

# Threats of Municipal Planning Policy on Heritage Planning in Ontario

## BRIEF SUMMARY

Recent changes to provincial planning policy have greatly impacted the field of planning within the province of Ontario. These changes to planning policy at the provincial level have largely taken place to address the growing need for increased housing and transportation infrastructure. Policy changes at the provincial level have also impacted planning initiatives at the municipal level, particularly for heritage conservation planning. The goal of this research is to identify barriers to heritage conservation at the municipal level, and to find ways to provide municipalities with the tools to ensure that the conservation of their local heritage is not overlooked as a result of recent and ongoing changes to provincial planning frameworks. To do so, a conceptual framework is applied to the official plans for the communities of the City of Dryden, the Town of Gananoque, and the Town of Petrolia.

## KEY FINDINGS

- ❑ For all three municipalities, adaptive reuse is not expressed as the preferred strategy for built heritage conservation.
- ❑ Overall, there was a lack of discussion in all four official plans on providing educational opportunities for the public. The Town of Petrolia's official plan was the only one of the four examined that highlights the implementation of educational programs to provide insight to the public on the Town's heritage resources.

- ❑ There is a range in priority for municipalities to provide funding for property owners to engage in heritage conservation initiatives.
- ❑ For all three municipalities, there was no discussion on partnerships with the private sector for heritage conservation initiatives.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Two key recommendations emerge from the research:

- ❑ Municipalities should attempt to update their official plans at least every five years, to ensure that the most relevant information on planning policy and heritage conservation is implemented.
- ❑ For future research, there is a need to collaborate with municipal planning staff in addition to further application of the analytical framework to each municipality's official plan.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

A copy of this major research paper can be found at <https://hdl.handle.net/10214/28365>

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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