

Chair's Message

Just over a year ago your Board of Governors embarked upon a strategic planning exercise. We set out to ensure that the programs and activities of the Heritage Canada Foundation would continue to be consistent with our mandate. We began this initiative "in-house" but were able to complete it more quickly by means of a grant from the Canadian Arts & Heritage Sustainability Program (CAHSP). Thanks to this grant we were able to retain professional facilitation. This funding also enabled us to prepare a summary of our process in the form of a case study, which we hope you will find insightful as you proceed with similar strategic planning initiatives within your organizations.

Following a review of our mission and vision statements, we established strategic goals in the following seven categories: Stewardship; Advocacy; Communications; Membership; Finance; Governance; and Operations. At our June Board meeting in Merrickville (a heritage jewel along the Rideau), Ontario we agreed upon Year One Actions to be completed by the end of 2005, in each of the seven categories noted.

With the completion of this strategic plan, your Board of Governors has reaffirmed our vision to be the national voice for heritage conservation. We know our destination, have mapped-out our route, and have determined the steps/actions required to drive the Heritage Canada Foundation forward. A full copy of the plan will be available on our Web site (www.heritagecanada.org). We will officially launch our strategic plan at our annual general meeting and conference, September 9-12, 2004, in Saint John, New Brunswick. I look forward to your comments and continued support. This year's conference, technical workshops, walking tours, dinners in historic homes, awards presentations and our Maritime kitchen party are all shaping up to make this an event not to be missed. I invite you to join us and experience our rich heritage.

Jim Bezanson