

IMPACT REPORT 2019

**YOUR
SUPPORT
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE**

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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST



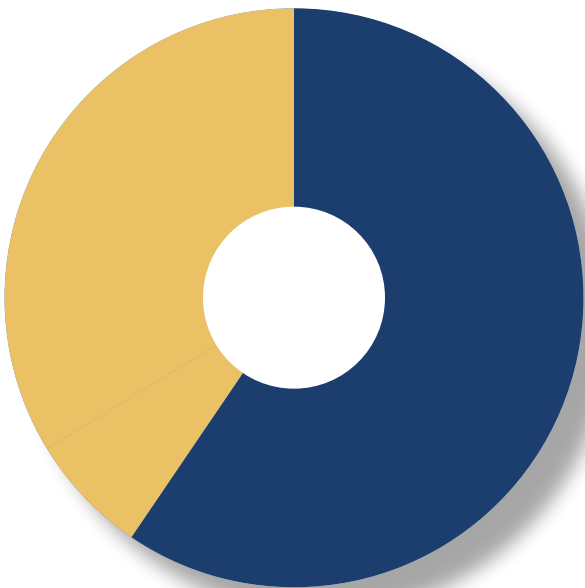
FIDUCIE DU PATRIMOINE ONTARIEN

Our mandate

To identify, protect, promote and conserve Ontario’s heritage in all of its forms.

How our work is funded

We rely on partnerships with individuals, corporations, foundations and government to care for Ontario’s heritage.



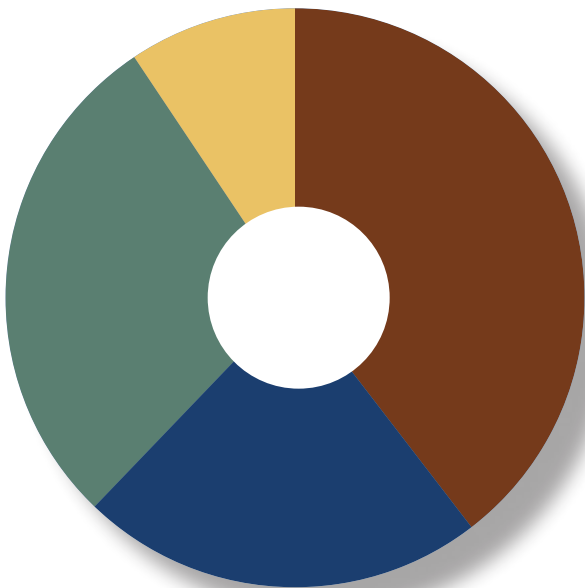
- 66% Self-generated income
- 34% Core government funding

Our vision

An Ontario where the places, landscapes, traditions and stories that embody our heritage are reflected, valued and conserved for future generations.

Maximizing your contributions

We invest your donation directly into programs and services that protect our heritage.



- 40% Caring for Ontario’s cultural and natural heritage
- 23% Connecting Ontarians with heritage
- 28% Adaptive reuse of heritage properties
- 09% Administrative support



MAKING AN IMPACT TOGETHER

Your support, whether as a program or site partner, follower of our social media, a reader of our Heritage Matters magazine or e-newsletter, volunteer, sponsor or donor, allows us to bring new life to our heritage and protect the shared history of our province.

The Trust is a lot of things to a lot of people – we protect and steward natural heritage, we conserve and open the doors of Ontario’s architectural treasures, we share the stories and traditions of Ontario’s diverse people, and we commemorate and interpret key events in Ontario’s history. But underlying it all is a deep commitment to celebrating Ontarians and protecting the tangible and intangible heritage that makes Ontario home.

This report provides us with the opportunity to discuss how the Trust’s range of programs and services are impacting people and places in diverse communities from Kenora to Cornwall, and from Moose Factory to Windsor.

As we tackle the formidable challenges ahead, from climate change to rapid development, let’s take this moment to reflect on the progress we made last year in protecting the places, landscapes and traditions that keep our communities healthy and diverse.

