

Executive Director's Message

Each year, we create and disseminate an educational package consisting of a poster, a teacher's guide, and a companion Web site designed for young people to explore. For each annual edukit we choose a theme broad enough to be of general interest but focused enough to allow us to highlight the built heritage associated with that theme. This year we have chosen to focus on the structures and sites associated with our military history, and *Defending Canada: The Heritage of Our Military Places*, now in distribution, will be officially unveiled on Heritage Day. Those wishing copies of the poster and guide may obtain them at no charge by contacting the Heritage Canada Foundation offices.

Like so much of our built heritage in general, many of the sites and structures associated with our military history have disappeared without a trace, or are under considerable threat. Occasionally, there are encouraging and exemplary developments, but so far these have unfortunately proven to be the exception rather than the rule. More often, the news is not good. The potential demolition of yet another three First World War hangars at CFB Borden represents the norm. The apparent disregard that has been and continues to be shown towards this important part of our built heritage is, frankly, a disgrace. By selecting this theme this year, and by our ongoing communications and advocacy activities, we hope to raise the political and public profile of these issues.

Last September, our annual conference in Winnipeg focused on the many human resource issues associated with heritage preservation in Canada. The proceedings of that conference, *Heritage Preservation Works*, have recently been published and are now available free of charge from the Heritage Canada Foundation offices. The research report that fuelled and focused discussion at the 2003 conference, *Human Resource Issues in the Preservation of Heritage Buildings*, is similarly available. Our 2004 conference, to be held in Saint John, New Brunswick, on September 9 to 11, will focus on all of the fundamentals associated with the stewardship of Canada's built heritage. Do make plans now to be there then.

On a final note, we are now receiving nominations for our awards and prizes program, and I want to take this opportunity to strongly encourage members to submit nominations for the Prince of Wales Prize, the Gabrielle Léger Award, the Lieutenant Governor's Award, the Achievement Award, the Corporate Prize, and the Journalism Prize. Last year, we received no nominations in two categories, and were therefore unable to honour outstanding accomplishments in those fields. Please review the appropriate section of our Web site for information on these awards and prizes and nominating procedures, or contact our offices in Ottawa for information and assistance. Deadline for receipt of nominations is March 31, and we look forward to receiving many excellent nominations in all categories by that time. Thank you in advance.

Brian Anthony