

Editor's Note

The decision to put one of Frank Johnston's evocative WWI paintings on the cover is a departure from our usual practice of using photographs. It depicts the historic CFB Borden hangar line from 1917 and the biplanes that Canada's and Britain's first military pilots trained in like no other image found. That only eight hangars of that famous line remain—now a national historic site—is a symptom of the general disregard for the heritage of our military places.

At the end of 2003, as the world celebrated the centennial of flight, DND announced plans to demolish three more of the Borden hangars. Our Endangered Places story covers the details beginning on page 17.

In keeping with the Foundation's Heritage Day theme of celebrating our military places, our feature looks at what has become of some of our decommissioned bases. Albert Warson reviews the policies and practices of DND lands' most avid buyer, the Canada Lands Company.

This issue also includes the first of the Foundation's annual report cards—a listing of Canada's top five worst losses of 2003. The top spot went to Winnipeg for its handling of Eaton's Department Store, a landmark building on Portage Avenue that ended up in a landfill site. Hopefully, the lessons learned from that mishap, as reported on page 14, will prevent waste on such a grand scale from happening again.

Sadly, the ability of owners to rehabilitate a historic building to enable its conservation is often undermined by the rules and regulations surrounding the application of Canada's National Building Code. Victoria's urban planner, Steve Barber, addresses the need for a study of the impact building codes have on historic preservation in our National Perspective section.

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