You are a crucial partner in the Trust’s work to protect the past and shape the future of Ontario. I hope that you are able to see yourself reflected in this impact report – because the Trust cannot do this work without you!

Thank you for making Ontario a better place to live!

Sincerely,

Beth Hanna
Chief Executive Officer

2019 Year at a glance

Involved in **85%**
of Ontario municipalities and
many Indigenous communities

Engaged over **1 million**
participants at Trust sites and in Trust
programs, with over **16,000**
followers on our social media channels

Provided access to Trust sites to
support **authors, artists,
musicians, filmmakers,
producers** and other **entrepreneurs**
in the **creative industries**

Recognized the exceptional contribution
of almost **5,064** individuals to heritage
conservation through the Lieutenant
Governor’s Ontario Heritage Awards and
Young Heritage Leaders programs

Educated Ontarians about significant
persons, places and events through
**provincial plaques, sites, and
archaeological and cultural
artifacts** to tell Ontario’s stories

Tracked over **30,000** designated
properties from **228** municipalities
on the Ontario Heritage Registrar

Opened sites with 37 Doors Open Ontario event partners
and generated approximately **\$11M** in those communities



Photo: New boardwalk at Cheltenham Badlands.

CONSERVING

With support from our donors and sponsors, the Trust’s conservation and stewardship activities are designed to reflect diversity of place and people, and to demonstrate excellence and best practices in conservation. We invest in and actively steward lands, cultural landscapes and cultural resources for the purpose of preserving, protecting and promoting their educational, economic and environmental values and to safeguard them for future generations.

Re-opening the Cheltenham Badlands

The Ontario Heritage Trust is proud to own and protect the Cheltenham Badlands. It is the largest and best example of “badlands” topography in Canada with its unique display of the red, undulating shale topography and surrounding natural vegetation. A high volume of visitor traffic to the site due to its popularity created environmental concerns of erosion and safety concerns for the public and residents of the area. The Trust temporarily closed off the Badlands to the public in 2015.

Working with numerous stakeholders and partners representing municipal and regional governments, conservation and trail organizations, two universities, regulatory agencies, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Trust developed a Master Plan for the Badlands that balances resource management, environmental protection and public access and provides a framework for the design of new infrastructure.



Photo: New boardwalk at Cheltenham Badlands.

In September 2018, we reopened the Cheltenham Badlands to the public in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. There was much enthusiasm and interest in the site by the public and the media and in its first year it reopened, it drew **almost 120,000 visitors since it re-opened.**

With a new trailhead, an accessible boardwalk, interpretive signage and a parking area, the Trust has managed to slow the erosion of the site while improving the site for the public’s experience and enjoyment, and ensuring that this natural wonder is protected now and for future generations.

The Trust would like to acknowledge the generous support of its many individual donors as well as the following organizations for their funding support of the Cheltenham Badlands Visitor Infrastructure initiative – the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, the Region of Peel and TD Friends of the Environment.

90%

of our natural and cultural sites managed with operating partners

Trust holds conservation easements on

196 cultural heritage and 82 natural heritage properties in 110 municipalities across the province

We protect 170 registered archaeological sites

We protect habitat for 60 of Ontario’s species at risk

Natural heritage fieldwork

During the 2019 field season, the Trust visited natural heritage properties across the province, from Manitoulin Island to North Bay to Brockville to Cambridge and **worked with 54 partners** including conservation authorities, land trusts, private landowners, field naturalists groups and conservation organizations. The site visits ensure that these provincially significant sites are cared for and conserved for the people of Ontario to enjoy now and in the future.



Photo: Natural heritage site visit.

“For the past ten years Thunder Bay Field Naturalists have worked with the Trust to protect two important natural heritage sites near Thunder Bay. They are natural forested areas north of Lake Superior which are home to large numbers of orchids. This is a cooperative arrangement of two partners a thousand kilometres apart, working together to monitor and protect this rare orchid reserve.”

