

Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy | 2008-2058

A community
oriented
strategy with a
focus on
preserving and
enhancing the
unique, culture,
charm, and
environment of
the Dundas
Valley area.

Protect and Enhance Dundas Valley Lands

**Goal: Maintain and protect the Valley's
cultural heritage and historical
features**



The View from Dundas Peak

Strategic Direction

- Maintain and protect architectural and natural heritage

The Dundas Valley and surrounding community has numerous points of heritage importance requiring and deserving of preservation.



Summary

The conservation of cultural heritage landscapes and archeological sites often involves natural heritage resources such as streams, woodlands, the Niagara Escarpment. The Dundas Valley area contains a rich and diverse environment resulting from past, and ongoing influences between local culture and the natural environment. The area includes a variety of both natural and cultural features such as Darnley Mill Ruins, the Thomas Beckett Memorial Forest, the Merrick Apple Orchard, the Griffin House and many others.



The Hermitage 1880s



The Hermitage Today

The Dundas Valley communities of Ancaster and Dundas each possess traditional downtown cores with commercial 'main streets' and suburban areas. The Dundas Valley area's character-defining elements must be retained in order to preserve its heritage value. Materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations contribute to the heritage value of, and sense of place. Natural and built heritage is a major component of the Dundas Valley area's unique culture, charm and are all essential to the preservation and enhancement of the Dundas Valley area.



Flooded Spencer Creek, Thorpe Street, Dundas, 1956.

Actions

- **Implement the Dundas Valley Visitor Services Plan and create a distinct identity promotional program for the Dundas Valley and neighbouring communities with natural and cultural heritage theme**
- **Undertake an evaluation of properties/buildings for consideration of designation under the Ontario Heritage Act**
- **Promote the historic role of the Spencer Creek in the development of the Dundas Community**
- **Identify and ensure the long term sustainability of historic buildings and resources (e.g. Hermitage Ruins, Gatehouse, Darnley Mill Ruins, Griffin House)**
- **Utilize area heritage designation to preserve local heritage. Maintain and protect local heritage sites and buildings**
- **Work with local galleries and the Dundas Valley School of Art**
- **Limit building heights**
- **Seek and provide financial incentives to property owners to maintain their buildings in keeping with its heritage**
- **Investigate the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage programs in the Valley**

For the Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy to be realized and its actions fulfilled, the community needs to take on a leadership role. On the back page are a few links of established resources and organizations currently working on, or with the potential to work on, the fulfilment of these actions, and the realization of the Dundas Valley 50- Year Vision and Strategy's strategic direction of promoting and preserving the heritage of the Dundas Valley area.

Notes

Resources



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



Hamilton

Dundas Museum & Archives; www.dundasmuseum.ca

A local museum dedicated to the preservation of community level history in the Dundas Valley and surrounding area.

Fieldcote Museum; www.hamilton.ca/attractions/hamilton-civic-museums

The Fieldcote Museum is managed by the City of Hamilton, and is dedicated to the promotion of Ancaster's community level history.

Dundas Valley Historical Society; www.dundashistory.ca

Dedicated volunteer historians focused on the investigation and promotion of Dundas Valley's Heritage and history.

Ancaster Township Historical Society; www.ancasterhistory.ca

Dedicated to promoting an interest in the history of Ancaster, Ontario as a Village and Township.

Department of Canadian Heritage, Federal Ministry of Tourism ,Culture, and Sport, Provincial; www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/heritage.shtml

- **Heritage Organization Development Grant Program**
www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantOpportunities/OSAPQA005136
- **Ontario Heritage Trust**
www.heritagetrust.on.ca

The City of Hamilton

- **Heritage Hamilton Foundation,** www.heritagehamilton.ca
- **Heritage Properties,** www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/heritage-properties

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario; www.arconserv.ca

Provincial level organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of significant architecture and building.

Dundas Valley Tree Council; www.dundastrees.ca community group dedicated to the recognition, promotion, and protection of Heritage Trees.

The Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy 2008-2058 has been supported and funded by:

