



## Committee Report

**To:** Councillor Steve Hammell, Chair and  
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

**From:** Mark Paoli  
Director of Planning and Development

**Date:** April 21, 2022

**Re:** Plan the Bruce: Heritage Discussion Paper

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### Staff Recommendation:

The Plan the Bruce: Heritage Discussion Paper is for information.

### Background:

To date, a total of seven discussion papers have been received by County Council or are nearing completion: Good Growth, Homes, Communities, Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Connecting and Business.

The Heritage Guiding Principle is about understanding and preserving our shared cultural heritage in Bruce County. The attached Discussion Paper identifies key policy themes and considerations of Heritage that will be subject to ongoing consultation and engagement as the policies of the new Official Plan are developed.

The County has already undertaken important work to inform an updated approach to cultural heritage. This includes a Cultural Action Plan (CAP) which identifies objectives and provides recommendations regarding arts, culture and heritage. The CAP is based on six core values, which are also identified in the Plan the Bruce Heritage Discussion Paper. These core values will inform and direct policy outcomes with respect to the updated County Official Plan.

The County is also undertaking an Archaeological Master Plan, in collaboration with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, Historic Saugeen Metis, municipalities and other key stakeholders. The objective of this plan is to identify key areas of archaeological importance within the County and outline how to protect the archaeological integrity of these areas.

### Next Steps:

This Discussion Paper has been prepared within the context of the Plan the Bruce project and to advance the 'Heritage' Guiding Principle of identifying and preserving our cultural heritage. It is intended to serve as a preliminary basis for further consultation and engagement.

Specifically, the Plan the Bruce Heritage Discussion Paper recommends the following areas be further explored within the context of the 'Heritage' Guiding Principle and through the Official Plan Review process:

1. Consult Indigenous communities to inform a policy framework that seeks to recognize Indigenous interest in conserving cultural heritage resources within the County.
2. Recognize cultural heritage resources, including archaeological resources, as significant assets in the County that are highly valued by the community.
3. Collaborate with local municipalities in identifying and conserving cultural heritage resources.
4. Consider identifying cultural heritage landscape(s) as heritage asset(s).
5. Develop a policy framework that clearly establishes the role of conserving cultural heritage resources as an economic development tool.
6. Consider other municipal approaches to determine best practices within the context of Official Plan policies and cultural heritage.
7. Work closely with local municipalities, indigenous communities, and stakeholders to develop implementation policies and tools, such as an Archaeological Management Plan, that are consistent with the PPS, applicable law, and are considerate of the unique geography and composition of Bruce County.

#### **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

#### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

The Office of the CAO, Director of Library Services and Director of the Bruce County Museum were consulted on the preparation of this Discussion Paper.

#### **Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

Plan the Bruce was identified as a major initiative in the 2021 Planning and Development Business Plan and development of the new County Official Plan is a major initiative in 2022.

**Report Author:**

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**Departmental Approval:**

Mark Paoli  
Director of Planning & Development

**Approved for Submission:**

Christine MacDonald  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer