

**COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: CHARLES R. SHAW HOUSE  
HERITAGE BUILDING AND INTERPRETIVE PLAQUES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council approve the expenditure of \$1,500.00 (inclusive of HST) for the manufacture and installation of plaques for the Charles R. Shaw House, as outlined in this report.

**REPORT**

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 2012 February 02, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council authorization for the manufacture and installation of a heritage building and interpretive plaques for the Charles R. Shaw House, a designated municipal heritage site. The plaques will ensure greater prominence and recognition for the Charles R. Shaw House as an important landmark in Burnaby.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan  
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow  
Vice Chair

Councillor R. Chang  
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Planning & Building Director Finance Director Engineering
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

**DATE:** 2012 February 01

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**FILE:** 1650 01  
*Reference: Heritage Plaques*

**SUBJECT: CHARLES R. SHAW HOUSE  
HERITAGE BUILDING AND INTERPRETIVE PLAQUES**

**PURPOSE:** To authorize the manufacture and installation of a heritage building and interpretive plaque for this designated municipal heritage site.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council be requested to approve the expenditure of \$1,500.00 (inclusive of HST) for the manufacture and installation of plaques for the Charles R. Shaw House, as outlined in this report.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

In 1998, Burnaby completed a Heritage Revitalization Agreement with the Norwegian Old People's Home Association to protect the Charles R. Shaw House located at the Normanna Rest Home site at 7979 Fourth Street. The preservation of this 1891 building was seen as an important initiative to recognize it as one of the oldest buildings in the City and as the former residence of Burnaby's first Reeve (Mayor) Charles R. Shaw. The designation of this heritage building occurred prior to the City's establishment of a formal heritage plaque program and as a result no plaque was installed at the time to identify the Shaw House as a significant and protected municipal heritage site.

In 2011, the board and volunteers at the Normanna Rest Home undertook an extensive restoration of the exterior of the Shaw House and made an application for funding assistance from the Executive Committee of Council. At their meeting of 2011 November 28, Council approved the recommendations of the Executive Committee for the approval of a grant in the amount of \$7,000 with the condition that the association permit the installation of a plaque on this heritage site to recognize the heritage significance of the Shaw House and the City's financial contribution to the restoration project. This aspect of the project's approval was referred to staff for advancement to the Community Heritage Commission.

**2.0 HERITAGE PLAQUE PROGRAM**

The Community Heritage Commission annually operates a plaque program for the installation of bronze plaques and interpretive plaques for designated heritage buildings. These heritage plaques have an important role in the overall City Heritage Program as they visually mark the heritage building and indicate the City's legal protection. The building plaque together with an interpretive plaque also convey the special interest and pride that the community retains in these historic sites, as well as serving to educate the public about their heritage value and history.

To: Community Heritage Commission  
From: Director Planning and Building  
Re: Charles R. Shaw House - Heritage Building and Interpretive Plaques  
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In consideration of the significant historic and heritage value of the Charles R. Shaw House, and to commemorate the completion of its recent restoration by the volunteers of the Normmana Rest Home, it is proposed that funding in the amount of \$1,500 for the installation of both a Heritage Building Plaque and Interpretive Plaque be approved at this time. Funds to undertake the proposed project are available in the 2012 Budget of the Community Heritage Commission.

### **2.1 Heritage Building Plaque**


The City's heritage building plaques are manufactured in bronze (see *Attachment 1*) and installed with the cooperation of the property owners at the front entrance of the heritage building. It should be noted, given the ongoing issue of metal theft within Greater Vancouver, that the plaques are securely attached to the building's face. To date no heritage building plaques, to the knowledge of staff, have ever been removed or stolen. The cost of manufacturing and installing this plaque has been estimated at \$500.

### **2.2 Interpretive Plaque**

Given the significance of the Shaw House and the recent direction from Council to recognize the City's funding assistance for the building's restoration in 2011, the installation of a standard interpretive plaque is also proposed at this site. Utilizing full colour graphics the plaque will outline the history of the Shaw House and incorporate historic photographs from the City of Burnaby Archives collection (see *Attachment 2*). The plaque will be mounted onto a standard civic sign base and be orientated to the public sidewalk in front of the Shaw House on Thirteenth Avenue. The cost of manufacturing and installing the Interpretive Plaque and sign base has been estimated at \$1,000.

### **3.0 NEXT STEPS**

As outlined in this report, the heritage value of the Shaw House to the City of Burnaby has been recognized by Council with a significant grant to ensure the restoration and preservation of this building by the Norwegian Old People's Home Association. As a condition of awarding this grant, Council has requested that the Community Heritage Commission provide suitable recognition of the Shaw House and the funding partnership. The proposed manufacture and installation of a heritage building and interpretive plaque through the Commission's plaque program will ensure greater prominence and recognition for the Shaw House as an important landmark in Burnaby. This report is submitted for the consideration of the Community Heritage Commission.

  
B. Luksun, Director  
PLANNING and BUILDING

JW:sa  
Attachments (2)

cc: City Manager  
Director Finance  
Director Engineering



Proposed Heritage Building Plaque



# The Charles and Mary Shaw House



The Charles and Mary Shaw House, c.1920



Charles R. Shaw,  
First Reeve of Burnaby 1892



Burnaby Municipal Council, 1892.  
Reeve Charles Shaw is standing in the centre.

**T**he Shaw House is one of the oldest surviving houses in Burnaby. Originally built in 1891, this house was the home of Burnaby's first Mayor Charles R. Shaw (1834-1916) and his wife Mary D. Shaw (1848-1897).

Born in England, Shaw immigrated to Canada in 1869, and relocated to New Westminster in 1889, where he worked as an employee of the Mechanic's Mill Company, an early woodworking plant. After moving to Burnaby in 1890 he became a prominent resident who worked to establish Burnaby as a new municipality. He was unanimously elected by acclamation as first Reeve (Mayor) of the new municipality in 1892. In 1894, Shaw sold his house and farm and moved his family to Kamloops due to his wife Mary's failing health. After Mary died in 1897, the Shaw family returned to Toronto.

The Shaw House was later purchased by James Brookes (1884-1953), founder of James Brookes Woodworking Ltd., a mill that was a major employer in East Burnaby. Brookes bought and renovated the house in 1917. In 1927, he built a much larger house on the property (now demolished), and the original house was moved to the corner of the property to serve as a gardener's cottage for Brookes' estate. The additions made to the house at this time employed sash and milled products produced by the Brookes plant. Although altered, this Victorian era residence remains largely intact, with Brookes's later additions.

In 1996 the house was protected as a municipal heritage site as part of the redevelopment of the Normanna Rest Home. In 2011 the Board and volunteers of the Norwegian Old People's Home Association completed the restoration of the Shaw House with funding assistance from the City of Burnaby.



COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION