



# MOVING FORWARD

The Calgary Heritage Authority


## Who We Are

The Calgary Heritage Authority (CHA) is a citizens' body empowered under the provincial Calgary Heritage Authority Act. The act was amended by legislation in 2000 after The City of Calgary Council approved the merger of the Heritage Advisory Board (est. 1979) and the Calgary Municipal Heritage Properties Authority (est. 1985). The significance of provincial sanction is two-fold:

- To ensure the value of heritage in Calgary is considered from the perspective of all Albertans.
- To ensure a degree of independence exists in the evaluation of heritage resources and heritage related policies.

The City of Calgary provides direction to the CHA through the Calgary Heritage Strategy. This strategy, approved by Council in 2008, outlines the principles of identification, protection and management of historic resources. It specifically calls on the CHA to support heritage conservation by taking a leadership role in creating and maintaining Calgary's civic identity. To do this, the CHA works closely with Heritage Planning in the City's Planning, Development and Assessment Department and with Cultural Landscapes in the Parks Department. The CHA itself works through two primary committees; an Evaluation and Review Committee (E&R) and a Public Awareness Committee (PAC).

Twelve members of the community are appointed by The City of Calgary to serve on the CHA. These individuals bring a broad range of professional and academic strengths to the work of the CHA through their expertise as architects, historians, library and museum professionals, construction, recycling and business specialists.



Cover photo: The Hudson's Bay's polished granite Colonnade has protected Calgarians from the elements since 1930.

Photo, this page: The Calgary Tower is an example of heritage significance identified in modern structures.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Heritage has value. It connects us with lessons learned in the past. The story of how we got here, the values we lived by, and the lessons embedded in how we adapted and changed to survive and thrive – that is the essence of heritage.

At the CHA we are proud of the work we've done over the last several years. We realize, however, that our organization needs to become more effective in order to fulfill our mandate as outlined by the Calgary Heritage Strategy. The City of Calgary expects an effective and efficient citizens' body to support heritage identification, conservation and management.

This report is about change, outlining our roadmap for renewal to become a more efficient and sustainable CHA. It is also about values – the values we believe need to be kept front-of-mind to ensure our changes to the CHA bring the results Calgarians deserve. During the past two years we have developed a Strategic Operating Plan and mapped out how to move the CHA forward on this course of renewal. In this report we are sharing the key highlights of our plan to make the CHA more effective in its role of advising Council and working with City administration, developers, heritage groups and citizens. Implementing this plan will help shape Calgary's growth so it reflects and retains the important values of our city and its heritage.

In addition to the organizational renewal work, the Calgary Heritage Authority has continued to work on the principles of identification, protection and management of historic resources. In this report we will demonstrate our progress over the last four years as this work continues to be important and forms the foundation on which the CHA will build its renewed organizational structure.

I would like to thank my colleagues, the volunteers who make up the CHA, for their extraordinary efforts. Their knowledge and passion is what makes the CHA what it is. I'm grateful to have such a dedicated, qualified and professional team to work with. I would also like to thank the incomparable City staff for their expertise and support throughout the years.

To quote a global leader in the economics of preserving historic structures, Donovan Rypkema,

*“The word ‘value’ comes from the Latin valere, which means, ‘to be strong, vigorous, in good health; to mean, to signify.’ Our communities – the places we live – ought to be strong, vigorous, in good health. The places we live ought to be valuable places, places with significance, places with meaning.”*

The role of the CHA is to identify, protect and help manage Calgary's heritage assets. With your help, we can continue to ensure that Calgary's heritage resources provide value to the community.

Scott Jolliffe  
Chair, Calgary Heritage Authority

# THE VALUE OF HERITAGE

Albertans and Calgarians deserve to live in strong vigorous, communities that make us feel good and bring a sense of value to our everyday lives. Recognition of cultural heritage is one way of leveraging the sense of meaning, of special places that resonate with significance and make them places where we want to live. These values are often embedded in historic or significant structures, but can also be landscapes like parks or culturally significant sites.

