

Original Report

Cultural Heritage Evaluation for Carbonfree Group Lot 4 and Lot 5 CON 6, Township of Chapple, District of Rainy River, Ontario

Archaeological Licencee

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Project Information

WHNW Project #2511-01

Proponent Information

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Signatures

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Limitations

The information in this report documents methods and data collection that were conducted in a manner consistent with a level of care and skill commonly exercised by members of the professional archaeological community licenced to conduct archaeology in Ontario. No other warranty expressed or implied is made.

The fieldwork and information contained within has been prepared for the specific project as described to Woodland Heritage Northwest by Carbonfree Group. The data contained in this report, interpretations and recommendations provided are intended for Carbonfree Group and the work completed on Lot 4 and Lot 5 CON 6, Township of Chapple, District of Rainy River, Ontario and are not intended for any other site or location. Unless otherwise stated the interpretation, descriptions and recommendations given in this report are intended only for the guidance of the Client in the design of this specific project.

Executive Summary

To support the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process under Sections 19-23 (Protected Properties, Archaeological, and Heritage Resources) of O. Reg. 359/09 and the Ontario Heritage Act, a Stage 1/2 Archaeological Assessment is required for a location that is situated 37 km northwest of Fort Frances called the Rainey River 71 parcel. This parcel totals approximately 150 ha in size.

Presently the landscape appears to be grazing lands for cattle with one small section forested and a wetland to the east. The landscape is not surrounded by any development, but there is a meandering river to the northwest of the property.

Planning for the Carbonfree Group Solar Project in Rainy River includes completing a comprehensive assessment of the cultural heritage resources present in the direct impact area, and an evaluation of the potential impacts to these resources from the development, construction and operation.

The first step in this process is compiling baseline information on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, and development of a research plan for the inventory and evaluation of these resources. In Ontario, evaluation of cultural heritage resources is directed by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (S&Gs), developed under the Ontario Heritage Act (RSO 1990, c O.18). The S&Gs provide direction in the identification, evaluation, protection, maintenance, use, and disposal of cultural heritage resources during development.

This report presents baseline research supporting the identification and evaluation of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within and around the Carbonfree Group Solar Project Rainy River area. This work included a background study and fieldwork. Fieldwork was carried out between April 29th and 30th 2025, in combination with a Stage 1 and Stage 2 archaeological property inspection completed under archaeological licence P307.

The MCM describes heritage buildings and structures, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources as cultural heritage resources. Since cultural heritage resources may be affected adversely by both public and private developments, it is incumbent upon planning and approval authorities to consider heritage resources when making planning decisions.

This report provides an assessment of the value or interest of cultural heritage resources in and adjacent to the Carbonfree Group Solar Project in Rainy River, in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (as amended in 2005), and the guidelines presented in the Ontario MCM's Ontario Heritage Tool Kit. For the purposes of this built heritage and cultural heritage landscape assessment, Woodland Heritage Northwest undertook the following tasks:

- Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

None of the properties contained criteria that would necessitate further action in the form of a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report. No mitigation measures have been recommended as there were no resources observed.

Project Personnel

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Project Manager	David Norris, PhD P307
Field Director	David Norris, PhD P307
Report Preparation	David Norris, PhD P307
GIS/Mapping	David Norris, PhD P307
Report Review	Jade Ross, M.Sc. R1318

Acknowledgements

Woodland Heritage Northwest would like to extend its appreciation and thanks Carbonfree Group for the opportunity to allow Woodland Heritage Northwest to be involved in the solar farm project.

Miigwetch
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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Context

To support the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process under Sections 19-23 (Protected Properties, Archaeological, and Heritage Resources) of O. Reg. 359/09 and the Ontario Heritage Act, a Stage 1/2 Archaeological Assessment is required for a location that is situated 37 km northwest of Fort Frances called the Rainey River 71 parcel. This parcel totals approximately 150 ha in size.

Presently the landscape appears to be grazing lands for cattle with one small section forested and a wetland to the east. The landscape is not surrounded by any development, but there is a meandering river to the northwest of the property.

Planning for the Carbonfree Group Solar Project in Rainy River includes completing a comprehensive assessment of the cultural heritage resources present in the project area, and an evaluation of the potential impacts to these resources from the development, construction, and operation of the solar project. The first step in this process is compiling baseline information on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, and development of a research plan for the inventory and evaluation of these resources. In Ontario, evaluation of cultural heritage resources is directed by the MCM Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (S&Gs, 2010), developed under the Ontario Heritage Act (RSO 1990, c O.18). The S&Gs provide direction in the identification, evaluation, protection, maintenance, use, disposal of cultural heritage resources in development.

With specific regard to the Federal EA requirements for protection of cultural heritage resources, we note that this direction includes consideration of elements of cultural and historical importance to Indigenous groups in the area, without being limited by any provincial heritage requirements. Cultural heritage resources to be considered in preparing the baseline data include: i) burial sites, ii) cultural heritage landscapes, iii) sacred, ceremonial or culturally important places, objects, or things, and iv) archaeological sites and areas of potential. Woodland Heritage Northwest will continue to work with Indigenous communities to obtain Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use information as the project progresses.

