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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

4120 Evaluation and Design for Heritage Sites

Organization Information

The host organization is a non-governmental, non-profit charity based in Peterborough. Its mission is to conserve the natural and cultural heritage and distinctive landscapes of the Kawartha bioregion. Established in 2001, the organization is a land trust that works with landowners, cultural heritage organizations and the community to identify and protect key ecological and cultural features in the Kawarthas. Its programs include land conservation, cultural heritage conservation, farm outreach and research, mapping and sustainability planning.

Project Information

A City of Kawartha Lakes heritage committee needs a standard evaluation and ranking system to assist in the examination and classification of buildings considered to have architectural and/or historical value. The evaluation currently is very subjective and a clear standardized evaluation system would make it easier and allow for consistency in decision-making regarding heritage properties.

Students will research approaches taken by different municipalities to create an objective standard evaluation system, understand the needs of the heritage committee, develop an easy to understand manual with evaluation criteria that is best suitable for the City of Kawartha Lakes, along with appropriate hardcopy forms, handouts, a presentation (PowerPoint) with talking points, and electronic files. It is anticipated that students will meet with the heritage committee on at least two occasions (during their monthly committee meeting) to present their case, understand their needs, and to present their findings.

Benefit to the Host Organization and the Community

Cultural heritage is an integral part of our villages, towns, and the landscape. The heritage committee is currently focused on conserving and designating built heritage within its boundaries. However, at the present time, potential properties for designation are evaluated in a manner that is highly subjective and based on the often limited personal knowledge of its members. Having a standard evaluation criteria may benefit the City of Kawartha Lakes by helping existing and new members to make decisions and to rank properties objectively and consistently. The host's goal is to conduct research and to partner with and assist organizations in conserving cultural heritage in the Kawarthas; therefore this project will help meet its mandate and to promote cultural heritage conservation in the region.

What Students Might Learn

- Experience in working collaboratively with members of a community group on an action-oriented research project.
- Acquisition of skills in networking with various organizations/associations and professionals.
- Students will utilize and enhance their skills in research development, methodology, report writing, and presentation.

- Students will learn about the history, heritage, geography and character of the Kawartha bioregion.
- Students will learn a great deal about the conserving built heritage in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Screening or Training Requirements

- None.

Skills or Experience Needed

- Experience working in a team
- Inquisitiveness
- Research skills, including familiarity with municipal governments
- Interest in cultural heritage and built heritage
- Strong organizational, communication and interpersonal skills

Resources Required for Project that will be Provided by Host

The resources to be provided will include: act as liaison between the City of Kawartha Lakes and the students; negotiate access to City of Kawartha Lakes information and data if necessary; assistance with suggestions on source documents and research design; some travel to Lindsay may be required; students will be expected to have independent access to a computer.