



SPRING / PRINTEMPS
2019

CHOnews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY HERITAGE ONTARIO/PATRIMOINE COMMUNATAIRE DE L'ONTARIO

WHAT'S IN A CONFERENCE?

As Ontario Municipal Heritage committees regroup post-election, returning members will greet new ones and face the task of advising their council on heritage matters. Often the learning curve is steep, and time is short to get on board. One great way to quickly find out where it's at, is to attend the annual Ontario Heritage Conference.

The municipalities of Bluewater and Goderich are hosting the conference this year. The program will draw on the area's diversity with sessions looking at farming, tourism, shoreline, and economics. This is a unique opportunity to mingle and learn from heritage professionals, volunteers, and municipal and provincial heritage advocates. From learning sessions with panel discussions to walkabouts and tours, this conference is an opportunity to mingle with like-minded colleagues to share stories and advice.

This year the Thursday Welcome Reception will be at Hensall Heritage Hall — come and discover the one-of-a-kind tin ceiling! Kelly Hill of Hill Strategies Research will

open with the keynote address on the topic of heritage economics. President and CEO of Historica Canada, Anthony Wilson-Smith, will showcase *Heritage Minutes* at the Gala dinner. On Friday and Saturday, you will be offered a range of concurrent sessions with an eye to community activism, economics and cultural heritage. The tour portion

of our program is always a highlight, and this year we have guided tours of the Goderich Harbour and Bayfield. Saturday afternoon is entirely dedicated to exploring St. Joseph, Zurich and the Bayfield Heritage Conservation District, this walk a logical follow up to a great lunch at Hessenland.

The Ontario Heritage Conference is unique at the provincial level, it highlights different communities from year to year,

providing learning opportunities at the regional level that deal with province-wide issues. For the seasoned conference attendees, we look forward to seeing you again, for the newbies... it is "Welcome aboard"! Register at www.ontarioheritageconference.ca/registration.



Huron Historic Gaol

Photograph: Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Carnegie Libraries

Recently I was involved in preparing a designation report for a type of built heritage resource in one community that may be found in many Ontario municipalities — Carnegie Libraries.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, communities in the English-speaking world, including Ontario, became aware that grants were available from Andrew Carnegie (and later his charitable foundation) for the construction of public, free libraries. In 1901 Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919) sold his steel

company for \$500 million and proceeded to devote his energies to philanthropy. In an essay he penned, he declared that the “best gift” for his philanthropy was a free library, provided the community accept and maintain it as a public institution.

Andrew Carnegie’s library grants were administered by his secretary, and later Corporate Secretary, James Bertram. Bertram required that for a municipality to receive a library grant, it must complete a questionnaire, own the site for the library, provide a commitment to its future maintenance and make the library freely available to its citizens. Bertram reviewed and approved the plans for new libraries. In 1911, he published **Notes on Library Buildings** which specified his ideals for the perfect library. These ‘Notes’ and accompanying floor plans specified the following ideals:

- ☐ A rectangular building
- ☐ One storey and basement, with outside staircase
- ☐ One large room subdivided by bookcases
- ☐ A basement four feet below grade
- ☐ Ceiling heights of nine feet for the basement and 12 to 15 feet for the main floor
- ☐ Rear and side windows seven feet from the floor to allow continuous wall shelving
- ☐ A lecture room as subordinate feature in the basement.



Durham Carnegie Library, East
Elevation (2018)
Photograph: Wayne Morgan

The 111 Carnegie Libraries built in Ontario are listed in www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/libraries/carnegie.shtml. Although 16 of these libraries have been demolished, many continued to be used as public libraries. Some of these libraries are described in a 1984 book by Margaret Beckman, **The Best Gift: A Record of the Carnegie Libraries in Ontario**, and in an Ontario Association of Architects website: www.oaa.on.ca/bloaag-detail/Carnegie-Libraries/367327 My involvement was with the

municipality of West Grey which had ceased using its Carnegie Library in the former town of Durham and was proceeding to sell the property. Some in the community thought it merited heritage designation, which I determined it did. The building, built in 1911–12, was designed by William Austin Mahoney of Guelph according to Bertam’s requirements. The municipality proceeded to designate it prior to its sale.

Does your municipality have a Carnegie Library, and does it have heritage protection? If it doesn’t, I suggest that you consider it as a candidate for listing and possibly designation.

Until next time,

Wayne Morgan

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Submitted articles must be in Microsoft Word format. Images must be sent as .jpg attachments in high quality resolution (300 dpi). Do not embed the images in the text of the article. Captions and credits must be provided.

Newspaper articles as updates to MHC activities cannot be used without permission of the newspaper and/or the original author. Text written by the MHC is encouraged.

Articles are published in the language they are received.

On February 20, 2019, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) met with a number of members of provincial Parliament (MPPs) at the Ontario Legislature. ACO had invited Community Heritage Ontario (CHO/PCO) to attend and board members Dennis Warrilow and Ian MacLean were there.

Topics of discussion for ACO included the *Ontario Heritage Act* and its recognition and protection powers, the *Planning Act* and *Provincial Policy Statement* for the heritage policies for land use. In addition, they discussed heritage policies in provincial plans and municipal Official Plans as well as professional heritage standards and practices. In total, 23 MPPs met individually with representatives from ACO and CHO/PCO. The day finished with a reception attended by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Michael Tibollo.

Ian attended the meeting with Amy Fee (Kitchener- South Hespeler) and later on with Dave Smith (Peterborough-Kawartha). Dennis attended the meeting with Jamie West (Sudbury) and later with Daisy Wai (Richmond Hill). Typically, the meetings lasted from 20 to 30 minutes.

Dennis and I discussed the role of CHO/PCO with respect to the provision of assistance to Municipal Heritage Committees for Heritage Conservation Districts and designation of properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. We noted that CHO/PCO organizes the annual Ontario Heritage Conference.

We also brought to MPPs attention the museums operating on historic sites. Examples were the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in Almonte, the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario in Smiths Falls and Diefenbunker: Canada's



Alysson Storey, MPP Daisy Wai and Dennis Warrilow

Cold War Museum in Carp.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is important to these museums and their historic structure. It is a source of capital to allow for replacement of equipment and upgrades, particularly with respect to accessibility. Also important are the Community Museum Operating and Pay Equity Grants which assist with the ongoing operations of community museums.

CHO/PCO encouraged MPPs to support Ontario Heritage Trust, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Community Museum Operating and Pay Equity Grants.

Dennis Warrilow and Ian MacLean are Directors of CHO/PCO.

NOTEWORTHY BITS

Conference Student Subsidy: In an effort to encourage students to develop an interest in heritage, CHO/PCO will sponsor two students to attend the Ontario Heritage Conference in Coderich/Bluewater, May 30 – June 1.

www.ontarioheritageconference.ca/StudentSubInfo-1.pdf

Training Needs Survey: In the last newsletter we asked MHC members to fill out a short survey regarding training sessions. Thank you to the many members who responded. The deadline was January 31, 2019 but we are leaving the survey open.

More responses = more accuracy.

www.communityheritageontario.ca

Colloquium: The Heritage Resources Centre (University of Waterloo) is holding a full day interdisciplinary heritage colloquium free of charge on Monday April 29, 2019. The title is "The Many Faces of Heritage: Growing a Community of Practice and Teaching".

uwaterloo.ca/heritage-resources-centre/

I recently read a 1971 pamphlet titled **A Sense of Time and Place** written by John Sewell, with foreword by Robert Fulford and photographs by June Greenberg and Bramwell Morrison. This pamphlet, which predated the *Ontario Heritage Act*, dealt with numerous heritage buildings in Toronto facing imminent demolition due to development projects. In those days, development companies typically had a scorched earth approach, so the first phase of most projects started with the destruction of all existing buildings and structures on the development site.

One proposed development project was called Metro Centre and it encompassed 187 acres south of Front Street including the railway lands. If this massive project had seen the light of day, both Union Station and the Dominion Federal Building would have been demolished to make way for nondescript buildings including office, commercial and apartment towers. The Metro Centre plan was announced in December 1968 and, after substantial planning complications plus growing and organized opposition from various quarters (including opposition from the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario), the plan was finally abandoned in May 1975. The only portion of the Metro Centre plan ever constructed was the CN Tower.

Other massive projects included the Eaton Centre and the Spadina Expressway. If the Eaton Centre had been developed as originally planned, it would have involved the demolition of Old City Hall, Scadding House and the Church of the Holy Trinity. If the Spadina Expressway had been developed as originally planned, it would have involved the demolition of numerous homes along Spadina

Road in the Annex neighbourhood plus Knox College (a.k.a. Connaught Laboratories and now the Daniels Faculty of Architecture at the University of Toronto) on Spadina Crescent.

Remarkably, all of the above-mentioned buildings slated for demolition are still standing today¹. Due to a great deal of hard work by heritage advocates, public attitudes gradually shifted leading to greater respect for our heritage assets. Since the mid-1970s we have had provincial legislation providing protection for heritage assets. It is now standard procedure for any development projects to include, as a minimum, an assessment of heritage buildings and structures plus archaeological remains on development sites. The scorched earth approach is still practiced, especially with new subdivisions, but there are controls in place to lessen the impact. Current protection for heritage structures and landscapes is not perfect. We have lost and continue to lose significant heritage assets, but there has been noteworthy progress. We should keep in mind the remarkable attitudinal shift since the 1960s.

What is also of note, is the gradual shift from protection of individual buildings to a concern for heritage areas and cultural heritage landscapes. We now have over 130 heritage conservation districts in Ontario protecting not just buildings but also the setting for those buildings and the integral character-defining surroundings. There is also a developing interest in the protection of cultural heritage landscapes. For example, there was a Conservation Review Board (CRB) hearing concerning the heritage value of the Banting homestead in Alliston (Town

of New Tecumseth, County of Simcoe) where Sir Frederick Banting was born and spent his childhood. There was a controversial issue whether heritage designation should be limited to the heritage buildings and surrounding five acres or whether the entire one-hundred-acre farm had heritage value. The CRB recommended designation wording for the heritage attributes included: "the overall appearance of the property as a farm, with a driveway entrance, and a dwelling, outbuildings, and associated cultural heritage

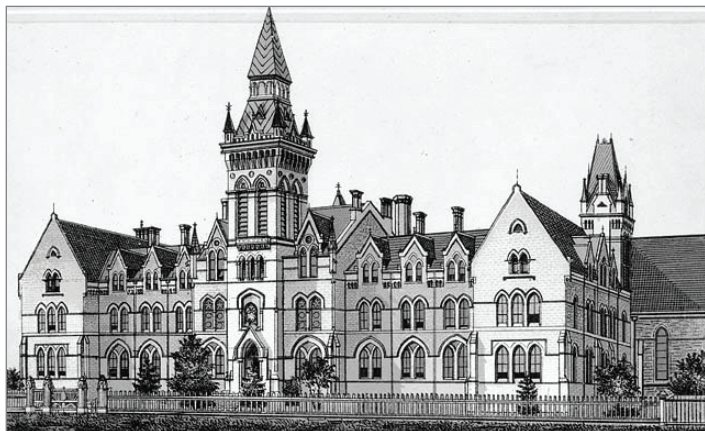


Dominion Building (2005) and
Church of the Holy Trinity (2007)
Photographs: SimonP CC BY-SA 3.0



¹ While all of these buildings survived, many other remarkable Toronto buildings did not as is evident from William Dendy's book titled **Lost Toronto** published in 1978.

landscape features surrounded by farm fields...". The CRB recommended that protection of the buildings alone was not sufficient – the entire farm had heritage value.



Knox College building on Spadina Circle
Photograph: "Bryce's Souvenir Guide to Toronto" 1887.