2 Heritage Assessments

Identifying, evaluating, managing, and conserving Ontario's heritage is acknowledged as a basic component of environmental assessments (EA) and municipal planning in Ontario. **Heritage resources** are defined under O. Reg. 359/09 as "real property that is of cultural heritage value or interest and may include a building, structure, landscape or other feature of real property." In general, heritage resources in Ontario are described using three discrete categories; **built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological sites**, the latter of which is not addressed within a **cultural heritage evaluation report (CHER)** but in a separate report.

Built heritage consists of individual, person-made, or modified structures including, but not limited to residential; industrial, institutional, religious, agricultural, and commercial buildings;

bridges; and monuments identified as being important to a community. These resources include engineered structures, such as dams or bridges. Built heritage resources may be significant in and of themselves or, when taken together with other elements of a landscape, support the evaluated cultural heritage value or interest of a cultural heritage landscape. While cairns or significant location markers (including survey monuments) may be included under the definition, certain features are excluded. For instance, the Ontario Heritage Act clarifies that built heritage “does not include ... ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs and earthworks” which are, by definition, archaeological resources.

Cultural heritage landscapes are geographic areas that include several heritage attributes. Together, these attributes form a discernable unit of meaning. Meaning, in this sense, is derived from historical contemporaneity, cultural practice, or visual continuity. Attributes of a cultural heritage landscape may include buildings or structures, travel routes, cemeteries, burials or memorials, places of cultural or spiritual value, and places of former or ongoing cultural practice. These attributes exist in relation to each other across cultural heritage landscapes and collectively create and define distinctive meaning that is unique from the significance of the individual components. These landscapes emphasize the interrelationship between people and the natural environment and convey information about the processes and activities that have shaped a community.

Cultural heritage landscapes can be further defined by the following three categories recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Designed landscapes are landscapes that have been intentionally planned or created, such as a town square or large private garden.

Evolved landscapes have developed organically over time because the activities of people have changed the land. These activities may be part of a ‘continuing’ landscape, where activity is ongoing, or a ‘relict’ landscape, where development or growth has ended, but the changes remain evident on the landscape.

Associative landscapes incorporate intangible cultural heritage features, or features which, while limited in spatial extent, are viewed as symbolic of wide-ranging use of an area in cultural practice. They are landscapes that hold religious or cultural meaning, locations of remembrance, or landscapes valued for artistic inspiration. In these landscapes, natural elements ‘meld’ with material evidence of landscape use and change. These landscapes include areas of special significance to Indigenous communities, such as sacred or ceremonial places, locations for gathering medicinal plants, or burial sites.

A cultural heritage landscape could have components of some or all the above types, and uncovering these various, interconnected elements requires careful consideration and integration of all lines of background research as well as involvement of community input.

Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes can be affected by public or private project development and associated construction activities, which may include displacement (i.e., removal, demolition), or disruption of the character and aesthetics of cultural heritage resources. The analysis of built and cultural heritage resources and landscapes in the study area addresses those aboveground, person-made heritage resources 40-years of age and older, as per federally and provincially accepted practices. It should be noted that some built or cultural heritage resources or landscapes that are over 40-years old might not require protection or preservation.

The analysis throughout the study process addresses Subsection 1(c) of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, which defines “environment” as:

“...cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community”; as well as “any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans”.

2.1 Historical Context

The MCM describes built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources as cultural heritage resources and is responsible for the administration of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). The OHA provides the framework for provincial and municipal responsibilities and powers in the conservation of cultural heritage resources. The OHA gives MCM the responsibility for the conservation, protection, and preservation of Ontario’s culture heritage resources. Section 2 of the OHA charges the Minister with the responsibility to:

“...determine policies, priorities and programs for the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario”.

3 Policy Context

The requirement to identify and evaluate built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes is derived from legislation. The regulatory and policy framework for identification, evaluation and protection of cultural heritage landscapes is briefly described below.

3.1 Ontario Heritage Act

Detailed definitions of cultural heritage resources are not provided in the Ontario Heritage Act (RSO 1990, c. O.18). Part III.1 (Section 25.2(3)(a)) provides for the preparation of heritage standards and guidelines which set out the criteria and the process for the identification of properties that have cultural heritage value or interest. The most current version of the Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (S&Gs) was released in 2010. S&Gs for the heritage identification and evaluation process followed in 2014. We note that the Act deals entirely with material aspects of heritage, acknowledging intangible heritage attributes of material properties in support of, but not replacing, the cultural heritage value or interest of material places.

3.2 Renewable Energy Act

Subsection 2392) of O. Reg. 359/09 of the Renewable Energy Act requires applicants to consider potential for heritage resources in areas of development. .

