

## MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE DEPUTATION

### 2014 HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD – ST. PAULS ANGLICAN CHURCH - SOUTHAMPTON

Joyce Johnston, Past Chair

Mayor Smith, Members of Council, Staff, Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am pleased to be here this evening representing the Saugeen Shores Municipal Heritage Committee to present **The Municipal Heritage Conservation Award**. This award is presented in recognition of heritage minded individuals within Saugeen Shores. We seek nominations from the public by requesting their nomination of individuals that are involved in conserving our heritage either by protecting our original buildings, surroundings or through educating others. The Committee received nominations in late spring and used the following criteria in making our recommendation. We consider individuals who:

1. Voluntarily promote the importance of preserving significant heritage structures;
2. Those who show leadership in restoration and preservation of heritage buildings, sites, etc.;
3. Acknowledge individuals for long standing service in an organization dedicated to maintaining heritage locations;
4. Or show appreciation for personal collections of local artifacts, heritage photographs or memorabilia – which they share with the community to promote appreciation of heritage.

The Municipal Heritage Committee is extremely dedicated to preserving heritage elements throughout our municipality. There are many houses and barns and other structures that tell wonderful stories that take us back to the early days of Southampton, Port Elgin and Saugeen Township. People lived in these homes and worked and gathered in these places. Maintaining these physical reminders of our history is an absolutely necessary contribution for us to give to future generations. Each year the Town presents an award that lets us promote and celebrate the valuable role that individuals and organizations play in ensuring that structures and stories from the past continue to be present in our community.

The award this year is being presented to St. Paul's Anglican Church in Southampton.

A frame church building was first built in 1856 to the north of the current church where the Lawn Bowling Club is now located. The founding of the Parish formally happened a few years later following a meeting at the School House. The secretary recorded 34 families on the Parish List and notes that there were 88 adults and 66 children. She further set out that 23 of the adults were bachelors. Interesting to note also that in their early years the annual cost to sit in a pew up front was \$8 while a regular seat in the back ones was free.

The wooden Church was replaced with the brick building after the Great Fire of 1886 which destroyed most of what we now know as Downtown Southampton. Everything in the Church was lost except the white marble Font that had been installed in 1881 and a three piece silver Communion set. These items are still present in the Church today. Special fundraising efforts and insurance proceeds were used to quickly rebuild and on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1891 the new Church was consecrated and open at its current location. The bell tower was added at a later date. It was in 1910 that a Parish Hall was started although it wasn't finished until 1923. Both floors of the parish hall were used and historical notes comment upon the frequency with which stairways were repaired and new ones built.

St. Paul's Anglican Church has 160 years of history to tell. Tonight we are recognizing the renovations completed recently which have added space and amenities to the church so that their story will continue for at least another 160 years. A church is not simply a brick building with a bell tower, an organ and pews. A church is a place where people gather for fellowship and to worship and for many other reasons too.

St. Paul's embarked on a renovation and addition to improve accessibility to all areas of the Church and enhance the space available. They have created an addition that blends incredibly well with the historic Church building and their neighbourhood. The project matched bricks, matched windows and matched the roofline. We suspect most people don't even realize its new construction as they pass. This project is a remarkable example of how it's possible to update a heritage structure and retain all the wonderful architectural features while ensuring the structure will function well for another 160 years.

Congratulations to St. Paul's Anglican Church for a job well done.

Would you please come forward and receive the 2014 Municipal Heritage Conservation Award.