Regulation 9/06 under the *Ontario Heritage Act* containing criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest of properties includes not just design value and physical value for buildings but also historical value, associative value and contextual value. These additional criteria result in a broader approach to heritage value assessment. There have also been changes to the *Provincial Policy Statement* with sections setting out the requirement

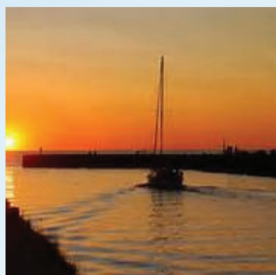
to conserve significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes. There is even language about protected heritage properties not being adversely affected by unsympathetic development on adjacent land. Section 2 of the *Planning Act* stipulates that those making planning decisions are to have regard to a number of matters, including the conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, and archaeological interest.

This evolution in heritage values and interest is reflected in the programming for the 2019 Ontario Heritage Conference being held in Goderich and Bluewater from May 30th to June 1st. The conference focuses on how the agricultural, marine, industrial and tourist economies have shaped the built and natural heritage of Huron County and, more recently, the interplay between heritage and tourism. In addition to walking tours in Goderich and Bayfield plus a pilot project featuring a self-guided tour app called Driftscape, there will be sessions dealing with heritage conservation districts, natural infrastructure, natural heritage and agricultural landscapes. Check out the program at www.ontarioheritageconference.ca where you will find sessions of relevance for your municipality. We encourage you to join us at this stimulating conference.

Paul R. King is the Chair of Finance for CHO/PCO.

30

Registration
Walking Tour
Opening Reception
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Hensall Heritage Hall



31

Registration
Tradeshow
Plenary – Heritage
Economics with Kelley Hill
Concurrent sessions
Gala Dinner

01

Concurrent sessions –
centered on Community
Activism, Natural Heritage
and Industry
PM – Bluewater Heritage Tour



2019 Ontario Heritage Conference

May 30 - June 1, 2019

Municipalities of Bluewater & Goderich

The 2019 Heritage Ontario Conference will be held in beautiful Bluewater and Goderich Ontario from May 30 – June 1. The conference theme is heritage economics and features an exciting program focused on how the agricultural, marine, industrial and tourist economies in Bluewater and Goderich have shaped the built and natural heritage of these communities and, more recently, the interplay between heritage and tourism.

www.ontarioheritageconference.ca

ginetteguy@communityheritageontario.ca

HERITAGE WOES IN EASTERN ONTARIO

GINETTE GUY

For those of us who keep an eye on heritage preservation in Ontario, we know that it's more work than glory. Local news articles shared on social media bring to light how constant the work needs to be, how vigilant we must stay.

A heritage designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, is no safe haven — it's a flag that wavers under the prevailing wind of the day, be it economical or political. Even properties owned by a municipality, historical society, or Parks Canada, are not immune to neglect and could face the wrecking ball at any moment. Saved once? Needs to be saved again? Nothing is a sure thing, as the following examples prove.

Carman House, Iroquois

Carman House is a 203-year-old Georgian limestone cottage restored to its original form, operating as a museum on the ground floor with a tenant living on the second floor. The house was built shortly after the War of 1812 by Michael Carman III, son of a Palatine Loyalist. It was given to the municipality in 1960 under the provision that the public portion of the property must remain a museum, otherwise the property ownership would revert to Ontario Power Generation. More recently, required updates threatened the historic integrity of the building and controversy surfaced in October 2018 when the city council opted to decommission the museum until further notice, potentially jeopardizing the future of the building as a museum. At the January council meeting, an updated report was presented highlighting the work needed under the building code: fire shutters, egress and fire rating requirements. It proposed a solution to maintain the existing building finishes and install additional precautionary items such as hard-wired alarms. There is hope that once the work is completed, the museum may re-open... Saved twice?

Raisin River Heritage Centre, St. Andrews West



Carman House Museum
Photograph: Carman House Museum

In 1978, the Cornwall Township Historical Society was created for the purpose of saving the St. Andrews West convent from demolition. The building was given a heritage designation that year and housed a museum and the historical society. In 2017 an engineering report recommended the township prevent access to the building due to safety issues. Three options are being considered: repairs (estimated at \$542,000) that would not completely restore the property under the building code, demolition (estimated at \$700,000), and selling the property. Grant applications were unsuccessful because the township, who owns the building, only owns five feet of land around it while the rest belongs to the Catholic District School Board. Given the poor condition of the structure the school board is not interested in acquiring it and council is now looking for public input before making a final decision... Saved twice?

