

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

HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Report to Councils on 2019-21 Activities
Plans for 2022-2024**

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 2019-21/ Plans for 2022-24

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 has just completed the final year of our 2019-21 Heritage Resource Management Plan. The following report outlines 1) our activities for that time period and 2) our objectives for 2022-24.

C/D MHAC activities for 2019-21 were organized around the Manitoba 150 celebrations which were planned as the highlight of this time period. Our plan was to focus on understanding and commemorating the broader historical context of events of 1870, our pre-1870 heritage, and the impact the influx of new settlers had on the people, land and economy of the area. These objectives were addressed through the following projects and activities:

1. **MB 150 celebrations.** Plans for a comprehensive public celebration, displays and installation of signage had to be rescheduled and curtailed because of the pandemic. Instead, we held a successful but scaled-down ceremony with key representatives from the community. A sign was unveiled to commemorate the Missouri trail, the main pre-1870 access to this area for Indigenous hunters/traders, buffalo hunters and first settlers. We also worked with the R.M. of Dufferin to place Historical Site highway signs marking the location of the first permanent

settlement in the area at Îlets-de-Bois. More recently, C/D MHAC installed an attractive sign on the grounds of the Dufferin Historical Museum to highlight the importance of the Missouri Trail in early local history.

***Plan for 2022-24.** As a product of our research into the history of the Missouri Trail we have amassed a considerable volume of background information on the Trail and its importance in our pre-1870 heritage. We plan on assembling this material in a binder and providing copies to the Dufferin Historical Museum (DHM) and Boyne Reginal Library (BRL).*

2. **Website.** Monthly website features outlining the context of local history – our early Indigenous population; the impact of global conflict and exploration; western fur trade; the 1870 heritage; local racial and religious confrontations; transition from a trade-based to a market economy. A series of ‘Now-and-Then’ photos captured images from the post-1870 era. Families of former residents of the area continued to contact us through the website seeking information on family history, burial sites and other local connections. In the process they provided valuable background, photos and further information for our archives.

We also have introduced a new feature on local natural history, exploring both our indigenous and introduced species of flora and fauna and changes over time.

***Plan for 2022-24.** We look forward to continuing our highly productive association with our present website manager and Typha Communications for 2022. This will include reviewing and updating the large volume of heritage information on what we view as a ‘living history’ of the Carman/Dufferin municipalities, as well as continuing monthly updates and additions to the site. We will add to the ‘Now-and-Then’ project, providing fascinating ‘roll-over’ images of past and present Carman/Dufferin. We also will encourage and follow up on website contacts with past residents and families, copying and archiving any relevant heritage material that surfaces from these contacts.*

3. **Identifying and preserving local heritage.** C/D MHAC members worked with volunteer committees in R.M. of Dufferin communities to identify local heritage resources, their location and sources of information. These inventories are posted on our website. Four inventories have been completed; the St. Daniel area research was postponed due to the pandemic.

We continued our interviews with owners of family homestead farms. Four families have been interviewed and information posted on the website.

A life story workshop project was initiated under local leadership. One project was organized; further sessions, unfortunately had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

With curtailment of most in-person activities this past two years, we have been able to focus our volunteer hours on research, in particular, revisiting early local newspapers that C/D MHAC previously had digitalized and made available online. Findings have been shared on our website, with those doing family research, and with other local groups such as the BRK and local newspaper.

Plan for 2022-24. As pandemic restrictions permit, we will continue with updating and adding to the community inventory, family homestead and life stories projects. The St. Daniel inventory is still to be completed. Given recent contacts with individuals who are keen on learning more about their Métis roots in the area and a growing interest in family history, we will focus on getting past the basic history aspect of this search (names, dates, events), to gain greater insight into the social history and heritage of the area.

Through our research and contacts, we are locating significant family histories, photographic collections and other records that should be preserved. Over the next three years, we will set up a subcommittee to review our archival guidelines, space and security requirements and recommend a plan for future archival holdings.

Early local newspapers have been a valued and key resource over the past months. In past, C/D MHAC has funded digitalization and online posting of Carman newspapers from first publication up to 1977. These editions are posted on the Pembina Manitou Archive website where they are now globally accessible. We have been able to copy this material and donate disk copies to both the DHM and BRL. We now have the opportunity for extending digitalization to of local newspapers to 2018. Given the increased size of newspapers over the past decades, the volume of pages to be digitalized this year (and cost per page) is equivalent to those copied in all prior years (1890-1976). This will be a major objective and component of our grant request for the coming year.

4. **Signage, cairns, monuments.** In addition to the Missouri Trail and Îlets-de-Bois signs, C/D MHAC designed and installed a bronze plaque to recognize the significance of the former C.N.R. Station, one of our designated heritage sites. Other signage planned for the former Kennedy Burial Site was delayed due to the pandemic. Research on the location of other abandoned sites was similarly postponed.

Plan for 2022-24. We will proceed with plans for a sign or cairn to mark the Kennedy Burial Site. This project is timely. The site is unique in documenting the impact of earlier epidemics - in this case typhoid fever – on a population that lacked both protection and health care services. We also will look into the feasibility of marking other such sites. With the new interest generated in the Boyne River and its surrounding by the Boyne River Keepers, we also plan on heritage signage for the former Forest City/Clendenning Mill site on the west side of the Town of Carman.

5. **Participation in community heritage promotional events.** Annual participation in fairs and other local events was one aspect of our work adversely affected by the pandemic. On the positive side, we have been able 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 work and appreciative of relevant ‘Heritage Moment’ presentations by our committee representative. In another heritage promotion initiative, our current Chair and another local resident presented a proposal for using local vintage photos in the décor of a new Carman hotel. The proposal was enthusiastically received and is being implemented with assistance from the Dufferin Historical Museum.

***Plan for 2022-24.** Until such time as pandemic restrictions permit, we will not be planning displays at public events. Hopefully we will resume these activities well within the scope of this 3-year plan. Distribution of heritage brochures also remains on hold; further material will be printed and distributed when we are able to do so. As an advisory committee of both Councils, we look forward to the potential for greater visibility and promotion of local heritage on the reconceptualized Council website.*

- 6. Other Heritage Initiatives.** We did not apply for heritage grants over the last three years, having focussed instead on projects involving volunteer activities by C/D MHAC members. This cost-saving approach was fortunate, given the recent uncertainty around public finances, since heritage grant would have entailed commitment to funding on a 50/50 basis. Our decision to focus on volunteer-based projects also meant that, in 2020-21, we were able to forego our annual for request Council funding.

***Plan for 2022-24.** Given the nature and cost of our priorities for the coming year, C/D MHAC will be submitting grant applications in support of digitalization of newspapers and other projects that fit with grant criteria. In subsequent years, we will assess resources on an annual basis and consider proposals as opportunities arise. One initiative that remains high on our list of priorities is a proposal for a centrally-located monument of a bison. In conjunction with our plans for MB150, C/D MHAC members outlined an exciting proposal*

for creating an iconic Carman/Dufferin landmark. This is an ambitious project with wide community support. C/D MHAC will continue to look for opportunities to implement this proposal.

SUMMARY OF PLANS 2022-24

In summary, C/D MHAC plans, over the next three years, pandemic and other unanticipated events permitting, to:

1. Wrap up our MB150 celebrations by assembling, copying, and sharing extensive research materials on the Missouri Trail identified and preserved in carrying out this project.
2. Continue to develop the C/D MHAC website as a living history of our municipalities, including reviewing and updating content, monthly updates on history-in-the-making and projects such as our “Now-and-Then” photographs and natural history features.
3. Continue identifying and preserving local heritage through ongoing projects - community inventories, family homestead interviews, life stories projects.
4. Make key sources of heritage information publicly available by funding digitalization of additional local newspapers.
5. Promote local heritage through signage 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.