

# Heritage Conservation Conference

Guelph, Ontario  
May 4, 5 & 6, 2007

Sponsored by  
CHO, ACO & CAPHC

## Final Joint Resolutions

May 5, 2007

### Preamble:

In the past few years significant and positive changes have occurred in heritage conservation in Canada including the introduction of the Historic Places Initiative as well as the development of the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

In Ontario the new Ontario Heritage Act (Bill 60), and the 2005 Provincial Policy Statements, the Ontario Heritage Tool Kit as well as the Heritage Property Tax legislation have ushered in a new era for preserving the province's cultural heritage.

However, the recent cancellation of the Canadian Historic Properties Incentive Fund, without a replacement program, is a serious step backwards, increasing the chances of losses in commercial heritage buildings.

Loss of heritage property wastes important and irreplaceable cultural and environmental resources.

For the first time ever the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Community Heritage Ontario, and the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals\* have held a joint conference, focused on the new opportunities created by the new situation, but also have identified additional actions that will be necessary to develop a comparable heritage conservation sector to other developed countries.

The following resolutions were drafted jointly by the Presidents, and adopted by the delegates to address key gaps and opportunities for improvements in Canada's/Ontario's heritage systems.

### Resolutions:

#### 1. Financial Support

Whereas Canadians have lost 20% of their valued built heritage over the past 30 years, and whereas Canada, unlike the U.S. and Europe, is without financial assistance programs for owners of heritage property, that Federal, Provincial & Municipal Governments make immediate & concerted efforts to advance a culture of built & natural heritage conservation in Canada by committing significant financial resources to heritage conservation programs and incentives.

#### 2. Education

Whereas there is a general lack of understanding of appropriate heritage conservation practice and its place in conserving environmental resources in Ontario and beyond, contributing to unnecessary losses, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO), Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) and the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP) work with the Ministry of Culture and the appropriate professional governing bodies for the purpose of providing information to politicians, building and fire code officials, planners and architects.

Whereas the Ontario Heritage Act is creating new demand for conservation professionals such as architects, conservators, planners and crafts-persons that the Government of Ontario provide education and training opportunities for students and mid career professionals to meet the new demand.

That CHO, ACO, CAHP name representatives to a special committee to identify the critical elements of an education strategy that promotes best practices in heritage conservation and fosters a culture of heritage conservation, and the three organizations work towards a joint conference or workshop on heritage education.

### **3. Support for Volunteers**

Whereas local heritage conservation is of benefit to the province at large in preserving local identity, and increased tourism for Ontario, and whereas the Ontario Heritage Act now demands more than can reasonably be asked of volunteer members of Municipal Heritage Committees, that resources be directed from the Government of Ontario to the municipal level to support municipal heritage committees in their work in preserving Ontario's heritage.

### **4. Places to Grow: Protection for Heritage Resources in Identified Communities**

Whereas the valued built heritage resources within the 25 growth centres identified in the 2006 Places to Grow Act and other potentially identified growth centres are at significant risk due to the requirements of this Act, that the Ontario Government immediately commit \$6.5 million for the preparation of Heritage Master Plans and the preparation of Official Plan Heritage Conservation Policies for each centre.

Whereas the conservation objectives in the Growth Plan require conserving cultural heritage only "where feasible" and this is not consistent with the public policy statement which requires that significant built heritage resources be conserved, and whereas "where feasible" is not defined in the Growth Plan, that the Ontario Government remove the words "where feasible" from section 4.2.4 (e) of the Growth Plan.

### **5. Ongoing Collaboration between ACO/CHO/CAHP**

Whereas ACO, CHO and CAHP are all working diligently and often independently to conserve valued built heritage resources in Ontario, that the three organizations explore ways in which resources of each organization can be used more effectively to meet common objectives for heritage conservation.

Whereas heritage conservation is an important, but not widely understood part of good environmental practice, that ACO/CHO and CAHP place special emphasis in the upcoming year on consolidation and dissemination of information, leading to a focus on the links between heritage and environmental conservation at next year's joint conference.

### **6. Loss of Rural Landmarks**

Whereas the Ontario Building Code, 2007 Section 1.3.1.1.(1) (a) does not require a demolition permit for buildings on farm property, and

Whereas some Chief Building Officials are interpreting this as meaning that demolition of farm houses are exempt from permit requirements, others are requiring demolition permits for farm residences, and

Whereas the loss of rural buildings has a great impact on the historical and cultural landscapes of communities,

Therefore ACO/CHO contact the appropriate Ministries to get clarification of the legal requirements for demolition permits on farm properties, and find means to preserve our rural heritage structures.

*\*During the Conference, The Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants (CAPHC) changed its name to Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP)*