Adapt/Reuse

In this issue – Understanding adaptive reuse . . . Alma College remembered . . . The heritage of faith: Ontario’s places of worship
As I travel the province and meet the people of Ontario, I am constantly amazed at the new and exciting ways our heritage buildings have been adapted. A former train station may now be a restaurant, while a previous town hall may have been transformed into a tourist information centre.

Adaptive reuse is important not just because it means that heritage buildings are saved — although that reason alone is a significant incentive. But adaptive reuse remains one of our most crucial examples of sustainability. Adapting a heritage site to a new purpose not only gives the building new life but also sustains the architecture and, more importantly, our culture and the environment.

Our shared past is largely shaped by our heritage structures. The pride that is felt by people throughout the province is obvious. It’s clear that we want to show off these buildings both for what they once were and what they have become. And so we should. These heritage treasures bespeak our rich past.

Conservation is a more important topic now than ever — especially after losing buildings as significant as Alma College in St. Thomas. We must all strive harder to find creative and innovative solutions and uses for heritage buildings in Ontario.

As you read through the articles in this issue, keep in mind the heritage buildings in your own community and ask yourself how you can conserve or transform them. I know that you will enjoy this issue of Heritage Matters. Together, we can find ways to keep our heritage alive, while adapting our past for the future.

A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

Cover — Restored in 1987-89, Toronto’s Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre — one of the properties held by the Ontario Heritage Trust for the province — was the largest restoration project of its kind in Canada. This former vaudeville house and movie theatre was transformed into a modern commercial theatre, complete with rehearsal spaces and conference and rental facilities.

The last of its kind in the world, this magnificent double-decker theatre is an example of how the successful restoration of a heritage building can give it new life well into the 21st century.

GueSt CoLumnIST
Celebrating Ontario’s Trails

FeATuRE sTORy
Kingston: Time and again

KudOS
Alma College remembered

Ad ApT/Reuse
The heritage of faith: Ontario’s places of worship

Tellingオンタリオ's stories
Alma College remembered

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Understanding adaptive reuse

By Sean Fraser

Parks Canada defines conservation as “all actions or processes that are aimed at safeguarding the character-defining elements of a cultural resource so as to retain its heritage value and extend its physical life.”

Adaptive reuse is a logical, obvious and practical means of conserving these properties. But what do we really mean by this term? What principles, criteria and questions must we consider in evaluating a proposed adaptive reuse project?

Adaptive reuse is conservation neutral. Some examples use a rehabilitation approach, sensitive to the heritage value of the property by utilizing good conservation principles. Other adaptive reuse projects are more destructive with little regard for the heritage value of a building or property. Attributes that could be retained and put to new use are often removed, replaced or otherwise destroyed. Such insensitive projects may involve renovation (i.e., where old is replaced with new), partial retention (i.e., where only a portion of a heritage property is kept, such as the façade) and reconstruction, whereby a considerable degree of demolition and unnecessary loss of heritage attributes occur. Ultimately, the conservation success of an adaptive reuse project can be gauged by the degree to which the heritage attributes are preserved.

� Economic viability
� Grouping, limiting and externalizing of the modern services
� More repair and rehabilitation than new construction
� Preservation, utilization and celebration of the heritage attributes
� Realistic performance expectations for the existing building
� Thoughtful research, planning and design
� Sufficient space to accommodate the new use
� Adequate space for computer equipment and security systems; more space for automated tellers and fewer traditional wickets
� Additional space for computer equipment and security systems; more space for automated tellers and fewer traditional wickets
� Reduction of the circulation plan; changes to modern banking might be more physically invasive than simply converting it to a jewelry store or art gallery instead. For instance, the former Bank of Montreal in Hamilton (built in 1928) has been successfully converted to the regional office of the Gowlings law firm in a manner that may be more sensitive than if a modern bank had tried to reuse the facility.