Locomotive #17, Cornwall



Raisin River Heritage Centre
Photograph: Cornwall Township Historical Society

In 1977, the Canadian National Railway donated Locomotive #17 to the City of Cornwall in memory of Cornwall's railway operations and in 2006, Electric Motor #17 was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The locomotive is set on fixed rails, sitting on city land at a busy intersection of Cornwall where there is a plaque to explain its significance. Of course, with ownership comes maintenance responsibility yet over time, the site became neglected. Studies were completed, reports prepared, and touch ups done but the 82-ton workhorse has been taken for granted. Its beauty has faded and it's now beyond a dab of lipstick — it needs repairs, rust remediation and should probably be moved to a more suitable location. Recently the newly appointed city council voted on and passed a \$152,000 budget for the project. Notably, the vote was not unanimous. Public opinion is mixed too, most appearing to be in favour of keeping and maintaining it though some are strongly

against public money being spent. Suggestions that the locomotive be sold, donated or scrapped are consistently



Locomotive #17
Photograph: Ginette Guy

resurfacing and the Smith Falls Railway Museum has shown interest in giving it a home. Fortunately, the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Historical Society joined forces with the Moccasin Railroad Club and presented a show of interest to the council in an attempt to get funding and take on the project. Public consultation is now underway to find a permanent location that will allow more people to see the locomotive and learn about its history... Saved twice?

The balance sheet of heritage is likely in the red, the debate more often emotional than rational, and the economics of heritage conservation seldom make fiscal sense. Remembering the past and preserving the future is an affair of the heart, isn't it? Let's face it, no matter what, we all love the happy ending: saved!

Ginette Guy is a Vice President of CHO/PCO.

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FUTURE ONTARIO HERITAGE CONFERENCE?

We are presently looking for communities who would be interested in hosting our Annual Ontario Heritage Conference for future years starting with the 2021 opening. Hosting a conference is a great way to showcase your community and all the great work you do in heritage conservation.

For more information and the deadline,
please view the RFP posted on

www.communityheritageontario.ca



HOCKEY AND HERITAGE: ENGAGING NEW GENERATIONS IN COMMUNITY HISTORY

MICHAEL SEAMAN

Heritage can be defined as the handing down of stories, artifacts, buildings and traditions through the generations, providing us with both a tangible and intangible sense of the past. The passing down of these elements from one generation to another is an essential component of the act of heritage conservation.

One hundred years ago, the handing down of cultural artifacts and traditions through oral or printed form was a central part of social life. The advent of mass media, first ushered in by the launch of commercial radio in the

1920s and now manifested in the smart phones and watches of today, brought about a wide range of nation-wide and global storytelling that has often left the learning and understanding of local history and heritage behind.

Some might say that generations of today, those of the x, y and z, have little interest in history. The small scale of youth membership in local historical societies or even the National Trust for Canada, would seem to validate that but if you look closely enough, you will see that in many ways, appreciation for tradition and history is stronger than



ever. The professional sports arena is one area where you see this. In events such as the annual *NHL Winter Classic*, where throwback uniforms in alumni exhibition games celebrate the sport, the teams, catering to a widespread desire for authenticity, tradition and connections with the past. Conceivably, we assume that those who attend a heritage inspired sports event like this ticketed event, have a strong appreciation for the importance of tradition and the stories and physical reminders of the past.

No one would suggest to water down the rich and diverse cultural narrative of a place. It's clear that by providing programming and interpretation of tangible links to the past in areas of popular culture such as sport, we can open a window to a broader understanding and appreciation for our local history. In Ontario, the Town of Grimsby is one community where telling stories of local heritage and sport is opening doors to new generations to take an interest in local history.

