

**Town of Carman / R.M. of Dufferin  
Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee  
(C/D MHAC)**

**HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Report to Councils on 2022 Activities  
Plans for 2023**

Prepared by:

The Carman/Dufferin Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (C/D MHAC)

TOWN OF CARMAN /R.M. OF DUFFERIN  
HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN Report on 2022/ Plans for 2023

The Town of Carman and the R.M. of Dufferin are committed to protecting their heritage resources for the benefit of current and future generations. The Heritage Resources Act (1986) provides authority for the Town and the R.M. to designate and protect local heritage resources and to develop initiatives that will encourage, support, educate and promote the management and sustainability of historic resources in the community.

C/D MHAC advises Councils on heritage matters and is a vehicle for fulfilling their mandate through initiatives that identify, preserve and promote local heritage.

The Committee is completing the first year of our three-year, 2022-24 Heritage Resource Management Plan. In 2022, C/D MHAC activities were planned and carried out within the realities of the ongoing pandemic, including economic constraints along with restrictions on public gatherings and person-to-person contact. To meet these challenges, the Committee focused on volunteer activities in areas such as research, planning and updating records.

In this report, we outline 1) the extent to which we were able to meet the objectives we set for 2022, and 2) our planned activities and projected budget for 2023.

## **Goals and Activities**

*Objective #1. Preserve and promote local heritage by making research findings and key sources of heritage information available to the public.*

1.1 Our website, [carmandufferinheritage.ca](http://carmandufferinheritage.ca), continued to serve as our major avenue for sharing research findings and links to other local heritage resources with the public. In 2022, we carried out a complete review and update of both the content and layout of the website. We also added a total of eleven monthly updates on current heritage-related “News and Events”, research findings, local natural history and other relevant content.

As in past years, families of former residents of the area and others interested in local heritage contacted us through the website seeking information on family history, burial sites and other local connections. These include a range of topics, from an inquiry by an Ontario researcher that resulted in new information on the history of Snow Valley ski resort, to acquisition of photos and key background information on a St. Daniel area Métis family. This continues to be a valuable source of information for our archives. One of these contact families expressed their appreciation of our assistance through a generous donation to C/D MHAC.

1.2 In 2022, C/D MHAC worked closely with the Pembina Manitou Archive on the next phase of digitalizing local newspapers. This is an ongoing project in which we have now made local newspapers from the 1890s to 2018 available online. These newspapers have become one of our most valuable resources for our own research and for the research of newspaper reporters, families tracing their local roots, and others who are interested in local history. Digital copies of this material are being donated to the Dufferin Historical Museum (DHM) and Boyne Regional Library (BRL). This project was our main budget item for 2022. In keeping with our commitment to budgetary constraint, members provided volunteer assistance, and were able to reduce the projected cost of digitalization by almost one-third.

1.3 As a product of previous research into the history of the Missouri Trail, C/D MHAC members collected a large volume of background information on the Trail and its important role in our pre-1870 heritage. As with the local newspapers, digitalized copies of our research will be made available to our heritage partners and the public through the BRL and DHM.

*Objective #2. Continue identifying and preserving local heritage through resumption of pre-pandemic projects - community inventories, family homestead interviews, life stories projects.*

2.1 Unfortunately, the pandemic still hasn't become 'history'. In 2022, we had to further postpone the in-person component of our St. Daniel area inventory project, as well as interviews with owners of family homestead farms and life story workshops. Members of the committee focused their volunteer hours instead on research, planning and communication via social media. One of our key initiatives involved working with a local advocate of Indigenous culture to plan

culturally-sensitive strategies for helping local residents explore the experience of growing up Métis in the Carman/Dufferin community. These life stories form an important but largely undocumented area of local heritage. It also is an area of inquiry on which we can build further research into the growing diversity of our community.

*Objective #4. Promote local heritage through signage and/or cairns at the Kennedy Burial Site, Forest City/Clendenning Mill site, and other locations of identified heritage significance; by distributing brochures, resuming displays, and through other forms of participation at public events; and by continuing to develop participatory contacts with other organizations in the broader community.*

3.1 Installation of heritage signs continues to be an important part of C/D MHAC activities. In 2022, C/D MHAC provided bronze plaques for two sites – the former C.N.R. Station, which is one of our designated heritage sites, and the former CIBC building, a heritage certificate site. Planned installation of a marker at the Kennedy Burial Site was one of the projects put on hold due to restrictions on personal contact as well as economic considerations. This proved fortuitous in that, over the past year, we have retrieved important additional background information on the site. Research on the location of other abandoned sites was similarly postponed.

3.2 Other aspects of our work also were delayed by pandemic restrictions, including annual participation in fairs and other local events and distribution of heritage tour brochures and other promotional material through local businesses.

3.3 On the positive side, we have been able, largely through virtual media, to develop closer ties with other community groups such as the Boyne River Keepers (BRK) and Communities in Bloom (CIB). Both have been sensitive to the heritage aspects of their activities, and have been appreciative of ‘Heritage Moment’ presentations by our committee representative. C/D MHAC prepared a History of the Boyne River at the request of BRK, consulted on signage, and mounted a display at their World Rivers Day event. Our heritage representative to the CIB worked

closely with their team on a joint proposal for developing a heritage showpiece for the community and consulting on an appropriate name for a new pocket park. Although the development was not approved, it underlined our overlapping missions in promoting the local community.

3.4 In other heritage promotion initiatives, members participated in a project involving use of local vintage photos in the décor of a new Carman hotel. The proposal was enthusiastically received and was implemented in collaboration with the Dufferin Historical Museum. Although our mandates and membership interests differ, we will continue, as in past, to work closely with the DHM to complement and support our separate but complementary initiatives.

### **SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR 2023**

Our former Reeve recently identified C/D MHAC as “the committee that gives us the biggest bang for our buck”. We earned this accolade by recognizing the current need for economic constraints and focusing on projects that could be carried out largely through volunteer activities. Members have donated hundreds of hours of time, increasingly-costly mileage, and personal supplies towards our heritage projects. This included our one ‘big ticket’ item for 2022, digitalization of local newspapers. We plan on operating along similar lines in 2023.

Our overall plan for 2023 is to complete projects delayed by the pandemic and, to the extent that economic restrictions and safety permit, achieving the following objectives:

1. Complete the inventory of heritage resources for the St. Daniel community;
- 2 Install a heritage monument at the abandoned Kennedy Burial Site; determine the feasibility of installing signage at other abandoned sites;
3. Resume distribution of heritage brochures to locations throughout the community;
4. Resume collection of information and stories of homesteads/early farms and notable people from the Carman/Dufferin community and make this information available on our heritage website;
5. Continue to support the local research project in which Carman/Dufferin residents explore the experience of growing up Métis in our community and assist in promoting and communicating these findings.

6. Participate in community promotional events and work with other community groups towards promotion of the Town of Carman and the R.M. of Dufferin;
7. Continue making heritage research and resources publically accessible through monthly updates to our website and by collaborating and sharing resources with the BRL, DHM and other local organizations.

Our attached financial report and projected budget for the coming year reflect our activities in 2022 and our goals for 2023. You will note that, other than installing the Kennedy site monument and supporting the Métis research project, we will continue to focus mainly on volunteer, low-budget initiatives.

Thank you for supporting the work of our committee.