In our efforts to conserve heritage properties, finding a use can be our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity. An unused, vacant heritage building is a property at risk. Only through physical intervention aimed at preservation — or reanimation through new use — can a vacant heritage property be fully conserved. Not every use, however, is right for every building; the most important step is finding the right match.

Adaptive reuse is a key component in the conservation equation, but it is important to remember that not every use is a good fit for every heritage building. Selecting the right use is perhaps the most influential factor in the successful conservation of any heritage property.

Let us consider the adaptation of an early 20th-century bank to modern needs. Modern banking is quite different than its historical counterpart. Adapting an old bank may require considerable adaptations, including: changes in the circulation plan; different furniture; conduit and ductwork for information technology and ventilation; additional space for computer equipment and security systems; more space for automated tellers and fewer traditional wickets. Most significantly, the imposing and lavish bank manager’s office and traditional, steel walk-in vault — the very essence of a historical bank — would not be easy fits for modern use. Adapting an old bank to modern banking might be more physically invasive than simply converting it to a jewelry store or art gallery instead. For instance, the former Bank of Montreal in Hamilton (built in 1928) has been successfully converted to the regional office of the Gowlings law firm in a manner that may be more sensitive than if a modern bank had tried to reuse the facility.

Adaptive reuse is a logical, obvious and practical means of conserving these properties. But what do we really mean by this term? What principles, criteria and questions must we consider in evaluating a proposed adaptive reuse project?

Architectural adaptation is the act of making changes to a building in order to facilitate a use that was never planned or contemplated in the original design. Traditionally, we assume that the easiest fit for a building in terms of potential reuse is the use for which a building was originally intended. But is this really the case?

Adaptive reuse is a key component in the conservation equation, but it is important to remember that not every use is a good fit for every heritage building. Selecting the right use is perhaps the most influential factor in the successful conservation of any heritage property.

Sean Fraser is the Manager of Conservation Services, Ontario Heritage Trust.

The principles of adaptive reuse for heritage properties are identical to the principles of conservation (see Parks Canada’s Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Culture’s Eight Guiding Principles in the Conservation of Built Heritage Properties, etc.). But there are a number of features common to heritage-sensitive adaptive reuse projects, including:

• Thoughtful research, planning and design
• Preservation, utilization and celebration of the heritage attributes
• Sufficient space to accommodate the new use
• Adequate space for computer equipment and security systems; more space for automated tellers and fewer traditional wickets
• Reduction of the circulation plan; changes to modern banking might be more physically invasive than simply converting it to a jewelry store or art gallery instead. For instance, the former Bank of Montreal in Hamilton (built in 1928) has been successfully converted to the regional office of the Gowlings law firm in a manner that may be more sensitive than if a modern bank had tried to reuse the facility.

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By mid-afternoon on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, Alma College in St. Thomas was reduced to a smouldering ruin. The loss of this significant site to fire represents an enormous heritage loss for the province. Much of what stood of this once-impressive 19th-century school building after the fire – the skeletal brick remains of its exterior walls and towers – was later pulled down for public safety reasons. While the chapel survives and has potential for restoration and reuse, the grandeur that once was Alma College is now only a memory recorded in photographs and the printed page.

Alma College was built in 1878, largely thanks to the efforts of Rev. Albert Carman, a Methodist Episcopal Church bishop. Carman was instrumental in laying the groundwork to establish the institution. The College officially opened in 1882. It operated until 1989 as one of Canada’s leading finishing schools for young women. Girls and young women were being educated in growing numbers during the second half of the 19th century with the opening of provincial public schools and private ladies’ colleges. Alma College offered classes in the visual and performing arts.

The High Victorian Gothic building was designed by Hamilton architect James Balfour (also known for his work at Hamilton City Hall and the Detroit Institute of Arts), and built by Henry Lindop of St. Thomas. The 10-acre site at 96 Moore Street in St. Thomas was selected for its rail accessibility as well as its then-acceptable distance from the distractions or “vices” of larger urban centres.

Balfour designed Alma College in the High Victorian Gothic style with a grand central tower, asymmetrical wings, pointed arch window and door openings and detailed window transoms. The school also had French Second Empire design elements, including its mansard roof. During the 1880s, a five-storey addition in the Scots Baronial style added rounded corner turrets and a hipped roof to the southwest corner of the building. The building boasted a high degree of craftsmanship in the use of local buff bricks, grey-green sandstone, decorative polychrome slate on the turrets and mansard roof, and timber trim and frame.

Prior to the recent fire, the Alma College site – vacant for the past 12 years – included the grand main school building that has been lost, and a small chapel, music building and outdoor amphitheatre, three of which remain.

Alma College officially closed in 1994. Many of its alumni have become innovators and pioneers in the fields of law, music, politics, government and education. The College lives on through a large and active alumni; the Alma College International Alumnae Association has chapters throughout the world. Undoubtedly, their memories will help keep the history of this wonderful building and important institution alive, as scholars and supporters of heritage compile the written, personal and visual testament to one of the province’s great landmarks – Alma College.

Beth Anne Mendes is the Plaque Program Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust. Erin Semande is a Places of Worship Inventory Researcher with the Trust.
500 properties identified as possibly having cultural heritage value. Since 2005, the city has completed 12 new Part IV designations, six bylaw updates and over 10 requests for an update or new designation — and only 30 per cent of the city’s inventory has been evaluated! The city is also one of the few municipalities in Ontario with a UNESCO World Heritage designation that includes the Rideau Canal and Kingston Fortifications (including Fort Henry). In addition, the city has seen 80 identified marine and terrestrial archaeological sites.

Kingston has also developed new and innovative heritage policies. For example, its adjacent properties program, based on the Provincial Policy Statement (2006), was developed in conjunction with Parks Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Culture. Other completed initiatives include the creation of a Heritage Incentives Program, an interdepartmental Archaeological Criteria and policies, a new Heritage Properties Evaluation template, a new plaque program and the Belle Island (First Nations) Agreement. Ongoing projects include the Archaeology Master Plan. In 2004, the city prepared a Building Conservation Master Plan for many of its properties, and is actively restoring many of its sites. In response to new archaeological requirements, the city has also undertaken archaeological assessments of many of its major parks.

Staff are also involved in initiatives to make Kingston known for heritage education. The city has partnered with several universities, including Queen’s and Waterloo. A number of heritage workshops have been held in the last five years, including a Marine Archaeological Workshop, a Conservation Review Board training workshop and an Editions Of Home Magazine workshop. Additionally, the city has created an internship program for heritage planning; nearly 10 volunteer interns have participated since its creation. The city has also created a new series of heritage pamphlets, has begun updating its website to showcase Kingston’s heritage program and has developed a Communication and Education working group.

Kingston’s heritage planning program is being transformed into a broader cultural resource management program. It is an integrative management approach existing within an overall policy structure that requires four elements to be in place in all decision-making that affects cultural heritage resources: inventory, evaluation, monitoring and review.

In 2006, the Ontario Heritage Trust began compiling an inventory of significant pre-1982 purpose-built places of worship located throughout the province. These remarkable cultural treasures reflect the history of religious diversity in Ontario and often serve as architectural landmarks that create a unique sense of place in their communities.

The Places of Worship Inventory project spans more than 200 years of Ontario’s history. The inventory includes late 18th-century structures, such as Bay Bay Church, and buildings of the recent past, including the London Muslim Mosque enshrined in 1964. Over 80 different faiths and denominations have been identified and their unique Ontario histories, architectural traditions and roles in the community investigated. Most significantly, to date over 6,500 sites have been identified. The vast majority are not yet listed on local heritage inventories or recognized in any way. In addition to identifying these heritage sites, the project includes research on the province’s religious history, including significant people, events and historical themes.

In many communities, the most historic and significant architectural landmarks are their places of worship (either current or former). These landmarks often occupy prime locations due to the influence and age of the congregation or the importance of organized religion in the development of community. Sometimes, a place of worship is a major part of the local landscape, as is the case in the picturesque community of River Canard (Johannesburg) in Essex County. Here, the river, the towelling bridge and St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church create an image that is not only remarkably pleasing to the eye and a point of local pride, but also important to a landscape that contributes to the community’s identity.

As immigration patterns change and neighbourhoods evolve, we sometimes see historic places of worship remain as a testimony to a previous community. At one time, Kensington Market in Toronto was a predominantly Jewish neighbourhood. Now, it is largely Asian. The presence of the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, built in 1903, is a reminder of the area’s changing social fabric.

Sometimes, places of worship are virtually abandoned as the communities supporting them disappear or attendance dramatically decreases. It is also not uncommon for a congregation to either outgrow its place of worship or relocate altogether. This is the case with Old St. John’s Anglican Church, a Trust conservation easement property in Niagara Falls. In 1967, the congregation built a new building and Old St. John’s was deconsecrated (1962) and eventually converted into a columbarium. With shifting demographics, new religious needs and population redistributions, many congregations of the historic places of worship struggle to keep their facilities in use. It is reassuring to see that significant places of worship can be preserved and converted to new, appropriate and viable uses.

Ultimately, improving our understanding of the nature, scope and significance of the province’s religious heritage is the first step in preserving and appreciating these special places. It is important to remember this: we can’t preserve it if we don’t know it exists.

Sean Fraser is the Manager of Conservation Services with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Adaptive reuse of places of worship. Places of worship play a key role in Ontario’s communities — in addition to their religious contribution, they act as community hubs and provide space for many local social services. Historic places of worship, however, are increasingly at risk. Older buildings are falling into disrepair and, due to shifting demographics, many congregations are shrinking in size. In the face of these challenges, a growing number of congregations are modifying their buildings to meet these changing needs, or are considering selling their properties to be adaptively reused by new owners.

Continued use is one of the best ways to ensure the preservation and maintenance of heritage buildings, and adaptive reuse is one such way to achieve this. Places of worship have the potential to be adapted to a variety of uses. Some of the most sensitive conversions are from one faith group to another, as what they need in a place of worship is often similar. Former places of worship are also often compatible as performance spaces and community centres. In urban areas, their prominent locations and unique architecture make places of worship important to residential, commercial or institutional users.

The following are examples of adaptively reused places of worship. While some of these buildings have been adapted more recently, others — like Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Queenston Community Centre — demonstrate that adaptive reuse is not a new concept.

**The Jami Mosque in Toronto was formerly a Presbyterian church, converted in 1969.**

**Marcus R. Létourneau is the Heritage Planner for the City of Kingston.**

**Sean Fraser is the Manager of Conservation Services with the Ontario Heritage Trust.**
The heritage of faith

Places of Worship Inventory. In recent years, the large number of surplus and increasingly underutilized religious buildings in Ontario has been of serious concern. The Trust’s Places of Worship Inventory will become a useful tool for various faith groups, municipalities, heritage organizations and the province for capital planning, conducting heritage evaluations, assembling preservation strategies and undertaking adaptive reuse efforts on religious sites.

This inventory will soon be available to the public through a website dedicated to places of worship in Ontario. In addition to the inventory, the website will include information on how significant heritage places of worship may be conserved and adapted to sympathetic uses. It will also provide histories of various religious denominations in Ontario, as well as the architecture of places of worship, and a comprehensive directory of resources.

It is hoped that this inventory will serve as a resource for researchers, academics, heritage advocates and heritage professionals, and will assist with the conservation of Ontario’s religious heritage properties by encouraging the adaptive reuse of these important sacred places. In the long term, the inventory will promote a better understanding of Ontario’s religious heritage, as well as its multi-cultural legacy and diverse history.
Building on the success of last year’s pilot program, the Ontario Heritage Trust launched Trails Open Ontario 2008 on June 7 – International Trails Day – with an event at Claireville Conservation Area in Brampton.