Inglewood is an example of a community that is recognized for its livability, with strong heritage values existing side-by-side with new development. In 2014, Inglewood was named Canada's greatest neighbourhood<sup>1</sup> in an annual contest held by the Canadian Institute of Planners. Inglewood was selected based on planning excellence and the judges said, "It is a great neighbourhood to visit but also, and perhaps most importantly, a great neighbourhood to live."

Research on the development of sustainable successful cities supports the importance of heritage conservation. In 2014, Heritage Canada National Trust published its Financial Measures to Encourage Heritage Development Report<sup>2</sup>. Heritage Canada writes:

"Canada's communities are made up of heritage properties that define its national identity and give shape and texture to its urban and rural areas. They provide cultural and physical links to the past, enriching the lives and understandings of both residents and visitors. Heritage properties can also contribute to sustainable economic development and prosperity by:

- providing landmarks that build a sense of place and assist with economic development
- providing a crucial draw for the tourism sector in both urban and rural areas
- assisting with the development and retention of small-businesses and start-ups
- attracting investment by increasing the livability of surrounding areas
- generating more jobs than new construction and providing better local expenditure retention
- providing environmental benefits by reducing demolition waste, capitalizing on the durable materials heritage properties typically possess, and preserving their embodied energy."

The Calgary Economic Development Strategy<sup>3</sup> also specifically highlights the importance that "quality of place" has to the city's growth and development.

"Access to a diversity of housing has been identified as a challenge in Calgary. At the same time, studies suggest sense of community and quality of place plays a major role in attracting and retaining residents. Calgary ranks first among large cities for spending in arts and culture and number one of 30 small global cities by Sport Business Magazine, suggesting Calgary should continue efforts to foster arts, culture and recreation to build the city's identity and increase the retention rate."

A community preference survey<sup>4</sup> conducted for the U.S. National Association of Realtors underscores the importance of the Calgary Economic Development Strategy findings. In a report published in 2013, the real estate association concludes:

“Historic neighborhoods boast unique building stock, walkable neighborhoods, mixed use commercial districts, and proximity to jobs and transit—all qualities highly prized by potential residents. The National Association of Realtors found that two-thirds of prospective homebuyers prioritize walkability in deciding where to live. Another study found that over 75 percent of young professionals are choosing to move to historic downtowns and older urban neighborhoods.”



Research shows visiting heritage sites, like these children playing in Central Memorial Park, can impact life satisfaction more than sport or the arts.

Beyond real estate value, we are now able to put a monetary value on how working, living in and visiting heritage sites make us feel. Researchers in the United Kingdom have begun to quantify the impact of heritage on a person’s wellbeing. For England’s 2014 Heritage Counts<sup>5</sup> report, a study was commissioned on the impact of visiting heritage sites on wellbeing. The research looked at the relationship between heritage visits and wellbeing using data from a national Understanding Society survey which uses a large and representative sample of the United Kingdom population. Research findings show the impact of visiting heritage sites on life satisfaction was found to be slightly higher than the impacts of participating in sports and the arts.

The CHA believes it can serve Calgarians well by ensuring these qualitative and quantitative measurements of value are taken into account in the planning and development in the city. The value of preserving our heritage assets is a priority for global competition because it speaks to quality of life. To continue to grow our economy, we believe Calgary should be a quality of life destination of choice for workers. International expert Donovan D. Rypkema, principal of PlaceEconomics, summarizes<sup>6</sup> the global importance of managing our heritage well:

“We live in an economically globalized world. To be economically sustainable it’s necessary to be economically competitive. But to be competitive in a globalized world a community must position itself to compete not just with other cities in the region but with other cities on the planet. And a large measure of that competitiveness will be based on the quality of life the local community provides, and the built heritage is a major component of the quality of life equation. This is a lesson that is being recognized worldwide.”

