



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

March 23, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
minister.fin@ontario.ca

The Honourable Graham McGregor, MPP
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
graham.mcgregor@pc.ola.org

RE: Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding

At the March 23, 2026, Regular Council meeting for the Town of Saugeen Shores, the attached motion was passed endorsing the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding.

Sincerely,

Hailey Leigh-Mossley
Deputy Clerk
Encl.

cc. MPP Lisa Thompson
All Ontario Municipalities

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SAUGEEN SHORES

MOVED BY: C. Grace

RESOLUTION NO: 096-2026

SECONDED BY: M. Myatt

DATE: March 23, 2026

Whereas older buildings have inherent sustainability and provide economic, environmental and social benefits for Ontario communities; and,

Whereas re-use of existing buildings reduces the need for increased infrastructure that accompanies new builds such as sewer and water services, new roads and sidewalks; and,

Whereas re-use of existing building can reduce construction waste and extend the life expectancy of landfills; and,

Whereas keeping older buildings helps a community remain visually richer and enhances identity while building its tourism brand and appeal; and,

Whereas creating a new, application-based, matching grant program of \$10M/year, modelled on an existing Alberta program would incentivize owners and smaller developers to keep, fix and reuse heritage buildings to create new housing; and,

Whereas such a grant program would provide an alternative to the Ontario heritage property tax relief program, which has limited impact on developers and reduces municipal revenues; and,

Whereas such a grant program would provide a simpler and more direct way for heritage building owners to fund renovations or conservation; and,

Whereas Ontario developers surveyed by the National Trust for Canada in 2014 ranked a heritage-revolving fund as their top incentive to encourage heritage development if:

- the grants are simple to apply for and to administer; and,
- the fund is large enough to meet at least 33% of the demand so that applicants have a reasonable chance of recovering the cost and effort of applying.

Therefore, be it Resolved That the Council of the Town of Saugeen Shores endorse the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding, and that this resolution be sent to the Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and MPP Lisa Thompson, and be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario.

- ☒ Carried
- ☐ Carried, as amended
- ☐ Defeated
- ☐ Deferred
- ☐ Referred
- ☐ Tabled
- ☐ Withdrawn

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Mayor