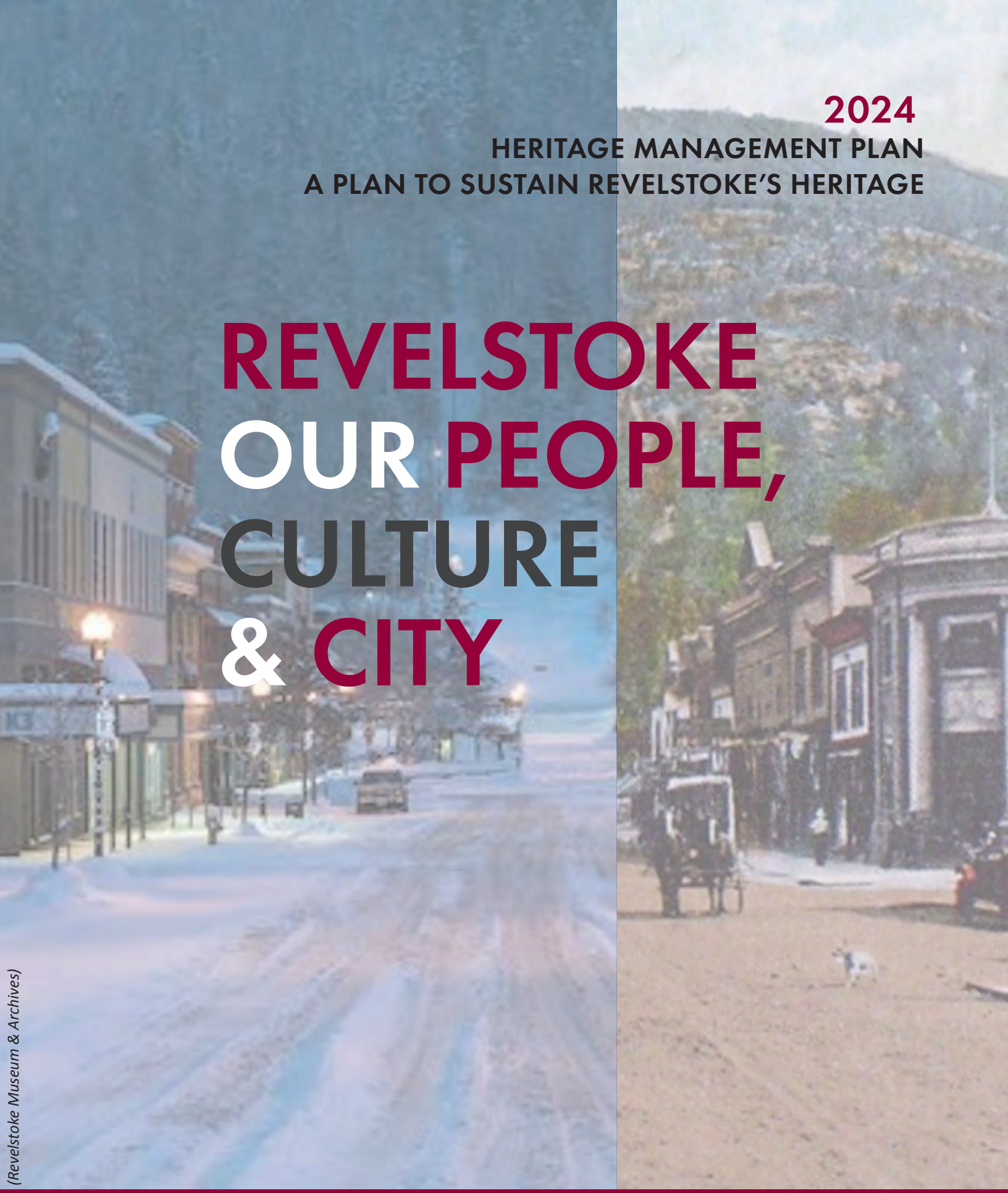
2024

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A PLAN TO SUSTAIN REVELSTOKE'S HERITAGE

REVELSTOKE OUR PEOPLE, CULTURE & CITY



(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

This project was funded in part by the Columbia Basin Trust and Heritage BC through the Built Heritage Grants Program.

HERITAGE, MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE GRANTS

A PROGRAM OF Columbia Basin trust

ADMINISTERED & MANAGED BY HeritageBC

Acknowledgments

Territorial Acknowledgment

This work acknowledges the location of the City of Revelstoke in the beautiful Columbia Mountains alongside the Columbia River, which is the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Sinixt, the Ktunaxa, the Secwépemc, and the Syilx peoples. These four Nations have a rich history in the region dating back thousands of years, long before the arrival of European settlers. While this document can provide a brief overview of the Indigenous history of Revelstoke, it is important to note that this history is complex, and there is much more to learn from oral traditions and archaeological evidence. We pledge to keep learning from the Indigenous people of the region about their values, language and cultures.

A policy found in Revelstoke's Official Community Plan states that the City must recognize and celebrate the natural, cultural, and economic heritage of local Indigenous communities. This heritage management plan seeks to take a first step beyond this territorial acknowledgment to attend to issues and opportunities in heritage planning that ensure that one group's heritage is not seen to be more important than another. The commitment to retain and commemorate an ongoing, trusting, working relationship and open conversation with the Sinixt, Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, and Syilx will be key to informing Revelstoke's heritage conservation efforts.

Some policies and actions are included in the Heritage Management Plan relate to measures that can be undertaken by the City to engage in the process of Indigenous reconciliation. This is by no means the answer to meaningful reconciliation, but is intended to serve as a starting point to promote and support continued dialogue to learn from and engage with our Indigenous partners.

Community Acknowledgment

This work acknowledges the input, knowledge and support of the following groups and individuals:

City of Revelstoke Mayor and Council
Members of the Heritage Advisory Commission:

- Lindsay Bourque
- Cathy English
- Eileen Fletcher
- Laurie Lafontaine
- Kelvin Skoretz

City of Revelstoke Staff
City of Revelstoke Indigenous Liaison
Participants in community engagement, including the online questionnaire and community workshops

Content prepared by
Denise Cook Design
#503-114 West Keith Road
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3C9
Telephone: 604-626-2710
Email: d.cook@telus.net

Management Plan Summary

The Heritage Management Plan has five parts:

1 Community Foundations

Introduces the Heritage Management Plan, how it can be used as an effective tool for conservation, and outlines a vision for heritage in the city. It includes a thematic framework and historical chronology to provide a contextual understanding in support of heritage policy development.

2 People, Culture and City

Identifies the layers of natural and cultural forces that have shaped the community and form its heritage including cultural landscapes and neighbourhoods, and summarizes community heritage values and significant places.

3 A Fresh Start: From Vision to Actions

Outlines the goals for Revelstoke's heritage program and suggests vulnerabilities in sustaining the city's heritage. The plan outlines policies and actions for the conservation of heritage in the city, building on earlier initiatives, and organized into four broad objectives, each supporting the goal of sustaining Revelstoke's distinctive character and sense of place. This section identifies six first actions that can begin to be implemented right away.

4 Using the Right Tools

Addresses potential ways for the City to actively support heritage conservation, identifying processes for City staff and the tools available to local governments in B.C. along with how they can best be used in Revelstoke. It suggests policies for revitalizing Revelstoke's Downtown and provides an analysis of the Revelstoke Station Heritage Conservation Area.

5 Appendices

Five appendices provide information to support the guidance and direction found in the previous four parts of the Heritage Management Plan.

Contents

Acknowledgments
Management Plan Summary

1 COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS 7

1.1 Background 8
1.2 A Vision for Heritage in Revelstoke 10
1.3 Historical Context 11
1.3.1 Revelstoke's Story So Far 12
1.3.2 Themes in Revelstoke's History 19
1.3.3 Chronology of Events and Changes 38

2 PEOPLE, CULTURE & CITY 43

2.1 Layers of the City 44
2.1.1 Revelstoke's Natural and Cultural Landscape 44
2.1.2 Neighbourhood Character 46
2.2 What We Value About Revelstoke 58
2.2.1 Community Heritage Values 58
2.2.2 Significant Heritage Places 61

3 A FRESH START: FROM VISION TO ACTIONS 65

3.1 Program Goal and Objectives 66
3.2 Vulnerabilities, Challenges, Aspirations, Opportunities 67
3.3 Heritage Program Policies and Actions 70
3.3.1 Regeneration and Sustainability 72
3.3.2 Enhanced Appreciation of Heritage 78
3.3.3 Managing Change and Planning for Heritage 81
3.3.4 City and Community Stewardship 87
3.4 Six First Actions 90

4 USING THE RIGHT TOOLS 93

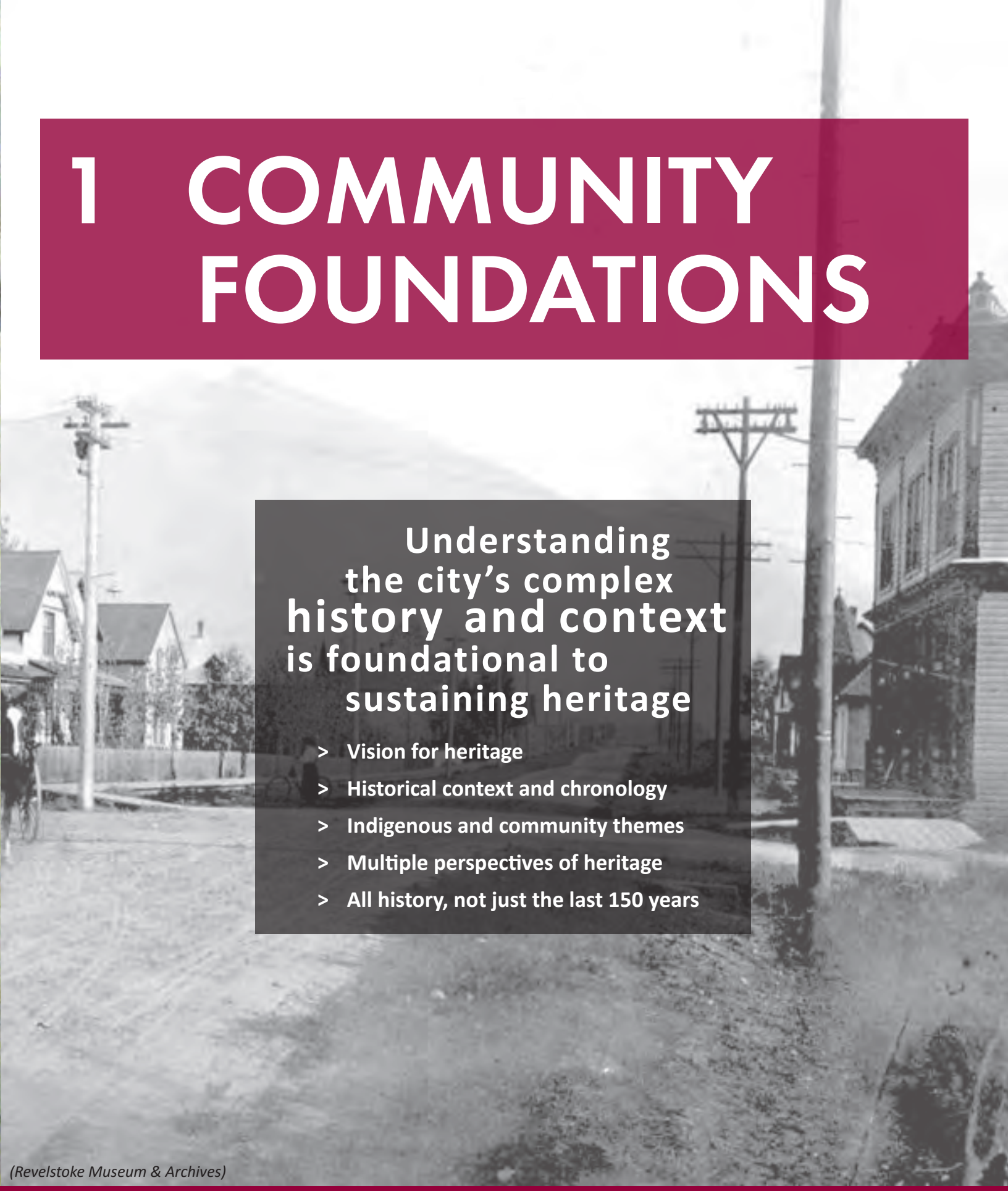
4.1 Heritage Conservation Tools 94
4.1.1 Conservation Tools and their Use 94
4.1.2 Sustaining Revelstoke's Downtown 106
4.1.3 Revelstoke Station HCA 110
4.2 Heritage Bylaws 113
4.3 Heritage Processes 114
4.3.1 Planning for Heritage Conservation 114
4.3.2 Approval Process for Heritage Resources 117
4.3.3 Interpreting Heritage 119

5 APPENDICES 121

Appendix A: Research Resources
Appendix B: Heritage Assessment Criteria
Appendix C: Heritage Register Inclusion Process
Appendix D: Heritage Conservation Planning Process
Appendix E: What We Heard Summary

'Winter Day in Revelstoke' by Sophia Atkinson. (City of Revelstoke Centennial Collection)

1 COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS



Understanding the city's complex history and context is foundational to sustaining heritage

- Vision for heritage
- Historical context and chronology
- Indigenous and community themes
- Multiple perspectives of heritage
- All history, not just the last 150 years

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

1.1 Background

Introduction to the Heritage Management Plan

This Heritage Management Plan (the plan) is to ensure that there is the commitment, energy and effort to safeguard the valued features of Revelstoke and its natural and cultural heritage. The goal is to support revitalization, economic development, tourism, sustainability, environmental conservation, climate change and other City initiatives, and will align with identified community values such as sense of community, affordability, nature, recreation, lifestyle and neighbourhood character. The plan seeks to instill and promote current best practices in heritage conservation and align with community values currently identified and those that will be discovered in the future.

Heritage conservation and management is a critical and vital component of any community or city planning initiative. It provides direction on how events, places, and people in history are acknowledged, and promotes specific narratives that are foundational to the cultural functioning and identity of a people.

Revelstoke has benefited from having a strongly heritage-minded community that has worked towards the conservation of the City's heritage resources. It is also understood that up to this point not all voices have been adequately included in discussions of heritage, and policies laying the groundwork for heritage management have excluded certain versions of history. Undertaking the preparation and implementation of the Heritage Management Plan represents a commitment by the City and the wider Revelstoke community to increase efforts to sustain all aspects of Revelstoke's heritage as a fundamental part of the city's future.

The plan seeks to acknowledge that access to, protection of, and benefits from one's own heritage need to be recognized as basic human rights and that heritage should be managed with or by the community. It acknowledges that the recognition and conservation of heritage should include shared decision-making, collaboration, delegation of authority and recognition of Indigenous worldviews. Indigenous ways of viewing the past, history and heritage are legitimate ways of seeing.[1]

Article 31 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions."[2]

The plan is influenced by the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) planning model, with its United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-established principles of heritage resource management. This methodology emphasizes that a city is made up of many layers, both tangible and intangible, all of which contribute to its uniqueness. It reiterates that

1 Heritage BC. *Setting the Bar: A Guide to Achieve New Standards for Reconciliation Within the Heritage Sector.* 2021.

2 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP). 2007.

the safeguarding and regeneration of cultural activities and the social fabric within heritage areas and sites is as important as the protection of the physical integrity of historic places.

This approach integrates heritage values into the proactive realm of urban planning and design, a forward-thinking process that ensures that heritage, including its tangible and intangible components, constitutes a key resource in enhancing the livability of urban areas, and fosters economic development and social cohesion in a changing global environment.

The importance of the landscape planning principles in the HUL approach ensure the inclusion of biodiversity and valued natural components which are essential for the social wellbeing in current cities. Intangible values are not only ingrained in crafts and festivals but also in traditional building technologies and in attitudes towards mitigating risks of disasters and reducing impacts of climate change.[3]

The document acknowledges the importance of building relationships. This should be considered both through relationships with the Sinixt, the Ktunaxa, the Secwépemc, and the Syilx Nations, along with all other histories, communities and voices found in the community.

Currently, communication between the mayor and City of Revelstoke departments is different for each Nation, with semi-regular communication with Secwepemc and ongoing commitments to relationship-building with Sinixt, Syilx and the Ktunaxa. Participation in the past has included the Sinixt canoe expedition down the Columbia River, and the Ktunaxa and Syilx salmon releases in the Columbia River.

With support and input from the Heritage Advisory Commission, the Heritage Management Plan will:

- Continue to build on current heritage policy and practices in the City of Revelstoke
- Apply current best practices in heritage conservation
- Create a heritage program that takes into account all of Revelstoke's heritage values
- Create an effective made-in-Revelstoke Heritage Management Plan

The City and community will not just protect, but actively work to sustain, keep relevant and promote Revelstoke's heritage throughout the City, safeguarding heritage as the city changes. The plan recognizes that the responsibility for heritage is shared by everyone, and suggests what the City of Revelstoke and others can do to get the best outcomes for Revelstoke's heritage to guide planning decisions and manage change. This document creates a foundation for heritage planning, and is intended to be developed and added to over time. It commits everyone to assist in efforts to sustain Revelstoke's heritage and ensure it is vibrant and conserved into the future.

A living document

This Heritage Management Plan is a document that is a product of its current time and place. It should be considered a living document that will evolve and change as the community changes over time. This evolution will be based on ongoing research, new insights from the community, fresh understandings and reshaped, forward-thinking values related to all aspects of Revelstoke's history and heritage.

3 Yonca Erkan. *The Way Forward: The Historic Urban Landscape Approach and Sustainable Urban Development*, 2018.

1.2 A Vision for Heritage in Revelstoke

Heritage conservation in Revelstoke will help us acknowledge our past, value the present and build a sustainable future.

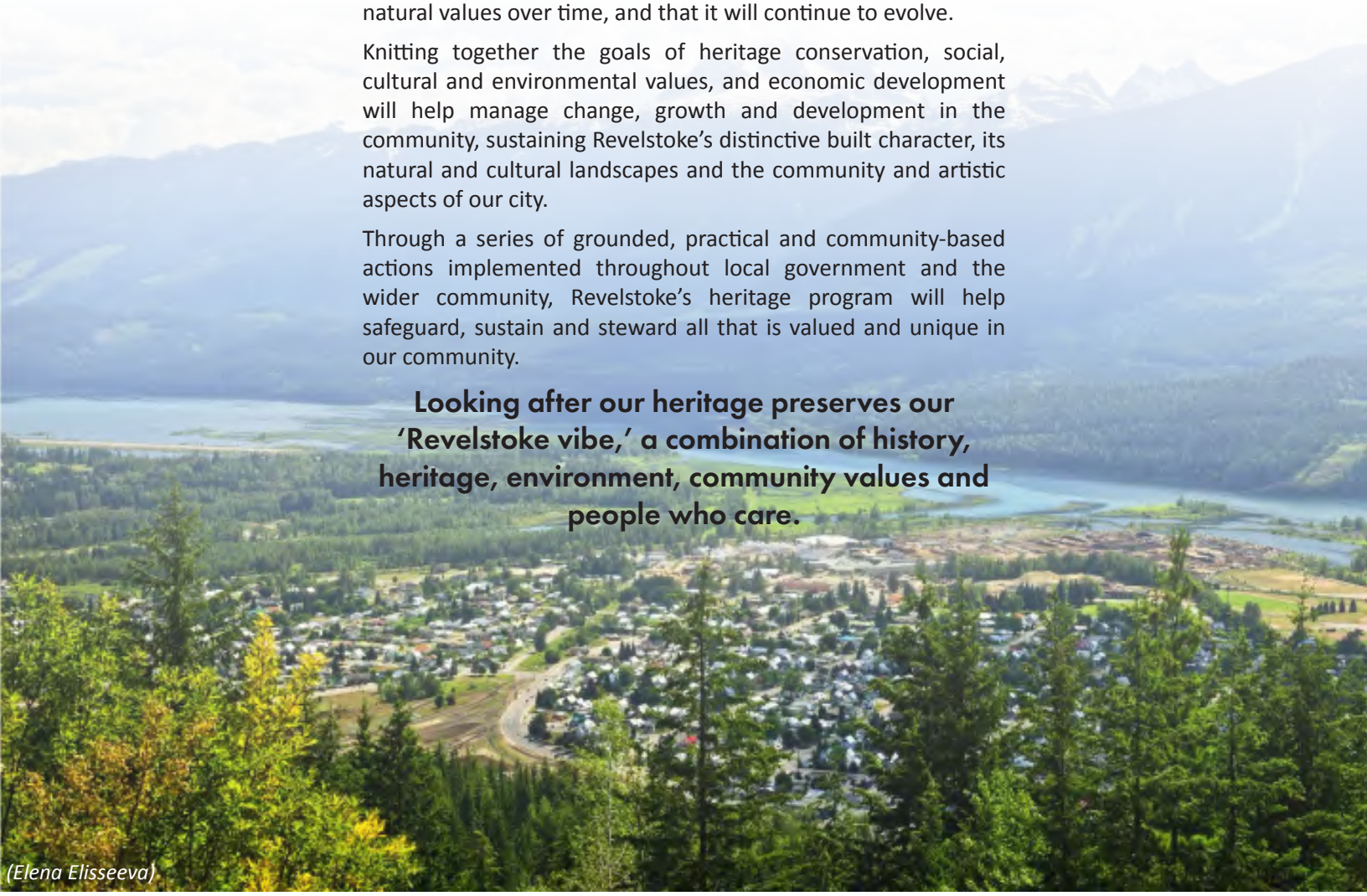
Heritage conservation in Revelstoke will acknowledge the significance of Indigenous history and presence, will strive for inclusion, truth and reconciliation and recognize valued Indigenous heritage resources. It will help support the values that make Revelstoke a wonderful place to be, where people have a chance to do well, live a good life, and be an important part of the community.

Heritage acknowledges that the city we treasure is the result of the layering and interaction of economic, social, cultural and natural values over time, and that it will continue to evolve.

Knitting together the goals of heritage conservation, social, cultural and environmental values, and economic development will help manage change, growth and development in the community, sustaining Revelstoke's distinctive built character, its natural and cultural landscapes and the community and artistic aspects of our city.

Through a series of grounded, practical and community-based actions implemented throughout local government and the wider community, Revelstoke's heritage program will help safeguard, sustain and steward all that is valued and unique in our community.

Looking after our heritage preserves our 'Revelstoke vibe,' a combination of history, heritage, environment, community values and people who care.



(Elena Elisseeva)

1.3 Historical Context

This historical context section provides a succinct yet comprehensive overview of Revelstoke's history, revealing the city's historical context by examining the layers and language of Revelstoke. This brings a more fine-grained approach that reflects the continuum of change over time and the verbal and visual language that describes the uniqueness of this place. This assists in revealing context and in turn, sustaining significance.

Revelstoke's Story So Far identifies and explains the transforming impulses and major factors and processes that have influenced the history of the city and have shaped the built and cultural environment we see today. Its is to provide a framework to investigate and identify heritage features and resources. As such, it is not intended to be a detailed account of all aspects of the history of the city.

The development of **key themes** organizes and distills the major historical forces or processes found in the historical context from time immemorial up to the present day.

The result is two thematic frameworks, one encompassing Indigenous themes and the other more community-oriented themes that are meant to work in parallel, and to lead to further understanding and acknowledgment of all aspects of Revelstoke's history. Themes help conceptualize past events and place sites, people and events into their historical context. Such a framework is a good fit for values-based conservation and heritage management because it supports a broad, layered and inclusive perspective of heritage assets.

A **chronology of historical events** and their impacts on the city provides an over-arching timeline that inserts these key events into a continuum of time and place.

This information has been included to support an understanding of identified heritage values and heritage policy development, and to ensure that anyone using the management plan or with an interest in heritage conservation in the city has an understanding of how it became the place it is today.

1.3.1 Revelstoke's Story So Far

Forming the landscape

Revelstoke's landscape formed 500 million years ago. Through a series of dramatic changes caused by tectonic forces, erosion, volcanic activity, climatic change and water flows, the dramatic Monashee and Selkirk Mountain ranges and the alluvial fan on which Revelstoke sits were formed. North and south of Revelstoke extends the Selkirk Trench occupied by the Columbia River, while to the west are the snow-capped peaks of the Monashee Mountains including Mount Begbie and Mount MacPherson and to the east the Selkirk range including Mount Revelstoke.

Revelstoke's mountain ranges provide a spectacular setting with steep mountain peaks bordering the valley, forming alpine meadow ecosystems at higher elevations. The geology of these mountains include extensive areas underlain by granite and allied rock, between which sedimentary and volcanic rocks of diverse ages are folded, faulted, and to a greater or lesser extent metamorphosed.

Mount Begbie and the Monashee mountains. (Tom Poole)

Revelstoke is located within the world's only inland temperate rainforest, limited to the wetter portions of the Interior Cedar Hemlock Ecozone.[1] In this globally unique ecosystem, the wet and super wet cedar-hemlock forests are highly significant, containing a wide diversity of rare plants, animals, and fungi. This region is home to deep snow caribou which are a unique ecotype of mountain caribou, evolved to live in the deep snows and old growth forests. The Revelstoke area is considered a stronghold for these caribou with its subpopulation at 184 caribou as of 2021.[2] These Cedar Hemlock rainforests also play a critical role in carbon storage and sequestration.

Revelstoke is dominated geographically and historically by the presence of the Columbia River, the largest river by volume flowing into the Pacific Ocean from the western hemisphere. The northern extent of the Columbia River is the "big bend," located about 140 kilometres north of Revelstoke.

The Columbia River and its tributaries including the Illecillewaet River support unique and endangered fish populations including sturgeon and Kokanee, a land-locked Sockeye salmon. Wetlands located around the confluence of the Columbia and Illecillewaet Rivers have high ecological values, providing habitat for numerous bird, mammal, fish and plant species.

Traditional and unceded territory

The Sinixt, Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, and Sylix First Nations travelled through and inhabited territory in Revelstoke and the surrounding areas. Indigenous use of the Revelstoke area was traditionally multi-cultural and multi-lingual, and each of the Nations is very different. Their ancestors shaped the landscape through their activities, knowing it deeply and imbuing it with important cultural and spiritual meanings.

While all four nations traditionally hunted and gathered, they also intensively managed and cared for their lands and resources, acquiring scientific knowledge over thousands of years and creating an intimate connection to the landscape of the Upper Columbia and its plants, animals, seasons and resources.[3] For all four Nations, the Columbia River provided both a travel route and a source of sustenance.

Their unceded territory means that Indigenous lands were never given, traded, or awarded to the Crown or Canadian government through treaty or other negotiation.

Early townsite development: furs, mining, railway and forestry

The colonial settlement of Revelstoke began in the 1880s with the exploration of the Columbia River and the

1 Old Growth Inland Rainforest. https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/revelstoke/nature/chaine-columbia-range/pluviale-rainforest

2 BC's Inland Temperate Rainforest. https://wildsight.ca/programs/bcs-inland-temperate-rainforest/

3 Eileen Delehanty Pearkes. *The Geography of Memory. 2022.* p.217.

exploitation of the area's natural resources. This included mining, construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and early forestry, colonial-era drivers of early growth that at the same time shattered the continuity of Indigenous land uses, living memory and sophisticated lifeways. Indigenous peoples' prior claims, existing laws and land rights meant nothing to the colonial explorers and settlers or to their overseas representatives.[4] This resulted in the unawareness of, and therefore neglect of, potential present-day archaeological sites around Revelstoke.

David Thompson, a fur trader with the North West Company, discovered the source of the Columbia River, a wide lake located at Canal Flats and in 1811 became the first European to travel the length of the Columbia, opening up the area to the fur trade and creating a passage for interior trade to the pacific coast. The Big Bend Gold Rush between 1865 and 1866 brought prospectors and miners to the Columbia River north of Revelstoke. The gold rush attracted thousands of miners and business-people to Revelstoke, and necessitated the construction of pack trails and wagon roads for transporting supplies. Most of the miners left after this short-lived and destructive exploitation; as with other B.C. gold rushes, Chinese Canadians were then permitted to re-work the original diggings.

Driving the Last Spike at Craigellachie in November 1885 completed the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway mainline. The arrival of a passenger train in 1886 and the relocation of a major CPR divisional point from Donald to Revelstoke in 1899 affirmed the city as a railway town, complete with divisional offices, and large locomotive shop facilities for servicing locomotives.

Land pre-emptions were another draw that brought settlers to the Revelstoke area. The colonial government used pre-emption policies to encourage white settlement, illegally since there were no treaties or agreements in place. Indigenous peoples were not allowed to pre-empt land and were forced onto reserves.

All of this early exploitation activity was devastating to the Indigenous people of the region, through the unsustainable and socially and ecologically damaging practices of the fur trade and the gold rushes and the human destruction caused by the spread of smallpox and other diseases.

4 Laura Stovel. *Swift River: Stories of the First People and First Travellers on the Columbia River Around Revelstoke*. 2019. p. 31

A Crown Grant was issued to Arthur Stanhope Farwell with the belief that his land, generally bounded by Front and Victoria Streets and Kootenay Road, would be on the route of the CPR mainline and with aspirations to sell the land to the CPR.[5] A survey was completed by Farwell himself and a townsite began to be developed with a variety of services on Front Street and housing on other nearby streets. Unable to sell the land to the CPR and with property owners unable to get clear title to their properties, complex legal disputes involving both provincial and federal governments lasted until 1899, the year Revelstoke was incorporated as a city.

In 1886, the CPR acquired its own townsite in Revelstoke north of the Farwell Townsite and near the railway yards, naming it Revelstoke Station. Railway spur lines were built across town to the Columbia River to serve the Kootenay B.C. Smelting and Trading Company and the CPR Landing Stage. By 1895 a CPR Branch line to Arrowhead was completed, and that town developed as a steamboat port at the head of Upper Arrow Lake.

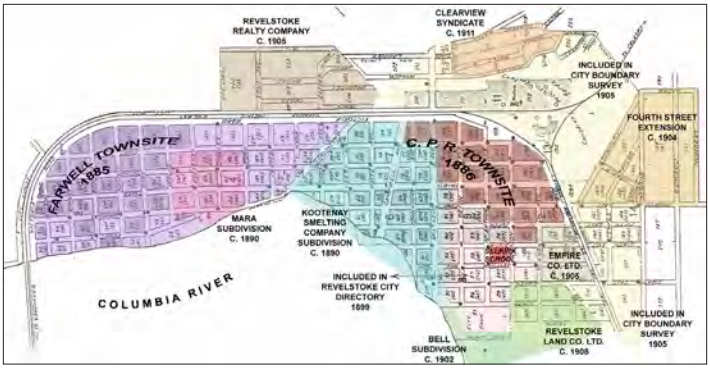
CPR depot, hotel and yards c.1920s. (BCAR b-00568)

If Farwell had been able to make a deal with the CPR for the sale of his land, it is likely that the railway operations would have been built here, with Front Street continuing as the city's business section.[6] Nonetheless, Farwell had an influence on the physical layout and land use pattern of Revelstoke. The townsite and adjacent CPR bridge over the Columbia River became a transportation hub. Early trails and roads departed from here to Big Bend, along with the Big

5 Cathy English. *Brown Bag History: Revelstoke Origins*. p.10-12.
6 Ibid. p.19.

Eddy Bridge connection to southbound roads, and angled Government Street linking Farwell to the new townsite of Revelstoke Station. Major crosstown routes like First, Third and Fourth Streets also connected to Farwell.[7]

The Revelstoke Station neighbourhood that grew up around the CPR operations was a residential neighbourhood developed between 1897 and 1915 to provide housing for the families of workers employed by the CPR and other businesses associated with the railway. Emerging as a walkable community with small lot sizes, the consistency of the housing constructed during this compressed time frame is distinctive for its vernacular building styles, similar roof lines and uniformity of the streetscapes. The land between the two townsites - Farwell and Revelstoke Station - is now referred to as Mountain View. This era saw the provision of early services such as the telephone, and electrical power provided by the first dam in the area on the Illecillewaet River.



Revelstoke's early townsites that formed the core of the developing city. (Eileen Fletcher)

Revelstoke's rainforests have supported a significant forest industry in the city and region, with the first permanent sawmill, the Revelstoke Lumber Company, opening in 1889 near the CPR bridge over the Columbia River and supplementing the previous portable sawmills. The old-growth cedar and Douglas-fir provided exceptionally durable timber for the construction of Revelstoke's early buildings. Between the 1920s and the 1960s, growth and technological advances in the forest industry brought stability to the local economy.[8] Downie Mill started on 4 acres in 1950, added 25 acres in 1969, still supports hundreds of direct and indirect jobs.

Forest resources have always been significant, with cultural keystone timber species playing a role in Indigenous technology, art and other aspects of their culture. This included the use of timber and bark for canoes, artworks, cookware, apparel, baskets, hunting and fishing implements, rope, twine and cordage, and snowshoes.

The rich soil of the Columbia River Valley provided the potential for prime farmland cultivation, with the first farms established south of Revelstoke in 1886. Significant market gardens, berry cultivation, cattle farms and hay and pasture land are part of Revelstoke's agricultural history. All of the city's red brick buildings constructed prior to World War I were manufactured in local brick-making plants.[9]

Agriculture was highly intertwined with the expansion of the colonial state in B.C., with settlers granted Indigenous lands in and around Revelstoke for clearing and conventional farming. It went unrecognized by settlers and the colonial government that Indigenous peoples here had their own sophisticated systems of land management and agriculture.

Revelstoke has been built in part through immigration, as people arrived to work in the railway, forestry and agricultural industries. As long as Revelstoke has existed, Chinese Canadians, arriving for the gold rush and railway labour, have been a part of the community. The CPR actively recruited in Europe for labourers and skilled workers, particularly from Britain and Italy. The first Italian names appeared in the community in 1893, and by 1905 their population was about 400, primarily settled in today's Little Italy neighbourhood. Their culture brought its own character to the city, with houses built close to the sidewalk and vegetable gardens in the back.[10] South Asian Canadian workers, mainly Sikhs from the Punjab, arrived to work in the lumbering, agriculture and railway industries in the early 20th century.

Becoming a regional centre

By the turn of the 20th century, Revelstoke was a regional transportation hub and one of the largest and most prominent communities in the interior of British Columbia. In 1905, the city had services such as government offices, hospital and schools, and businesses such as hotels, the opera house and the Enterprise, Revelstoke and Kootenay breweries. These establishments were primarily centred in or near the Fallwell Townsite. Chinese laundries and structures identified as 'Chinese' or 'Oriental' were located in an area of Front Street near Hanson Street.[11] In 1906 a

7 Eileen Fletcher. Written communication.

8 William Blisland. *History of Revelstoke and the Big Bend.* 1955.

9 Ruby Nobbs. *Revelstoke History and Heritage.* 1998. p.87.

10 Ibid. p.83.

11 Fire Insurance Plan of Revelstoke, 1905; Cathy English. *Revestoke - Creating a Community, Brown Bag History Volume II*. p.160-163.

YMCA was built that included a gymnasium, bowling alley and indoor pool.

By 1910, the town's commercial area had shifted from Front Street in the Farwell townsite to Mackenzie Avenue at First and Second streets near Revelstoke Station. By 1932 the Farwell townsite was virtually empty as Revelstoke's business and service activities consolidated around the CPR railway yards.

Glacier National Park was established in 1886 for its world-class alpine climbing opportunities. As a complement, Mount Revelstoke National Park was created in 1914 after advocacy by local residents in recognition of its unspoiled mountain scenery, sub-alpine wildflower meadows, and its potential for recreational use. The Meadows in the Sky Parkway was built between 1912 and 1927.

The creation of these parks resulted in the permanent presence of the federal Dominion Parks Branch (now Parks Canada) in Revelstoke, establishing an influence of natural and cultural conservation in the area, but at the same time, further displacing Indigenous peoples as well as local communities.

In a region known for its avalanches, the worst in Canadian history occurred on the CPR line in Rogers Pass on March 4th, 1910. A crew of railway workers were clearing the tracks after an earlier avalanche when a second avalanche occurred and buried 58 men, thirty-two of them Japanese Canadians. Most of these early immigrants from Japan had lived in Canada for several years, working as labourers in sawmills and on the railway.[12]

The tradition of skiing and all that is associated with it is part of life in Revelstoke. The first reference to someone skiing in Revelstoke occurred in 1890, but it is Norwegian immigrants who popularized skiing and ski jumping here. By the 1910s, several ski jumping hills had been built around town, and in 1915 Revelstoke's first Winter Carnival was organized. This event included ski-jumping on Mount Revelstoke, cementing the mountain's use as one of Canada's first ski hills.[13] Revelstoke became an international centre for ski jumping, attracting the world's elite for the annual tournament from 1915 to 1975, the longest time period of any Canadian ski jumping venue.

12 Revelstoke Museum. https://www.revelstokemuseum.ca/curators-blog/asian-history-month

13 Revelstoke Museum and Archives. *Sliding, Gliding and Soaring: A history of skiing in Revelstoke, British Columbia.*

World War I had a direct impact on the city. Revelstoke had more than 600 men and approximately six women volunteer for active service, with 100 casualties. An internment camp was constructed on Mount Revelstoke to house 'enemy aliens,' many of whom were Ukrainian immigrants who had come to the Revelstoke area to work on the construction of the railway, in forestry or mining operations or on small farms south of Revelstoke.[14] In another blow to the city post-war, the Spanish Flu pandemic arrived in 1918, causing approximately 37 deaths.

Revelstoke's role as a regional centre started with the railway but the city continued to be important well beyond the railway boom years. Revelstoke's position as a regional hub is reflected in the number of industries, public institutions and schools, making it the centre of broader regional connections for over a century. Significant buildings such as the Revelstoke Courthouse and the Post Office were constructed as part of Revelstoke's emergence as a regional centre.

Laying the cornerstone of the Revelstoke Courthouse, 1912. (BCAR b-00571)

Transportation routes expanded during this time, with the first vehicle bridge constructed across the Columbia River connecting Front Street to Big Eddy opening in 1910, and providing road connections from Revelstoke to the west. The Connaught Tunnel was constructed under Mount Macdonald to reroute the Canadian Pacific Railway line through Rogers Pass, a high mountain pass east/west through the Selkirk Mountains. In 1922, the original

14 Nobbs. p.83.

Revelstoke to Sicamous highway was constructed for access to the south, and in 1924 the current iron Big Eddy bridge was opened to traffic, bringing into service the last highway link connecting Revelstoke to the rest of the province by road.[15]

The Big Bend Highway was completed in 1940, not only creating an automobile link between Revelstoke and Golden but providing work for unemployed men. Highway work camps were supplied from Revelstoke, and many workers remained in the in area after its completion. While discussions about a road around the Big Bend began in the 1880s, technical barriers due to the extremely challenging topography hindered highway construction for over 40 years.

Revelstoke's role as a regional centre extended to the city's early arts scene which emerged in the 1940s. The Revelstoke Art Group was formed in 1949 by founding member Sophia Atkinson and a group of fellow painters who met informally to paint in homes or in the beautiful Revelstoke landscape.

Revelstoke's art sector continued to grow with programming and partnerships generated through Arts Revelstoke that began in the 1990s and grew significantly with cross-pollination of arts in the wider Kootenay region. Today's Revelstoke Arts Centre is the result of this early and significant arts scene.[16]

World War II and post-war development

Revelstoke grew as a regional centre throughout the 20th century, and its population once again increased significantly in the post-war years. This era saw two royal visits, one in 1939 by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the other in 1959 by Queen Elizabeth II. The 1939 royal visit across Canada by train was the first of any reigning monarch, and significant to Revelstoke because of its railway history.

During World War II, more than 500 Revelstokians enlisted, with 33 casualties. Post World War II, veterans came home to a revitalization committee established to help ease them into civilian life and work, along with the very active institution in the Revelstoke branch of the Canadian Legion.[17]

One of three road camps established during World War II, the Eagle Pass (Revelstoke-Sicamous) work camp was part of the 1942 internment of Japanese Canadians outside the 100-mile Protected Area and part of the strategic improvement of B.C.'s highway system during the war. Recognition of this site acknowledges Japanese Canadian struggles, tenacity and resilience in the face of racism, discrimination and dispossession.

Post-war road construction such as the opening of the Big Bend Highway, and later, Rogers Pass along with new prosperity began to bring tourists to Revelstoke and the wider region. When the highway passed through Revelstoke, businesses serving motorists were established along its length. Existing hotels of an earlier era were inadequate, and motels in Revelstoke were constructed to support tourism accommodation.

