



# **“Making It Work”**

## **Medicine Hat’s Heritage Happenings**

**Municipal Heritage Forum 2010**  
**Calgary, AB**

# History

- **1970's:** Heritage preservation advocates worked hard to preserve buildings; lost many.



- **1984:** Established Historical Resources Advisory Committee; ran until 1990.

# History

- **1988-1991:** Downtown Main Street Project
- **1995-2000:** North Railway Exchange
  - Did the buildings and closed up shop; did not capitalize on heritage for revitalization.
- **1990's & 2000's:** A continued perseverance and connection to the City's history via Federal and Provincial Historic Resource designations.



# Designated Buildings

- Two Federal Recognized Heritage Resources



Canadian Pacific Railway Station, 1906



Medicine Hat Clay Industries National Historic Site (1909-1946)

# Designated Buildings

- **Nine Provincial Recognized Historic Resources**



Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 1908



Crawford House, 1901



Courthouse, 1919



Cousin's House, 1896



Cypress Club, 1907



Montreal Street School, 1904



Hycroft China, 1937



Ewart Duggan House, 1895



Medalta Potteries, 1912-1950

# Heritage Resource Policy

- **2005:** Established Arts and Heritage Advisory Board.
  - **2006:** Heritage Sub-Committee; recommended Heritage Resource Policy included establishment of the Heritage Resource Committee.
- **July 2009:** Heritage Resource Policy Approved
- **Purpose Statement:**
  - The City of Medicine Hat recognizes that it is rich in heritage resources – both public and private – the value of which should be preserved for future generations. To preserve and build upon Medicine Hat's historical integrity, these resources are to be identified and evaluated. The adoption of a Heritage Resources Policy and a Heritage Resources Action Plan is necessary to encourage protection, retention, restoration and awareness of these resources.

# Heritage Resource Committee

- Fall 2009, Nominations
- February 2010 – First Meeting
- **Proactive and passionate Committee**, includes:
  - Arts and Heritage Advisory Board representative
  - City Planning, Building & Development representative
  - City Curator of Cultural History and Archivist
  - One Alderman
  - Five members from the community at large with expertise in heritage resources
- Meetings: Once a month then sub-committee meetings
- **Purpose:** Make recommendations to Council regarding the designation of heritage resources and the demolition, preservation or rehabilitation of these resources.

# Heritage Resource Committee Action Plan & Goals

- **Action Plan:** Establish on-going inventory and registry, review and consider designations, interpretation (education), promotion (programs/awards), incentives, collaborative partnerships and funding.
- **Committee's Goal Setting:**
  - Complete survey (with Historical Society)
  - Places of Interest List, Inventory, Municipal Designations
  - Identify Streetscapes, Landscapes, Viewscapes
  - Commemorative Plaques
  - Education Program Development
  - Speakers and Workshops
  - Main Street Program
  - Awards



# Heritage Resource Committee Projects

- Heritage Resource Committee Learning
- Municipal Heritage Designation – Hargrave  
Sissons Block/Merchant Bank
- Ewart Duggan House Heritage Garden
- Support for completion of Historical Resources  
Survey – Historical Society of Medicine Hat &  
District
- Formulating Places of Interest List
- Heritage Website
- Researching Heritage Incentives

# Heritage Resource Committee Learning Process

- **Guest Speakers** each meeting:
  - Matthew/Brenda (April, Designation Process);
  - Jim Marshall (May, former Hist. Res. Adv. Ctme);
  - Ian McLaughlin (June, Historical Society);
  - Hilary Tarant (July, Surveys); and
  - Fraser Shaw (September Grants/Funding).
- Heritage Canada Magazine for each member.
- Attend Heritage Events.
- Sharing of information via email (articles, ideas).

# Municipal Designations

- First Municipal Heritage Designation – Hargrave Sissons Block(1901)/Merchant Bank(1899)
- Working with landowner and City Legal/Planning Department to achieve first Municipal Designation Bylaw and Agreement.
- Anticipate Council Approval: Fall 2010.

