

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE DEPUTATION

2018 HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD – DUNCAN MCCALLUM

Diane Huber, Past Chair

Mayor Charbonneau, Members of Council, Staff, Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am pleased to be here this evening representing the past Saugeen Shores Municipal Heritage Committee to present **The Municipal Heritage Conservation Award**.

For many years, the Municipal Heritage Committee has recognized, during an annual presentation of the Heritage Conservation Award, the incredible variety of contributions people make to preserving, promoting and celebrating cultural heritage in our communities. We are here this evening to recognize a very deserving resident whose involvement has touched many, many aspects defining our cultural heritage.

What is Cultural Heritage? It's an amazing combination of the past, the present and what we've done, and what we're doing that will impact our future. The previous Municipal Heritage Committee is very supportive of the creation of a Cultural Heritage Master Plan for our community. Our Award recipient this evening was part of a delegation of members of the Southampton Town Hall Ad Hoc Committee in 2018 that encouraged the preparation of such a plan. We view this as a valuable step toward the realization of an awesome legacy installation ensuring the viability of the Southampton Town Hall and the creation of library and community spaces that will serve us well for the next 75 to 100 years.

Which brings me to our 2018 Heritage Award and a part of the story that is the life of Duncan McCallum. His community involvement since he and his wife, Mary, retired to Southampton has been absolutely incredible. He definitely is a fantastic example of the role that residents play within the cultural heritage of our community. He personifies the impact that someone in the present can have as they respect the past and embrace the future. His many, many hours of volunteer activity over many, many years make him a very worthy recipient of this year's Heritage Award.

I have decided to simply list things that Duncan has been involved in. To include dates would clutter up the list as many of his activities have overlapped over the years. Thank goodness people like Duncan and Mary McCallum choose to retire here. Here's a snapshot of what I hope suggests participation in community life from when they first moved here permanently.

Duncan has been a member of: the Municipal Heritage Committee; the President of the Southampton Ratepayers' Group (that merged with the Southampton Beachers' Group years ago into what became the S.R.A.); a member of Council during the interesting time of amalgamation; a committee member on the Cemetery Board and the Saugeen Shores Parks and Trails Committee; a leader in planning and hosting an awesome 150th Southampton Anniversary celebration; a director on the Arts Society Board; a Propeller Club member; the Chair of the Southampton United Church Board; a supportive spouse, often hands on help, to all Mary's work with the Saugeen Memorial Hospital Auxiliary; the visionary guide (a.k.a. the Chair) of the Southampton Town Hall Ad Hoc Committee; and, at the moment his enthusiasm and efforts are benefitting the Board of Directors of the Bruce County Playhouse as they develop theatre and other artistic opportunities in Saugeen Shores. He is also a grandfather, which is perhaps the greatest heritage role.

The list would not be complete without mentioning the vital role Duncan played in the whole General Hunter story that lives under the beach in Southampton between Palmerston and Morpeth Streets. It was Duncan who first saw the ribs of the ship poking up through the sand after a Lake Huron storm. It was Duncan who recognized that these were significant little bits of wood. It was Duncan who brought his buddies, Ken Cassavoy, John Rigby, Mike Sterling and others to consider his find and what a great experience that was watching those digs uncover such national history right in our backyard. Duncan has always understood, and continues to represent, how an appreciation for the past lets us live fully in the present and embrace our future. During many of the Town Hall Ad Hoc meetings he reminded us of the legacy we will create if we simply let the heritage of the Town Hall building itself and all the activity that has gone on at that location and in the adjacent Library intersect with the need for space and modern amenities in such a prominent downtown location. Not once did he suggest we would lose something by introducing change to an old building or by dramatically changing a public space – it was always about what we would gain going forward.

Cultural heritage includes much more than old buildings. The Municipal Heritage Committee continues to promote awareness and interest in "heritage" via this Award as well as the plaques we support on residences and the storyboards we install in the community. Our members contribute to Heritage Fairs at local schools and booths at community events.

We research properties leading to recommendations to Council related to our local Heritage Register. All of us have a great affection for 'old' stuff but we, like many in the community, understand that it is the stories that often hold the most value as our community continues to grow. The story of our development is very much the story of our community's cultural heritage. Each of us has our own story, as does each of the three communities that make up Saugeen Shores. The stories are worth recording and remembering even as activity, people and landscapes change and buildings rise and fall. The past and present do provide wonderful guidance as our cultural heritage continues to shape our town.

Duncan McCallum sees the rewards possible when heritage and the future intersect. Duncan is a community member who keeps the past present. Thank you Dunc for all your involvement and participation over the years. You are a great role model for what truly makes a civic leader. We thank Duncan McCallum for his absolutely awesome and continuing role in the cultural heritage of Saugeen Shores.

Would you please come forward and receive your Award.

Congratulations from the past Municipal Heritage Committee

Chair Diane Huber

Former Councillor Neil Menage

Members: Bill Streeter, Jane Kraemer, Gabrielle DiFrancesco, Eric Rogers and Joyce Johnston

Associate Member: Mark Janekovic

Staff Resource Tracey Edwards