

# MAKE HISTORY.

Preserve Manitoba's Past.



## PART 1: **INTRODUCTION**



## WHAT IS HERITAGE?

Heritage is:

- knowledge, traditions and places that are passed down from preceding generations
- a wide range of activities such as stewardship, conservation, research and education
- an opportunity to encourage sensitivity to the natural environment and to differing perspectives on objectives, ideas, places and traditions

Heritage is not:

- limited by age; a meaningful event or place from a few years ago may be significant to a community and merit commemoration or conservation
- a static concept or permanent classification; our understanding, appreciation and evaluation of heritage changes with time

The dictionary definition of heritage is “something that is passed down from preceding generations; a tradition.” But what is heritage and who is it for? Is it stately homes? Or is it more events within living memory? Is it pioneers’ stories or the town fair – or both? There may not be a simple answer to these questions. However, it is certain that heritage is not just about bricks and mortar; the bricks and mortar have to be imbued with some sort of significance, importance or meaning. Heritage makes us feel connected to our homes, municipalities, regions, provinces and countries. It shapes our present identity and provides insight for our future.

Heritage Conservation:

Heritage conservation means looking after historic places and objects. There are a variety of ways places and objects can gain significance. For instance, they may be associated with an important event or person, serve as a landmark, be a spiritual place or be a place where a traditional activity has taken place for a long period of time. This significance is called **heritage value**. Heritage value is the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social, or spiritual importance or significance of a historic place from the past, present, or future generations. The heritage value of a historic place is embodied in its character-defining materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings. Understanding heritage value is important because without knowing why a place or a thing is important, it is difficult to look after it well, or share its meaning with others.



#### Types of Heritage Conservation Treatments:

There are a variety of ways to look after heritage sites or objects, including:

- **Preservation:** protecting, maintaining, and/or stabilizing the existing material, form and integrity of a historic place or object, while protecting its heritage value.
- **Rehabilitation:** achieving a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a historic place or object, through repair, alterations and/or additions, while protecting its heritage value.
- **Restoration:** accurately revealing, recovering or representing the state of a historic place or object, as it appeared at a particular period in its history, while protecting its heritage value.

Each of these treatments is acceptable. One may be more appropriate than the others depending on local needs/goals, resources available and the specific place or object being conserved.

#### What does heritage mean to your community?:

For Manitoba municipalities, heritage is a critical part of community identity. It is also a resource for teaching, cultural tourism and other kinds of economic development. By identifying your heritage opportunities and developing and implementing a community heritage management plan, your community will benefit today and help ensure that a significant and well-preserved legacy is passed down to future generations.



## THE BENEFITS OF HERITAGE

Municipalities and communities have many responsibilities and must balance competing demands for attention and resources. Many Manitoba communities have untapped heritage resources– historic places which have the potential to be valuable community assets. Consider some of the benefits heritage stewardship and conservation create:

- **Economic** research shows designated heritage buildings tend to appreciate in value and perform better on the real estate market. In urban areas, the conservation of historic places can help revitalize commercial and residential neighbourhoods and restore their economic activity, livability and attractiveness.

The labour intensive nature of conservation creates local jobs. Although restoration projects cost less than new construction, some studies also suggest that up to twice as much of a budget goes for labour rather than materials. For many Manitoba communities, this means local labourers benefit and more money stays in the community.

Designation and conservation of heritage buildings help safeguard property values and the municipal tax base. In a 1992 study of designated historic properties in London, Ontario, 90 per cent of the surveyed properties had performed better than average in the real estate market over the past 30 years, and 100 per cent maintained their cash value or added to it when sold.

- **Cultural** benefits of heritage are harder to quantify, but should not be overlooked. Museums, interpretive plaques and historic sites are tangible connections to our past. They link generations and provide venues for education and citizenship and serving as community landmarks and sources of community pride. Volunteer activity that goes into maintaining and promoting these sites is a way to keep people, especially seniors and youth, active and involved in their communities.
- **Environmental** benefits from heritage conservation are experienced now (every old building reused is less waste going into the landfill) and revitalizing existing buildings (rather than developing unserved areas) uses less municipal infrastructure, delivering longer-term returns. Rehabilitation also brings proven energy saving. The energy required to build a new building is about the same amount required to operate it for 40 years.

These areas are all pillars of a healthy community and heritage resources *already* exist in most Manitoba municipalities. Even where heritage is not a council's primary concern, it can still be used to add value to other kinds of projects. Heritage fits well with other kinds of community projects (neighbourhood revitalization, waste reduction, centennial celebration, etc.) to bring additional support and bring even more impressive results.



