

## Laurel Packinghouse Rehabilitation Project, Kelowna, BC

Located in the heart of the cultural district of Kelowna, the Laurel Packinghouse—the first designated heritage building in Kelowna—is the oldest and largest remaining packinghouse in British Columbia. Built over the winter of 1917-18 from locally-made Knox Mountain clay bricks, it operated as a working packinghouse up until the 1970s. Slated for demolition in 1982, it was largely through the efforts of the [Kelowna Museums Society](#) that the building was saved and restored over the following six years. It became the home of the B.C. Orchard Industry Museum, the B.C. Wine Museum and VQA Wine Shop.

Left to right: Gord Sandrin, Sawchuk Developments Co. Ltd, Joel Shaw, City of Kelowna , Jim Meiklejohn, Meiklejohn Architects Inc., Pamela Madoff, former HCF governor and Lesley Moore, Kelowna Museums Society.



In 2008, a structural assessment revealed that the well-used building badly needed to be strengthened and updated. The City stepped in, and with the help of federal stimulus funding, the \$2.5-million structural renovation project was underway by 2010.

The extensive project involved implementing a range of major structural upgrades without compromising the historic appearance of the packinghouse. When original building materials could not be retained in place, they were salvaged for use elsewhere, as was the case when reclaimed timber trusses were used to build a new wooden floor.



As well as critical upgrades to improve the seismic, electrical and mechanical performance of the building, structural work involved the repair of exterior brick walls and timber roof framing that saw the restoration of the original roof configuration. The project also relocated loading docks and reorganized interior spaces to better meet exhibition space requirements.

The Laurel Packinghouse Rehabilitation Project communicates the landmark's continued connection to the fertile Okanagan Valley and ensures its ongoing public use for arts, heritage and cultural events in Kelowna.

Joel Shaw, the project manager, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Kelowna at the Heritage BC Awards Ceremony in Burnaby on October 19, 2012. The award was presented jointly by former HCF governor Pamela Madoff and Lesley Moore of the Kelowna Museums Society.