

Executive Director's Message

Recently, the interim report of the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues was released, and I am pleased to say that the Task Force devoted attention to the importance of preserving our heritage and went on to recommend that the federal government provide grants to support the restoration and conversion of heritage properties and develop mechanisms to encourage redevelopment for both commercial and residential purposes. A final report will be released later this year, and the Heritage Canada Foundation will be supplementing its earlier input with a further submission to the Task Force. In the meantime, I have written to Judy Sgro, MP, the chair of the Task Force, to thank her and her caucus colleagues for the reference and recommendation contained in the report. Those wishing a copy of that report can access it at http://www.liberal.parl.gc.ca/urb/home_e.htm

In the course of a recent board meeting held in Ottawa, the Heritage Canada Foundation hosted a reception to mark the official opening of its new and permanent headquarters at 5 Blackburn Avenue. The Honourable Peter Milliken, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony. Among the many distinguished guests at the reception, two deserve particular mention: Diana Bishop and Catherine Murphy, granddaughters of the famous William Avery 'Billy' Bishop, who lived at 5 Blackburn while he was Air Marshal during World War II. Coverage of the reception will be carried in the autumn edition of the magazine.

This summer edition contains the detailed program for our annual conference to be held this autumn in Halifax. "Discovering Heritage Tourism" will take place from September 26 to 28, and will provide an excellent opportunity to explore the current state of heritage tourism in Canada today. A background paper on heritage tourism will soon be published by Heritage Canada, and will be made widely available both before and at the annual conference. Have a wonderful summer, and do plan to join us in Halifax in the fall.

Brian Anthony