



December, 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we approach the close of another remarkable year, we are filled with gratitude for all the incredible milestones we have achieved together. The efforts of each of you—whether you've been directly involved or supported us from the sidelines—have made this year truly one to remember for the Huntsville and Area Historical Society.

2024 has been a year of growth, collaboration, and meaningful progress. We are thrilled to reflect on the many accomplishments that are shaping the future of our town's rich history:

- **A New Digital Presence:** This year, we proudly launched our brand-new website, offering a more accessible and user-friendly platform to share our mission and connect with the community. The addition of a walking tour app has allowed residents and visitors alike to explore our town's historic landmarks in a whole new way.
- **Advocacy and Partnerships:** Through consistent dedication, we delivered multiple deputations to the town council, advocating for the preservation of our built heritage. In recognition of our work, we signed an agreement with the town, officially making us the consultative body for all heritage matters moving forward. This is a huge step toward safeguarding our town's history for generations to come.
- **Securing Vital Funding:** We are honored to have received a grant from the Huntsville Municipal Accommodation Tax Association (HMATA), which has enabled us to work on self-branding our new app. This support is invaluable as we continue to expand our outreach and educational initiatives.
- **Celebrating Heritage Designations:** A special milestone for us this year has been the progress on the Newholm Church, which is now in the final stages of being designated as a Designated Heritage Building—the first of its kind in Huntsville in 20 years! This is a tremendous achievement in our ongoing efforts to preserve significant local sites.

- **Collaborations and Advancements:** We've had the privilege of collaborating with Muskoka Heritage Place, working closely with the town to update the Register of Built Heritage, and striving to ensure the designation of more heritage buildings ahead of the Provincial deadline in January 2026.

While we've made significant strides, there is still much work to be done, and we need your help. The processes of heritage designation, updating records, and collaborating with the town require a diverse range of skills and knowledge. Whether you have expertise in research, administration, technology, or simply a passion for history, we would be thrilled to have your support in any capacity. Please reach out if you can lend a hand in one of these many important tasks.

We also have exciting news to share with you as we enter the new year: Thanks to our new agreement with the Town, **all Historical Society members in the 2024/25 year will receive a complimentary year's membership to the Muskoka Heritage Place!** This is our way of expressing gratitude for your ongoing support and encouraging continued engagement as we embark on this next chapter.

As the holidays approach, we wish you and your loved ones peace, joy, and warmth. We look forward to another year of shared history, growth, and preservation with you by our side.

With heartfelt thanks,



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JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!



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WALKING TOUR!

The Huntsville and Area Historical Society's
Heritage Walking Tour App can now be downloaded
DIRECTLY from Apple or Android app stores!

Scan the QR code below for **DIRECT ACCESS** to the tour! For more
information, visit www.huntsvilleandareahistoricalsociety.ca



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR AMAZING SPONSOR!