

the TOWNSITE HERITAGE DIGESTER



Published by the Townsite Heritage Society of Powell River

SPRING & SUMMER 2019

Heritage Planning Update Development Permit Area Under Review

City of Powell River staff would like to thank everyone who came out to the February 26, 2019, Townsite Development Permit Area drop-in event at Townsite Mall. The purpose of the event was to get feedback on draft design guidelines for Townsite. We held this event to follow-up on a drop-in event and survey held last fall. Since last summer, staff have been working on developing a “Development Permit Area” for Townsite’s single and two-family homes. The Development Permit Area updates the City’s Sustainable Official Community Plan to include form and character design guidelines for Townsite. The guidelines are intended to make sure that significant external changes to a home or new construction fit in with the historic Arts and Crafts architectural style that makes Townsite so special and a National Historic Site of Canada.

The Development Permit Area won’t require people to make immediate changes to their homes. Instead, if you construct an addition larger than 10 square meters (107 sq.ft.), make major repairs or changes, or build a new home, you will need to apply for a Development Permit before applying for a Building Permit.

Based on feedback we’ve received, staff have updated the Development Permit Area guidelines that were drafted last summer. Updates include:

- removing requirements better suited for multi-family developments. The guidelines no longer require electric vehicle charging stations, landscaping plans, etc.;
- relaxing requirements about front driveways, recognizing that portions of Willow, Maple, Larch, and Laburnum have limited access; and
- adding some sketches to help illustrate some important areas of form and character retention.

Council reviewed the updated Development Permit Area guidelines at the April 2, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting. Please stay tuned for a Public Hearing date.

For more information, please visit our website at powellriver.ca/pages/heritage-planning



Townsite resident Nan Dunn (left) and Daniella Fergusson examine the information board. Photo courtesy of Paul Galinski



City of Powell River Senior Planner, Daniella Fergusson

President's Message 2018

By Rebecca Tejkl

The year 2018 has been another busy year for THS. We have seen changes with the board, and welcome both our new Treasurer, Susan Short and new Secretary Joëlle Sevigny. We appreciate them stepping in on short notice and diving right in, they've proven to be real assets to our team. We're so lucky to have such a great crew of volunteers both on the board and off, and our lovely coordinator Linda who valiantly attempts to keep us all on track.

Our membership maintained at just over 100 this past year; continued community support is invaluable as we pursue our mandate of protecting Townsite's built heritage. Steve and Ann have been working closely with the City to support heritage preservation in Townsite, and exciting progress is being made. We're hopeful that partnerships with other interested parties such as the Townsite Ratepayers Association will further all of our interests in protecting these beautiful and irreplaceable buildings.

I'd like to thank Quality Foods for donating the whipping cream for the Blackberry Street Party fundraiser, and St David and St Paul's Anglican church,

for donating their kitchen. These donations and a lot of volunteer labour makes this a successful annual fundraiser. Maintaining funding levels can be a challenge, but through the diligent and creative efforts of our volunteers, we keep managing to bring it all together. Linda's spring planter fundraiser, Joëlle's idea to branch out into t-shirts, Guided and Self-Guided Tours, grants applied for and received, they all contribute to the Heritage Society's continued existence and our ability to implement projects within the community, such as the Triangle Gardens, Digesters, the Book Project, Heritage Week, and of course Henderson House.

We would like to acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia, in providing us with a Direct Access Program Grant which contributes to staffing and other expenses.

Thank you everyone for another wonderful year, and thank you again to all our amazing volunteers, you know who you are, and without you, we wouldn't be here.

TOWNSITE TIDBIT

SPRING / SUMMER HOURS

Henderson House Museum &
Townsite Heritage Society Office

OPEN

Tuesday – Friday • Noon – 4 pm

Saturdays June – August • 10 am – 2 pm

TOWNSITE TIDBIT

BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to introduce our new 2019 Board of Directors, and to thank them for their work:

Rebecca Tejkl, *President*

Ann Nelson, *Vice-President*

Susan Short, *Treasurer*

Joelle Sevigny, *Secretary*

Directors: **Carol Regnier, Karen Andrews,
Steve Short**

These volunteers are among the many who diligently provide skills and time in support of our neighbourhood. Thank you for your contributions!