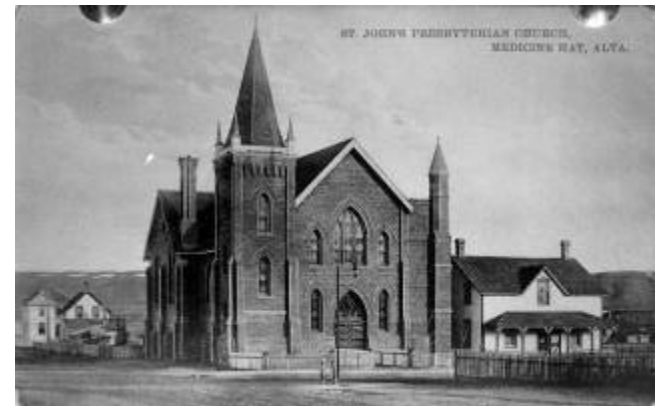
# Municipal Designations

- **Hargrave Sissons Block/Merchant Bank**



# Municipal Designations

- Other interested landowners for Municipal Designation: **Monarch Theatre, St. John's Presbyterian Church.**



# Ewart Duggan House Heritage Garden

- Provincial Historic Resource (1895). Oldest brick residence in Alberta.
- Donated by Sissons Family to the Esplanade Museum and Archives.
- Currently house is not in context with landscape.
- Sub-committee spent summer researching pre-1900 residence gardens and presented to HRC in September, work on budget funding prior to taking to Council in Fall 2010.

# Ewart Duggan House Heritage Garden



# Inventory, Education and Incentive Projects

- Support for completion of **Historical Resources Survey** – Historical Society of Medicine Hat & District. Completed Fall 2010 all addresses prior to 1969.
- Formulating **Places of Interest List.**
- **Heritage Website.**
- Researching **Heritage Incentives.**
- Submitted Heritage Buildings and Projects for **Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Awards.**

# Other Heritage Happenings

- **Downtown Redevelopment Plan**
  - **Design Charrette Process.**
  - Cost-shared with the Province to do **10 Statements of Significance on Downtown Buildings.** Jumpstart the Municipal Designations and affirmation for the Heritage Resource Committee's Work.
  - Includes: **Heritage District Overlay, Inventory/Evaluation of Buildings and Landscapes, Heritage Conservation Policies (historical names, wayfaring, usage of 'red brick', re-establish Main Street Program).**
  - Confirmed "Historic Downtown Medicine Hat".
  - Approved **unanimously by Council, December 2009.**

# Other Heritage Happenings

- Downtown Heritage District Overlay**

## 4.5. HERITAGE OVERLAY DISTRICT

The accompanying Heritage Overlay District is intended to protect the important buildings, landscapes, and cultural elements in the Downtown area. The Heritage Overlay District does not exclude buildings, landscapes and cultural elements outside its boundaries from being included in the heritage inventory or heritage conservation efforts. However, the Overlay District provides a focus for heritage inventory revision, and concentrates efforts to achieve heritage designations with potential provincial and federal funding and guidelines for appropriate renovations. The current Medicine Hat Historical Society and the Arts and Heritage Board should continue to play a significant role in these heritage conservation efforts.



Heritage Overlay District focuses on historic buildings, landscapes and cultural elements contained in this area. Plans identify the cultural elements and landscapes that may be subject to development or change in the future.

## BRINGING BACK THE MAGIC TO THE DOWNTOWN



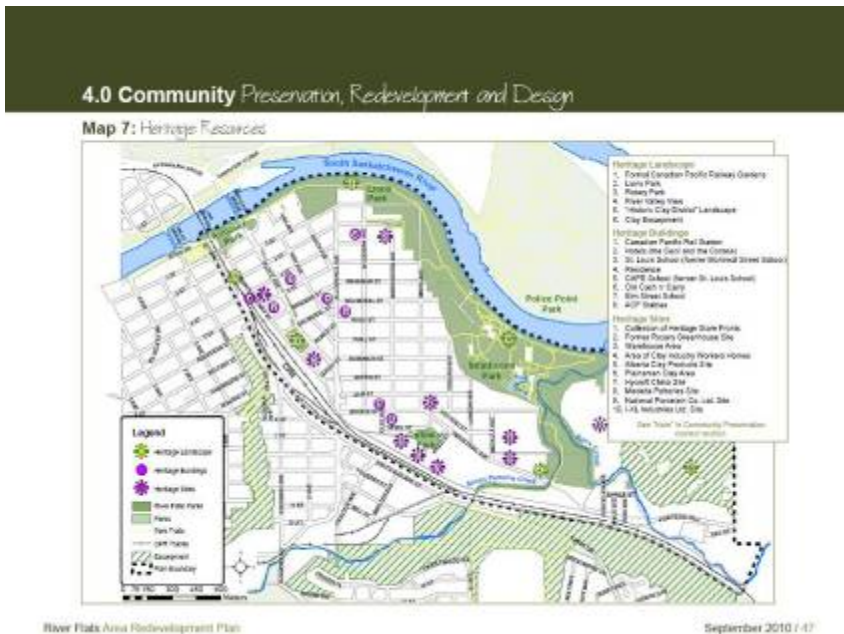
A few examples of the historic architecture and buildings in the Downtown area are shown in the photographs. The photographs show the historic architecture and buildings in the Downtown area. The photographs show the historic architecture and buildings in the Downtown area.

