

Revisiting Value – Whose Heritage are we Protecting?

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Ontario Heritage Conference

Ottawa, June 10, 2017

Ontario Heritage Trust



The Ontario Heritage Trust – the province's heritage agency – is dedicated to identifying, protecting, renewing and promoting Ontario's rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage that has influenced and continues to shape our society for the benefit of present and future generations.

Our Vision

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



Ontario Heritage Trust

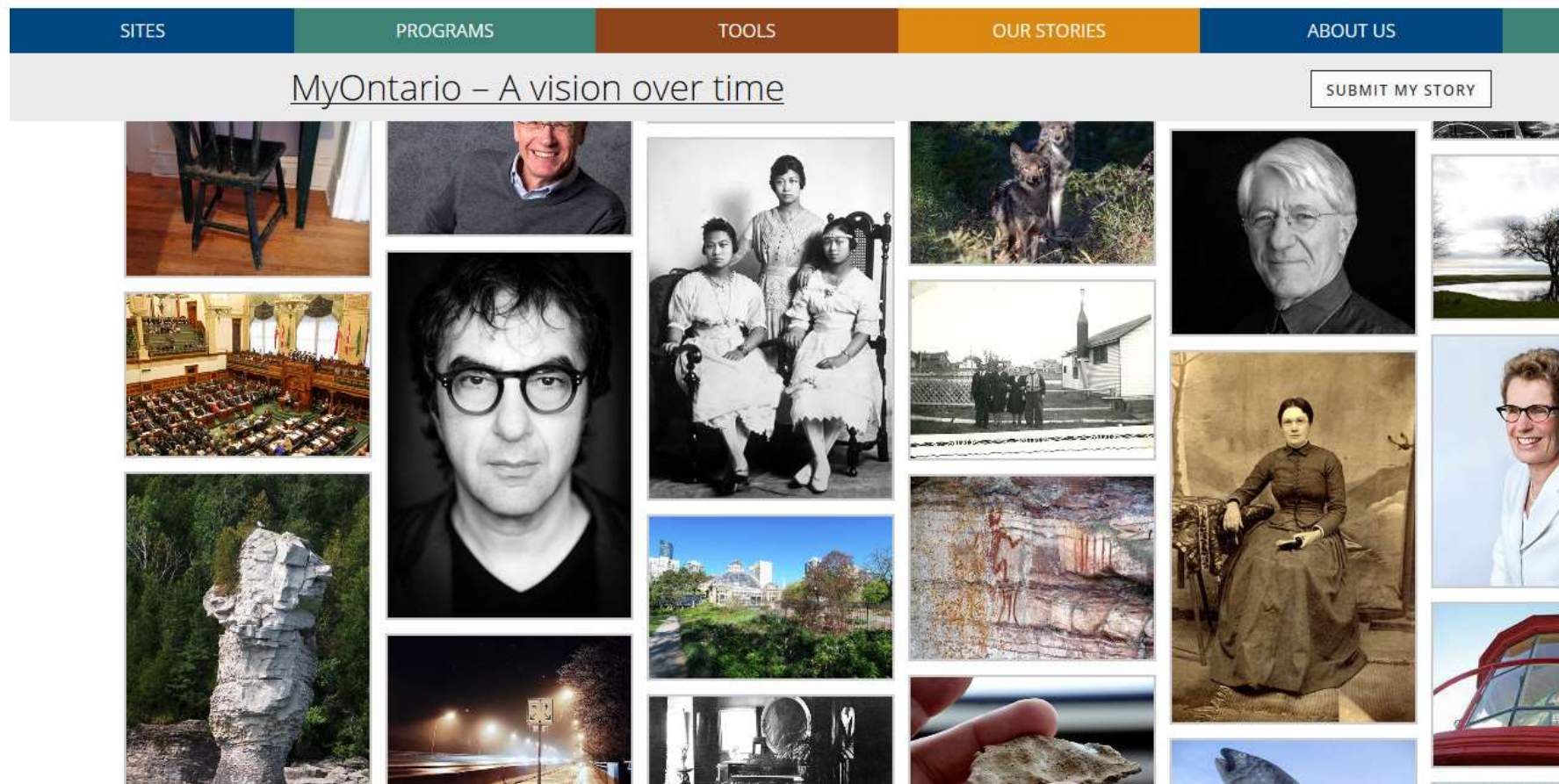
2017 we are looking at three themes:

- Whose story do we tell?
 - MyOntario - A vision over time
- What do we protect?
 - The discussion of value
- How do we identify and safeguard intangible heritage?
 - Heritage Matters & fall symposium

Whose story do we tell?

- 150th anniversary of Confederation set in the context of more than 10,000 years of history.
- Changing the narrative – inviting many new voices to the discussion of our history.
- **MyOntario - A vision over time**
 - A conversation among Ontarians about our experiences, identities, values and aspirations.
 - Asking people to share their stories – the places, memories, photos, artifacts, artworks and traditions that inspire, motivate and help define them.
 - To build a deeper understanding, showcase diversity and create a lasting record.

MyOntario - A vision over time



Revisiting Value

- What is being protected?
- What is meant by 'heritage value'?
- Different ways of looking at value
- Some international models
- What's happening in Ontario?
- Some thoughts going forward

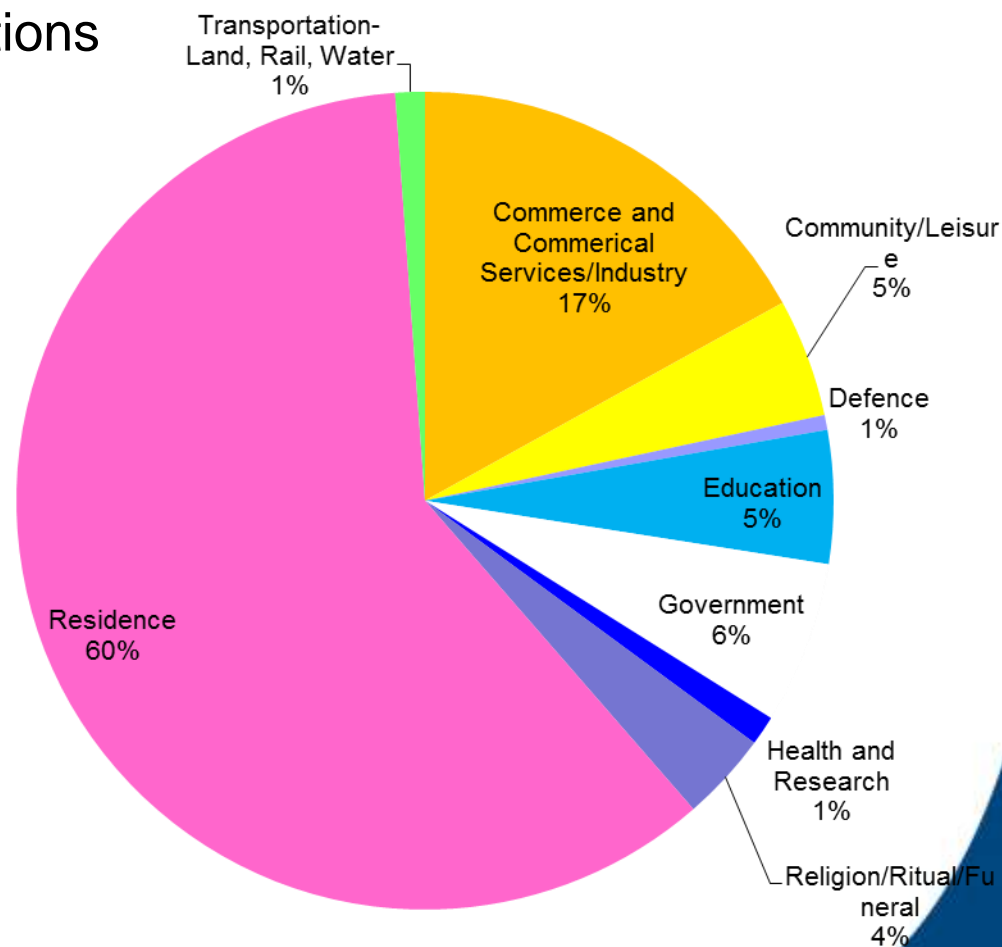
What's designated? - 1976

In **1976**, 172 section 29 designations

Avg year of construction: 1854

Earliest construction date: 1794

