

Editor's View

This past Heritage Day (February 20) the Foundation released its 2005 Report Card on the state of heritage conservation in Canada as a wake-up call to bring national attention to destroyed and threatened places. Saskatchewan's remarkable Bell Barn was chosen for the cover of this issue for that very reason. Its remote location and threatened condition raise financial and organizational challenges to the volunteers and non-profit groups trying to save it. Federal funding for built heritage represents less than one dollar per capita in this country. It is time that new funding was earmarked to support this kind of critical preservation effort. (See pages 28 and 39 for the "Top Ten" endangered places and worst losses lists).

Our lead feature, "Magnificent Anachronisms," celebrates five representative sites of HCF's heritage theme for 2006, Our Cultural Heritage Places. Turn to page 4 for some heritage that entertains!

The National Perspective section brings you the second article in a series on the new Canadian Register of Historic Places as well as an update on recent national historic site designations — from an Art Deco bridge to a landmark legislature and cultural landscapes of special significance. For many national historic sites however — especially those that are privately owned — the costs of preservation can be onerous. For designation to have true meaning, it must be supported by federal funding. Turn to page 56 for more.

This issue also introduces two new columns: People In Action and Heritage Insights. The former is where you will meet some of the people in Canada who are working "on the ground" saving our heritage places and affecting real change when it comes to levelling the playing field for conservation; people like Catherine Hennessey of Charlottetown. The latter column is where we will share insights on important conservation issues beginning with HCF's new executive director Natalie Bull's thoughts on some of the important barriers to conservation.

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