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Prepare for the Powtown Pumpkin People!

By Isabelle Southcott

Have you ever seen a pumpkin person? If you've visited Kentville, Nova Scotia or Pumpkintown, Connecticut in October you may have experienced the magic of Pumpkin People at one of these annual festivals. For those of us who haven't had this opportunity, fear not! We are bringing these wonderous men and women with Jack-o-Lantern heads home to you in the Powell River Townsite! This October, Powtown Pumpkin People, will be found lounging on lawns on Maple, Ash, and Aspen Avenue. They'll be sitting on Sycamore porches and keeping watch over Willow. Don't live in the Townsite? No problem! You can still make one and put it on your front lawn for all to see. We decided to concentrate on the Townsite during our first year but encourage everyone to get into the spirit of Powtown Pumpkin People.

Homeowners and businesses alike are invited to get involved. Just imagine a pumpkin head ghost sitting at the entrance to the Patricia Theatre or the Pumpkin Police at the Old Courthouse or Mr and Mrs Pumpkinhead Henderson at the Townsite Heritage Society!



What will this look like?

Front lawns and businesses in the Townsite will have a variety of Pumpkin Persons dressed in different outfits during the month of October.

What are Pumpkin Persons?

Good question! A Pumpkin Person resembles a person but is made with a pumpkin for a head. Part scarecrow, part pumpkin, they have bodies made of bamboo poles, old broom sticks or tomato poles, stuffed bodies, pumpkin heads and painted faces. They can wear any outfit and take on any persona—a hockey player, a bride, a groom, a farmer, a business man, a politician, a lion tamer—whatever you wish. All you have to do is dig up some old clothes or visit the thrift store and buy something for your pumpkin person to wear. Long sleeved shirts, old trousers or overalls are great because you will be stuffing your Pumpkin Person with straw or something else like leaves or shredded newspaper. You can put a pretty dress over Ma Pumpkin Head after you have dressed her in pants.

Powell River
LIVING

is pleased to sponsor the

POWTOWN
PUMPKIN
PEOPLE
FESTIVAL



Grow your pumpkins now!

Pick up seeds beginning May 1 at Mother Nature, Springtime Nursery and the *Powell River Living* office.

Make your Pumpkin Person this fall!

The festival starts October 5 weekend.

Let your imagination run wild. Your Powtown Pumpkin Person could be a hockey player, a bride and groom, a farmer, a fisherperson, a musician...

If you'd like your Powtown Pumpkin Person judged, email your name, address and category (adult or child 12 and under) to contest@prliving.ca before October 12.

Questions? isabelle@prliving.ca

Learn more!

Look for ideas online and watch for details in upcoming issues of *Powell River Living*.

See Pumpkins, p. 4



Not all your Pumpkin folks are people: even they need pets like the puppy and clown fish shown here from other Pumpkin Festivals.

How to make a Pumpkin Person

Once you have assembled your pumpkin person's outfit, you can begin to shape his or her body. Fasten a rubber band around the bottom of each pant leg to close off that opening, then fill the pant leg with straw, old newspapers or leaves. Next, fasten the end of the shirt sleeve with a rubber band and stuff the arms. Button up the front and pad out the chest area.

I always take an old broom stick and an old piece of wood and create a T by crossing the two and fastening them with twine. You can also use cornstalks or long wooden tomato stakes. I make the T fairly near the top, leaving enough for my Pumpkin Person's neck because I will be putting the Pumpkin head on the top of the stick.

Now it is time to design a face! Let your imagination run wild but DO NOT CUT the pumpkin. I repeat, DO NOT CUT or carve your pumpkin. A carved head will soon mold and shrivel. Paint your Pumpkin Person's face with waterproof paint so it withstands a month's worth of west coast weather.

Are there other pumpkin festivals?