In 1956, under the *Indian Act*, Canada declared the last living member of the Arrow Lakes Tribe dead and the tribe extinct. While ceding the northern portion of their reservation in 1890, Sinixt continued to live and remember their territory up north where they once travelled through the seasons.[18]

Visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 1939. (Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

Sustaining growth: the 1960s onward

Large infrastructure projects impacted Revelstoke in the 1960s. The construction of the Trans-Canada Highway in 1962 and the opening of the Rogers Pass Highway from Revelstoke to Golden increased access to the area.

15 Ibid. p.180.
16 *A Glimpse into the History of Visual Art in Revelstoke.* https://revelstokeartgallery.ca/our-story/
17 Nobbs. p.197.
18 Steph Kwetásel'wet Wood. *The Narwhal.* October 31, 2020.

In June 1964 the Canadian Parliament approved the terms of the Columbia River Treaty and the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority became "the Canadian entity" responsible for constructing three large dams on the Columbia River system. Canada today has strong concerns about weaknesses in the existing treaty that removed productive agricultural and forestry lands from local economies and displaced communities, affecting the lives of hundreds of people whose houses, farms, villages, and cemeteries disappeared under water.

Dams also inundated traditional First Nations' village sites and significant archaeological sites, and devastated traditional fish and wildlife habitat.

The Arrow (later Hugh Keenleyside) treaty dam was completed at Castlegar in 1969, flooding the Columbia River Valley as far north as Revelstoke. Extensive construction of dykes in anticipation of the Arrow Lakes reservoir reshaped the land and river through Revelstoke. At Arrowhead, the town was submerged beneath the waters of the existing lake, now part of the reservoir.

The land and water are the basis for Indigenous culture, in which landscape has both spiritual and practical purposes. The impacts to Indigenous people as a result of flooding due to the Columbia River Treaty are in some ways immeasurable. Losses include fisheries, vegetation, hunting grounds, medicinal plants and archaeological heritage, along with spiritual losses and the ongoing disturbance of burials.

While BC Hydro played a major role in implementing the measures of the Columbia River Treaty, it also contributed to the form and character of Revelstoke in the 1960s through the 1980s. The corporation provided infrastructure such as the eastern access to the Trans-Canada Highway, and the timing of land development and municipal boundary extensions aligns with the company's significant presence in the city. While often conflated with the provincial government in its role implementing the Columbia River Treaty and the displacement of about 2,000 citizens, the company may have also played a role in resettling displaced residents, and providing them with housing in new communities. It was under the leadership of Hugh Keenleyside at the level of the Hydro Board of Directors that the various mitigative programs and actions noted later were undertaken.[19]

19 J.W. Wilson and M. Conn. "On Uprooting and Rerooting: Reflections on the Columbia River Project." *BC Studies* No. 58 Summer 1983.

Revelstoke's first venture to reinvent itself in 1960s and 70s came in the form of an Alpine building aesthetic applied to downtown, with the Alpine Village Mall opening in 1977. Like several other BC communities in the 1970s confronting the demise of resource extraction in the face of rising concerns about environmental impacts, Revelstoke embarked on an scheme of downtown renewal based on a Bavarian Alpine theme.

Building at 201 First Street during the Alpine aesthetic era. (Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

The completion of the Mica Dam north of Revelstoke in 1973, another Columbia River Treaty dam, brought flood control to the city and with it the ability for development in the flood plain, but also the risk of potential disturbance to ecological and cultural resources.

Heli-skiing became an important part of the ski industry in Revelstoke since the 1970s. With its relatively easy access to the mountains around the city, popularizing this sport brought international awareness of the quantity and quality of the area's powder snow.

Revelstoke today

Revelstoke has continued to grow as early 1980s city boundary expansions enveloped Big Eddy, Southside and Arrow Heights. By 1984 the completion of the Revelstoke and Mica dams and the construction of dykes throughout the city controlled the natural flooding of the Columbia River into its adjacent flood plain, protecting existing homes from annual flooding and opening up new land for development.

Completion of these dams after a 15 to 20 year time frame of local employment had a significant impact on Revelstoke's economy and society. The workforce that moved from

one dam to another and the associated social dynamic fragmented as available work ended and many workers left, creating both economic and family tensions.

"Combatting Economic Difficulties with a Downtown Revitalization" reads a headline in the Revelstoke Times in 1990. Following the economic recession of the 1980s, the community reinvented itself, with community leaders introducing ideas to revitalize the community and refresh the town's character. In 1987 the City embarked on a second revitalization project for Revelstoke's downtown, part of the BC Heritage Trust's Heritage Area Revitalization Program (HARP). This included the rehabilitation of key buildings, construction of landscape elements and the creation of Grizzly Plaza as the focal point of downtown. The project generated short-term economic activity for a community that was in need of employment, and restored community pride and confidence.

In 1990, the CPR ceased its passenger railway service, hindering local and tourist travelers' connections to the west, south and east. In 1993 the Revelstoke Railway Museum opened, a tourism-focused institution dedicated to presenting Revelstoke's railway heritage. At the same time, the six-kilometre Macdonald Tunnel was built beneath Rogers Pass to reduce track grades for westbound trains, while eastbound trains now used the Connaught Tunnel.

To incorporate a measure of local control over its resources, Revelstoke established the Revelstoke Forest Corporation and Revelstoke District Energy Corporation, both in the 1990s. The Forest Corporation was formed as a way to improve the standard of forest management and environmental protection, while the Energy Corporation explored ways to burn wood waste to create power for the city, an award-winning system implemented in 2010[20].

In recent years, the community has seen an influx of young families and residents that place a high value on outdoor recreation and adventure activities. One of the most significant recent events was the opening of Revelstoke Mountain Resort, expanding the existing ski enterprise on Mount Mackenzie to create the longest vertical runs in North America. The first ski season in 2007-2008 brought increased tourism, economic development, and a new wave of growth to the community, but its success may have impacted, or could continue to impact, the tight-knit community and distinctive Revelstoke vibe.

20 English. *Revelstoke-Creating a Community*. p.174.

The 2021 Desautel Decision was a profound revolution for the Sinixt people in the Revelstoke area and elsewhere. While intervenors and legal observers differ on the implications of the Desautel case to wider Sinixt rights, the federal government eventually expects to have the right to weigh in on issues like resource management, environmental protection, and the establishment of reserve lands for the Sinixt.[21]

Revelstoke is situated within a complex of federal, provincial, and regional agency jurisdictions, including the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Parks Canada, Revelstoke Mountain Resort and BC Hydro. Crown lands surrounding the community are managed by provincial government agencies. This has necessitated the city nurturing ongoing, close and collaborative relationships with these agencies.[22]

Parks Canada has become increasingly aware of the need to shape Canada's system of protected areas by politicians and staff, and importantly, the collaboration and discussions with Indigenous peoples, historical and environmental organizations, and individual citizens.[23] The CPR continues to be a major industry and employer in Revelstoke, along with forestry, including logging, sawmilling and the production of lumber for building construction. Each industry has established a local culture of relationships and practices.

Today, Revelstoke is a well established, multi-generational and progressive community of approximately 8,275 permanent residents, according to 2021 census data, and is a city gifted with the legacy of many people - local residents and visitors alike - who value Revelstoke's history, character and lifestyle. The city's heritage is collected and curated by the Revelstoke Museum & Archives which celebrates the history of Revelstoke and the surrounding area through its collections, programs, and exhibitions.

21 Slocan *Valley Voice*, May 6, 2021.
22 City of Revelstoke. *Official Community Plan*. 2022.
23 https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/parks-canada

1.3.2 Themes in Revelstoke's History

Revelstoke's thematic framework can allow a greater depth of heritage understanding and supports the components of the Management plan. Thematic frameworks help promote the inclusion of places and stories related to overlooked or lesser-known groups and stories and ensure the representation of places that might otherwise go unrecognized. It seeks to provide a dynamic understanding of Revelstoke's heritage that can appeal to a wide-ranging audience and associate them with the city's core heritage values.

The section titled Themes in Indigenous History seeks to provide an initial understanding that the Revelstoke area was multi-cultural and traditionally used by four First Nations, which, while there may be some commonalities, are very different from one another.

Each Nation has its own culture, language and understanding of its rights, title and responsibilities for the land. These Indigenous peoples have a rich history in the region dating back thousands of years, long before the arrival of European colonizers. However, kinship interrelationships between neighbouring communities and Indigenous Nations, for example through intermarriage or other social ties, cannot easily be distinguished into concrete colonial border lines and territorial boundaries.[1]

Drawn from a variety of recommended sources and studies, these themes strive to ensure that Revelstoke's heritage is considered from both a city perspective and from the perspective of each Nation, encompassing the area's history in its entirety and complexity. Indigenous history is complex, and it is acknowledged that this is a high-level recognition of the importance of an Indigenous presence within this conservation management plan. Much more work needs to be done to properly learn and understand from oral traditions and archaeological evidence.

Many heritage resources relate to more than one theme, reflecting the interactive way society has developed. In many instance the more themes the heritage place relates to, the more reasons for its significance.

- Themes are key ideas for describing major historical forces or processes which have contributed to the history and evolution of a place
- They help to conceptualize past events
- They help to place sites, people and events into their historical context
- They ensure that heritage survey work is not random or ad hoc, is comprehensive and ensures that important places are not overlooked

Well-developed thematic frameworks resonate with all periods of a community's history, and with all of the inhabitants of that community over time. Aspects of Revelstoke's heritage are organized under the following eight themes, which together seek to succinctly describe the history, physical character and central stories found in its community heritage. They serve to connect the narrative of the historical context statement to identified

1 Ignace and Ignace. *Secwépemc People, Land and Laws*. 2017.

Thematic frameworks:

- *Succinctly encapsulate the history, physical character and central stories of a community*
- *Create a web of relationships and storylines linking the community's history, heritage values and heritage resources*
- *Examine the 'representativeness' of heritage resources and draw attention to gaps in existing histories*
- *Are key ideas for describing major historical forces or processes which have contributed to the history and evolution of a place*
- *Help to conceptualize past events and place sites, people and historical understanding into their historical context*
- *Resonate with all people, places and time periods found in a community's history*
- *Allow greater depth of on site interpretation through an understanding of many stories and a wide range of viewpoints*

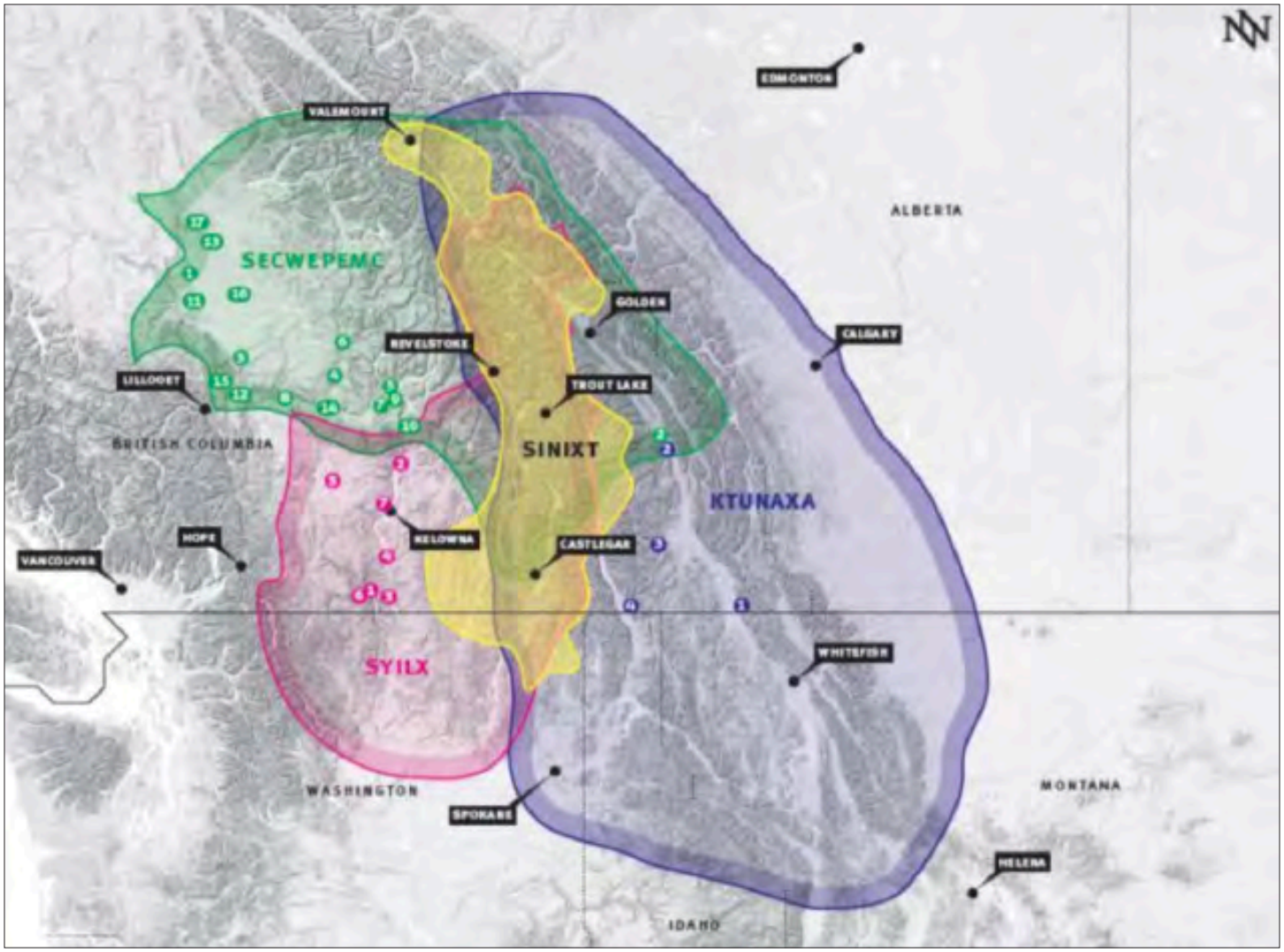
"Themes are webs we weave to better understand the oral history, history and storylines of a place"

Australia ICOMOS

community heritage values and to Revelstoke's historic places. This organizes the complexities of history into a concise framework that supports the identification of heritage resources and the creation of effective strategies for their conservation and management.

The themes themselves are a useful tool in assisting in the understanding, identification and characterization of current and future heritage sites. Each historic place, site or feature identified in this document and current and future inventory or register heritage resources should find a place within one or more themes.

Themes are useful in providing information in the thematic section of a statement of significance, for inclusion on Provincial and National registers, and for classifying resources thematically in the Community Heritage Register and Inventory, as well as helping to identify periods of significance and missing and underrepresented heritage resources. They can also be a useful starting point for interpretation and commemoration.



Map showing the traditional territories of the Sinixt, Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, and Sylix First Nations near Revelstoke. (Native-Land.ca)[1]

1 This map does not represent or intend to represent official or legal boundaries of any Indigenous nations. To learn about definitive boundaries, contact the nations in question. This map is not perfect - it is a work in progress with tons of contributions from the community.

Themes in Indigenous history

As a living document, the Indigenous history in this Heritage Management Plan will evolve and change as the community changes over time. This means the City of Revelstoke's ongoing dedication to building relationships with, and continuing to learn from, the Nations themselves. The pledge to keep acquiring and understanding new information and guidance from the Indigenous people of the region about their values, language and cultures will ensure this document section continues to be renewed and relevant over time.

1. Territory, location and place

This theme reflecting upon Indigenous territory, location and place seeks to provide an understanding of the relationships of the four Nations with the land they have inhabited and traveled within for millennia.

Tangible heritage sites and places and intangible cultural heritage are key parts of Indigenous interests, including the Columbia River and the Revelstoke area. There exists a historical connection and continued or desired use of sites or places in the vicinity of Revelstoke, and a need to retain these experiences without disruption.[1] These include archaeological, burial, cultural and spiritual sites, engagement in traditional cultural practices, the meaningful practice of Indigenous laws, and the transfer of traditional knowledge to the next generations.[2]

Sinixt

The Sinixt are an Indigenous nation of the Colville Confederated Tribes and an Aboriginal People of Canada, and have rights in both countries. Their identity as Sinixt people expresses itself in art, language and ceremony. "Even though we were forced to move south, we have never left the Columbia River. We are still here."[3]

The Arrow Lakes area is clearly and consistently described as Sinixt traditional territory, encompassing the Arrow Lakes and Columbia River from around Revelstoke even as far north as the Big Bend, south to Kettle Falls below the U.S. border and from the Kettle River valley on the western boundary, to the Kootenay River valley on the eastern boundary. Slocan and Trout lakes are also consistently, but not without exception, included within descriptions of Sinixt traditional territory.[4] Calling this their homelands, the Sinixt lived in what is primarily a north-south valley stretching from grassy hills at present day Kettle Falls, Washington to glacier-capped peaks near Revelstoke.

Ktunaxa

The Ktunaxa Nation is an Indigenous society whose traditional territory is within the asserted boundaries of Canada and the United States of America. Ktunaxa Nation citizens reside in both of these countries and have empowered separate governments to protect their interests in each.[5]

The Ktunaxa Nation, consists of six communities (four in B.C., Canada and two in the United States). The four in B.C. include the ʔakisq̓ nuk (Columbia Lake) First Nation, Yaqan Nukiy (Lower Kootenay) First Nation, ʔaq̓ am (St. Mary's) First Nation, and Yaq̓ it ʔa·knuqɨi'it (Tobacco Plains) First Nation. The Ktunaxa territories encompass what is often called the Kootenay region, in

1 *Assessment Report, Revelstoke 6 Project.* 2018.
2 Ibid.
3 https://sinixt.com/sinixt-culture/
4 *Sinixt Traditional Territory: A Review of Ethnographic and Historical Sources*. 2023.
5 www.ktunaxa.org/who-we-are/the-ktunaxa-nation-celebrating-who-we-are/

Southeastern B.C. The Ktunaxa Nation's traditional territories also include parts of Alberta, and the U.S. states of Montana, Washington, and Idaho.[6]

Secwépemc

The name The name Secwépemc (suh-Wep-muhc) comes from the Shuswap language, which is part of the Interior Salish language family, and means "the spread-out people."[7] There are 17 member communities of the Secwépemc Nation. Historically, the Secwépemc Nation consisted of 32 ancestral communities, with each community having a series of campfires (villages). Although these communities were separate and independent, a common language and a similar culture and belief system united them.[8]

The Secwepemc traditional territory extends from the Columbia River valley along the Rocky Mountains, west to the Fraser Valley, and south to Arrow Lakes, and at a time occupied and managed one large traditional territory of approximately 145,000 square kilometres. The Secwépemc have occupied Secwepemcúlẻ cw (land of the Secwépemc people) since time immemorial, and have never signed away or surrendered their territory.

Syilx

Syilx Okanagan Nation, also known as Syilx, identify their territory as encompassing south-central BC and Washington. Syilx Okanagan Nation is comprised of the following communities (associated with modern Indian Act Bands) in Canada: Lower Similkameen, Okanagan Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, Upper Similkameen, Upper Nicola, and Westbank. The Okanagan Nation Alliance is an association of these seven member communities of interior BC. The Okanagan Nation Alliance mandate is to work as a government to advance and assert Syilx Okanagan Nation rights and title over their territory.

The Syilx Okanagan People's territory is a diverse and beautiful landscape of deserts and lakes, alpine forests and endangered grasslands. It extends over approximately 69,000 square kilometers. The northern area of this territory was close to the area of Mica Creek, just north of modern day Revelstoke, BC, and the eastern boundary was between Kaslo and Kootenay Lakes. The southern boundary extended to the vicinity of Wilbur, Washington and the western border extended into the Nicola Valley.[9]

Today, Syilx Okanagan Nation has organized politically under the Chiefs Executive Council of the Okanagan Nation Alliance, which is the Nation's current governance and decision-making entity.[10]

2. Language and place names

The four Nations have both commonalities and differences in their language. The Secwépemc, Sinixt and Syilx languages are all part of the Interior Salish language family, while the Ktunaxa hold a cultural isolate language.

Place names are important because they are mnemonic devices for Indigenous peoples. As an oral society, the names chosen for geographical sites carry history, traditional environmental/ecological knowledge, navigational information, and teachings, using Indigenous names keeps all of that information alive.

---

6 *Ktunaxa Nation Rights and Interests Assessment*. 2022.
7 Ignace and Ignace. *Secwépemc People, Land, and Laws: Yerí7 re Stsq'ey's-kuc.* 2016.
8 Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc. https://tkemlups.ca/profile/history/our-land/
9 UBC Okanagan. *Okanagan Syilx Research Guide.* https://guides.library.ubc.ca/OkanaganSyilxResearchGuide
10 *Assessment Report, Revelstoke 6 Project.* 2018.

Sinixt

The Sinixt speak Nsəlxcin, an Interior Salish language spoken by the populations who traditionally inhabited the Okanagan and Columbia River drainages. In English, "the people's speech," Nsəlxcin was historically known as "Okanogan" and later as "Okanagan-Colville."[11] ṅsəl̓xčiń - SṄʕAÝCKSTX (Sinixt) "ṅsəl̓xčiń is a Southern Interior Salish language related to the Kalispel, Spokane, and Wenatchee Salish languages. ṅsəl̓xčiń is spoken by several bands and tribes in the upper Columbia, Kootenay and Okanagan River basins. The word for this common language of the land can be said and spelled in different ways: ṅsəl̓xčiṅ / ṅsyil̓xčṅ / nsyilxcn. [12] Skxikṅ is the Sinixt name of a large village opposite Revelstoke important for trading, trapping, hunting, berrying and salmon fishing.

selxʷaʔitkʷ (big water) was a major village site opposite present-day Revelstoke and the Illecillewaet River, believed to be an anglicization of the word selxʷaʔitkʷ.[13]

Čaptíkʷł are Sinxt creation stories, often called "animal stories." They teach right conduct, offer morals, and cause healing laughter, which helps them to accept themselves as human beings. We all make mistakes, take responsibility for our mistakes, and work to do better.[14]

Ktunaxa

For the Ktunaxa, intangible cultural heritage includes language, knowledge, sacred values, sense of place and intergenerational transmission of knowledge and practices.[15] The Ktunaxa language is widely recognized as a language isolate, meaning that it does not share a common language with other Indigenous languages, making it one of a kind and unrelated to any other language in the world. Language isolates are generally associated with geographies that are mountainous, impeded communication and with continuous occupation over a very long period of time.[16]

The Ktunaxa describe their territory using ancient place names; some of these names are thousands of years old, having been established at the time of Creation. Ktunaxa place names often describe significant events remembered in oral histories; some referencing battles with other Nations, others the making of peace.[17] The Ktunaxa call the area around Revelstoke "Land of the Chickadee" in their creation story.

Secwépemc

Secwépemc are united by a common culture, value system, and language – Secwepemctsín (Interior Salishan) that includes three dialects of the language, northern, eastern and western.[18] Secwepemctsin contains the cultural, ecological, and historical knowledge which includes values, beliefs, rituals, songs, stories, social and political structures, and spirituality of the Secwépemc people. The Secwepemc view all aspects of their knowledge, including language, as vitally linked to the land. This knowledge, passed down to the next generation orally, contains the teachings necessary for the maintenance of Secwépemc culture and identity.[19]

---

11 *Sinixt Traditional Territory: A Review of Ethnographic and Historical Sources*. 2023.
12 sinixt.com/sinixt-culture/language-revitalization/
13 E.D. Pearkes. *A Survey of Lost Heritage in the Canadian (upper) Columbia Basin*. 2015.
14 https://sinixt.com/sinixt-culture/storytelling/
15 *Ktunaxa Nation Rights and Interests.* 2014.
16 Ibid.
17 www.ktunaxa.org/who-we-are/the-ktunaxa-nation-celebrating-who-we-are/
18 Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlẻ. *Revelstoke Valley Trail Network CHOA.* 2023.
19 https://tkemlups.ca/language-culture/

Secwépemc has several place names associated with the Revelstoke area. These place names link people to their lands and carry knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation. The place name Sts'ek'kín, meaning connected, was shared by the late Splatsín Elder Francis Thomas. Sts'ek'kín refers to the importance of the Revelstoke area as a point of association, where the Secwépemc and Sinixt were "connected" or "came together." The place name Stsġ ilx̌ tn, meaning whirlwind in Secwepemctsín, was provided by Cstélnec and Neskonlith community members for the Revelstoke/Big Eddy area. Stsġ ilx̌ tn refers to the way the winds blow in the vicinity of Revelstoke. The Secwepemctsín name for Mount Revelstoke is Ts'elílcteń.[20]

Syilx

Syilx Okanagan Nation share a common language (nsyilxcən), culture, customs, collective identity and traditions of resource use and governance that have evolved over thousands of years within the shared Syilx Territory. Syilx nationhood is based in the common nsyilxcən language - the same language which also holds and defines the moral and behavioral standards, expectations and teachings for individuals and for the collective.[21]

nsyilxcən is the language spoken by and distinguishes the Syilx Okanagan from other indigenous peoples. It is part of the Salish language family which is distinct from our Salish neighbours, like the Spokane, the Nlaka'pamux, and the Secwepemc. nsyilxcən is spoken in all the districts of the Syilx Okanagan territory with varying dialects. snqaxiʔstn is the Syilx name for Revelstoke.[22]

3. Travel and movement

This theme encompasses all of the ways in which the four Indigenous Nations moved through the landscape to collect, hunt, travel and trade, and includes natural thoroughfares such as waterways, trails and mountain passes. The Sinixt, Secwépemc, Ktunaxa and Syilx were and are present in the areas around Revelstoke, to access fishing and engage in trade.23 Most, but not all, Indigenous peoples traveled seasonally according to the annual economic cycle, and have members of each nation that travel, harvest and hunt in the Revelstoke area.

Sinixt

Historical surveys have identified Sinixt foot trail networks that traversed and connected the north Okanagan region to the Arrow Lakes, the Salmon Arm area to the upper Columbia and lesser used access overland and north from the Pend d'Oreille River valley.[24]

James Teit has stated that of all the Okanagan tribes, "... the Lake (Sinixt) used canoes most extensively."[25] Sturgeon-nose canoes, crafted from whole sheets of white pine bark, were used by the Sinixt as "the Lake had an abundance of good bark in their country."[26] The Sinixt sturgeon-nosed canoe was essential for travel and movement around their territory. This canoe excelled in both lake and fast-river-current conditions and was light-weight and ideal for

20 Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlẻ. *Revelstoke Valley Trail Network CHOA.* 2023.
21 *Assessment Report, Revelstoke 6 Project.* 2018.
22 www.syilx.org/about-us/syilx-nation/nsyilxen-language/
23 *Sinixt Traditional Territory: A Review of Ethnographic and Historical Sources*. 2023.
24 Ibid.
25 Ibid.
26 Ibid.

portaging around high waterfalls. Sinixt ancestors scuttled these canoes underwater through winter to preserve them.[27]

Ktunaxa

Ktunaxa trails, harvesting areas and cultural use areas are often oriented along streams, rivers and lakes within Ktunaxa territory. Access to clean water is essential to the ability of Ktunaxa to spend time on the land, especially when traveling or hunting for extensive periods in remote areas. Water bodies are traditional and current travel corridors.[28]

The Ktunaxa frequently traveled to the mouth of the Slocan River, and occasionally to the mouth of the Kootenay River to buy salmon from the "Lake tribe" - the Sinixt. They left their canoes above Bonnington Falls, occasionally going as far as Creston, where they engaged in games and did a little trading.[29]

Secwépemc

The Secwépemc people identify a network of ancient travel routes and places important to the life of their families and Secwépemc people more broadly. Community members have identified a number of travel routes known to the Secwépemc that included traveling through their territory along waterways as well as trails across the Secwepemcúlė cw.[30]

A variety of travel corridors were utilized as major trade and transportation corridors between the Shuswap Lakes and Columbia River areas of Secwepemcúlė cw. For example, Secwépemc commerce hubs and longterm occupation sites located in the Big Bend and Big Eddy are connected by trails and waterways to other villages and trading hubs such as in Sicamous, Crazy Creek, Anstey Arm, Seymour Arm, and Little River.[31] Secwépemc maintained extensive trade networks with neighbouring Indigenous Nations such as the Sinixt, Syilx, and Ktunaxa in B.C. and Stoney Nakoda and Nehiyawak (Cree) in Alberta.[32]

For Secwépemc people, trails provided access to botanical materials, ochre sites, sacred sites, hunting and berry picking areas, trade, and all related uses within a landscape.[33] These travel routes are examples of both ancestral and contemporary connections of Secwépemc people to lands and waters in their area of interest. A Skwlāx Elder has referred to the significance of the significance of the corridor between Sicamous and the Big Bend, including Revelstoke, as the Secwépemc breadbasket where Secwépemc returned annually to pick berries, fish for salmon, and hunt.[34]

Syilx

Pre-colonial, the Syilx moved freely between the south, north, west, and eastern parts of their territory, with travel organized by how the land was used for survival in Syilx cultural traditions. The land was used for hunting, fishing, root digging and berry picking. The traditional food gathering areas were shared by all the Syilx, with some territories were shared with other friendly Nations.[35]

---

27 sinixt.com/sinixt-culture/sinixt-canoes/
28 *Ktunaxa Nation Rights and Interests.* 2014.
29 *Sinixt Traditional Territory: A Review of Ethnographic and Historical Sources*. 2023.
30 Skwlāx 2019; Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlė. *Revelstoke Valley Trail Network CHOA.* 2023.
31 Ibid.
32 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Splatsín 2019; Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlė. *Revelstoke Valley Trail Network CHOA.* 2023.
35 Armstrong, et. al. *We Get Our Living Like Milk From the Land*.

In 2023, the 22nd year in a row, Syilx Okanagan people took a canoe journey across the invisible border between "Canada" and the "United States" that divides their territory, challenging a colonial marker that continues to infringe upon their unceded homelands. Dozens of pullers hauled at least 10 boats, including several dugout canoes, to the shore of nk'mip (Osoyoos Lake) in sẇiẇs (Osoyoos) in syilx homelands.[36]

4. Land and water

This theme seeks to illustrate Indigenous relationships to the land in the Revelstoke area, including traditional uses of food, plants, animals and medicines, the association of the land to arts and culture, and the importance of appropriate land management.

Human foodways and lifeways play significant roles in determining Indigenous movements within landscapes and demonstrate the ways in which boundaries are dynamic and are influenced by cultural, political, economic, ecological, and linguistic factors and conditions.[37]

Local fish species are important to respective traditional cultures as a source of food or for spiritual reasons, particularly the cultural importance of salmon that were once plentiful and fished extensively. Wildlife species such as game mammals and game birds are traditionally important food sources to their communities, along with plant species that are harvested for food, medicinal or other cultural purposes.[38]

Sinixt

A number of Sinixt villages and temporary stopping places have been documented located on the Upper and Lower Arrow lakes, Slocan Lake, Trout Lake and the Lower Kootenay and Slocan rivers.[39] Some of these locations included today's Nelson, the Kootenay River opposite Nelson, near Bonnington Falls at a noted salmon-fishing place, Nakusp and a settlement at the confluence of the Kootenay and Columbia rivers, used as a temporary base for root digging.[40]

For the Sinixt, the Columbia, Kootenay and other rivers in the region provided both a travel route and a source of sustenance. The territorial environment of each of the Nsəlxcin-speaking Nations informed their hunting and fishing activities. The Arrow Lakes was reportedly an environment that influenced the canoeing, hunting, and fishing preferences of the Sinixt. "The difference in fishing and the use of canoes, were caused by the different types of environment by the tribes."[41]

In 2016, the Nation renewed an ancient practice, the canoe journey to Kettle Falls and the great salmon fishery. For the first time in a long time, they journeyed by water, from the Arrow Lakes to the southern end of Sinxt territory.[42]

Evidence from early explorers record the cultural and biological miracle of the salmon's prolific presence in the Sinixt region prior to dam building. For 80 years, since the Grand Coulee dam blocked the salmon, the Sinixt people have never stopped hoping or working for the salmon to return, noting that it is their responsibility to do so.[43]

36 indiginews.com/news/canoe-journey-crosses-colonial-border-upholding-syilx-sovereignty-this-is-still-our-territory
37 Ignace and Ignace. *Secwépemc People, Land, and Laws: Yerí7 re Stsq'ey's-kuc.* 2016.
38 *Assessment Report, Revelstoke 6 Project.* 2018.
39 Kennedy and Bouchard. 1989.
40 *Sinixt Traditional Territory: A Review of Ethnographic and Historical Sources*. 2023.
41 Ibid.
42 https://sinixt.com/sinixt-culture/sinixt-canoes/
43 Eileen Delehanty Pearkes. *The Geography of Memory.* 2023.

Ktunaxa

Water is fundamental to the Ktunaxa creation story and is understood by Ktunaxa knowledge holders to be the basis for all living things within Ktunaxa territory. Rivers, streams, lakes and riparian areas provide essential habitat for fish and many of the plants and animals Ktunaxa harvesters rely on.

The Ktunaxa philosophy of stewardship of the lands and waters is the recognition that they are part of the land and that connectedness to it requires a respect for all things as anything that affects one, affects everyone else. Ktunaxa believe that they must care for ʔa'kxaḿis qapi qapsin (all living things) and in doing so must ensure that the water is clean and pure, as it is the giver of life. They also believe that the land must be properly stewarded, "our people care for the land, the land cares for our people."[44]

Ktunaxa identify as important opportunities to practice Ktunaxa culture and rights-based activities, such as culture camps, treks, hunting, fishing, and gathering within their traditional territory.[45]

Secwépemc

Secwépemc have engaged in extensive trade economies for thousands of years, with several central trading hubs located in Sicamous and Revelstoke.[46] They traveled from their territory east along the Eagle River to the Columbia River valley to fish and trade at Revelstoke.[47]

The idea of land draws from the Secwépemc concept of dwelling (mut sin or tsyem plural) to illustrate how living in a place is made up of a series of seasonal places where people stay throughout a seasonal round, including staying and living at annually accessed harvesting grounds.[48]

Salmon were and are caught by Secwépemc as a vital and crucial part of who they are, their food, and their connection to those who give themselves. Many years ago, Secwépemc ancestors figured out how to catch them with a variety of Indigenous methods highly suited to the particular species and the nature of the river.[49]

Syilx

Descendants of the nsyilxcen speaking peoples, live, use and occupy the lands, waters and resources in the Syilx Territory and exercise jurisdiction and ownership. This is the historical community of peoples sharing language, customs, traditions, historical experience, territory and resources at the time of first contact.[50]

The Syilx continue to follow their ancestral teachings taught to them as Syilx people. These beliefs include the sacred connection and care of the land and tmixw (all living things), and a commitment to the conservation of the wildlife, lands and waters of their Nation's territory.[51] "When you're on the water, you're not only praying for yourself, you're praying for the

---

44 *Ktunaxa Nation Rights and Interests.* 2014.

45 Ibid.

46 Ibid.

47 *Sinixt Traditional Territory: A Review of Ethnographic and Historical Sources*. 2023.

48 Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlẻ. *Revelstoke Valley Trail Network CHOA.* 2023*;* Ignace and Ignace. *Secwépemc People, Land, and Laws: Yerí7 re Stsq'ey's-kuc.* 2016.

49 Ignace and Ignace. *Secwépemc People, Land, and Laws: Yerí7 re Stsq'ey's-kuc.* 2016.

50 *Assessment Report, Revelstoke 6 Project.* 2018

51 "Years of Syilx Okanagan Nation Actions Bring Awareness to the Protection of the Last Remaining styiɬc'ʔ." www.syilx.org/

tmxʷulaxʷ (the land). You're praying for all things that the water gives life to."[52]

As an example of contemporary land and tmixw management, Syilx Okanagan Nation leadership has prioritized the protection of styiɬc'ʔ (caribou) as a critical part of their title, rights and interests. styiɬc'ʔ has been an integral and critical part of Syilx culture since time immemorial, but since colonization the Syilx Okanagan people have witnessed the continued depletion of their relative and its home.

In the face of such losses, they continue to assert, as they have in the past, that it is their responsibility to collectively and cooperatively recover styiɬc'ʔ if they are to remain on the landscape. The Syilx Okanagan Nation acknowledges the work of multiple First Nations to bring attention to the protection of the last remaining styiɬc'ʔ and will continue to work and collaborate with neighbours to ensure that styiɬc'ʔ is recovered and protected for generations to come.[53]

Bibliography for this section

Armstrong, et. al. *We Get Our Living Like Milk From the Land*. Theytus Books Ltd. https://www.syilx.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Original_People.pdf

City of Revelstoke. *Official Community Plan*. Bylaw No. 2332, 2022 Schedule A. 2023.

Environmental Assessment Office. *Assessment Report for Revelstoke Generating Station Unit 6 Project (Revelstoke 6 Project)*. August 29, 2018.

Good Water, Dallas. *Okanagan Syilx Historical and Contemporary Salmon Distribution: Underpinning Social and Governance Structures.* UBC Okanagan, 2018.

Ignace, Marianne and Ronald E. Ignace. *Secwépemc People, Land, and Laws: Yerí7 re Stsq'ey's-kuc.* Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, 2017.

Ktunaxa Nation. *Celebrating Who We Are*. https://www.ktunaxa.org/who-we-are/the-ktunaxa-nation-celebrating-who-we-are/

Ktunaxa Nation Rights and Interests. Prepared by the Firelight Group Research Cooperative with the Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Agency and Teck Coal Limited. 2014.

Ministry of Attorney General, Legal Services Branch and NATRIL Research. *Sinixt Traditional Territory: A Review of Ethnographic and Historical Sources*. 2023

Nishima-Miller, Jeff. *The Ktunaxa Nation Rights and Interests Assessment.* 2022.

_____. The Stk'emlu'psemc te Secwepemc Nation Assessment Process. 2022.

Pearkes, Eileen Delehanty. The Geography of Memory: Reclaiming the Cultural, Natural and Spiritual History of the Sn̓ʕay̓ckstx (Sinixt) First People.

_____. *A Survey of Lost Heritage in the Canadian Columbia Basin.* 2015.

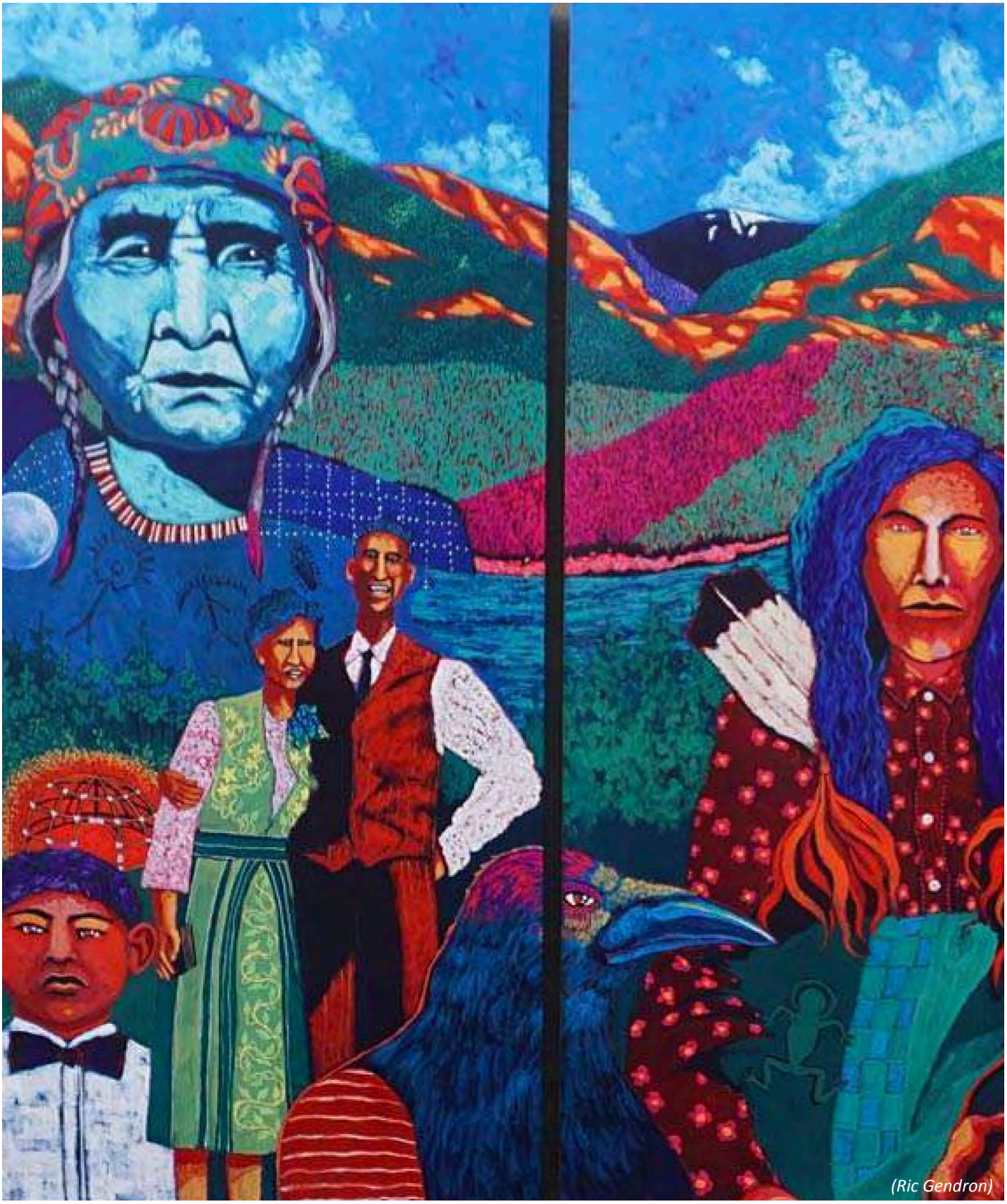
Sinixt. *Language Revitalization.* https://sinixt.com/sinixt-culture/language-revitalization.

Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlẻ. Cultural Heritage Department. *Revelstoke Valley Trail Network CHOA - Final Report V1.* (Confidential). 2023.

United Nations. *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. 2007.

52 Herman Edward quoted in https://indiginews.com/news/canoe-journey-crosses-colonial-border-up-holding-syilx-sovereignty-this-is-still-our-territory

53 "Years of Syilx Okanagan Nation Actions Bring Awareness to the Protection of the Last Remaining styiɬc'ʔ." www.syilx.org/.



(Ric Gendron)

Themes in community history

A. River and mountain setting

Revelstoke's natural setting is valuable in and of itself, including its geology, geography, topography, watercourses, flora and fauna. Water, specifically the Columbia and Illecillewaet rivers have played a key role in the development of Revelstoke.

Sub-themes:

- The mountain and river environment has provided sustenance, transportation and spiritual connections for Indigenous peoples over millennia, inspiring their creation stories.
- The area's geographic isolation, found in both distance and terrain, has influenced the community, contributing to a culture of self-reliance.
- Significant and varied ecosystems, including aquatic, riparian, wetlands and forests were lost or compromised by the damming of the Columbia and Illecillewaet rivers, inspiring local and regional efforts to preserve and rehabilitate them.
- The geomorphology of the Columbia River and Interior wet-belt has influenced human use and settlement of Revelstoke and the surrounding area. The flat ground of the valley bottom along with abundant water for industry and power helped build the community.
- Revelstoke is located within part of the world's only temperate inland rainforest, where stands of old-growth cedar and hemlock forests provide homes to rare, threatened, and endangered species. First-growth cedar and Douglas-fir provided exceptionally durable timber for Revelstoke's early buildings.
- Revelstoke's surrounding wilderness supports threatened mountain caribou herds, along with mountain goats, grizzly bears and other fauna.
- The Columbia River and its tributaries support unique and endangered fish populations including sturgeon and Kokanee, a land-locked Sockeye salmon.
- Revelstoke's water resources also represent power, such as hydro-electricity or the aesthetic essence of fast-moving creeks and waterfalls.
- Despite the environmental changes brought about by dams, roads, railways, mining and farming, ecosystems and wildlife still exist around the city, in part because of the presence of the national parks and the care of Revelstoke's residents.
- Revelstoke's natural setting cements its existence as a mountain town that draws people because of the community's connection to its landscapes.

(Matt Timmins)

(Zoya Lynch)

B. Shaping the environment

This theme addresses the dynamic, two-way relationship between people and the natural environment. It acknowledges the challenges and opportunities of the environment which shaped the people who used and inhabited it and the ways in which people, locally and from elsewhere - have dramatically shaped the environment. , and people adopted self-sufficiency and adaptation to their environment.

Subthemes:

- The occupation and use of Revelstoke's landscapes, and exploitation of its natural resources have changed the city and produced its varied cultural landscapes.
- Skxikntn, or Big Eddy, was a meeting place for Indigenous nations, whose early transportation routes through mountain passes for transportation later became post-contact trails and roadways.
- Significant pre-contact heritage was destroyed or rendered inaccessible with the flooding of the Columbia River.
- Many different groups of people with a variety of backgrounds traveled through and settled in Revelstoke, taking advantage of employment opportunities and contributing to the city's culture of self-sufficiency.
- Revelstoke has undergone boom and bust economic times, historic fires that had a significant impact on the redevelopment of the town, Japanese internment during World War II and other challenging events but has continued to thrive as a community.
- The flooding of the valleys through dam construction resulted in the loss of land and lifestyle in Revelstoke for the benefit of the rest of the province. This included the loss of communities, significant agricultural land, natural resources and important ecosystems.
- The city has had to be resourceful in adapting to events such as avalanches and floods, with new resourcefulness needed in the wake of climate change.
- As the city grew and developed, the surrounding landscape was transformed and people adopted a culture of self-sufficiency and adaptation to their environment.
- Revelstoke has a history and heritage of self-sufficiency, whether through food production, use of local materials, health or education. The city's spirit of self-sufficiency and adaptation remains to this day.

(Keri Knapp)

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

C. Evolution of a railway town

While it began as a railway town with the arrival of the CPR and the establishment of the townsite of Farwell in 1885, the city itself has changed, evolved and developed over the years. The community seeks to embrace its railway past as a key part of its heritage.

Subthemes:

- The townsite of Farwell had an important influence on the physical layout of Revelstoke, with the CPR bridge making Farwell the hub of early trails and roads to the Big Bend.
- The Big Eddy Bridge connected to southbound roads, and major crosstown routes emerged, such as First, Third and Fourth Streets.
- The complex road and development pattern of Mountain View continues to challenge efforts to rationalize or plan land use in Central Revelstoke.
- The CPR made Revelstoke a division point, with machine shops, blacksmith shops, a roundhouse, ice houses and other facilities within the wye of the railway track.
- The location of these facilities and the train station provided the impetus for significant housing construction, resulting in today's Revelstoke Station heritage conservation area.
- The city's historic subdivision pattern, grid layout streets and 25-foot by 100- foot lots, laid within the curve of the railway line, and offset 45 degrees to the north.
- The 1890s saw city growth, with the CPR Branch line to Arrowhead completed, the town renamed Revelstoke, and the provision of early services such as telephone and electric power provided by the first dam in the area on the Illecillewaet River.
- Revelstoke's Downtown evolved from early wood-frame buildings to significant masonry structures. Revitalization in the 1980s sought to use this existing infrastructure diversify the economy and enhance tourism development.
- Revelstoke has a variety of diverse neighbourhoods with its own street pattern, layout and community character.
- Evolution over time has resulted in diverse types and styles of housing, from the modest to the ornate, along with significant streetscapes.
- The 1960s saw the transformation and modernization of the city through the opening of the Rogers Pass Highway in 1962, and the 1969 completion of the Hugh Keenleyside Dam at Castlegar which flooded the Columbia Valley to Revelstoke.
- The Revelstoke and Mica dams and construction of dykes controlled Columbia River flooding and opened new land for development.

(Author photo)

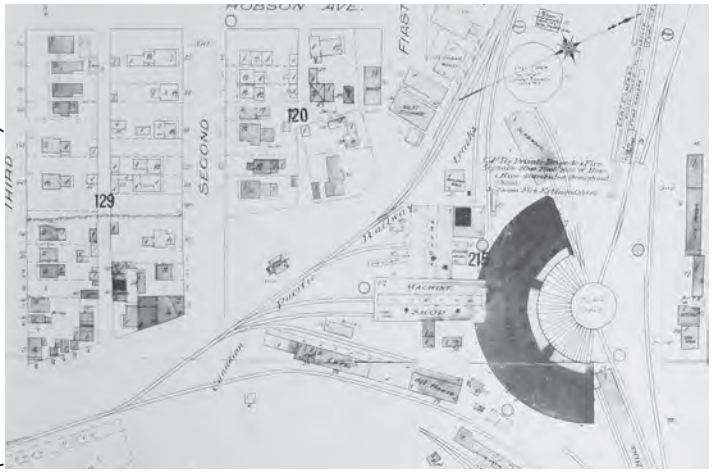
(Tourism Revelstoke)

D. Industrial and economic legacy

Since its inception, Revelstoke has taken advantage of its location, resources and character to sustain itself economically.

Sub-themes:

- The construction of the dams, first the Illecillewaet dam, the Revelstoke dam and the Columbia River Treaty Hugh Keenleyside dam had a profound influence on the economy of the city, both providing employment and infrastructure, but also impacting local farms and ecosystems.
- Mining and forestry have been, and continue to be important aspects of Revelstoke's economy, while workers associated with the railway represent early settlers to present day employees.
- The role of logging, sawmills and lumber for buildings highlight the fact that forests are a major economic driver, with an established culture of forestry relationships and practices.
- Other industries such as brick-making provided the building material for the city, while an abundance of fresh water supplied early and current breweries and distilleries.
- Revelstoke has a significant agriculture and farming heritage, with farms and market gardens throughout the area - potatoes and strawberries were the primary exports. Today, a resurgence of small-scale agriculture developed by micro-firms carries on this economic tradition.
- The Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation was formed in April 1993 to manage and operate the City's Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 56, purchased from Westar Timber.
- The nearby national parks provide human resources in the town with expertise on forest management.
- Government has always been a key employer in Revelstoke, including Parks Canada, the provincial Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Transportation and BC Hydro.
- Service industries such as Interior Health and School District #19 and are important to the local economy.
- The ski resort and tourism enterprises based on back-country recreation companies make Revelstoke a centre for nature-based economic development.



(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

(Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation)

E. Transportation links

Early European routes often followed the pathways by which Indigenous people moved through country over thousands of years. This theme traces the networks of routes and connections by which goods and people were moved and linked to and through Revelstoke.

Sub-themes:

- Revelstoke's transportation heritage includes the Columbia River that defines the valley as a natural travel corridor, Indigenous travel patterns, seasonal migrations and trails, early settler routes, the CPR, two highways, bridges and the airport.
- The Big Bend Gold Rush brought prospectors and miners to the Columbia River north of Revelstoke. Attempts to develop land-based pack trails and wagon roads to service the mines built knowledge of the topography that later informed the location of the railway.
- The arrival of the CPR and the selection of the city as a divisional point established the city as a focal point of the Columbia Valley, contributing to its economic success.
- The Columbia River has been a transportation corridor as CPR sternwheelers left the Revelstoke dock with mining supplies as well as agricultural products and lumber.
- The connection of steamboat traffic from the south with the Canadian Pacific Railway cemented Revelstoke as an important regional transportation centre.
- Until the closure of rail service in the 1990s Revelstoke was relatively well connected to the west, south and east, with loss of Greyhound bus service increasing reliance on cars.
- The opening of the Big Bend Highway in 1940 became the first inter-provincial road linking Revelstoke, Golden and on to Alberta and provided work for unemployed men with many staying the area afterwards.
- Before the opening of Rogers Pass section of the Trans-Canada Highway, Revelstoke was isolated from the east.
- Roads and highways in and out of the city were and are weather-dependent, with people often stranded in the town.
- Revelstoke's airport, just southeast of the town, is a local transportation link.
- Revelstoke's equestrian heritage is part of its transportation legacy, with early horse trail-building following original Indigenous paths.

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

(Bruno Long)

F. Being a Revelstokian

Typical of small communities throughout the province, Revelstoke's residents live a friendly, small-town community life, with a culture that has been repeatedly identified as a close-knit community. This theme addresses the different community cultures and how and why its important to be a Revelstokian.

Sub-themes:

- Revelstoke is known to have a culture that embraces its community, a social network that has been co-created and developed over time.
- The connection of people to their home community is a defining factor of Revelstoke, seen in what is known as the local community spirit, and projects such as the downtown revitalization project marked a time for people to really take pride in their city.
- As a resource-oriented town, Revelstoke has been and is home to a variety of cultures that have left their mark on the community. Settlers arrived from Great Britain, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine, China, Japan, and other countries, creating a rich mix of cultures, enriching community relationships and providing distinctive place names.
- Population patterns shifted with the boom and bust of local industry and the increase in outdoor recreation and tourism.
- There is profound respect for the contributions of generations of families, known as legacy families, who arrived at Revelstoke's beginning, have lived in Revelstoke all of their lives and formed the basis of the community's culture.
- Community and society in Revelstoke were influenced by the presence of a wide range of religious denominations, while the city's local schools provided both education and some significant buildings.
- Local events and rituals illustrate the diversity of Revelstoke's social and recreational context, while local myths and legends lend a sense of mystery to the community.
- The city is known for its volunteerism, and the capacity of its citizens to get involved in their community, and authentic experiences past and present have collectively contributed to a shared understanding and appreciation for this place.
- Heritage and museum programming help the community appreciate its past and look to the future, while the city's arts community is exemplified by, including extensive public art installations and community theatre such as the Flying Arrow.

(Tom Poole)

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

G. Recreation and Tourism

From its beginnings in the 1880s, Revelstoke's natural environment has made it a centre for recreation and tourism, a destination for mountaineers, hikers and explorers. Historically referred to as "the capital of the Canadian Alps," Revelstoke today is evolving into a four-season recreational mecca.

Sub-themes:

- Mount Revelstoke National Park and Glacier National Park offer opportunities for mountain recreation, as do other recreation sites and wilderness parks surrounding the city.
- The mountain parks inspired outdoor recreation such as mountain guiding, skiing and ski jumping, from the early days of Nels Nelsen and Isabel Coursier through the Revelstoke Ski Club-hosted international Tournament of Champions from 1949 to the 1970s.
- Tourism in Revelstoke has evolved to embrace its community life, found in the city's farm to table restaurants, breweries, community events and festivals.
- The city is home to expert, well-organized community-run major outdoor sporting events supporting tourism, bringing an international awareness of the community.
- Tourism expanded with the opening of the Big Bend Highway, and later, the opening of the Rogers Pass. Existing hotels were inadequate, and motels constructed to support tourism accommodation are seen around downtown today.
- The city has ample parks and open space and a significant and accessible trail network, with the city's valley bottom trails offering beautiful riverside scenery.
- Early recreational activities ranged from mountaineering, snowshoeing, tobogganing, skating and curling, while today the city continues to be known for its snowmobiling, sledding, nordic skiing, mountain biking and rock-climbing.
- Revelstoke has had a significant equestrian history, with the Revelstoke Turf Association formed around the horse racing scene, creating grandstands and stables, now the Columbia Park neighbourhood, and current trail riding opportunities.
- The arrival of the Revelstoke Mountain Resort, opened in 2007, has had a major impact on tourism in Revelstoke and on the town itself. The continued evolution of the city into a four-season resort will continue to bring changes to the community dynamic.
- Heliskiing in the mountains around Revelstoke brought international awareness of the quantity and quality of the area's powder snow.

(Revelstoke Mountain Resort)

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

H. Governance

As a regional centre, governance has been an important aspect of Revelstoke's history, from forward thinking leaders in the community who pushed hard for improvements in the city, to the need to create city services in an isolated community.

Sub-themes:

- Colonial governance supporting settlement and resource extraction, devastated millennia of First Nations use of the land, trade networks and way of life.
- Revelstoke was important as both a local and regional government centre, seen in places such as the Revelstoke Courthouse and City Hall.
- Isolation, low literacy levels and hierarchical blue collar jobs may have contributed to patriarchal decision-making structure, inhibiting the transition to a globally-driven, tourism and lifestyle economy, with a rift between the old ways and expectations of young, educated newcomers.
- Government policy impacted events in Revelstoke ranging from dam building, the construction of a transcontinental railway, declaration of the extinction of the Sinixt, and the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II.
- City services such as policing, which included the RCMP, Revelstoke Police Force and the Provincial Police control of alcohol; and fire fighting, with the 1939 city hall housing the fire department until a new firehall was built in 1982.
- There is a large provincial and federal government presence in the city, ranging from health services, to Parks Canada to the RCMP, with Crown land and the highways department surrounding the city.
- The Columbia River Treaty had a significant impact on residents of Revelstoke and the wider CSRD, from employment from the dam construction to loss of land and resources. The effects of its current renegotiation resonates today, and will into the future.
- Cross-border governance is part of the history of Revelstoke as exemplified by the Sinixt living on both sides of the Canada-US border, and the unique bioregional area of the inland temperate rainforest that exists on both sides of the border.
- Regional governance through the Columbia Shuswap Regional District has impacted the city's growth and the shape of the city formed by annexing land from the CSRD. The city partners with the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District for back-country access and services such as the landfill, as well as cooperation on invasive species management.

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

1.3.3 Chronology of Events and Changes[1]

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
145 million years BP	The final geological forces that create Revelstoke's unique geography are the periods of glaciation that first began about 2 million years ago, particularly the last ice age that began melting approximately 13,000 years ago.	Formation of the geological features that will help shape the city.
Pre-contact	The Sinixt, the Ktunaxa, the Secwépemc, and the Syilx peoples live and travel on the Columbia River and its tributaries.	Cultural modification and use of the land over millennia facilitate an annual pattern of movement and settlement.
1811	David Thompson completes his navigation of the Columbia River and opened up the fur trade on the Columbia.	Early exploration means the continuity of Indigenous pre-contact and pre-settler land use and traditions are disrupted.
1812-1850s	Fur traders use the Columbia River as a transportation corridor.	Early resource extraction activities in the Revelstoke area and use of the river as a travel route.
1865 - 1866	A Gold Rush is underway in the Big Bend area north of Revelstoke.	Early resource extraction activities in the Revelstoke area.
1885	The townsite of Farwell is founded and surveyed and Front Street became the center of activity. The Last Spike is driven at Craigellachie on November 7th, completing construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.	Establishment of Revelstoke's initial downtown area along the Columbia River. The CPR will be a defining influence on Revelstoke which will become a railway town.
1886	The name of the town of Farwell is officially changed to "Revelstoke," effective June 1st. The Canadian Pacific Railway passenger service is established in Revelstoke. The Revelstoke Station area is created. The first farms are established in Revelstoke.	Revelstoke's original urban pattern develops, with small lot sizes and walkable streets tied to CPR workers living near the station. Established to provide housing for the families of workers employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway and associated businesses. Beginnings of the Revelstoke area's agricultural traditions.
1889	Revelstoke's first permanent school opens in the former Northwest Mounted Police barracks. The first permanent sawmill, the Revelstoke Lumber Company, is established. The Canadian Pacific Railway's divisional point is transferred from Donald to Revelstoke.	Evidence of a growing economy and population of families with school-age children to warrant a permanent school. Increased population in the town as the move included all CPR employees and their possessions.

1 Adapted from Revelstoke Museum and Archives *A Timeline of Revelstoke History,* the *Revelstoke Review* and other published sources.

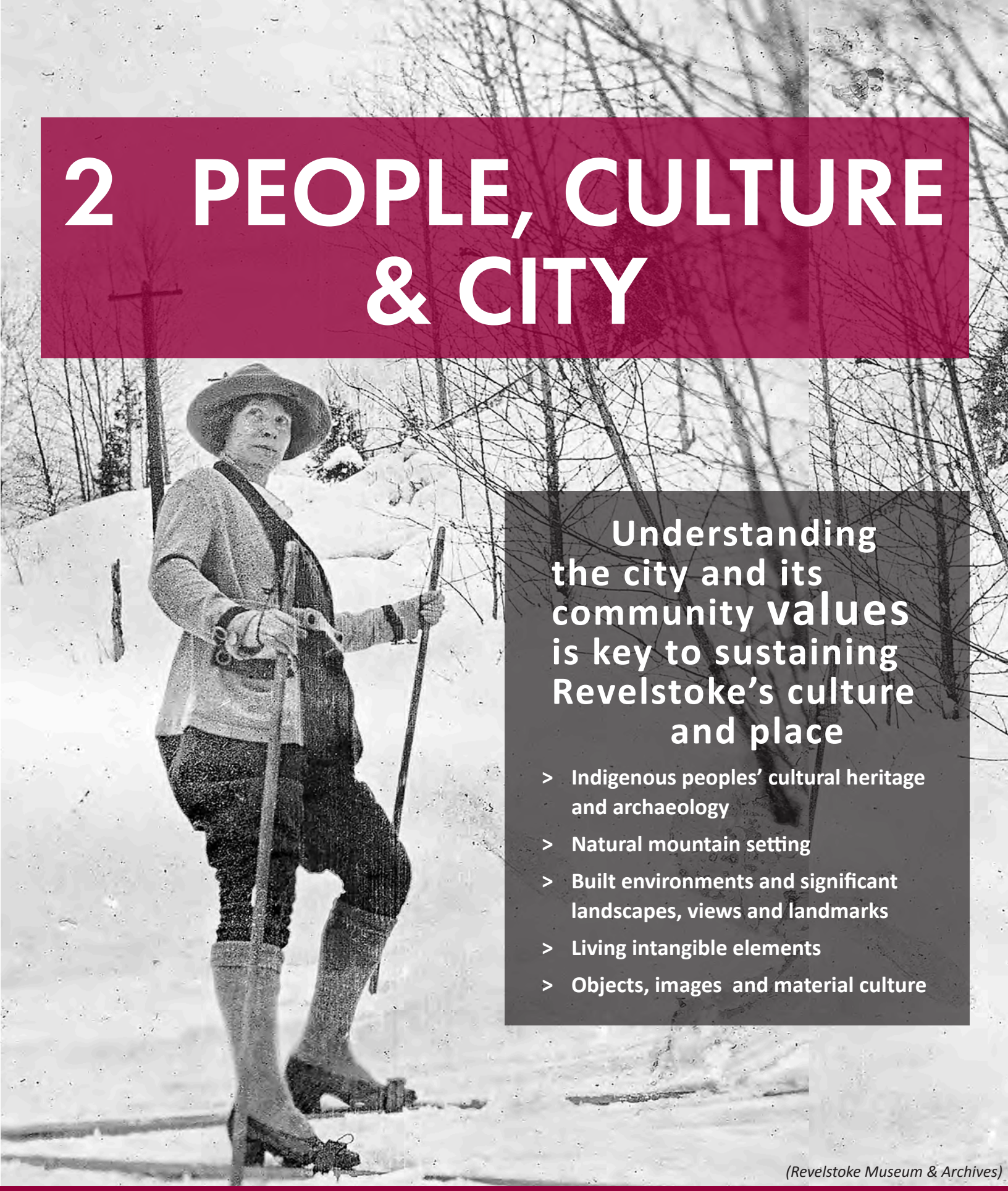
Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
1895	A CPR Branch line to Arrowhead is completed, and the town is named and developed.	The community is the main trading centre in the area for miners, loggers and farmers, and is the northern limit of year round navigation on the Columbia River. The townsite is abandoned in the 1960s with the inundation of the valley by the Hugh Keenleyside Dam at Castlegar.
1898	Electric power is provided by a dam on the Illecillewaet River.	The dam is one of the first two hydro-electric projects on the Columbia River system, the beginning of the harnessing of water for power production.
1899	Revelstoke is incorporated as a city on March 1st. Columbia Park is established through a land grant to the city.	The city will become one of the largest and most prominent communities in the interior of the province due to its importance as a railway centre. Recognized importance of park space in the growing community.
1902	First Queen Victoria Hospital opens. Steamship SS Revelstoke is built for service on the Columbia River.	Fulfills the need for a first-class hospital in a town where many were employed in dangerous resource extraction jobs. Part of the Columbia & Kootenay Steam Navigation Company's Arrow Lakes fleet, and important method of transportation in the region.
1905	Revelstoke's brick CPR station is constructed.	A more permanent station marking the importance of the CPR in Revelstoke.
1906	A YMCA is built, including a gymnasium, bowling alley and indoor pool.	Public amenities for a growing community and an indication of the early importance of recreation.
1907	A horseracing track was built in Columbia Park (now part of the Golf Course). First recorded ascent of Mount Begbie.	Another indication of the importance of recreation; the Revelstoke Golf Club clubhouse, built 1912, is originally Agricultural Hall. Early advent of mountaineering in the Revelstoke area.
1913	The Revelstoke Court House opens. A new brick Queen Victoria hospital opens.	The building represents Revelstoke as an important centre of governance, now a significant heritage building. Expansion of a first-class hospital in a town where many were employed in dangerous resource extraction jobs

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
1914	Mount Revelstoke National Park is established. The Revelstoke Ski Club is organized. The new Revelstoke High School building opens.	Parks Canada (National Park Service) begins its influential presence in Revelstoke, including conservation as a cultural practice. The ski club establishes the legacy of ski jumping for which Revelstoke will become world famous.
1915	Revelstoke's first Winter Carnival is organized, including ski-jumping on Mount Revelstoke.	Beginning of a long tradition of community events and world-class ski and ski-jumping competitions.
1922	Construction of the highway to Sicamous.	Highway connection to the west.
1924	The Big Eddy Bridge is constructed and opens to traffic.	Completion of road to the west, first road bridge across the Columbia River at Revelstoke.
1929-1940	The Big Bend Highway between Revelstoke and Golden is constructed.	A perilous gravel road, the highway established the spatial pattern of highway related businesses along its right-of-way near Revelstoke.
1948-49	There is an emerging arts scene in Revelstoke spurred on by the arrival of Sophie Atkinson.	The Revelstoke Art Group is formed and citizens are exposed to arts lessons.
1955	Mountain View Elementary School opens near current Secondary School location, moves to Third Street West in 1964 and closes in 2012.	Currently an iconic landmark building in Revelstoke and a designated heritage building.
1956	The Sinixt people are declared extinct in Canada by the federal government under the Indian Act.	There are no local advocates for the protection of archaeological sites, oral history or cultural practices.
1958	Revelstoke & District Historical Association was formed (now Revelstoke Museum & Archives Association).	Early understanding and appreciation for the protection of Revelstoke's history and heritage.
1959	Avolie Theatre is renamed the Roxy. Big Eddy Elementary School (closes in 2002) and Farwell Elementary School open (closes in 1987). Centennial Park ballfields opened. Revelstoke's First Zoning Bylaw 682 is adopted in January, followed by Bylaw 798 in 1965.	The Roxy Theatre remains an iconic landmark on Mackenzie Street. School and recreational amenity construction part of the post-war expansion of the city. Revelstoke's first foray into planned decision making, although 'case by case' decision making continued to dominate local politics and development for several decades.
1961	Discussions arise between Diefenbaker and Bennett about the construction of large dams.	Columbia River dams are visible from space. There is opposition to the dam construction from engineers and residents.
1962	Rogers Pass Highway and Trans Canada Highway	Revelstoke is no longer isolated from the east, and there is an increase in tourist traffic. Higher traffic volumes and through traffic interrupts the previously-established highway businesses.

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
1964	The Columbia River Treaty is ratified between Canada and the United States. Many of Revelstoke's early families are displaced when their farms and homes are expropriated for minimal compensation and burned with little notification, leaving a legacy of distrust towards provincial and federal governments.	While these dam projects provided economic benefits and increased employment, they also blocked salmon and other fish passage up the Columbia River. The dams would have widespread and long-lasting impacts on both Indigenous and settler communities.
1969	The Arrow Lakes (Hugh Keenlyside) Dam is completed near Castlegar.	Valley flooding occurs as far north as Revelstoke creating Revelstoke Reach and with impacts to pre-contact and settlement sites. There is minimal archaeological assessment completed prior to the dam construction.
1973	The Mica dam is completed.	Built to provide 8.6 km3 (7 million acre-feet) of water storage as outlined in the Columbia River Treaty, plus another 6.2 km3 (5 million acre-feet), referred to as "non-Treaty storage."
1974	The Revelstoke Museum and Archives moves into the old Post Office building.	Appropriate adaptive re-use of a significant heritage building providing historical research services and exhibitions.
1983	The Revelstoke Dam is completed.	There is an exodus of the work force in Revelstoke and an impact on the local economy. The Revelstoke Dam visitors' centre opens in 2009.
1987	Revelstoke's downtown revitalization project is completed, including Grizzly Plaza.	The project is part of number of revitalization projects throughout BC, and focuses on Revelstoke's heritage. Grizzly Plaza becomes the focus for community events and is one of the most identified heritage resources in the city.
1990s	Revelstoke implements the Minister's Advisory Committee (MAC) Plan.	After active lobbying, Revelstoke developed its own Regional Land Use Plan, replacing recommendations by the larger Kootenay Boundary Land Use Planning process. This plan increased the annual allowable cut in Revelstoke's timber harvesting areas acknowledging local rather than provincial control.
2002	Current Revelstoke RCMP detachment opens.	Part of ongoing federal presence in the city.
2003	The official opening of the Revelstoke Visual Arts Centre takes place in May.	The opening is preceded by many hours of volunteer work and community support through donations of money and materials needed to transform the old RCMP facility into a place suitable for holding exhibitions and classes and providing studios.

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
2005	Revelstoke Aquatic Centre opens.	Ongoing commitment to community recreational amenities.
2007	Centennial of first ascent of Mount Begbie and a time capsule planted. Revelstoke Mountain Resort opens in December.	A commemoration of Revelstoke's mountaineering history. The opening of the ski resort brings significant changes to Revelstoke.
2012	Begbie View Elementary School opens, named for Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, a judge with a complicated legacy.	Local labour and materials were used, with Douglas-fir decking used for the roof harvested, purchased and milled by residents; structural wood beams came from the surrounding area.
2021	The Supreme Court rules that the Sinixt Indigenous nation is not 'extinct' in Canada.	The Sinixt can claim Section 35(1) rights under the Constitution, which recognizes and affirms the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2 PEOPLE, CULTURE & CITY



Understanding the city and its community values is key to sustaining Revelstoke's culture and place

- Indigenous peoples' cultural heritage and archaeology
- Natural mountain setting
- Built environments and significant landscapes, views and landmarks
- Living intangible elements
- Objects, images and material culture

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

2.1 Layers of the City

Revelstoke as a city is the result of the layering and interaction of its natural and cultural features and social values over time. These layers comprise the characteristics that make up the city's natural and cultural landscape its distinct neighbourhoods. Character-defining elements within these layers can inform heritage conservation policy and management tools.

2.1.1 Revelstoke's Natural and Cultural Landscape

Revelstoke's historic urban landscape is a natural and cultural landscape that encompasses the whole of the city within its geographical setting. Natural, cultural and historical characteristics contribute to the city's distinctiveness and encompass the vernacular, the ordinary and the everyday as well as Revelstoke's more monumental and extraordinary features.

Geology

Revelstoke lies within the Selkirk and Monashee mountain ranges, formed distinctly of rocks from a sedimentary origin — layers of ancient gravels, sands, muds and other sediments that over time and pressure are solidified into rocks and uplifted to form mountains. This geology underpins Revelstoke's layered history and contribute to its form.

Topography and landforms

Revelstoke's topography and landforms are dominated by the surrounding mountains with their steep slopes, that contrast with the flat sand and gravel features at the edge of the Columbia river. The city's backdrop is of the Selkirk and Monashee Mountains, with Mount Begbie in the Monashee range the most identifiable geographical feature in Revelstoke and an icon for the community. These geographical features provide the foundation and setting on which Revelstoke's cultural landscape has evolved.

Hydrology and ecology

The Columbia River is the defining hydrological feature of the city, with the Illecillewaet River emerging from the Selkirk Mountains to join the Columbia in the centre of the city. Brewery Creek, now culverted, was Revelstoke's first water supply. Revelstoke is situated within an ecosystem consisting of the world's only temperate inland rainforest, including stands of old-growth cedar and hemlock forests. The diverse tree species, wetlands, native vegetation and ecosystems which have resulted from the integration of geology, landform, soils, climate - with snow supporting winter recreation and rain supporting the forests - have helped determine the nature of the city.

Land use patterns and spatial organization

Revelstoke's landscape stands testament to its physical and historical development over time. This is reflected in diverse past and current land uses and in its boundaries, edges, and the city grid. Its tree-lined streetscapes are located or designed to fit the local topography. As the city grew, each new settlement or subdivision determined its own spatial pattern and layout, with a later suburban overlay on urban patterns in historic neighbourhoods.

Built environment

The wealth generated by the railway, mining and forestry flowed through Revelstoke creating its rich legacy of early heritage buildings. The brick used in some of Revelstoke's heritage buildings comes from a local brickworks and are a key element of the city's downtown. Revelstoke is important for its abundance of vernacular architecture, some with detailing based on Queen Anne and other styles. Later and modern expansion, such as City Hall, additions to historic buildings, and streetscapes in their varied form and detail all contribute to the character of the city and the quality of its urban landscape.

Open spaces

The riverfront, streetscapes, back lanes, street trees, parks and abundant vegetation contribute to the character and livability of Revelstoke, promoting a sense of spaciousness yet closeness to the surrounding forest and mountains. Natural areas such as the green belt, and parks such as Queen Elizabeth, Columbia, Centennial and Woodenhead connect to the surrounding ecology. Urban trails and amenities such as the Great Northern Railway trail are public open spaces that connect people to the city and to nature.

Infrastructure

The CPR railway is the dominant infrastructure in the city, with numerous tracks and overpasses, but road, bridge and railway connections and the many utilities and functional facilities provided in Revelstoke all contribute to its liveability. Electrical infrastructure is a reminder that Revelstoke has had one of the first sources of hydro-electric power generated by the dam on the Illecillewaet River.

Social and cultural practices

Numerous cultural, recreational and sporting events, particularly skiing and winter sports, spiritual places, galleries, theatres, artists, and craftspeople of all genres give a richness and diversity to Revelstoke's cultural life. Indigenous culture, multi-cultural communities and legacy families add another important cultural continuum.

Perceptions and visual relationships

Revelstoke is surrounded by views to the adjacent mountain ranges, while expansive views over the Columbia River from the city's bridges and trails create a significant visual setting. Focused views within the city are created by tree-lined streets. Views of historic buildings, city landmarks artworks and other elements enhance the visual qualities of the city.

Economic processes

From the city's early prosperity brought primarily through the railway, mining and forestry, through subsequent periods of boom and bust into today's globalized world, economic forces have shaped Revelstoke's character. Revelstoke's abundant outdoor recreational opportunities are an important economic driver for the city.

Intangible dimensions of heritage

Revelstoke's diverse cultures have resulted in many stories inspired by its Indigenous, multicultural and settler history and environment, meaningful activities and rituals, and the city's sense of place that all contribute to its distinctive cultural landscape, diversity and community identity.

Province of B.C. Legislation 2024

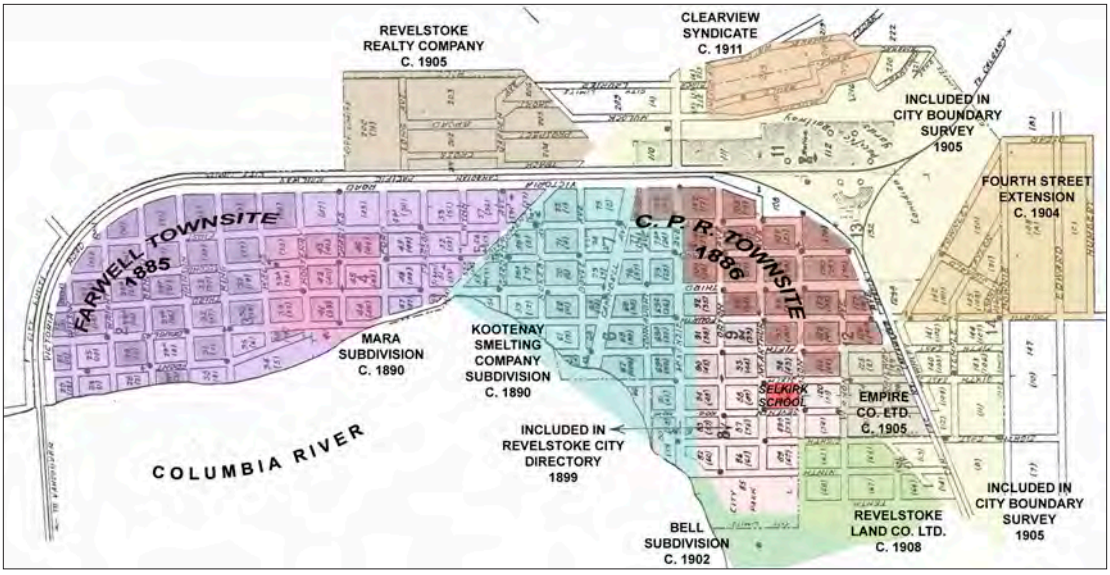
Impacts of new provincial housing legislation under Bill 44 and the Small-scale Multi-unit Housing program will make understanding neighbourhood character particularly important, as the city strives to increase density under the changes to the Local Government Act *while seeking to retain valued neighbourhood qualities and character.*

2.1.2 Neighbourhood Character

Revelstoke's distinctiveness is expressed in individual neighbourhoods and character areas that have evolved throughout the city as its boundaries have expanded over time and new areas of the city developed. These neighbourhoods have historic, cultural and social value with physical and intangible characteristics such as unique views, natural features, amenities, traditions, stories, associations and names. Outside of the historic downtown and the heritage conservation area, it has become very apparent that Revelstoke's residential neighbourhoods and character areas are valued and viewed as heritage resources in the community, each with its own character, views and atmosphere.

Revelstoke's historic neighbourhoods may be vulnerable to change and this documentation of their character is intended to understand neighbourhood character to support appropriate development options in the face of potential future evolution and change. In addition to research, documents produced by the Revelstoke Museum and Archives[1] and neighbourhood descriptions found in the Official Community Plan (OCP), the character of each neighbourhood is defined by the community values identified by the public at the heritage workshops and in the online questionnaire.

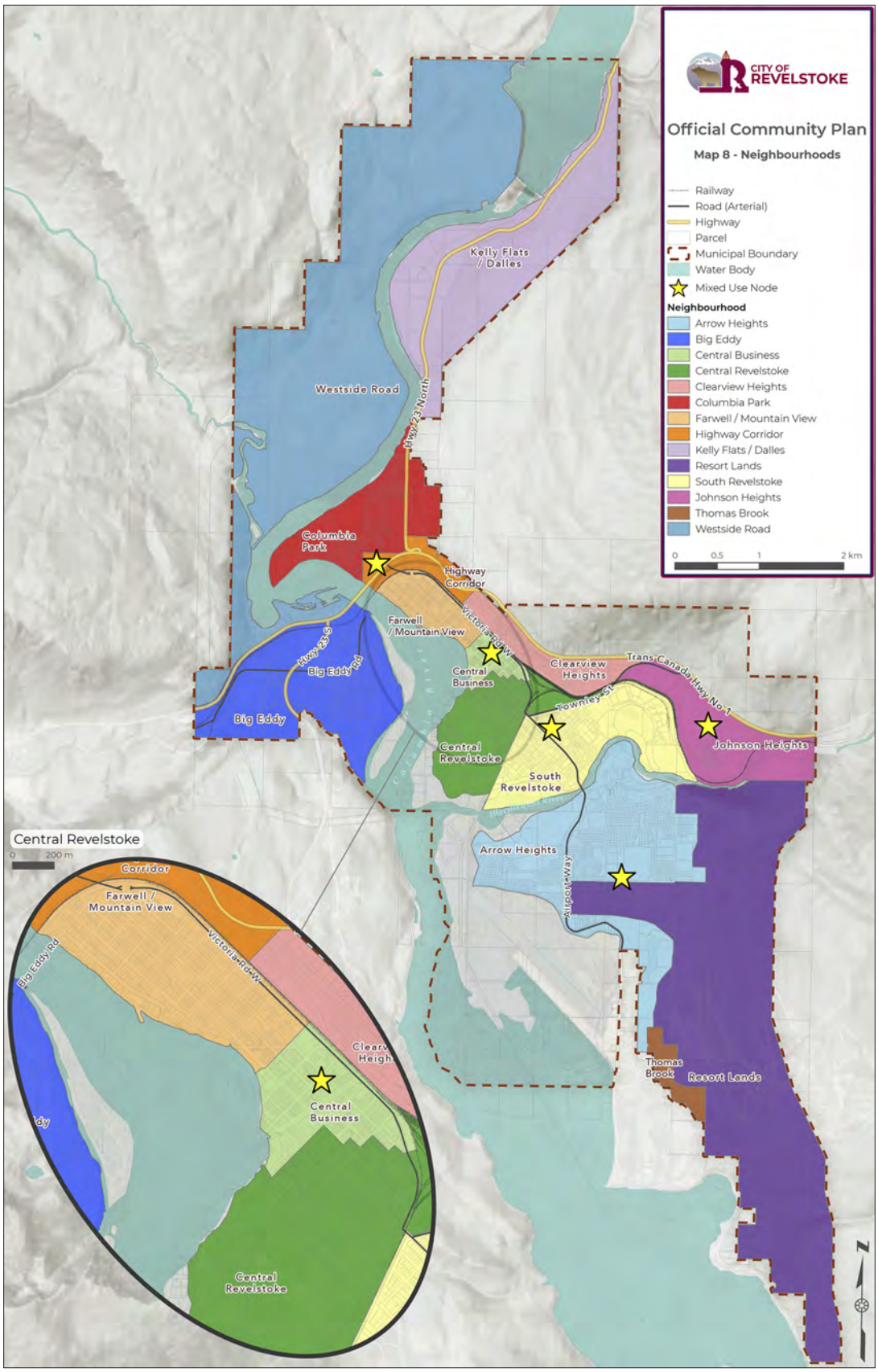
Revelstoke is comprised of 14 distinct neighbourhoods as established in the current OCP, each with their own character, development opportunities and constraints.[2] Revelstoke's eight key historical neighbourhoods are described here. The city's remaining six neighbourhoods (Highway Corridor, Kelly Flats/Dalles, Resort Lands, South Revelstoke, Thomas Brooke and Westside Road) are not included here as they are generally newer or consist of environmentally sensitive lands, but will evolve as future character neighbourhoods in their own right.