–Susan Bryan, the Nature Reserves Chair for the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists.

Protecting our cultural heritage

The Trust **undertook capital projects at 11 of its sites**, making a significant contribution to the heritage conservation sector and local economies, and supporting tourism and revenue-generating sites across Ontario.

Using **new approaches to environmental sustainability** at it's McMartin House in Perth, the Trust was able to undertake remediation work on the house's interior windows and partitions to improve internal airflow in the building. These modifications ensure that McMartin House can continue its decades-long role of being a place that provides recreational activities and services for seniors while being secure, safe and properly preserved long into the future.

In partnership with Dry Stone Canada, the Trust hosted a dry-stone workshop at Scotsdale Farm. Volunteer and workshop participants worked under the guidance of Dry Stone Canada to reconstruct a portion of the wall surrounding the main farmhouse on the property. Through the partnership with Dry Stone Canada, the Trust is able to conserve an important cultural landscape feature at one of its properties while also building awareness and knowledge of the traditional craft and heritage trade of dry-stone construction.



Photo: McMartin House, Perth.



Photo: Dry-stone workshop at Scotsdale Farm.

Participant of dry-stone workshop

"I registered for the workshop due to my interest in remnant estate walls and for the opportunity to experience Scotsdale Farm. As a Heritage Planner, understanding the dry laid stone construction technique is beneficial as it informs my advice for managing these assemblages. The workshop also provided a unique hands-on experience: I am proud to have contributed to re-assembling a wall."

–Paula Wubbenhorst, Heritage Planner, City of Mississauga – Workshop participant in 2018

LEADING

The Trust demonstrates a holistic, innovative, integrated approach to conservation and works in collaboration with organizations across the province to build community capacity for heritage. Here are a few examples:

Celebrating diversity and community

Over the past several years, the Trust has made a concerted effort to share stories of all of the people of Ontario – providing a forum to look back over more than 10,000 years at the people who have called this province home. We are working with communities across the province to share their own stories in their own voices, to celebrate the diversity of experiences, languages, customs and perspectives of different people and different places.

Commemorating “A Council at the Chapel Royal” at Massey College

In June 2019, in partnership with Massey College and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Trust unveiled a plaque at the Chapel Royal of Massey College in Toronto commemorating “A Council at Chapel Royal” – a historical gathering of the Queen’s representatives in Canada along with the Territorial Commissioners and National Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations and Chief R. Stacey Laforme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The Council continued the long tradition of meetings between the Crown and Indigenous peoples.



Photo: Chief R. Stacey Laforme, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Heritage Matters in Conversation: Rethink. Revitalize. Renew.

On November 28, 2019 at The Factory – a former industrial building in London, Ontario – the Trust hosted an event to explore new directions in heritage, called: Heritage Matters in Conversation: Rethink. Revitalize. Renew.

The event featured a keynote address by renowned urban planner Joe Berridge and a panel discussion on the intersection of community, culture, place and economy. The Trust thanks the panel of four experts from the heritage sector across Southern Ontario – Morag Kloeze: Brewmaster, Mudtown Station Brewery and Restaurant, Owen Sound; Alissa Golden: Heritage Project Specialist, City of Hamilton; Steve Cordes: Executive Director, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU), London; and Doran Ritchie: Infrastructure and Resources Manager, Saugeen Ojibway Nation. It was moderated by Glyn Bowerman of Spacing Radio and the event was later turned into a podcast.



Photo: Heritage Matters in Conversation: Rethink. Revitalize. Renew.

“An event like this is always thought provoking ... Joe Berridge provided a lot of “food for thought” with his presentation. His concept of planet cities beyond the GTA is a smart way to look at future prospects. He is an excellent speaker. Again, thanks to OHT for arranging this event.”

– Paul King, the Board of Directors of Community Heritage Ontario

We would like to thank Urban Strategies, Inc; CI Institutional Asset Management; DAG Downtown Auto Group; Golder; Strachan Construction and Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants for their support of this event.