Pumpkin Festivals are major tourist attractions on the east coast of Canada and the United States. The largest pumpkin festival in the world takes place in Germany with over 450,000 pumpkins on display annually. Closer to home, The Town of Kentville holds its Pumpkin People Festival every October. There's the West Hants Pumpkin Festival in Nova Scotia which is home to Howard Dill's famous Atlantic Giant pumpkins. Another enormous festival and tourist

attraction is Pumpkintown, USA, where hundreds of Pumpkinheads work and play in their old fashioned village. There's the 48-year-old pumpkin festival in Half Moon Bay, California; Vala's Pumpkin Patch in Nebraska with more than 50 pumpkin attractions including a lost pumpkin mine, graveyard golf, a petting zoo, a mechanical pumpkin eating dragon and a three-acre corn maze. There's also the jack-o-lantern spectacular in Providence, RI. Pumpkintown USA has been named one of the Top 5 Best Pumpkin Festivals in New England: pumpkintown.com.

Powell River Living magazine is spearheading this fun community event that will evolve in the months to come. Check in with Powell River Living between now and October to find out what's happening. Our amazing partners at Mother Nature and Springtime Garden Centre will be handing out seeds for you to plant in your garden this summer. Henderson Elementary School students have been given seeds and are already busy planting. We have giant pumpkin seeds and regular pumpkin seeds (perfect for pumpkin heads) to hand out but hurry, they'll go fast! Our goal is to create a great community event that is affordable for everyone.

Robert Dufour

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Announcing the return of our scheduled

TOWNSITE WALKING TOURS

During June, July and August, join Stewart Alsgard, Bob Astrope and others for guided Saturday walking tours throughout the summer. We invite you to a fun, entertaining and story-laden session.

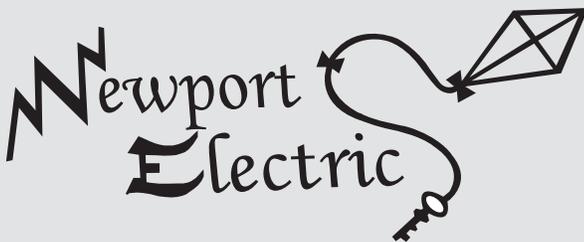
Tours are only \$10 per person. Drop by the office at the Henderson House Living Museum, 6211 Walnut Street

Wednesday at 2 pm or Saturday at 10:30 am for a pleasant, guided walk through history.

Group tours are offered year-round, by appointment.

Find out more by calling 604.483.3901

A huge thanks goes to **First Credit Union** for their ongoing support with the production of *The Digester* newsletter



Henri Newport

Electrical Contractor
BC Lic. #25491

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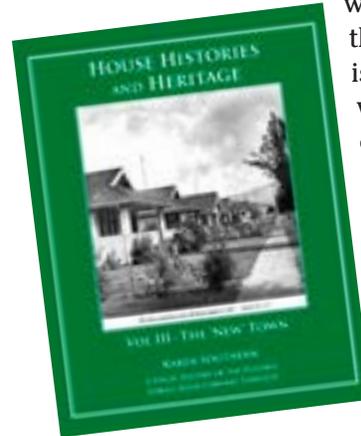
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henri@newportelectric.ca

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"House Histories & Heritage"

Volume III about to be released

We are happy to announce that Karen Southern's new volume will be available for sale in the next few weeks—watch Facebook for the announcement. Volume IV is in the works right now and will be available in the next couple of months, completing the set. Want to reserve a copy? Call or email Linda at Henderson House:



- thetownsite@shaw.ca
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Is it time to paint your house?

2019 Paint-Up Campaign in its 26th year

The **Annual Paint-Up** campaign is just one of many activities the Townsite Heritage Society coordinates to promote pride of ownership and beautification of our Historic Townsite. A fresh coat of paint is a wonderful way for homeowners to showcase their heritage architecture. A carefully planned exterior paint scheme will further accentuate heritage features and really bring out the character of the home.

Residents can nominate themselves or a neighbour for the package of up to 20 gallons of SICO Exterior Paint at no cost—donated by SICO Paints and RONA Powell River, our most generous and long-term corporate partner. This year RONA Powell River will also offer to the lucky winner, a one hour consultation with an EXTERIOR COLOUR consultant.