Latest construction date: 1914



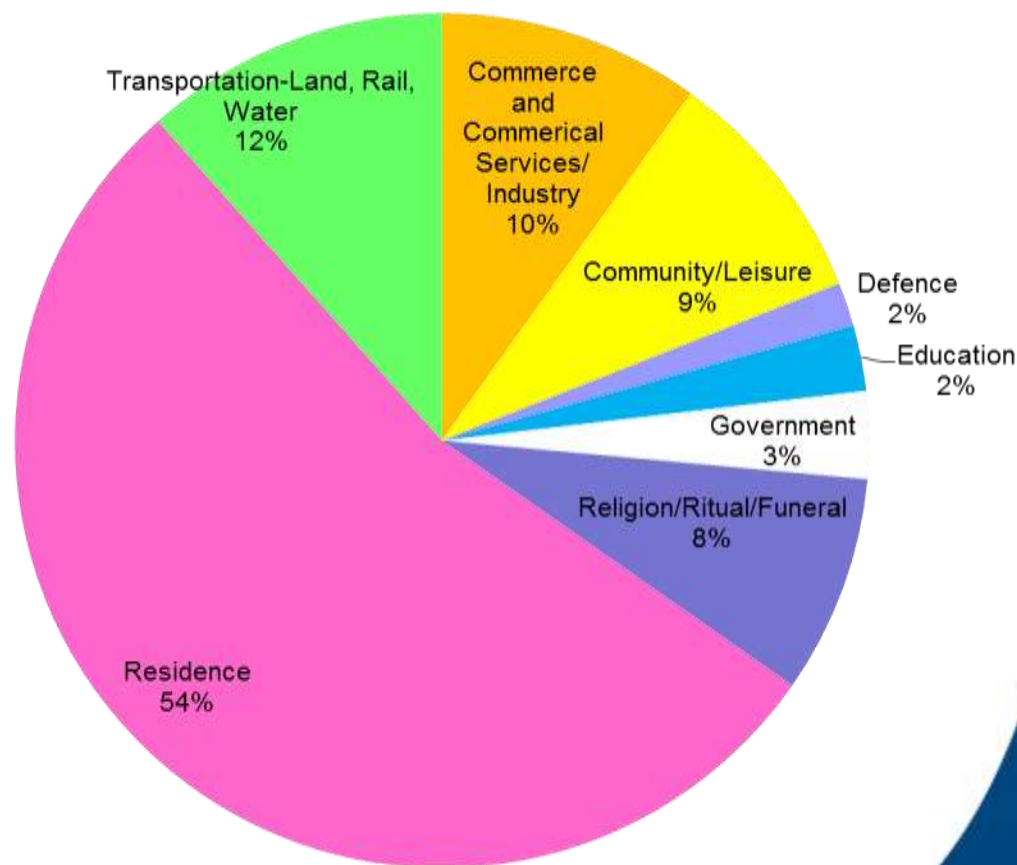
What's designated? - 1996

In **1996**, 121 section 29 designations

Avg year of construction: 1883

Earliest construction date: 1826

Latest construction date: 1937



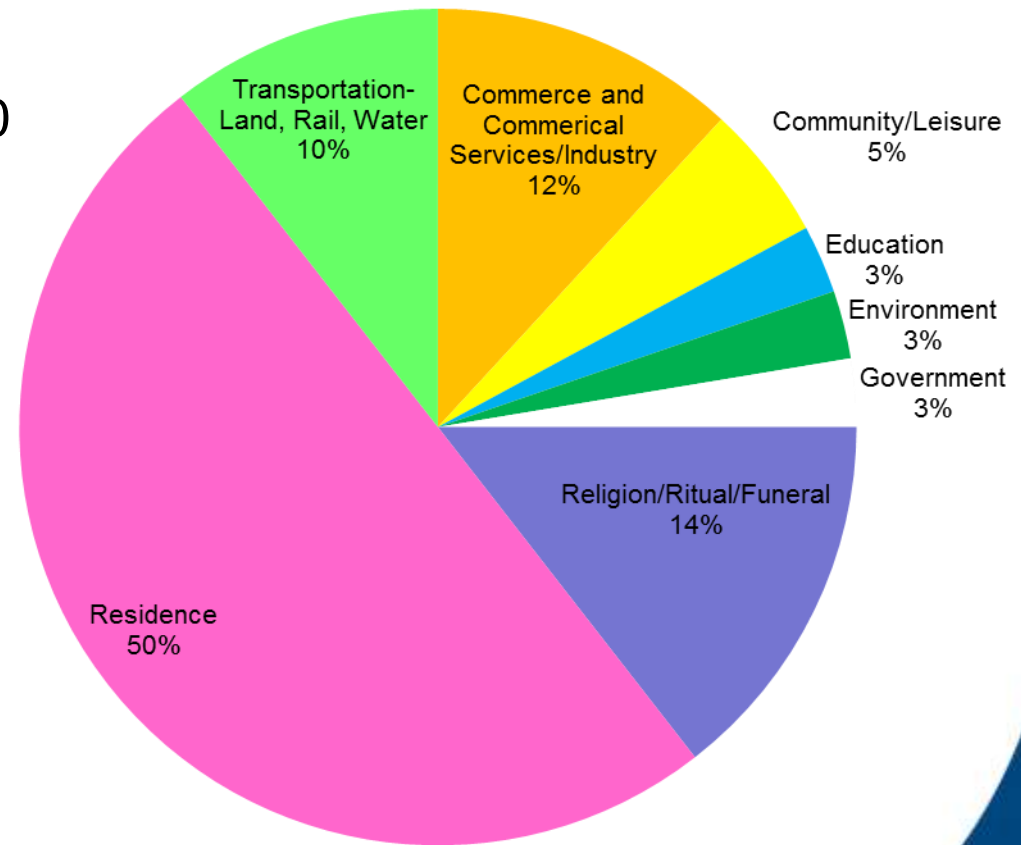
What's designated? - 2016

In **2016**, 78 section 29 designations

Avg year of construction: 1883

Earliest construction date: 1820

Latest construction date: 1948



What's missing?

- What's being protected in your community?
 - What's missing?
 - Whose heritage has been protected?
 - Whose hasn't?
- Would everyone in your city / town / community see their heritage reflected?

Whose heritage do we protect?

- The heritage we value = the heritage we fight for, protect, fund, steward
- How is cultural value determined?
- How has our understanding of cultural value changed?
- Which values are conserved? Whose values?
- How can we make these conversations more inclusive?
- What happens when values differ?