Carbonfree Group Rainy River Solar Project has been volunteered under the Renewable Energy Act. Specific direction for the evaluation of cultural heritage resources under the REA process has not been published. We have chosen to follow the general outline of the process set out in the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Heritage Property Evaluation as outlined in the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990*. This direction describes the heritage management process, which provides the identification of:

1. known or potential cultural heritage resources that may be impaired, damaged, or destroyed by a proposed project,
2. the type and scope of proposed projects which may influence cultural heritage resources,
3. interested communities and stakeholders that should be consulted,
4. protection and mitigation measures that should be applied.

We have also incorporated the direction and recommendations as outlined in **the Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (2010)**. The S&G's (2010) clarify that cultural heritage landscapes are defined geographical areas modified by human activity that have cultural heritage value. These landscapes may contain diverse elements which, together, constitute a heritage form distinct from that of its constituent parts. The S&Gs provide direction for their identification and evaluation, protection, maintenance, use and disposal.

Additional direction on the identification and evaluation of heritage properties is presented in a second document, the **Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties: Heritage identification and evaluation process (2014)**. Identification and evaluation are a multi-step process involving both ministry staff and external consultants.

The **MCM Cultural Heritage Evaluation Methodology** describes the process for evaluating a MCM property for CHVI. The document provides guidance to both ministry personnel and consultants involved in heritage evaluations.

Section B.2 of the Standards & Guidelines sets out a general process to identify provincial heritage properties. The Standards & Guidelines state that the “Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest” set out in the Ontario Regulation 9/06 will be applied to determine the cultural heritage value or interest of a property, and that the “Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest of Provincial Significance” in Ontario Regulation 10/06 will determine provincial significance. If the property meets the criteria in Ontario Regulation 9/06, it is considered a provincial heritage property. If the property meets the criteria in Ontario Regulation 10/06, it is then determined to be a provincial heritage property of provincial significance

3.3 Summary of the Heritage Management Process

Generally, within this overarching process, cultural heritage resources include archaeological resources, built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, and includes both known and potential resources. Planning includes consideration of areas of potential that are, or may be, associated with intangible cultural features, such as sacred or spiritual sites. Within the ministry, projects are first screened for **cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI)** potential through comparison of the project to a set of criteria. Screening for archaeological potential and archaeological assessments are separate from screening from built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes and thus are not detailed in this CHER.

During screening, checklist items include questions concerning municipal designations and provincial heritage plaques but also includes concerns for known burial sites or cemeteries, heritage river systems, buildings, or structures over 40 years of age, and being identified by MCM as holding heritage potential. Community considerations are also identified, asking if the project area contains structures or sites of local importance that hold a special association with an individual, group or practice, or includes landscape features that may have cultural heritage value to a population. Where potential impacts are indicated, a qualified person will be engaged to prepare a **CHER**.

A completed CHER will include specific information based on background research and fieldwork that evaluates the cultural heritage value or interest of heritage resources on the property. Information collection should be sufficient to support any evaluation of cultural heritage value or interest. This includes primary and secondary research accompanied by a property inspection that may connect the values to significant themes at the provincial and local levels. Research, including fieldwork, will be conducted to document and photograph any buildings on the property and their setting, determine the project area’s association with significant historical themes, identify the dates of construction and association with any builder or architect involved in the construction of buildings or structures, and identify any additional information that identifies properties that may hold cultural heritage value or interest. The report will conclude with a **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**, including a description of the heritage attributes identified or an explanation statement as to why there the property was found not to have cultural heritage value. The report is reviewed by the ministry and a decision regarding the report findings and recommendations issued.

Cultural heritage value or interest is determined through application of the criteria set out in O. Reg. 9/06, and provincial cultural heritage value or interest is found in the criteria for O. Reg. 10/06. CHVI is determined using set criteria and covers both the cultural heritage value or interest of a property, and whether this CHVI is of provincial significance.

Following the preparation of a CHER, if built resources or landscapes of cultural heritage value are present, a **Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA)** detailing the potential adverse impacts and preferred mitigation approaches will be required. If, on the other hand, the property is found to not hold cultural heritage value or interest, the cultural heritage evaluation work is complete. A clear rationale and recommendation must be made in the report specifying that no further assessment or evaluation is required.

4 Methodology

4.1 Resources

The research undertaken for this report was directed to the completion of the cultural heritage resource assessment as described in Section B.2 of the S&Gs.

Research for this background report considered a range of primary and secondary historical sources. Sources were primarily online and digital and included queries of the Canadian Register of Historic Places online searchable database, among others. As might be expected for an area such as the urban Rainy River locations, there are few historic sources dealing directly with the area and surrounding environments.

4.2 Study Area

The study area is defined as the direct impact area that surrounds the Rainy River locations (Map 1).

4.3 Identification of Existing Heritage Resources

To assist with the evaluation of cultural heritage resources, the province also enacted Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 9/06 - Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest made under the OHA. The regulation sets out specific criteria as a useful tool when assessing the cultural heritage value and interest of properties in three categories, including: historical or associative value; design or physical value; and contextual value. It further divides these into the following sub-categories:

Design or Physical Value

- is a rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method,
- displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
- demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

Historical or Associative Value

- has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community,

- yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
- demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community; and

Contextual Value

- is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area,
- is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings, or
- is a landmark.

