

## What is it and why should I consider it?

The City of Kamloops, through the Kamloops Heritage Commission, has established a Heritage Recognition program to encourage the preservation of our valuable heritage buildings. The program aims to officially recognize the heritage of residential, commercial and public structures which the Commission believes are significant and should be preserved.

This is a voluntary program and citizens who feel their home or commercial buildings may qualify for heritage recognition are invited to apply to the Kamloops Heritage Commission for consideration.

A plaque is awarded to these buildings by the City's Heritage Commission.

## What's the difference between Heritage Recognition and Heritage Designation?

Buildings and property that are officially **designated** by law must maintain certain standards of appearance and maintenance to protect their heritage value.

**Designation** is a legal, permanent agreement and guarantees protection of the heritage property.

Municipalities may offer incentives of various kinds such as tax exemptions or grants for property officially **designated** as being of heritage value.

**Heritage Recognition** carries no legal restrictions nor does it provide financial incentives to the owner. It gives the owner and community an opportunity to increase awareness of the heritage value of the property. Most of the plaques awarded by the Kamloops Heritage Commission are for **Heritage Recognition**.

## Kamloops Heritage Commission

c/o Kamloops Museum & Archives

207 Seymour Street  
Kamloops BC V2C 2E7  
tel 250.828.3576



# HERITAGE RECOGNITION

conservation program



## Are there restrictions on how I can renovate my home or commercial structure?

Because of the voluntary nature of **Heritage Recognition** in Kamloops, there are no legal restrictions on construction materials or additions. However, in order for the Kamloops Heritage Commission to recommend **Heritage Recognition** the building must substantially retain its original exterior appearance in good condition.

Some owners may welcome the opportunity to maintain or restore their buildings to the original design and appearance, thereby increasing the worth of the property and the aesthetic value of the neighbourhood. Though recognition of private buildings represents a non-binding agreement between the Commission/ City and owner, the Commission may, at any time, recommend withdrawal of **Heritage Recognition** status if the owner alters the exterior appearance of the building in any way that its heritage value is diminished or lost.

## What is a heritage building?

**Heritage** is broadly defined as resources inherited from the past that have a cultural value for the present and future. What constitutes a heritage building is open to interpretation, and that's the job of the Kamloops Heritage Commission, which adjudicates applications and makes a ruling according to various criteria. For example, while it's entirely possible that a relatively new building could be designated a heritage structure, the honour is usually reserved for older buildings because they have historic value. That value is increased if someone historically important to Kamloops built or owned it. Architecture is another important consideration. Perhaps your home has unique landscape or architectural features, or was designed by a notable architect.

## So what's in it for me?

Aside from the pride of ownership, **Heritage Recognition** is awarded in the form of an attractive plaque suitable for mounting on the exterior of the building. The building is then entered on the City's heritage inventory as an officially recognized building, and a historical record of ownership is established and maintained for future generations. There is no cost to the applicant for installation of a plaque.



## Will Heritage Recognition affect the property value of my home?

A study by the Heritage Society of BC found that heritage buildings have consistently performed much better than average in the marketplace over the last 30 years. Heritage homes in older neighbourhoods have increased in value 25% over their modern counterparts.

## How do I apply?

**It's easy.** Simply write a letter outlining why you think your building should be considered for voluntary **Heritage Recognition**.

Send it to:

The Kamloops Heritage Commission  
c/o Kamloops Museum & Archives  
207 Seymour Street Kamloops BC V2C 2E7

**Include your name, address, and telephone number or email address.**

The Commission will review your letter and may contact you for more information. If the Commission supports your application, it would recommend acceptance to City Council which would permit a heritage plaque to be installed on your building.

## The Commission is here to help

If you feel reluctant to apply because you think your home or commercial building would not qualify, or wonder whether it's *worth it*, contact the Commission. We're here to talk about heritage!

