

Hamilton Heritage Conservation Grant Program (HHCGP)

1.0 Program Description

The Hamilton Heritage Conservation Grant Program (HHCGP) is intended to provide financial assistance in the form of matching grants between \$1,000 to \$5,000 for the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage resources. The objective of the Hamilton Heritage Conservation Grant Program is to assist in the on-going conservation of heritage properties designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* that are not eligible for the Hamilton Heritage Property Grant Program (HHPGP).

2.0 Terms of the Program

2.1 Grant Information

1. The grant is contingent on properties being designated under Parts IV or V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
2. An application fee of \$75 is to accompany the application. The rate of the fee may be changed from time to time as approved by City Council.
3. The grant is conditional upon a Heritage Permit; or easement approval; or other City approval, being issued for the heritage component.
4. The grant is conditional upon all required planning and building code approvals.
5. Improvements commenced prior to submitting an application are ineligible. Improvements commenced after submitting an application, but prior to application approval, are undertaken at the applicant's risk, as funding may be refused.
6. The Urban Renewal Section, in consultation with Planning staff, reserves the right to recommend works that are integral to the preservation of the building required to preserve/conservate the heritage features.
7. The grant amount will total a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum \$5,000 per municipal address, identifying multiple and separate units and entranceways per year, subject to available funding. The awarded grant amount will total one half the lesser of either the actual eligible project cost (cost as outlined in the final invoices for the completed project) or the estimated eligible project cost (estimated cost as identified on the Hamilton Heritage Conservation Grant Program application form).
8. Work completed must comply with estimates, and work proposed and identified within the application unless previously approved by the Urban Renewal Section. City staff will visit the site to ensure that the work has been completed in conformity with the conditions of the grant approval.

9. At the sole discretion of the Manager of Urban Renewal, partial payments for works completed can be processed consistent with the payment process described above.
10. At the sole discretion of the Manager of Urban Renewal, the grant cheque can be made jointly payable to the applicant and the contractor if such a request has been received from the applicant.
11. The grant is not transferable upon sale of the property.
12. Properties eligible for the Hamilton Heritage Property Grant Program are not eligible for this grant program.
13. The grant may be received by an owner in conjunction with approval of a loan under the Hamilton Community Heritage Fund Loan Program, provided that funding under these programs will not fund the same work.
14. Approval of the grant application is at the absolute discretion of the City and subject to the availability of funds.
15. Without limiting the discretion as set out in paragraph 14 herein, the City Council, whether or not an Applicant satisfies the requirements of the Program, may reject any application received from an applicant where, in the opinion of Council, the commercial relationship between the City and the Applicant has been impaired by, but not limited to, the applicant being involved in litigation with the City. Applicants are individuals, corporate entities and individuals behind the corporation (Officers/Directors/Shareholders).
16. A successful applicant will enter into an agreement with the City containing, but not limited to, the terms and conditions set out in the program description.

2.2 Submission Requirements

Prospective applicants must consult with Planning staff as early as possible in the process of planning a project. This pre-consultation is required to determine eligibility, avoid delays in the processing of an application, and determine if a Heritage Permit is required.

Prospective applicants should also discuss their proposal with representatives from Building Services and the Planning Division to determine if there are regulations that require additional permits or approvals.

Prospective applicants shall then submit a Hamilton Heritage Conservation Grant Program application form, as well as other required information. The types of information required with each grant submission include, but are not limited to:

- A Heritage Permit application form and/or a Heritage Permit approval letter;

- Photographs of the project site and of the features showing what and where the work will take place;
- Copies of any relevant historical documentation, including historical photographs or illustrations;
- Drawings, specifications or descriptions (as necessary) that adequately illustrate the scope, type of work and location as proposed. Depending on the scope of the work, drawings prepared by the property owner may be acceptable. However, should an architect or consultant be retained, detailed drawings are requested;
- A brief summary of the overall project budget, with eligible conservation work clearly itemized;
- At least two (2) competitive cost estimates for all labour and materials involved in the proposed work unless there is only one local specialized supplier of a particular product, trade or service. Although it is not mandatory, applicants are encouraged to select suppliers, contractors and/or trades people with demonstrated experience with heritage properties. Please note a contractor licensed with the City of Hamilton may be required to undertake the works; and,
- A statement detailing other grants or funding sought for the proposed work, where applicable.

2.3 Frequency of Grant

Funding for eligible applications will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. A property owner may receive one grant per municipal address per calendar year. Applications will either be conditionally approved or refused.

2.4 Completion of Work

Work must be completed within **one** year of receiving a conditionally approved grant. Invoices for costs of the completed project shall be submitted to Urban Renewal staff to verify the eligible amount of the grant. Invoices must be submitted within one year of receipt of the conditionally approved grant, unless the deadline is extended by Urban Renewal staff. An applicant with a conditionally approved grant who is deemed to have failed to comply with the terms of the Hamilton Heritage Conservation Grant Program shall not be awarded that grant and is prohibited from making a grant application for the same work in the following calendar year.

