

Appendix B: Experts Workshop – Summary

Expert Workshop Information:

Date: February 28, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Attendance: 22 (*The list of attendees can be found in Appendix B1*)

Promotion approach: outreach kit; email and phone calls to community, heritage, and other groups that may have interest in the site and process.

Summary of the Experts Workshop Goals: Generate more ideas and fill gaps in the research; Categorize the ideas into broader heritage narratives; Develop a set of principles to guide the Heritage Interpretation strategy; Identify further previously-unknown resources for Heritage Interpretation study.

On February 28, 2018, the Real Estate Services Division of the City of Toronto held an experts workshop. Twenty-four heritage, history, and social studies knowledge experts assembled to learn about the history of the site, understand Heritage Interpretation, help identify further thematic and narrative heritage information related to the site, review and identify gaps in the heritage research, and outline principles to help refine the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

The experts were invited based on the relevant areas of interest as well as areas where potential gaps in the study might exist. They represented a broad spectrum of knowledge, ranging from the history of the Ontario jails and prisons, the role of the church in early Toronto's (Old York) history, urban storytelling and journalism, to a first-hand account of the Consumers' Gas era, as narrated by experts and retired employees. The workshop was held in the meeting room of The Lucie and Thornton Blackburn Centre — a conference facility and residence of George Brown College.

The workshop consisted of presentations from EVOQ Architecture and Lord Cultural Services, followed by two facilitated group activities. The activities were conducted in small facilitated groups and in plenary discussion. The facilitation design and management staff were provided by MASS LBP.

MASS began the workshop with an acknowledgement of the Indigenous lands where the building sits, followed by an outline of the goals of the workshop, the agenda, and activities.

Like the public lecture, the first presentation by EVOQ Architecture provided a historical review of the site and its uses based on the project team's research. This work spanned the following periods or eras: pre-colonization, early York, First and Second Parliament Buildings, Home District Gaol, Consumers' Gas, and the remaking of the neighbourhood after the decline of Consumers' Gas through to the usages linked to automobiles. The presentation noted the site's archaeology, focusing on the fragility of the artefacts of the Parliament eras as well as artefacts

related to other eras of the site. The site is part of a network of other heritage sites in the city.

The second presentation by Lord Cultural Services provided an explanation of heritage interpretation and what a Heritage Interpretation Strategy is, what it does, and why it is important. It detailed general heritage components or factors of interpretation: the state of original objects, first-hand experiences, recreated experiences, and illustrative media. It also detailed approaches to organizing heritage components or factors: linear (organized oldest through to youngest), geographic (organized by links to other locations and people), and thematic (organized by general or universally uncovered themes).

The third presentation by EVOC Architecture detailed the project team's work to date, namely the identification of several draft narrative categories for interpretation: Natural Landscape; Early Settlement; First and Second Parliaments; Home District Gaol; Consumers' Gas; Railways; and, Automobiles.

These categories were further subdivided into more specialized categories (e.g., Consumers' Gas era is further comprised of: development of coal gasification, development of the Consumers' Gas site, and notable figures). The complete list of draft narratives can be found in *Appendix B2*.

The final presentation by Lord Cultural Services provided several examples of how a Heritage Interpretation Strategy is used: Upper Fort Garry Heritage Park (Winnipeg), Fort George (Niagara-on-the-Lake), Saint-Louis Forts and Chateaux (Québec City), and MTL Urban Museum (Montréal). These examples illustrated how a Heritage Interpretation Strategy can manage sites or heritage narratives that are supported by different grades of artefacts, historical buildings, and physical objects. Sites with fewer physical objects (or none at all) can use conceptual or technical tools to showcase their heritage, while the sites with more physical objects can use re-creation or the artefacts themselves to showcase their heritage.

The presentations were followed by two facilitated group activities that focused on identifying gaps in the research and developing a set of principles to guide the project team further.

Group Activity #1 - Identifying Ideas and Gaps:

The goal of this activity was to identify gaps in the project team's study to date, recognize areas of emphasis, and help refine the work to date. Participants were asked: What other heritage factors should we keep in mind as we develop our Heritage Interpretation Strategy? They were reminded that the Heritage Interpretation Strategy would inform the Master Plan for the site.

Procedure:

1. Participants wrote down one potentially important heritage factor on a card along with an explanation of why it is potentially relevant. Each narrative category card was colour-coded for identification.
2. Participants shared what they had written with their table-mates, who were encouraged to suggest ways to refine or improve the language.

3. Each table was tasked with generating as many cards as they deemed necessary.
4. Filled cards were passed to the project team who then organized them in the following categories: draft narrative categories, new categories that emerged, and cross-cutting categories that emerged.

What We Heard:

This activity generated over 120 discussion points (e.g., new narratives, people, ideas, and historical information) and helped the project team to identify specific gaps in the study (e.g., issues relevant to black Canadian history, non-Francophone or non-Anglophone settlements in the area) and specific historical details that were previously unknown (e.g., labour for Consumers' Gas was imported from England). Below is a high-level summary of some of the discussion points under each narrative category.