If you are interested in having your home considered, please contact the society office at 604.483.3901 **by May 17th**. Final selections are made by RONA Powell River.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. House is an original Townsite home with the façade being at least 60% original
2. House is owner-occupied, not a rental.
3. House is in need of painting.

4. Owner has the personal resources to properly prepare (e.g. sand, fill, prime, etc.) and paint the house in the current season, with completion **by Sept 15, 2019**.
5. Owner is willing to post a sign on their lawn crediting RONA Powell River, our local building centre and SICO paints, who sponsor the donation of paint.
 6. Owner is willing to have a “before and after” picture taken to be published in The Digester, the Townsite Heritage Society’s newsletter, and for other media release.
 7. Owner must consult with and seek approval from the Townsite Heritage Society regarding the selection of an appropriate palette of colour choices for the architectural era of the home.



Part of what earned this area its distinction as a National Historic District in 1995 was having 90% of the 400-home residential section of the town almost completely intact as it was in the early 20th century. The “old town” Townsite was begun in 1910 and completed in 1916; the “newer” section was begun in 1920 and completed in 1931, except for the WWII era duplexes on Willow.

Until 1955, the Powell River Company, who built and owned the town, kept the homes in top-notch shape, maintaining them and painting every five years. Now, the Townsite Heritage Society helps residents learn about heritage conservation through activities and services to promote those same values.

For more information contact the Society office at 604.483.3901, or email the townsite@shaw.ca, or drop by Henderson House between noon and 4 pm, Tuesday to Friday.



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Townsite Home & Garden Awards

What you need to know for 2019

This year our judges are calling for nominations from the Townsite Community for the Home and Garden awards. The nominated gardens are monitored by the judges throughout the growing season (with the exception of *Spring Fling*) and final judging is completed in early Fall. If you know of a deserving home or garden that fits the criteria below (yes, this could be your own home or garden) please submit your nomination by contacting the Townsite Heritage Society at 604.483.3901. (From time to time we may add a new category, or take one away. Please note that awards aren't necessarily presented in every category each year.)

HOME AWARDS

Grand Heritage Award

Awarded to a well maintained/restored home that best reflects our Townsite heritage in every exterior detail, with retention or restoration of original windows, cladding, and roofing. Exterior cosmetics, heritage colours and landscaping all come into play. This house will set a good example of intact original arts and crafts design of the period.

Grand General

Awarded to a well-kept home. While this home may not be recognized as 100% heritage, it does retain obvious heritage characteristics, and the exterior cosmetic finishes (paint colours, siding etc.) and impeccable landscaping demonstrates pride of ownership

Most Improved Home

Awarded to the owner of a Townsite home for improving the exterior appearance of a home that has been in need of attention. This home will demonstrate a turnaround from ill repair to restored and maintained. The improvements to this home may still be in progress, but consideration is given for potential curb appeal and work completed to date.

GARDEN AWARDS

Spring Fling

This garden will display vibrant spring colours and continue to be in bloom for most of the spring season. Emphasis is placed on plant variety, longevity, and good garden maintenance. Different colour patterns and arrangements will be celebrated to welcome the coming of spring. Judging is held at the beginning of June.

Most Improved Mixed Border

This mixed border garden will display a noticeable improvement over previous years and is recognized for improved growth, colour and variety. The garden's condition and maintenance over time will be recognized, as well as the improved benefits to the neighbourhood.

Best Mixed Border

This mixed border garden will be recognized for consistent growth, colour and variety during the summer season. The garden's condition and maintenance will be recognized, as well as the overall curb appeal.

Most Improved Garden

This garden will display a noticeable improvement over previous years and is recognized for improved growth, overall condition, colour and variety. Garden maintenance is considered as well as consistent colour and blooming variety during the garden season.

Best Garden Overall

Probably the most prestigious garden award to recognize exemplary design, complexity, colour, variety and condition. Usually the judges consider the garden as it evolves over time to display floral abundance and beauty.

Best Kitchen Garden

Usually displayed in the back yard, but we'll judge it wherever we find it. Don't mind if judges are found peering over the fence. This garden is acknowledged, in most cases, for the abundance of vegetables with overall variety, good productivity and festive appeal.

