

**OLRA Heritage Working Group
The Overview of Our Work to Date
October 2022**

Heritage Conservation District Study Work

Step One of the Town’s process for updating the Old Oakville Heritage District Plan is to complete a Heritage Conservation District Study involving original research, new information as appropriate (e.g., Indigenous History, Cultural Heritage Landscape lens), a new inventory of individual properties, a review of existing planning policies and the overall heritage character of the area.

The OLRA Working Group identified some specific opportunities for input to this work that included the following:

Content Related to Character Elements

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| Overall Character | - review First & Second Street District Plan for potential application and implications for Old Oakville Heritage District Plan (complete)

- review current plan, other reference documents and best practices for other Heritage District Studies in Ontario regarding “character” and how it can best be described (underway) |
| Block Analysis | - review current plan and provide input of features that contribute to the character of the area (initial draft complete and submitted to the Town of Oakville as input) |
| Built Inventory | - work with OHS and other subject matter experts to assemble information on individual properties and share results with property owners, heritage staff and consultants working on the project (initial draft complete and submitted to the Town of Oakville as input; further work underway with target for completion in Fall 2022) |
| Land Use, Streetscape & Natural Heritage | - review current plan and other reference documents to identify features that contribute to the character of the area (initial thoughts incorporated into Block Analysis, further work underway with target for completion in Fall 2022) |

Content Related to Policy & Planning Elements – planned for Fall 2022

Evolving Practices in Heritage Plans & Guidelines – planned for Fall 2022

Results of Work to Date

In focusing on the Block Analysis, we have concluded that the Old Oakville Heritage District meets the definition of a cultural heritage landscape, which is described as “a defined geographical area [which has] been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community.”⁽¹⁾

The District includes buildings, spaces, as well as natural, social and cultural elements that are valued together because of their interrelationship, meaning and association with the development of Oakville from its beginning to a small town.

The opportunity is for the HCD Study to be able to describe the overall collective character of the District as well as the diversity of character that exists within smaller visual blocks. In our view, the “sum of the parts” and their interrelationships is what makes this a special place worth protection and effective management of change to ensure that the character is preserved for current and future generations.

Content of Block Analysis, Streetscape & Built Inventory

For each Block within the District, we have reviewed the statements from the original plan, completed walkabouts and documented our observations. Further work is required to consider implications in terms of the overall character of the District – how the sum of the parts create cultural heritage value.

We have also worked with the Oakville Historical Society and the archivist from St. Andrew’s Church to begin to develop the inventory for each property within the District. We recognize that the property inventory requires more work including the engagement of property owners in the process. The plan is to provide OLRA members with pilot templates of actual properties in Fall 2022 through website.

Engagement of OLRA Membership

OLRA’s overall objective is to keep our entire membership informed and engaged in this important process. Work completed to-date has included:

- Eblast during Heritage Week – February 2022
- OLRA Spring Newsletter – April 2022
- Presentation at Annual Meeting – May 2022

Work currently underway and planned for Fall 2022 and early 2023 includes:

- Updating of OLRA website to include Heritage section with link to the Town process; section on individual property inventories pilot to provide information for further updating inventory profiles
- OLRA Fall Newsletter – November 2022
- Eblast and Speaker Event – February 2023
- OLRA Spring Newsletter – Spring 2023

Engagement with Town of Oakville

The update of the Old Oakville Heritage Conservation District Plan is the responsibility of the Town of Oakville and OLRA is recognized as a key stakeholder. The OLRA Working Group has established a relationship with Town Heritage Planning staff and the consultants for this initiative to meet regularly to provide input and feedback on the process and content.

We have held two meetings to date:

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| September 8 | Meeting with Town Heritage staff to share work completed on Block Analysis – Streetscape & Built Inventory |
| October 3 | District Walking Tour and discussion with Town Heritage staff, consultants and Councillors Duddeck, Gittings and Haslett-Theall |