

MINUTES
City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee
Wednesday April 1, 2026 at 6 p.m.
Room 108, Welland Civic Square

Present: Mary Adelle Patterson, Chair; Connie McCutcheon, Vice Chair; Tom Higginbotham, Tia DeAgazio, Rose Dzugan, Nora Reid, Secretary/Treasurer, Researcher; Greg Lipinski, Staff Liaison
Guest: Ian Lucas, Niagara Geopark (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order:

Chair Mary Adelle Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Chair Mary Adelle Patterson read the Land Acknowledgement recognizing that we meet on the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples.

3. Guest: Ian Lucas, Celeste Remillard; Niagara Geopark and Cook's Mills War of 1812 Trail

Guests Ian Lucas and Celeste Remillard explained how the Geo Park is set up. It is designed to be a single place to discover all of the attractions in the Niagara Region, particularly the trails. They are aspiring to be UNESCO accredited. Partners can provide access on their website.

Heritage components include cultural and indigenous heritage. There will be an official public launch at Peller Estates Winery on November 6th.

A package of documents including extensive supporting and feedback data needed to participate was forwarded to the Committee in advance of the meeting. Cost is \$5000.00 per year. The City of Port Colborne has already agreed to this. Members expressed the opinion that the cost, feedback and monitoring data required is beyond the scope of an advisory committee such as this and suggested this might be facilitated within the City of Welland's Economic Development Department.

Action: Tom Higginbotham will contact Greg Higginbotham, Manager of Government Relations, City of Port Colborne, to ask him to attend our May meeting and provide the Committee with more information about their participation with the Geopark.

Action: After hearing from Greg Higginbotham, the Chair and Secretary will draft a letter to Welland Economic Development Department and Welland City Council with a recommendation about the City linking to the Niagara Geopark. Letter to include the Proposal Letter from Ian Lucas.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

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4. Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2026

Moved by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Connie McCutcheon, that the Minutes of the meeting held March 4, 2026, be approved. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Projects Report

St. Michael the Archangel Plaque

Secretary reported that the Parish Council would like a plaquing ceremony. She will ask Father Petryk for possible dates.

Osage Orange trees

Dave Steven, Manager of Parks, Forests and Cemeteries reported to the Secretary that the sign will be installed as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

Historic District Mapping

Researcher Nora Reid reported that she had checked with a long time resident of the area known as “French Town” as well as with the Secretary of Église du Sacre Coeur which is located there. Both indicated that the residents themselves have always referred to the area as “French Town” and have no concerns that that terminology could be seen as derogatory, any more than “Chinatown” is seen as derogatory in Toronto.

Re: Boundaries between Crowland and Welland:

Action: Tom Higginbotham will continue to pursue accurate historical maps denoting the original boundary between Welland and Crowland.

Welland Canal 200th Anniversary

Members asked whether this Committee should be part of a Regional Task Force on the Anniversary. R. Dzugan asked whether the unveiling of the new interpretive plaque at the Welland Canal Second Aqueduct should be part of this anniversary. It was noted that this is a Parks Department project.

QR Code to link to further historical information on this plaque will link to our website under the info on the 2nd Aqueduct as a Designated Property.

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Property Standards, Report Next Steps

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that this will be considered for addition when the Property Standards Bylaw is updated in 2027. Details to be passed on were contained in report from N. Reid received by this Committee.

Property Tax Rebate for Heritage Designated Properties

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that he will be completing a full staff report to go to City Council. He said there is some concern about possible redundancy with new CIP grants. Chair Mary Adelle Patterson expressed the desire that all the background information in the Report the Committee received on this programme would as well be communicated to City Council.

City Review of Terms of Reference for Subcommittees:

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that there is no timeline available for this. C. McCutcheon would like to see this completed before the next election this October when City Subcommittees will be reappointed. Chair M. Patterson noted that our proposed revised Operating Bylaw, a project which was started four years ago and was already approved by this Committee and City Staff, has been held up due to this review,

Website Updates

Greg Lipinski reported that the members list on our website has been corrected.

Downtown CIP Report and Open House

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that an internal review is being completed and should be done by mid April. Open House possibly in June.

Potential Properties for Designation (Bill 200)

N. Reid reported that Bill 200 deadlines for designation only applies to properties formally listed on a Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest Not Yet Designated at the Clerk's Department.

Action: Researcher N. Reid will bring a potential list of properties of interest to research for possible designation to the next meeting.

6. Other Business – New Business

Update to City Official Plan

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Discussion deferred at City Council.

Treasurer's Report

Moved by Rose Dzugan, seconded by Connie McCutcheon to pay \$158.00 to National Trust for Canada for yearly membership. Carried

Moved by Rose Dzugan, seconded by Tom Higginbotham to reimburse Secretary N. Reid \$186.43 for cost of McAfee Antivirus for Committee's computer. Carried.

Moved by Rose Dzugan, seconded by Tom Higginbotham to pay DocNet \$2.27 for late fee on \$.01 balance owing. Carried.

Correspondence

Secretary circulated a list of correspondence received and sent between March 3rd to March 30th, 2026 in advance of the meeting. Rose Dzugan noted we were still getting inquiries about court related cases and it is wasting the Secretary's time and is confusing to the public. This is still happening and occurs because people "Google" Welland Courthouse which takes them to the building's listing on our website as a heritage designated building and the link info@wellandheritage.ca Clerk's Dept. is working on rectifying this.

C. McCutcheon noted the Google listing should be edited asap as many of these inquiries are specific about Court cases and there is a privacy issue.

Action: Secretary will follow up with City Clerk to see if progress has been made on changing the Google link.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Connie McCutcheon, seconded by Tom Higginbotham at 7:48 p.m. Carried.