A series of diverse and well-attended events followed throughout the summer months on some of the province’s most impressive and inspiring trail systems. These province-wide community events continue through early autumn, largely coinciding with the weekends around Ontario Hiking Week (September 27-28 and October 4-5).

Trails Open Ontario celebrates the more than 64,000 km (39,800 miles) of extraordinary trail systems that exist across the province by providing an opportunity for the public to experience them through free local events. Each event is unique – some focus on educational pursuits, such as instructional workshops and exhibitor displays, while others include more formal activities, such as trail dedication and tree planting ceremonies. Most events include a guided hike component that provides an up-close and personal introduction to the featured trail. Whatever your interest, there’s a Trails Open event that’s just right for you!

The Trails Open initiative has grown remarkably in the short time since its inception. The 2008 program features 24 events held in partnership with 17 trail associations. With greater awareness and education on trail use, it becomes increasingly clear that the province’s natural spaces and trail systems are critical to our well-being. They contribute to better health through increased activity, a stronger economy through increased tourism, and stronger communities through the partnerships they forge between volunteers and private property owners. Trails also contribute to the conservation and appreciation of Ontario’s natural and cultural heritage landscapes.

This year’s events run until the end of October. To find the location and date of free events in your area, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca and click on “Trails Open Ontario” under the Spotlight on heritage.

You can also order your own copy of the Doors Open Ontario 2008 Guide – which includes Trails Open Ontario information – by calling 1-800-ONTARIO or e-mailing marketing@heritagetrust.on.ca.

The Trust would like to thank the Government of Ontario for its support of this program. Thanks, as well, to all the communities, trail organizations and volunteers who have committed to hosting Trails Open Ontario events.

Ontario’s trails are ready to be explored. Bring your family and enjoy a day of activities on some of the province’s most picturesque trails.

Liane Nowosielski is an Assistant Marketing and Communications Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.
SECOND CHANCES FOR Peterborough’s PRICELESS HERITAGE

By Erik R. Hanson

One of the greatest challenges to creating a healthy downtown is getting people to live there. While Peterborough’s historic centre is full of beautiful heritage buildings, most have empty upper floors. Until recently, few owners were willing to risk the cost of renovations when the rental market downtown seemed dubious at best.

This challenge, however, is beginning to change. Several under-utilized buildings have been bought and some of the spaces converted to rental accommodations. One noteworthy example is a former post office that was converted into 91 market-rate units. The site is also zoned for the city’s highest level of density, so the post office could have been replaced by a multi-storey building. The heritage value of a post-war modernist building would have been a hard sell in a battle against a larger development generating more taxes. The owners, however, came to the conclusion that the retention and rehabilitation of the building was cost-effective because of the rebate. This conclusion would suggest that the program is sufficiently financially robust to make a difference in the conservation of heritage resources.

Environmental sustainability and heritage marketing are becoming strong economic drivers in their own right. But, most importantly, every new building that replaces an old one deprives us of having our heritage around us, connecting us to our past and helping us map our future. And in the end, isn’t that priceless?

Erik R. Hanson is the Heritage Resources Coordinator with the City of Peterborough.
THE CHARACTER OF ADAPTIVE REUSE

By Romas Bubelis

Romas Bubelis is an Architect with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

“The building which, of no great artistic merit, is either of great antiquity or a composition of fragmentary beauties united together in the course of time.”

– Sir John Summerson

In his 1947 essay titled “The Past in the Future,” architectural historian John Summerson (1904-92) offered this description of an old building. He was speaking of ancient European monuments – deserving protection because of their age value alone. But, he also included modest buildings, transformed over their lifetime by a process of addition, subtraction, alteration and overlay. In his last passage, linking “fragmentary beauty” and “the course of time,” Summerson hinted at the unique character of old buildings that have found new uses.