Revelstoke's early townsites that formed the core of the developing city. (courtesy Eileen Fletcher)

(Note: All neighbourhood photos by author.)

1 *Revelstoke - Creating a Community* by Cathy English provided an invaluable resource for this section.
2 City of Revelstoke. *Official Community Plan*. 2022.



Revelstoke's neighbourhoods as identified in the 2022 Official Community Plan. (City of Revelstoke)

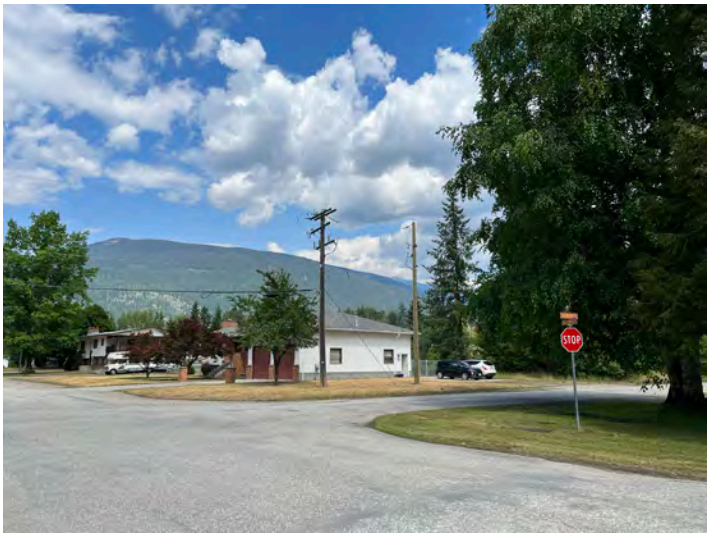
1. Arrow Heights

Once an important agricultural area, Arrow Heights is located on a plateau of land above the Illecillewaet River, with the current subdivision developed in the late 1960s. The area was noted for its strawberry production among other crops.

The area has a semi-rural character with large lots, but there are controversial changes occurring with the construction of new condominiums and apartments.

Arrow Heights character

- Semi-rural character, larger lots, sloped topography, winding streets without curb and gutter
- A friendly walkable neighborhood close to the river
- Spectacular overlook of the river valley and unobstructed views of Mount Begbie
- Proximity to nature
- Uniqueness of each house
- Includes the Equestrian Park, Joe Kozek Sawmill from 1955 and the Queen Victoria Hospital
- Airport Way area
- Extends into the Regional District along the old route to Arrowhead



2. Big Eddy

Big Eddy is a semi-rural neighbourhood bounded by the Columbia River and the Trans-Canada highway and is bisected by the Nakusp Mica Creek Highway. Named after a strong eddy in the Columbia River just north of the Revelstoke suspension bridge, the area was once the site of a Sinixt village, later home to Norwegian and Swedish immigrants. It's present light industrial character was formed by earlier industries such as the Revelstoke Lumber sawmill.

A 1981 referendum brought the community into Revelstoke's city limits from the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. Begbie Bench remains within the CSRD.

Big Eddy character

- Flat topography
- Rural quality from past agricultural uses
- Some light industrial and greenhouse uses
- Connection to downtown via the Big Eddy Bridge, railroad bridge, Revelstoke suspension bridge
- Large building lots with modest houses
- Informal street grid layout without curb and gutter
- Big Eddy Park
- Proximity to the Columbia River
- 1960s dykes along the Columbia River built during construction of the Hugh Keenleyside dam, now part of the trail network
- Views from the dyke across the river to Downtown
- Big Eddy pub and general store serving the local community
- Begbie Bench small holdings, no street lamps, rural character, proximity to trails, biking, nordic skiing, clean air, unaffected night sky.

3. Clearview

Established as a subdivision in 1909, Clearview, or CPR Hill, is located on the slopes on the north side of the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks, between Track Street and the Trans Canada Highway, and was the location of several CPR employees' homes.

The neighbourhood is bounded by the railway tracks and Townley Street to the south and west, and Highway 1 to the north and east. Clearview Heights is sparsely developed with a semi- rural character, set on gentle slopes and benches at the base of Mount Revelstoke National Park.

Clearview character

- Curvilinear roads up the slope of Mount Revelstoke
- Buildings adapted to sloped grade
- Views over the City, and across the river to the Monashee mountains on the west side of the Columbia Valley
- Primarily large lot residential, with some industrial (CPR) and the Railway Museum
- Well-established forest trails
- Early possibly significant homes, including some moved from Donald
- Location of some of Revelstoke's earliest businesses near the CPR Station
- Somewhat isolated due to delays crossing the railway

4. Columbia Park

Bounded by the Columbia River, the Trans Canada Highway and Mount Revelstoke National Park, most of Columbia Park was included in A.S. Farwell's original land grant, named for parkland that was granted to the city in 1899. It was an agricultural area with large farming operations, including orchards, strawberry farms and greenhouses for ornamental flowers. The subdivision itself was developed to provide housing for workers on the Revelstoke Dam. Today, the area is home to the Revelstoke Golf Course.

Columbia Park character

- Self-contained neighbourhood
- 1970s-era homes
- Curving streets without curb and gutter
- Views of the golf course, with golfers in summer and skiers in winter
- Views of the mountains and Columbia River
- Access to riverfront trails.
- Quiet area, safe, sidewalk along the river, easy to walk to school, not much traffic
- Easy to bicycle to Downtown
- Close proximity to Mt. Revelstoke National Park
- Quiet family neighbourhood

5. CPR Townsite and Central Revelstoke

Revelstoke's downtown was known as Revelstoke Station, created from large CPR tracts of land east of Mackenzie Avenue, considered prime real estate, and with some of Revelstoke's finest homes constructed on Mackenzie Avenue, along with the city's Downtown/central business district. The character of the area is found in the homes constructed on the numbered and named cross streets that were built for the railway workers that made up a large proportion of the workforce, with small 1940s cottages built for soldiers returning from World War II.

CPR Townsite and Central Revelstoke character

- Early 20th century street grid parallel to the CPR railway tracks and the Columbia River
- Adjacency between commercial buildings in the historic centre and the residential area
- Relatively dense neighbourhood of mostly vernacular, generally unpretentious worker homes with some Victorian and Edwardian influences
- Angle of Campbell Avenue as a former CPR spur line to the Columbia River
- Downtown Revitalization Area, including Heritage Area Revitalization Program in the 1980s and the development of Grizzly Plaza
- Friendly residential area close to vibrant businesses, close to shops, community center, library and greenbelt trails
- A consistent pattern of distinctive streetscapes
- Ability to walk or bike to work, school and to all amenities
- Heritage homes with small gardens, steeply pitched roofs and diverse exterior finishes
- Early hotels and later motels constructed to meet the needs of tourists after the opening of the Big Bend Highway and Rogers Pass
- Frequent informal social interactions among residents
- Significant trees
- Mountain View Elementary School, and the church next to it
- Queen Elizabeth Park, Centennial Park and the riverfront
- Downie Mill and BC Hydro transformer

Central Revelstoke sub-areas

The complexity of Central Revelstoke requires a division into different sub-areas for more clarity during the application of heritage processes and guidelines.

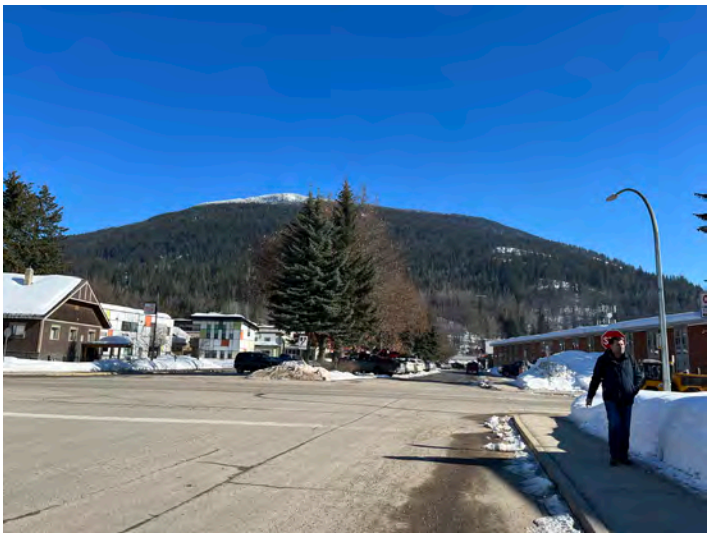
a. *Early Downtown (centred around Mackenzie Avenue and First Street)*
   - Buildings built before WWI, significant brick and masonry commercial buildings
   - Interwar buildings including City Hall and Roxy Theatre in the evolving streetscape
   - Examples of post WWII demolition and replacement with a mix of modern aesthetics

b. *Expanded Central Business District*
   - Simple vernacular buildings from the 1930s along First and Second streets
   - Utilitarian concrete block commercial buildings between Campbell Avenue and Garden Avenue built during the boom years of dam construction

c. *Early Residential*
   - Adjacent to Downtown, including Revelstoke Station and part of Little Italy
   - Dense neighbourhood of unpretentious worker housing largely built before World War I
   - Classic Revelstoke streetscapes of steeply pitched roofs that shed snow

d. *Later Residential*
   - Expansion to the south in response to soldiers returning from WWII and growing stability of logging industry.
   - Interwar and post-war infill

e. *Industry and Civic Uses*
   - Queen Elizabeth Park, Centennial Park, Beruschi Park and the greenbelt
   - Large industrial areas: CPR yards, Downie Mill, and BC Hydro Transformer Station
   - Civic precinct on Campbell Avenue including Recreation and Aquatic Centre, RCMP, Parks Canada and Post Office



ROXY
ROXY
HONG KONG

6. Farwell/ Mountain View

The Mountain View neighbourhood is located on a bench above the Farwell townsite and extends west to the Courthouse. It includes the early Mara Subdivision.

In early Revelstoke, the population was mostly centred in the Farwell Townsite, Revelstoke's original downtown, with many early businesses located on Front Street parallel to the Columbia River. The townsite extended from Front Street to First Street, and from the CPR bridge to the base of the Douglas Street hill.

With the move of the city's business district to the Revelstoke Station area, today's downtown, the Farwell area became a residential neighbourhood, with a few surviving remnants of the early townsite.

Farwell Area character

- Proximity to downtown and the Columbia River, with residences constructed on the bank of the river
- Location bounded by curve of the CPR railway tracks
- Modest homes and streets without curb and gutter
- Big Eddy Bridge access to the Big Eddy neighbourhood
- Woodenhead Park
- Farwell Field and significant tree planting
- Institutions such as Okanagan College
- Access to walking/biking trails, ski hill, Nordic centre
- Location of the courthouse
- Mara subdivision with geometric street grid
- Mix of significant residences and modest homes
- Remnants of early downtown, such as Needham's store, Donnelly House, first Victoria Road right-of-way
- Motels such as Alpine Inn and Mountain View Motel

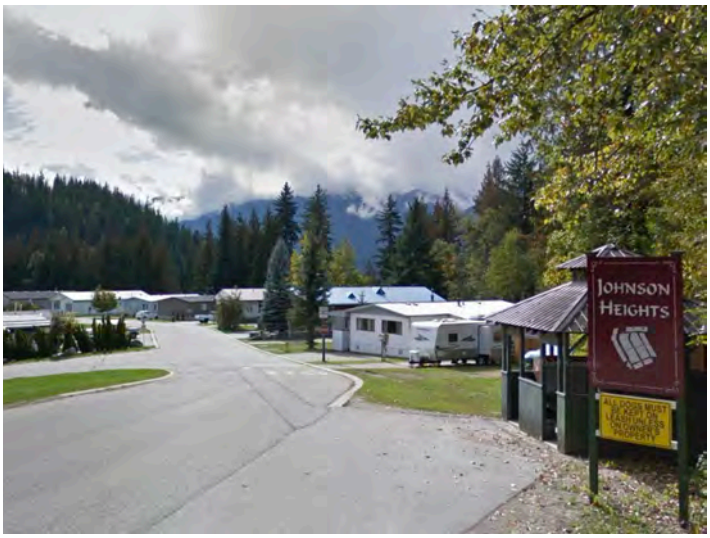
7. Johnson Heights

Johnson Heights was home to the Hillcrest Dairy owned Daniel Campbell and his family and which operated until 1956 with the bisection of the property by the Trans Canada Highway. The neighbourhood is bounded by the railway tracks to the South and West, the Illecillewaet River to the south and east, and Highway 1 to the north, and has significant river views and wildlife habitat.

In the 1970s area was the site of mobile homes built by BC Hydro to provide housing for temporary workers employed at the Revelstoke Dam. Currently, the area includes a small amount of residential and several businesses, which may evolve with the addition of new housing and mixed-use development as a new neighbourhood node.

Johnson Heights character

- Sloped topography and curving streets without curb and gutter
- Residential lands, primarily mobile or modular homes, some single family and accessory dwelling units
- Natural, as yet undeveloped forested character with wildlife frequenting the neighbourhood
- Informal forested trails
- Amenities including the former KOA campground (now Revelstoke RV and Cabin Resort), Coast Hillcrest Hotel and Mt. Begbie Brewing Co. (brewery/tasting room)
- Views of Mt. Begbie, Monashee Range, Mt. Mackenzie
- Transit route and city bus stop
- Limited access off Highway 1 at Oak Drive, lack of direct formal vehicular or pedestrian connection to the city



8. South Revelstoke

South Revelstoke, or Southside, was originally an agricultural area with a number of large farms, including poultry farms and Chinese Canadian market gardens. Today, the area is a mix of modest housing built close to the street with a unique urban pattern of streets, buildings, laneways, gardens, parks and open space. The commercial area is home to local businesses such as the Southside Market and other retail establishments.

The area includes Includes the Industrial Park, Bridge Creek Spawning Channel and remnants of the Illecillewaet Dam. Mobile home parks established to provide housing during construction of the dam, have become Revelstoke's most affordable form of single family housing.

South Revelstoke character

- Large lots as a result of its agricultural roots
- Quiet, close to schools, grocery store, parks, arena, walking trails and close to the river
- Eclectic neighbourhood with easy access to the green belt
- Mix of modest housing types and styles
- Southside is valued as a central location in the middle of everything
- Closely spaced homes placed near the front of small lots to maximize backyard gardens
- Residential mixed with commercial uses
- Location of the CPR works yard and staff housing

(Author photo)

2.2 What We Value About Revelstoke

Heritage conservation is based on an understanding of what the community values about its heritage, involving a broad, layered, nuanced and deep understanding and including social and cultural values and even dark or negative heritage values. The results of the community engagement reflect the broad range of values identified by the Revelstoke community.

Values-based heritage conservation aims to retain the cultural significance of places by understanding the **aesthetic, historic, scientific, spiritual, and social values** held by past, present, and future generations. The Indigenous lens includes **cultural, spiritual, historical, emotional and personal values.**

As values-based conservation has evolved in the last several decades, it has provided a new emphasis on engagement with a wider range of people, responding to the challenges of sustaining heritage sites and increasing their relevance. A more contemporary, outward-looking perspective of heritage values focuses on the uses and functions of heritage places and intangible elements found in a broad range of community-wide practices and activities.

Heritage values are dynamic, evolving and changing, reflecting the fact that decision-making revolves less around a set of fixed values found in built heritage and physical fabric, but is increasingly found in the broader range of values reflective of contemporary society.

Revelstoke's citizens are clearly interested in all aspects of their heritage, and many are knowledgeable about the city's history and about the importance of conserving their heritage. The information received from the community acts as a gauge or compass to refer to as the heritage management plan is implemented, to ensure that the community's voice is acknowledged in meaningful ways throughout the City's heritage program.

2.2.1 Community Heritage Values

Understanding Revelstoke's heritage values can assist with developing the heritage values section of a statement of significance. To identify core values in the city, citizens were presented with a list of aspects of the city's history and asked to rank them as to their importance to them and to the community. These aspects, in ranked order, included:

- Landscapes, including natural and cultural landscapes
- Plants, trees, wildlife and ecosystems
- The area's climate, lakes and rivers
- Community stories and legends
- Sports, leisure, religion and education,
- Indigenous history and heritage
- The heritage of ethnicity, immigrants, women and children
- Significant arts and culture sector
- Transportation and communication
- Agricultural heritage
- Industrial heritage

Together, the eight historical themes and seven qualities of community heritage value will help guide the identification and conservation of heritage resources in Revelstoke

- Business, occupations, work and commerce
- Local and regional government centre

While the top three selected - landscapes, including natural and cultural landscapes, plants, trees, wildlife and ecosystems and area's climate, lakes and rivers - reflect the significance and importance of the natural heritage values to the community, it is important to note that every listed aspect of Revelstoke's history was selected and ranked, an indication that the community as a whole is aware of the diversity of Revelstoke's heritage and its importance.

Why is heritage important to you in your community, and to the city of Revelstoke as a whole?

For Revelstoke's citizens, heritage is a tangible link to the past and needs to be preserved to understand and appreciate it. Living here you feel connected to historic and heritage places, and are drawn to learn the history of people who lived here long ago. Qualities such as caring about the environment, being interested in the community's history and passing along these qualities to subsequent generations.

Revelstoke has a distinct sense of place, with its natural surroundings and local stories closely linked. This connection to place is essential for residents and visitors to care about Revelstoke, and ensure that its integrity and heritage values are maintained. Heritage is significant for adding to our sense of community, and our ability to continue to enrich it. Heritage has made Revelstoke the city it is today and contributes to its culture and history.

Heritage in Revelstoke is about the desire to conserve the continuity of all aspects of the city's distinctiveness and character, whether it is the natural environment, built form, the community's neighbourhoods or Revelstoke's small-town atmosphere.

What do Revelstokians value about their community and neighbourhoods?

Overwhelmingly, the responses indicated there is great value placed on the following eight qualities, which many feel are part of what has always made Revelstoke a good place to live. Together, these core values or qualities indicate the diversity of Revelstoke's heritage. Each core value includes examples from the community engagement that are representative of how and why they are important.

1. Enduring small-town identity

Social values such as a strong sense of community, small-town feel and community spirit.

- Institutions such as Revelstoke Farm and Craft Market, Local Food Initiative Market
- Community events such as parades, snow festival, Roots & Blues festival
- Music in Grizzly Plaza and Arts Revelstoke events
- Access to many community activities
- Pride in our community, how we present ourselves to the world, a small town feel but still a very progressive city and community
- The abundance of volunteerism the city has produced
- Concern for neighbours and one's neighbourhood
- The ability to learn about heritage from the Revelstoke Museum and Archives, Railway Museum, Forestry Museum, BC Hydro visitor centre

2. Nature in a mountain town

Natural history values with strong ties to nature and connection to the wild landscape.

- Environmental conservation , especially old growth forests and the Columbia and Illecillewaet rivers

- Indigenous knowledge and understanding of the land
- Nature and science events to learn about geology, indigenous plant life and other natural features in the city

3. Diverse roots and cultures

Cultural and spiritual values found in Indigenous history and the different cultures of people who came to settle here.

- Potential to learn more about and elevate Indigenous heritage and their peoples' connection to the land
- The legacy of the families who came to work on the railway and dam and other infrastructure construction
- Museums, good schools, community centre and churches
- Significant legacy of arts and culture
- The heritage of ethnicity and immigrants who helped build the city

4. Mountain city of landscapes and buildings

Aesthetic values found in built heritage, neighbourhoods, views, parks and nature.

- The city's landscapes, including natural and cultural landscapes
- Parks and green space, such as Queen Elizabeth Park
- Historic homes and commercial buildings that add charm and make the city distinctive
- Conservation of the downtown architecture, through which heritage buildings speak to our past
- Historical tree-lined streets

5. Growing community and economy

Historical values found in Revelstoke's history, character and the distinctiveness of its past.

- Exploration and use of this region going back to David Thompson and Indigenous peoples
- The building of the railway
- Respect for people and their economic activities - railway, forestry, mining, infrastructure construction
- Legacy of the early farms and the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Historical and new agricultural practices
- Continuity of railway and logging-based settlement
- Flooding and hydroelectric generation on the Columbia River
- New innovative and small-scale economic ventures

6. A culture of recreation

Recreational values found our parks and the history of mountain recreation.

- Ski history: Nels Nelsen, Isabel Coursier and the jumping tournaments
- Accessibility of recreation trails and the ski hill
- Outdoor recreation opportunities all around
- Downhill ski club, Nordic ski club
- Rock climbing and camping in the national and provincial parks
- Trail network with interpretive signage

2.2.2 Significant Heritage Places

Revelstoke has long been aware of the importance of its heritage resources. In 1980 there was an emerging awareness of the heritage value of the city's downtown among key businesses and community residents leading to the Downtown Revitalization Program in 1985. The establishment of a heritage inventory in 2000, a heritage register in 2003, and the Revelstoke Station Heritage Conservation Area in 2008 further emphasized the importance of the city's heritage places.

A heritage inventory is a community tool which can act as an informal archive, database and map for community heritage resources. As an informal listing of places, features, events and organizations, it can be a place for the public to suggest historic places felt to have cultural, historical and community value that contribute to Revelstoke's overall heritage and character. Revelstoke currently has a number of resources on its heritage inventory which was developed between 2000 and 2005, and summarized in 2016.[1]

Revelstoke's Community Heritage Register is a planning tool that allows a local government to formally identify historic resources so that they may be integrated into land use planning processes. It is an official list of heritage resources recognized by the City as having heritage value.

Revelstoke has identified a number of historic places and resources in a formal way through its heritage register and informally through its heritage inventory. The City of Revelstoke's Community Heritage Register was established by resolution of City Council at their regular meeting on June 9, 2003, and 6 properties were placed on the register. Today, the city has 17 resources on its heritage register (with the Courthouse, City Hall, McCarty House, and Birch Lodge on the Canadian Register of Historic Places), and one designated heritage property (Mountainview School). The Revelstoke Station has a Heritage Conservation Area designation and a list of protected properties.[2] Revelstoke's heritage register can continue to be used as an effective planning tool to allow the City to formally identify historic resources and integrate them into land use planning processes.

Strategies and criteria for continuing to develop the heritage inventory, and adding a variety of resources to the heritage register, will capture the values associated with any newly identified resources and help conserve them.

The City will maintain both a heritage register (formal recognition) and heritage inventory (informal recognition), with both improved to be consistent with current practice.

1 City of Revelstoke Heritage Inventory Draft Information Summary, 28 January 2016.
2 City of Revelstoke Community Heritage Resources Draft Information Summary 15 January 2017.

Heritage resources are a representation of a community's values and include not only the built environment but resources such as geographical and physical context, natural environment, neighbourhoods, buildings, landscapes, trails, traditions, events, place names and many other tangible and intangible features or qualities.

The following are types and examples of heritage resources that were identified during the community engagement for the project.

Places of Indigenous history

Many respondents at the workshop and through the online questionnaire identified the long human history of Indigenous peoples in the Revelstoke area as being highly significant, and requiring reconciliation, engagement and recognition. It is acknowledged that the City's current heritage inventories and the heritage register are less than inclusive at the present time. The omission of Indigenous heritage. This is a shortcoming that it is hoped will be remedied in the coming years through a commitment to strategies for developing, in collaboration with Indigenous Nations, a register and inventory that is more inclusive of everyone's heritage values.

Natural features

Revelstoke's natural setting and forested landscape has been identified as being highly significant to the community. Identifying natural landscapes as valued heritage resources can assist with Revelstoke's ability to manage visual, ecological and other impacts on its forest and other wild lands. Natural heritage features may be located on private or Crown land and management strategies may include working with partners to potentially achieve the conservation of important natural areas and landscapes.

- Forested landscape that has ecological and aesthetic value
- Surrounding natural beauty
- History of Mount Revelstoke and Mount Revelstoke National Park
- Mount Cartier
- The Columbia River and the Big Eddy as a vital part of Revelstoke
- Mount Begbie, and views to the mountain from various parts of the city
- The greenbelt, representing the importance of natural areas in the city
- Wetlands and riparian areas associated with the Columbia and Illecillewaet rivers

Cultural landscapes

An expanded view of cultural heritage includes the identification of the relationships between people, events and natural and cultural places that create cultural landscapes, defined as any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people.

They can include designed landscapes that are intentionally created by human beings, organically evolved cultural landscapes that occur in response to social, economic, administrative, or religious forces interacting with the natural environment, or associative cultural landscapes that are significant for their spiritual, artistic, or cultural associations, rather than their surviving material evidence.

Examples of Revelstoke's cultural landscapes include:

- The evolved cultural landscape of the Columbia River
- Little Italy

- Mara Subdivision
- Places associated with agriculture and food production, Agricultural Land Reserve lands
- Historical farmlands that remain actively managed
- Remnant fruit trees
- Cultural landscapes associated with the railway
- Cultural landscapes associated with forestry and logging activity
- Commemorative maple and oak trees on Oak Drive
- Downtown core with its streets and streetscapes, cultural vibrancy and shopping district
- Houses and street trees along Mackenzie Avenue
- Areas that reflect the city's industrial heritage
- Walking and hiking trails
- Significant views throughout the city
- Parks and designed public open spaces throughout the city
- Grizzly Plaza and Mackenzie Avenue as a gathering place for the community
- Places for outdoor recreation, such as the golf course, ball diamonds, skate park
- The ski area and its history
- Parks, such as Farwell Park, Woodenhead Park and Queen Elizabeth Park
- Outdoor places for arts and culture, such as the Art Alleries and event spaces

Intangible heritage

Revelstoke's history of diverse cultures gives rise to many stories inspired by history and the environment, including Indigenous use of the land and generations of spoken history, events and rituals through all phases of the community's existence. This list includes some of the intangible aspects of Revelstoke that citizens consider to be of importance.

Examples of Revelstoke's intangible heritage identified through the community survey include:

- Community stories and legends
- Revelstoke's cultural life
- Rich music and arts tradition
- Spiritual places such as Indigenous sites
- Presence of Parks Canada in the city
- Legend of the Iceman buried on Mount Begbie

Built heritage

Revelstoke's built heritage reflects its history from the founding of the community up to the present day. There are key buildings and houses that have already been recognized or identified, mainly through their historical and aesthetic value. However, the physical, cultural and social development of the city has created a diverse built heritage of places that recognize all aspects of life in Revelstoke, and is significant to its heritage character.

Examples of Revelstoke's built heritage identified through the community survey include:

- Many early houses in a variety of neighbourhoods
- Significant civic buildings such as City Hall and the Court House
- Historical buildings used for contemporary retail and other commercial uses in the downtown
- Churches and other places of worship

- Wartime housing along Vernon Avenue
- Holten House
- Roxy Theatre
- Alpine Village Motel
- Places for indoor recreation such as the curling club, swimming pool, recreation centre and skating rink
- Parks Canada/Post Office building
- Bridges, such as the railway bridge and Big Eddy Bridge

Places of interpretation and presentation

Written history, archival images and collective community memories remind us of the presence of features, stories and landscapes, some disappeared, some not well known, that are nonetheless a valued part of the community's story and identity.

These places, such as former river bridges, old railway right-of-ways, the sites of early breweries, the Revelstoke brickworks, former tofu factory, industrial sites such as the early sawmills and the first ski hill are important components of Revelstoke's heritage.

The ICOMOS *Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites* defines the basic principles of interpretation and presentation as essential components of heritage conservation efforts and as a means of enhancing public appreciation and understanding of cultural heritage sites. By making natural and cultural landscapes and built heritage places sources of learning and reflection about the past, the charter suggests they can become valuable resources for sustainable community development and inter-cultural and intergenerational dialogue, and can form the basis of a significant interpretive program.

3 A FRESH START: VISION TO ACTIONS

The goal is to sustain Revelstoke's particular sense of place.

> Revelstoke is a layered and complex city with distinctive qualities and culture.

> Heritage belongs to and represents everyone.

> Heritage conservation is a city and community-wide endeavour

> Build momentum for heritage conservation in Revelstoke

> Implement heritage program policies and actions

(travel canada british columbia revelstoke)

3.1 Program Goal and Objectives

Goal: Sustaining The Revelstoke Vibe: The City's Distinctive Qualities and Sense of Place.

This can be accomplished in part through an updated heritage program for Revelstoke.

The goal of the Heritage Management Plan is to embrace heritage as a core part of Revelstoke's future, ensuring the city's heritage is sustained through strong City leadership, community engagement, sustainable actions, financial support and cultural events and recognition programs.

To achieve the goal, it is important that the City of Revelstoke and the community find ways to support and implement the actions in the Heritage Management Plan through incremental steps that will result in a sustained and robust heritage program over time.

This Heritage Management Plan acknowledges and builds on past initiatives to develop strategies and actions for conservation, organized into four broad objectives. Each objective supports the goal of sustaining Revelstoke's distinctive character and sense of place.

Objective 1: Regeneration and Sustainability

Objective 2: Celebrating Revelstoke's Stories

Objective 3: Managing Change and Safeguarding Heritage

Objective 4: Effective Heritage Planning and Decision-Making

3.2 Vulnerabilities, Challenges, Aspirations, Opportunities

While Revelstoke's story will continue to evolve, there are places and things that are valued about the city now, and which cannot be lost. Revelstoke's heritage is considered highly important and has been shown to be extensive, diverse and appealing to members of the community and visitors alike. It is because Revelstoke's heritage has such high value that it becomes vulnerable in the face of change.

The following identifies some of the potential vulnerabilities, challenges, aspirations and opportunities facing heritage in Revelstoke, and which can be addressed through thoughtful and effective heritage policy. This analysis allows the heritage management to recognize significant issues in the community and both provide a lead in heritage-initiated activities as well as providing provide support for other city initiatives.

This approach is worthwhile because it allows the HMP to recognize significant issues in the community, such as affordable housing and infrastructure and wish lists without heritage being the lead in all the solutions. Realistic recommendations for implementation will have some led by heritage interests in the short term while capacity grows and there will be several where heritage informs, supports and complements other City initiatives.

Vulnerabilities

- Less-effective use of Local Government Act tools and Heritage Conservation Area guidelines.
- Less-effective assessment of heritage significance using a wide range of heritage values.
- Lack of administering/enforcing policies that encourage heritage-friendly development.
- Potential loss of heritage buildings due to inadequate protection or inadequate use of heritage protection tools.
- Potential for knowledge about the heritage program, policies and practices to be lost or disregarded with changes in planning staff.
- The need to celebrate the city's railway heritage both within the Railway Museum and throughout the community.
- The impacts of climate change on natural, cultural and built heritage resources.
- Development pressure, including over-development and inappropriate development, in areas with historically significant buildings, structures, places and natural features risks loss of character defining elements.
- Challenges pertaining to a lack of housing options, increased demands on community infrastructure, and erosion of traditional neighbourhood character.
- Erosion of the Agricultural Land Reserve and agricultural land putting the goal of food security for all at risk.
- Potential impacts on Revelstoke's valued sense of place, its vibe, and all the elements that create it can be impacted by poor planning and conservation practices and inappropriate development.
- Significant views and landmarks, particularly of the river and surrounding mountains, may be at risk by new buildings and massing that impact the skyline and visual connectivity.

- Erosion of areas of Revelstoke's rural character through development risks increasing car dependency, consuming rural landscapes and habitat and removing investment dollars from older areas.
- Watersheds and water bodies are vulnerable to climate change and encroaching development.

Challenges

- The need to think about heritage values and conservation during the City's day- to-day business in all departments; spearhead a mechanism through which considering heritage becomes regular and routine.
- Lack of administrative resources and capacity at the City to effectively manage heritage programs in the City due to increased service level demands.
- The need to ensure an understanding of inventory, register, designated and protected properties by staff, Council and residents.
- The need to ensure the consistent and effective use of the Heritage Advisory Commission.
- The need to build knowledge of conservation standards and practices in many sectors of the community including heritage, real estate and development, design and construction trades, residents and businesses.
- Limited understanding of indigenous archaeological resources including known sites and areas of potential archaeological significance within municipal boundaries; the need to proactively participate in on-going management and protection.

Aspirations

- Revelstoke acknowledges a diversity of heritage values and resources that together reflect all aspects of its history, strengthening community identity and character.
- Heritage awareness and ongoing conservation efforts will continue to be a guiding principle of Revelstoke's culture and community.
- Revelstoke will sustain a culture and program of heritage resource protection, reuse, repair and rehabilitation.
- Recognize that evidence-based interpretation and presentation are intrinsic to the authentic conservation and management of cultural heritage sites including intangible elements.

Opportunities

- Housing for all through effective densification and infill that respects heritage values, and the re-use of older buildings for housing.
- Heritage as a way to engage in the process of Indigenous reconciliation and learn from Indigenous ecological knowledge.
- Recognize and conserve Revelstoke's natural heritage, undertake natural area conservation, and practice environmental stewardship, wildlife management and connectivity.
- Support for access to nature in the city, potentially through design for biodiversity and with the application of Indigenous values and priorities.
- Support for diverse and accessible recreation through the conservation of Revelstoke's landscapes.
- Alignment with heritage with championing a thriving arts sector and the fostering of cultural and spiritual values.
- Broaden the network of heritage volunteers to include people who are knowledge-holders about early technologies and construction methods as well as those with knowledge of community stories reflected in historic places and collections.

(Tom Poole)

3.3 Heritage Program Policies and Actions

Revelstoke's key planning studies, from early heritage policy documents and heritage inventories to recent planning reports such as the Official Community Plan and other records are shaping planning decisions today. They identify key planning initiatives and strategies that have contributed to heritage conservation planning in Revelstoke.

Revelstoke has had a strong past history of heritage conservation planning and management initiatives, key efforts that have been fundamental to the protection of Revelstoke's heritage. The heritage management plan builds on these past heritage conservation initiatives, creating a natural progression in the growth of the city's heritage program. The intent is to build upon these initiatives while updating and modernizing them within the current Heritage Management Plan.

CITY OF REVELSTOKE HERITAGE PROGRAM

GOAL: SUSTAIN REVELSTOKE'S PARTICULAR SENSE OF PLACE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: Recognize Revelstoke as a layered and complex city with distinctive qualities and culture

Principle 2: Heritage belongs to and represents everyone

Principle 3: Heritage conservation is a city and community-wide endeavour

HERITAGE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Regeneration and sustainability	Objective 2: Enhanced appreciation of cultural heritage	Objective 3: Managing change and planning for heritage	Objective 4: City and community stewardship
RENEWAL	AWARENESS	PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT	

CONSERVATION POLICIES

1a Advance reconciliation through heritage conservation	2a Align heritage conservation with the city's cultural initiatives	3a Align heritage planning activities with all City departments	4a Support the Heritage Advisory Commission
1b Promote adaptive re-use of existing buildings	2b Resurrect the city's plaque program	3b Ensure city growth and change is heritage-informed	4b Encourage nominations to the heritage inventory
1c Maintain the vitality of Revelstoke's downtown	2c Implement a heritage awards program	3c Utilize a range of heritage conservation tools	4c Keep staff and the community informed about the heritage program
1d Enhance the city's public open spaces	2d Develop a city-wide interpretive strategy	3d Use consistent heritage assessment and review processes	4d Ensure the availability of heritage information and research resources
1e Recognize the diversity of Revelstoke's heritage	2e Integrate heritage and education	3e Develop and maintain capacity for staff	4e Promote local materials and trades in Revelstoke
1f Support agricultural regeneration		3f Establish city-wide heritage conservation guidance	
1g Sustain ecological heritage in the city			
1h Establish a tree retention policy or bylaw			

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Planning and regulatory tools	Support tools	Protection tools

3.3.1 Objective: Regeneration and Sustainability

Revelstoke's heritage is reflected in its historical position as the most significant city in the region. This heritage can be a foundational part of civic policy that both protects valued resources and puts local needs first. Revelstoke's heritage and identity need to be safeguarded and sustained as the city grows, evolves and changes. This includes a response to issues such as Indigenous reconciliation, social concerns, climate change, development pressures, support for biodiversity and a changing economy.

Heritage conservation can promote the retention and conservation of historic places through the application of sustainable rehabilitation practices. This includes a combination of economic, social, cultural, and environmental objectives to ensure the long-term viability of historic places while retaining their heritage value, and continuing to reinforce the city's strong and identifiable sense of place as a fundamental part of the city's social, cultural and economic fabric.

Policy	Actions	Implementation
1a Advance reconciliation through heritage conservation Understanding and honouring the Indigenous heritage of Revelstoke and the potential to learn more about and elevate Indigenous heritage and their peoples' connection to the land was identified as a community value. Acknowledgment of diverse histories and narratives that shaped this place, (whether positive or negative) makes space for a greater sense of collective ownership of Revelstoke's heritage identity. The OCP identifies reconciliation as an ongoing process through which Indigenous peoples and the Crown work cooperatively to establish and maintain a mutually respectful framework for living together, with a view of fostering strong, healthy, and sustainable Indigenous nations.	• Prioritize relationships between the four First Nations and the City of Revelstoke with regard to heritage matters. • Through Revelstoke's Indigenous liaison, work with Indigenous partners to understand if/how they would like to recognize sites of value to their cultural and community and develop policies on consultation when working near these areas. • Through Revelstoke's Indigenous liaison, explore the potential for partnerships and shared decision-making about heritage. • Pilot joint heritage initiatives. • Guarantee support for Indigenous heritage that promotes Revelstoke's tourism sector. • Jointly apply for grants with express purpose of creating and restoring relationships around heritage. • Examine activities such as inclusion of Indigenous place names at key areas throughout the city or community events that foster understanding of Indigenous heritage. • Consider cultural awareness training for all current and new employees, elected officials and volunteers within the local government. • Adopt the principles in recent important publications include Heritage BC: *Setting the Bar - Standards for Reconciliation in the Heritage Sector and* First Peoples' Cultural Council: *Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in BC.*	• Priority: Ongoing • Who: Planning & Development, all City departments, Indigenous Liaison • Resources: Heritage BC. *Setting the Bar: A Guide to Achieve New Standards for Reconciliation Within the Heritage Sector*. 2021, First Peoples' Cultural Council. *Recommendations for Decolonizing British Columbia's Heritage-Related Processes and Legislation*. 2019. • *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, 2007. • The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. *Calls to Action*, 2015.

