

Memorandum

To: The Community Heritage Commission **Date:** October 1, 2025

From: Rob McCullough, Manager of Museums and Heritage Services, Community Services

Re: **Heritage Values Assessment of the Streetlights in Massey Victory Heights Neighbourhood**

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to:

- Provide the Community Heritage Commission with background on the completion of a heritage values assessment of the streetlights in the Massey Victory Heights Neighbourhood
- Receive feedback from the Community Heritage Commission regarding the draft assessment. Specifically:
 - Does the Commission feel any values have been missed in the Massey-Victory Heights Streetlights Heritage Values Assessment
 - Does the Commission feel the report will provide Council with sufficient information to make an informed heritage preservation decision regarding the streetlights in the Massey Victory Heights Neighbourhood?

Background

In June 2025, as part of a planned streetlight infrastructure renewal, Council directed Community Services staff to undertake a heritage values assessment of the streetlights in the Massey Victory Heights Neighbourhood. The need for this assessment came about due to community concern that the removal and replacement of the existing streetlights would alter the heritage character of their neighbourhood. Specifically, Council directed that staff “conduct research and community consultations to complete a heritage assessment of the existing street light standards in Massey Victory Heights. The findings will be shared with Council and the community.”

Discussion

A heritage values assessment is an unbiased study that evaluates the cultural, historical and/or architectural importance of an object or place. It identifies a subject’s physical attributes, cultural associations and historic connections to inform decisions about its preservation or alteration. The “Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada” are used to guide the assessment process. The “Standards” are based upon internationally recognized criteria used to describe the values associated with, or expressed by, the object or place for past, present and future generations. These criteria are:

- Aesthetic qualities (how it looks, feels or smells)

- Cultural qualities
- Historic qualities
- Scientific qualities
- Social qualities
- Spiritual qualities

Heritage values—whether physical or non-physical—are shown through character-defining elements. These elements can include things like the materials used, the shape or design, the location, how spaces are arranged, how the place is used, and the cultural connections or meanings it holds.

Schueck Heritage Consulting was engaged to undertake the Heritage Values Assessment. Extensive research was carried out in the New Westminster Archives and on-line. Local historian Jim Wolf also contributed research towards the assessment. Site visits were made on July 25 and August 12, 2025 to visually assess the streetlights and to take photographs. A City-led community meeting was held on September 3, 2025 to discuss heritage values with members of the Massey Victory Heights neighbourhood and other interested City residents.

The heritage values assessment has concluded that the historic streetlights have significant heritage value. They have been determined to be important place-making elements of the neighbourhood that help to define its character. This assessment is grounded in a determination that the streetlights hold values aligning with five of the six criterion used to undertake a heritage values assessment (Aesthetic, Cultural Historic, Scientific and Social). The full report can be found in Attachment 1 of this memo.

Staff are asking members of the Community Heritage Commission to respond to the following questions regarding the heritage values assessment:

- Does the Heritage Commission feel any values have been missed in the Massey Victory Heights Streetlights Heritage Values Assessment?
- Does the Commission feel the report will provide Council with sufficient information to make an informed heritage preservation decision regarding the streetlights in the Massey Victory Heights Neighbourhood?