Natural Landscape

A participant cited an issue with the colonial and imperialist terms used to describe reshaping of the land via human intervention. Other participants placed emphasis on the role of Lake Ontario and the shoreline in the development of the site and the city.

Early Settlement

Participants expressed interest in the past and continued presence of Indigenous people in the area and region. Participants also placed emphasis on non-Anglophone and non-Francophone settlements in the region. Specific examples of this were the histories of black slaves and ex-slaves in Toronto during this time period.

First and Second Parliaments

Participants were interested in highlighting legislation that influenced the history of Toronto and Ontario, or that is still relevant today. Participants were also interested in understanding how the Parliament buildings fit in to the Town of York that surrounded them. Questions concerning what it was used for, and where it was geographically located, resonated with some participants. Participants were also interested in learning more about the daily lives and backgrounds of people who lived in the Town of York.

Home District Gaol

Participants wanted to highlight the social history of the jail and its prisoners. They were interested in telling the stories of the individuals that were imprisoned there, and what brought them to that space.

Consumers' Gas

Participants wanted to highlight the labour history of the area, along with the environmental impacts of the gasworks on the land.

Railways

Participants also highlighted the importance of the railway in the narratives of the site.

Group Activity #2 - Creating Guiding Principles:

The participants were introduced to the challenges surrounding multiple narratives: any heritage site cannot share all the possible heritage narratives that it has to offer. Curators have to choose what to emphasize. These choices are defined by strategies and, more broadly, by a framework of guiding principles. Participants were asked: What guiding principles should we use to help us determine what factors are highlighted in our Heritage Interpretation Strategy? They were again reminded that the Heritage Interpretation Strategy would inform the Master Plan for the site.

Procedure:

1. Participants worked together in small groups to develop a list of possible guiding principles. They wrote one principle each on a supplied card.
2. Participants then worked together to pick up to five (5) principles they considered the most important to help guide the project team in developing the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.
3. Once the groups had narrowed down approximately five (5) guiding principles, they wrote out short definitions for each principle.
4. Each group shared their work during a plenary discussion.

What We Heard:

This activity generated approximately 10 principles that were intended to help guide the project team's further work and the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

Principles:

Accessible

Participants noted that the site should be both physically and experientially accessible in the ways that stories are delivered to visitors. One participant noted that digital technologies could create a barrier for some visitors and should not be relied upon as the only storytelling medium for visitors. To ensure information is accessible for as many visitors as possible, it should be presented in a variety of ways.

Continuously evolving

Participants recognized that the Heritage Interpretation process should be open-ended and malleable. As a result, the site should be iterative, and be updated as time passes to include new information. Participants recognized that to be meaningful to visitors, the site must be future-facing and open to change.

Authentic

Participants noted that there are many myths and misconceptions to be corrected when discussing the histories contained within the First Parliament site. They felt that the Heritage Interpretation Strategy should strive to correct these myths and tell all stories accurately.

Inclusive

Participants recognized that it was important for the First Parliament Heritage Interpretation

Strategy to create a non-judgmental lens for visitors to understand past events and attitudes in a contemporary context. Participants recognized that the site must be respectful of all historic, archaeological, and cultural values connected to the site.

Integrated

Participants noted that the First Parliament site and its associated Heritage Interpretation Strategy should connect and integrate the site with other heritage sites in the neighbouring area. One participant stated that connections should not be limited to physical sites, but to organizations such as the Anglican Church as well.

Engaging / Explorative / Interactive

Participants agreed that the First Parliament site should capture the attention of visitors of all ages, and the information conveyed should stay with visitors after they have left, regardless of their interests. The First Parliament site should be engaging and exciting for all visitors. One participant suggested that visitors should be able to contribute their own personal stories to the narratives contained in the site. Some participants also emphasized that the site should allow for independent exploration for visitors — a Heritage Interpretation Strategy that allows for site use at any time is important.

Equal / Non-hierarchical / Plural / Diverse

Participants generally agreed that all narratives should be fairly included in the Heritage Interpretation Strategy of the site. Some participants recognized that although certain narratives may draw more visitors, telling stories of people not often included in history would be important to the authenticity of the site.

Representative / Respectful

Again, participants recognized that the site should include obscure voices in its narrative of people often forgotten from traditional historical interpretations. The site should include both seen and unseen histories, as there are very few archaeological remains available at the site. Some participants highlighted that there may be competing voices in these narratives and emphasized the importance of including various perspectives in the site. Participants also noted that the site should be respectful in the manner in which information is delivered to visitors.

Reconciliatory

Participants recognized that reconciliation is a crucial part of the First Parliament narrative. This includes recognizing the Indigenous histories that can be found in the area, as well as the different faith groups active in the area. Participants who were most interested in the Parliament era of the site also thought that the debates and discussions that took place in the Legislature should be addressed from a place of acknowledgement and reconciliation.