Policy	Actions	Implementation
	• Consider the value of undertaking an Archaeological Overview Assessment in consultation with Indigenous communities on whose traditional territory Revelstoke is located, the provincial government, archaeologists and anthropologists who have knowledge of the region, recognizing the value of understanding, protecting, managing and presenting known and potential cultural heritage resources.	
1b Promote the adaptive re-use of existing buildings Recognize that adaptive reuse of existing buildings significantly reduces carbon emissions, contributes to sustainability targets and assists with community placemaking.	• Support new building uses that minimize the scope of demolition work. • Develop a protection strategy for downtown heritage buildings and landscapes. • Provide development and financial incentives for adaptive re-use as a commitment to a lower carbon footprint in future development.	• Priority: High-ongoing • Who: Development Services, Public Works • Resources: Heritage incentives, heritage register

Policy	Actions	Implementation
1c Maintain the vitality of Revelstoke's downtown Heritage conservation can assist with downtown revitalization by protecting and expanding on existing qualities, authenticity and vibrancy while allowing new development. The existing Downtown Revitalization Development Permit Area (DRDPA) is intended to encourage new development or redevelopment to be of a high quality and attractive physical appearance in order to promote a vibrant, healthy, safe and welcoming downtown. Delivering streetscape upgrade projects, a conservation outreach and other actions to help people reinstate heritage features and increase the use of heritage buildings can both sustain Downtown and inform revitalization in other areas of the city. See also Section 4.1.2, Sustaining Revelstoke's Downtown	• Develop and implement a plan for the revitalization and regeneration of Revelstoke's Downtown. • Prepare a comprehensive statement of significance for the entire downtown area within the boundaries identified in the OCP and ensure a full suite of heritage values is documented. • Include character-defining elements such as buildings, streetscapes, infrastructure, cultural landscape components, public use of spaces and intangible features. • Develop a revitalization plan that addresses building, streetscape and open space regeneration projects and identify other potential areas for revitalization treatment. Include planning for interpretation. • Ensure any new development in Downtown aligns with DRDPA guidelines for infill and is distinguishable as contemporary but compatible with the scale, form and culture of historic downtown. • Ensure clear processes and provide conservation advice, outreach and resources for private and commercial property owners in the Downtown. • Consider a bylaw creating a *Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption Program* to assist in the conservation of heritage buildings and other heritage resources. • As redevelopment occurs, have proponents/ owners prepare condition assessments for historic buildings that comprise key heritage streetscapes.	• Priority: High-ongoing • Who: Planning and Development, Engineering • Resources: Downtown Revitalization Development Permit Area (DRDPA)

Policy	Actions	Implementation
1d Enhance the city's public open spaces Revelstoke has many significant and well-used public open spaces including parks, trail networks, streetscapes and vegetation features. These elements have both cultural and natural values, providing benefits such as providing social and play spaces, beautifying the city and connecting people to nature. Heritage conservation activities can support the Scenic Corridor Development Permit Area as identified in the OCP by identifying historic places and qualities along its length. Actions associated with open spaces should reference and align with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.	• Add the Scenic Corridor Development Permit Area to the heritage register (see Map 14, Scenic Corridor DPA in the OCP and prepare a statement of significance that identifies its cultural landscape features (see *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada).* • Build on the guidelines included in the OCP to develop additional measures to conserve the heritage values of the Corridor. • Consider an interpretive program and/or pedestrian walking or cycling tour of the Corridor. • Include heritage conservation in new public realm design by researching past uses and features and considering layout, materials and site furnishings. • Review park and open space planning through a heritage lens, so that aspects of what the community values about them is retained. • Develop streetscape design that is informed by neighbourhood character and make improvements in keeping with their character-defining elements. • Focus on the conservation and rehabilitation of existing open spaces and ensure the design direction for new projects is compatible with existing open space heritage and character. • Undertake a coordinated and researched interpretative program for parks, public spaces and neighbourhoods.	• Priority: Medium-ongoing • Who: Planning and Development, Engineering, Parks, Recreation, and Culture • Resources: n/a

Policy	Actions	Implementation
1e Recognize the diversity of Revelstoke's heritage Revelstoke has a unique and diverse history, with many different cultures represented. Greater awareness of the diversity of heritage narratives and resources will ensure a more holistic and comprehensive heritage program and assist in sustaining Revelstoke's heritage identity. It is recognized that, for heritage to be for everyone, different experiences and perspectives of history need to be part of the narrative. Revelstoke has an important railway, forestry, hydro-electric and other industrial history. Remaining traces of these industries contribute to the city's distinctiveness. It is also important to understand and recognize Revelstoke's vernacular heritage as it encompasses all tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the city.	• Continue to explore opportunities to identify and conserve new heritage resources, and educate the community and visitors about them. • When planning for additions to the heritage inventory or register, consider places that are significant to Indigenous and under-represented groups. • Work together with Indigenous and under-represented groups to balance how heritage is managed and presented. • Be proactive in including narratives that may speak to difficult aspects of Revelstoke's history and heritage. • Identify and place on the heritage register cultural landscapes related to Revelstoke's industrial heritage. • Recognize and interpret lost cultural landscapes related to past industries and other historical activities. • Expand on the recognition of Revelstoke's vernacular heritage through such things as built heritage, language idioms, patterns of daily life, artistic expression and others.	• Priority: High • Who: Planning & Development, HAC, other City departments • Resources: Heritage register, thematic frameworks
1f Support agricultural regeneration Supporting the community's businesses and initiatives related to its agriculture will ensure that food security, self-sufficiency, and connection to the land remain a part of Revelstoke's heritage identity.	• Encourage initiatives for urban agriculture at various scales and at various locations around the city, such as community gardens, the Revelstoke Farmers' market and larger-scale agricultural initiatives. • Apply zoning regulations that can support the current resurgence of small-scale agriculture developed by enterprises that carry on this economic tradition.	• Priority: Low • Who: Planning & Development, Parks, Recreation & Culture • Resources:

Policy	Actions	Implementation
1g Sustain ecological heritage in the city The City and community can continue to support these values through heritage conservation initiatives such as the initiation and support of sustainable capital projects and the development of a culture of sustainable entrepreneurship. Heritage can assist with ecological restoration efforts sustaining urban ecosystems and biodiversity. This can be achieved through efforts such as using native or pollinator plants in public realm landscaping, or re-establishing historical ecosystems. There is a need for climate adaptation to more frequent and intense wind events, the impact of changing freeze-thaw cycles and precipitation.	• With guidance from the City's Indigenous Coordinator consider working with Indigenous partners on their historical understanding of conservation of ecological values in the city. • Research organizations and educational institutions for potential partnerships, information sharing and educational opportunities. • Conserve character-defining natural heritage features and protect sensitive and character-defining native ecosystems and add natural areas, parks and open spaces to the heritage register. • Develop ways to restore, protect and enhance urban ecosystems by coordinating natural heritage with OCP policies and actions related to ecosystem mapping and monitoring (see section 4.4.2 action item 2 and 3). • Ensure heritage conservation efforts respond to the impacts of climate change. Link strategies with those found in Revelstoke's sustainability policies. • Consider adaptations to climate change such as the relocation of heritage resources, creating flood-responsive open spaces, using sustainable materials and installing storm windows.	• Priority: Moderate • Who: Planning & Development, Engineering, Parks, Recreation and Culture • Resources: New Zealand has pioneered a program of urban ecology called *People, Cities, Nature: Restoring Indigenous Nature in Urban Environments*. UNESCO has recently updated its *Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework*.
1h Establish a tree retention policy or bylaw Revelstoke's trees in parks, streets and properties are a valued heritage and ecological asset. Currently, trees on private property are not subject to any constraints on their removal. An urban tree policy can help protect old growth, preserve urban trees, plant new trees and advocate for tree sustainability.	• Explore the creation of a tree retention policy or bylaw that protects Revelstoke's significant trees through a permitting process. Have the policy or bylaw pertain to trees on both private property and in the public realm. • Develop criteria for the retention of trees, such as a trunk diameter of 20 centimetres or greater, measured at 1.4 metres above the ground. • Develop criteria for situations where trees may be removed from private property, with guidance from an arborist. • Identify significant trees by coordinating with OCP policies and actions related to ecosystem mapping and monitoring (see section 4.4.2 action item 2 and 3). • Add any trees identified as being character-defining to the heritage register.	• Priority: Moderate • Who: Planning & Development, Engineering, Parks, Recreation and Culture • Resources: Precedent bylaws from other jurisdictions

3.3.2 Objective: Enhanced Appreciation of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage

Communication and awareness are essential to building an appreciation for heritage in Revelstoke. As the city continues to develop and grow it is important that the public has an ongoing appreciation of all aspects the history upon which the community is built. Shared heritage efforts could be undertaken through partnerships with benefits for all, as well as achieving increased communication and awareness about the city's heritage and heritage program.

Policy	Actions	Implementation

2a Align heritage conservation with the city's cultural planning, arts and recreation initiatives
 	
Revelstoke has a thriving arts, culture and recreation sector. Along with reinforcing a community's identity, enhancing residents' quality of life and contributing to social sustainability, arts, culture, heritage and recreation can and does bring considerable economic benefits.
 	
Heritage conservation can align with initiatives undertaken by community organizations and institutions, particularly through the intangible assets of heritage such as tradition, storytelling, and aspects that inform people's cultural identities and lives.
	• Coordinate with the city's arts, culture, recreation, and other groups to integrate cultural heritage into their programs and events.
	• Align heritage activities with reference to Section 3.2.2 in the OCP to:
	  • Develop a cultural plan to retain, enhance, promote, and increase awareness of Indigenous settlement, natural heritage, and cultural spaces.
	  • Develop an inventory of locations that would be suitable for public arts projects, and map cultural areas of significance to support their preservations and enhancement.
	• Explore and pursue partnership opportunities that support access to Indigenous cultural and creative programs and respect, honour, and promote expressions of local Indigenous culture and heritage.
	• Ensure the inclusion and representation of diverse voices in arts, culture, and heritage practice, such as youth and the outdoor recreation sector.
	• Collaborate on scheduling and delivery to include heritage in an annual calendar of cultural events.
	• Ensure the City's department of Parks, Recreation and Culture is included in heritage projects, initiatives and the overall heritage program.
	• Engage partners such as Arts Revelstoke, the Public Art Program and others.
	• Engage the Indigenous Friendship Society for links to a range of Indigenous education offerings, events and social networking.
		• Priority: Moderate
		• Who: Planning & Development, Parks, Recreation and Culture Arts Revelstoke
		• Resources: Arts Revelstoke, the Public Art Program

Policy	Actions	Implementation
2b Resurrect the city's plaque program A plaque program acknowledges the value and significance of Revelstoke's heritage resources, and helps raise awareness for both residents and visitors.	• Explore the reestablish a sign and/or plaque program for heritage resources with enhanced digital information on the City website. • Conduct an inventory of existing plaques and review for accuracy. • Determine criteria for heritage resources that could be eligible to receive a plaque. Use the heritage inventory, heritage register and thematic framework as tools to develop criteria. • Commission a local artist to design the plaque(s).	• Priority: Moderate • Who: Planning & Development, Revelstoke Museum & Archives, HAC • Resources: A plaque program for buildings in the city's downtown was part of the 1980s heritage revitalization program.
2c Implement a heritage awards program A heritage awards program can acknowledge and celebrate the different facets of heritage in Revelstoke that are reflected in historic buildings, cultural landscapes and community places, as well as through intangible heritage and community advocacy and stewardship.	• Explore the creation of a Revelstoke heritage awards program delivered by the City and partners such as the Revelstoke Museum and Archives, Arts Revelstoke and Tourism Revelstoke, Chamber of Commerce and others. • Create a range of categories of awards, so that a diversity of heritage projects, programs and initiatives are eligible. • Develop a process and criteria for nominations, jurying and selecting an awards jury. • Find ways to promote and celebrate the heritage awards, such as an indoor or outdoor event or ceremony.	• Priority: Moderate • Who: Planning & Development, Parks, Recreation and Culture, Community Economic Development, Tourism Revelstoke • Resources: Investigate other awards programs, such as City of Vancouver

Policy	Actions	Implementation
2d Develop a city-wide interpretive strategy Interpretation can enable communities and individuals to better understand their heritage, and to express their own ideas and feelings about their home place. This can result in an understanding and ability of people to identify with previously unknown or lost history, values and places inherent in their city's culture. Interpretation can and should included narratives that may be perceived as negative or difficult in order to promote reconciliation and healing with previously underrepresented communities within the city. Recognize that processes for documentation, interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage were developed with a 'colonial' lens and take steps to identify and integrate post-colonial perspectives.	• Work with the Revelstoke Museum and Archives in developing and promoting an interpretive program and heritage walking tours. • Collaborate with partners such as community organizations, the public art program, Tourism Revelstoke and others to develop and expand interpretive programming that is coordinated and implemented city-wide. • Integrate Indigenous culture into the City's interpretive strategy. • Consider a requirement for developers to incorporate heritage interpretation considerations into their projects, whether it is the conservation of a valued name or an interpretive program on site. • Use the thematic framework to expand the range of values, cultures, places and stories that are presented to residents and visitors. • Identify vernacular heritage, cultural landscapes and lost historic places in Revelstoke that could be highlighted and celebrated though a mapping or exhibit program. • Include a requirement for interpretation in DPA guidelines being developed within the OCP.	• Priority: High - see First Six Actions • Who: Planning & Development, Revelstoke Museum & Archives, Tourism Revelstoke • Resources: Guidance can be found in the *Ename Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites* through the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) • Heritage professional specializing in interpretive planning • See 4.3.4 Interpreting Heritage
2e Integrate heritage and education Revelstoke's educational facilities can be effective venues for promoting heritage in the city.	• Encourage school and student participation in heritage events and programs. • Work with Okanagan College, schools and other institutions in encouraging heritage-related education and training opportunities. • Connect teachers and students with the BC Heritage Fairs Society and explore coordination with Indigenous education programs.	• Priority: Low • Who: Planning & Development, local school board, other educational institutions

3.3.3 Objective: Managing Change and Effectively Planning for Heritage

Over the decades, Revelstoke has identified a significant number of potential heritage resources. Revelstoke's early heritage identification efforts, supported by an actively involved Heritage Commission and knowledgeable staff, developed the 2000 heritage inventory and 2003 heritage register and recognized a number of properties with heritage significance. Although this work increased local awareness of heritage resources, especially built heritage, the inventory no longer reflects current practices and the register has not been used effectively.

In 2008, designation of the Revelstoke Station Residential Heritage Conservation Area and adoption of Guidelines for Alteration and Development introduced formal processes for managing heritage resources.

Clear processes, a commitment to a culture of heritage conservation and a cohesive heritage planning framework throughout the City and community can assist in more effective heritage conservation and retention of heritage assets.

Policy	Actions	Implementation
3a Align heritage planning activities with all City departments A well-managed heritage program requires ownership and leadership by more than one City department. Greater awareness of heritage can be realized through departmental partnerships and shared decision-making, and better conservation achieved by having all City departments view their work through a heritage lens.	• Establish a process through which each City department is kept informed about heritage conservation as part of its work. • Regularly provide up-to-date and relevant information and website links about heritage conservation to all departments. • Take steps to avoid loss of knowledge about the heritage program and its policies and practices, or to ensure the heritage program is not abandoned with changes to city staff. • Provide opportunities for staff training to support the heritage decision-making processes	• Priority: High • Who: All city departments • Resources: Heritage BC offers many opportunities for training, both online and in person.

Policy	Actions	Implementation
3b Ensure city growth and change is heritage-informed This policy considers the values embodied in Revelstoke's complex heritage and works to have both the City and the development community actively have heritage guide and inform any City project or development initiative that has heritage elements or aspects, as well as initiatives or projects that may not be perceived as heritage-focused. See Section 4.3.2 for a heritage plan review process.	• Use the heritage management plan's policies and actions in conjunction with the heritage register, Official Community Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Housing Plan and other city plans and initiatives. • Encourage and enable the retention and adaptive reuse of existing building stock and neighbourhood infrastructure. • Consider potential heritage elements or aspects in every project by flagging all site including buildings, public realm, parks, infrastructure, and others. • Consider requiring heritage assessments for any site the City deems to have heritage value, before proceeding with an applicant's development or building permits. • Requirement for heritage assessment should also come from the community, commission and municipality. • Incorporate a heritage perspective and associated policies by commissioning a heritage context statement for each neighbourhood. These statements should always inform zoning updates and reviews in the neighbourhoood. • Consider ways in which partnerships can enhance heritage-informed growth and change, such as Parks Canada, the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District, BC Hydro the Illecillewaet Greenbelt Society and others. • Regularly review and update the Heritage Management Plan as new information and knowledge come to light, and at least every three years.	• Priority: Ongoing • Who: Planning & Development, all City department. • Resources: Heritage register, thematic framework

Policy	Actions	Implementation
3c Utilize a range of heritage conservation tools There are a number of tools available to support heritage conservation in municipalities including those in the Local Government Act (Part 15, Heritage Conservation). The ***Heritage Register*** is one of the most fundamental heritage resource management tools available to local governments and should be consistently used for the formal recognition and management of heritage resources. Section 590 of the *Local Government Act* permits the creation of a **Heritage *Procedures Bylaw,*** beneficial to both the local government and heritage property owners. See Section 4.2 Heritage Bylaws. Local governments may provide property owners with ***regulatory or financial incentives*** for heritage conservation. Actions as simple as removing bureaucratic barriers can be a catalyst for encouraging people to rehabilitate heritage properties. The provision of financial incentives can greatly enhance downtown or neighbourhood revitalization initiatives.	• When considering heritage conservation on public and private land, review the available heritage planning tools, both those enabled by the Local Government Act and other, non-legislative tools to assist in the protection of Revelstoke's heritage. • Expand the Revelstoke Heritage Register to include all heritage places that are designated or with existing statements of significance and submit to the provincial registrar. • Prepare statements of significance for those sites identified for the heritage register. • Effectively utilize Revelstoke's community heritage register using a clear heritage register inclusion process with consistent criteria for evaluation and in alignment with the thematic framework. • Regularly submit updates to the Revelstoke register to the BC Register of Historic Places through the provincial registrar as per LGA statutory requirement 595.1. • Make the heritage register (including statements of significance) publicly available on the city website, and include updates as they occur. • Consider the adoption of a Heritage Procedures Bylaw and review examples of similar bylaws from other jurisdictions to understand the possibilities of what might be included. • Draft a bylaw that meets the needs of the City's heritage program, including guidance that supports increased formal recognition and protection of heritage resources, and incentivizes property owners to revitalize their properties. • Provide effective incentives that encourage developers and property owners to retain heritage, such as Heritage Revitalization Agreements, Heritage Revitalization Tax Exemption, and non-monetary incentives. • Consider tax-based incentives where funding is derived from future incremental property taxes arising from remediation and redevelopment efforts, rather than from current expenditures or reserves.	• Priority: High and ongoing • Who: Planning & Development • Continue to add to, update and modernize the heritage register and make it more inclusive. • Regularly submit updates to the Revelstoke heritage register to the BC Register of Historic Places as per LGA statutory requirement 595,1. • Consult https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/heritage-conservation-tools-resource-guides/ for information on heritage tools and incentives

Policy	Actions	Implementation
A Heritage ***Revitalization Agreement*** is a high level of heritage protection. It not only supports heritage retention and rehabilitation, but it can also be used to advance the local government's other priorities, such as housing and rental strategies. See Section 4.4.1, Conservation Tools and their Use.	• Provide an easily accessible library of information resources about decision making processes, preservation of historic features and materials, rehabilitation and construction practices, and other information to assist implementation of accepted heritage conservation practices for individual projects. • For existing heritage properties, promote the use of Heritage Revitalization Agreements, employing the ability to vary regulations as incentives for heritage conservation, or the waiver of permit fees in return for heritage conservation. • Prepare an information package to advise developers and the public about the effectiveness and use of HRAs.	
3d Use consistent heritage assessment and review processes It is important for staff to have a consistent level of information when assessing the heritage significance of known or potential heritage resources using a wide range of heritage values along with criteria specific to Revelstoke. A consistent process and criteria for assessing both city-initiated projects and development proposals from private sector applicants should be adopted, given significant changes could impact places of heritage significance.	• Use historic resources and research (in consultation with the Revelstoke Museum & Archives), thematic framework, neighbourhood context, the Standards and Guidelines for the *Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* and criteria for the inclusion of resources on the heritage register to determine heritage value. • Publish a heritage assessment procedure and guide on the heritage section of the City's website. • Access professional assistance (CAHP) for guidance as needed. • Formalize a consistent process and associated criteria which City departments can use to evaluate heritage-related proposals. • Develop a heritage application fact sheet or other document to educate the public and help streamline the application and review process. • Ensure development proposals are consistent with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, applicable Zoning Schedule, and any applicable Design Guidelines.	• Priority: High and ongoing • Who: Planning & Development, Heritage Advisory Commission • Resources: Heritage register, online identification tool • As a first step in any development or demolition inquiry, have staff flag and review the property or resource to determine if it potentially has heritage value and should be considered for conservation • Use the Heritage Assessment Criteria in the Appendix

Policy	Actions	Implementation
3e Develop and maintain capacity for staff It is important to ensure there is capacity for staff to maintain a consistent level of capacity for the implementation of the heritage program.	• Ensure city staff stays up to date on heritage conservation matters through workshops, webinars and courses. • Provide training on the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservations of Historic Places* in Canada, writing Statements of Significance and other training to staff. • Ensure the heritage program aligns with current best practices in heritage conservation by taking advantage of the City's Heritage BC membership and renew the membership each year. • Plan for building capacity and understanding of cultural value for planning staff, Council and other City departments through awareness. • Review the Heritage Management Plan every five to seven years to ensure alignment with current best practices. Consider engaging a CAHP member to undertake the review.	• Priority: High and ongoing • Who: Planning & Development, other City departments, HAC

Policy	Actions	Implementation
3f Establish city-wide heritage conservation guidance While the Revelstoke Station HCA has its own design guidelines and areas such as the Downtown Revitalization Area are subject to development permits, there are areas of the city that are not regulated by development permit or other guidelines, such as residential neighbourhoods and public open spaces. These areas may have heritage value, characteristics, buildings and features that could be considered for revitalization and retention and that can.	• Prepare a general guidance document for heritage conservation in areas that are not currently under other jurisdictions, such as the HCA. • Embed historical design context into updated DPAs and explore further tools to maintain heritage character in the city through plans such as the Downtown Plan. • Consider renovations and additions that are compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from existing buildings. • Emphasize sensitive site planning, compatible building scale, flexible and varied outcomes of built form and high quality design, materials, and construction. • Develop guidance based on the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Heritage Places in Canada*, the HUL methodology and other current best practices documents. • Use neighbourhood context statements to identify heritage values and influence infrastructure and public realm considerations, any proposed rezoning, new development initiatives, variances, proposed changes to existing buildings, new construction and infill. • Provide training on the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservations of Historic Places in Canada*, Statements of Significance, etc. to city staff, researchers and archivists, HAC members, planners, designers and others who contribute to the heritage conservation decision-making process.	• Priority: • Who: • Resources: Building Resilience: Practical Guidelines for the Sustainable Rehabilitation of Buildings in Canada. https://www.historicplaces.ca/media/49493/resilience_en_june%202016.pdf • National Trust for Canada https://regenerationworks.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/E_Making-Reuse-the-New-Normal-Report-FINALV2.pdf

3.3.4 Objective: City and Community Stewardship

A comprehensive understanding of heritage and what qualities about the city are important to its citizens is key to ensuring an ongoing community connection to heritage throughout Revelstoke's future growth and change. It is well understood that community cooperation and partnerships are essential for a successful heritage program to be realized, and that the active participation of the Heritage Advisory commission, members of the public and property owners is essential for the effective stewardship of Revelstoke's heritage.

Policy	Actions	Implementation
4a Support the Heritage Advisory Commission The Community Heritage Commission (HAC) is an important asset in heritage conservation and management, intended to assist Council and staff with the management and implementation of the city's heritage program and other heritage-related activities.	• Continue to support the Heritage Advisory Commission in its role in facilitating heritage conservation in the community and ensure all projects with heritage aspects are brought to the commission. • Create an information binder that explains the City's heritage program for incoming Heritage Advisory Commission members. • Provide resources for ongoing workshops and educational opportunities, such as those provided by Heritage BC. • Ensure Commission members are familiar with best-practices technical advice and guidance on heritage conservation management issues and processes.	• Priority: High • Who: Planning & Development, HAC • Resources: Heritage BC, examples of terms of reference
4b Encourage nominations to the heritage inventory While heritage inventories do not confer formal recognition by a local government, they provide a way for the City and the public to nominate heritage resources deemed to have community value. The inventory can be a source of potential heritage register resources.	• Create an online nomination process and fillable form to accept public nominations. • Publicize the process on the City website, through the Museum & Archives and social media to create and maintain interest in new nominations.	• Priority: Moderate • Who: Planning & Development • Resources: Online nomination form, heritage register criteria

Policy	Actions	Implementation
4c Keep staff and the community informed about the heritage program The development sector, community associations, city staff and the general public should be kept informed about the City's heritage program. Clear guidance regarding heritage should be provided to homeowners and developers. Heritage studies and other material completed for or by the City are valuable sources of information that can inform and support heritage planning decisions.	• Publish and maintain comprehensive and clear information about all heritage related policies, programs and updates. • Produce a colourful, user-friendly brochure that explains the city's heritage program. • Develop and keep up-to-date the heritage section of the City's website. • Provide clear and widely available guidance documents that address the heritage register, heritage tools, city processes and other aspects of the heritage program. • If necessary, institute a process by which it is made easier and faster for staff to process development applications that include heritage conservation as a further incentive for conserving heritage. • Strengthen and clarify procedures and evaluation methods related to the heritage development process. • Provide clear information on the process for heritage development applications through a user-friendly document, laying out what tools, processes or professionals will be needed or used to proceed with heritage conservation. • Ensure the document addresses all scenarios, such as resources with heritage value not yet known, heritage register resources, city-owned properties or public realm projects. • Improve application requirements and construction considerations in the Building Permit process. • Make an allowance for additional city resources as needed, but ensure the scope of any process is within staff capacity.	• Priority: Moderate to High • Who: Planning & Development, Engineering, Parks Recreation & Culture, CHC • Resources: Subscribe to Heritage BC and the National Trust for Canada newsletters. • Participate in the annual Heritage BC and BCAHP conferences. • https://heritagebc.ca • https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/ • https://nationaltrustcanada.ca • https://cahp-acecp.ca/chapters/bc-yk/

Policy	Actions	Implementation
4d **Ensure the availability of heritage information and research resources** Having heritage information and research at your fingertips can assist with the success of the heritage program.	• Develop the City of Revelstoke heritage webpage to include documents such as the Heritage Management Plan, the Heritage Register and maps and links to all other local heritage organizations • Provide links to relevant provincial and national websites. The heritage planning webpage also to expand content to reflect Heritage Management Plan and ongoing heritage actions and initiatives. • Develop a listing and bibliography of places to access heritage research information.	• Priority: Medium • Who: Revelstoke Museum and Archives is a key source of heritage research information. • Resources:
4e **Promote local materials and trades in Revelstoke** The heritage program can help foster an appreciation and understanding of traditional building techniques and materials that would lead to more appropriate approaches being taken in regards to heritage buildings.	• Conduct research in the identification and retention of local building materials and set up a mechanism to source, collect and manage a supply for restoration projects. • Encourage local property owners to explore the use of traditional building techniques and materials in their work. • Consider how to' workshops lead by local or visiting conservation professionals and encourage local builders and designers to get involved. • Topics that are important to cover in Revelstoke would be the conservation of brick, wood elements, wood windows and doors, storm windows and concrete block.	• Priority: Low • Who: Revelstoke Museum and Archives, local contractors and designers • Resources: Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Old School

3.4 Six First Actions

This Heritage Management Plan is an aspirational and comprehensive long-term road map for heritage conservation in Revelstoke that is meant to be implemented in incremental steps over time. Implementing the plan involves devising a realistic program for undertaking the identified actions outlined in the plan.

These initial six actions set the city on a course for a sustainable management of its cultural heritage. They announce a commitment to following national best-practices in heritage conservation, recognize the diversity of Revelstoke's tangible and intangible heritage, and introduce guidance for conserving heritage character found on publicly and privately held land in its distinct Downtown.

The actions are recommended to be undertaken by the City to begin the significant work of conserving its cultural and physical heritage, to lead by example, and to send the message that Revelstoke is committed to heritage conservation over the long term. Ensure that the Heritage Commission has a role in the implementation of these actions, and that heritage property owners and the wider community are kept informed and involved in heritage conservation activities as they occur in the city.

They first six actions are:

1. **Work to get the City's heritage register up to date.**
2. **Update and refresh the heritage page on the City's website.**
3. **Enact a Heritage Procedures Bylaw to formalize the City's heritage approach and procedures, and its commitment to heritage conservation.**
4. **Establish heritage awareness policies and processes within City departments.**
5. **Plan for a heritage and values-based revitalization program for Revelstoke's Downtown.**
6. **Initiate the development of a city-wide interpretive plan.**

Action		Purpose
1. Work to get the City's heritage register up to date.	• Review the status of heritage resources that are currently proposed for the heritage register and identify whether they have had statements of significance prepared.	• The heritage register is a key planning tool for the city and should be continually reviewed, added to and kept up to date. • It can facilitate heritage best practices and community engagement in heritage projects. • It can create awareness and function as a way of publicizing the heritage program
How to	• Review existing statements of significance and update if required and prepare statement of significance for those resources that require them. • Have Council approve the additions to the register. • Ensure the provincial registrar/property owner is notified within a 30-day time frame.	
2. Update and refresh the heritage pages on the City's website.	• Plan for the heritage pages to upgrade the way in which heritage-related initiatives can be publicized, open a channel for community conversations on heritage and provide technical information about the city's heritage program.	• It can be an easy-to-navigate site for all heritage-related information and regulatory material. • It can facilitate heritage best practices and community engagement in heritage projects. • It can function as an avenue for raising awareness about heritage issues.
How to	• Use in-house web and heritage planning to update the web page on the city website. • Regularly update and add relevant heritage information.	
3. Enact a Heritage Procedures Bylaw (LGA Part 15, Section 590) to formalize heritage procedures.	• Explore the creation of a bylaw that meets the needs of the City's heritage program, including guidance that supports increased formal recognition and protection of heritage resources. • Include the adoption of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* as a guiding city-wide planning document in the bylaw and describe how it can be used to effectively facilitate heritage conservation.. • Produce a user-friendly brochure for staff and the public, explaining the Heritage Procedures Bylaw.	• This is a key action that provides the foundational commitment, theory and practice enabling the application of heritage conservation best practices in city decision-making. • Provides practical guidance as to what to look for when drafting policy and regulations affecting changes to the city. • Identifies expectations and provides transparency for the public, developers and others about the intentions of the heritage program • See Section 4.2 Heritage Bylaws for recommendations for a Heritage Procedures Bylaw in Revelstoke.
How to	• Initiate the process for the adoption of the City of Revelstoke Heritage Procedures Bylaw by Council, linking this document and its adoption to the city's vision and goals found in the existing OCP. Familiarize all staff with the document and how it is used.	

Action		Purpose
4. Establish heritage awareness policies and processes within City departments.	• Have staff from each department prepared to review complex heritage projects.	• Ensuring that heritage is considered in all departments and city projects can lead to a more robust heritage program. • It ensures the integration of all disciplines into heritage planning. • It assists in the retention of heritage knowledge and information throughout departments.
How to	• Initiate a meeting to engage staff from other departments in the review team. • Have members receive information or training to support the heritage decision-making process. • Ensure the continuity of team and the effective passing on of information. • Have development planners to flag and follow up on development inquiries that involve possible heritage resources.	
5. Plan for a heritage and values-based revitalization program for Revelstoke's Downtown.	• Plan for heritage conservation to play a major role in the Downtown Plan called for in the OCP, taking into account broad initiatives such as a vital public realm, significant buildings and cultural and social sustainability.	• Heritage should be the driver for the process and planning for revitalization of Revelstoke's Downtown. • See Section 4.1.2, Sustaining Revelstoke's Downtown.
How to	• Ensure the full participation of heritage advocates as part of the Downtown planning team.	
6. Initiate the development of a city-wide Interpretation and presentation plan.	• Investigate and make recommendations as to purpose, scope and best practices for developing an Interpretation and Presentation Program for Revelstoke's cultural heritage.	
How to	• Establish a multidisciplinary working group of cultural heritage practitioners and providers of cultural heritage experiences (collections, archives, archaeology, built heritage, tourism, education, historic research, interpretation, exhibition, Indigenous knowledge and others) • Use the thematic framework to define scope and desired outcomes. • Actively engage with individuals, communities of interest and organizations to identify appropriate messages, stories and audiences. • Plan a co-ordinated interpretive program that will build collaborative relationships amongst a diversity of cultural heritage interests. • Identify priorities for interpretation and presentation that can focus research, documentation and delivery across multiple departments and organizations. • Implement community-based interpretation and presentation that will bring economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits. • Prepare a comprehensive framework that can assist developers, artists, educators, tourism operators, decision-makers, and others to deliver appropriate interpretive messages.	

4 USING THE RIGHT TOOLS

Support heritage conservation with tools that work culturally and economically.

- Heritage conservation tools for Revelstoke
- Heritage processes and bylaws
- Heritage incentives and guidelines
- Community Heritage Register
- Sustaining Revelstoke's Downtown
- Revelstoke Station Heritage Conservation Area

(Revelstoke Museum & Archives)

4.1 Heritage Conservation Tools

For effective and streamlined heritage planning and management, it is important to implement heritage procedures that are clear and transparent, and understood by City staff in all departments. Heritage bylaws, such as a Heritage Procedures Bylaw, Community Heritage Commission and Heritage Designation Bylaws codify heritage and embed it into community planning efforts. Heritage conservation tools, including incentives, are the means by which successful heritage management can be accomplished throughout the city.

A practical task will be the evaluation of tools suited to delivering the heritage management plan. This involves a review of existing tools and their effectiveness combined with research into other possibilities. Revelstoke should Effectively utilize heritage planning tools, both non-legislative and those enabled by the *Local Government Act,* Part 15 - Heritage Conservation.

4.1.1 Conservation Tools and their Use

An array of planning and regulatory, protective, financial and other tools are available to municipalities to assist in heritage conservation. Currently, the City of Revelstoke's heritage conservation is regulated through its OCP, which includes Design Guidelines (Appendix H) and Development Permit Areas, along with a Heritage Inventory and Register.

In addition to the OCP, a number of Revelstoke's other planning studies (Housing Action Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan etc.) can assist in addressing the distinctive heritage of Revelstoke. A coordination of the various insights and measures found in these studies can help create a coherent and comprehensive heritage conservation program.

This section highlights the legal heritage conservation tools likely to be most applicable to Revelstoke that are provided to municipalities by the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* that give options to the City to manage and conserve its heritage resources.

Heritage Inventory

A municipal heritage inventory is an informal listing and database of properties identified by the community and the local government as having heritage value so they may be integrated into land use planning processes.

Using the heritage resources identified in Appendix G, collected as part of the heritage management planning process and from previous heritage inventory documents, continue to add to the heritage inventory over time. Adding to the inventory is both a way of increasing awareness of Revelstoke's heritage assets, and a way to develop a list of resources for consideration. for formal recognitions on the heritage register.

Use the inventory to fill in gaps in identified heritage resources based on theme, geographical location or other criteria. Maintain this community tool as an informal archive, database and map for community heritage resources.

Community Heritage Register

A Community Heritage Register formally identifies, by council resolution, properties identified by the community and the local government as having heritage value so they may be integrated into land use planning processes.

Being listed on a heritage register does not mean that the resource is protected from demolition or alterations, simply that it is formally recognized as a heritage resource by the City. It does not imply any costs to the local government or property owners and it does not limit a property owner's ability to make changes to their listed property.

Properties listed on a heritage register are eligible for heritage incentive tools within the *Local Government Act* and provides eligibility for special provisions within the BC Building Code and Heritage Building Supplement. The register allows a local government to consider and, if necessary, undertake protective action such as temporarily withholding demolition and building permits and ordering heritage inspections.

The heritage register should continue to be updated and added to, with information about register resources available on the City of Revelstoke website. The City should accept ongoing nominations from the public, and ensure information and updates about the community's heritage resources are available to the public.

Heritage Designation

The City of Revelstoke can, by bylaw, identify a heritage resource, property site or area for designation to ensure its long-term protection.

If the heritage resource is private property, the local government must provide compensation to the property owner for any loss in market value as a result of heritage designation. The City does not require a property owner's permission to designate, but using a process of educating and informing property owners before enacting a designation bylaw is best practice.

This tool has the potential use of designating heritage resources in Revelstoke's Downtown or in its historic neighbourhoods for their long-term protection.

The report to Council must include a Statement of Significance and show compatibility with the OCP, use of property and adjoining lands, condition and economic viability of the property and any need for financial support.

Heritage Revitalization Agreement

Council can, by bylaw, implement a Heritage Revitalization Agreement with a developer or property owner. This incentive tool allows local governments to offer planning incentives to encourage owners of heritage buildings to retain, stabilize, adapt and protect their heritage buildings through density bonuses, and the relaxation of use, density, lot size, parking, setback and other regulations. See LGA Part 15, Division 5, Section 610, Heritage Revitalization Agreements and Heritage BC's *Heritage Revitalization Agreements: A Resource Guide.*

A Heritage Revitalization Agreement is a high level of heritage protection. It is a formal, voluntary, and written agreement that is negotiated between a property owner and the City. The agreement offers incentives to homeowners in exchange for restoration of the property, which is also protected through Heritage Designation. These incentives are provided to make it viable for owners to restore a heritage property.

HRAs may be considered for any property in the city that has heritage value. Each HRA is unique to the property and situation and may differ greatly from one case to the next. Incentives available through HRAs may include permitting a different use, reducing parking on site, reducing setbacks, increasing the overall density, increasing the number of units on site, subdivision, and stratification.

Since an HRA creates legal protection, requires a statement of significance, and registers a property, it also a good tool when a historic resource is known to have value but is not on the register, either due to lack of interest by the owner or lack of capacity to expand the register. Have the conservation plan for the historic property be prepared or reviewed by a heritage professional. Heritage BC provides webinars on how to use the HRA tool presented by planners and consultants from around the province.

Development Permit Area

A Development Permit Area is a tool that can assist in the retention of the existing and valued form and character of Revelstoke's neighbourhoods. It regulates the development of property by controlling the form of and character of development in accordance with the City's OCP bylaw in a complementary way. Variances can provide for the relaxation of regulations such as siting, parking and building dimensions.

This tool can be considered in assisting in the retention of identified character and value for Revelstoke's historic neighbourhoods.

Revitalization Tax Exemption Program

Revelstoke currently has an existing Tax Exemption Program. Section 226 of the *Community Charter* gives municipalities the authority to grant revitalization tax exemptions for a period of up to ten years but the current practice at the City is to adopt a new bylaw annually.

Consider amending the Tax Exemption Program Bylaw to include the conservation of heritage buildings and other identified heritage resources, and to implement a fee-reduced or fee-waived permit program to encourage the conversion of under-utilized building spaces in historic buildings or within a heritage area such as Revelstoke's downtown.

Zoning

This tool allows changes in zoning, typically land use and density, to facilitate heritage conservation. This tool can be used to regulate land uses, density, siting and the subdivision of land including the shape, dimension and area of parcels. A set of zoning regulations can be developed for an area or neighbourhood to facilitate the conservation of heritage resources. Zoning will be different for differently protected heritage properties. An increase in density or change in permitted land uses can assist in making the conservation of heritage properties viable. Review the municipal Zoning Bylaw to ensure consistency with heritage conservation objectives.

Review and amend existing zoning bylaws to prioritize and facilitate retention and adaptation of existing building stock, and consider and encourage appropriate infill development in neighbourhoods to encourage retention of existing residential character buildings. Consider zoning regulations that address the scale of new buildings in Revelstoke's neighbourhoods. Limit the allowable volume of individual structures and encourage measures such as modular compositions that reflect traditional house sizes.

Heritage Conservation Area

A Heritage Conservation Area is a distinct and identifiable neighbourhood, characterized by its historic value. The purpose of the HCA is to minimize the loss of historic houses and street character and ensure that any new construction is in keeping with the character of the neighbourhood.

A Heritage Conservation Area can help to protect the value and character of a city's historic areas and to shape their unique identity and future development more effectively than prescriptive design guidelines applied to individual buildings because it addresses an area as a whole. This includes the overall character created by context, streetscape, landscape features, ground plane, views, planting design and material, and all of its identified character-defining elements.

Property owners in an HCA may receive benefits if their property is protected through the Heritage Conservation Area. The intent of these benefits, or incentives, is to provide some offset to the impact of an HCA, such as reducing a homeowner's ability to make changes to their property, possible greater cost of maintaining a property to a higher standard and possible impact to property value.

A consultation process regarding the implications of any future HCAs and their proposed boundaries should be undertaken prior to establishing any new HCAs. A community nomination process could be considered to create new HCAs.

Temporary Protection Order

Temporary protection is intended to allow local government to give detailed consideration to future long-term protection options for a property and to negotiate an appropriate resolution with the property owner.

There are several types of temporary protection available to local governments, including:

- Withholding of approvals
- Withholding of demolition permits
- Temporary protection orders
- Temporary protection bylaws
- Temporary protection control periods

Heritage Incentives

The City can provide effective incentives that encourage developers and property owners to retain heritage, such as Heritage Revitalization Agreements, Heritage Revitalization Tax Exemption, and non-monetary incentives.

Regulatory incentives include variances, relaxations, and other discretionary approvals for development, including bonus density, and are the most common form of incentives provided to owners of heritage property in exchange for its protection and conservation. Incentive provisions in the various zoning districts could improve adoption of popular heritage conservation practices.

Allow new construction projects to access incentives in return for extra costs associated with the conservation of heritage and area character. For existing historic properties, promote the use of Heritage Revitalization Agreements, employing the ability to vary regulations as incentives for heritage conservation, or the waiver of permit fees in return for heritage conservation.

Research the applicability and feasibility of using non-monetary incentives to accept variations in development in return for heritage conservation:

- Equivalency provisions in the BC Building Code, Heritage Building Supplement, Green Building Code
- Additional floor space

- Land use regulations relaxation
- Relaxed parking requirements
- Bonus density (particularly effective in areas where zoning regulations have limitations
- Subdivision leading to increased land value
- Reduced waiting times for heritage project application processing

Consider the use of financial incentives such as:

- Local Government Heritage Grant Program (requires city budget line item)
- Heritage Property Tax Exemptions
- Revitalization Property Tax Exemptions
- See Appendix B for some grant ideas and Action 3a (iv) Funding for heritage conservation.

Consider a moderate increase in development rights in return for character home conservation, such as additional floor space for additions or scale-appropriate infill.

Promote a culture of retention and reuse of existing buildings and materials through:

- Sensitive infill or additions to existing buildings
- Adaptive reuse and conversion of existing single-family dwellings to multi-family

Incentivize the incorporation of neighbourhood character-defining elements in new developments in residential neighbourhoods.

Heritage Alteration Permit

Currently used in the Revelstoke Station HCA, a Heritage Alteration Permit ensures that changes to heritage properties are consistent with the City's heritage protection and conservation objectives. This tool provides a level of control to ensure that alterations to heritage properties are consistent with approved standards and guidelines. A local government can permit variances to zoning requirements using a Heritage Alteration Permit.

Heritage alteration permits are used most frequently for properties that are:

- Designated
- Included on a Heritage Conservation Area schedule
- Protected by a heritage revitalization agreement
- Protected by a heritage conservation covenant
- Archaeological sites or other sites protected under the heritage conservation act

The City can use heritage alteration permits to protect City-owned and privately owned heritage properties that have been designated and those that fall under future Heritage Revitalization Agreements.

About Heritage Inventories and Registers

Communities in B.C. typically organize their heritage resources in two types of lists:

A preliminary list called a Heritage Inventory which is like a database of potential heritage resources, listed on the inventory to 'flag' them as likely worthy of conservation and protection or as simply important to the community. This is viewed as a preliminary, working list which many communities welcome public input and suggestions for.

A formally adopted list called a Heritage Register established by Council, which includes community resources that have been evaluated with a consistent criteria process, and thus have formal heritage status. Typically, heritage resources need to be eligible for and added to a community's Heritage Register before they can be legally protected (designated). The Community Heritage Register (CHR) is a legal planning tool enacted under Section 598 of the Local Government Act (LGA). Pursuant to the LGA, a local government must give notice, within 30 days, to the owner of a property that is added to the register, as well as to the Province (via the Provincial Heritage Registrar).

What is a Community Heritage Register (CHR)?

- Provides legal heritage status - properties listed on a heritage register are eligible for powerful heritage incentive tools within the Local Government Act.
- Provides eligibility for special provisions within the BC Building Code Heritage Building Supplement.
- Typically visible and searchable on the municipal website, it provides public access to property owners, potential buyers and the general public to information about the heritage value of individual properties in the community.
- Enhances community sustainability by integrating heritage conservation activities into the planning process.
- Provides formal recognition which demonstrates community pride, enhances appreciation and raise awareness about the places that matter to a community.
- Allows a local government to consider and, if necessary, undertake protective action such as temporarily withholding demolition and building permits and ordering heritage inspections.
- Is a condition for eligibility for many granting and funding programs such as Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund.

What does a Heritage Register not do?

- Being listed on a heritage register does not mean that the resource is protected from demolition or alterations, simply that it is formally recognized as a heritage resource by the local government.
- It does not imply any costs to the local government.
- It does not imply any costs to property owners.
- It does not limit a property owner's ability to make changes to their listed property.

Summary of Heritage Conservation Tools

The following is a description of all of the various heritage conservation tools available including a brief summary of each tool's uses and notes on their potential role in a comprehensive heritage management plan.

Planning and Regulatory Tools		Notes
Official Community Plan including Neighbourhood or Area plans and Land Use plans	• Describes vision for community, usually meant to provide direction for a period of 5 to 10 years before a revisit is in order. • Includes social, economic and environmental land use, urban design and heritage policies.	• Continue to relate heritage conservation with the OCP's sustainability goals. • Area Plans for could include measures to sustain Revelstoke's diverse heritage found in its distinctive neighbourhoods.
Heritage Guidelines (in the OCP and Neighbourhood or Area Plans)	• Promotes designs that meet best practices for conservation of heritage values in a particular area. • Promotes designs compatible with the heritage character of the area. • In Revelstoke's OCP, the design guidelines are embedded in Development Permit Areas of the city.	• Design guidelines organized according to distinct neighbourhoods would clearly underscore what makes Revelstoke distinctive. • Guidelines tied to the current Development Permit Areas are problematic since the areas often bridge distinctly different neighbourhoods.
Development Permit Areas and Guidelines	• Designating a DPA enables supplementing zoning regulations, commonly including variances allowed in return for support of vision for the area, often in the form of design guidelines.	• Design guidelines can be associated with current development permit areas or through Area Plans drafted for each of Revelstoke's distinct neighbourhoods. • Design guidelines should reflect local neighbourhood distinctiveness rather than a whole-of-city style.
Zoning Bylaw and Rezoning	• Typically describes permitted uses, minimum lot sizes, density (number of units in residential zones), setbacks, height and site coverage. • There is an allowance to increase site coverage for laneway or infill housing. • Rezoning can include provisions to achieve heritage protection and conservation. • Maximum parcel size can be added to a zoning bylaw to prevent loss of heritage characteristics tied to historical lot size.	• Sometimes building stock does not meet the limits of allowed development, or may contravene use regulations. In these cases, find accommodation through incentives for retention of heritage buildings and landscapes. • Maximum lot size provisions in areas where heritage character is threatened by land assembly or consolidation can conserve heritage character.

Planning and Regulatory Tools		Notes
Subdivision Bylaw and Approvals	• A subdivision bylaw can facilitate the retention of heritage features such as lot size.	• There are areas of Revelstoke where neighbourhood character involves historical small lot sizes. There may be potential for incentives for retention of these small lot sizes as a conservation measure.
Building Permits	• Provincial code allows for measures that provide a commensurate level of upgrading while retaining heritage.	• There are provisions that allow code upgrades to a lesser level if it is a heritage structure. These measures can be of substantial financial benefit to an owner while conserving heritage value.
Building Code Alternative Solutions	• This tool allows for an argument to be made for an acceptable level of upgrading to a heritage property.	• There are provisions that allow code upgrades to a lesser level if it is a heritage structure. These measures are often of substantial financial benefit to the owner while conserving heritage value.
Sign Bylaw	• A sign bylaw can ensure that signs are in keeping with heritage character of properties or areas or are protected if they are considered heritage resources	• Signs in neighbourhoods, public realm or heritage areas may be heritage resources in and of themselves. Determine whether the sign is part of the heritage of the area and introduce appropriate conservation measures. • Where new signs are needed, they should be compatible with heritage character and fabric.
Heritage Interpretive Planning	• A city-wide interpretive plan can be created, and interpretive measures can be requested for individual properties as part of their conservation planning	• Heritage interpretation is an important conservation tool that can have a significant impact on the conservation, understanding, appreciation, engagement with and connection to heritage resources.
Withholding Demolition Permits	• Provides the City with a temporary protection measure in order to give detailed consideration to future long-term protection options for a property.	• Can be used where a property is threatened with demolition to negotiate an appropriate resolution with the property owner for conservation.

Protection Tools		Notes
Heritage Inventory	• An informal listing of all heritage resources, in aid of adding awareness of the full range of resources making up the city's heritage.	• The goal of the heritage inventory is to include all that a community finds of heritage value, tangible and intangible. • Special purpose inventories can also document values and features of specific areas, like Heritage Conservation Areas or industrial landscapes.
Community Heritage Register	• A formal listing of resources recognized as having important heritage value and character. • Registered properties are eligible for any heritage incentives made available by the local government. • A registered property does not mean it is protected, but that it is recognized by local government for planning purposes.	• A tool to allow for greater regulatory and financial assistance, and to focus public attention on individual landmarks and valued intangible resources .
Heritage Conservation Area	• For the purpose of heritage conservation, establishes objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management in a district with special heritage value and character that has been identified in the OCP or Area Plan. • All changes to properties within an HCA must be done according to a mandatory Heritage Alteration Permit. • The OCP may list specific properties, land or features to be "protected heritage property." • An HCA provides a comprehensive approach to managing distinct areas of the city and is best suited to areas where a large majority of the area's properties have identified heritage value.	• Design guidelines organized according to distinct neighbourhoods would clearly underscore what makes Revelstoke distinct and significant as a heritage city. • They would provides the clearest focus on conservation of heritage in an area, ensuring that the regulations governing the conservation area are focused on the conservation of heritage values. • An HCA works best where there are strong, identifiable character-derfining elements within recognizable boundaries.
Heritage Designation	• Ensures the long-term protection of a heritage property, site or area. • Requires a report to Council regarding its heritage value and character, and compatibility with the OCP and lawful use of the property. A heritage designation bylaw is prepared and public hearings are held.	• A tool to protect a heritage site or intangible heritage resource. • A long-term public commitment to heritage conservation.

Protection Tools		Notes
Heritage Revitalization Agreement	• Enables the local government to enter into formal agreements with a developer or property owner on a site-specific basis that provide long-term protection for the property. • Can supersede zoning regulations for site specific management of heritage values and character.	• An HRA is site-specific zoning where a specific form of development is agreed to by owner and the City. • An HRA is a way to support the conservation of heritage values by allowing variances outside of what could possibly be permitted within the zoning of the site. • It is an involved process that includes lawyers and public hearings.
Heritage Conservation Covenants	• Provides long-term protection of heritage property through contract. • Used for both buildings and landscapes. • The covenant remains with the title of the property.	• Can be the simplest way of conserving heritage values, by facilitating ways of complying with current building standards.
Heritage Alteration Permit	• Ensures that changes to heritage properties are consistent with heritage protection objectives and approved standards and guidelines. • Cannot change permitted use or density.	• Holds the heritage property owner to a commitment to modify a heritage property only in an agreed-upon manner.
Heritage Site Maintenance Standards	• Ensures that protected properties are appropriately maintained. • Can be applied to sites receiving incentives.	• Holds the heritage property owner to commitment to maintain the property, conserving on-site heritage values.
Standards and Guidelines for Heritage Conservation	• Provides results-oriented guidance for sound decision-making when planning an intervention to an historic site • Provides conservation guidance that is non-prescriptive, aiding in decision-making by property owners, heritage professionals and planners.	• Parks Canada's *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* are an important basis for all conservation discussions.
Heritage Procedures Bylaw	• Establishes clear protocols, authorities, application requirements and review procedures for heritage conservation activities.	• A useful tool to align City priorities and processes to effectively conserve heritage resources.
Withholding of Approvals	• Provides temporary heritage protection to withhold issuance of approvals for actions that would alter a heritage resource.	• Can be used where the key character of a property or historic place is threatened before a plan for its conservation is developed.

Financial Tools		Notes
Local Government Heritage Grant Program	• Encourages the conservation of buildings, including the restoration and/or enhancement of principal facades. • Features direct cash payments to owners when approved work is completed. • Administration is not complex.	• A good way to support the conservation of properties within a defined recognizable heritage area. • Must be a city budget line item. • Needs monitoring for best-practices in conservation methods.
Heritage Property Tax Exemptions	• Provides financial support to private property owners for up to 10 years to offset heritage rehabilitation costs that meet conservation standards. • Encourages upgrades to heritage resources for their long-term physical viability.	• A good way to support the conservation of properties. • Does not need a city budget line item. • Needs review that best-practices in conservation were followed.
Revitalization Property Tax Exemptions	• Provides support for to 10 years to meet social, economic, environmental or other community needs. • Applicable to properties that are protected, are located in a development permit area or heritage conservation area, or are subject to a heritage revitalization agreement or heritage conservation covenant.	• A good way to support the conservation of revitalization initiatives in heritage areas. • Does not need a city budget line item.
Bonus Density	• Provides an incentive to offset heritage conservation costs. • Requires amending the OCP, the relevant Area Plan, and the Zoning and Development Bylaw to establish a density bonus system. • There is no direct cost to the City. • Provides either a method for determining amount of incentive to make a project economically viable, or an incentive (such as a density limit over what is normally allowed).	• This is an excellent incentive tool where zoning regulations have limitations (floor space, unit density, or use) that can only be overcome through rezoning. • Bonusing needs to be sufficient enough to attract takers, but also to lead to development still in keeping with the property's heritage environment.

Financial Tools		Notes
Transfer of Density (including Density Bank)	• Develops a mechanism for the transfer of residual (excess) density off a heritage site as compensation for not building to permitted density on site. • Can be done through a simultaneous density transfer or through the use of Density Transfer Bank. • No cost to the local government; the market is responsible for setting prices and completing transactions. • Requires a market for residual density - sites that the city approves of being of greater than scheduled densities.	• Provides funding for program initiatives in a variety of streams.
Heritage Legacy Fund of BC	• Provides guidance and financial support to heritage projects throughout the province, including Heritage Conservation Program, Heritage Awareness Program, Heritage Planning Program, Indigenous Partnership Program.	• A potential funding partner for City heritage initiatives. • Provides funding for program initiatives in a variety of streams.
Columbia Basin Trust funding programs	• Provides guidance and financial support to heritage projects throughout the province.	• A current and potential future funding partner for City heritage initiatives.

Partnership Tools		Notes
Streamline Heritage Applications	• Develops priority processing for heritage conservation projects. • Shelf-ready and model processes, bylaws, agreements and covenants would assist in this streamlining effort.	• Practices to support property owners through the heritage conservation review process are critical to there being community support for the heritage program.
Support Services	• Prepare for staff to offer planning, design and technical advice, and facilitation to conserve heritage resources. • Can offer staff assistance or can provide grants for feasibility and project planning work.	• The public feels supported in their conservation initiatives if staff are knowledgeable about the review process, and communicate it clearly to the public up front, and to offer help if city staff/ resources allow it.
Fundraising	• Support non-profit organizations to raise awareness and funds for heritage awareness or conservation initiatives	• The city can help non-profits by prioritizing grant applications and community fundraising.

4.1.2 Sustaining Revelstoke's Downtown

Downtown revitalization in Revelstoke

Downtown Revelstoke currently does not have heritage protection except through the Downtown Revitalization Development Permit Area (DRDPA). with its location on the Columbia River and a mix of commercial, institutional and residential uses, Downtown is a diverse and vital area of the city with specific qualities, character and stories. The DRDPA is designated under Section 488(1)(d) and (f) of the Local Government Act to revitalize Downtown Revelstoke where commercial uses are permitted and to establish objectives for the form and character of commercial, industrial, or multi-family residential development.

Revitalizing downtown means strengthening the social, physical and economic value of a community's traditional central business district. The primary goal of revitalization efforts is to improve the livability and quality of life in a community by expanding and attracting employment, shopping and social activities.

The purpose of the DRDPA is to ensure that the building and site design of development within the Downtown is attractive, incorporates a pedestrian scale, and considers the existing character, encouraging new development or redevelopment to be of a high quality and attractive physical appearance in order to promote a vibrant, healthy, safe and welcoming downtown.

Between 1982 and 1986, the city undertook a downtown revitalization program which resulted in the rehabilitation of streetscapes and landscaping, new street furnishings, the rehabilitation of a number of historic buildings and the creation of Grizzly Plaza, all of which have become heritage in their own right.

How heritage fits in

Revitalization or regeneration is a means to bring new life and energy to Revelstoke's iconic downtown, with its commercial zone, residential areas and a vibrant hub for arts, culture, festivals and other community uses and functions.

Heritage conservation can play a critical role in the revitalization of Downtown as part of the DRDPA tool that can be used to identify and protect heritage resources while creating policies that can address heritage issues, build on historical infrastructure and landscape, and embrace the particular qualities that make Downtown vibrant, bringing new life and activity into the area. Lessons learned can inform revitalization and regeneration projects and programs in other parts of Revelstoke.

Beyond narrowly focused building restoration perspective, heritage conservation can have broader contributions to the achievement of sustainable development goals addressed in ICOMOS 2021 *Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals*, particularly Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities.

This document provides provisions through which heritage conservation can contribute to Downtown revitalization and wider community regeneration and sustainability by:

- Resisting cultural homogenization
- Preserving climate responsive buildings
- Incubating local traditions and values
- Strengthening community inclusion and inter-generational equity
- Conserving resources and reducing waste

- Developing tourism and diversifying jobs
- Improving spatial attractiveness and property values
- Contributing to urban green space and biodiversity

The following policy statements and associated actions are meant to assist with the inclusion of heritage in any Downtown revitalization programs.

Policy	Actions
D1 Have heritage conservation help revitalize Revelstoke's Downtown to achieve physical and social sustainability. Heritage conservation can contribute to Downtown and wider community regeneration and sustainability. Encouraging new uses for downtown buildings that respond to the current economy can ensure the ongoing viability and vitality of the commercial core.	• Consider renovations and additions that are visually compatible with, distinguishable from and subordinate to existing historic buildings. • Emphasize sensitive site planning, compatible building scale, flexible and varied outcomes of built form and high quality design, materials, and construction. • Develop guidance for revitalization based on the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Heritage Places in Canada*, the HUL methodology and other current best practices documents. • Develop a clear heritage conservation management approach for the revitalization process.
D2 Ensure the revitalization program protects key heritage resources. As has been noted, buildings and other heritage features in Revelstoke's Downtown do not currently have protection. The revitalization process can explore and develop ways to ensure the long-term protection of heritage resources. Heritage conservation should play a major role in the forthcoming Downtown Plan as outlined in the OCP. In addition to a statement of significance and the identification of character-defining elements, there is a need for condition assessments of a number of historic buildings that comprise key heritage streetscapes. Structural deterioration is accelerating and there is evidence of structural instability.	• Prepare a comprehensive statement of significance for the entire Downtown area and use it to guide infrastructure, public realm, any proposed rezoning, new development, changes to existing buildings, new construction, infill, and replacement of street furniture and infrastructure. • Include character-defining elements such as buildings, streetscapes, infrastructure, cultural landscape components, public use of spaces, intangible features and the overall vibe. • Map significant built, natural and cultural landscape features, and places of cultural activity. • Coordinate an effort, including property owners, to prepare condition assessments for key buildings and streetscapes. • Review potential tools for the protection of Downtown as a whole and for key identified heritage features. • Include actions in the Downtown Plan that address building, streetscape and open space regeneration projects and identify other potential areas for revitalization treatment. Include planning for interpretation.

Policy	Actions
D3 Provide information and assistance for heritage revitalization. Having measures in place that bring people on side for a revitalization program includes providing key information for their involvement.	• Develop heritage information and guidance documents for business owners, residents, institutions, associations and others to regenerate and revitalize Downtown. • Provide conservation outreach to help people reinstate heritage features and increase use of heritage buildings.

Downtown Revitalization Development Permit Area (DRDPA).

(Author photo)

4.1.3 Revelstoke Station HCA

Heritage Conservation Areas

A Heritage Conservation Area is a distinct and identifiable neighbourhood, characterized by its historic value. The purpose of the HCA is to minimize the loss of historic houses and street character and ensure that any new construction is in keeping with the character of the neighbourhood.

Revelstoke Station HCA

The Revelstoke Station HCA was established in 2008 as a way to protect the established residential neighbourhood that developed rapidly between 1897 and 1915 to provide housing for the families of workers employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway and associated businesses.

The 2022 OCP contains an action item to undertake a review and recommendations including but not limited to amendments to the Revelstoke Station Heritage Conservation Area Statement of Significance, Design Guidelines, and potential boundary extension. These tasks were also included in the work plan that accompanied the Columbia Basin Trust grant application for developing a heritage management plan.

Policy	Actions
H1 Review and confirm Revelstoke Station's heritage values. The Revelstoke Station HCA is a source of pride in Revelstoke, but like any community or neighbourhood it should evolve and change to stay vital and vibrant. The purpose of the HCA is to effectively manage that change.	• Review and update as necessary the Revelstoke Station statement of significance to reflect any additional heritage values to 2023. • Consult guidance document including the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Heritage Places in Canada*, the HUL methodology and other current best practices documents. • Continue to review the HCA regularly as the neighbourhood and community grows and changes.
H2 Review and confirm Revelstoke Station's heritage guidelines. A review of the guidelines may reveal that they are still effective but may need updating and presenting in a way that is more easily interpreted.	• Consult a range heritage conservation area guidelines from other jurisdictions as precedent for the guidelines review and to ensure the most effective communication of the guidelines. • Add to or modify the guidelines if required.
H3 Investigate the proposed extension of the HCA boundary.	• Develop an understanding as to the reason for the proposed investigation into the boundary extension. • Conduct research to establish the new boundary extension if it is appropriate and required. • Consider the block at the east end of Fourth Street is a potential boundary expansion. Consider that this block might be in the Scenic Corridor DPA.

Policy	Actions
H4 Address other considerations that are important for the continued viability of the HCA. There are a number of other factors that need to be considered for the ongoing viability and success of the Heritage Conservation Area.	• Review compliance with the Local Government Act. • Develop an inventory, including cultural landscapes, that is consistent with the guidelines. • Create a how-to library of information for property owners. • Research the secondary period of economic stability between 1915 and 1940 due to the growth of a reliable forest industry, review the HCA in light of this information. • Review the vernacular aspects of the HCA, distinguishing vernacular buildings from those built in more traditional architectural styles.

Revelstoke Station Heritage Conservation Area and its current boundary. (City of Revelstoke)

(Author photo)

4.2 Heritage Bylaws

Heritage Procedures Bylaw

A Heritage Procedures Bylaw sets out procedures in respect of heritage bylaws, agreements and permits by establishing a bylaw under Part 15 - Heritage Conservation of the *Local Government Act*. The creation of such a bylaw is beneficial to both the local government and heritage property owners, as it improves fairness, transparency, and expectations when decisions about changes to the character-defining elements of heritage resources need to be made. It is particularly important as way to codify and commit to the activities outlined as part of Revelstoke's heritage program in the Heritage Management Plan.

How to:

- Review examples of similar bylaws from other jurisdictions to understand the possibilities of what might be included in the bylaw.
- Engage a consultant as required to draft a bylaw that meets the needs of the City's heritage program, including guidance that supports increased formal recognition and protection of heritage resources, and incentivizes property owners to revitalize their properties. For Revelstoke, the following sections are suggested for an initial bylaw.
    - Adoption of *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*
    - Heritage Designation
    - Withholding of Approvals
    - Community Heritage Register
    - Determination of Heritage Value or Character
    - Heritage Alteration Permits (HAP)
    - Heritage Revitalization Agreements (HRA)
    - Procedures for establishing a Heritage Conservation Area (HAC)
    - Heritage Property Standards of Maintenance

Heritage Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw

Section 226 of the *Community Charter* provides authority to exempt property from municipal property value taxes for a period of up to ten years. To use this authority, a Council must establish a revitalization program with defined reasons for and objectives of the program, enter into agreements with property owners, and then exempt their property from taxation once all specified conditions of the program and the agreement have been met.

Consider the use of the Revitalization Tax Exemption Program to assist in the conservation of heritage buildings and other identified heritage resources and related initiatives such as redevelopment for community sustainability, neighbourhood rejuvenation, façade improvements and beautification, and environmental sustainability.

How to:

- Review examples of similar bylaws from other jurisdictions to understand the possibilities of what might be included in the bylaw.
- Draft a bylaw for the establishment of a revitalization tax exemption program that meets the needs of the City's heritage program and that includes:

- A description of the reasons for, and the objectives of, the program
- A description of how the program is intended to accomplish the objectives
- A description of the kinds of property, or activities or circumstances related to the property that create eligibility for exemptions
- The extent of the exemptions available (i.e. entire properties or portions of properties)
- The amounts of exemptions, or formulas to determine the amounts, or both
- The maximum term of the exemption, which may not be longer than 10 years

4.3 Heritage Processes

Clear step-by-step heritage procedures and review processes for City staff in all departments to follow can lead to the successful implementation of the heritage program. Having these processes in place also reduces the risk of losing corporate knowledge over time.

4.3.1 Planning for Heritage Conservation

Heritage conservation planning identifies policies that strike a balance between use and heritage significance and that provide a useful framework when making decisions about a historic place. Heritage conservation plans can be developed for City-owned properties that have heritage value and for privately-owned properties that may undergo development, changes of use or demolition. This process can also be used by staff when evaluating or making decisions about projects that have a heritage component.

Preparing a Heritage Conservation Plan

A heritage conservation plan is a document which explains why a place is significant and how that significance will be sustained in any proposed changes, such as interventions involving a new use, alteration, repair or management. It is the need for decision-making for a historic place that prompts the development of a conservation plan.

A heritage conservation plan generally includes the following content:

- A written and illustrated understanding of the historic place through research, site documentation and condition assessment
- Evaluation of heritage significance through a Statement of Significance
- Assessment of potential impacts of the proposed development
- Identification of City and client requirements that balance public and private benefits
- The proposed use of an appropriate combination of heritage conservation approaches
- Developed conservation policy with accompanying actions to mitigate change and conserve character-defining elements
- Steps for implementing the plan
- A plan for monitoring and maintenance

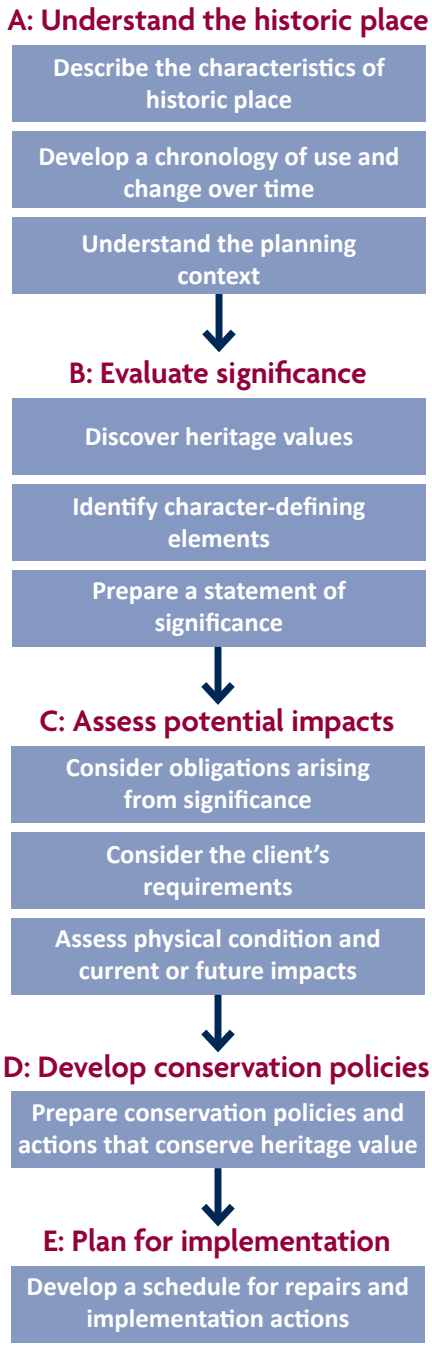
A consistent review approach for all heritage conservation plans should be used, including plans for City-owned properties, proposals for new development when they are submitted, and specific heritage proposals such as:

- Heritage Revitalization Agreements
- Changes or additions to residential buildings
- Changes to the city's public realm
- City capital projects undergoing requests for proposals
- Demolition applications

Any properties or places for which projects, incentives, or other conservation tools are being considered should be placed on the heritage register and have an accompanying heritage conservation plan, including a Statement of Significance. Plans should be reviewed with the participation and support of designated City staff and the Heritage Advisory Commission. Conservation actions should follow the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. Ensure that the public is aware of assessment and heritage conservation planning processes and how to navigate them by putting information on the City's heritage web page.

Heritage Conservation Planning Process

See Appendix D for a more detailed description of the BC Heritage Branch heritage conservation planning methodology. Another useful reference is *The Conservation Plan* by James Semple Kerr (available online).



A conservation plan is used by owners, managers, designers, interpreters, specialist contractors and others to inform decisions that have the potential to affect the values of a historic place

The following can assist in identifying those items that should be considered when reviewing a heritage conservation plan, such as those required to obtain a heritage revitalization agreement. All conservation plans should be presented to the Community Heritage Commission for review and comment.

Supporting documentation

- Building and site plans illustrating proposed additions or changes
- Photographic documentation
- Heritage conservation strategy including a Statement of Significance
- Inclusion of the heritage plan in development permit application

Project approach

- Assessment should be based on high, moderate or minimal.
- The overall approach to the project corresponds to the character and context of the area in which it is located: the downtown, neighbourhood, industrial setting or rural area.
- There has been some level of community engagement.
- The plan has reviewed and addressed appropriate city policies, such as the OCP, sustainability plan, transportation plan, parks and recreation plan and others.
- The proposal contains a balance of private and public benefits.
- Appropriate heritage incentives have been considered and implemented.
- The plan demonstrates an accurate and comprehensive understanding of historic and non-historic elements of the site and buildings, their existing condition, and contribution to recognized heritage values.

Other considerations

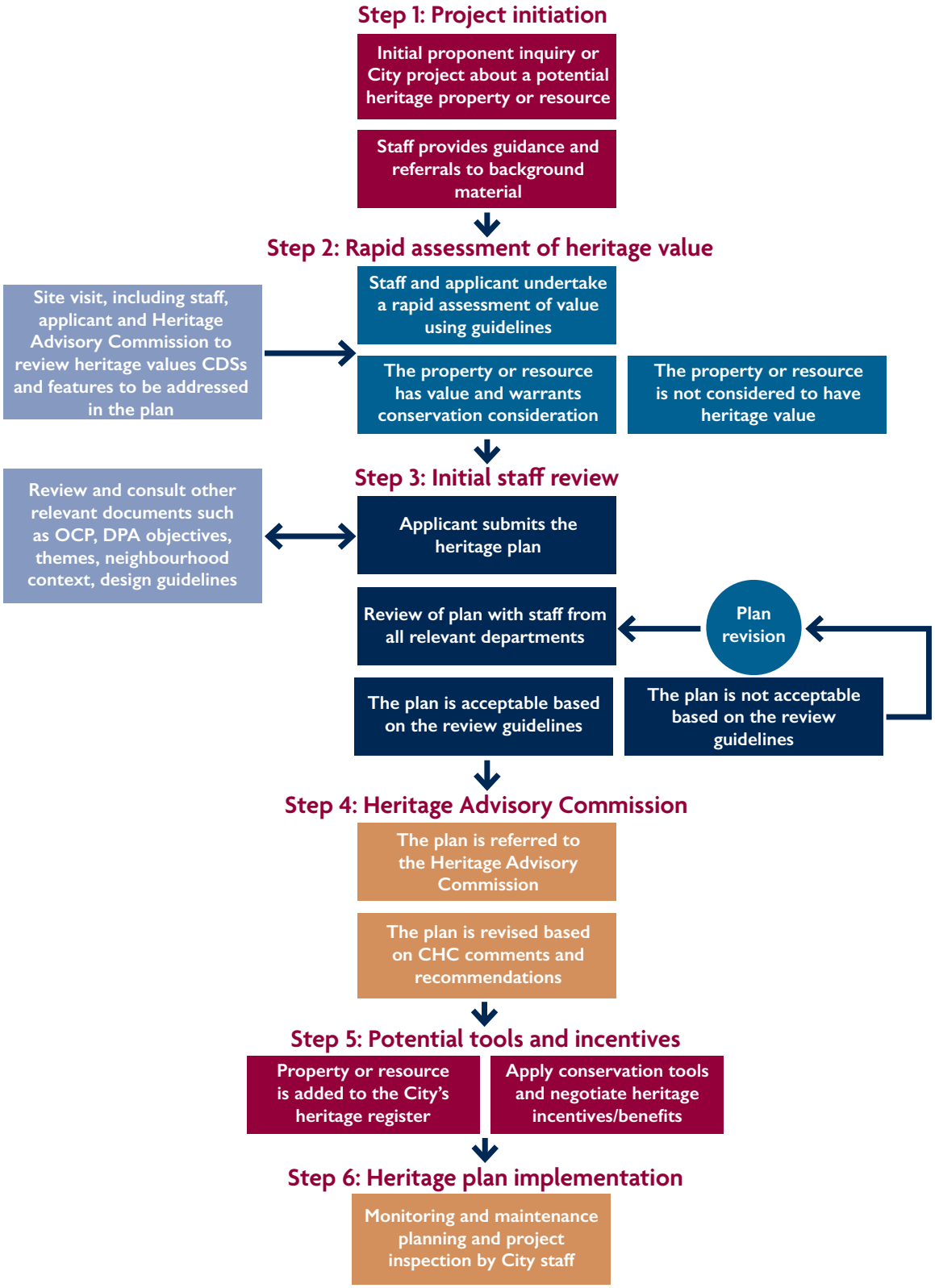
- The plan contains a detailed description of the heritage resources and all of its component parts.
- A detailed Statement of Significance has been prepared that outlines the values and character-defining elements of the heritage resource.
- Conservation actions in the plan have been developed in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* and specific standards and guidelines relevant to the heritage conservation decision-making process are documented..
- The plan provides a framework for the sustainable use, maintenance, repair, alteration, and management of the heritage resource.
- The plan utilizes the appropriate heritage conservation approach or combination of approaches.
- The condition of the heritage resources has been appropriately documented and mitigation measures proposed that conserve heritage value.
- The impact of additions, renovations, repairs or other proposed measures on the heritage resource, and its wider context have been identified and mitigation measures proposed.
- The project conserves the overall values and character-defining elements of the heritage resource.
- The proposal development contributes to or enhances the historic or heritage context (site, block, neighbourhood or area).
- City zoning schedules and applicable design guidelines have been consulted and applied.
- The plan includes a comprehensive list of actions or tasks which identified their priority, timing, who is responsible, and the cost.
- A maintenance plan has been prepared.
- Interpretation strategies have been identified.

4.3.2 Approval Process for Heritage Resources

The City can assist developers, property owners and design professionals with heritage conservation by providing them with relevant information when they are preparing development plans. This assistance can be developed for commercial sites and residential projects to assist everyone in easily managing successful heritage conservation projects.

- Provide a checklist of requirements including what aspects of the project will be reviewed by Community Heritage Commission and staff. These aspects are defined by the character-defining elements for the property or area.
- Include the need for the addition to the heritage register and preparation of a Statement of Significance for a property in order to access conservation tools and incentives.
- Present the review process as straightforward and transparent to ensure clarity about the planning process for the development community.
- Develop clear, user-friendly heritage planning guidance, ideally with a flow chart, outlining the heritage conservation planning process with the goal of making the review process simple and transparent for design professionals and people wanting to develop or change a heritage property.
- Helpful tools could include:
    - Information about the planning and non-planning policy context of the place
    - Place/site opportunities and constraints
    - Checklist of things that need to be considered
    - Different considerations and levels of detail for different places
    - List of specialist skills/experience required
    - Best practice case studies
    - Consideration of different types of development
    - Consideration of character-defining elements

Heritage Conservation Plan Review Process



4.3.3 Interpreting Heritage

Heritage interpretation is an important conservation tool that can have a significant impact on the conservation, understanding, appreciation, engagement with and connection to heritage resources. Commemorative gestures, programs and traditions are further meaningful tools that help celebrate and conserve the city's heritage values, people and places.

Interpretation can enable communities and individuals to better understand their heritage, and to express their own ideas and feelings about their home place. This can result in an understanding and ability of people to identify with previously unknown or lost history, values and places inherent in their city's culture.

Interpretive Objectives

- Facilitate understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage sites and foster public awareness and engagement in the need for their protection and conservation.
- Communicate the meaning of cultural heritage sites to a range of audiences through careful, documented recognition of significance, through accepted scientific and scholarly methods as well as from living cultural traditions
- Safeguard the tangible and intangible values of cultural heritage sites in their natural and cultural settings and social contexts.
- Contribute to the sustainable conservation of cultural heritage sites, through promoting public understanding of, and participation in, ongoing conservation efforts, ensuring long term maintenance of the interpretive infrastructure and regular review of its interpretive contents.

Best Practices

- Develop an interpretation and commemoration program that is both physical and digital.
- Respect the authenticity of cultural heritage sites, by communicating the significance of their historic fabric and cultural values and protecting them from the adverse impact of intrusive interpretive infrastructure, visitor pressure, inaccurate or inappropriate interpretation.
- Encourage inclusiveness in the interpretation of cultural heritage sites, by facilitating the involvement of interested parties and communities in the development and implementation of interpretive programs and Including other lesser-known stories and perspectives.
- Use interpretation as an effective heritage conservation tool. Ideally it is integrated into meaningful conservation efforts and is not applied as an afterthought.
- Build on what’s already been done, such as the interpretive exhibits (including an online presence) developed by the Revelstoke Museum and Archives, the Railway Museum and others.
- Use the interpretive program as a way to enhance urban ecological restoration. This could include the re-wilding of the city using knowledge and research on historical ecosystems.

Use the Thematic Framework

The seven themes developed for heritage conservation in Revelstoke will form the thematically-based overall framework for a city-wide interpretive program. Recurring articulation of the themes at historic places throughout the city can reinforce and build an understanding of Revelstoke's distinctive identity.

Interpretive Planning Process

Steps to keep in mind when planning for interpretation:

- Mission and Objectives - The 'why?' - What is it that you want your interpretive program to accomplish? Refer to the vision, values and themes sections of this document and to a thorough understanding of context.
- Theme, message and stories - The what? Refer to the thematic framework and a statement of significance, neighbourhood context statement, or other documents specific to Revelstoke.
- Audience, narrator and subject - The 'who?' This can foster meaningful connections between old and new residents, visitors and others.
- Media and Services - what are appropriate and innovative or adaptive tools used to present the program? Let the context of the city itself inspire some of the interpretive tools.
- Implementation and operations - what resources are needed and is the plan practical and maintainable?
- Evaluation and feedback - is the interpretation effective, or does it need to evolve or adapt over time?

Ways to Tell the Story

Interpretive media refers to the means of communication and the tools, techniques and technologies used to convey the interpretation. These can include signs, orientation, notices, guided and self guided walks, audio guides, installations, displays, models, dioramas, exhibitions, lighting, street naming, holograms, films, video, soundscapes, oral history, maps, brochures, books and catalogues, public art, writers and artists in residence programs, events, activities, role play, demonstrations, educational programs, websites, digital programs, reconstructions, sets, and replicas and other means of communication. Other ways to tell the story, particularly in the public realm include:

- Interpretive panels, inscriptions, embedded elements, kiosks, etc.
- Print publications, online and mobile media
- Digital and physical interactive elements
- Public art and evocative elements
- Landscape and cultural landscape features and details
- Architectural features and details
- Wayfinding elements
- Events and activities

5 APPENDICES

Background information

- Appendix A: References and Resources
- Appendix B: Heritage Assessment Criteria
- Appendix C: Heritage Register Inclusion Process
- Appendix D: Heritage Conservation Planning Process
- Appendix E: What We Heard Summary

(Lukasz Larsson Warzecha)

Appendix A: References and Resources

Avrami, Erica et. al. *Values in Heritage Management: Emerging Approaches and Research Directions.* Los Angeles: The Getty Conservation Institute, 2019.

Barman, Jean. *The West Beyond the West. A History of British Columbia*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004.

Bilsland, William W. *A History of Revelstoke and the Big Bend*. Master of Arts Thesis, UBC. 1955.

Burchinshaw, Dorothy. *Pioneers of Revelstoke*. Revelstoke, 1986.

City of Revelstoke. *Zoning Bylaw No. 2299*, 2023.

Columbia River Treaty Heritage Project. Community Meeting Presentation and Notes, Fall 2019.

English, Cathy. *Brown Bag History: Revelstoke Origins*. Revelstoke Museum & Archives, 2015.

_____. *Brown Bag History Volume II: Revelstoke - Creating A Community*. Revelstoke Museum & Archives, 2018.

First Peoples' Cultural Council. *Recommendations for Decolonizing British Columbia's Heritage-Related Processes and Legislation*. 2019.

Harris, Cole. "Moving Amid the Mountains, 1870-1930." *BC Studies* No. 58, Summer 1983.

Heritage BC Learning Centre: *Heritage Conservation Areas, Heritage Commissions, Heritage BC Workshops, Webinars on Demand, Community Heritage Registers, Heritage Revitalization Agreements.*

Heritage BC. *Heritage Conservation Fact Sheet.*

Heritage BC. *Setting the Bar: A Guide to Achieve New Standards for Reconciliation Within the Heritage Sector*. 2021.

Mouat, Jeremy. *The Business of Power: Hydro-electricity in Southeastern British Columbia 1897-1997*. Victoria: Sono Nis Press, 1997.

Nepa, Sanjay K. and Tazim B. Jamal. "Resort-induced Changes in Small Mountain Communities in British Columbia." *Mountain Research and Development,* Vol. 31 No. 2, May 2011.

Nobbs, Ruby. *Revelstoke History and Heritage*. Revelstoke, 1998.

Parks Canada. *Writing Statements of Significance.*

Parks Canada. *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.*

Pearkes, Eileen Delehanty. *A River Captured: The Columbia River Treaty and Catastrophic Change.* Rocky Mountain Books, 2016.

_____. *The Geography of Memory.* Winlaw: Sono Nis Press, 2022.

Okanagan Historical Society *Annual Reports.*

Muirhead, Lome. "Memories of CPR Trains in the Okanagan." *Seventieth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*, 2006.

Revelstoke Museum & Archives. https://www.revelstokemuseum.ca

Revelstoke Times. *Downtown Revitalization Issue*. 1990.

Stovel, Laura et. al. *Swift River: Stories of the First People and First Travellers on the Columbia River Around Revelstoke*. Oregon Grape Press, 2019.

UNESCO. *The HUL Guidebook: Managing Heritage in Dynamic and Constantly Changing Landscapes.* Bad Ischl, Austria, 2016.

UNESCO. *Managing Historic Cities.* World Heritage Papers 27, World Heritage Centre, Paris, 2010.

UNESCO. *New Life for Historic Cities: The Historic Urban Landscape Approach.* World Heritage Centre, Paris, 2013.

Appendix B: Heritage Assessment Criteria

1. Representation of community heritage values as identified in Revelstoke's heritage planning documentation, such as:
   - Revelstoke's historical context and thematic framework
   - Information about community heritage values and heritage planning priorities
   - Any additional heritage studies that have been carried out by the City, the province, Columbia Basin Trust or other entities that may have relevant information to the heritage resource at hand.
2. Contextual value such as:
   - Significant dates of construction, establishment or association with significant events
   - Historical associations with individuals or groups
   - Intangible context of stories, rituals or traditions
   - Significant designer or builder
   - Contribution to streetscape, cultural landscape, grouping, development pattern, neighbourhood or historic period
   - Landmark status
   - Physical features or associations that contribute to its wider context
   - Any other type of formal recognition or designation such as local, provincial, national, archaeological site, sign or plaque
3. Number and type of values that this place represents. It is important to identify all aspects of the resource that contribute to its heritage values. Categories of value found in the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* provide a useful framework and starting point for evaluating heritage significance. These types of heritage values include:
   - **Aesthetic values** – pertaining to visual and material qualities of a resource. This may include beauty, physical attributes, and materials.
   - **Historic values** – pertaining to historical events or phenomena, or associations with individuals or groups of people.
   - **Scientific values** – pertaining to the advancement of knowledge or technology, natural history or biodiversity.
   - **Cultural values** – pertaining to the expression of a way of life of a group or groups of people. May also include artistic expression.
   - **Social values** – pertaining to the 'human' aspects of a heritage resource. Reflects beliefs, emotions, perceptions, uses and activities associated with the resource.
   - **Spiritual values** – pertaining to the belief system or systems of a group or groups of people, or of individuals. May be reflective of stories, legends, myths, and particular experiences or practices associated with a resource.
4. Layers of heritage values found in the historic place. The full chronology of the resource should be understood and considered in order to determine which aspects of its history are most significant. Consider historic, cultural, social or spiritual associations of multiple groups at different or concurrent times in the resource's history.
5. The physical extent of the heritage resource. Is it grouped with other resources that together make a heritage resource, such as a neighbourhood, community, or cultural landscape? Would this group of resources benefit from being formally recognized together as one resource?

Does the understanding of heritage values change when several resources are considered as a group?

6. What is the historical context of this resource? How does it reflect larger forces (local, regional, provincial, national, international) forces or phenomena that cause it to be what it is today?
7. Level of heritage value:
   - **Exceptional** – the resource is unique, under threat, highly sensitive, or represents an aspect of the region's history that is underrepresented or at risk of being lost. This resource represents many layers of heritage values associated with a diversity of groups in the community or eras in our history, specific events, people, or groups of people.
   - **Significant** – the resource is one of a few or several of its type, is not readily threatened by development or loss, and demonstrates values that may be found in other resources throughout the region. There may be some associations with notable people, events, or historical phenomena.
   - **Common** – the resource embodies heritage values, yet does not stand out as a unique for its physical or heritage value types. There may be many of this type of resource throughout the region.
8. Level of risk of damage, destruction, or loss. These factors may add to the desire to formally recognize a resource through inclusion on the CHR. If added awareness or eligibility for incentives or funding could reduce the risk of a heritage resource, this should be included as part of the discussion about inclusion on the CHR.
9. Community advocacy around this heritage resource. Perhaps community advocacy around this heritage resource has recently grown or started bringing the resource to the City's attention. The community is asking for acknowledgement of heritage value or intervention to protect a heritage resource which may not have previously been acknowledged.
10. Consideration should be given to other conservation tools at the time of discussion, in lieu of or in addition to listing on the CHR, such as:
    a. **LGA 611** – Heritage Designation Protection – resources that require legal protection because of their level of heritage value, and threat of damage, destruction, or loss should be considered for heritage designation protection.
    b. **LGA 599** – Heritage recognition – resources that are well-respected and often accessed or visited by the community, and have little risk of damage, destruction, or loss may benefit from the installation of honorary or interpretive plaques, signs, or other markers to promote their heritage values.
10. The ability of formally recognizing the heritage values of this resource to increase or improve reconciliation and relationship-building efforts with a group or groups of people who have been historically marginalized, negatively impacted by historic events, or are underrepresented in Revelstoke's heritage conservation program.
11. The ability of formally recognizing the heritage values of this resource to increase or improve relationship-building and facilitate efforts to manage the conservation of a heritage resource with multiple or complex layers of owners or stakeholders?

Appendix C: Heritage Register Inclusion Process

A Community Heritage Register (CHR) is a legal planning tool enacted under s. 598 of the Local Government Act (LGA):

598 – Community Heritage Register

1. A local government may, by resolution, establish a community heritage register that identifies real property that is considered by the local government to be heritage property.
2. A community heritage register
   a. must indicate the reasons why property included in the community heritage register is considered to have heritage value or heritage character, and
   b. may distinguish between heritage properties of differing degrees and kinds of heritage value or heritage character.
3. Within 30 days after including property on a community heritage register or deleting property from a community heritage register, the local government must give notice of this
   a. to the owner of the heritage property in accordance with section 592, and
   b. to the heritage minister in accordance with section 595.
4. The protection of heritage property is not affected by an error or omission in a community heritage register.

Inclusion on a CHR allows the local government to utilize the following tools in the LGA:[1]

600 – Heritage inspection may be ordered

602 – Impact assessment may be required

603 – Local government requests for Provincial protection

604 – Withholding of approvals

605 – Withholding of demolition permits until other approvals issued

606 – Orders for temporary protection

610 – Heritage Revitalization Agreements

Local governments may also establish heritage recognition or incentive programs that are eligible to property owners of formally-recognized or protected heritage resources. Incentives may be administrative, regulatory, or financial.

Community Heritage Registers also often provide sufficient recognition of heritage values to create eligibility for external grants or other funding to support conservation efforts or projects.

Guiding principles

1. The purpose of the CHR is to be an official list of heritage resources recognized by the City as having heritage value. The resources included on the Register will have heritage status.
2. In order to understand the significance of a heritage resource, and to support meaningful discussion about inclusion on the CHR, supporting documentation must be available for decision makers. This documentation can include, but is not limited to:
   - Historical and current photographs.
   - Newspaper clippings or articles.
   - A historical chronology or timeline of the use or evolution of the resource over time.
   - Oral histories.
   - Archival documents.
   - Fire insurance maps.
   - City directories.

This information may be obtained through research in community files, libraries, archives, or through historical societies. It may also be gathered from online research and interviews with individuals or groups.

3. Inclusion of heritage resources on the CHR must be based on an understanding of the community's heritage values and priorities. Consideration must be given to how each heritage resource embodies, reflects, or represents one or more of these values or priorities:

1. Enduring small-town identity
2. Nature in a mountain town
3. Diverse roots and cultures
4. Mountain city of landscapes and buildings

1 Detailed information and instructions about the available tools can be found here: https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/heritage-conservation-tools-resource-guides/

5. Growing community and economy
6. A culture of recreation
7. Heritage values should be considered in relation to other community planning values that are evident in the Revelstoke's OCP and planning documents.
8. Inclusion on the CHR must not be seen as a "tick the box" exercise whereby an heritage resource meets a pre-determined list of qualities in order to be included. Inclusion on a register should be a process that involves thoughtful discussion about the conservation needs of the resource, conservation tools available in the Local Government Act, and be based on a solid understanding of community heritage values and goals.

Criteria to consider in the decision making process

1. Does this resource represent community heritage values as identified in the Revelstoke's heritage planning documentation? The following documents should be referenced when discussing this criterion:
   - The Thematic Framework outlined in this report.
   - Statements about community heritage values and heritage planning priorities in this report.
   - Additional heritage studies carried out (for example by municipalities, the province or the Columbia Basin Trust) that may have relevant information to the heritage resource at hand.
2. Are there many types of values that this place represents? It is important to identify all aspects of the resource that contribute to its heritage values. *The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada's* definition of heritage values should be referenced: *"The aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance for past, present or future generations."* These types of heritage values can be defined as:
   - **Aesthetic values** – pertaining to visual and material qualities of a resource. This may include beauty, physical attributes, and materials.
   - **Historic values** – pertaining to historical events or phenomena, or associations with individuals or groups of people.
   - **Scientific values** – pertaining to the advancement of knowledge or technology.
   - **Cultural values** – pertaining to the expression of a way of life of a group or groups of people. May also include artistic expression.
   - **Social values** – pertaining to the 'human' aspects of a heritage resource. Reflects beliefs, emotions, perceptions and activities associated with the resource.
   - **Spiritual values** – pertaining to the belief system or systems of a group or groups of people, or of individuals. May be reflective of stories, legends, myths, and particular experiences or practices associated with a resource.
3. Are there many layers of heritage values in this place? The full chronology of the resource should be understood and considered in order to determine which aspects of its history are most significant. Consider historic, cultural, social or spiritual associations of multiple groups at different or concurrent times in the resource's history.
4. What is the physical extent of the heritage resource? Is it grouped with other resources that together make a heritage resource, such as a neighbourhood, community, or cultural landscape? Would this group of resources benefit from being formally recognized together as one resource? Does the understanding of heritage values change when several resources are considered as a group?
5. What is the historical context of this resource? How does it reflect larger forces (local, regional, provincial, national, international) forces or phenomena that cause it to be what it is today? Understanding context is critical for understanding significance, as every place is a product of a force larger than itself.
6. What is the level of heritage values?
   - **Exceptional** – this resource is unique, under threat, highly sensitive, or represents an aspect of the region's history that is underrepresented or at risk of being lost. This resource represents many layers of heritage values associated with a diversity of groups in the community or eras in our history. Additional heritage value may also be attributed to specific events, people, or groups of people. ***Example: an Indigenous spiritual site that is being eroded by natural or human activities.***
   - **Significant** – the resource is one of a few or

several of its type, is not readily threatened by development or loss, and demonstrates values that may be found in other resources throughout the region. There may be some associations with notable people, events, or historical phenomena.

- **Common** – the resource embodies heritage values, yet does not stand out as a unique for its physical or heritage value types. There may be many of this type of resource throughout the region. ***Example: an early-twentieth century residence related to the natural resource boom of that time.***

7. Is this place at risk of damage, destruction, or loss? These factors may add to the desire to formally recognize a resource through inclusion on the CHR. If added awareness or eligibility for incentives or funding could reduce the risk of a heritage resource, this should be included as part of the discussion about inclusion on the CHR.

8. Is there community advocacy around this heritage resource? Perhaps community advocacy around this heritage resource has recently grown or started bringing the resource to the City's attention. The community is asking for acknowledgement of heritage value or intervention to protect a heritage resource which may not have previously been acknowledged.

9. Consideration should be given to other conservation tools at the time of discussion, in lieu of or in addition to listing on the CHR, such as:

   a. **LGA 611** – Heritage Designation Protection – resources that require legal protection because of their level of heritage value, and threat of damage, destruction, or loss should be considered for heritage designation protection.

   b. **LGA 599** – Heritage recognition – resources that are well-respected and often accessed or visited by the community, and have little risk of damage, destruction, or loss may benefit from the installation of honorary or interpretive plaques, signs, or other markers to promote their heritage values.

10. Will formally recognizing the heritage values of this resource increase or improve reconciliation and relationship-building efforts with a group or groups of people who have been historically marginalized, negatively impacted by historic events, or underrepresented in the City's heritage conservation program to date?

11. Will formally recognizing the heritage values of this resource increase or improve relationship-building and facilitate efforts to manage the conservation of a heritage resource with multiple or complex layers of owners or stakeholders?

Appendix D: Conservation Planning Methodology

"A Conservation plan is simply a document which explains why a place is significant and how you will sustain that significance in any new use, alteration, repair or management. It is based on a very simple thinking process which starts with describing what is there, why it matters, what is happening to it and the principles by which you will manage it and then sets more detailed work programmes for maintenance, management, access, use or other issues. A plan helps you care for a site by making sure you understand what matters and why BEFORE you take major decisions."

~Kate Clark – English Heritage 2005

Conservation planning differs from traditional management planning because it is specifically designed to conserve heritage value. Conservation planning identifies policies that strike a balance between use and significance and that provide a useful framework when making decisions about an historic place. A conservation planning process should always form the basis of planning for the sustainability and longevity of an historic resource.

A successful conservation plan requires consensus resolution of the heritage values of the place, including social, economic, and environmental values. If well written it should mitigate the negative effects often stemming from ambiguity in the identification and management of value. And of course, it should provide the policy framework for the sustainable use, maintenance, repair, alteration, and management of the historic place.

A conservation plan is not a schedule of repairs or a feasibility study for adaptive re-use. Neither is it a document that says this place is old, we know all about it, therefore it should be restored. It is a statement of policy that informs the direction of conservation and stewardship decisions. Ideally it should exist before such decisions are made. In practice, it is the need for decision-making for an historic place that prompts the development of a conservation plan.

Conservation Plans

Purpose

- A conservation plan is a succinct synthesis of the significance of an historic place, its contemporary context, and policy to guide the retention of heritage values through effective interventions.
- It is based on a simple thinking process that considers what is there, why it matters, what is happening to it (or is being contemplated) and the principles by which conflicts between physical change and significance (heritage values) are mitigated.
- A conservation plan facilitates sustainable stewardship decisions by requiring an understanding of what matters, and why, BEFORE major decisions are made.

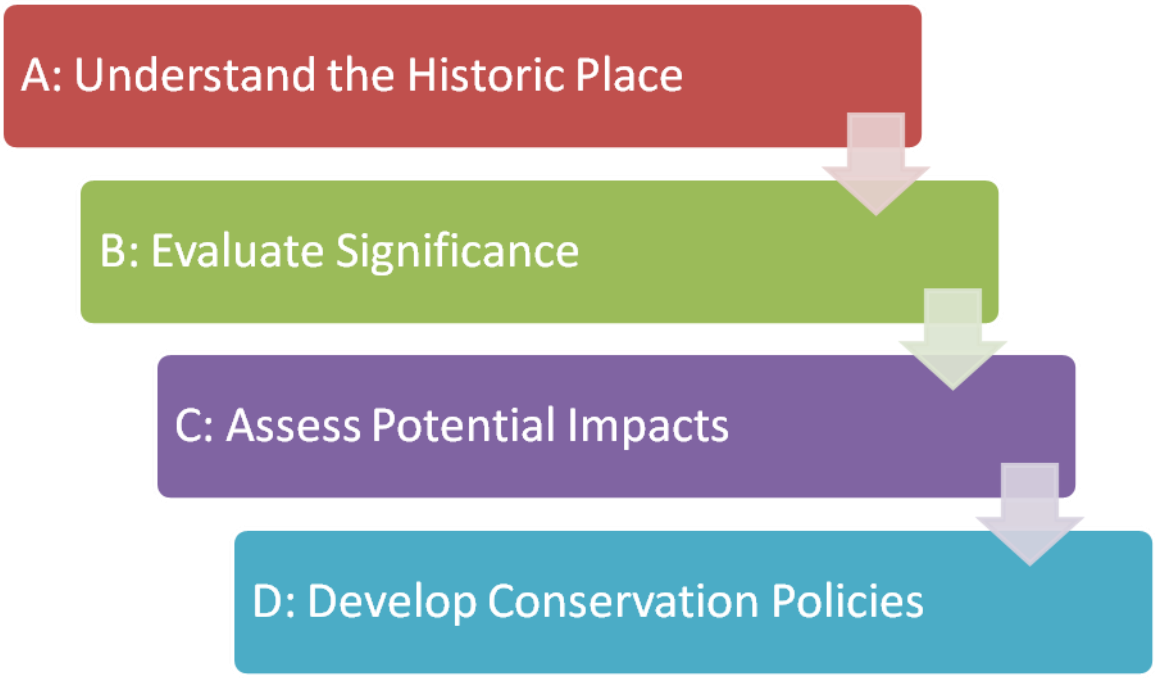
Conservation plans are useful in guiding a variety of types of projects or interventions to historic places, including:

- Conservation interventions for preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration
- Adaptive re-use
- Building performance upgrades
- Stabilization

- Additions
- Urban design
- Alterations
- New structures in an historic context
- Accessibility provision

Conservation Planning Process

The flow chart for the Conservation Planning process in BC looks like this:



Each stage involves the following actions and considerations:

Stage A -Understand the Historic Place

Understanding the historic place subject to the Conservation Plan is critical to being able to make values-based decisions for its conservation. This first stage of the planning process is intended to allow decision makers to have a clear understanding of what the place is, what its current context is in terms of physical and planning issues, and how it has evolved over time to become what it is today. There are three components that should be addressed when endeavouring to understand the historic place. These are:

1. **Description** – This is a clear written explanation of the physical attributes that comprise the historic place. It is not a condition assessment; however, it can include information such as a listing of buildings and structures, description of physical boundaries, legal description, or geographic context. The Conservation Plan report can include current photographs of the place, maps to provide location information, and written descriptions of what is there now.

Planning Context – Identify the following for the historic place:

a. *Cultural context* – what are the economic, social, political (etc.) conditions impacting the conservation of the historic place?
b. *Formal recognition status* – Is the place on the Community Heritage Register, or does it have National Historic Site designation or some other type of formal recognition?
c. *Legal protection status* – Is it legally protected through designation, covenants, heritage revitalization agreements, inclusion within a development permit area, protected for its natural values or as part of a heritage conservation area?
d. *Zoning status and regulations* – what is the zoning for this place? Are there other planning or building regulations or guidelines in place which may impact conservation decision making?
e. *Official Community Plan (OCP)* – information about the place in planning documents, neighbourhood or precinct plans, and heritage plans etc.

3. **Chronology** – Research should be done to create a record of the evolution of the place over time. The local archives or planning department may be an excellent source of information. It is important to understand the historical evolution of the community and area where the historic place exists to better understand its specific development. Record your findings in a way that relates the structural history of the place to the transforming impulses that caused the physical changes observed. Use plans, elevations, isometric sketches, room-data sheets and photographs or other methods to illustrate how a place has changed over time and why.

Stage B – Evaluate Significance

Understanding the heritage values and significance of an historic place is integral to guiding the development of policies in the conservation plan. The purpose of conservation is to retain the heritage values of an historic place while change happens, so a clear articulation of the values of the place is essential for the development of an effective and practicable plan.

The analysis undertaken in Stage B of the Conservation Planning process is synthesized in document called the Statement of Significance (SOS). Unlike the SOS normally produced for a Community Heritage Register or a designation bylaw an SOS in a conservation plan must be more detailed in order to facilitate comprehensive policy development, but must still be values-centred. The enhanced SOS may be seen as more of a significance report, including all of the necessary information to clearly articulate the values of the place to guide conservation policy development.

Stage A of the process provided the description of the place, so that piece of the Statement of Significance process does not need to be repeated in Stage B. The key focus of Stage B is on the articulation of heritage values, and the identification of character-defining elements (CDEs). The considerations for developing this part of the conservation plan are as follows:

1. **Heritage Values** - In some cases an SOS may already exist for the place. If so, it may require expanding, editing or rewriting in the light of the findings of the understanding phase (Stage A).

   Similar to the typical development of an SOS, the SOS for the conservation plan should be developed through a public process which identifies community values. Speak to people with a current interest in the historic place, including the owner, the local government, other statutory bodies, local people, and interest groups whose fields intersect with aspects of the historic place. Through these conversations, develop an understanding of how the place is valued now. A review of existing published documentary research and primary historical documents must also be undertaken to form an understanding the values of the place over time.

   Heritage values go beyond just the aesthetic and historic qualities of the place that may be important for the community. There are two categories of values that should be considered: 1) academic values - historic, scientific, archaeological, philosophical, architectural etc. - these are the values most often identified by 'experts'; and 2) amenity values – contribution to streetscape or neighbourhood, community, cultural association, social etc. - these are the values identified by the community. Both lenses are essential to the understanding of value.

   Expect values to be contested – inevitably different interests will see the values of a place in different ways. An absence of contested values is more likely to suggest inadequate consultation than an uncontested historic place. In fact, the more effectively these contested values are gathered, the better the chances are of the conservation plan mitigating these conflicts in its policies.

2. **Character-Defining Elements** – Character-defining elements (CDEs) are the physical and sometime intangible elements of the place that must be conserved in order for values to be retained. They are the physical embodiment of the heritage values in the place.

   In a typical SOS, the CDEs comprise a short, point form list outlining the elements of the place that must be conserved in order for values to be retained. In the conservation plan, the CDEs should be much more detailed. Provide clear and detailed information about what each element is, so that the policies developed for conservation can be clearly related to relevant CDEs. It is important to note that the CDEs are not a statement of the condition of each element; the CDE list in the SOS report should describe what is each element to be conserved.

   The arrangement of the CDEs may be by specific area of the historic place, or by specific phases that illustrate the chronological development of the place. Use methods that are suited to the nature of the historic place. CDEs might be listed differently for a large cultural landscape than for a historic house museum for instance.

Stage C – Assess Potential Impacts

Conservation planning goes beyond simply considering how the physical acts of preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of physical fabric could impact the values of an historic place. Many other regulatory factors related to planning and building regulation can have an impact on the heritage values of the place, and must be addressed in the conservation plan's policy in order to mitigate the potential negative consequences of conservation interventions. The following is a short-list of other factors beyond simple repair that can have a potential impact on heritage values:

- Accessibility upgrades
- Archaeology plans for site
- Specification for repair/replacement/restoration of character defining elements
- Code compliance upgrades
- Tenant improvements
- Interior or exterior redecoration
- Emergency stabilization plan
- Environmental control upgrades
- Fire detection and suppression upgrades
- Management plan for historic place
- Maintenance program, short, medium and long term
- Security upgrades

The key areas of consideration for assessing potential impacts on heritage values are:

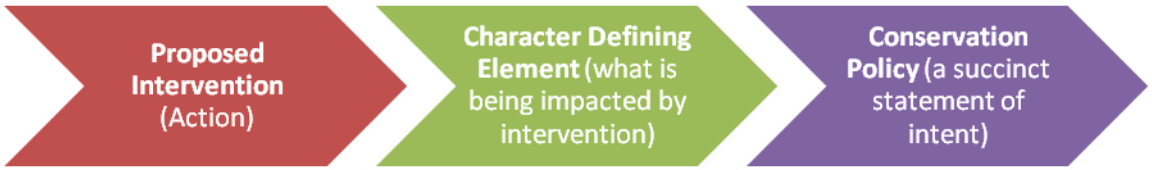
1. **Requirements for retaining significance** - how the heritage value and sustainable use of the historic place is affected by its present circumstances (circumstances may range from physical condition to legal context, from physical layout to zoning, from misunderstanding to poor past decision making).
2. **Client Requirements** – Consider the impacts of any changes that are required to allow the place to continue to serve a socially useful purpose. This includes considering how external factors such as a need for universal access, a parking requirement, or an emerging community value impact the character-defining elements of the place.
3. **Physical Condition** – undertake a proper condition survey of the historic place. Assess all of its elements, record each defect (with photography and note-taking), and describe what the issue is and how it affects and relates to other physical elements of the place. Recommend solutions or mitigation strategies for each defect, and prioritize these activities in order of urgency. Provide costing for this work by using a quantity surveyor if necessary.
4. **External Factors -** Consider the impact of addressing relevant laws and bylaws including the Building Code. Consider how responses to climate action will have an impact on the values of the historic place.

Stage D – Develop Conservation Policies

Write policies that guide the mitigation of the potential impacts identified. Refer to both the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, and any specific guidelines for the character-defining element being considered. Write policies which:

- sustain significance,
- mitigate the effects of change of use or other physical intervention on the character-defining elements, and
- facilitate the beneficial, sustainable use of the historic place.

It may be useful to organize this information in a format that allows each proposed intervention, impacted character-defining element, and policy for guiding conservation work to be grouped together. The policies section should follow the following format:



An effective conservation policy is written as an imperative and states what approach will be taken to minimize the effect of an intervention on heritage value. Policy development should be guided by reference to the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada but should take that guidance and tailor it to the historic place in question.

For instance, in contemplating the addition of an external fire-escape stair, the standards and guidelines recommend:

> "Upgrading character-defining elements to meet health and safety requirements in a manner that assures their conservation."

The conservation plan policy would be specified for a particular project like this:

> "New alternative means of egress shall be located in the area shown on the attached plan to evoke the form and character of the lean-to structure in this location demolished in 1972."

Such a policy should have been guided by an evaluation of significance that places value on the evidence of the lost stair. Policies may simply be written agreements that reassure stakeholders of a predictable outcome when works are undertaken:

Party A will facilitate public access to certain areas of the historic place identified in Plan X. Party A will work with Party B to make the historic place safely accessible to guide groups, and will facilitate public access for 26 days per annum.

Once complete the plan should provide sufficient policy to enable guide the management of change at the historic place. A successful plan will develop policy that both reacts to change that is being contemplated, and that pre-empts change that may be encountered.

Next Steps

The conservation plan must then be used as a guide. Conservation plans may be provided to registered professionals to guide their design work; they may be provided to local governments for reference in a Heritage Revitalization Agreement; or they may be pulled out when a new service is being installed to see what policy advice they have to offer.

For more information contact Berdine Jonker, Senior Heritage Planner, BC Heritage Branch, at berdine.jonker@gov.bc.ca, or at 250-356-1044.

References:

Clark, Kate, Conservation Plans, A Guide for the Perplexed, English Heritage, 1999

Heritage Branch, Guidelines for Writing Effective Statements of Significance

Heritage Council of Western Australia, Conservation Plan Study Brief, 2002

Historic Places Initiative, Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, 2011

Kerr, James Semple, Conservation Plan, Sixth Edition, National Trust, 2004

Appendix E: What We Heard Summary

CITY OF
REVELSTOKE

City of Revelstoke
Heritage Management Plan
Community Engagement Summary
July 2022

Contents

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2 QUESTIONNAIRE

- Questionnaire Overview
- Questionnaire Summary
- Heritage Property Owner Questionnaire Summary

3 APPENDICES

- Workshop board transcript
- Responses regarding historical themes

DRAFT

REVELSTOKE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Staff, the Heritage Advisory Commission and consultant worked together to prepare a heritage-focused community engagement plan.

The plan included:

- General questionnaire about Revelstoke's heritage, both as a paper survey and online at TalkRevelstoke
- A questionnaire designed specifically for heritage property owners in the HAC
- Two-day community workshop
- Interviews with community groups and individuals (if/as needed)

The plan was to analyze collected information in detail to determine the aspirations for heritage identified by its citizens, collect community heritage values, identify places that matter to the community and gather suggestions for opportunities with which to advance Revelstoke's heritage program.

QUESTIONNAIRE

- There were 20 questions overall
- There were 53 individual online responses over a three-month period
- There were 7 paper surveys completed

WORKSHOP

- A two-day, drop-in workshop was held at the Museum and Archives, Friday and Saturday February 25 and 26
- It included presentation boards with questions, mapping exercise, questionnaire, historical photo slide show, refreshments
- XX number of people attending over the two days

HERITAGE PROPERTY OWNER QUESTIONNAIRE

- There were four questions overall, specifically pertaining to heritage property ownership issue
- There were 33 individual responses over a two-month period

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS AND THE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The results of the community engagement will be used to inform the plan heritage management overall within the proposed three parts:

Part 1: Revelstoke's Historical Context

- Community ideas used to develop the thematic framework and historical context
- Contribute to a key understanding of what the community values in terms of its heritage

Part 2: Revelstoke's Heritage Places

- Many historic places were identified for inclusion on the heritage inventory and register

DRAFT

Part 3: Heritage Management Planning

- Heritage policy development synthesized from issues and ideas identified by the public, the needs of the City and heritage best practices
- Help to identify the best heritage tools for the City and community

2 QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire Overview

In order to be a truly values-based heritage management plan, the voice of the community must be evident in not only the community heritage values, but in the strategic direction that will ensure the success of the plan.

The questionnaire included both quantitative and qualitative questions, with a number of them asking for ranked responses to lists of options.

This process was used because it is aligned with the values-based and community-driven approach being taken in the master plan's preparation. The process engages all levels and functional areas of a community, with a focus on understanding what is valued, what the issues around heritage might be, and enhancing what is currently done well.

The information received from the community is offered to act as a gauge or compass to refer to as the heritage management plan is prepared and implemented, to ensure that the community's voice is acknowledged in meaningful ways through the City's heritage program.

The results below highlight the key focal points related to strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results for heritage conservation in Revelstoke, as identified by members of the community.

Revelstoke's citizens are clearly interested in all aspects of their heritage, and many are knowledgeable about the city's history and about the importance of conserving their heritage.

Questionnaire Results

For how many years have you been connected to Revelstoke? What brought you to the city?

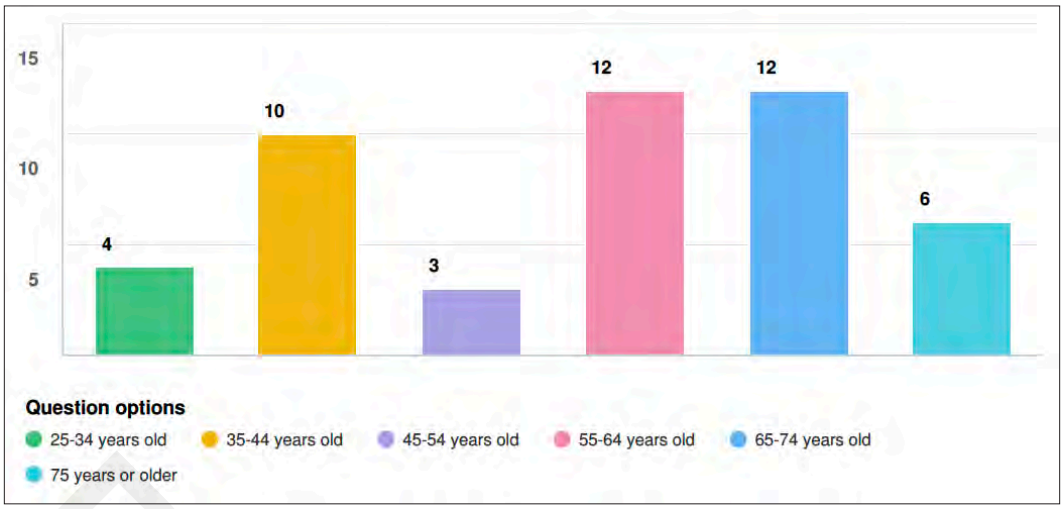
This question had a wide range of responses. Some people have had family here since the 1920s, many in the 20-30 or so year range and several newcomers.

Reasons also varied, but some of the common ones included:

- Have lived here since a child
- Born and raised here
- Different lifestyle
- Work or business

DRAFT

2. What is your age range?



In which Revelstoke neighbourhood do you live? What makes it special or gives it a particular character?

While many respondents listed their neighbourhood but did not provide a character description, some of the typical responses regarding neighbourhoods included:

- Arrow Heights. Its special character comes from its spectacular overlook of the river valley and its unobstructed views of Begbie. Semi rural. Larger lots Proximity to nature. Offers large lots mostly SFD, now that is changing to condos/apartments.
- Downtown Revelstoke, on Mackenzie Avenue in the Heritage Conservation Area. The steeply pitched roofs and exterior finishes create a consistent pattern of streetscapes. The neighbourhood is highly walkable and bikeable which supports frequent informal social interactions among residents. Would like to see the heritage preserved. The downtown core has many historical homes. They add charm and character to our town. Walking distance to most amenities, work, school Heritage homes and pride in homeownership. The uniqueness of each house.
- Begbie Bench. Small holdings, no street lamps, rural character, peace. Proximity to trails, biking, nordic skiing. Clean air, unaffected night sky.
- Columbia Park. It is special for it's closeness to Mt. Revelstoke and for being a quiet family neighbourhood. Offers a variety of housing, from duplexes, SFD and mobile home parks. Quiet streets close to the golf course.
- Southside area. Large lots, quiet, close to schools, grocery store, parks, arena, green belt walking trails and close to the river. Eclectic, easy access to the green belt.
- Behind Smoky Bear campground on Loshinsky Road, close to heritage trails.
- Farwell, the proximity to downtown and the Columbia River.
- Hay Road, modern design, new builds, close to mountain, close to school for kids, less than 1 km to Mackenzie village,new development for our area.
- South of the airport. Used to be quiet down here, but not any more. The uniqueness of each house makes Airport Way special.

Why is heritage important to you in your community, and to the city of Revelstoke as a whole?

There were a number of responses to this question, but some of the common themes included:

- Revelstoke's rich history, the historic homes and old commercial buildings add charm and make the city unique.
- Heritage is a tangible link to our past and needs to be preserved to understand and appreciate our past.
- Heritage can show us how the city has evolved economically and how we can continue to progress.
- Heritage has made Revelstoke the city it is today and contributes to its culture and history
- Heritage creates our character and is what we inherited from our predecessors and what we leave to our successors.
- Heritage values add to our sense of and enrich our community.
- Visual evidence of the town's settlement can be cohesive vision for heritage planning.
- Heritage helps us capture and appreciate our roots. Our history helps define the direction we move forward to as a city.
- Heritage is important because it tells stories from the past and reveals what was important to the residents in each time period. Hearing these stories makes for a better future. It helps us appreciate the vision and pride people had in the past through heritage and buildings and landscapes.
- It helps tell the story of our community and provides a quality of life based on authenticity and culture.
- If we don't protect the heritage of Revelstoke it will lose the character and authenticity of its past. It helps maintain integrity, look and feel of our city and its overall charm.
- Heritage adds character, reminds you of the city's history, and is more sustainable because it supports the use of existing materials.

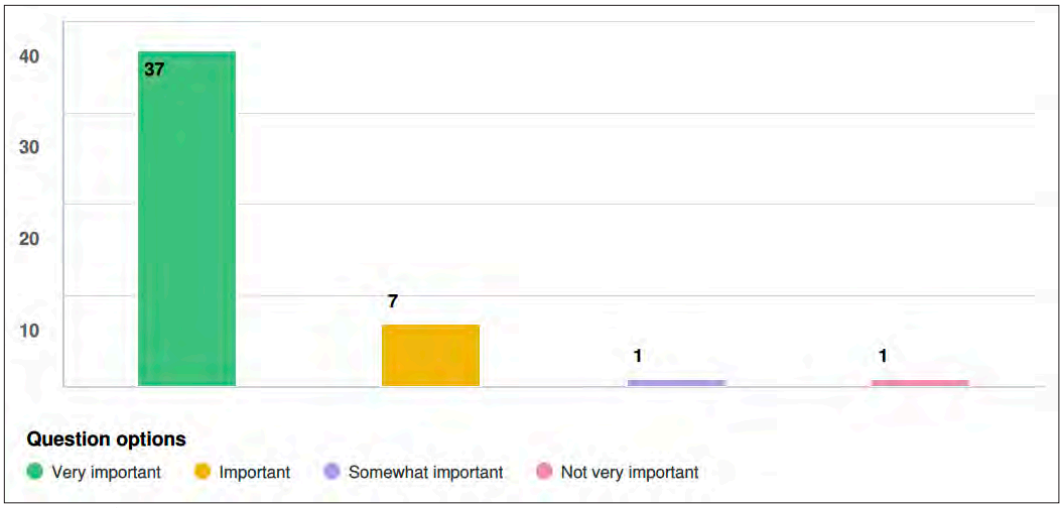
In your opinion, how important is it for the City of Revelstoke to identify and conserve historic places and heritage values as part of its overall planning activities?

Respondents feel that the conservation of Revelstoke's heritage places is very important. Those dissenting commented that there were more important things to be considered in the city.

One comment included:

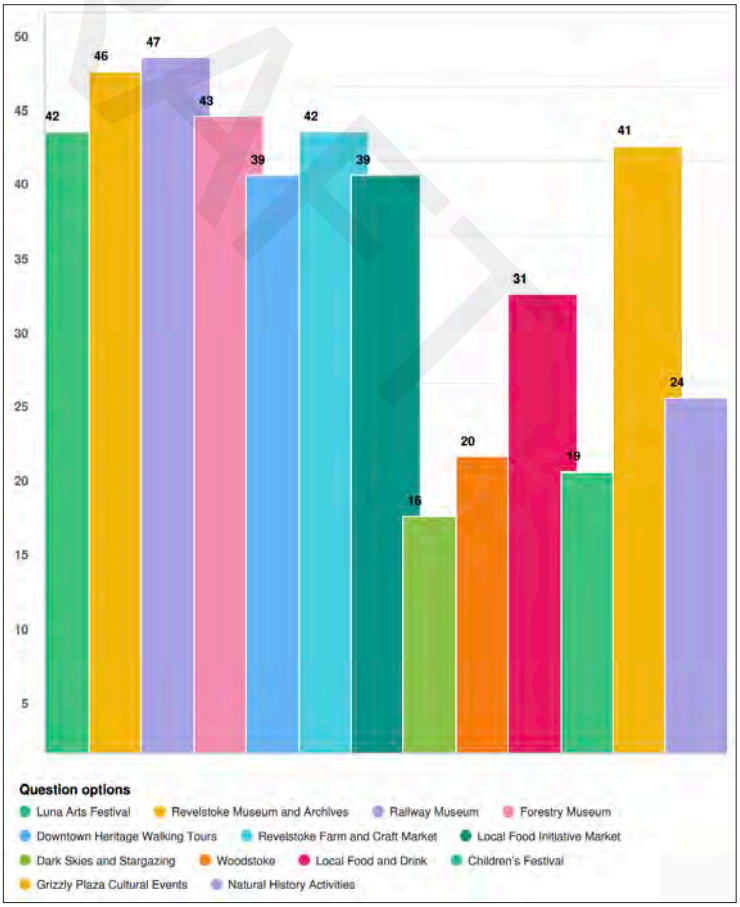
Heritage conservation must be part of community planning and development. How to raise public awareness is difficult, so many people are busy with just living, or getting by. Getting people to reflect on what drew them to this town. So many people will say 'the vibe,' the vibe is a combination of our heritage, history, environment, people who care and community values.