# Other Heritage Happenings

- River Flats Area Redevelopment Plan.
  - **Pro-active Steering Committee** (long-time residents of the communities history, National Historic Clay District representation, I-XL Brick).
  - Heritage Policies to include:
    - **Support for National Historic Clay District, Old Town neighbourhood (CPR area), inventory/evaluation of buildings, education, design guidelines for traditional design character in new developments).**
  - Will go to Municipal Planning Commission and Council Fall 2010.

# Other Heritage Happenings

- River Flats ARP Heritage



## Building Siting and Entrances

- Infill buildings shall respect the traditional patterns and features of the community by orientation towards the street (individual front entrances) with backyards for amenity space and garaging/parking.
- Entrances should be highly visible and attractive. Where in contact with adjacent buildings on a street, a new development should locate stoas to and parallel the street edge (street wall) to reinforce the public realm, and a sense of safety through "eyes on the street."
- Building orientation and form should maximize solar heating benefits as well as protect against the prevailing winds, prevent against overshadowing of adjacent properties and facilitate natural ventilation.

## Building Form and Design

- Buildings should strive to provide visual interest in shape and character for residents and visitors to the community. Large expanses of blank walls should be broken up with building articulation, different material types, colour variations, and landscaping. Relief in building elevations and staggering, where appropriate, should be considered in the building design and new it relates to adjacent built-forms. See Appendix C: Glossary for fine-grain building character definitions.

- The usage of traditional design features such as front porches should be considered and designed as a part of the built-form and not attached separately.
- Upper story windows shall not dominate the built-form as this does not provide appropriate massing in support of a human or streetscape-scale built-form. Windows towards side yards shall be set in to provide privacy. Windows should provide articulation and shadow lines (i.e. set windows back from the wall face).
- In the cases of 3 and 4 story infill apartment proposals, a combination of side yards, building corner treatment and height transitions should be sensitive to the adjoining single-dwelling character to fit into the community.
- New multi-dwelling developments should not appear as a single unit but be broken up vertically and horizontally (materials, articulation, and colours) to reflect a more human-scale along the street and the predominantly single-dwelling character of the area. See Appendix C: Glossary for fine-grain building character definitions.



The River Flats Residential Infill Design Guidelines 20

# Other Heritage Happenings

- Individual Groups playing a significant role in Heritage Conservation:
  - **Medalta Potteries** (interpretive museum, working pottery and International Clay Artists in Residence);
  - **Historical Society of Medicine Hat & District** (Surveys since 2004, speakers, research and publications, and special projects donations/funding); and
  - **Canadian Badlands Tourism Strategy** (Artists Incubator, promotion of National Historic Clay District). Medicine Hat is the arts, culture and heritage hub within the Strategy.

# Challenges

- **Continued loss of heritage buildings to fire**
  - Central Block, Walton Block: 100-year old buildings lost in 2006 and 2007.
- **Derelict Buildings**
  - Buildings of Heritage Value that are not being maintained, no Bylaw/policies to encourage/require.
- **Promoting the economics of Downtown Revitalization through Heritage Conservation**
  - Need for incentives, more education for owners, working with safety codes and heritage conservation.

# Learning Process

- Heritage Resource Committee and City staff continue to **eagerly learn** what's needed to support Heritage Conservation for the City.
- HRC – proactive in its role, **direct connection to the City Council**, and the process learning.
- City has been behind in implementation of its heritage vision. Luckily the **framework is in place** now and with that we are eagerly moving forward.

# Thank You!!!

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**Malcolm Sissons, Chairman**

Heritage Resources Committee



All Heritage Photos Courtesy of  
Esplanade Archives