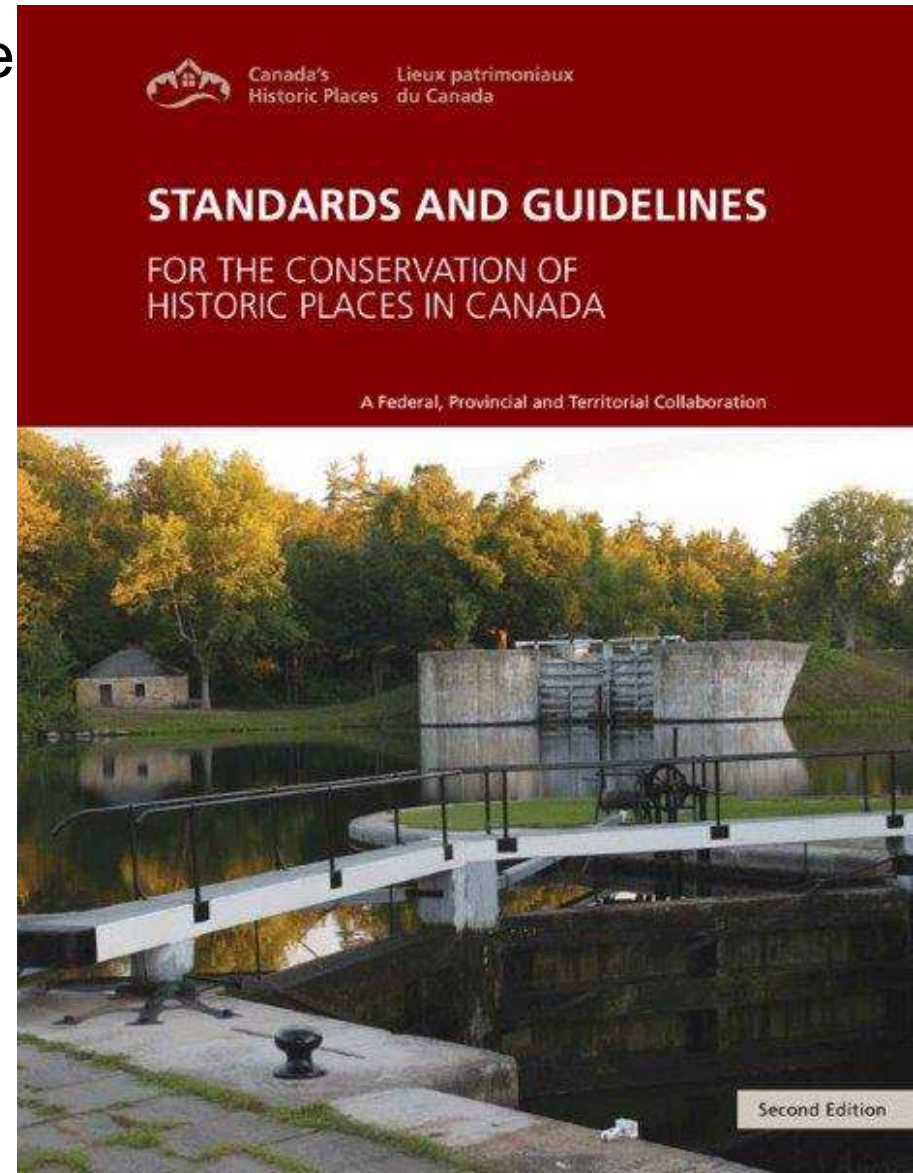
“Heritage value”- Australia

Australian Heritage Council:

- **Heritage value** Heritage values of a place include the place's natural and cultural environment, having aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance, or other significance for current and future generations of Australians.
- **Indigenous heritage value** Indigenous heritage value of a place means a heritage value of the place that is of significance to indigenous persons in accordance