

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct22_2019**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****Bremner House Heritage Site Master Plan Progress Update****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the Bremner House Heritage Site Master Plan (BHHSMP), including the work of the BHHSMP Advisory Committee.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Report**Background**

Agriculture and rural life are an integral part of Strathcona County. In 2004, the Bremner House and surrounding 80 acres was purchased by Strathcona County to preserve the legacy of the house and agriculture, as well as provide a multi-use space for residents and visitors.

The Bremner House Heritage Site Master Plan (BHHSMP) was completed in 2009. The site focus was on agricultural heritage and creating a multi-purpose gathering space. This plan is still relevant but required an update. It was determined that the strategic direction for the BHHSMP was to continue to pursue agricultural heritage as the primary focus and to research the development of a "Friends of" Society to help with promotion and financial support for the site.

Bremner House Heritage Site Master Plan Advisory Committee

In May 2019, the BHHSMP Committee was established to provide insight and advice to Administration on the 2009 BHHSMP.

The Committee's seven members represent:

- Strathcona Vintage Tractor Association
- Strathcona County Heritage Foundation
- Josephburg Agricultural Society
- Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee
- (Former) Strathcona Heritage Advisory Committee
- Community Heritage Legacy Program representative (Strathcona County)

The Committee is scheduled to meet seven times in 2019, with five meetings completed. The Committee has drafted Vision and Mission Statements to guide their process. The statements will be finalized before the last meeting.

Meeting schedule and work completed (shaded are future meetings and proposed agenda):

May 30, 2019	Introductions and background Begin vision and mission statements
June 25, 2019	Complete draft of vision and mission Discuss Agriculture Heritage Objective

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August 13, 2019	Continued Agriculture Heritage Objective Discuss Building Community Objective
August 27, 2019	Continued Building Community Objective Discuss Programming Objective
September 25, 2019	Discuss Bremner House (restore, programming) Discuss Governance (Friends of) model(s) pros and cons
October 22, 2019	Finalize Vision and Mission Statements Discuss definition of Agricultural Heritage Discuss draft recommendations (chance to ask questions, verify)
November 26, 2019	Final meeting

Vision: "Bremner House Heritage Site is the destination where visitors experience, learn and develop agricultural heritage and the pioneering spirit"

Mission: "To celebrate the agricultural heritage of Strathcona County by bringing people together"

The BHHSMP has been consolidated into four objectives, with consideration given to each by the Committee.

- Agriculture Heritage: defines the theme for the site including focus, building style and visitor experience
- Building Community: focuses on providing a rural venue, developing community gathering spaces, and offering spontaneous use such as waking trails or enjoying the gardens
- Programming: range of what activities and events could happen on site. Some examples are events, interpretation, education, workshops, demonstrations and youth programming
- Bremner House: the restoration and use of the Bremner House and immediate surrounding gardens

Below are some early ideas for each Objective and Governance:

Objective	Purpose	Ideas Generated
Agriculture Heritage Destination	Agriculture heritage will be the focus of the site using engaging programming, providing a site for rural events and to offer everyday ways to use the site for residents	Create the feel of agriculture heritage with appropriate building materials, but fill the site with engaging programming, self-guided tours and everyday uses.

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Building Community	The Committee would like to see the site used.	<p>Community gardens, festivals, markets, learning opportunities.</p> <p>Everyday uses would be a cafe, walking trails, meeting areas, activities (horseshoes, playground). Use in all four seasons.</p> <p>Potential infrastructure to support activities: indoor and outdoor programming areas, cooking room (commercial kitchen), meeting rooms, visitor/education centre. The group agreed on multi-use/shared areas and buildings</p>
Programming	The Committee gave a wide variety of programming ideas with youth programming being their priority.	<p>Youth programs (school groups, where your food comes from, gardening, crafting)</p> <p>Tours (retell local history, evolution of agriculture, rural life)</p> <p>Workshops (food preparation, gardening, arts, vintage tractors repair)</p> <p>Self-guided tours, outdoor displays</p> <p>Present information in an engaging way (workshops, hands-on, storytelling, interactive)</p>
Bremner House	The Committee would like the rehabilitation of Bremer House to meet both health/safety codes as well as Canada's Historic Places "Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada"	The House can be used for tours, educational groups (example Rutherford House), weddings, photography, small events

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Council and Committee History

February 12, 2019	Priorities Committee was updated with the Strategic direction that Administration will continue to pursue in regards to the Bremner Heritage Site Master Plan.
Nov 13, 2018	THAT item 5.12 from the November 13, 2018 Priorities Committee meeting, Friends of Strathcona County Heritage Village, be referred to Administration to prepare a report by the end of the second quarter of 2019 on possible options for supporting the development of a Strathcona County Heritage Village.
October 25, 2016	THAT the Regional Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility concept, as outlined in Enclosure 2 of the October 25, 2016 Transportation and Agriculture report, be approved and that the site chosen be of adequate size to allow opportunity for growth.
November 24, 2015	<p>THAT Administration continue implementation of the plan approved by Council in December 2013; and that Agriculture Services Board investigate the development of a Friends of Bremner House Society as defined in the development strategies of the Bremner House Master Plan.</p> <p>THAT Administration work with the Agricultural Services Board to provide an annual update to Council on the Bremner House Master Plan.</p>

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Transportation and Agriculture Services; Recreation, Parks and Culture

Master Plan/Framework: n/a