



4.4 HERITAGE

Heritage can be defined as anything of a physical, cultural or social nature that is unique to, and valued by, a community, and can be passed from generation to generation. There is a growing body of research indicating that heritage initiatives have a strong positive impact on developing complete communities and creating a vibrant culture of creativity and innovation. Other commonly cited benefits of strong heritage policies include creating distinctive neighbourhoods, preserving cultural heritage, providing community identity and pride, combating social problems by engaging youth in the history and identity of their community, and generating tourism and other economic development opportunities.

The heritage resources of Pitt Meadows are an irreplaceable link to community history and help define the City's unique identity. Primarily agricultural in nature or relating to early settlement, these resources tell the story of pioneer lives and the technological innovations required to develop the land. There are also important ties to First Nations history and settlement.

The City recognizes and celebrates the historic past of Pitt Meadows, and the accomplishments of its pioneers, through the preservation and interpretation of significant heritage resources. This provides a link between the community's past, present, and future development.

A number of sites with heritage value have been identified in *The Heritage Resources of Pitt Meadows 2006* report, and the majority of these sites have now been included on the Pitt Meadows Heritage Register. Other historically and culturally important sites or landscapes may be identified through further community consultation and added to the Heritage Register.

A Heritage Preservation Area is designated on Schedule 3A. This area contains several buildings of significant heritage value, including the old General Store (now the Pitt Meadows Museum) and Hoffman and Sons Garage. The intent of the City is to ensure the preservation of the heritage buildings while allowing certain uses that are complementary.



4.4.1 Advocacy and Promotion

The strong support and involvement of the City as an advocate of heritage preservation is critical to ensuring that Pitt Meadows' heritage resources are appropriately protected and celebrated.

Increased knowledge of Pitt Meadows' heritage resources is an important part of gaining broad support and participation from both residents and visitors to the community.

Policies

- a) The City will lead by example through proper stewardship of City-owned heritage resources;
- b) Conservation plans will be developed as appropriate for City-owned heritage buildings and sites;
- c) Other heritage resources, such as landscape features, under City control will be identified;
- d) The City will continue to inform the Archaeological Branch of development proposals which affect areas identified by the Province as being of archaeological significance;
- e) The City will continue to support the Pitt Meadows Heritage and Museum Society and will support community heritage and cultural tourism initiatives;

4.4.2 Conservation

Whenever possible, heritage sites in Pitt Meadows are encouraged to be conserved in cooperation with private landowners for the public benefit of all citizens. In most cases, the City prefers heritage programs and policies that use incentives rather than regulations as a way of encouraging owners to maintain and restore their heritage properties.

Conservation principles need to be integrated as appropriate into the City's land use decisions, regulations and development processes as part of ensuring the preservation of heritage resources.

Policies

- a) Schedules 11A and 11B identify the location of buildings on the Community Heritage Register;
- b) The Community Heritage Register will be maintained and updated by adding sites identified as having heritage value;



Policies

- a) Conservation will be encouraged using the legislative tools available for this purpose;
- b) The *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* will be adopted as the basis of heritage application review and the treatment of identified heritage sites;
- c) The status of sites identified as having historic value will be monitored;
- d) The City will consider establishing and supporting a Community Heritage Commission to advise Council on heritage matters;
- e) The City will consider offering incentives to encourage conservation, including zoning relaxations and Heritage Revitalization Agreements;
- f) The potential for the establishment of heritage incentive programs in conjunction with senior levels of government will be explored;
- g) Heritage conservation will be promoted as an economic development and community revitalization tool;