In today’s society, old buildings are rarely protected on account of their age or character. Rather, architectural preservation is increasingly linked to adaptive reuse. It relies on arguments based on economics or linked to the contribution of reused buildings to environmental sustainability. Eager to save old buildings by any means, the conservation community has adopted economic viability and utility as pivotal values, particularly because those who tend to own such buildings often must favour such arguments. But it’s the esthetic character of these places that is their core heritage value.

With new construction, the design goal is clarity of planned use accompanied by controlled articulation of the architectural experience. In adaptive reuse, it is the reverse. Complexity, contradiction, nuance and overlay of meaning are the defining architectural qualities of adaptive reuse. From an esthetic perspective, the success of an adaptive reuse project is often dependent on how individual building features are retained and recombined to perform new functions, while retaining an evocative memory of their past life.

A fine example of this enduring architecture is the block at Adelaide Street East and George Street in Toronto. This property – comprised of five intertwined buildings, two of which are National Historic Sites – is protected by a Trust conservation easement. At one corner of the block, there is a neoclassical Bank of Upper Canada, built in 1827—the power-base of the family compact and the establishment target of William Lyon McKenzie’s reform rebels. This two-storey, three-bay Georgian block, constructed of limestone, was likely designed by bank director and amateur architect William W. Baldwin, in collaboration with architect-contractor Francis Hall. The Doric-columned portico, added by architect John Howard in 1843, bespeaks the stature of this institution that, between 1822 and 1832, was Upper Canada’s only bank. The basement walls incorporate a vaulted arcade from an unconfirmed pre-1820 structure – an archaeological fragment of Toronto’s antiquity. The west side of this crypt retains a gun port chiselled through a thick masonry wall. Four classical iron columns support the span above the main banking room floor. Massive steel-studded wooden security doors rest neatly tucked between the pilasters of the entry to the main hall, framing a refined Georgian door with a round-headed fanlight subdivided by delicate mullions. Today, these spaces are occupied by a high-tech media firm. But they retain the memory of the original Bank of Upper Canada – a balance of a sense of refinement, confidence and social status of the political elite with the needs for security and defence in early Toronto.

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By Romas Bubelis

Romas Bubelis is an Architect with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Gun port in the basement crypt of the Bank.

The bank’s original main entrance is now a high-tech media firm. Security doors at the front entrance of the Bank.

Bank of Upper Canada, Toronto.

At the other corner of the same block is the 1833 Georgian house of James Scott Howard – Toronto’s first postmaster. It amazingly continues to function as a post office, but with an added museological and interpretive overlay. Between them stands the De La Salle Institute, a Victorian block built in 1870 that eventually expanded to absorb the two adjacent properties by extending its third storey and mansard roof over the bank and post office. Throughout the following century, this unified complex served as a residential Catholic school, the offices of the Toronto Separate School Board, a speculative office building under the ownership of Christie Broen Biscuit Company and finally the headquarters and processing plant of the United Farmers of Ontario Co-operative Company Ltd. In the 1970s, the complex was narrowly saved from demolition and rehabilitated as an office complex.

The archaeological and architectural complexity of the Bank of Upper Canada block imparts a unique quality to its architecture. It is a structure that was once imagined, designed, constructed and then used, misused, sometimes abused, neglected, rediscovered and used again. It has taken on different associative and symbolic meanings at different periods of its existence. With the protection of the Trust’s heritage conservation easement, it will continue to evolve its complex architectural character composed of fragmentary beauties.
Canadian Churches: An architectural history, by Peter Richardson and Douglas Richardson, with photographs by John de Visser. Firefly Books. This book is the first definitive guide to more than 250 of the most beautiful and significant churches across the country. Encompassing many styles and many denominations, Canadian Churches tells the story of settlers with Old World traditions arriving in a New World landscape, and how these traditions evolved over time as the country moved west.

Canadian Churches provides a detailed view of our spiritual, ethnic, and architectural history by providing a history for each church.

Illustrated throughout with specially commissioned photographs, artwork, drawings and illustrations, this book is a must for anyone interested in history, architecture and religion.

