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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HELPS COMMUNITIES PROTECT LOCAL HERITAGE

New “How-To” Guide on protecting Ontario’s heritage

KINGSTON — The Ontario government is helping communities across the province preserve and protect their local heritage with the publication of *Strengthening Ontario’s Heritage: An introductory guide to identifying, protecting and promoting your community’s heritage*, Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur announced today.

“In consultations leading up to the new, stronger Ontario Heritage Act, heritage stakeholders and communities across Ontario told us they needed resource materials,” said Meilleur.

“*Strengthening Ontario’s Heritage* is the first of several products developed to respond to that need.”

The 38-page publication is the first in a series of publications developed to promote understanding of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Planning Act and other tools designed to support heritage conservation at the municipal level in Ontario. *Strengthening Ontario’s Heritage* was developed in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust. The trust advises the minister and works with communities on the preservation and protection of Ontario’s heritage.

Strengthening Ontario’s Heritage will be distributed to provincial heritage stakeholders including municipalities, municipal heritage committees, provincial heritage organizations and community museums. The general public will be able to access the guide online on the ministry’s website.

“The new Ontario Heritage Act was developed with input from stakeholders at every stage,” Meilleur said. “It came into effect in April of this year and will greatly change the way Ontarians view and protect their heritage. This guide provides effective support to all Ontario municipalities and communities working on heritage preservation initiatives or considering new ones.”

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