Grimsby has a rich tradition of hockey history for which it is very proud. Its Junior C team, the Peach Kings, named for the local tender fruit that was once Grimsby's primary industry, is one of the oldest continuously operating professional hockey teams in Ontario. The origin of the Peach Kings is intertwined with the local industry like few other clubs. In the early 1920s, it was discovered that the shelf life of local peaches, plums and cherries could be extended when the fruit was cooled in advance of shipping. Cooling the fruit also increased the possible export markets so state-of-the-art cooling equipment was installed. It didn't take long for sporting enthusiasts to push for the construction of an ice

arena and in 1922 the Grimsby Arena with its artificial ice cushion, opened. At the time it was one of two artificial ice arenas Canada and one of only eight in North America!

In 2014, local hockey historian Marilyn Owen, worked with prominent Canadian Artist Rick Manners, to create a photographic collage that documented the near century of history, for display in the Peach King Centre. The panel is a welcome addition to the arena; parents and players can often be seen on game days looking at the interesting stories and photos on display.

This exercise planted a seed about interpretation of the story of a long-forgotten story of another famous hockey team that used to play in Grimsby, the Montreal Canadiens... yes, the famous Habs of Montreal held their training camps in Grimsby from 1922–1924! For a town of barely 2000 people, the presence of one of the worlds' leading hockey teams in their midst, brought about much excitement and pride. The community adopted the team as their own, often referring to them as the "Canadiens of Grimsby and Montreal". When the Canadiens won the 1924 Stanley Cup against Calgary in 1924, there was much celebration in Grimsby!

Research of this period uncovered a plethora of amazing stories and photographs of the Canadiens in Grimsby during the early 1920s. This material was compiled and incorporated into a pop-up exhibit for the *2015 Doors Open Grimsby Festival*. It tied in with the Doors Open Ontario theme, related to the history of sport and inspired by the Pan American Games held in Toronto that year.

Such was the interest in the pop-up exhibit that the Grimsby Museum developed a formal exhibit in 2017 titled



Interpretive displays prepared for the visit by the Montreal Canadiens Alumni to Grimsby in December 2018
Photograph: Michael Seaman



1923-24 Stanley Cup Banner was raised at the Peach Kings Centre before the Alumni Game, with David Seaman
Photograph: Michael Seaman

"Hockey Night in Grimsby". It was well attended, drawing many newcomers and youth. So popular was this exhibition that the Town of Grimsby created an interpretive panel titled "Rink of Dreams", to be permanently installed in the Peach King Centre. The project was unveiled during *Heritage Week 2017* as one of Grimsby's official Canada 150 projects.

The Grimsby Museum also worked the story of the Canadiens in Grimsby into their annual Cemetery Tour fundraiser in 2016. Actors portraying Charles Farrell, the Mayor of Grimsby during the Canadiens training camp era and Aurèle Joliat, the Mighty Atom and the future Hockey Hall of Famer who along with Howie Morenz, took his first skate with the Canadiens on Grimsby ice.

Widespread awareness of the story of the Canadiens in Grimsby inspired Simon Duong, the owner of the Grimsby Peach Kings hockey club, to take interpretation a step further. He invited the Montreal Canadiens Alumni to visit the Peach King Centre in the fall of 2018 to play the local old-timers. With the game date set, town planning and recreation staff received the blessing of Club de hockey Canadien, Inc. to raise a 1923-24 Stanley Cup banner commemorating the achievement of the Canadiens of Grimsby and Montreal. A history brochure was produced for all ticket holders along with erecting interpretive banners that feature a continuation of the story of the Canadiens in Grimsby and life-size versions of two of the Canadiens greats who skated on Grimsby ice: the great Georges Vezina and Howie Morenz, the "Stratford Streak", who was regarded

as the Gretzky or Crosby of his day. The interpretive panel features the history of the town, including the old hotel where the players stayed and the railway station where the team arrived and departed from Grimsby. Local young people were so proud to learn how for one brief shining moment, thanks to the local peach industry, Grimsby was the centre of the hockey universe with a World Champion, Stanley Cup winning hockey team it could call its own. This banner and the 2017 interpretive panel serve as a lasting reminder of the deep historical ties between the Montreal Canadiens and the Town of Grimsby. Further interpretation of this exciting period in Grimsby's history is planned for 2022, which is both the centenary of the Canadiens' first arrival in Grimsby and of the establishment of the Town of Grimsby.