with their practices, observances, customs, traditions, beliefs or history.

“Heritage value”- Canada

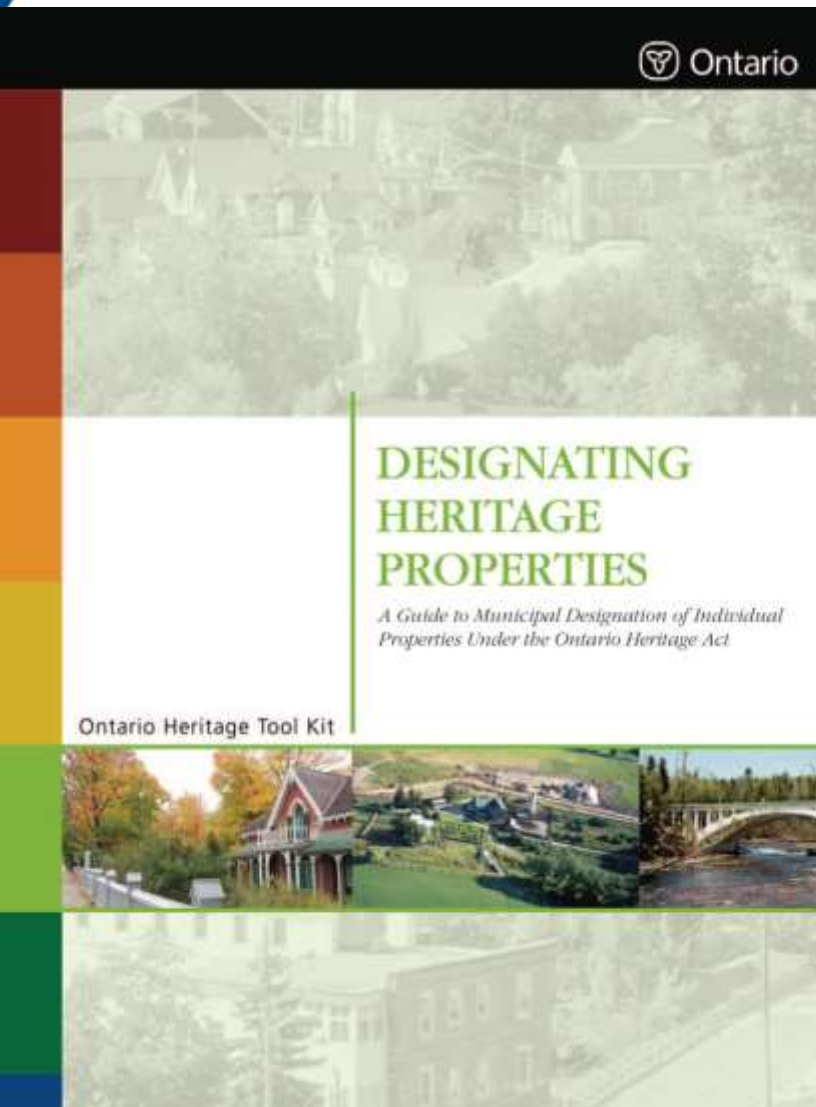
“It is important to know where the heritage value of the historic place lies, along with its condition, evolution over time, and past and current importance to its community. The traditional practices associated with the historic place and the interrelationship between the historic place, its environment and its communities should also be considered.”