INSPIRING

The Trust's work is designed to foster dialogue on the complex narratives that comprise our heritage, to engage new audiences in Ontario's heritage discourse, and to increase youth participation in, and excitement for, heritage.

Providing an Inspirational Space for Canadian artists to create

Fool's Paradise, the former home and studio of Canadian landscape painter Doris McCarthy, provides artists from across Canada with a unique opportunity to live and work.

Selected through an expert advisory panel eight artists, benefited from the 2019 Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program – including an author, a multimedia artist, a photographer and a musician.

These talented and creative professionals also acted as mentors and supported the **development of dozens of emerging artists** through workshops, lectures, critiques, studio visits and coaching. The mentor and mentee relationships created through the Artist-in-residence Program help to **forge a strong community of Canadian artists that are inspired and connected.**

We gratefully acknowledge the RBC Foundation's Emerging Artists project for their support of the Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program.

"I was stunned by the serenity of Fool's Paradise: the animals wandering across the grounds, how the sky vanishes into the water and the trees stand on the precipice of the bluffs. ... I was able to develop a new perspective on an artist's book I started work on late last year. As an artist, I was forced out of my usual work habits. ... it forced me to re-orient myself and see my work as if I was a stranger. This was enormously helpful."

–Janieta Eyre, 2019 Doris McCarthy artist in residence



Photo: Evin Collis, Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program.



Photo: Student at work in the Trust's Archaeology lab.

Engaging youth in heritage conservation

The Trust engages youth across Ontario in heritage conservation through educational opportunities, mentoring forums, networking activities and points of connection.

At the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards, held during Heritage Week in February, we celebrated young people who took action to protect heritage in their communities with the Young Heritage Leaders Awards where 126 individuals were recognized.

We gratefully acknowledge Canada Life for their generous ongoing support of our Young Heritage Leaders program and Youth Strategy.

"Before this project, I always thought the Underground Railroad was an American phenomenon. But this project has opened my eyes to the Canadian component."

–Jason Leung, Academie Ste. Cécile Student Contributors for Essex County Hidden Cemeteries; 2018 Group Recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement

Providing heritage career-training opportunities for youth

The Trust partnered with many university and college educational programs and **provided over 40 student employment and mentoring opportunities** including summer employment, internships and co-op, helping these young people to gain invaluable experience, build networks and launch their careers in the heritage field.

In conjunction with Heritage Week 2019, the Trust held an **“Emerging Trends for Emerging Professionals”** event in partnership with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario’s **NextGen job-shadow program**. This free event provided a **professional development opportunity for 100 students, emerging and established professionals to learn, collaborate and network**. The panel examined several trends and provided insights in the fields of natural and cultural heritage.



Photo: “Emerging Trends for Emerging Professionals” event.

Testimonials from youth working at the Trust

Arkoun Merchant and Konner Mitchener worked as Architectural Conservation Assistants during the summer of 2019 and were responsible for monitoring and visiting a selection of properties on which the Trust holds legal easements under the Ontario Heritage Act. They took away the following key learnings for their professional development:

“A greater knowledge and understanding of Canadian architecture, building styles and techniques, conservation/restoration practices, and building deficiencies and means for repair; and, confidence in communicating with site stewards and custodians.”

–Mya Fisher worked as a museum assistant at Fulford Place during the summer and describes the value of her work experience:

“The skills and experience that I gained in this museum environment will be invaluable for me going forward, both in my career in the field and in my graduate studies. Hands-on experience with exhibit design and research, as well as in conservation, gives me a solid platform upon which I can continue to build throughout my education.”

–Grace Fritzlar, a Co-op Student from Central Tech Secondary School in Toronto did an archaeology placement with the Trust:

“I wanted to work at the Trust because I had heard only good things about it... After working at the Trust, I have had the wonderful opportunity to see some of its other properties; Doris McCarthy’s Fool’s Paradise and the Double-Decker Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre. I have learned a lot about the fascinating world of archaeology from the head archaeologist at the Trust and what the career of an archaeologist might entail. I am very thankful to have had this amazing opportunity to work at the Trust and would recommend this placement to anyone who is interested in studying archaeology.”

EDUCATING

The Trust's work nurtures appreciation and forges connections for Ontario's cultural and natural heritage. It reflects and shares the diversity of the province's tangible and intangible heritage, and identifies, safeguards and promotes both tangible and intangible heritage.

Sharing the diversity and richness of Ontario's heritage

On August 3rd, we observed Emancipation Day at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site – the anniversary of the end of slavery in Canada and the British Empire. This annual public event brings community members together to celebrate hope and freedom through theatrical performances, music and cultural interpretations.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, Ontario welcomed students to the museum to learn about Black heritage in Ontario and tour the interpretive centre that spans the original Black settlement in Dresden, Ontario. The site also hosted a symposium on Black heritage for teachers and students (Grades 6 to 8, representing 35 Ontario schools) to learn about the importance of Black heritage and identity in Ontario, enriching the education of thousands of students.



Photo: Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, Dresden. Credit: Destination Ontario.



Photo: Emancipation Day, Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, Dresden.

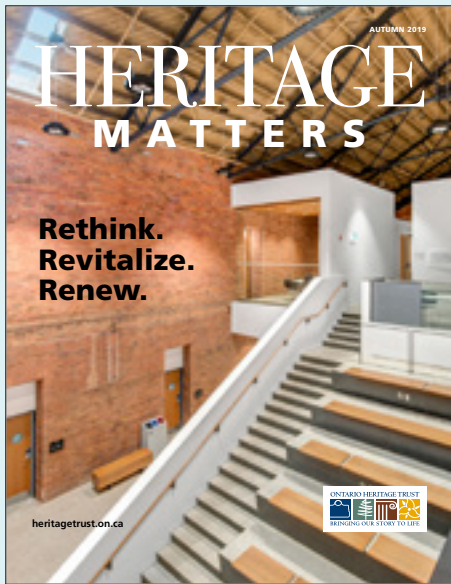
Tanya Clarke has worked as an educational assistant at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site for the past three summers. She sums up the inspiration she gained from her work on Emancipation Day as follows:

"Emancipation Day, the anniversary of the abolishment of slavery in the British Empire, is the biggest event of the year at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. I was happy to be a part of such an important celebration, and to inspire young people to explore their own roots and family heritage. It also provided me with the opportunity to learn how to plan educational, enjoyable, and culturally inclusive events for youth, which will be a valuable skill in my future profession as a teacher."

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Knowledge-sharing through digital delivery

The Trust’s digital magazine, **Heritage Matters**, shares and explores its efforts to conserve and protect the stories of the people, places and events that have shaped our province. Each issue focuses on an important theme, with contributions from sector leaders and experts. On average, an issue features 15 contributors who share salient discussions and their collective experience and expertise with our stakeholders. The Trust further shares these articles through its website and social media channels.



Each issue of Heritage Matters provides a snapshot of Ontario’s unique heritage – with stories about conservation efforts and partnerships, as well as articles about our shared past and exquisite artifacts.

Opening the Doors to Ontario’s treasured spaces

Thanks to the support of our donors and in partnership with our event partners, we brought heritage conservation, tourism and communities together and **opened 933 spaces across Ontario at 37 events with over 469,058 visits**. In 2019, we saw impressive growth in communities outside of the major urban centres, demonstrating the provincewide nature of the program, and **infused more than \$10.7 million dollars into local economies**.

Doors Open Ontario encourages public engagement with heritage in communities all around Ontario, building a cross-provincial culture of conservation while it fosters civic pride. These events also create opportunities for community employment, tourism development and new partnerships between businesses, municipalities, heritage organizations and the tourism industry. Doors Open Ontario 2019 was a Festivals and Events Ontario Top 100 Event.

