

Chair's Message

Since the last issue of this magazine, I have become aware of a number of situations across the country in which landowners, community residents and governments are in conflict over the future of a heritage building or area. Such conflicts take time, energy and money to resolve, and even then not to everyone's satisfaction. In a perfect world, such conflicts would simply not arise.

In that perfect world, the value of the built environment to the citizens of each community would be understood and accepted. Every older building would be evaluated. Those with heritage significance would be protected and those that are structurally sound, even if deemed not "historic," would be reused. Landowners and property developers would recognize the value of those significant buildings, willingly maintain them and include their historic fabric in any new development. Individuals, organizations and companies would volunteer and contribute readily to ensure that each community was blessed with a rich blend of old and new architecture and would use that architecture to educate children with the positive lessons of heritage preservation. Governments would set an example of good stewardship by restoring, maintaining, and reusing their own buildings; by establishing and enforcing heritage legislation; and by providing funding and tax measures to support the sustainability of Canada's built environment.

The Heritage Canada Foundation is working to achieve these goals. Join the foundation and contribute to the success of its efforts. Help make the dream a reality.

Trudy Cowan,
Chair, Heritage Canada Foundation