

**REPORT TO:** Heritage Kitchener

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 4, 2023

**SUBMITTED BY:** Garrett Stevenson, Interim Planning Director, 519-741-2200 ext. 7070

**PREPARED BY:** Jessica Vieira, Heritage Planner, 519-741-2200 ext. 7041

**DATE OF REPORT:** March 17, 2023

**REPORT NO.:** DSD-2023-142

**SUBJECT:** Memo: Kitchener Great Places Awards 2023

---

## BACKGROUND:

In 1997, the City of Kitchener established the Mike Wagner Heritage Awards to pay tribute to property owners, businesses and individuals who have contributed to the conservation of the City's cultural heritage resources. The program was named after former City Councillor Mike Wagner who served on City Council from 1989 to 1997, and who was a strong advocate for heritage, culture, and the arts. In 2017, the heritage awards were renamed **The Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage Awards** in recognition of the many contributions of Pat Wagner, who was a long-time member of Heritage Kitchener and a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

In 2015, Council approved the reorganization of the City's comprehensive planning awards program to celebrate a broader range of categories under one program event, known as the Kitchener Great Places Awards (KGPA's). The biennial KGPA's includes presentation of the City's urban design and sustainability awards, as well as the City's heritage awards.

The first KGPA since 2019 is scheduled to be celebrated in the Fall of 2023. Nominations are being accepted until April 28, 2023 at 4:00 PM. Nominations may be received from the general public, including from members of the Heritage Kitchener Committee.

## REPORT:

Kitchener Great Places Awards 2023 is commencing March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Nominations are being accepted until April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 4:00 PM.

### ***Eligibility Requirements***

The Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage Award 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 the City of Kitchener. For the purpose of 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.

Up to 4 heritage awards may be presented in a given award year, and nominations may be received in one of three categories as follows:

#### Preservation / Restoration of Cultural Heritage Resources

Preservation projects involve protecting, maintaining and stabilizing the existing form, material and integrity of a cultural heritage resource while protecting its heritage attributes and values. Preservation projects generally relate to cultural heritage resources that are intact and do not require extensive repair, extensive replacement, alterations or additions.

Restoration projects involve revealing, recovering or representing the state of a cultural heritage resource or of an individual heritage attribute as it appeared at a particular period in its history, as accurately as possible, while protecting its heritage value. Restoration projects are based on physical and documentary or oral evidence.

#### Rehabilitation / Adaptive Reuse of Cultural Heritage Resources

Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse projects involve the sensitive adaptation of a cultural heritage resource or of an individual heritage attribute for a continuing or compatible contemporary use, while protecting its heritage value. This may be achieved through repairs, replacements, alterations and/or additions.

#### Individual Contributions to the Field of Heritage Conservation

Awarded to individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions who have made exceptional and/or long lasting contributions to the conservation of cultural heritage resources.

Nominations for a Mike 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;
- 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.

Eligible Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage Award nominees will also be eligible to be nominated and receive an award under two other KGPA award categories:

1. **People's Choice Award:** given to a project that receives the most number of votes from the community through a variety of polling options. Projects for consideration will be short-listed to a group of up to 10 projects from those eligible in the Urban Design, Neighbourhood

Design, Urban Elements, Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage and Sustainable Kitchener award categories that contribute to making Kitchener a great city.

2. **Schmalz Award for Design Leadership:** given to an exceptional project that achieves overall excellence in meeting the City's objectives in two or more categories - urban design, heritage conservation, and sustainable design. It represents the best overall project of the awards program. Named after W.H.E. Schmalz, the architect who designed Kitchener's first City Hall and clock tower (which is now a landmark in Victoria Park) along with numerous other buildings in the City. His father, W.H. Schmalz, was mayor when the Town of Berlin became a City.

At the April 4, 2023 Heritage Kitchener Meeting, City staff will make a brief presentation on the award program and highlight some previous heritage award winners. Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage Award nominations forms will be distributed. Nominations may also be made online. Eligible nominations received before the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 deadline will be reviewed and considered by Heritage Kitchener at the June 6, 2023 committee meeting, at which time Heritage Kitchener will be asked to make its recommendations on the Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage Award winners to Council.

To make a nomination online and for more information on the Kitchener Great Places Awards and the Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage Award, visit [www.kitchener.ca/greatplaces](http://www.kitchener.ca/greatplaces).

**APPROVED BY:** Justin Readman, General Manager, Development Services Department