1 Canadian Institute of Planners 2014 Great Places <http://greatplacesincanada.ca/2014-winners>

2 Financial Measures to Encourage Heritage Development 2014 prepared by HERITAGE CANADA THE NATIONAL TRUST [www.heritagecanada.org/sites/www.heritagecanada.org/files/Final%20Report%20-Financial%20Measures-2014.pdf](http://www.heritagecanada.org/sites/www.heritagecanada.org/files/Final%20Report%20-Financial%20Measures-2014.pdf)

3 Building on our energy - an economic strategy for Calgary | update to the 2008 10-year economic strategy, [www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com/sites/default/files/EconomicStrategy/Webpage2014/Community.pdf](http://www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com/sites/default/files/EconomicStrategy/Webpage2014/Community.pdf)

4 Belden, Russonello & Stewart, The 2011 Community Preference Survey (conducted for the National Association of Realtors, March 2011), <http://www.realtor.org/reports/2011-community-preference-survey>

5 Fujiwara et al (2014) Heritage and Wellbeing for English Heritage, <http://hc.historicengland.org.uk/content/pub/2190644/value-impact-chapter.pdf>

6 Donovan D. Rypkema, Sustainability, Smart Growth and Historic Preservation, given at the Historic Districts Council Annual Conference in New York City, on March 10, 2007



The Bow Valley Ranche, constructed in 1896 by William Roper Hull, houses the Bow Valley Ranche Restaurant in recreation rich Fish Creek Provincial Park.

## CHA RENEWAL

# OUR ROAD MAP TO REALIZING HERITAGE VALUE FOR CALGARIANS

### The City of Calgary Council Direction to the CHA

Calgary Council supported the creation of the CHA and the CHA Reserve from previous heritage-related reserves. In 2011, Council directed and funded administration to implement an operationally more independent CHA, including directing administration to continue to investigate creative options for funding. In 2012, Council created the CHA Reserve to assist in funding a renewed and more independent CHA. The CHA took Council's direction and in 2013-2014 engaged key stakeholders to provide input before drafting our Strategic Operational Plan. The CHA is committed to working collaboratively with the City, stakeholders and partners to move forward while taking into account the economic and organizational realities of the day. To that end, we are sharing our organizational strategy for long-term effectiveness in this report.

The CHA believes renewal will improve and streamline our relationships with all of our partners, community groups, stakeholders, planners, developers and Mayor and Council. These entities are all crucial allies in ensuring Calgarians' benefit from all of the values that can result from good conservation planning.

### THE DESTINATION - MANDATE STATEMENTS

Every road map needs a defined destination. In our Strategic Operating Plan we have developed four mandate statements which express what success looks like for the CHA over the long term. We will measure our progress against these statements to ensure we are always tracking towards them.

- Calgarians profoundly respect and conserve, maintain and recognize our heritage assets.
- The CHA is a trusted strategic policy advisor to Council and administration on all matters relating to the identification, conservation and management of heritage assets.
- Calgarians are an informed and concerned community that values and celebrates its heritage for the contribution it makes to Calgary's sense of place and vibrant urban fabric.
- The Calgary heritage sector is well organized, collaborative and efficient in its efforts to promote understanding of and broaden citizen participation in Calgary's heritage.

## ROADMAP TO RENEWAL

As the CHA maintains base activities through continued volunteer work, we are planning to undertake organizational change in 2015. In our Strategic Operating Plan, we've identified the following initiatives to move us in the right direction towards fulfilling our mandate statements. Many of these steps will take two to three years to be fully realized.

### Development of governance and human resource models to allow for staff.

- This means implementing a new governance model to allow for the addition of permanent personnel, including hiring a General Manager and additional staff over time.

### Establishing organizational start-up needs.

- An example of this phase includes steps such as developing a communications strategy and platforms including consideration of a comprehensive online website to engage the heritage sector, the City and Calgarians.

### Establishing a proactive protocol that better specifies the reporting relationships between the CHA and The City of Calgary.

- This may include developing a more regular reporting routine between CHA and Council and the Office of the Mayor.

### Building heritage sector intelligence through research to better inform CHA activities.

- One example includes establishing a research framework and identifying long term trends including a robust horizon scanning process to identify issues and opportunities early.

### Developing capacity for economic value research to better inform The City of Calgary.

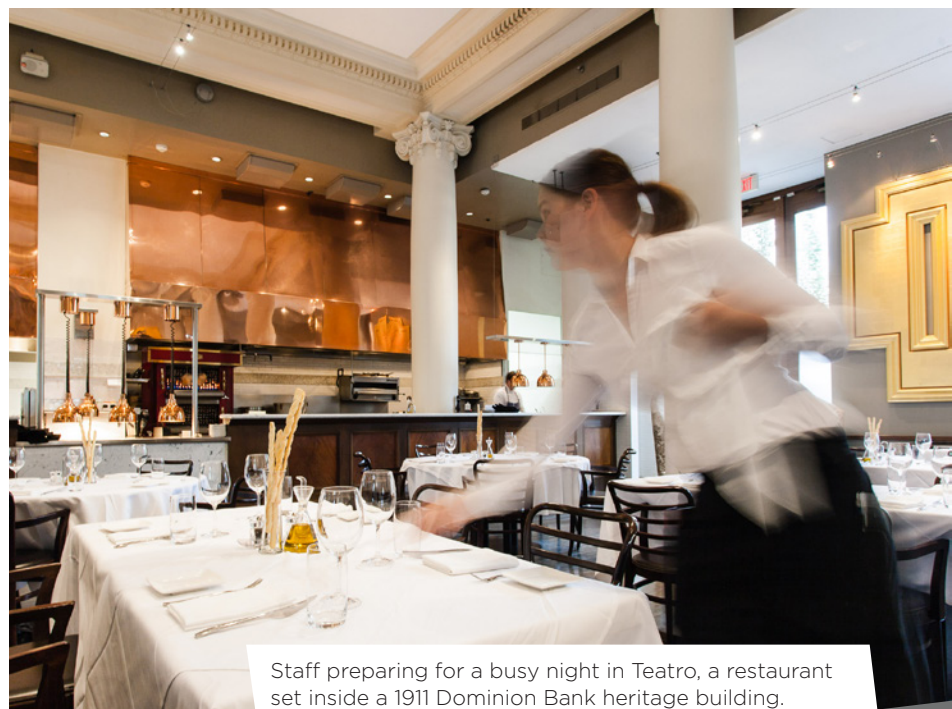
- This may include conducting or partnering in research to clarify the investment, social and economic values of heritage and heritage activities in Calgary.

### Developing additional Inventory management and curating activities.

- This means continuing to provide leadership and oversight to the Inventory, building on the current strength of the process developed by the CHA and Heritage Planning in the City's Planning, Development and Assessment Department and approved by Council.

### Enhancing heritage sector collaboration and support.

- An example is sustaining and enhancing partnerships and initiatives including Century Homes, Doors Open, Historic Calgary Week, Calgary Heritage Initiative, Calgary Public Library, and Lougheed House.



Staff preparing for a busy night in Teatro, a restaurant set inside a 1911 Dominion Bank heritage building.

## Calgary Heritage Authority Members 2014/2015

Scott Jolliffe  
*Chair*

Sarah Meilleur  
*Vice Chair*

Jim Cullen  
*Chair Evaluation & Review Committee*

Terry MacKenzie  
*Chair Public Awareness Committee*

Daryl Betenia

Mike McMordie

Pamela Heard

Nikolas Marsall-Moritz

Joni Carroll

Jane Kerr

Geoff Ellwand

Murray Larkins



CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY





Left: The Memorial Library was the first public library in Alberta and is still a key part of the public library system.

Right: Goodlife Fitness patrons working out in a 1930's Bank of Montreal building is an example of adaptive re-use.

