
REPORT TO: Heritage Kitchener

DATE OF MEETING: May 6, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Garrett Stevenson, Director of Development and Housing Approvals,
519-783-8922

PREPARED BY: Deeksha Choudhry, Heritage Planner, 519-783-8906
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WARD(S) INVOLVED: All

DATE OF REPORT: April 10, 2025

REPORT NO.: DSD-2025-183

SUBJECT: Mike and Pat Wagner Heritage Awards
Heritage Kitchener Representative Selection

RECOMMENDATION:

That Heritage Kitchener Committee identify a representative and back-up representative to participate in the jury panel for the Mike and Pat Wagner Heritage Award category as part of Kitchener's Great Places Awards 2025 program.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to seek direction that Heritage Kitchener Committee identify a committee member (including a back-up) to participate in the jury panel to select the winning project(s) for the Mike and Pat Wagner Heritage Award category as part of the 2025 Kitchener's Great Places Awards program.
- There are no financial implications associated with this report.
- Community engagement included posting this report with the agenda in advance of the Heritage Kitchener committee meeting.
- This report supports the delivery of core services.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, Council endorsed the establishment of a new comprehensive planning awards program celebrating a broad range of categories related to excellence in urban design and cultural heritage conservation. Known as the Kitchener's Great Places Awards (KGPA), the program honours outstanding development projects that show a commitment to design excellence and innovation in urban design, affordable housing, sustainability and heritage conservation and contribute to a built environment that enhances quality of life. Since its inception, the program has brought people together, fostered community pride and

contributed to the quality-of-life Kitchener residents expect. The 2025 award program will recognize awardees across 10 categories as listed below:

1. Affordable Housing Solutions Award (new this year)
2. Future Design Leaders
3. Master Planning
4. Mike and Pat Wagner Heritage Awards
5. Neighborhood Design
6. People's Choice
7. Placemaking
8. Schmalz Award for Design Leadership
9. Sustainable Kitchener
10. Urban Design Excellence

REPORT:

At its February 4, 2025, meeting, Heritage Kitchener endorsed changes to the Mike and Pat Heritage Wagner Award so that the process could be updated and aligned with the rest of the Kitchener Great Places Awards. The main change that was proposed was to select a Committee member to serve on the Urban Design Awards Jury Panel along with the Director of Development & Housing Approvals, and up to four (4) other professionals with expertise in cultural heritage conservation, urban design, urban planning, and architecture and landscape architecture.

This change in process will allow for a more comprehensive review of the nominations for the award among experts in heritage and other related fields. This change in program was endorsed by Council at its March 3, 2025, meeting.

The Mike and Pat Wagner Heritage Awards are open to all individuals, businesses, organizations and institutions that have conserved cultural heritage resources or have demonstrated commitment to the conservation of cultural heritage resources within Kitchener. For the award program, cultural heritage resources are defined as:

- properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act;
- properties listed as a non-designated property of cultural heritage value or interest on the Municipal Heritage Register; or
- properties identified on the Heritage Kitchener Inventory of Historic Buildings.

Nominations for the Mike and Pat Wagner Heritage Award must demonstrate that:

- The conservation project involves a cultural heritage resource;
- The conservation project conserves the heritage attributes and values associated with the cultural heritage resource;
- The conservation project is located within the City of Kitchener;
- The conservation project is complete;
- The conservation project obtained all required approvals such as Building Permits and Heritage Permits;
- The conservation project has not received a previous Mike Wagner Heritage Award for the same work; and,

- The individual, business, organization or institution nominated has made exceptional or long-lasting contributions to the conservation of cultural heritage resources within the City of Kitchener.

The Mike & Pat Wagner Award jury panel will be composed of:

- A Heritage Kitchener committee member
- Director of Development & Housing Approvals (or designate)
- Up to four professionals which represent such expertise as heritage conservation, urban planning, urban design, architecture and landscape architecture

Nominations for awards and expressions of interest for jury panels are open until April 30th through www.kitchener.ca/GreatPlaces.

Expected commitment:

The time commitment for this appointment is expected to involve reviewing submission materials for each nominated and short-listed project provided in advance and attendance at a single day, on-site review of the projects. The timeframe will be relative to the number of nominated and short-listed projects. For this category, we also try to coordinate a project representative to be on-site at a scheduled time to answer questions of the jury panel. The on-site commitment will be scheduled for a day in mid- to late June 2025 and we will target scheduling the date in May. Primary and back-up HK representatives are requested in the event that the primary representative is unable to participate for any reason.

Awards ceremony:

We are working to confirm the event date for this year's Kitchener's Great Places Awards ceremony which is expected to take place in October. Winning projects are announced at this event. This is a public event, and we invite all Heritage Kitchener committee members to attend (more information to follow).

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports the delivery of core services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Capital Budget.

Operating Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Operating Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM - This report has also been posted to the City's website in advance of the Heritage Kitchener committee meeting.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

- CSD-18-046: Re-naming the Mike Wagner Heritage Award to the Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage Award
- CSD-15-083: Urban Design Awards Program Update
- DSD-2025-037 – Kitchener's Great Places Awards Program Update with respect to the Mike and Pat Wagner Heritage Awards

APPROVED BY: Justin Readman, General Manager, Development Services