NOTE: Work that was approved, but done in a poor or defective manner or in a manner contrary to the conditions of the grant approval or the Heritage Permit (if required), will not be funded.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 Eligibility Requirements

- The eligible property must not be in arrears or default of any municipal taxes.
- The eligible property must not be the subject to any outstanding Fire Code, Building Code or Property Standards orders. Any outstanding violations on the property for which the grant is sought must be addressed prior to any grant monies being advanced.
- The existing use of the eligible property must be in compliance with applicable Zoning By-law regulations and other relevant planning regulations.
- Owners and tenants of eligible properties may apply for assistance. Tenants are required to provide documentation of the property owner’s consent to the improvements with their application.
- Eligible properties owned by any level of government are not eligible for the Program, except in the following cases:
 - a) where the property is under long-term lease to an individual and the tenant or lessee is the applicant; or,
 - b) where a non-profit community group has assumed, by long-term lease or legal agreement, responsibility for the building and the non-profit community group is the applicant.

3.2 Eligible Conservation Work

Eligible conservation work includes any work that conserves, restores and/or enhances elements identified and described in the relevant heritage designation By-law, Heritage Conservation District Plan and/or Heritage Easement Agreement.

All work must be executed in such a manner as to not detract from or diminish the cultural heritage value of the property or Heritage Conservation District.

All work should conform to relevant municipal heritage policy, such as Heritage Conservation District Plan guidelines, as well as best practices for heritage conservation, including [*Eight Guiding Principles in the Conservation of Built Heritage Properties*](#) (Ministry of Culture, 2007) and the [*Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*](#) (Parks Canada, Second Edition, 2010).

The types of eligible conservation work include, but are not limited to:

- The **conservation** of significant architectural features. This may include the conservation or restoration of: doors, windows, verandahs, cupolas, chimneys, bargeboard or other decorative trim, parapets, cornices, hood mouldings and any other features important to the overall composition of the structure as specified in the *Reasons for Designation*, the

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value of Interest or, a description of the *Heritage Attributes* accompanying the designating by-law under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

- The **reconstruction** of former and significant architectural features for which the appearance can be clearly determined from documentary sources (photographs, drawings, etc.).
- The **conservation** or renewal of original siding and roofing materials including repair and replacement, where necessary, of wood clapboard or board-and-batten, repair and repointing of masonry buildings, stucco repair, repair or replacement of original roofing materials (slate, wood shingles, tile, etc.). Eligible work also includes removal of a modern material (synthetic siding, asphalt shingles, etc.) and replacement with documented original materials.
- Cleaning of masonry buildings may be eligible if it is necessary for the building's conservation. **Under no circumstances will grants be paid for any form of abrasive cleaning, (e.g., sandblasting or sodablasting) or high-pressure water cleaning. Planning staff approval is required as to cleaning method to be employed before work is undertaken.**
- Exterior painting in documented original colours. Colours must be documented for the individual building or be proved to have been a common contemporary colour in the area. **Painting of unpainted masonry is not eligible.**

3.3 Ineligible Work

Ineligible work includes any work or projects of a non-heritage nature, works that focus on non-heritage attributes, new additions, spaces, features and finishes, new construction, or any works that may diminish the cultural heritage value of the property.

Repair, maintenance, reconstruction or improvements to the following are ineligible for grant assistance, unless specifically identified and described in the *Reasons for Designation*, the *Statement of Cultural Heritage Value of Interest* or, a description of the *Heritage Attributes*:

- Repair of non-original siding or roofing materials (aluminum siding, asphalt shingles, etc.).
- Landscaping.
- Work on modern additions.
- Work on sheds or outbuildings.
- Installation of modern doors and windows, unless replicas of the original.
- Installation of new storm or screen doors and windows.

- Chimney repairs other than restoration of a significant chimney.
- Repair of eavestrough unless its nature is such that it is significant to the heritage of the structure.
- Repairs to or renewal of modern materials.
- Painting previously unpainted masonry.
- Interior Work.
- Abrasive cleaning (e.g. sandblasting or sodablasting) or high-pressure water cleaning.

The final determination of what constitutes eligible and ineligible work is at the discretion of Planning staff.

3.4 Eligible Costs

Eligible costs shall be the costs of materials, equipment and contracted labour to complete eligible conservation, restoration or preservation work, documented by invoices to the satisfaction of Planning and Urban Renewal staff. Labour provided by the applicant or tenant of the property will not be an eligible cost.

The grant is paid, subject to compliance with these terms and conditions of the Program, upon completion of the conditionally approved work.