Best Garden Structure

A slightly different category that recognizes anything unique in design and construction of garden structure. It could be a pleasant gazebo, garden shed, vintage garage or garden pond sympathetic to our heritage architecture and detail. Creativity and good execution are the only prerequisites.

Best Container Garden

Pots, pots, pots. One can never have too many container pots or hanging baskets. This award recognizes colour, variety, pot design and placement to complement the site.

Best Commercial Garden

Commercial properties are recognized for overall improvements, maintenance, beauty, and curb appeal. Overall landscaping and design are considered, as well as street trees, garden beds and greenspace.

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FLORAL BASKET FUNDRAISER

Our goal is to sell 50 baskets (Linda will be very busy getting them ready)
Baskets and pots will be available for purchase starting May 7 and during this event, and throughout May/June (or until they are all sold).
Discounts for members!



Linda Nailor is literally embracing one of her passions as she babies the plants in her greenhouse for the hanging baskets and pots she is creating to raise funds for the Society.

New Workshop Announcement

Make your own vintage clothing

We are pleased to offer a workshop this fall on making period clothing. There is a limit of six participants. Yes, that means register now! Instructor, Ann Goodwin, is an experienced costume designer and seamstress who will be guiding you through your project.

Participants will need to buy their own fabric and patterns, and need to bring all their tools (scissors, pins, thread, sewing machine, etc.) The workshop will likely be split into two sessions over two Saturdays of up to four hours each. Registration is \$60 (10% discount for Townsite Heritage members); all funds will go to the Heritage Society. We recommend that participants have some experience in making garments.

To register, or if you have questions, contact Linda at Henderson House: thetownsite@shaw.ca, or 604.483.3901.



Advertising in the Digester

Advertising in the Townsite Heritage Digester supports the work of the TH Society and helps make this magazine possible. Please contact us to place your ad in the next issue!

SIZE	AREA	PRICE
Business Card: 2" x 3.625"	7.0 in	\$30
Double Business Card	14.0 in	\$45
¼-page: 3.625" x 4.875"	17.0 in	\$60
½-page: 7.5" x 4.875"	36.5 in	\$95
Full page: 7.5" x 10"	75.0 in	\$170
Full page—Back Cover	75.0 in	\$200

Ads larger than ¼-page, other than specified sizes, are \$2.60 per square inch. Reserve your ad space by contacting the THS Office by telephone (604 483-3901), in person, or by email (thetownsite@shaw.ca).

*For information on Powell River's
Historic Townsite visit our website at:*

www.PowellRiverTownsite.com

And be sure to check out our Facebook page:

 townsiteheritagesocietyofpowellriver

The Townsite Heritage Digester

The Digester is published by the Townsite Heritage Society of Powell River. It is distributed to every household and business in the Historic Townsite, current members of the Society who reside outside the Townsite, and to selected locations around Powell River. Submissions and suggestions should be sent to the attention of THS Coordinator.

Townsite Heritage Society

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We're here to help you!

Drop by the THS Office at 6211 Walnut Street, or get in touch with us at 604 483-3901 or **thetownsite@shaw.ca**. We have photo albums, reference books, maps, paint chips, suggestions, and a wealth of stories to share.

Sprint/Summer Hours: Tues to Fri • Noon–4 pm
and in July to August, Saturdays 10 am–2 pm



Membership & Volunteer Form

Please complete and mail or drop off this form to the Townsite Heritage Society office at 6211 Walnut St, Powell River, BC V8A 4K2
E-mail us at <**thetownsite@shaw.ca**> or call 604.483.3901



Yes, I would like to be a member for 2019 \$10 MEMBERSHIP

Your donation of time as a volunteer, or a cash donation, both go far in helping us to engage in projects in support of our Townsite.

CASH DONATION \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Yes, I am willing to assist in volunteer efforts for the Townsite Heritage Society.

Please, sign me up to help with:

- Office Volunteer Digester Newsletter Delivery Blackberry Street Party
 Walking Tour Guide Henderson House Docent Gardening
 Or I can: _____

How to reach me:

Name _____

Address _____ Postal _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email _____

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