

19.0 Heritage

Goals

Enhance the historic identity of the community by seeking to reflect Vernon's heritage in new development.

Enhance and promote the city's heritage in two key areas of the community, Lower East Hill and Downtown.

Enhance heritage properties through the development of policy provisions that ensure adjacent development is compatible with, and complementary to, the features of heritage properties.

Identify, inventory, protect and replace significant heritage trees in the city.

Increase community awareness of Vernon's heritage.



Guiding Principles Met

Create a culture of sustainability

Create strong, compact and complete neighbourhoods

Revitalize the Downtown

Context

Vernon has a rich history beginning with the Interior Salish who occupied areas throughout the Okanagan Valley for thousands of years. Fur traders, miners, cattle ranchers, farmers and railway workers all contributed to the early history and development of a community that became incorporated as the City of Vernon in 1892. The legacy of this rich heritage is found in the landscape, sites, buildings and structures found here.



Part of creating a culture of sustainability is committed support for a community's identity and culture, which is tied to its heritage. In order for Vernon's identity and culture to be sustainable, efforts must be made to conserve and enhance Vernon's heritage in the face of growth and new development.

In order to create strong, compact, and complete neighbourhoods, a strong sense of place must be evident to the people who live in and visit the neighbourhood by connecting today's neighbourhood with the past. By conserving and enhancing the heritage of the city, neighbourhood identity is enhanced, which results in increased resident and visitor appreciation of long established neighbourhoods.



Supporting Policies

19.1 The City shall require developments meeting the criteria for a development permit to incorporate elements of Vernon's heritage in the building façade. Properties with 100 metres of a registered heritage property shall respect and complement the heritage features of the registered building. (Bylaw 5315)

19.2 Where commercial, industrial and institutional development greater than 500 m², or multi-family residential development including twenty (20) or more units is occurring on sites related to the founding industries of ranching, mining, farming, tree fruits, railway and transportation (pre incorporation travel corridors, railway, paddle wheeler), one of the following features per 500 m² or per twenty (20) residential units (to a maximum requirement of four (4) different forms of features per property) is to be provided:

- a. Display plaque indicating the historical significance of area, to be located in a prominent location within the development.



- b. Display items such as historical machinery that include a display plaque describing the item, its historical significance and its connection to the founding industry. Items are to be incorporated into prominent landscape areas if outside, or if within the building, are to be located in front entries or other prominent areas.



Greater Vernon Museum & Archives

- c. Display items in the form of public art that include a display plaque describing the item, its historical significance and its connection to the founding industry.
- d. Display photos depicting founding industries including display plaques describing the item, its historical significance and its connection to the founding industry.
- e. Indian Band or First Nations display items or art items that include a display plaque describing the item, its cultural or historical significance and its connection to local Indian Bands and First Nations Groups. These features must be approved by the Okanagan Indian Band or other Indian Band or First Nation, as appropriate.
- f. Under condition of City approval, required historical features may be incorporated into adjacent public park areas where deemed appropriate.

19.3 The City of Vernon shall continue to maintain a Heritage Register in accordance with provisions of the *Local Government Act*. The Heritage Register shall be composed of: publicly owned properties; privately owned properties where the owner agrees to be on the Register; and properties subject to a change in land use (i.e. rezoning, Heritage Revitalization Agreement), or where a Heritage Restoration Grant has been awarded and funds received by the property owner.

19.4 In an effort to support and increase awareness of the Heritage Register, the City shall provide the following:

- a. Continue to provide annual funding for the Heritage Retention Incentive Grant program for property owners listed on the Heritage Register in recognition of the additional maintenance requirements for heritage buildings, and in recognition of the community importance in retaining and maintaining these properties;
- b. Promote the recognition of some of the more notable sites listed on the Heritage Register by providing and annually installing up to five heritage identification plaques; and
- c. Continue to provide annual funding for the Heritage Restoration Grant program for which property owners listed on the Heritage Register are eligible to apply.

19.5 The City of Vernon shall identify and map (Map 10) the two historically significant districts of the Lower East Hill and Historic Downtown and develop area specific regulations that act to preserve, enhance and promote heritage in these.

19.6 Development in the City Centre District shall adhere to the Design Guidelines and Heritage policies outlined in the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan. The City Centre Neighbourhood Plan replaces the former Building Facade Guidelines.

19.7 The City of Vernon shall identify, inventory, protect and replace trees that are significant to the community due to their heritage character. Community groups, neighbourhoods or individuals may recommend to the City that a tree be identified as a heritage tree.

19.8 Explore the provision of heritage plaques for heritage trees on public property.

19.9 Develop sign regulations for heritage properties for incorporation into the Sign Bylaw and Heritage Districts.



