

**Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario**



**Assemblée
législative
de l'Ontario**

Legislative Research
Information and Technology Services Division
Room 2520, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A9
Telephone: (416) 325-3675
Facsimile: (416) 325-3696

Recherche législative
Division des services de l'information et de la technologie
Bureau 2520, Edifice Whitney
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1A9
Téléphone: (416) 325-3675
Télécopieur: (416) 325-3696

200382

**ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST BOARD OF
DIRECTORS:
ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF
STEPHEN PELLEGRINI***

Prepared for:

Standing Committee on
Government Agencies

Prepared by:

Sude Bahar Beltan
Research Officer
Legislative Research

December 2, 2020

- * Projects prepared by Legislative Research are designed in accordance with the requirements and instructions of the Committee making the request. The views expressed should not be regarded as those of Legislative Research or of the individual preparing the project.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
THE ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST	1
CURRENT OPERATIONS	2
PROGRAMS	2
Commemoration	2
Recognition Programs	3
Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program	3
Doors Open Ontario	3
Heritage Week	4
HERITAGE REGISTER	4
PROVINCIAL SUPPORT	4
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS	4
THE WITNESS	5
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS	5

INTRODUCTION

This paper is prepared for Members participating in the Committee's review of the Order-in-Council appointment of Stephen Pellegrini to the Board of the Ontario Heritage Trust. It describes the operations of the Trust, presents information about the appointee, and identifies possible lines of questioning.

THE ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

Enabling Statute		Responsible Ministry	
Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 5		Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries	
Agency Type		Most Recent Annual Report	
Operational Enterprise		2018-19	
Activities of the Agency			
Activities of the Ontario Heritage Trust include the following:			
• advise and make recommendations to the Minister on any matter relating to the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario; • receive, acquire and hold property in trust for the people of Ontario; • support, encourage and facilitate the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario; • preserve, maintain, reconstruct, restore and manage property of historical, architectural, archaeological, recreational, aesthetic, natural and scenic interest; and • conduct research, educational and communications programs necessary for heritage conservation, protection and preservation.¹			
Board Membership ²			
Statutory No. of Members		≥12	
No. Appointed by Cabinet		≥12	
Term of Office		Remuneration Expenses ⁴	
Three years; members may be reappointed for terms not exceeding three years each. ³			

¹ [Ontario Heritage Act](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 7.

² [Ibid.](#), s. 5(2).

³ [Ibid.](#), s. 5(5).

⁴ [Ibid.](#), s. 14(1).

CURRENT OPERATIONS

All powers of the Board are exercised in accordance with policies and priorities determined by the Minister, and include the following:

- receive and acquire by purchase, donation, lease, public subscription, grant, bequest or otherwise, property of historical, architectural, recreational, aesthetic, natural and scenic interest for the use, enjoyment and benefit of the people of Ontario;
- hold, preserve, maintain, reconstruct, restore, manage and lease for a term of five years or less such a property;
- enter into agreements, covenants, and easements with owners of real property for the protection and preservation of Ontario's heritage;
- borrow money (subject to the provision of a guarantee by the Lieutenant Governor in Council) for carrying out the objects of the Trust;
- conduct and arrange exhibits or other cultural or recreational activities to inform and stimulate public interest in heritage matters;
- enter into agreements with prospective donors, subject to conditions governing the use of property;
- enter into agreements with persons respecting any matter within the objects of the Trust and provide financial assistance to persons who are parties to such agreements for prescribed purposes;
- invest its funds;
- engage the services of experts and other persons;
- undertake programs of research and documentation of matters relating to Ontario's heritage;
- with the consent of property owners, place markers, signs, cairns or other interpretive facilities on property for the interest and guidance of the public; and
- provide assistance, advisory services and training to individuals and organizations in Ontario with similar aims and objectives to those of the Trust.

PROGRAMS

Commemoration

The Trust commemorates Ontario Heritage in the following ways:

- **Provincial Plaques:** the Trust's oldest program activity features nearly 1,300 distinctive plaques, including 22 international plaques, telling stories about people, places, and events. In recent years, the Trust has broadened the scope of the plaque program to

include stories from previously under-represented groups of Ontarians.⁵

- **Premiers' Gravesites:** launched in 2007, the program commemorates each premier's gravesite with a bronze marker and the provincial flag, wherever possible.⁶

Recognition Programs

The Trust has two programs recognizing outstanding contributions made by groups or individuals to identifying, preserving, protecting and promoting Ontario's heritage.