## OUR PERFORMANCE 2011-2014

The CHA believes transparency is fundamental to earning the respect and trust of Calgarians who want to understand our ongoing initiatives and current practices as well as our challenges. The following examples provide insight into the work and benefits of our efforts during the past four years.

# EVALUATION AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

## INVENTORY OF EVALUATED HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources (Inventory) is the cornerstone of the Calgary Heritage Authority's mandate to identify, protect and manage. It is a comprehensive database which lists historic resources in Calgary and includes extensive individualized research files

**In the four years from 2011-2014, a total of 215 evaluations were completed. Twenty-one of these were re-evaluations or updates. A total of 194 new sites were added to the Inventory. In its entirety, as of December 2014 the Inventory included over 780 sites.**

supporting the identification of the resources' "significance." Evaluation and recommendation of historic resources for placement on the

Inventory is performed by the CHA's Evaluation and Review Committee.

The CHA evaluates and adds potential heritage resources such as buildings and landscapes to the Inventory based on expert research and analysis and City staff inputs. Evaluations of significance are based on a rigorous framework and set of pre-determined criteria approved by The City of Calgary Council. It's important to note that the CHA is a citizens' body operating at arm's

length from City administration, which ensures the integrity of the Inventory in several ways. For example, a committee of many

individuals dilutes personal bias for any one property or architectural type and also allows decisions to be made independent of other competing pressures. The E&R Committee makes recommendations for listing on the Inventory but does not have the authority to make decisions with respect to legal protection.

## How Identification for the Inventory works

Properties are identified for potential evaluation through a nomination process, with nominations being brought forward from many sources including community partners such as the Calgary Heritage Initiative (CHI), City staff, property owners and other interested parties. The E&R Committee collaborates with City staff to prioritize the evaluation



The lighting display on the Centre Street Bridge is recognized by a New Design Lion Award.

work plan because the number of properties nominated in any given year exceeds the funding available for evaluations. Experts then do field visits and perform extensive research of primary and secondary sources such as land titles, building permits, fire insurance plans, tax assessment rolls, photographs, blueprints and drawings, newspaper accounts, City directories, architectural references, interviews and written and oral histories. This information is summarized in the Historic Resource Evaluation Form. The framework uses nine predetermined value criteria for significance, including: activity, event, institution, person/people, design, style, construction, landmark and symbolic. City staff review and perform in-depth quality control on all evaluation forms and summarized research to ensure accuracy, completeness and overall integrity. The E&R Committee

reviews the evaluation documents for community or city-wide significance against the criteria and ultimately recommends to the CHA Board which properties should be added to the Inventory, or what further research and analysis may be required before a conclusion can be reached.

### Listing on the Inventory

Once a site is approved as significant by the CHA board, City staff add it to the Inventory. This entails adding the records to the Discover Historic Calgary website, flagging the property on the City's planning database, creating a permanent physical record and notifying the owner. Properties added to the Inventory then carry on as usual, however in the event activities are planned that could impact evaluated properties' heritage value, the property has been flagged as significant and its heritage value

has been identified as something that requires attention during the permitting and approval process. The Inventory listings also provide important information that informs broader urban planning initiatives.

Listing on the Inventory does not offer legal protection such as designation as a Municipal Historic Resource. However, listing is a key prerequisite for municipal, provincial or federal governments to consider legal protection. While listing also does not prevent demolition it may, in the event of an authorized demolition, encourage mitigative measures such as creating a permanent photographic record prior to demolition. Or it may be that City staff can negotiate incentives so the heritage value is retained through measures such as adaptive re-use rather than razing and building a new structure in its place.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE

### LION AWARDS

Every two years the Calgary Heritage Authority hosts the Lion Awards gala to celebrate conservation efforts and showcase heritage sites that help define the essence of Calgary.

