GLEBE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

November 19, 2026

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of the Glebe Community Association to ask City Council to retain the Built Heritage Committee (BHC) or to create a similar dedicated forum for heritage decisions.

There are three reasons why we believe it is vital to retain a dedicated heritage committee:

1. Volume of Work
The BHC reviewed 175 staff reports during the last term of Council. Uploading this volume of work onto the planning and housing committee will be administratively burdensome, bogging down the committee and leading to delays. It will be less efficient than the current committee structure.

2. Specialized Expertise
The BHC includes four appointed public members with heritage expertise. These individuals contribute significant knowledge and important perspectives to the consideration of heritage issues. Without the benefit of such expertise, the proper consideration and oversight of the City's heritage assets will be diminished.

3. Heritage Responsibilities
The Ontario Heritage Act recognizes cultural heritage value that warrants protection. This value should not be treated as an ordinary planning factor to be traded away when a development is proposed. Unlike trees that can be replanted, once heritage assets are gone, they are lost forever.

Ottawa's heritage is too valuable to put at risk through inadequate governance. The GCA supports Heritage Ottawa which opposes eliminating the BHC based on their deep subject matter expertise.

We call on City Council to retain the Built Heritage Committee or create an equally dedicated urban heritage body, with appointed public members, councillors who have relevant experience or exposure to heritage issues in their constituencies, and meaningful participation by affected communities and heritage organizations, preserving fair appeal rights and the Ontario Land Tribunal's independence.

June Creelman
President, Glebe Community Association

cc. Heritage Ottawa