

Up and Running Again

Parks Canada
Cost-Sharing Program
is Helping

National Historic Sites

by Shannon Ricketts

After a long hiatus, Parks Canada's National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program is now running with a budget of \$20 million over five years, \$8 million of which comes from the federal government's Economic Action Plan.

A Parks Canada priority is to support, maintain and improve the commemorative integrity of Canadian national historic sites. Targeted to the over 700 that are not owned or administered by the federal government, the program aims to ensure their heritage value (also known as commemorative integrity) is conserved so Canadians understand their important role in our history. The program contributes up to 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$1 million.



Who's Eligible

Owners or long-term lessees of national historic sites who are provincial, territorial, regional or municipal governments, Aboriginal groups or not-for-profit organizations can apply. While the program helps with preparatory planning documents and presentation, the emphasis is on essential conservation work. The application process is competitive, with applications assessed on specific criteria. There have already been two intakes, the deadline for a third being October 1, 2010. (See www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/ppf-csp/index_e.asp for guidelines and applications.) Over 200 applications have been made so far, and 40 projects from across the country have been approved for funding totalling approximately \$9 million.

To ensure that interventions—both large and small—protect the heritage value of these important historic places, qualified professionals administer a certification process in which plans and work are evaluated against nationally accepted standards set out in the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (see www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/nldclpc-sgchpc.aspx).

**North Pacific Cannery,
Port Edward, British Columbia**

*La conserverie North Pacific,
Port Edward (Colombie-Britannique)*

One of HCF'S Top Ten

More than one site in the program has appeared on the Heritage Canada Foundation's annual Top Ten Endangered Places lists. The 2008 Top Ten features the Church of the Holy Cross at Skookumchuk, British Columbia, which is now receiving funds to assist the small First Nation community in stabilizing this impressive structure.

Remotely located along the Lillooet River at Skatin (Skookumchuk) in the B.C. interior, this large Gothic Revival-style church was built by local residents as part of an Oblate mission. It is remarkable for the craftsmanship in its elaborate woodwork and for its fusion of European and First Nation design motifs. The size, complexity and fragility of this building present an inordinate responsibility for a community whose numbers have dwindled over the years and which faces financial and technical challenges in relation to the conservation needs of the structure.



Photo: Stephen MacGillivray

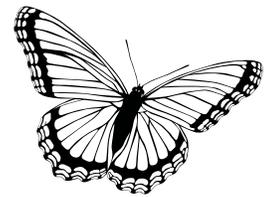
And on the B.C. Coast

Another fragile wooden site—on B.C.’s Pacific coast at Port Edward—is the North Pacific Cannery. Established in the late 19th century, it operated until 1980 from a collection of modest wooden structures built on timber piles along a narrow strip of land between mountains and the Inverness passage at the mouth of the Skeena River.

The complex includes a power plant, storage area and workers’ housing that reflect the isolation and self-sufficiency of northern coastal canneries. Interestingly, the design and layout of the workers’ housing resulted from the realities of that era’s multicultural workforce, with ethnic and gender segregation in both the living and work areas.

The site also illustrates the roles played by European, Asian and First Nations cultures in developing the west coast fishing industry and in the industrial development of British Columbia. Cost-sharing funds will help with repair of rotting and deteriorating wooden structural elements that are constantly exposed to the ravages of saltwater, wind and wave erosion.

Meanwhile, on the East Coast



One of Nova Scotia’s oldest buildings, the Little Dutch (Deutsch) Church in Halifax, will also be undergoing needed repairs. As the oldest known surviving church in Canada associated with our German community, it is one of the few remaining 18th-century churches outside of Quebec with its burying ground intact. Now surrounded by tall buildings, the diminutive structure is a touching reminder of the fragility of life in the early settlement days. Conservation work includes the foundation, exterior and interior walls, doors and trim, ceiling, windows and ventilation.

By the 19th century, life in Canada was a little more assured, as witnessed by St. Anne’s Chapel of Ease in Fredericton, New Brunswick. This charming example of Gothic Revival-style architecture followed the model of small English parish churches. Built at the same time as the city’s fine Christ Church Anglican Cathedral, it provided worship for those who could not travel to the cathedral on a regular basis. Notwithstanding its small scale, it is an example of the kind of graceful church the energetic Bishop Medley wished to see erected throughout the new English colonies at the time. As a template for future church architecture, it is notable for its corner stone wall and lych-gate, intended to



**St. Anne’s Chapel of Ease,
Fredericton, New Brunswick**

**La chapelle St. Anne of Ease à
Fredericton (Nouveau-Brunswick)**

Conservation on the Prairies

Industrial landscapes also have left their imprint on the land. Preserving the sometimes vast but fragile survivors of Canada's economic history poses special conservation challenges. In Alberta, Atlas No. 3 Coal Mine reveals how important the Drumheller Valley coal industry was to Canada. Active from 1936 to 1974, the mine's surviving elements include: a massive square-timbered tippie with conveyor sheds;

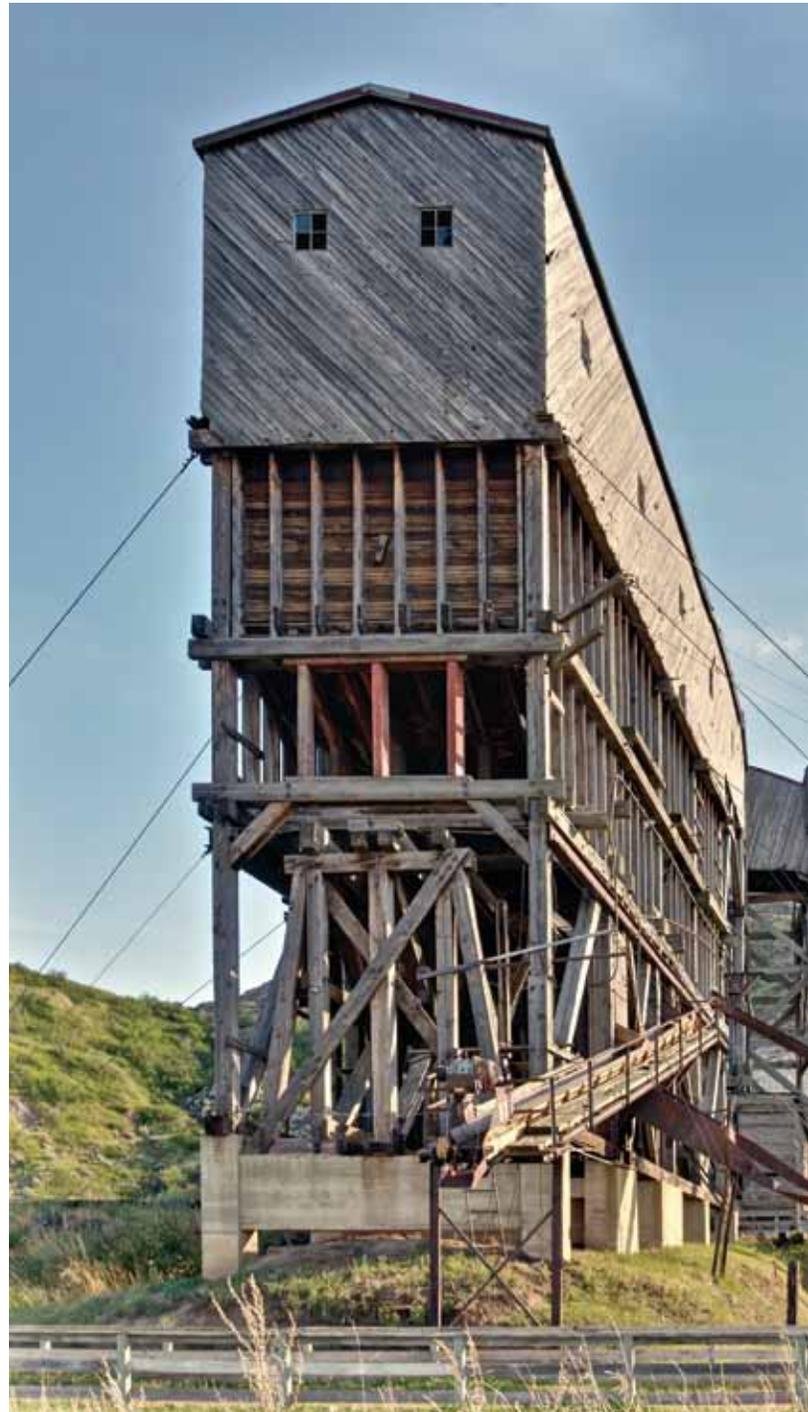


Photo: Parks Canada

Dominion Exhibition Display Building II, Brandon, Manitoba

Bâtiment n° II de l'exposition du Dominion de Brandon (Manitoba)

shelter the funeral coffin pending the arrival of the officiating priest; the ornate ironwork hinges; the stained glass windows; the fine interior woodwork of crafted local butternut; and the multicoloured Minton encaustic tiles decorating the floor and chancel. Cost-sharing funds will assist with roof repairs, reinforcement of leaded glass windows, masonry repointing and electrical work.

Quebec and Its Churches

Much is said about the alarming state of our religious architecture today. Sunday services at the local church used to shape the weekly lives of many Canadians. With dwindling congregations, the very structures that were once the touchstones of their communities are now suffering from neglect and in danger of demolition. This is especially true in Quebec, where the Roman Catholic Church is historically and culturally important and where the church and its attendant buildings often formed the core of small towns and villages.

This was the case at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce, where the Roman Catholic Institutional Ensemble was erected over several years from the late 1800s into the early 1900s. It comprises a church, convent, presbytery, orphanage and school, along with secondary buildings and a cemetery. Here the cost-sharing program is contributing to masonry work and fire suppression systems to maintain the former convent and orphanage in their new roles as cultural and community centres.

machinery and storage bins used to transport, sort, clean and load coal; a collection of small wood-framed buildings located at the mine entrance near rail lines; and a trestle bridge across the Red Deer River. Cost-sharing funds will stabilize structures damaged by a severe storm.

At another large industrial complex in south-central Saskatchewan, weather also took its toll. Named for deposits of clay in the so-called Dirt Hills, Claybank Brick Plant was one of Canada's major producers of domestic clay refractory products used by railways, oil refineries, and power and metallurgical

industries. It is also known for its distinctive face brick used in the construction of buildings right across the country.

The 132-acre site is an extraordinarily intact example of an early 20th-century brick-making complex complete with a factory building, distinctive round kilns, a laboratory, office building, boiler room, carpentry shop, stock sheds, residences and outbuildings extending over a broad area connected by roads and paths. In response to an engineering study, cost-sharing funds will restore damaged storage sheds, stabilize tunnels and conserve brickwork.



Atlas No. 3 Coal Mine, Alberta
La mine de charbon Atlas no 3 (Alberta)

Photo: Robert Prior



Photo: Parks Canada

important political rallies dealing with the labour and women's suffrage movements, particularly the *Women's Parliament* of 1914. Renamed the Burton Cummings Theatre for the Performing Arts in 2002, it is still in use today. The theatre's exterior façade and entrance are being restored, with further conservation work planned for the lobby and auditorium.

Ontario Projects

Ontario's rich history is well represented on the listing of sites receiving funds. Among these projects are the Matheson House and the Diefenbunker.

A formidable yet elegant residence typical of the houses of the affluent in pre-Confederation Canada, Matheson House was designated a national historic site in 1966 and today is home to the Perth Museum.

Built in 1840 for Roderick Matheson, a wealthy local merchant of Scottish origin

Burton Cummings Theatre (Walker Theatre), Winnipeg, Manitoba

Théâtre Burton Cummings (Théâtre Walker), Winnipeg (Manitoba)

Of course, the Prairies are best known for agricultural production, and the Dominion Exhibition Display Building II in Brandon, Manitoba, was built to promote it. Dating from the era of the Dominion Exhibition, held annually from 1879 to 1914, this Beaux-Arts-inspired structure was designed for agricultural display with a vast open space well lit by large windows and a clerestory. Its classically inspired style reveals the influence of the famous World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 held in Chicago. The building illustrates the importance the Canadian government accorded to prairie agriculture at the time. Needing repair and closed for several years, the building was placed on HCF's 2009 list of Top Ten Endangered Places. Cost-sharing funds will ensure that the iconic structure is stabilized for potential future use.

As the entrepôt for this thriving prairie development, Winnipeg enjoyed remarkable growth in the early 20th century and is blessed by what many consider an embarrassment of architectural riches. The Walker Theatre, oldest of Winnipeg's three extant grand theatres from the pre-1920 era, was designed for serious dramas, operas and musicals. It is valued as a rare surviving early Canadian theatre and for its association with nationally



and a member of the Legislative Council, the stately sandstone mansion recalls the days when Scottish immigrants first began streaming into Perth and other Ontario towns. An outstanding example of Scottish-Canadian architecture in its classical inspiration, the house is an important anchor on Perth's main street. Cost-sharing funds are being used to carry out masonry repairs to the sandstone quoins, front steps and landing and sections of the front wall.

A century later, at the height of the Cold War, federal funding built what quickly became known as the Diefenbunker, a reference to then-prime minister John Diefenbaker. Covering 9,300 square metres and four storeys underground, the heavily fortified shelter was designed to house key members of the federal government in the event of nuclear war.

Sold to the local municipality in 1994, it began operating as Canada's Cold War Museum four years later.

The 1960s-era government rooms, living quarters and cryptographic areas remain

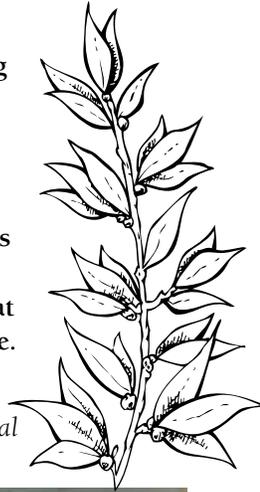
intact. Visitors can see the Prime Minister's Suite, the War Cabinet Room, the CBC Radio Studio, the Bank of Canada Vault and the Emergency Government Situation Room.

Although only 50 years old, the structure is a tangible reminder of a far-removed era that is hardly imaginable to the youth of today.

Funding from the program will allow completion of the building retrofit, which is expected to result in a dramatic increase to visitor capacity.

The sites covered here offer a mere sampling of the many cost-sharing projects already undertaken or in progress, with more to come in the next few years. The country is vast, its history complex, and the needs are great. Parks Canada's National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program is helping some of the most critical cases to ensure that more of our treasures survive into the future.

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The 1960s-era Diefenbunker Cafeteria, Carp, Ontario
La caf t ria des ann es 60 du Diefenbunker, Carp (Ontario)

Photo: Courtesy of the Diefenbunker Museum