

## 4.0 MUNICIPAL HERITAGE POLICY AND STRATEGIES FOR CONSERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

### 4.1 Introduction

Official Plans serve as the primary tool for municipalities to conserve cultural heritage resources and integrate them into the land use planning process. For many years, municipalities across the province have incorporated cultural heritage resource policies into their Official Plans. While these policy frameworks vary in each locality, the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement has fully established that official plans provide the means for achieving heritage conservation goals and objectives and for developing implementation frameworks.

As part of the cultural heritage landscape policy development process, cultural heritage resource policies in Official Plans in other municipalities in the Province of Ontario were assessed. This assessment was designed to focus on Official Plans that have been recently updated to reflect 2005 changes to the Provincial Policy Statement and to identify comprehensive and innovative cultural heritage landscape policies. The Town of Caledon, the City of Brampton and the City of Hamilton were selected for assessment. These jurisdictions were selected because they have each recently undertaken Official Plan reviews and therefore are likely to contain comprehensive cultural heritage resource policies. These jurisdictions were also chosen based on their size, development characteristics, and historical background.

### 4.2 City of Brampton

The City of Brampton released a new Official Plan in 2006 entitled *Our Brampton Our Future*. Its approach to cultural heritage resource policy development included creating policy statements relevant for specific resources, including built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological resources. Its cultural heritage landscape policies recommend that cultural heritage landscapes be identified and included within the city's existing Cultural Heritage Register. Further, its policies also promote the designation of significant cultural heritage landscapes under Part IV or Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and provide a basis for conserving cultural heritage landscapes outside of the Ontario Heritage Act designation framework. The City of Brampton's Official Plan acknowledges that cultural heritage landscapes may be formally identified as 'Areas of Cultural Heritage Character'. The City's Official Plan establishes that secondary plans, block plans, and zoning by-laws serve as the primary planning tools for identifying such areas. This policy section further recommends that 'Areas of Cultural Heritage Character' be supported by land use and development design guidelines and their conservation integrated into the planning approval process through the requirement of Cultural Heritage Character Area Impact Assessments.

### 4.3 Town of Caledon

The Town of Caledon's Official Plan was consolidated December 31<sup>st</sup> 2004. It employs a holistic approach to cultural heritage resource planning and policy development by recognizing that the town's cultural heritage record is linked with its natural heritage and consists of built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological resources. General policy statements are provided at the outset which establish several processes and planning tools for integrating all types of cultural heritage resources into the planning approval process. These recommended tools provide a comprehensive and interconnected cultural heritage planning framework that encourages a long-term and measured



conservation approach. Primary heritage planning tools identified in the Town of Caledon's Official plan include development and implementation of a Cultural Heritage Master Plan, Cultural Heritage Planning Statements, Cultural Heritage Surveys and Cultural Heritage Impact Statements. These tools and studies establish a layered policy framework for enabling long-term identification, evaluation, and conservation of cultural heritage landscapes, while also providing more reactive mechanisms for ensuring that conservation of such resources are continually considered during the planning approval process. Additionally, the Town of Caledon's Official Plan recommends development of a cultural heritage landscape inventory and recommends that identification and conservation of cultural heritage landscapes be undertaken as part of development and/or redevelopment proposals. Finally, the Town of Caledon's Official Plan addresses conservation of cultural heritage landscapes within new development by enabling identification of 'Areas with Cultural Heritage Character and providing specific design guidelines for redevelopment proposals in these areas.

#### 4.4 City of Hamilton

The City of Hamilton initiated an Official Plan Review in 2009 and which was adopted by City Council in June 2009. Like the Town of Caledon's Official Plan, the City of Hamilton employs a holistic policy framework for guiding consistent conservation of its cultural heritage resources, which include built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological resources. For example, the Official Plan presents a comprehensive framework for assessing and identifying cultural heritage resources within the city. This framework may be used to evaluate individual built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, *or* archaeological resources. It also enables effective assessment and evaluation of sites and properties that are culturally significant due to the combined presence of extant archaeological resources, cultural heritage landscape features, *and* built heritage elements. The City of Hamilton's Official Plan also presents a number of policies and planning tools for conserving and integrating specific cultural heritage landscapes within the development approval process, as well as those cultural heritage landscapes that have not yet been identified or surveyed. Conservation of specific cultural heritage landscapes is addressed within the City's Official Plan policy framework through the development of design guidelines for mapped 'established historical neighbourhoods' and 'downtown areas that are historical centres of the community'. Establishment of 'Cultural Heritage Conservation Plan Statements' enables conservation and integration of areas of cultural heritage value that are identified in the future through survey, planning studies, secondary plans, and/or environmental assessment studies, while establishment of an inventory of cultural heritage landscape enables continued identification of these resources and integration of them into the planning approval process.

