built heritage, stories on people and places that have influenced the development of Edmonton, and media stories on issues of interest.

SOCIAL MEDIA & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Edmonton Historical Board's Facebook page now has over 2,289 followers- an increase of approximately 300 from last year. The Board continues to be active on this page, utilizing it as a platform for engagement on emerging issues, current media stories, and as a venue to share content from Edmonton's Architectural Heritage website. For instance, our most popular post to date (with organic reach of >6,700 people) told the story about the Princess Theatre and directed visitors to our website to learn more about Edmonton's architectural heritage.

HISTORICAL PLAQUES & RECOGNITION AWARDS COMMITTEE

The work of the Plaques and Awards 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. We also strive to find groups and individuals whose work have made significant contributions to the preservation of history and heritage in Edmonton so that they can be properly recognized. For forty-six years, the Edmonton Historical Board has overseen this program and has organized an annual Plaques and Awards event. Last year, 2020, we were unable to hold our annual event due to health restrictions brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. While this was a great disappointment, the committee continued its work for the rest of the year.

PLAQUE AND AWARD WRITING

In April of 2020, submissions for Plaques and Awards were reviewed by members of the committee and selections were made. 2020 saw a wide variety of designated building and structures and award recipients. The committee was also able to dedicate some resources to updating plaques that were either damaged, missing information, or had errors that needed to be corrected. Texts were developed for the plaques and awards in collaboration with the recipients prior to being manufactured. Of particular note, the committee was proud to see the completion of a translated plaque into Mandarin and Traditional Chinese for the Harbin Gate.

46th ANNUAL PLAQUES & AWARDS CEREMONY

In total the committee supervised the creation of eleven new plaques for designated buildings and locations. Some of these were re-writes but the vast majority were new plaques. The committee also recognized one individual and one group for their contributions to history and heritage within Edmonton. The individual was Cindy Davis who has spent years working at McKay Avenue School and Archives and has dedicated countless hours to promoting and programming the history of public schooling in Edmonton.

The Fort Edmonton Foundation's 50th Anniversary Committee was our group recipient, and they were specifically recognized for the work they did promoting and organizing the celebrations surrounding the 50th anniversary of the Fort Edmonton Foundation.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we were unable to hold the 45th Annual Plaques and Awards Ceremony, and it is likely that we will be unable to hold the 46th in person as well.

HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW PANEL

2020 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 Vada Antonakis. 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 Provinces. These volunteers and professionals provide us with a wide breadth of expertise, opinion, and experience that allow us to make informed recommendations.

REVIEWED SUBMISSIONS

As funding constraints did not provide an opportunity to conduct a neighbourhood inventory to identify potential properties of interest, this year the Panel relied solely on submissions from interested owners. 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 a submission from a community league. The properties were diverse not only in their types and ages, but also in their utilization, condition and architectural styles.

We wish to underscore the importance of neighbourhood inventories. The usual threshold for designation of historic properties is 50 years; this means that buildings constructed in the 1970s are now eligible for consideration.

Neighbourhoods such as Beverly, Mill Woods, Queen Mary Park, Laurier Heights and others should be surveyed to ensure that the properties (especially those at high risk of re-development) are catalogued and their historical significance understood. Without neighbourhood inventories being conducted, emphasis must be placed on engaging the public to raise awareness of the program, as this is essential to foster and maintain community interest.

HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

The Panel commends the work of the Heritage Conservation Unit on several significant achievements in 2020:

- Implementation of a new Direct Development Control (DC1) Provision zoning project for the Glenora Heritage Character Area- this project is to be completed and to proceed to Council in 2021.
- Endorsement by City Council of an implementation program for City-owned historic resources-this report to be distributed to Council in early 2021;
- Undertaking of an Advanced Assessment and Priority Rehabilitation project for the Rosedale Plant complex;

HOC MEMBERSHIP

- Stephanie Bailey (EHB), Chair
- David Ryning (EHB)
- Nancy MacDonald (EHB)
- Cole Hawkins (Community Member)
- Jason Lavin (Community Member)

P&A MEMBERSHIP

- Neil Cramer (EHB), Chair
- Anna Gibson Hollow (EHB)
- Carrie-Ann Lunde (EHB)
- Suzanne Campbell (Community Member)
- Erin McDonald (Community Member)

HRRP MEMBERSHIP

- James McTague (EHB), Chair
- Alison McGavigan (EHB)
- David Ryning (EHB)
- Akhila Palat (Community Member)
- Dane Ryksen (Historian)
- David Murray (Architect)
- Dorothy Field (Historic Places Stewardship Section Rep)
- Ian Morgan (Architect)
- Joe Friedel (Community Member)
- Ken Tingley (Historian)
- Richard Wood (Community Member)



DESIGNATIONS

1
Property-Hotel
Macdonald

160
Properties

1985

1985-2020

Edmonton Historical Board 2020 Members

CITIZENS AT LARGE	DATE APPOINTED BY CITY COUNCIL
Daniel Rose (Chair)	May 1, 2015
Neil Cramer	May 1, 2016
Dominic Schamuhn	May 1, 2016
David Rynning	May 1, 2018
Stephanie Bailey	May 1, 2019
Anna Gibson Hollow	May 1, 2019
James McTague	May 1, 2019
Carrie-Ann Lunde	May 1, 2020
Nancy MacDonald	May 1, 2020
Alison McGavigan	May 1, 2020