Interpretation of the hockey history of the Town of Grimsby has been an unequivocal success. Many townsfolk old and young are more aware of the history of the Town of Grimsby; that awareness has also spread to historians and fans of hockey and most specifically, the Montreal Canadiens who have visited Grimsby to see the permanent and temporary installations. By building awareness for interesting local stories, community pride and local history knowledge is permanently enriched. The power of sport to bring people of different stripes and interests together is evident in Grimsby!

Michael Seaman is Chair of the Board of Governors for the National Trust for Canada.

ADVERTISE IN CHOnews!

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schofield@communityheritageontario.ca

CHOnews DEADLINES

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JUNE 10

OCTOBER 10

DECEMBER 10

**ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS
ALWAYS WELCOME.**

WE ARE HIRING

CHO/PCO is looking to fill the position of **Program Officer**.

Applications are due on June 14, 2019.

Details: www.communityheritageontario.ca/PROGRAMOFFICERJobDesc.pdf

HERITAGE COMES ALIVE IN GRAVENHURST

AMY TAYLOR

Gravenhurst: the Gateway to Muskoka is home to a multitude of heritage milestones including the distinction of being the first town in Muskoka, home to the oldest operating steamship in North America, the RMS Segwun, assembled locally in 1887, and the creation of Summer Theatre now in its 84th season. In addition, the Muskoka Airport was a training base for the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Norwegian Air Force during the Second World War. In fact, so many Norwegians were here that the site became known as “Little Norway” and many Norwegians subsequently settled in Gravenhurst post-war.



Municipal Heritage Committee aboard the RMS Segwun
Photograph: Town of Gravenhurst

Gravenhurst is equally proud of our Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC), a group of tenacious and dedicated volunteers who constantly look for ways to educate, preserve and promote awareness of our community's rich history. Some examples are: the Heritage Walking Tour, annual educational wagon tours during the Winter Carnival, and hosting the annual Doors Open event. The MHC strives to bring new heritage to the forefront by encouraging the celebration of prominent heritage sites and engaging in property monitoring, evaluation and recommendations for heritage designation.

In 2018, Gravenhurst was featured in the Doors Open Community Roadshow. Partnering with Culture Days and the Ontario Heritage Trust, the MHC offered a robust program showcasing twelve significant sites and a walking tour. They also hosted a presentation by David Leonard, Community Programs Officer for the Ontario Heritage Trust, along with students Tom Fraser and Micaela Evans. The energy and enthusiasm of these young colleagues, who shared their insights on heritage and how it impacts our lives at all ages, was certainly felt! The *Lost Airmen in Muskoka Project* (LAMP) film was shown twice, once to high school students from across Muskoka, who were able to ask questions and learn about an important part of history in

their own community, and then again, the next day to the general public, as part of the Doors Open opening ceremony.

What is LAMP and why is it so special? As a blizzard raged on in December 1940, two planes collided over Lake Muskoka while searching for another downed plane. While one plane was quickly located and recovered, the second plane and its occupants spent 70 years on the bottom of the lake before they were discovered and recovered. The film documents the journey of this discovery, its importance to our local and national history and helps to close the chapter on this incident. After 73 years, Flight Lieutenant Peter Campbell and Leading Aircraftman Theodore (Ted) Bates of the Royal Canadian Air Force were laid to rest with military honours.



Ontario Heritage Trust presenting
at the Doors Open kick-off event
David Leonard (above),
Micaela Evans and Tom Fraser (below)
Photograph: Town of Gravenhurst



This project typifies the commitment to finding and preserving historical treasures in our region and sharing their stories. Whether it is a house, plane, person, moment or event, the significance is never lost on Gravenhurst. For a “quiet, cottage town”, we show that there is a vibrant yearlong community here, which is active, engaged and passionate about our history and heritage and which also looks to the future with promise.

Each year the MHC looks to create new experiences for the public and for 2019, promises the same. There will be heritage events and a celebration of Cyril and Marion Fry, recent recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's *Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement*. We will also be working hard on enhanced planning for Doors Open 2020. Stay tuned for big things from this small town!

Amy Taylor is Senior Coordinator, Communications & Marketing for the Town of Gravenhurst.