**The response of the community to the Lion Awards increases consistently, both in numbers of submissions for these prestigious awards and attendance at the event. The 2014 awards saw attendance of more than 300 community members and dignitaries, up from more than 200 at the 2012 awards.**

The 2014 Lion Awards witnessed an upsurge in the recognition of what was lost, and could have been lost, in the massive 2013 flood which impacted significant numbers of historical and heritage value properties in the low-lying areas of the city. To address this event, the 2014 Lions Awards featured a special Flood Recovery Award to recognize outstanding efforts in rescuing historic resources from the effects of flood damage.

Two winners were honoured:

- The Baird/Miller residence in Elbow Park where homeowner Cory Miller sought to preserve the 102-year-old sandstone house. A focal point of the recovery effort was the repair of an original iron boiler and the use of unconventional methods to dry the delicate sandstone foundation of the property.
- The National Music Centre's Custom House collection risked being lost in the flood. More than 75 volunteers spent more than 2,000 hours evacuating 143 pianos, thousands of electronic parts, radios and schematics to a safe location where damaged collection items could undergo restoration.



Two years previously, the 2012 Lion Awards were distinguished with the presentation of a nationally significant award. The Heritage Canada Foundation and Calgary Heritage Initiative Society jointly presented a Heritage Canada Foundation National Achievement Award to The City of Calgary for the restoration of Central Memorial Park. Additionally, in 2012 the Lion Awards focused on new design and how it can incorporate and honour heritage values with the addition of two new design awards that were given to:

- “The Lions Awaken,” the new lighting installed on the Centre Street Bridge, which illuminates the structure, craftsmanship and ornate details of this almost 100-year-old sandstone structure.
- The new SAIT Polytechnic Parking Garage that was built in front of SAIT’s historic Heritage Hall.

Lion Award winners that exemplify extraordinary efforts benefiting Calgarians are:

### 2012 Lion Award Recipients

#### RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- Calgary Board of Education Headquarters

#### NEW DESIGN

- SAIT Polytechnic Parking Garage
- Centre Street Bridge Lighting - “The Lions Awaken”

#### LANDSCAPE

- Memorial Drive Poplar Trees
- Cultural Landscape Strategic Plan

#### COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

- 2010 Chinatown Centenary & Beyond

#### HERITAGE TRADESPEOPLE/CRAFTSPEOPLE

- Doug Sinclair
- Brian Manning
- Gerry Brown
- Pat Malcolmson

#### ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

- Kate Reeves
- RCMP Veterans Association

#### HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- The City of Calgary - Restoration of Central Memorial Park

### 2014 Lion Award Recipients

#### RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- Findlay Apartment Building Renovation
- National Hotel and East End Livery Barn Restoration
- Nellie McClung House Adaptive Re-use
- Old YWCA Front Porch Restoration
- T-Mac Group “Bank and Baron”

#### RESOURCE CONSERVATION - FLOOD RECOVERY

- Baird/Miller Residence
- National Music Centre

#### LANDSCAPE

- Poppy Plaza Landscape of Memory
- Oliver Quarry Park

#### COMMUNITY VITALIZATION

- Century Homes Calgary
- cSpace King Edward Arts Hub and Incubator

#### HERITAGE TRADESPEOPLE/CRAFTSPEOPLE

- Rick Janzen
- Russ Heikkinen

#### ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

- Cynthia Klaassen
- Heritage Roundtable
- Let’s talk about... Building ICONOMY

## Finances

Currently the CHA functions with a modest \$50,000 annually from the City through the Planning, Development and Assessment Department, which principally supports research for the Inventory and the public awareness initiatives. Provincial grants also support some heritage research, and the CHA has achieved sponsorship for special events such as the Lion Awards.

In 2012, City Council approved the re-organization of heritage-related reserve funds and created a Calgary Heritage Authority Reserve that has a present value of approximately \$1.7 million, with a protected principal of \$1.338 million. The CHA Reserve generates about \$30,000 in revenue per year.