DANIEL ROSE

Dan was born and raised in Edmonton and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from the University of Alberta. Having lived and worked in some of Edmonton's finest historic buildings, Dan has become active in Edmonton's heritage community working to raise awareness of our City's built heritage and advocating for historic preservation and adaptive reuse

NEIL CRAMER

Born and raised in Edmonton, Neil holds a Bachelor Degree in History with a Minor in Psychology from Grant MacEwan University. His passion for history started with his career at Fort Edmonton Park, where he learned about how fun and interesting the stories of Edmonton's past were. Neil enjoys sharing his knowledge with everyone and has worked with both the federal and provincial governments to provide text for historic plaques throughout the province of Alberta.

DOMINIC SCHAMUHN

Dominic is the Manager of Stakeholder Relations with the Alberta Motor Association, and previously worked in Edmonton's philanthropic sector with United Way of the Alberta Capital Region and the University Hospital Foundation, where he coordinated their Brain Centre Campaign. He entered the philanthropic sector after more than five years working in provincial politics, including time working for an opposition leader and the Chief Opposition Whip at the Alberta Legislature.

DAVID RYNING

David is a lifelong Albertan and has been an Edmontonian since the early 1990s. He currently works in communications for the Alberta Government, and as a freelance writer and editor. Past roles have included framing, construction and journalism. He has a Master's degree in history from the University of Alberta and lives in the Bellevue/Highlands area of Edmonton.

STEPHANIE BAILEY

Stephanie was born and raised in Edmonton and holds a master's degree in English Literature from the University of Victoria. She was previously the managing editor of *Curb*, a quarterly publication on urban planning and policy, produced by the City Region Studies Centre at the University of Alberta, and she now serves as staff writer with the alumni magazine, *New Trail*. She is excited by the opportunity to increase awareness and deepen the conversation about how built heritage shapes Edmonton's civic identity.

ANNA GIBSON HOLLOW

Born and raised in Alberta, Anna is a proud Edmontonian who has lived in this city for over 30 years. She is a professional archivist who has a keen interest in the built and documentary heritage of the city of Edmonton. In June 2019, Anna became the newest University Archivist at her alma mater, the University of Alberta. Anna has also worked at the U of A's Office of Advancement, Enbridge, the Government of Alberta and the Provincial Archives of Alberta. In her spare time, Anna loves to walk or bike through the River Valley with her husband, 8 year old son and their two dogs.

JAMES McTAGUE

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.

CARRIE-ANN LUNDE

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.

NANCY MacDONALD

Nancy is passionate about sharing the stories, experiences and locations that Albertans treasure. She is currently the Director of Partnership and Development for Alberta Parks. Nancy has a MA in Political Science from Queen's University and a BA in Political Science from the University of Calgary.

ALISON McGAVIGAN

Alison McGavigan has been a proud Edmontonian since she moved to the city in 2010. She is a U of A alumni, having completed both an undergraduate Science Degree and Masters in Business Administration. Alison is a commercial real estate appraiser and provides real estate appraisal and consulting services for clients across Western Canada. Alison has always been interested in the built form history of Edmonton and architecturally significant properties that help tell the story of our City. In her spare time, Alison enjoys spending time with her husband and two dogs, traveling, reading, and staying active through running and cycling.

EDMONTON HISTORICAL BOARD 2021-22 WORK PLAN

ONGOING INITIATIVES

- NEWSLETTER
- Review of Inventory applications
- Social media channels maintenance
- Committee monthly meetings
- Plaques and Awards creation
- Historian Laureate support

MAY/JUNE 2021

The Board's new Chair and Executive will liaise with Council and our Councillor Designate.

The addition of six new Board Members will require new member orientation and an organizational meeting, including committee assignments, at the May 2021 meeting.

Committees will continue their initiatives from the previous term in the interim, with committee organizational meetings taking place in June 2021.

JULY/AUGUST 2021

Implementation of the Board's new structure and focused initiatives will continue through the summer months. Additionally, recipients of plaques and awards will be notified of their nomination, and pending current public health orders and provincial health guidance, public events may be held.

The Board will also begin preparations for outreach to the newly-elected City Council.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

The Board will finalize outreach initiatives for the newly-elected City Council, to be implemented in the final months of 2021. Work will also be well underway for the 2022 plaques and awards, including engagement with property owners and recipients.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

The Board will engage with all newly-elected and re-elected Councillors, and will work closely with the new Councillor Designate.

Strategic planning will begin for the 2022-2023 term, including preparation for member recruitment and orientation, initial preparation of reporting on the 2021-2022 term.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

The Board will finalize the Annual Report to be submitted to Council. Additionally, transition work will begin for potential new Executive, Board, and committee members.

Pending public health orders and provincial health guidance, the Board may hold public events including a resumption of the annual plaques and awards event.

MARCH/APRIL 2022

The Board will finalize plans for the 2022-2023 term, including preparation for new members and potential transition to a new Chair and/or Executive members.



EDMONTON
HISTORICAL
BOARD

PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURIES

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