

## **Executive Director's message**

By the time this autumn edition of *Heritage* is published, the Heritage Canada Foundation will be settling nicely into our new and permanent home.

For the last three years, the foundation has been renting space in the old Dominion Observatory on the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, but the lease expired this summer and could not be extended. When we began looking for new accommodation, we discovered that appropriate rental

properties were scarce and expensive, so we explored heritage properties for sale. We found, to our delight, a handsome building in the Sandy Hill neighbourhood of Ottawa which was less expensive to purchase and operate than comparable rental space.

Our new home dates back to circa 1897, and was for nearly fifty years the headquarters of the Victorian Order of Nurses. Built for the Blackburn family, the house stands at the corner of Laurier Avenue East and the street that bears the family name, Blackburn Avenue. The Blackburn family occupied the house until the 1950s, then deeded it to the V.O.N., which has grown too large for the building and has moved to bigger premises. The next edition of our magazine will feature an article on our new home, with accompanying photographs.

Our new address is 5 Blackburn Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8A2. (Telephone, fax and e-mail numbers remain the same as before.) Visitors are more than welcome, so do plan to drop in when next in the neighbourhood. It will be a pleasure to greet you and give you a guided tour of the new home for the Heritage Canada Foundation.

Brian Anthony

P.S. Our recently published conference program indicated that we would be holding our annual awards ceremony on October 12th in the Design Exchange, and this understandably resulted in a number of calls and e-mails. Because the Design Exchange has ignored our protests, and plans to create a new window at street level by cutting into the unique façade which features a frieze by the young Charles Comfort, we have cancelled our reservation and forfeited our deposit. I want to reassure members and readers that we cannot and will not hold a national heritage awards ceremony in a heritage structure that is to be unnecessarily and inappropriately altered. The ceremony will now be held at the Steam Whistle, formerly the Railway Roundhouse, a once-endangered heritage structure that, thankfully, has found new life.