



Regular Council Meeting

To:	Mayor and Council
Date:	August 11, 2025
From:	Karen Ellis, Director of Planning
Report Number:	Planning Department Report 2025-26
Subject:	Cultural Mapping Update

Recommendation:

That Report Planning Department 2025-26 be received for information.

Overview:

In 2010, the Township of Cavan Monaghan received funding from the Ministry of Culture's Creative Communities Partnership Fund to complete a Cultural Resource Map for the Township. The project was completed in 2011.

Cultural planning is a "place-based" approach to planning and development that's undertaken by a local governing authority, such as a municipality. The cultural planning process begins with identifying and mapping a community's cultural resources, then proceeds to developing a plan for managing those resources. The process outlines how cultural resources will be integrated across local government planning and decision making, to achieve the community's goals.

The Mapping Project is the first step toward developing a municipal strategy for incorporating culture into local decision-making.

There are two kinds of cultural resources that are the focus of the Township's cultural mapping. Tangible Cultural Assets include natural and built heritage, cultural organizations, spaces and facilities, festivals, and events, etc. Intangible Cultural Assets include the unique stories and traditions of a community. Together tangible and intangible cultural assets fuel cultural vitality and contribute to defining the unique cultural identity and sense of place of a community.

With the original project, the Township compiled a baseline database of natural and cultural heritage assets, cultural industries, occupations and organizations, facilities and festivals and events. The project also captured some unique stories, values, and aspirations. The baseline inventory of cultural assets in Cavan Monaghan totalled 508 assets.

The mapping confirmed that cultural activities tend to be concentrated in Millbrook and other hamlet areas. Heritage features and assets are spread across the Township.

The cultural mapping information is hosted on the Peterborough County GIS site. The Cultural Mapping Project Report is available on the Township website.

Discussion:

The 2011 Cultural Mapping project captured the breadth of cultural resources in the Township. Given the significant changes in the Township over the past years, the mapping needs updating. With operating funds in the MRHAC budget and a financial boost from the Canada Summer Jobs fund, Maxim Tandon was hired for 16 weeks to complete the research and field work needed to update the built heritage component of the mapping.

Peterborough County GIS personnel customized an application called field maps to allow Township Staff to update existing information, review and edit the changes. The Millbrook Cavan Historical Society is participating with the Township in the project by providing information and guidance relative to the necessary research.

Significant effort has been made to add more detailed descriptions and information to the assets identified on the map. Site visits to all built heritage sites have been or will be completed this summer. Architectural features of the sites, assessments of current building conditions, interesting details and stories about properties, buildings and people are being added to the mapping. Updated photos of most sites are also being added to the mapping.

Additional updating of cultural assets like festivals, events, spaces and organizations will need to be completed after the completion of the summer student project. The County GIS application will remain live so that Township Staff can continue to update the information as schedules and workloads permit. Work to update the Cultural Mapping Project Report has not yet been scheduled.

Financial Impact:

The project is being completed in accordance with the approved operating budget of the Municipal Revitalization and Heritage Advisory Committee (MRHAC). Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) funding was received.

Linkage to the Strategic Plan:

The Cultural Mapping project aligns with the Vision Statement and Strategic Priority #3 Environmental Sustainability, Objective 1 to promote the preservation and conservation of heritage buildings.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Karen Ellis,
Director of Planning

Reviewed by,

Yvette Hurley,
Chief Administrative Officer