

Editor's View

In November 2003, the Auditor General's Report stated that built heritage under federal control "will be lost to future generations unless action to protect it is taken soon." Sadly, the results of deferred maintenance, outsourcing and divestiture are placing some historic places at risk. No fewer than 54 federal heritage designated buildings have been demolished since the Treasury Board Heritage Building Policy came into effect in 1982. The magazine's lead feature tackles head on the lack of accountability for heritage protection at the federal level. Turn to page 4 for "Historic Places Act: Canada Needs a Binding Law!"

Our second feature is about protecting those "elite" federal buildings and sites in our national capital from being overwhelmed by inappropriate development. Urban designers Robert Allsopp and John Danahy share their experience using computer visualization techniques to help support the creation of height controls in Ottawa that strike a balance between high-density pressures and visually safeguarding views to Parliament Hill and other national symbols. The technology was new a dozen years ago—now similar technologies are coming to a laptop near you! "Virtual Conservation: Using Computer Simulation to Protect our Heritage," beginning on page 16, is also in keeping with the theme of our upcoming conference on heritage in an electronic age. Mr. Allsopp and Mr. Danahy will be in Ottawa for the event this fall.

For the latest in-house news, executive director Natalie Bull reports on the challenges HCF faced this summer while re-roofing our 1905 Queen Anne Revival-style Ottawa headquarters—a designated heritage building. The story begins on page 32.

This issue also brings you the closing article in the series on the new Canadian Register of Historic Places. Registrar Shannon Ricketts asks "Who Decides?" what will be on the register. For her answer and an explanation of the, at times, controversial values-based approach to conservation, turn to page 50.

I am always interested in reading your comments about what appears in the magazine, so please keep your letters and emails coming. I can be reached at cquinn@heritagecanada.org.

Carolyn Quinn, Editor