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CITY APPROVES A HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The plan provides process and policies to preserve St. Albert's heritage resources

The City of St. Albert approved a Heritage Management Plan to help conserve, manage and celebrate heritage resources in the city. The 10-year plan also allows the City to develop a form of bylaw for designation of a Municipal Heritage Resource for private property owners.

The City in partnership with the Arts and Heritage Foundation has been working with the Province's Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, with financial assistance provided through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation to assist in the development of the plan.

"Preserving and celebrating our heritage resources and cultural landscapes provides an opportunity to share the stories of our past with current and future generations as well as visitors," says Kelly Jerrott, Director of Cultural Services. "The Heritage Management Plan will help develop a process for identifying and preserving the heritage assets in the community, help promote cultural tourism, foster partnerships between City departments, community groups, property owners, as well as other levels of government to identify, preserve and celebrate St. Albert's rich heritage and culture now and in the future."

The plan provides:

- A phased, 10-year plan with set goals, strategies and actions for sustaining a successful heritage program in St. Albert;
- Integration with other civic plans, such as the Municipal Development Plan, the Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan, the Cultural Master Plan and the Tourism Master Plan;
- A balanced approach that encourages private property owners to conserve historic resources through appropriate incentives and regulations for the benefit of the entire community;
- A framework for adding new buildings to the Heritage Inventory; and

- Policies and processes for managing the diverse range of heritage resources on the Heritage Inventory.

The plan will provide a mechanism for private property owners to designate their property as a historical resource. The designation will make them eligible to apply for provincial funding to assist in the conservation of their property.

The Heritage Management Plan Committee included representatives from the Arts and Heritage Foundation, the Province of Alberta's Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, the City's Planning and Development, and Cultural Services departments.

The Plan was developed following consultation with City staff, Council, the Heritage Management Plan Committee, community organizations, building and property owners, as well as the general public. The community consultation process included a series of workshops and open houses as well as an online survey, to ensure consensus on recommended goals, strategies, actions and implementation strategy. A review of existing documents such as the Heritage Sites Functional Plan, Heritage Master Plan, the St. Albert Heritage Inventory Context Paper, the St. Albert Heritage Inventory and Properties of Interest List, the Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan, the Tourism Master Plan, and the Municipal Development Plan, was conducted to ensure collaboration.

For more information on the Heritage Management Plan, please visit www.stalbert.ca/HMP.

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