Cyril and Marion Fry receiving the Lifetime Achievement award

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK SCHOFIELD

The CHO/PCO Board of Directors met March 24th at the Scarborough Archives.

In addition to the regular business and financial discussions, the board reviewed the nominations for the 2019 Community Heritage Ontario Service Awards. After some discussion it was decided to award Mary Ainslie Smith of St. Marys with the *Service to a Municipal Heritage Committee Award*. Her work with the committee dates back over 25 years and includes drafting agendas and minutes, and researching and preparing designation statements and plaque inscriptions, to name a few of her contributions. She also wrote articles for *CHOnews*, a weekly newspaper column on St. Marys heritage and several books on the history of St. Marys' institutions.

For the *Service to CHO/PCO Award*, the board awarded Bill Smith, formerly of Midland, who served for ten years and was instrumental in planning the 2013 Ontario Heritage Conference. He served as Vice President and took the initiative to set up the joint conference committee that plans the annual event. For this committee, Bill took the lead in organizing the agendas, often taking the minutes as well.

The Corporate Secretary reported that 75% of last year's MHC members have renewed for 2019 and many of those remaining are waiting for their municipality's budget approvals. This year marks a new beginning for many MHC members who are usually appointed following the local municipal election.

The Treasurer reported that the 2018 annual financial report has been completed and has been forwarded to the auditor. While balancing the budget is not easy, revenue from memberships, donations and the Ministry of Culture,

Tourism and Sport grant, were sufficient last year to cover all the disbursements including four issues of *CHOnews*.

Ginette Guy, who heads to Conference Committee, reported the program for the 2019 Ontario Heritage Conference in Goderich/Bluewater is nearing completion, with several excellent speakers already confirmed. Registration is now open.

The Communication Committee looks after CHO/PCO's social media which includes Facebook and Twitter, as well as the website and *CHOnews*. The editor of *CHOnews* is always looking for new and interesting articles, especially as new people join their local MHCs. In order to set up relevant training sessions, CHO/PCO also needs the assistance of MHC members. What training is needed in order to fully carry out the mandate of Municipal Heritage Committees? A survey has been set up on the CHO/PCO website and with a single-click, it is easy to complete the short survey, which will help guide our Education Committee in planning workshops and webinars.

The Education Committee works with the Program Officer to set up these training events. Unfortunately for CHO/PCO, the Program Officer obtained a new full-time job and is no longer available. Consequently, the committee is now looking for a new person to fill the part-time role. The board extends its thanks to Krista for her work and wishes her the best in her new position.

The Nominating Committee is faced annually with putting forth a slate of individuals to serve on the board and to represent MHCs from across the province. Half the board (four members) will be returning for the second part of their two-year term. After reviewing the nominations, the board

recommends the appointment of current president Wayne Morgan, current Communication Chair Tracy Gayda, current Director Matthew Gregor, as well as Regan Hutcheson. With the Ontario Heritage Conference scheduled for Markham in 2020, we are fortunate to have Regan step forward. Regan is currently the Manager of Heritage Services in the City of Markham. Elections for the board will take place on Saturday, June 1st as part of Annual General Meeting. It is currently scheduled to be held in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Goderich starting at 8:00 a.m.

Finally, as the new provincial government looks toward their 2019 and 2020 budgets, the board is hopeful that grants will continue to support heritage as all Provincial Heritage Organizations' work toward protecting and promoting all aspects of our heritage.

"The more we study the past, the better we shall appreciate the present and realize the importance of our influence upon the well-being of the future." David Boyle, 1896

Rick Schofield is the Corporate Secretary/Treasurer for CHO/PCO.



BOARD MEETINGS

CHO/PCO Board of Directors meetings are open to any MHC member. Please contact the Corporate Secretary to confirm each date before attending. Scheduled meetings will be held at 6282 Kingston Road, Scarborough.

2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Program Officer (vacant)

CHO/PCO MISSION STATEMENT

To encourage the development of municipally appointed heritage advisory committees and to further the identification, preservation, interpretation, and wise use of community heritage locally, provincially, and nationally.