The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards honour "exceptional contributions to heritage conservation, environmental sustainability and biodiversity, and cultural and natural heritage."⁷

The Young Heritage Leaders program "celebrates youth achievements in identifying, preserving, protecting and promoting local heritage."⁸

Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program

The Trust's Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Centre is a living and working incubator for visual artists, musicians and writers of all disciplines. The Centre

- promotes excellence in Canadian art, music and writing;
- embraces a multi-disciplinary vision of the arts;
- animates artist Dorothy McCarthy's (1910-2010) home and studio, Fool's Paradise, with a viable and appropriate use;
- demonstrates the inspirational value of the landscape and restorative qualities of the environment; and
- contributes to the artistic and cultural legacy of Dorothy McCarthy.⁹

Doors Open Ontario

In 2002, the Trust launched Doors Open Ontario, which allows visitors and residents to visit heritage properties that may not otherwise be open to the public. The program hosted over 486,000 visitors at approximately 900 heritage sites in 2018-19.¹⁰

⁵ Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT), [Shifting the Narrative](#).

⁶ OHT, [Premiers' Gravesites Program](#).

⁷ OHT, [Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards](#).

⁸ OHT, [Young Heritage Leaders](#).

⁹ OHT, [Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program](#).

¹⁰ OHT, [Annual Report 2018-19](#), p. 4.

Heritage Week

In 1985, the Ontario government designated the third week in February as Heritage Week, and in 2005, the Trust assumed responsibility for planning and leading Heritage Week events. In February 2020, the Trust, along with local partners, organized events in 20 Ontario communities, which included tours, seminars and exhibits.¹¹

HERITAGE REGISTER

The *Ontario Heritage Act* mandates the Trust to maintain a public register of all designated heritage properties in the province. The [register](#) includes individual properties, heritage conservation districts, archaeological sites, and properties that, in the opinion of the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, are of cultural heritage value or interest.¹²

PROVINCIAL SUPPORT

Under the Act, the Trust has a general fund and a reserve fund. The capital of the reserve fund may not be expended (apart from making investments, subject to the conditions of the *Trustee Act*) without the consent of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.¹³ The Act also states that the Minister may make grants to the Trust upon terms and conditions the Minister considers advisable and may allocate grants to the general fund or the reserve fund.¹⁴

According to the Trust's Statement of Operations in its most recent Annual Report, the Trust received about \$4 million (operating), about \$843,000 (capital) and \$249,000 (special) in Ministry grants in 2019 (compared with about \$3 million, \$1 million and \$322,000 in 2018). The Trust's total revenue, including grants, was about \$12 million in 2019. Approximately \$5.2 million of the non-grant revenue was generated from rental and licencing fees for the Trust's heritage properties.¹⁵

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In September 2018, the Trust reopened public access to its Cheltenham Badlands property after three years of closure. The property contains a rare geological formation, and it had been closed for the construction of a boardwalk and parking lot. The new facilities are intended to allow the public to access the site while

¹¹ OHT, [Community events](#).

¹² *Ontario Heritage Act*, s. 23.

¹³ *Ibid.*, s. 13.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, s. 17.

¹⁵ OHT, *Annual Report 2018-19*, p. 22.

protecting it from degradation.¹⁶ The site has drawn almost 120,000 visitors since it reopened.¹⁷

In July 2020, the Trust announced that it would hold a virtual Doors Open Ontario during the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸ In August, [Digital Doors Open](#) was launched highlighting three Black heritage sites in Chatham-Kent: the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, the Buxton National Historic Site, and the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society.¹⁹ Digital Doors Open includes photos, virtual tours, videos, searchable collections, online games and activities regarding Ontario's heritage sites. The Trust has been adding new content regularly throughout the summer and fall.

THE WITNESS

The witness, Stephen Pellegrini, is seeking appointment as a part-time member.

According to the Office of the Premier, the witness, of Kettleby, is Mayor of the Township of King, and a councillor member within the Regional Municipality of York, and a former Project Management Office (PMO) Manager for the City of Brampton. His community involvement includes serving as former Chairman for King Blooms.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. *What has motivated the witness to seek this appointment?*
2. *What is the witness's understanding of the activities outlined for the Ontario Heritage Trust in the Ontario Heritage Act?*
3. *What particular skills or interests does the witness bring to the Ontario Heritage Trust?*
4. *In the witness's opinion, what challenges, if any, does the Trust face in achieving its objectives?*
5. *How has the witness's current work as mayor prepared him for a role on the Trust's board?*

¹⁶ Karen Martin-Robbins, "[West Caledon Badlands will reopen to public](#)," *Toronto Star*, September 11, 2018.

¹⁷ OHT, [2019-20 Impact Report](#), p. 6.

¹⁸ *Canada NewsWire*, "[Doors Open Ontario is going digital for 2020](#)," July 23, 2020.

¹⁹ Ellwood Shreve, "[Doors Open Ontario goes digital, featuring Chatham-Kent Black historic sites](#)," *Chatham Daily News*, August 6, 2020.