These gardeners are just some of the many skilled craftsmen and professionals who are employed in heritage preservation and management.





Local residences like the 1910 Smalley House in Sunnyside, shown here, are listed as significant because of their architecture, their location as a community landmark or their association with prominent Calgarians.

## COMMUNITY HERITAGE PLAQUE PROGRAM SITES

The Calgary Heritage Authority runs a Heritage Plaque Program in which the organization identifies sites of historic significance and produces commemorative enamel plaques to be displayed at these sites. The plaque program is part of an ongoing awareness effort that shares knowledge about the heritage that abounds in the city, enriches the community and adds tourism and interest value for both casual visitors and participants in heritage walks. At least three enamel plaques are awarded biennially to sites of historic significance. Sites that are awarded plaques are proposed by the CHA, Heritage Planning staff and the public.

Over the last four years 10 new plaques have been awarded.

In 2014, the plaques focused on commemorating bridges with heritage value including the:

- Hextall (Shouldice) Bridge, constructed in 1910 in Bowness.
- 12th Avenue Elbow River Bridge, constructed in 1911 in Ramsay.
- Langevin Bridge, constructed in 1910 in Bridgeland/Riverside.
- Mewata Bridge, constructed in 1954 in Hillhurst.

In 2012 the focus was on schools, with plaques commemorating:

- Earl Grey School, constructed in 1968 in Upper Mount Royal.
- Cliff Bungalow School constructed in 1920 in Cliff Bungalow.
- King Edward School constructed in 1912 in South Calgary.

And in 2011, the plaque program focused on cultural landscapes awarding recognition to the:

- Bridgeland/Riverside Vacant Lot Garden established in 1930 in Bridgeland/Riverside.
- Old North Trail in Ramsay.
- Mission Bridge constructed in 1915 in Mission.

## HERITAGE MATTERS SPEAKERS SERIES

The Heritage Matters presentations feature dynamic talks by diverse speakers who are passionate about heritage and its value to Calgarians. The CHA, in collaboration with the Calgary Public Library and The City of Calgary Planning, Development and Assessment Department, seeks to reach out to a range of backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives to provide a platform for speakers' personal views on heritage.

Lectures have included:

- Corkscrew Media and Stir Films' producer, Brent Kawchuk with historian, Norman Leach, speaking of local filming of two First World War Heritage Minutes vignettes released in 2014-15.
- Photographer Steve Speer sharing his personal reflections on capturing 100 years of commercial history through his work for the Building Owners and Managers Association publication, "Building on the Bow".
- Kevin Allen presenting a speech on Calgary's Gay History of the 50s through the 70s, and a gay history walk.

Heritage Matters audiences are increasing and in 2014 have averaged more than 50 attendees per presentation.

- Architect Manu Chugh recounting his experience of creating Calgary's largest mosque, the Baitunnur Mosque.
- Terry MacKenzie, Bankview Community coordinator for Century Homes 2012, sharing his story of uncovering the history of his 100-year-old home and how his and others' community stories connected and overlapped with Calgary life through the century.
- The City of Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi sharing his perspectives on the place of heritage in the life of our city.
- Matthew Siddons, a recent urban studies graduate, highlighting the contributions of several different cultural groups to the city's heritage.
- Victor Mah, honorary Chairman of the Calgary Cultural Centre and Chinatown Centenary Community Champion, presenting on the history of Chinatown.
- Dr. Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, Dean of Environmental Design at University of Calgary addressing international trends valuing communities' heritage.

## CHAMPIONING CALGARY HERITAGE EFFORTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

One of the key roles of the CHA is to champion others' efforts in heritage-related work. We contribute to grassroots projects by providing guidance, support, participation, seed funding and advertising. Some of the notable efforts of the last four years have included:

**Century Homes Calgary** — Century Homes Calgary is a Calgary Heritage Initiative Society project, which the CHA was proud to partner in. The Century Homes Calgary Celebration began as a grassroots initiative in the summer of 2011 through the hard work of volunteers who are passionate about Calgary's built heritage. The initiative highlights and celebrates our built heritage through a city-wide celebration of homes constructed during Calgary's first building boom, which began in 1904 and peaked in 1912. Residents were encouraged to research the stories associated with their own homes. The 2012 Century Homes Calgary Celebration was extremely successful and has transitioned to a homeowner do-it-yourself model.