Shorelines

Some participants noted that it is not widely known that the area's shoreline used to exist at the bottom of the First Parliament site. They saw this as a metaphor for revealing both the concealed archaeological remains and the stories contained there that are not widely known in Toronto. Some

participants also thought that the project should be renamed to avoid focusing only on the Parliament era of the site, and that “Shorelines” may be an appropriate, non-specific title.

Appendix B.1: Attendees

Name	Associated Organization or Role
Camille Begin	Heritage Toronto: Manager of Historical Plaques
David Bogart	Ontario Legislative Assembly: Communications Officer, Parliamentary Protocol and Public Relations Branch
Derek Boles	Toronto Railway Historical Association
Neil Brochu	Market Gallery: Curator
Adam Bunch	Popular Historian
Michael Carter	Ryerson University: VR/AR archaeology
Tom Davidson	Councillor Troisi's Office: Executive Assistant
Dena Doroszenko	Ontario Heritage Trust: Archaeologist
Ross Fair	Ryerson University: History Professor
Rose Fine-Myer	University of Toronto: Educator and President of Ontario Heritage Fairs Association
Kathy Hering	Ontario Heritage Trust
Wayne Kelly	Ontario Heritage Trust
Tom Ladanyi	Retired Enbridge Gas Staff and Popular Historian
John Lorinc	Journalist: Urban Affairs
Nancy Mallett	St. James Cathedral
Rebecca McTaggart	St. James Cathedral
Rollo Myers	Citizens for the Old Town
David O'Hara	Fort York National Historic Site: Manager
Douglas Olver	Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (Retired), Jail Historian
Rosemary Sadlier	Black Historian
Wendy Smith	York University PhD, Canadian History/Indigenous History/British colonial history, founding history of Toronto and Upper Canada
Ashley Williamson	University of Toronto: Living history museums of Canada

Appendix B.2: Heritage Interpretation Study Draft Narrative Categories

These narrative categories were created by the Project Team following their primary research into the histories of the First Parliament site.

Narrative Categories:

Natural Landscape:

1. Historical evolution of the area
2. Original wildlife and watercourses of the area
 - a. Taddle Creek
 - b. Don River
 - c. Marshlands
3. Original shorelines (Lake Ontario)

Early Settlement:

1. Indigenous settlement in region
2. Early French history and trade in area
3. Early British history in area

First and Second Parliaments:

1. Founding of York
 - a. Relocation of the Parliament
 - b. British/American antagonism and influx of Loyalists
2. Founding of Upper Canada
3. Development of Upper Canada governance
 - a. Important legislation and important figures
4. City Establishment
5. Early City settlement (immigrants, military presence, early Anglican church history)
6. Notable Figures

Home District Gaol:

1. Prison history in Upper Canada
 - a. Common gaols and evolution of incarceration
 - b. Relationship with legislative institutions, other jails, and previous iterations
 - c. Design and construction (siting, layout, materials, jail yard)
2. Penal system of the mid-1800s
 - a. Crimes and punishment
 - b. Legal systems (prevailing philosophies, courts)
 - c. Demographics (young offenders, women, poor, mentally ill, political dissidents)
 - d. Discrimination

- e. Development of welfare state and prison reforms
- 3. Prison life
 - a. Gaolers and turnkeys
 - b. Prisoners (length of stay, living conditions, food rations, hard labour)

Consumers' Gas:

- 1. Development of coal gasification
 - a. History of gas lamp lighting (lamp fixtures, infrastructure, workers, city connections)
 - b. Changing technologies of this period (coal gasification, water gas process)
 - c. Introduction of electricity as rival
 - d. Pivot to other uses (space heating, cooking) and its impact to society
 - e. Decline of coal gas and introduction of natural gas
- 2. Development of Consumers' Gas
 - a. Construction of buildings on site
 - b. Other sites in Toronto (gas plants, headquarters, retail showrooms)
 - c. Adaptive reuses of the sites
- 3. Notable figures

Railways:

- 1. Impact of Industry and Changing Landscapes
 - a. Transportation technologies
 - b. Railway development and shoreline impacts
 - Esplanade railway corridor
 - Toronto and Nipissing Railway terminus depot
 - Land reclamations
 - c. Wharf and harbour access and the shipping industries
- 2. Environmental impacts
 - a. Land contamination
 - b. Extension of shoreline and burying of natural features
- 3. Notable figures

Automobiles:

- 1. Rise of the automobile
 - a. Expressway development (Gardiner Expressway, Don Valley Parkway)
- 2. Neighbourhood changes
 - a. Decline of heavy industry and the rise of light industry, commercial and residential uses
 - b. Automobile-oriented occupancy uses on site
 - c. Changing demographics
- 3. Renewal and reuse of industrial sites