Under O. Reg. 9/06, should the property satisfy at least one of the above criteria, it can be considered eligible for designation under Part IV of the OHA, whether deemed of high or low value or interest.

5 Results of Heritage Resource Inspection

The parcel of land considered for the Carbonfree Group Solar Project in Rainy River does not have any structures on it, nor it is located near parcels of land that would be considered to have Cultural Heritage Resource Value.

In consideration of heritage within the Study locations for the Rainy River Carbonfree Solar Project, the REA Checklist: consideration of Potential Heritage Resources was consulted and filled out (see Appendix A). No criteria were identified as having cultural heritage and no resources were identified as having Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.

As an alternative, the Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Landscapes checklist was also completed (see Appendix B). No criteria or potential for cultural heritage resources on the property or within the project area was identified therefore no Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) is required.

6 Maps



Map 1: Project Location Rainy River

Appendix A – REA Checklist: Consideration of Potential for Heritage Resources



Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport
Programs and Services Branch
401 Bay Street, Suite 1700
Toronto ON M7A 0A7

REA Checklist: Consideration of Potential for Heritage Resources

Applies to: Applicants for a renewable energy approval (REA) under the *Environmental Protection Act* who opt to consider the potential for heritage resources under subsection 23(2) of O. Reg. 359/09.

Screening Question	Yes	No
Is the project location situated on a parcel of land that:		
1. Abuts any protected property as described in Column 1 of the Table in section 19?*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Is included on the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's list of provincial heritage properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Is listed on a register or inventory of heritage properties maintained by the municipality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the subject of a municipal, provincial or federal plaque?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Is on or abutting a National Historic Site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Is on or abutting a known burial site or cemetery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Contains structures over forty years old? (Residential structures, farm buildings and outbuildings, industrial, commercial, institutional buildings and/or engineering works, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is there Aboriginal or local knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that:		
8. Contains or is part of a cultural heritage landscape? (Aboriginal trail, park, Canadian Heritage River, designed garden, historic road or rail corridor, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Is considered a landmark in the local community or contains any structures or sites that are important to defining the character of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Has special association with a community, person or historical event? (Aboriginal sacred site, traditional-use areas, battlefield, birthplace of an individual of importance to the community, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES to one or more of the above questions, there is potential for heritage resources at the project location.		
If uncertain about the answer to one or more of the above questions, a heritage assessment is advised as additional research is required to determine whether there is potential for heritage resources at the project location.		
If NO to all of the above questions, there is low potential for heritage resources at the project location. A summary of the information supporting the consideration of potential for heritage resources must be included in the design and operations report.		

*If the project is located on a protected property, written authorization must be obtained from the appropriate body and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment as part of complete REA application under section 19 of O. Reg. 359/09.

Clear Form

Print Form

Print Form and Guide

REA Checklist: Consideration of Potential for Heritage Resources - Background -

Please refer to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) guide *Cultural Heritage Resources: An Information Bulletin for Projects Subject to Ontario Regulation 359/09 Renewable Energy Approvals* for further information.

Regulation 359/09 requires the proponent to consult with the public, municipalities, and Aboriginal communities regarding the proposed project. Heritage and archaeological sites are of critical importance to First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and they should be involved in the assessment process. For further guidance on engaging Aboriginal communities please refer to the Ministry of the Environment's *Draft Aboriginal Consultation Guide for Preparing a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Application*.

1. Is the project location situated on a parcel of land that abuts any protected property as described in Column 1 of the Table in section 19?

If there are protected properties that abut the project location, a heritage assessment is required to evaluate project impacts and propose mitigation strategies.

Information about protected properties may be obtained from the Registrar at the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Local Land Registry Office, or Municipal Clerk. Please consult column 2 of the Table in section 19 to determine which authority holds the necessary information.

2. Is the project location situated on a parcel of land that is included on the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's list of provincial heritage properties?

Provincial heritage properties are properties the Government of Ontario owns or controls that have local or provincial cultural heritage value or interest. MTCS maintains a list of all provincial heritage properties based on information provided by ministries and prescribed public bodies. As they are identified, MTCS adds properties to the list of provincial heritage properties.

Information on provincial heritage properties can be obtained by contacting the Ministry's Registrar of Provincial Heritage Properties at registrar@mcl.gov.on.ca.

3. Is the project location situated on a parcel of land that is listed on a register or inventory of heritage properties maintained by the municipality?

Municipal registers are the official lists or record of cultural heritage properties that have been identified as being important to the community. Registers must include all properties that are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (under Part IV or V). Municipal registers may also include properties that have not yet been formally designated, but that have been recognized by the community as having cultural heritage value or interest and may be considered for designation.

Check with the Municipal Clerk, or Heritage Planning staff to determine if a property is listed on a municipal register.

4. Is the project location situated on a parcel of land that is the subject of a municipal, provincial or federal plaque?

Heritage resources are often recognized with formal plaques or markers. Plaques may be erected by municipal, provincial or federal government, or by local non-government organizations. The municipality should be aware of whether there are any local plaque programs, or if there are any federal or provincial plaques near the project location.