DRAFT



Are you aware of history or heritage events, programs or initiatives in Revelstoke?

Overall, residents were quite aware of events and initiatives taking place in the city, with the exception of several such as Dark Skies, Woodstoke and the Children's Festival. The Revelstoke Museum and Archives and the Railway Museum received the highest two numbers for awareness. Most respondents had attended some or all of the events and programs, many on a regular basis.



What are your ideas about other events, programs or initiatives that can help Revelstoke celebrate its history and heritage?

There was a very good response to this particular question. It is clear that residents of Revelstoke appreciate and value the many events and programs that the city offers. A summary of some of these ideas include:

- Grizzly plaza music evenings back as wonderful way to meet and greet the visitors to our community.
- Activities focused on preserving our local environment.
- The city should put plaques on heritage buildings and undertake should be a heritage walk.
- Create more events for locals and visitors and advertise using all available methods.
- Bring back the sign and facade design program the City used to implement; that would likely get development to consider not pushing out heritage.
- Get grants to hire a permanent heritage planner in City Hall. Bring back the revitalization committee to maintain and expand the revitalization infrastructure.
- Buy heritage homes and renovate them for staff housing: if they are in public hands at least it keeps them from being turned into gaudy ski mansions.
- Bring back the Heritage Renovation awards, and the Heritage Bronze Plaques.
- Rely less on volunteerism to achieve successful programs, events and initiatives.
- Bring back some of the events we have lost, such as parades and the snow festival and promote new ones such as a Roots & Blues festival
- Promote block parties, and natural science events where you could learn about the geology, indigenous plant life and other natural features in the city.

What values or qualities do you feel make Revelstoke the place it is today?

When asked what the community identified as being of value to the community's heritage and character, the sense of community, outdoor lifestyle, character, scenery and community spirit were mentioned as found in the following responses:

- Sense of community. Outdoor beauty. All the variety of arts and recreation we offer here.
- Community, safety, friendly, family.
- Everything is close by and its easy to run into neighbours known for many years.
- Character, scenery, kindness of people, promoting physical fitness.
- Size, clean air and water, mountains and most important the people who choose to live here.
- Revelstoke is a great place to raise a family. Access to outdoor sports and community activities is second to none.
- Community spirit, inclusive, supportive.
- Mountain Paradise, since the beginning people have travelled to recreate
- The once "hello stranger" attitude for the 90's, 00's. Its value of heritage homes and museum opportunities. The abundance of volunteerism the city has produced. Concern for neighbours and the neighbourhood. The trust folks had before the ski hill came in and how you could leave your doors open.
- Pride in community which shows in how we present ourselves, small town feeling but still very progressive. The core of what made us so attractive to the world is still

DRAFT

there, but it's getting more difficult to retain as we become commercialized. We must protect those values and qualities.
- Balance of heritage, respect for the people and economies that built our community and lifestyle choices.
- Museums, great schools, community centre and churches.
- The downtown has a great feel and everything you need is close together. The communities love of growing and storing food is infectious. Love of nature and art is shared by many people.

What rituals, artistic or cultural and multi-cultural practices, clubs, sports, recreation and community activities in Revelstoke are significant to you? Why are they important?

When asked this question, most responses related again to the community activities which are a very significant part of the community and a wide variety were mentioned. Responses included:

- Music in the plaza and Arts Revelstoke events.
- Clubs sports and recreation were mentioned, including hockey, skating, gymnastics, soccer, baseball, dance, Girl Guides, downhill skiing, Nordic skiing, curling, art classes, skateboarding, biking, hiking, theatre, and golf.
- Parades and music downtown.
- Public art, including the Art Alleries.
- Farmers Market, Grizzlies, Soupalicious, Holiday Train, Christmas Eve Church services.
- Ski club, Nordic club, badminton club, golf club, Williamson Lake Swimming, Rock climbing, camping, parks, the green belt
- Local junior b hockey team, skiing , biking , golf, hiking , outdoor activities.
- The Canada Day parade.
- Outdoor sport events at Revelstoke Mountain Resort.

What is significant to you about Revelstoke's buildings, structures and infrastructure, streets, parks, landmarks, or trails? What are some of the specific features that represent this significance? Why are they important?

The responses to this question varied, but most appreciated Revelstoke's parks and green space, and trails were mentioned often, as well as the city's built architecture and heritage. Comments included:

- It is very important to preserve our parks and green space, such as Queen Elizabeth Park.
- Appreciate that previous city councils chose to preserve the historic downtown architecture. Heritage buildings everywhere speak to our past.
- Trails are a bit of a miss mash. Connectivity is missing.
- These features together show what makes Revelstoke the place it is today, and shows the evolution of the city.
- They give our city uniqueness and character.
- Green spaces, big trees and historic buildings. The city needs to require green space be put aside in areas that are being developed. A lot of our green space is located on private land and quickly disappearing.
- Parks, trails and walking routes.

DRAFT

- New architecture in the downtown core needs to fit better into the historical context.
- Trails around the city and the newer use of the flats for skiing, walking and biking.
- Parks Canada has done a good job of keeping history alive with the Nels Nielsen ski jump, but more could be done.

How important are the following aspects of Revelstoke's history and heritage to you and the community? Please rank them from 1 (most important) to 12 (least important).

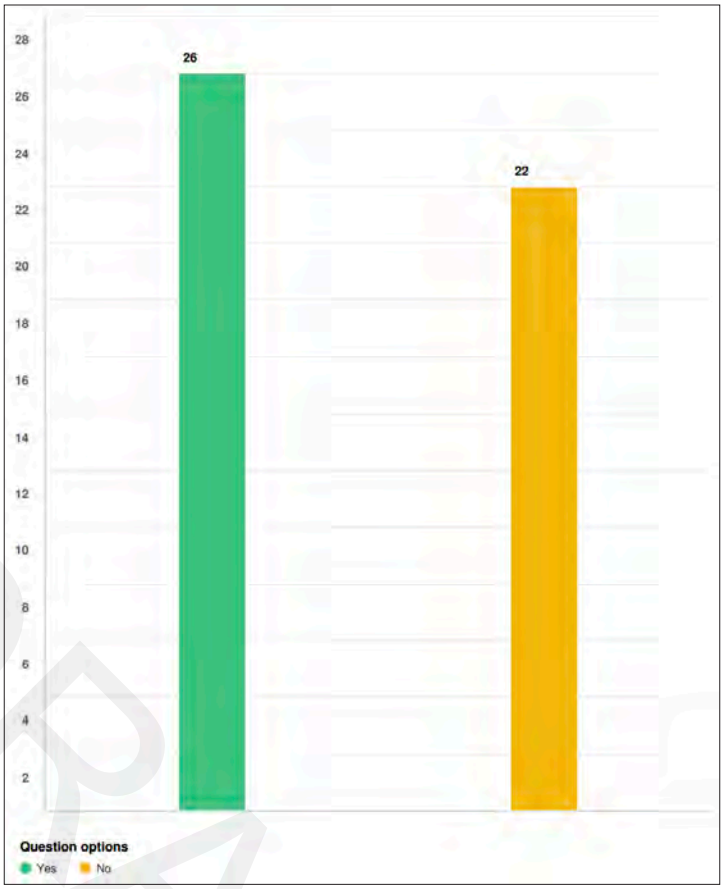
The community identified Revelstoke's landscapes and significant natural features as the top three aspects of its heritage and character that are the most significant, but each of the listed themes were ranked. This information is being used as a starting point in developing the thematic framework for the heritage program.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Landscapes, including natural and cultural landscapes	4.64
Plants, trees, wildlife and ecosystems	4.79
The area's climate, lakes and rivers	4.81
Community stories and legends	5.86
Sports, leisure, religion and education	5.98
Indigenous history and heritage	5.98
The heritage of ethnicity, immigrants, women and children	5.98
Transportation and communications	7.02
Agricultural heritage	7.32
Industrial heritage	7.52
Business, occupations, work and commerce	7.79
Local and regional government centre	9.00

DRAFT

Are you familiar with Revelstoke's heritage register?

The response to this question revealed that more respondents that not were familiar with the heritage register.



What would be the best way to learn more about the heritage register?

The responses to this question can assist in developing policies related to the heritage register and its use.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Newspaper articles that explain and celebrate the register and heritage in general	2.39
Revelstoke Museum and Archives	2.78
City web page specifically dedicated to heritage conservation information	3.00
Revelstoke Public Library	3.44
Canadian Register of Historic Places https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/pages/about-apropos.aspx	4.89
Heritage Advisory Commission	5.06
City Council meetings	6.18

DRAFT

How do you think the heritage register can be improved?

The responses to this question can assist in criteria for adding new resources to the heritage register.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Additions to the register that include natural history such as landscapes, trees and water features	2.33
Additions to the register that include eras of history or types of places that are not yet represented	2.43
The inclusion of a wider variety of heritage places and features	2.74
Additions to the register that include less recognized aspects of Revelstoke's heritage	3.14
Help inform the wider community about heritage through the promotion and presentation of the register	3.65

What are some of the significant places or features in the city that you feel should be kept for future generations? Why are they important?

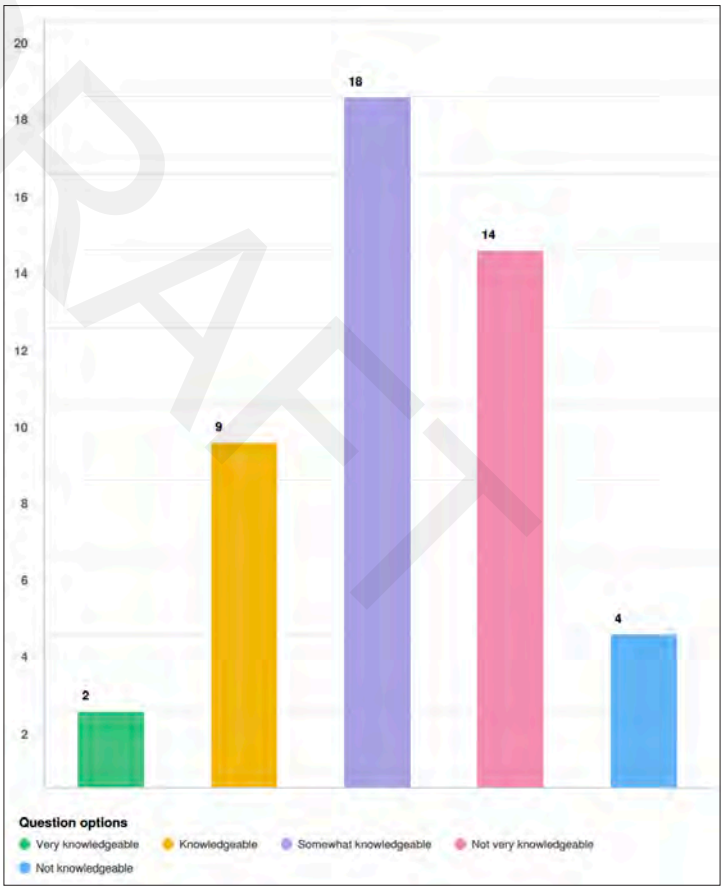
The following are some of the places that were identified that matter to the community:

- Mica Heli Ski on Mackenzie Avenue
- Court House
- Downtown core
- The addition of Revelstoke Mountain Resort
- The natural beauty of Revelstoke
- Grizzly Plaza
- The ski area and its history
- The Golf Course as an amazing heritage landscape
- Community sites/ buildings.
- Indigenous sites
- The Columbia River, Big Eddy as a vital part of Revelstoke.
- Any/all existing- buildings and municipal parks which have already been designated
- Plants, flowers, old buildings downtown, courthouse
- Gazebo and summer street fest
- Downtown vibrancy and shopping district;
- Recreation Centre
- City Hall
- Designated Heritage
- Arts and culture spaces
- Queen Elizabeth Park
- Farwell Park
- Holten House
- Houses and street trees along Mackenzie Avenue,
- Roxy Theatre
- Mountt Begbie
- Railway bridge
- Mackenzie Avenue and First Street

DRAFT

- Alpine Village Motel
- Tiny homes
- Parks Canada/post office building
- Car show. Have a parade with the participants of Freeride World Tour and make it a city activity, not just at Revelstoke Mountain Resort
- Protect and establish a trail system throughout the city
- Parks Canada presence and Mount Revelstoke National Park
- Bring back Snowfest. Winter activities, we are a winter town. Outhouse races
- Trails around Revelstoke are important for mental and physical health. Jordan trails, greenbelt and flats, Mt. Revelstoke and Mt. Cartier, biking trails
- Heritage plaque program, painting program
- Commemorative maple trees and oak trees on Oak Drive

How knowledgeable are you about the City's current heritage conservation work and the heritage planning tools (such as the heritage register, heritage agreements, zoning, design review, heritage conservation area etc.) that are available to the City?



What do you feel would be the best ways for the community to learn more about the heritage planning tools and processes available to the City?

The responses to this question indicate that the community is interested in learning more about the heritage program. Other comments included:

- More details online, including explanatory videos.
- City web page specifically dedicated to heritage conservation information.
- Leaflets, newspaper inserts, social media.
- Hold workshops with key stakeholders, including builders and developers.
- Educate citizens about what is being done so far. Be proactive and get the word out about heritage. Feature sites, homes, properties with historical value, and partner with stakeholders like the museums.
- Information in the newspaper, radio, online.
- Once a new heritage planning framework is developed it should be available through the City of Revelstoke or at the Revelstoke Museum as a trusted source of unbiased information.
- City website information is valuable if it can be easily accessed. An advertised direct link to the information would be useful, and it would also be beneficial to have a quarterly or bi-annual newsletter with an overall heritage update, including heritage initiatives.
- Get involved, allow more public information knowledge and history created in interpretive design, on sidewalks, passing homes with plaques, buildings - windows that display previous historical events.

As a local government, the City of Revelstoke can support heritage conservation by embedding heritage awareness throughout all of its departments. What do you feel are some of the ways the City can support heritage in Revelstoke?

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Continue to support the Revelstoke Museum in its role of promoting heritage conservation	4.97
Actively undertake heritage projects and planning initiatives	5.25
Provide guidance on appropriate development and design in the city's historic areas and neighbourhoods	5.48
Provide financial support for heritage projects and events	6.03
Adopt the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada	6.13
Adopt and implement this Heritage Management Plan	6.17
Provide incentives to assist with the protection and rehabilitation of heritage resources	7.34
Provide technical expertise and support for heritage projects and events	7.75
Develop a program of interpretation about the city's history and its heritage buildings, sites and landscapes	8.00
Adopt further protection initiatives and tools for heritage buildings, sites and landscapes	8.07
Provide grant funding to assist with heritage projects in the private and public realms	8.07
Assist property owners with technical information about the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of heritage places	8.42
Continue heritage plaque and heritage awards programs to recognize heritage efforts in the community	8.52
Continue to develop the Community Heritage Register as a tool for heritage planning and awareness	8.66

DRAFT

Thinking about the heritage character of the city, how do you feel the City can construct new buildings, increase density or make other changes while retaining heritage values, character and features?

Other comments included:

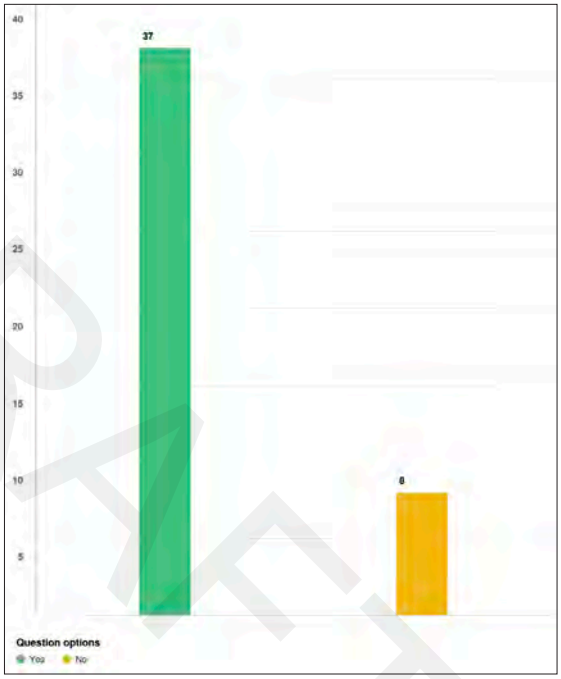
- Restart the sign and facade design program.
- Make processes clear, make them simple, inform your staff of changes and updates.

If you are a heritage property owner, what is the biggest challenge you face in looking after your property? What type of information or support from the City would be helpful in preserving or maintaining your heritage property?

- Funding the property maintenance while staying affordable.

- Getting affordable property insurance. When the heritage protection area was created houses were included if the owners did opt-out. Insurance companies do not want to insure heritage properties, therefore there are very few choices for insurance and they come at a premium cost.
- Material upgrades during renovation (ie. wall insulation, etc) Information and support with preserving / repairing heritage building materials (ie wall plaster, etc) and best practices for upgrading / preserving heritage materials (ie. wood flooring).

Do you feel that considering heritage in all aspects of community planning is important in Revelstoke? This could include public realm projects, engineering works, parks and recreation planning and others.



Do you have any other ideas or comments about heritage in Revelstoke that you would like to add?

Here are some of the comments submitted in response to this question.

- We are at a critical moment in which we can preserve, protect and enhance irreplaceable heritage resources which provide a key advantage to Revelstoke relative to many of our peer communities in BC and Alberta.
- I really hope this heritage management planning project will benchmark off of successful approaches already in place rather than feeling we need to reinvent the wheel.
- The importance of recognizing a place's heritage, without it we have no history and no guidance.
- There are far more important things to worry about than just looks of buildings.
- Write bylaws for heritage friendly development, and follow them. Ensure policies and practices don't come and go with changes in planning staff.
- Ensure good maintenance of the heritage we already have.

Heritage Property Owner Questionnaire Results

1. For how many years have you owned a heritage property?

24 years
We have lived in our house for 24 years
27 years owning a heritage property, in Revelstoke over 40 years.
Lived in Nims Manor built in 1975, for 13 years.
1 year in Nims Manor.
Owned a heritage property in Revelstoke for 14 years.
Owned a heritage property for 11 years, since 2011.
Owned our property for 61 years.
Owned since 1980.
33 years in the same house.
35 years.
4 years.
5 years.
27 years.
23 years.
30 years.
33 years.
37 years.
42 years.
40+ years.
21 years.
Owned since 1990. x 2

The School District applied for heritage designation for the former Mountain View School prior to the sale of the building in 2016. The District owns the vacant land and has since the early 1900s.

What brought you to the city?

Job relocation x 3
Work for Parks Canada
Work brought us to Revelstoke x 8
Work for the BCFS brought me to the city, plus family ties.
Job with BC government
Born and raised here. x 4
Affordable, community-minded, beauty of area, access to sports, small town.

2. What is your age range?

25-34
35-44 x 2
45-54
55-64 x 3
65-74 x 13
75+ x 3

DRAFT

3. What is the biggest challenge you face in looking after your property? What type of information or support from the City would be helpful in preserving or maintaining your heritage property?

No real challenges as yet.

Getting permits to paint the building or make any changes.

Please don't make renovating a heritage house difficult, expensive and laborious process.

Grants could be helpful for insulation, upgrading windows etc.

Heritage drawings with appropriate paint colours.

Our house has not been designated a heritage house - 106 Sixth Street W. Probably our age.

We are in the heritage area but opted out. The City should continue to honour our choice of opting out.

Manor maintained by strata council and well looked after. There is a contingency fund for immediate repairs and future maintenance.

The Heritage Alteration Permit process, which is cumbersome and its requirements somewhat arbitrary.

City support for updated Heritage Alteration Permit process, with updated guidelines that better relate to the 21st century and its contemporary issues, such as housing shortages, housing costs, density and infill needs, etc.

Biggest challenge is financial, and skill/ability to do or get the work done. Support from the city would be to have financial incentives and/or grants to defray the costs of maintenance. Information on what the history of the specific property and buildings is would be greatly appreciated e.g. photos, list of previous owners, renovation records etc. As well, info on the historical context within which the property and surrounding buildings were built, maintained, renovated would be great.

On heritage committee for a number of years, at that time the HAC had to approve plans for new builds. Do not approve of skinny homes in this area.

Skinny homes should not be allowed in the heritage area, they take away from the heritage character.

Tax breaks for people in the heritage area.

Taxes.

Sidewalks and streets in need of repair.

Not having new structures added to older houses making them look like two houses. Height issues. New sidewalks/proper sidewalks for public and seniors. What is the vision? Parking is an issue. What about house colours?

When making improvements/renovations it has been difficult and frustrating not being given clear guidelines on what's allowed or not. Please can the newer process provide homeowners with a list of approved colours, material and designs, with plenty of examples?

DRAFT

Cost is the biggest challenge.

Parking and snow clearing when not permitted to put a driveway in the front of our property. No bylaw to control parking, consider resident-only parking in the downtown.

Our two-storey with gable home is more difficult to maintain. We would like to restore some of the heritage features lost to renovation. Helpful to have access to grants or some sort of funding to aid this.

High taxes. Difficulty finding skilled trades. Lack of enforcement of existing bylaws. Lack of expertise at city hall regarding heritage issues. Lack of centralized information/resources regarding heritage issues.

Dispiriting to see older homes being butchered 'renovated'. No incentives for homeowners to tackle renovation to remove layers that hide the heritage look of their homes. Heritage values are slowly being eroded. People enjoy the authenticity of our neighbourhood, no corrugated steel on walls, natural materials, plenty of trees, walkable.

It sure looks like Revelstoke is now promoting 'fake heritage' for the sake of marketing/tourism while doing next to nothing to help heritage home owners.

The heritage commission is rarely consulted/listened to.

We have no challenges in looking after our property, however there are challenges with neighbouring properties such as: parking in front of our property rather than their driveway, fences and buildings being constructed that don't fit the character, overgrown trees, vehicles parked in back alleys overnight, garden planters built in alleyways and beyond the property line (eg. 100-block 5th and 6th St. E).

What is lacking in the HCA is little upgrading has been done to repair streets, sidewalks and curbs as well as replacing age-old ratty trees. What is the point of looking at new planning initiatives and programs when the area is unkempt, shabby and run down. A sense of pride has left our downtown core. It used to be absolutely lovely and maybe it can be again.

No real challenges but want to upgrade original water lines which is very expensive, a heritage upgrade grant would help. We would not compromise the landscaping on either of our two properties.

Helpful info from the city on heritage and sustainability to preserve the property.

A challenge is the loss of confidence in the way heritage is promoted and managed in Revelstoke:

- Lack of political will and commitment to accurate preservation of the area and individual buildings
- Priority seems to be a 'cute' neighbourhood to market and promote to tourists, not a supportive environment for residents/homeowners
- Burden of maintaining historic materials due to cost and supply of tradespeople, lack of knowledge by City staff and contractors
- Heritage Commission, museum, City out of touch with property owners

Need support for residents' association to advocate for and educate about the HCA, financial incentives for maintaining historic material, tax relief for increases due to

DRAFT

escalating assessed value.

Time, physical challenges, easily available technical information.

Tax incentives to support good, authentic heritage preservation methods and goals, not for renovation.

Getting approval from the City for allowances to upgrade aging structures that would help with increasing housing density in the downtown. Having garages or carports to take parked cars off the streets.

Maintaining heritage character where it makes sense, in the bigger houses with good structural integrity and can be easily preserved.

Allowing the use of natural materials rather than all the plastic/vinyl/composites that are currently siding some beautiful houses.

If the property owner is unable to pay for heritage maintenance, allowance to replace the failing structure with new to help increase downtown core density/housing so a car is not required.

Allowance for having a modern but elegant solution to replacing the structure removed, creating an interesting mix of architecture.

Heritage home owners unable to meet the extensive costs to renovate and letting the property fall into disrepair. This is a worse look for the city that having a mix of well-kept heritage houses and contemporary higher density housing.

Taxes. Revelstoke will become another unaffordable town, depleting resources for tourism which also includes human resources. Service workers from grocery store clerks to trained professionals will not be able to live here. Houses occupied only occasionally by people from out of town and the town is vacant of folks.

Golf course currently being built will quickly destroy the town.

Allow/encourage colours other than butter yellow to be painted on houses.

4. Do you have any other ideas or comments about heritage in Revelstoke that you would like to add?

Heritage is important and we take pride in the 'oldness' of Revelstoke. There is a derelict home on Mackenzie Avenue close by that needs attention, it would be good to see some action taken.

If the City creates or enforces requirements that create a higher cost then you should provide an incentive to home owners, such as a reduced tax rate.

The City needs to clearly communicate the benefits and obligations/restrictions to existing home owners in the heritage area and to new home owners/purchasers.

Does the City realize there is an increased insurance cost of you have a heritage home?

It is important to maintain the downtown business core look and feel. If changes are required they should blend with the existing, for example four-story buildings would alter the historical feeling.

Continue to maintain the properties in the city by helping with funding for owners who

DRAFT

require it and partner with those who keep the heritage look as encouragement.

Involve owners in heritage management planning.

Involve Museum & Archives as history of city very important as is maintaining heritage value.

Preserve heritage character.

Zone/encourage heritage properties to be lived in, not empty properties eg. Bow Valley AB.

It would be so great to have more local historical knowledge available to homeowners i.e. who lived in the house before, how they were connected to the town, what is the history of the street/area/neighborhood. Also information on building materials that were used historically, what the modern replacements/equivalents are.

The City is not following the rules for the HCA area. 300 East 4th Ave. and 416 East 4th Ave. are examples. They are supposed to be in keeping with the heritage in the neighbourhood. 222 East 4th Ave. is a great example.

I understand change is inevitable but we are losing parts of our small town feel. Don't make it just about the ski hill and younger people. What about your seniors and making it better for them. Do your homework. Talk to people before you move forward.

In this climate garages make sense. I would be great if it was an easy process. Thank you for keeping the heritage character and I appreciate you are working to streamline the process for homeowners.

Cost is the biggest challenge. City needs to apply code and requirements consistently particularly with windows. Stop raising property taxes.

Don't weaken heritage requirements in the city core in favour of 'mountain home' styles. The outside facades of heritage buildings should be enforced consistently.

Parking being taken up by B+Bs, rental suites etc. Enforce off-street parking for rentals. Make it easy to add off-street access to the front of the property.

Issues with snow dumping.

When issuing building permits, the new structure should look like it fits into the neighbourhood. No rancher style homes, no vacation rentals. B&Bs okay if the owner lines in the home to supervise behaviour and parking.

'Mountain homes' in the heritage area have changed the feel and ambiance of the neighbourhood. Modernizing existing homes have changed the look and personality.

Keep the personality and evolution of our community, heritage homes, wartime homes, 1960s homes.

Heritage conservation issues are often ignored when projects are considered. One example: the City installed ugly, too bright, industrial-looking lights in the heart of the area (4th St. E) instead of considering options better suited to the neighbourhood.

The issue of illegal vacation rentals has a huge impact on the character of the area.

Parking (or lack of) will ultimately limit the densification of the area. Many residents have to park on the streets. Winter snow removal and parking is a problem.

DRAFT

Snow load and snow sliding into neighbours' property needs to be considered when allowing secondary buildings.

Nobody really seems to care much about the heritage area. It is needed. If it wasn't for it, a lot of the housing stock in the area would have been torn down. But homeowners who have spent much time and $$ looking after their homes are disappointed that not much is done for them.

I don't think Revelstoke is committed to authentic heritage conservation but rather heritage is a means to an economic development goal.

The City needs to perform more enforcement when dealing with bylaws. There should be no short term rentals or Air BnBs in the HCA.

Lack of political will for serious protection of heritage properties.

Lack of quality knowledge re heritage preservation and goals.

Secondary buildings should match form and character of primary residence.

We think the area should also be larger and take in more of the streets in the downtown core eg. Mackenzie Ave. to Vernon Ave. and from First St. to Tenth St.

Our biggest challenge for our property at 428 Third St. East is that we have a 25/100 ft lot with no off street parking. There are at least 3 houses in close proximity that have multiple tenants all with vehicles - none with off street parking.

Over the past 30 years we have developed our back yard into a 'jewel box' garden that is beautiful and an extension of our living space. If we wanted to put in a carport or small garage under current regulations, it would destroy our entire back yard as well as our privacy. Inquired about putting in a small garage right on the property line in keeping with all the other small heritage garages in the neighbourhood, and were flatly refused.

Implement a 'permit parking only' system for small lot heritage homes in the downtown core that do not have access or the space for off street parking.

Send staff from public works, planning, manager and/or other related departments on the ground, to talk to departments European towns, on heritage and sustainability.

DRAFT

APPENDICES

Transcript from workshop boards

1. Revelstoke's heritage values

Love all the ski history from early jumping days, the to Tournament of Champions and the ski culture of Revelstoke.

Learning more about First Nations and their use and movement through this land.

All multi-cultural, artistic, recreational activities are important and add to the mix.

Knowing stories from the past is important, it adds depth to our lives and honours those that came before us and helped create the town and environs we live in.

Revelstoke obviously cares about its heritage and has so much to share on many levels.

Maintaining the heritage architectural style in the downtown, this must continue to be protected.

Natural beauty and diversity: Columbia River, old growth forest, Selkirks and Monashees, environmental protection and ecological sustainability.

Spirit of independence and finding local solutions.

Heritage is important to Revelstoke so we have a clear view of where we are and what we want to plan and how we act in future.

Remoteness, closeness of community, passion for outdoor lifestyle, escape from city life.

Challenging work: Canadian Pacific, Parks Canada, Hydro and the creation of Revelstoke, the changes to the resort.

Arts Revelstoke, hiking, being amongst new families and children.

Keeping the original look of Revelstoke. All buildings are unique and don't look like any other town.

Mountain culture, remoteness.

We can learn lessons from the past, the built and cultural heritage helps to connect us.

To honour those that helped build the place I feel like I belong.

Community volunteerism.

Spending time outside to connect with nature.

Heritage tells a story and makes the place richer.

Including Indigenous history when talking about heritage.

Small town feel. Living in a mountain town.

2. Significant themes in Revelstoke's heritage

All of these themes are important.

Architecture.

Cave at the base of Mount Revelstoke. Mt. Begbie ice man.

Diverse stories. Integration of old residents' stories that reach a new resident audience.

Environmental protection. We live in the only inland temperate rain forest in the world.

DRAFT

3. Heritage management in Revelstoke

Provide tax incentives for heritage buildings.

4. Heritage awareness in Revelstoke

Resources for heritage property owners.

Continue with Brown Bag lunches. Heritage education in schools. On City website - update what is happening on a six month basis. Sustain and support the Heritage Commission.

Involve all museums, seniors and patrons when developing education programs.

Use all media - facebook, newspapers, radio for awareness.

Community planning and development needs to be done to protect heritage first - open spaces, forests, trails and viewpoints - before building and developing.

It would be helpful to know about the community planning process and the considerations that go into it. I'm sure heritage conservation is there but the priorities need to be adjusted.

Position heritage conservation as 'and' rather than 'or.' Everything we do can engage heritage conservation.

Build awareness and appreciation that people came to Revelstoke because of our civic character. Our authenticity is our competitive advantage over many other resort communities.

Heritage is important in all aspects, protecting architectural and historical buildings, parkland, open space, trails, viewscapes.

Protect areas near the Columbia River, and the wetlands.

Include more First Nations history, including interpretive signs relevant to Indigenous history, maybe special trails and viewpoints in the region that First Nations used.

Protect heritage properties.

Heritage conservation must be part of community planning and development. How to raise public awareness is difficult, so many people are busy with just living, or getting by. Getting people to reflect on what drew them to this town. So many people will say 'the vibe,' well the vibe is a combination of our heritage, history, environment, people who care and community values.

5. Revelstoke's neighbourhoods

Lived in Revelstoke for 20 years. Family, nature and history brought me here. Columbia Park. What gives it character are the golf course and the river.

Lived in Revelstoke for 50 years. Raised in Revelstoke. Downtown. What gives it character are the heritage buildings, quaint nature, walkability. I value outdoor recreation and the National Park.

Lived in Revelstoke for 50 years. Born and raised here. People come to Revelstoke for the natural beauty and recreation. Downtown. What's important is the walkability and lots of character.

Lived in Revelstoke for 70+ years. Post office area. What gives it character is the home town feel.

The courthouse area, one of the highest points in the city.

6. Revelstoke's places that matter

Mackenzie Avenue and First Street.

Full protection of heritage and the heritage register.

DRAFT

Alpine Village Motel.

Tiny homes.

Parks Canada/post office building.

Car show. Have a parade with the participants of Freeride World Tour and make it a city activity, not just at Revelstoke Mountain Resort.

Protect and establish a trail system throughout the city.

Parks Canada presence and Mount Revelstoke National Park.

Bring back Snowfest. Winter activities, we are a winter town. Outhouse races.

Trails around Revelstoke are important for mental and physical health. Jordan trails, greenbelt and flats, Mt. Revelstoke and Mt. Cartier, biking trails.

Heritage plaque program, painting program.

Commemorative maple trees and oak trees on Oak Drive.

Horse racing history.

Natural features and geography.

Remains of original highway.

Mt. Begbie and Mt. Revelstoke.

Brick and other unique building materials.

DRAFT

Responses to question regarding heritage themes

- Skiers.
- International awareness of the community, flooding of the valleys - the loss of land and lifestyle for the benefit of the rest of the province.
- First Nations who have only recently be acknowledged. Building of the railroad and then the mega project of the dams and tunnel
- Skills and determination of the developers, and also the downside impacts on workers and locals.
- Times when the community comes together. They are important because of the feeling of unity.
- Our logging history. Our railroad history. These industries have employed many Revelstokians with many high paying jobs.
- The indigenous history. The activities associated with the river as transportation corridor (sternwheeler), the railway, the development of the parks, mountain guiding, skiing and ski jumping, construction of the highway, the different cultures of the people who came to settle here, and the culture of community as it has been co-created and developed over time. We are a mountain town that draws people because of the connection to the land.
- I love all the ski history - from early days and Nels Nelson, Isabel Coursier through all the jumping tournaments. I love that we celebrate that time period. I also think the First Nations is really significant and I think we could do more. There are monuments on top of Mt. Revelstoke but maybe something along the river (Columbia)... interpretive walks or maybe a festival to honour them... or maybe something to do with the fish in the Columbia and their relationship to First Nations.
- All are significant. All of them add up to who we are today.
- Indigenous era - especially Sinixt habitation. This is something we need to recognize more.
- Because of when I moved here, the revitalization project is important to me and marked a time for people to really take pride in this place. The slow and methodical development of the economy during the 90's and into 2000. The ski hill has had a significant impact on the culture of the community--some good, some not so good, but it threatens to spin out of control. We want to be a real community, not get sucked into glamour.
- The remaining Caribou herds, the history of avalanche control in this area, the early days of the Mountain guides. The importance of the last remaining rain forest.
- Skiing history has been made here and continues to be a focus.
- I remember the snow fest parades with the floats of the ski jumpers from different countries. We need to embrace the ski and snowboard community more and highlight the huge events that happen. For example, the Freeride world tour was held here for many years at RMR and the townspeople don't know about it. The split board festival in the Rogers pass brings in people from all over, and again we hear nothing about them.

DRAFT

- More recent rapid growth phase…important not to lose sight of our past.
- Geomorphology of the Columbia River and Interior wet-belt and the relationship to human use and settlement. Crossroads of multiple First Nations. Continuity of railway-based settlement. Influence of Italian immigration on community relationships, structure and decision making processes (Did the Revelstoke Mafia exist?) How geographic isolation, both distance and terrain, has influenced the community.
- Flooded archaeological sites - significant pre-contact heritage was destroyed or rendered inaccessible with the flooding of the Columbia River. Pattern of settlement - the historic subdivision pattern, with grid layout streets and 25'x100' lots, laid within the curve of the railway line, and offset 45 degrees to north.
- Railway and forestry history is very important as the town was built around the construction and services that they brought. The impact of the Columbia River Treaty had a significant impact on CSRD residents and the effects of it's renegotiation is just as important today.
- Logging, mining, railroad representing the early settlers to present day.
- Service clubs that have become a thing of the past.
- Ecosystems before damming of the Columbia River. History of the destruction of habitat and means to rehabilitate.
- There have been many ebbs and flows economically over the years. The biggest impact to who we are was when the major downtown revitalization was done. It gave us newfound pride in our City. We were lucky to have several very forward thinking leaders in the community who pushed hard for the improvement. It was a game changer for Revelstoke.
- Respect for the contributions of generations of families - legacy families - who have lived in Revelstoke all of their lives and formed the basis of who we are.
- Keeping all the history. Museums, city, railway, forestry, fire department etc.
- Keep the valley clean and maintain the mountains and trees as they now are. No more cutting.
- My era is the 50's. Happy families after the fathers came home from WWII. Lots of children in all neighbourhoods, aka, baby-boomers. Not so much worry about crime. Good jobs. Also the early 1900's when the first people came to Revelstoke to work the rails or the logging industry. The actual building up of the town and those people recreation, winter and summer. How we got the buildings we once had, the old civic center for example and who used it. The old hospital, the bygone schools, bygone ski hills, bygone railway stations. We have lost so much, yet we grow.
- Railway, although CP makes the town look and feel like garbage currently. Ski jumping, not so popular today, but would be cool to do a real event every winter. Forestry, truly amazing what the old timers were capable of, the most dangerous work on the planet without machines. Revelstoke Mountain Resort, don't forget, although only 13 years operating it has changed Revelstoke forever.
- Everything before the 70's. Mostly everything architecturally before Modernism took hold of the world; turn of the century homes. The logging and mining history of the region.

DRAFT

- Revelstoke's old growth trees were here before the town and are significant to me. Then the growth of the town and the railroad had a huge impact on shaping this place. The dam has had a huge impact and dramatically changed the regional landscape. The recent development of the ski hill had caused big changes in the town.
- Blue collar jobs - logging, railroad. Skiing/hiking outdoor adventure.
- History of ski culture and also present day.
- Downtown Revelstoke - MacKenzie Avenue. The beautiful wide tree lined streets surrounded by spectacular mountain views. Old heritage homes, beautifully maintained and preserved by the current owners.
- The Railway - super important as it was the genesis of our town. Local food initiative/farmers market - it is the future of our town.
- The church. Churches are closing all around Revelstoke (Lutheran, Anglican) - and other churches are struggling. They are the spiritual backbone of our community.
- The community spirit of the 70s to 2000 were great, however the age of entitlement and focus on profit and wealth today adds nothing to the community and will not add to our heritage.
- Indigenous history. The city has not yet done enough to engage the four nations in a productive, sensitive and meaningful way.
- The railroad builders.
- Railway. Revelstoke was originally a railway town, and somewhere along the way we got embarrassed about that. It's the only real authentic heritage we have, and authenticity is everything. We should embrace our railway past.
- Railroad, logging , trans-Canada railway being built through the difficult terrain.
- Why did the railway choose to build Revelstoke and form its identity there. History of the skiing before RMR opened in 2007.
- The railway put Revelstoke on the map. Nature and the outdoors keep it there. Parks Canada is doing some good work with heritage and some not so good. Downtown revitalization was huge. Before that Revelstoke was somewhat sketchy. I like City Hall. Thank goodness for Cathy English.
- The naming of the town and how it became known as Revelstoke. How it went from being a planned major hub to a backwater then how Revelstoke Mountain Resort breathed life into a town in decline.
- The Ukrainian community.
- The building of the railway which connected us across Canada. Skiing (downhill and Nordic) - makes good use of our massive snowfalls.
- The history of the railway, the history of forestry, we could use some more history regarding mining, and the Indigenous population that were here.
- Logging railroading and the building of the dams. The jobs and resources these things provided are the entire reason this town exists even 20 years ago. Wasn't just about skiing hiking and biking. I feel like lack of understanding this cause much grief between locals and new residents.

DRAFT

(Author photo)