

Official Plan Update Issue Sheet Series

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Purpose of Issue Sheet Series

To inform the public about major aspects of the Township's Official Plan, how the existing Official Plan addresses the issue, and how the issue is affected by Provincial Planning Policies.

Who to Contact to Comment or Learn More?

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Issue 6: Culture Heritage

What is Cultural Heritage?

- Cultural Heritage resources consist of historic buildings, structures and other human made features of importance to the Township as well as heritage landscapes and archaeological resources

Provincial Legislation

- The Provincial Policy Statement includes a specific section on protection of cultural heritage and archaeological resources (Section 2.6)
- The PPS requires the preservation and conservation of significant built heritage resources, significant cultural heritage landscapes and significant archaeological resources.
- The Provincial Heritage Act regulates the preservation of historic structures

Existing Official Plan Policies?

- Encourages the identification, protection, maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of heritage resources
- The relationship of a proposed development will be considered with regard to the contextual environment of existing heritage buildings and heritage landscapes during the review of development applications
- Permits the designation of properties for conservation for their historic or architectural value
- Permits parts of the Township to be studied for designation as heritage conservation districts
- Requires that development considered to have significant archaeological potential will be subject to an evaluation process to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Culture.
- Where significant archaeological resources are found, only development or site alteration which maintains the heritage integrity of the site will be permitted

Issues to Consider During Review of Official Plan

- The Ministry of Culture checklist to determine archaeological significance categorizes all development within 300m of a water source as having significant potential which must be evaluated further. This essentially covers most of the Township and means no development should be approved without an archaeological evaluation
- The PPS and the Heritage Act permits municipalities to identify heritage areas or buildings as being historically significant without formal designation to ensure that historic structures are given some protection. The Township may consider including such protection measures for undesignated historic structures into the Official Plan

Information Sources

- Provincial Policy Statement <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Asset1421.aspx>
- Official Plan 2004 <http://www.twprideaulakes.on.ca/development/official-plan.html>
- Ontario Heritage Act http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90018_e.htm