



5 September 2017

Councillor Jan Harder
Chair, Planning Committee
Planning Committee Members
Built Heritage Subcommittee Members
City of Ottawa

Subject: Heritage Inventory Project

Dear Councillor Harder, Planning Committee and Built Heritage Subcommittee Members:

Heritage Ottawa was disappointed that Planning Committee had some reservations about the Heritage Inventory Project, and the update of the Heritage Register. We were surprised that this was the case.

As you know, Ottawa's Heritage Reference List is outdated, and even pre-dates the revised *Ontario Heritage Act*. It gives no legal protection to buildings of heritage interest. We have all witnessed over the last several years the frustrations that have ensued because of this out-of-date and incomplete tool.

It was agreed that an updated Register was necessary to provide clarity for property owners, developers, the real estate industry and neighbourhoods. An up-to-date Register is a requirement of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, which Council is required to administer. Updating the Register does not mean that properties will be designated; only that there will be 60 days notice of demolition. It is good planning.

The new register entries represent significant research, public consultation and council consideration, which is a significant improvement over the informal entries in the old Heritage Reference List.

With Heritage Ottawa's support and encouragement, this term of Council identified updating the Heritage Register as a priority, and provided the planning section with the tools to undertake this challenging project, (remembering that the City of Ottawa had - until the project was undertaken - exactly the same number of planners that it had before amalgamation; before it became the geographically largest city in Canada).

Heritage Ottawa trusts that you will demonstrate your ongoing commitment to Ottawa's built heritage and to good planning by supporting this term-of-council priority. We look to your leadership on this file.

Heritage Ottawa would be pleased to assist in any way within our capacity.

Respectfully,

David Jeanes,
President, Heritage Ottawa