

Editor's View

This issue brings the first article in a series that we are developing with an enthusiastic team at Parks Canada to help promote the new Canadian Register of Historic Places. Encouraged by the success of a comparable register operated by the U.S. National Park Service, Parks Canada has launched a work-in-progress online database of designated heritage sites across the country.

The success of the Register depends on the participation of all levels of government. That co-operative approach has the potential of creating an invaluable national tool to help all Canadians learn about the country's many and varied historic places — and how best to safeguard them. For the full story, turn to our lead feature on page 6, "Connecting Heritage Sites Across the Country." The provincial and territorial contribution will be covered in "Collaborating on Canada's Past" in our upcoming winter issue. Stay tuned!

A major impediment to the protection of the valued historic elements of many of these and other non-designated sites is compliance with building codes designed to deal solely with new construction. One enlightened province has just made that process easier: Manitoba has introduced new guidelines to fire risk indices that identify equivalencies that ensure safety requirements are met. This important change (see page 52) will support economic revitalization efforts of older buildings across the province. Let's hope other jurisdictions take notice.

In 2003 HCF's report on the five worst losses in Canada included the Civic Building in downtown Truro, Nova Scotia. When recently faced with having to determine the fate of another nearby heritage building, Truro's Town Council opted for revitalization. Lihua Huang tells this good-news story in "A Lasting Source of Civic Pride:

The Renaissance of Truro's Old Post Office," beginning on page 46.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who took the time to contact me with your feedback on the new look of the magazine and your comments on the content. Please, keep those letters and emails coming!

Carolyn Quinn, Editor