The Victorian House Book: A practical guide to home repair and decoration, by Robin Guild.

Firefly Books. In this comprehensive workbook, interior designer Robin Guild takes you through every room in the Victorian house, explaining how to recognize original features and fittings, and suggesting ways you can use them to put a personal stamp on your home while staying true to its Victorian origins. He also provides details on how to modernize features to meet the convenience and comfort demands of the 21st-century homeowner. Drawing on his professional experience, the expertise of an advisory panel of architects and historians specializing in Victorian architecture, and the vast array of resources in this book, Robin helps you decide what changes or improvements to make, which should come first, and how to work through them all step by step.

Great Lakes Lighthouses Encyclopedia, by Larry and Patricia Wright.

The Boston Mills Press. The result of more than 15 years of research and interviews, this comprehensive full-color encyclopedia features more than 650 lighthouses located on both the American and the Canadian sides of all five Great Lakes.

As we drive along their shores today, these lakes may appear easy to navigate, but swift currents, hidden reefs and shoals, shifting sandbars, uncharted passages, and fierce, fast-moving storms made early navigation a mariner’s nightmare. Tales of tragedy and triumph abound in this remarkable work.

All manner of stone, brick and wooden lighthouses were erected to light the night and safely guide lake-farers in their schooners, steamers, brigs, barques and sloops. Many of these noble structures have since fallen into disrepair or have been torn down in the name of progress, but the surviving lights – hundreds of them – have become monuments to an exciting period in our history and points of pilgrimage for millions of maritime enthusiasts.

Though numerous regional lighthouse books have been written, this outstanding volume is the first to capture light-house history throughout the Great Lakes.

November 19–21, 2008 – A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston. The theme of the 15th annual A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium is Local Solutions for Global Challenges, focusing on the urgent need to rethink how we manage local natural resources in order to adapt to a changing global environment. Keynote speaker: Stephen Lewis. The Ontario Heritage Trust is a long-standing partner with Latornell and will once again have an exhibit at the symposium.

October 27, 2008 at 1:45 p.m. – Provincial plaque unveiling to commemorate the French-Canadian settlement and the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Mattawa area. Following the decline of the fur trade in this northern community, the forestry industry took hold. The population grew immensely following the establishment of French-language schools in Ontario. Although she died young, her contributions to the preservation of francophone culture within Ontario were significant.

October 28, 2008 at 4 p.m. – Jeanne Lajoie provincial plaque unveiling in Pembroke. Jeanne Lajoie (1889-1910) was a dedicated teacher and advocate for the establishment of French-language schools in Ontario. Although she died young, her contributions to the preservation of francophone culture within Ontario were significant.

October 1-2, 2008 – The Niagara Escarpment Commission’s 8th biosphere conference at Monora Park in Orangeville – Leading Edge 2008 gets “back to the roots” of the conference series begun in 1994, with a focus on Niagara Escarpment research and “State of the Escarpment” reporting. The conference is presented by the Niagara Escarpment Commission in association with the Ontario Heritage Trust, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association.

October 16, 2008 – George Weston provincial plaque unveiling in Toronto. George Weston (1865-1934) – baker, businessman, entrepreneur and politician – created the foundations of an enterprise that his successors would develop into the Weston food empire.

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**Young Heritage Leaders 2008**

The Young Heritage Leaders program recognizes youth for significant voluntary contributions to built, cultural and natural heritage conservation. For information on how to nominate a Young Heritage Leader in your community, visit: www.heritagetrust.on.ca or e-mail reception@heritagetrust.on.ca. The deadline for this year’s nominations is October 31, 2008.

Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life are proud sponsors of Young Heritage Leaders.

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**Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership**

In 2008, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Ontario Heritage Trust established a new Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Awards category to recognize communities with a proven track record of exemplary leadership in heritage promotion and conservation. Any municipality or Aboriginal community can submit a nomination.

For more information, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca or e-mail reception@heritagetrust.on.ca.