



Heritage Property Tax Relief Program

Request for County Participation:

- Background – benefits & legislative framework
- Owen Sound's program – participation rate & funding
- Request

Background – benefits & legislative framework

- 1 Developed by the Ministries of Culture and Finance:
 - permanent tax incentive promotes heritage conservation
- 1 Encourages owners to make regular investments in ongoing maintenance:
 - with continuous care, major restoration projects and their high costs can be avoided



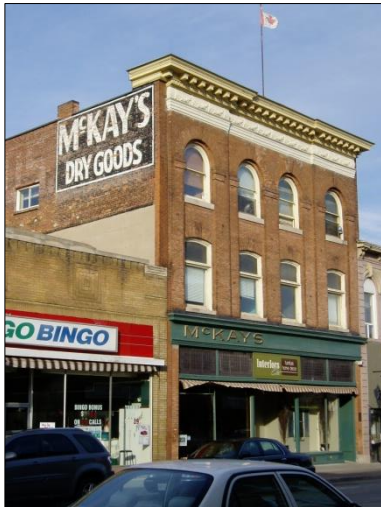
Background – benefits & legislative framework

- 1 Section 365.2 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, outlines the process :
 - tax relief option ranges from 10% to 40%
- 1 Municipalities fund their portion of the tax relief, the province funds the education portion, and if they choose to opt in, the County funds the county portion



Owen Sound's program – participation rate & funding

- 1 In 2009 City Council passed a By-law providing a 20% tax refund
- 1 Eligibility requirements include
 - designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*
 - property is occupied and in good condition
 - no outstanding taxes
 - owner has entered into an Agreement with the City



Owen Sound's program – participation rate & funding

- 1 Each year owners make application for a refund:
 - in five years, the City has paid out \$100,000
 - 16 eligible heritage property owners at present
 - five are private homes
 - nine are commercial properties Downtown
 - one is a home converted to a lawyer's office
 - one is a City-owned heritage building (the former Grey County Courthouse)



Request for County to participate

- 1 We all benefit from heritage properties!
- 1 Section 365.2(7) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* gives the County of Grey authority to pass a By-law to authorize a similar tax refund on the portion of taxes levied for upper-tier purposes at the same rate (20%).
 - County participation in 2013 would have been \$5,358





Questions?

1 Thank you

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