“In our long tenure as Doors Open Waterloo Region coordinators, each passing year has shown us more clearly how effective Doors Open Ontario is at building community through the sharing of stories, and bringing together people from all walks of life....Through Doors Open Ontario, the Ontario Heritage Trust – at every level – has been an exceptionally supportive partner in encouraging and facilitating the people of Waterloo Region to celebrate what makes us who we are.”
–Karl Kessler and Jane Snyder, coordinators of Doors Open Waterloo Region, 2003-2019.



Doors Open: Canadian Niagara Power Generating Station

The regular series of annual Doors Open Ontario 2019 events was enhanced by a special event on October 26-27 at the Canadian Niagara Power Generating Station in Niagara Falls

The Trust partnered with the Niagara Parks Commission to open the stunning Canadian Niagara Power Generating Station in Niagara Falls for two days, allowing **3,000 visitors to tour the facility** that has rarely been open to the public, to see an exceptional part of Ontario’s industrial heritage.



Photo: Doors Open Ontario selfie.

“The partnership between Niagara Parks and Ontario Heritage Trust to host a Doors Open Ontario event at our historic Canadian Niagara Power Generating Station was a resounding success. It was truly a collaborative effort and the end result was a sold-out event and an unforgettable opportunity for our guests to experience a welcoming, informative and interactive self-guided tour of a truly spectacular heritage facility.”

–David Adames, CEO, Niagara Parks



Photo: Doors Open Ontario special event, Canadian Niagara Power, Niagara Falls.

National Trust for Canada Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Award for Cheltenham Badlands Visitor Infrastructure Project

In October 2019, the Trust’s Cheltenham Badlands Visitor Infrastructure Project was awarded The National Trust for Canada’s **2019 Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Award**. This project successfully achieved its objectives of improving visitor experience at the Badlands while preventing further erosion of the site’s fragile landscape.

Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site received the Ontario Black History Society’s Harriet Tubman Award for Commitment to a Purpose

This award was presented to the Trust’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site for the site’s dedication to Black history preservation, programming and historical site stewardship.



Photo: The Trust’s Steven Cook accepting the award.

Heritage Toronto finalist for Birkbeck Elevator Refurbishment Project at Ontario Heritage Centre

The Ontario Heritage Centre’s Birkbeck Elevator Project was given an honourable mention by Heritage Toronto at its annual heritage awards ceremony in 2019. This award recognized the Trust’s approach to building conservation for this refurbishment, wherein the entire building was treated, inside and out, as an artifact. This project received financial assistance from the Parks Canada National Historic Sites Cost Share Program.

“The Birkbeck elevator is certainly a machine, but it is also an artifact made more significant because it is preserved as a working artifact; a machine still doing the work for which it was designed.”

–Romas Bubelis, Architect and Capital Team Lead (Retired), Ontario Heritage Trust



Photo: Bofei Cao.

And we’re just getting started ...

These are just some examples of the Trust’s work in action – and we couldn’t have done it without you as a donor, advocate or supporter. Donations to the Trust have a huge impact right here in Ontario. Over 90% of your donation goes directly to our programs and services.

As our understanding of heritage shifts, the Trust continues to evolve and grow as an organization that will protect the past and shape the future of Ontario. We are constantly identifying new ways to activate heritage sites, to share the province’s cultural heritage, to make connections with people and places, and to expand the historical narrative to be more inclusive and authentic.

We hope that you will continue to support our work, so that we can continue to keep Ontario’s rich heritage alive today and in the future.

Thank you. Merci. Miigwetch. Nia:wen. Marsi.



Photo: Tuckerman Property.



Photo: Fool’s Paradise. Credit: Mark Wolfson.

For information, contact:

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East,
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

Telephone: 416-325-5000
TTY: 711-416-325-5000
Email: donations@heritagetrust.on.ca
Website: heritagetrust.on.ca/donate

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Niagara Falls

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Ontario 

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