Information on federal plaques can also be found on the Parks Canada website: www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/default_eng.aspx.

Information about provincial plaques is available online through the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) Online Plaques Guide: www.heritagetrust.on.ca/Resources-and-Learning/Online-Plaque-Guide.aspx.

5. Is the project location situated on a parcel of land that is on or abutting a National Historic Site?

National Historic Sites are properties of national historic significance that are designated by the Federal Minister of the Environment, based on advice from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

For more information on National Historic Sites: www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/default_eng.aspx.

6. Is the project location situated on a parcel of land that is on or abutting a known burial site or cemetery?

Information on known cemeteries and/or burial sites may be obtained from the Registrar of Cemeteries, Ministry of Consumer Services. The Cemeteries Regulation Unit maintains a database of registered cemeteries:
www.consumerbeware.mgs.gov.on.ca/esearch/cemeterySearch.do?eformsId=0

The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) has created a cemetery locator that includes records for all Ontario cemeteries, both existent and non-existent, cairns, family plots and burial registers, etc. This information is available on the OGS website:
<http://ogs.andornot.com/CemLocat.aspx>

Early cemeteries may also be marked in historical atlases. Digital versions of historic atlases are available on the Canadian County Atlas Digital Project website: <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/SearchMapframes.php>

7. Is the project location situated on a parcel of land that contains structures over forty years old?
(Residential structures, farm buildings and outbuildings, industrial, commercial, or institutional buildings, and/or engineering works, etc.)

A 40 year old threshold is commonly used as an indicator of potential when conducting a preliminary survey for identification of cultural heritage resources. While the presence of a built feature that is 40 or more years old does not automatically signify cultural heritage value, it does make it more likely that the property could have cultural heritage value or interest.

The property owner may have information on the age of any houses or structures on the property. The municipality or local land registry office may also have information on the history of the property or would be able to determine the approximate age of the home based on the history of the development of the area.

If these sources cannot provide an approximate age, more information on researching the age of buildings or properties can be found in MTCS' Ontario Heritage Tool Kit Guide *Heritage Property Evaluation*:
http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/publications/HPE_Eng_large.pdf.

8. Is there Aboriginal or local knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that contains or is part of a cultural heritage landscape?
(Aboriginal trail, park, Canadian Heritage River, designed garden, historic road or rail corridor, etc.)

Some landscapes may have cultural heritage value to a community. For instance, an Aboriginal trail, historic road or rail corridor may have been established as a key transportation or trade route and may have been important to the early settlement of an area. Parks, designed gardens or unique landforms such as waterfalls, rock faces, caverns, or mounds are areas that may have connections to a particular event, group or belief.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a national river conservation program. It promotes, protects and enhances the best examples of Canada's river heritage. More information is available at <http://www.chrs.ca/en/main.php>. Questions regarding Canadian Heritage Rivers should be directed to the local Conservation Authority or municipal staff.

Information on cultural heritage landscapes could be requested during Aboriginal engagement and public and municipal consultation. Members of Aboriginal communities who hold traditional knowledge such as elders or community researchers may also have information on cultural heritage resources. Please note that Aboriginal traditional knowledge may be considered sensitive.

Municipal Heritage Committees (MHCs) or local heritage organizations may also be useful resources. A full list of MHCs is available on the MTCS website: <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/lacac.shtml>. The Ontario Historical Society's "Heritage Directory" has a list of heritage societies and organizations in the province:
www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/en/Start_Browsing_122.

A simple internet search should determine whether there is any accessible documentation available about the landscape; for instance, historical maps, a local recognition program, historical walking tour, municipal heritage management plan, cultural heritage landscape study, or municipal cultural plan that identifies the property in question. Information specific to trails may be obtained through <http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca>.

9. Is there Aboriginal or local knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that is considered a landmark in the local community or contains any structures or sites that are important to defining the character of the area?

Potential landmarks, structures or sites may include: prominent buildings or landscape features, complexes of buildings, monuments, etc.

Information on landmarks could be requested during Aboriginal engagement and public and municipal consultation. Members of Aboriginal communities who hold traditional knowledge such as elders or community researchers may also have information on cultural heritage resources. Please note that Aboriginal traditional knowledge may be considered sensitive.

Municipal Heritage Committees (MHCs) or local heritage organizations may also be useful sources of information resources. A full list of MHCs is available on the MTCS website: <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/lacac.shtml>. The Ontario Historical Society's "Heritage Directory" has a list of heritage societies and organizations in the province: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/en/Start_Browsing_122.

A simple internet search should determine whether there is any accessible documentation available about local landmarks; for instance, a local recognition program, historical walking tour, municipal heritage management plan, cultural heritage landscape study, or municipal cultural plan that identifies the property in question.

10. Is there Aboriginal or local knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that has special association with a community, person or historical event? (Aboriginal sacred site, traditional-use areas, battlefield, birthplace of an individual of importance to the community, etc.)

Local knowledge may reveal that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that has a special association with a community, person or event of historic interest (for example: Aboriginal sacred site, traditional-use area, battlefield, birthplace of an individual of importance to the community, etc).

Information on sites with historical or community associations could be requested during Aboriginal engagement and public and municipal consultation. Members of Aboriginal communities who hold traditional knowledge such as elders or community researchers may also have information on cultural heritage resources. Please note that Aboriginal traditional knowledge may be considered sensitive.

Municipal Heritage Committees (MHCs) or local heritage organizations may also be useful resources. A full list of MHCs is available on the MTCS website: <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/lacac.shtml>. The Ontario Historical Society's "Heritage Directory" has a list of heritage societies and organizations in the province: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/en/Start_Browsing_122.

A simple internet search should determine whether there is any accessible documentation available about special historical associations with the property; for instance, historical maps, a local recognition program, historical walking tour, municipal heritage management plan, cultural heritage landscape study, or municipal cultural plan that identifies the property in question.

[Print Form](#)

7 Appendix B - Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes



Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport
Programs & Services Branch
401 Bay Street, Suite 1700
Toronto ON M7A 0A7

[Clear Form](#)

[Print Form](#)

Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes A Checklist for the Non-Specialist

The **purpose of the checklist** is to determine:

- if a property(ies) or project area:
 - is a recognized heritage property
 - may be of cultural heritage value
- it includes all areas that may be impacted by project activities, including – but not limited to:
 - the main project area
 - temporary storage
 - staging and working areas
 - temporary roads and detours

Processes covered under this checklist, such as:

- *Planning Act*
- *Environmental Assessment Act*
- *Aggregates Resources Act*
- *Ontario Heritage Act* – Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties

Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER)

If you are not sure how to answer one or more of the questions on the checklist, you may want to hire a qualified person(s) (see page 5 for definitions) to undertake a cultural heritage evaluation report (CHER).

The CHER will help you:

- identify, evaluate and protect cultural heritage resources on your property or project area
- reduce potential delays and risks to a project

Other checklists

Please use a separate checklist for your project, if:

- you are seeking a Renewable Energy Approval under Ontario Regulation 359/09 – [separate checklist](#)
- your Parent Class EA document has an approved screening criteria (as referenced in Question 1)

Please refer to the Instructions pages for more detailed information and when completing this form.

Project or Property Name

Carbonfree Group Solar Project

Project or Property Location (upper and lower or single tier municipality)

Lot 4 and Lot 5 CON 6, Township of Dobie, District of Rainy River, Ontario

Proponent Name

Carbonfree Group

Proponent Contact Information

Doug Deeks

Screening Questions

	Yes	No
1. Is there a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process in place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes, please follow the pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process.

If No, continue to Question 2.

Part A: Screening for known (or recognized) Cultural Heritage Value

	Yes	No
2. Has the property (or project area) been evaluated before and found not to be of cultural heritage value?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes, do **not** complete the rest of the checklist.

The proponent, property owner and/or approval authority will:

- summarize the previous evaluation and
- add this checklist to the project file, with the appropriate documents that demonstrate a cultural heritage evaluation was undertaken

The summary and appropriate documentation may be:

- submitted as part of a report requirement
- maintained by the property owner, proponent or approval authority

If No, continue to Question 3.

	Yes	No
3. Is the property (or project area):		
a. identified, designated or otherwise protected under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> as being of cultural heritage value?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. a National Historic Site (or part of)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. designated under the <i>Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. designated under the <i>Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. identified as a Federal Heritage Building by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. located within a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes to any of the above questions, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, if a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value has not previously been prepared or the statement needs to be updated

If a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value has been prepared previously and if alterations or development are proposed, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) – the report will assess and avoid, eliminate or mitigate impacts

If No, continue to Question 4.

Part B: Screening for Potential Cultural Heritage Value

	Yes	No
4. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that:		
a. is the subject of a municipal, provincial or federal commemorative or interpretive plaque?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. has or is adjacent to a known burial site and/or cemetery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. is in a Canadian Heritage River watershed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. contains buildings or structures that are 40 or more years old?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part C: Other Considerations

	Yes	No
5. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area):		
a. is considered a landmark in the local community or contains any structures or sites that are important in defining the character of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. has a special association with a community, person or historical event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. contains or is part of a cultural heritage landscape?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes to one or more of the above questions (Part B and C), there is potential for cultural heritage resources on the property or within the project area.

You need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER)

If the property is determined to be of cultural heritage value and alterations or development is proposed, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) – the report will assess and avoid, eliminate or mitigate impacts

If No to all of the above questions, there is low potential for built heritage or cultural heritage landscape on the property.

The proponent, property owner and/or approval authority will:

- summarize the conclusion
- add this checklist with the appropriate documentation to the project file

The summary and appropriate documentation may be:

- submitted as part of a report requirement e.g. under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Planning Act* processes
- maintained by the property owner, proponent or approval authority

Instructions

Please have the following available, when requesting information related to the screening questions below:

- a clear map showing the location and boundary of the property or project area
 - large scale and small scale showing nearby township names for context purposes
- the municipal addresses of all properties within the project area
- the lot(s), concession(s), and parcel number(s) of all properties within a project area

For more information, see the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's [Ontario Heritage Toolkit](#) or [Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties](#).

In this context, the following definitions apply:

- **qualified person(s)** means individuals – professional engineers, architects, archaeologists, etc. – having relevant, recent experience in the conservation of cultural heritage resources.
- **proponent** means a person, agency, group or organization that carries out or proposes to carry out an undertaking or is the owner or person having charge, management or control of an undertaking.

1. Is there a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process in place?

An existing checklist, methodology or process may already be in place for identifying potential cultural heritage resources, including:

- one endorsed by a municipality
- an environmental assessment process e.g. screening checklist for municipal bridges
- one that is approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) under the Ontario government's [Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties](#) [s.B.2.]

Part A: Screening for known (or recognized) Cultural Heritage Value

2. Has the property (or project area) been evaluated before and found not to be of cultural heritage value?

Respond 'yes' to this question, if all of the following are true:

A property can be considered not to be of cultural heritage value if:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) - or equivalent - has been prepared for the property with the advice of a qualified person and it has been determined not to be of cultural heritage value and/or
- the municipal heritage committee has evaluated the property for its cultural heritage value or interest and determined that the property is not of cultural heritage value or interest

A property may need to be re-evaluated, if:

- there is evidence that its heritage attributes may have changed
- new information is available
- the existing Statement of Cultural Heritage Value does not provide the information necessary to manage the property
- the evaluation took place after 2005 and did not use the criteria in Regulations 9/06 and 10/06

Note: Ontario government ministries and public bodies [prescribed under Regulation 157/10] may continue to use their existing evaluation processes, until the evaluation process required under section B.2 of the Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties has been developed and approved by MTCS.

To determine if your property or project area has been evaluated, contact:

- the approval authority
- the proponent
- the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

3a. Is the property (or project area) identified, designated or otherwise protected under the *Ontario Heritage Act* as being of cultural heritage value e.g.:

- i. designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*
 - individual designation (Part IV)
 - part of a heritage conservation district (Part V)

Individual Designation – Part IV

A property that is designated:

- by a municipal by-law as being of cultural heritage value or interest [s.29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*]
- by order of the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport as being of cultural heritage value or interest of provincial significance [s.34.5]. **Note:** To date, no properties have been designated by the Minister.

Heritage Conservation District – Part V

A property or project area that is located within an area designated by a municipal by-law as a heritage conservation district [s. 41 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*].

For more information on Parts IV and V, contact:

- municipal clerk
- [Ontario Heritage Trust](#)
- local land registry office (for a title search)

ii. subject of an agreement, covenant or easement entered into under Parts II or IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

An agreement, covenant or easement is usually between the owner of a property and a conservation body or level of government. It is usually registered on title.

The primary purpose of the agreement is to:

- preserve, conserve, and maintain a cultural heritage resource
- prevent its destruction, demolition or loss

For more information, contact:

- [Ontario Heritage Trust](#) - for an agreement, covenant or easement [clause 10 (1) (c) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*]
- municipal clerk – for a property that is the subject of an easement or a covenant [s.37 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*]
- local land registry office (for a title search)

iii. listed on a register of heritage properties maintained by the municipality

Municipal registers are the official lists - or record - of cultural heritage properties identified as being important to the community.

Registers include:

- all properties that are designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Part IV or V)
- properties that have not been formally designated, but have been identified as having cultural heritage value or interest to the community

For more information, contact:

- municipal clerk
- municipal heritage planning staff
- municipal heritage committee

iv. subject to a notice of:

- intention to designate (under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*)
- a Heritage Conservation District study area bylaw (under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*)

A property that is subject to a **notice of intention to designate** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest and the notice is in accordance with:

- section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*
- section 34.6 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. **Note:** To date, the only applicable property is Meldrum Bay Inn, Manitoulin Island. [s.34.6]

An area designated by a municipal by-law made under section 40.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as a **heritage conservation district study area**.

For more information, contact:

- municipal clerk – for a property that is the subject of notice of intention [s. 29 and s. 40.1]
- [Ontario Heritage Trust](#)

v. included in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's list of provincial heritage properties

Provincial heritage properties are properties the Government of Ontario owns or controls that have cultural heritage value or interest.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) maintains a list of all provincial heritage properties based on information provided by ministries and prescribed public bodies. As they are identified, MTCS adds properties to the list of provincial heritage properties.

For more information, contact the MTCS Registrar at registrar@ontario.ca.

3b. Is the property (or project area) a National Historic Site (or part of)?

National Historic Sites are properties or districts of national historic significance that are designated by the Federal Minister of the Environment, under the *Canada National Parks Act*, based on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

For more information, see the [National Historic Sites website](#).

3c. Is the property (or project area) designated under the *Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act*?

The *Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act* protects heritage railway stations that are owned by a railway company under federal jurisdiction. Designated railway stations that pass from federal ownership may continue to have cultural heritage value.

For more information, see the [Directory of Designated Heritage Railway Stations](#).

3d. Is the property (or project area) designated under the *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act*?

The *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act* helps preserve historically significant Canadian lighthouses. The Act sets up a public nomination process and includes heritage building conservation standards for lighthouses which are officially designated.

For more information, see the [Heritage Lighthouses of Canada](#) website.

3e. Is the property (or project area) identified as a Federal Heritage Building by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office?

The role of the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) is to help the federal government protect the heritage buildings it owns. The policy applies to all federal government departments that administer real property, but not to federal Crown Corporations.

For more information, contact the [Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office](#).

See a [directory of all federal heritage designations](#).

3f. Is the property (or project area) located within a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site?

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place listed by UNESCO as having outstanding universal value to humanity under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. In order to retain the status of a World Heritage Site, each site must maintain its character defining features.

Currently, the Rideau Canal is the only World Heritage Site in Ontario.

For more information, see Parks Canada – [World Heritage Site website](#).

Part B: Screening for potential Cultural Heritage Value

4a. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that has a municipal, provincial or federal commemorative or interpretive plaque?

Heritage resources are often recognized with formal plaques or markers.

Plaques are prepared by:

- municipalities
- provincial ministries or agencies
- federal ministries or agencies
- local non-government or non-profit organizations

For more information, contact:

- [municipal heritage committees](#) or local heritage organizations – for information on the location of plaques in their community
- Ontario Historical Society's [Heritage directory](#) – for a list of historical societies and heritage organizations
- Ontario Heritage Trust – for a [list of plaques](#) commemorating Ontario's history
- Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada – for a [list of plaques](#) commemorating Canada's history

4b. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that has or is adjacent to a known burial site and/or cemetery?

For more information on known cemeteries and/or burial sites, see:

- Cemeteries Regulations, Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services – for a [database of registered cemeteries](#)
- Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) – to [locate records of Ontario cemeteries](#), both currently and no longer in existence; cairns, family plots and burial registers
- Canadian County Atlas Digital Project – to [locate early cemeteries](#)

In this context, adjacent means contiguous or as otherwise defined in a municipal official plan.

4c. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that is in a Canadian Heritage River watershed?

The Canadian Heritage River System is a national river conservation program that promotes, protects and enhances the best examples of Canada's river heritage.

Canadian Heritage Rivers must have, and maintain, outstanding natural, cultural and/or recreational values, and a high level of public support.

For more information, contact the [Canadian Heritage River System](#).

If you have questions regarding the boundaries of a watershed, please contact:

- your conservation authority
- municipal staff

4d. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that contains buildings or structures that are 40 or more years old?

A 40 year 'rule of thumb' is typically used to indicate the potential of a site to be of cultural heritage value. The approximate age of buildings and/or structures may be estimated based on:

- history of the development of the area
- fire insurance maps
- architectural style
- building methods

Property owners may have information on the age of any buildings or structures on their property. The municipality, local land registry office or library may also have background information on the property.

Note: 40+ year old buildings or structure do not necessarily hold cultural heritage value or interest; their age simply indicates a higher potential.

A building or structure can include:

- residential structure
- farm building or outbuilding
- industrial, commercial, or institutional building
- remnant or ruin
- engineering work such as a bridge, canal, dams, etc.

For more information on researching the age of buildings or properties, see the Ontario Heritage Tool Kit Guide [Heritage Property Evaluation](#).

Part C: Other Considerations

5a. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area) is considered a landmark in the local community or contains any structures or sites that are important to defining the character of the area?

Local or Aboriginal knowledge may reveal that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that has potential landmarks or defining structures and sites, for instance:

- buildings or landscape features accessible to the public or readily noticeable and widely known
- complexes of buildings
- monuments
- ruins

5b. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area) has a special association with a community, person or historical event?

Local or Aboriginal knowledge may reveal that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that has a special association with a community, person or event of historic interest, for instance:

- Aboriginal sacred site
- traditional-use area
- battlefield
- birthplace of an individual of importance to the community

5c. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area) contains or is part of a cultural heritage landscape?

Landscapes (which may include a combination of archaeological resources, built heritage resources and landscape elements) may be of cultural heritage value or interest to a community.

For example, an Aboriginal trail, historic road or rail corridor may have been established as a key transportation or trade route and may have been important to the early settlement of an area. Parks, designed gardens or unique landforms such as waterfalls, rock faces, caverns, or mounds are areas that may have connections to a particular event, group or belief.

For more information on Questions 5.a., 5.b. and 5.c., contact:

- Elders in Aboriginal Communities or community researchers who may have information on potential cultural heritage resources. Please note that Aboriginal traditional knowledge may be considered sensitive.
- [municipal heritage committees](#) or local heritage organizations
- Ontario Historical Society's "[Heritage Directory](#)" - for a list of historical societies and heritage organizations in the province

An internet search may find helpful resources, including:

- historical maps
- historical walking tours
- municipal heritage management plans
- cultural heritage landscape studies
- municipal cultural plans

Information specific to trails may be obtained through [Ontario Trails](#).