**Historic Calgary Week** — Hosted annually by Chinook Country Historical Society, this 10-day-long celebration of history in Calgary features more than 60 events. CHA members participate in numerous ways, including leading historic walks and hosting the biennial Lion Awards during the week.

**Doors Open YYC** — Launched in 2012 by Doors Open Calgary, this event features a weekend where buildings across the city open their doors, free of charge, to the

public and provide revealing tours and behind-the-scenes experiences. Doors Open is a well-established and highly successful international concept that allows people free access to buildings in order to create enthusiasm for heritage and contemporary architecture, and increase the appreciation of historic and culturally significant places and spaces.

**Heritage Roundtables** — The CHA contributes to and participates in Heritage Roundtables which are designed to encourage sharing information and ideas amongst heritage-oriented citizens while building synergies between Calgary-area heritage related organizations.

**Heritage News** — Since the summer of 2014 the CHA manages and produces a monthly heritage newsletter for the Calgary heritage community. This email newsletter and its subscriber list results from our partnership with Heritage Roundtables and our Heritage Matters Speakers' Series. Activities of all heritage-related organizations are welcome for inclusion, while all citizens may subscribe from our City-hosted website.

**The City of Calgary Cultural Landscape Strategic Plan** — The CHA is proud to have provided input into this document which establishes a set of policies and strategies for The City of Calgary Parks Department to identify, protect, manage and celebrate the rich, unique collection of historic resources found in Calgary's open space system. Led by Calgary Parks staff, the document helps define cultural landscapes and explains the associated character defining elements of cultural landscapes, many of which relate to cultural and archeological sites of First Nations.

## PUBLICATIONS

In 2013, the book "Concrete Centenarian: The Life and Death of Calgary's Canadian Government Elevator" written by CHA Chair Scott Jolliffe was published. The book commemorates the Canadian Government Elevator that had, since 1915, towered as an iconic concrete cousin of rural prairie grain elevators in industrial southeast Calgary. The CHA support of this book resulted from the realization that the market would likely not respond to an adaptive reuse of the facility. Commemorating the building in book format provided one way of preserving the heritage value of such an iconic structure. A significant portion of the publication cost was supported by the private sector.

In 2011, the CHA commissioned and published a context paper on "Calgary Modern" developed by Donald Luxton & Associates, one of western Canada's leading heritage resource management firms. This document outlines what constitutes "modern" architecture in the Calgary context and provides people working in heritage resource management with an understanding that allows for the determination of significance.

In 2013 a Crescent Heights & Rosedale Context Paper was developed and published by the CHA. Once developed, this paper allowed for easier and quicker identification of heritage properties requiring evaluation and their prioritization for the evaluation process in these neighbourhoods.

# THE CHA ACHIEVES ITS MANDATE WHEN:

- 1** Calgarians profoundly respect and conserve, maintain and recognize our heritage assets.
- 2** The CHA is a trusted strategic policy advisor to Council and administration on all matters relating to the identification, conservation and management of heritage assets.
- 3** Calgarians are an informed and concerned community that values and celebrates its heritage for the contribution it makes to Calgary's sense of place and vibrant urban fabric.
- 4** The Calgary heritage sector is well organized, collaborative and efficient in its efforts to promote understanding of and broaden citizen participation in Calgary's heritage.

This page: Calgarians walking downtown pass by one of Canada's founding commercial icons.

Back cover: Necessary modern conveniences like roads are given a sense of value and beauty by highlighting retained heritage features.





Calgary  
Heritage Authority

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