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Lack of interest in forming a North Dumfries Heritage Advisory Committee

BY IRENE SCHMIDT-ADENEY

At this time, only one Advisory Committee will be formed in North Dumfries and that is the Leisure and Lifestyle Advisory Committee. In June, council approved that the chair and vice-chair of the committee can be selected from within the committee. Previously, the chair was a North Dumfries Councillor.

“Local history and local knowledge might be lost without valuable citizen input. In my estimation, there are at least 40 properties that should be Part IV designated to protect our local history and the character of our community.”

North Dumfries Councillor
Rod Rolleman

Council considered forming a Heritage Advisory Committee but due to lack of applicants, the committee will not be formed at this time.

Following a closed session held on Monday, September 25, North Dumfries Council passed a resolution requesting to thank those people who had submitted applications for the Heritage Committee, but there were not enough to form a committee.

Councillor Rod Rolleman was prepared to be a member of the Heritage Advisory Committee and said when the province passed Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, one of the components of the bill is that on January 1, 2025 the township’s Heritage Inventory, a listing of heritage properties, will be wiped clean.

The Heritage Inventory

contains addresses of properties in the township and if a building demolition or building permit is requested on one of the properties, the township would have the opportunity to record historical aspects of the building before it changes. This occurred in Ayr before The Gore on Northumberland Street was demolished, and the Tollmaster’s House on Swan Street was demolished.

“One of the main projects on the work plan for this term’s Heritage Advisory Committee was to be the recommendations on which Heritage Inventory listed properties should be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act,” said Rolleman. “Currently there are over 300 listed properties. These need to be researched, evaluated and either removed from the list or designated.”

“Without a Heritage Advisory Committee, the extensive task of researching and evaluating our Heritage Inventory will fall almost entirely upon a paid consultant,” he said. “Local history and local knowledge might be lost without valuable citizen input. In my estimation, there are at least 40 properties that should be Part IV designated to protect our local history and the character of our community.”

During the last term of council, there were four advisory committees. Three of these committee will not be formed at this time, due to a lack of interest from the public. The three include the Planning & Sustainable Development Advisory Committee, Economic Development Advisory Committee, and the Heritage Advisory Committee.



DAY OF RECOGNITION - Students and staff at Southwood Secondary School in Cambridge recognized National Truth and Reconciliation Day on Friday, September 29. Behind the Every Child Matters flag, from left: Noah Gillard, Yaqoub Sultan, Isla Wright, Colin Jamieson, and Carl Taylor.

Ayr has its own tartan

BY IRENE SCHMIDT-ADENEY

Just in time for Ayr’s 200th anniversary in 2024, the village now has its own tartan. The tartan was a project with the Ayr Pipe Band (Canada) and the band will eventually be outfitted in kilts tailored in this tartan.

“The tartan was designed by The House of Edgar, in conjunction with Highland Emporium, and is now officially registered with The Scottish Register of Tartans,” said Highland Emporium owner and Ayr Pipe Major Doug Wickham.

“This tartan was created to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the town of Ayr, Ontario in 2024,” said Wickham.

“In 1824 the village, later named Ayr, comprised of a group of settlements; Mudge’s

Mills in the centre, Jedburgh to the east and Nithvale to the west,” he explained.

“As the settlements expanded over time, they eventually combined into one town. The tartan design includes elements intended to represent the area including: rivers that drove the mills; green farmlands; fall colours; the railway that allowed the mills and industry to prosper and the more modern gas pipeline and highway that run close to the community.”

These colours are also featured in the Ayr 200 official logo.

The tartan will be available for purchase at a future date, along with a variety of garments and accessories that will be available exclusively through Highland Emporium.



Ayr 200 Chair Merry Schmidt with the Ayr tartan.

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