## MUNICIPAL HERITAGE LEGISLATION

Manitoba has some of Canada's most flexible and empowering heritage legislation. Municipalities can develop and implement heritage projects which suit the needs and situation of the community.

In Manitoba, municipal heritage authority is established in three pieces of legislation:

1. *The Heritage Resources Act* (1986) is the **primary** legislation on heritage. It encourages municipal governments to protect heritage resources of regional and local significance through designation. It also encourages them to establish a Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) to advise council on heritage matters. *The Heritage Resources Act* (C.C.S.M. c. H39.1) is available from Manitoba Statutory Publications, or online at <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/h039-e.php> . The online version is not an official copy. **Note:** The City of Winnipeg manages its heritage sites, including more than 200 municipal heritage site designations, through a historic buildings by-law created under the *City of Winnipeg Charter*.
2. Additional heritage legislation that affects municipalities is contained in *The Planning Act*. Authority from this act (subsection 63(1)(c) and 71(3)(v)) applies to the designation of **municipal heritage districts**.
3. *The Municipal Act* provides authority for municipalities to offer **municipal heritage tax credits** to owners of designated heritage properties [subsections 232(1)(n.1) and 235.1(1) and (2)].

## STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

There are very few statutory requirements associated with heritage. Because of the non-renewable and sometimes sensitive nature of heritage sites and objects, it is important that proper procedures be followed. Below is a quick summary of a few key statutory requirements. For more details, consult the legislation or contact the provincial government's Historic Resources Branch.

- Authority granted by *The Heritage Resources Act* typically must be exercised through a **bylaw process**, which may include serving/publishing notices and holding a public hearing. This applies to designating municipal heritage sites, issuing heritage permits and establishing Municipal Heritage Advisory Committees.
- If a municipality designates places (such as a building, structure, or landscape) as a municipal heritage site, certain **basic filing and data management** requirements are specified by subsections 33(1) and 39(1).



- If **archaeological artifacts** are found (including human remains), these must be reported to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism through the Archaeological Assessment Services Unit of the Historic Resources Branch (s. 46).

Legislation in action:

- To date, over 50 Manitoba municipalities have formed Municipal Heritage Advisory Committees.
- More than 118 municipalities have designated a total of more than 250 municipal heritage sites, including buildings, bridges, water towers, cemeteries, parks and landscapes.
- Approximately one-half of all municipal designations were completed with help from local Municipal Heritage Advisory Committees.



## KEY CONTACTS: HERITAGE PARTNERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Manitoba Historic Resources Branch can help municipalities with heritage planning and procedures and advise on heritage issues:

Historic Resources Branch  
Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism  
Main Floor, 213 Notre Dame Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3  
204-945-2118 or toll free 1-800-282-8069, ext. 2118  
Fax: 204-948-2384  
E-mail: [hrb@gov.mb.ca](mailto:hrb@gov.mb.ca)  
[www.manitoba.ca/heritage](http://www.manitoba.ca/heritage)

Other heritage organizations specialize in particular areas and may be able to provide advice or support on issues in their areas (membership may be required). The Historic Resources Branch maintains *The Heritage Directory* which lists more than 250 provincial, regional and community heritage organizations and agencies in Manitoba. You can call us toll free at 1-800-282-8069 (extension 2118), for organizations in your area; see our website at [www.gov.mb.ca/chc/hrb/info/links.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/hrb/info/links.html); or contact groups directly:

Archives of Manitoba – 945-3971, toll free: 1-800-617-3588  
Association for Manitoba Archives – 942-3491  
Association of Manitoba Museums – 947-1782  
Canadian Heritage – 983-2121  
Canadian Icelandic Heritage – 885-5792  
Community Heritage Manitoba – 322-5235  
Heritage Canada – 275-6061  
Heritage Winnipeg – 942-2663  
Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada – 477-7460  
Manitoba Archaeological Society – 942-7243  
Manitoba Forestry Association Incorporated – 453-3182  
Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. – 783-9139  
Manitoba Heritage Council – 945-5834, toll free: 1-800-282-8069  
Manitoba Historical Society – 947-0559  
Manitoba Naturalists Society – 943-9029  
Mennonite Genealogy Inc. – 772-0747  
Military History Society of Manitoba – 832-5030  
Société historique de Saint-Boniface – 233-4888  
The Manitoba Museum – 956-2830