“Heritage value”- Canada

- Canadian Register of Historic Places:
 - A single place may have more than one heritage value. It may be valued for different reasons by different communities of people. The heritage values associated with a place may also change over time as the understanding of its history develops and the needs and context of the community change.

“Heritage value”- Ontario



OHA Regulation 9/06 (2006)

Criteria for determining whether a property is of cultural heritage value or interest:

1. The property has design value or physical value
2. The property has historical value or associative value
3. The property has contextual value

Using a different lens

The Burra Charter (2013): Article 1: Definitions:

1.2 *Cultural significance* means **aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value** for past, present or future generations.

- Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects*.
- Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Using a different lens

The Burra Charter – Article 5 – Values:

5.1 *Conservation of a place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.



Using a different lens

Nara Declaration (1994)

- Identified authenticity and cultural diversity as important
- “All materials, including written, oral and figurative sources allow us to know the nature, specifications, meaning and history of cultural heritage”.
- Acknowledges legitimacy of cultural values of all parties / communities
- Recognizes the threats of globalization and cultural homogenization and the need for authenticity in conservation practice to clarify and illuminate the collective memory of humanity.



Using a different lens

ICOMOS New Zealand Charter (2010):

- New Zealand retains a unique assemblage of **places** of **cultural heritage value** relating to its indigenous and more recent peoples. These areas, **cultural landscapes** and features, buildings and **structures**, gardens, archaeological sites, traditional sites, monuments, and sacred **places** are treasures of distinctive value that have accrued meanings over time. New Zealand shares a general responsibility with the rest of humanity to safeguard its cultural heritage **places** for present and future generations. More specifically, the people of New Zealand have particular ways of perceiving, relating to, and conserving their cultural heritage **places**.

Using a different lens

US National Park Service – National Register Bulletin #38:

- Culture = the **traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts, and social institutions** of any community
- Traditional cultural significance is ...derived from the role the property plays in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices.
- Avoid Eurocentrism - evaluate properties thought to have traditional cultural significance from the standpoint of those who may ascribe such significance to them, whatever one's own perception of them, based on one's own cultural values, may be.
- Consult with **groups and individuals who have special knowledge about and interests in the history and culture of the area**... including those who may ascribe traditional cultural significance to locations within the study area.

Using a different lens

Randall Mason, “Assessing Values in Conservation Planning” (2002):

Assumptions include:

- heritage conservation is best understood as a sociocultural activity, not simply a technical practice;
- heritage values are, by nature, varied, and they are often in conflict;
- traditional modes of assessing significance rely heavily on historical, art historical, and archaeological notions held by professionals, and they are applied basically through unidisciplinary means;
- the test of more effective conservation planning is its responsiveness to the needs of stakeholders, communities, and contemporary society.

Using a different lens

Randall Mason

- *Tools for eliciting heritage values:* How can the views of the many parties with a stake in a heritage site be accommodated in the conservation planning process, including its specific value-assessment phase?
- *Integrating assessments and guiding decision making:* Once the range of heritage values has been articulated, how can they inform decision making?
 - Create Statements of Significance – may be conflicting statements reflecting value assessments of different stakeholder groups
 - Evaluation of the degree of importance of a particular value ... when compared with that value in related sites.

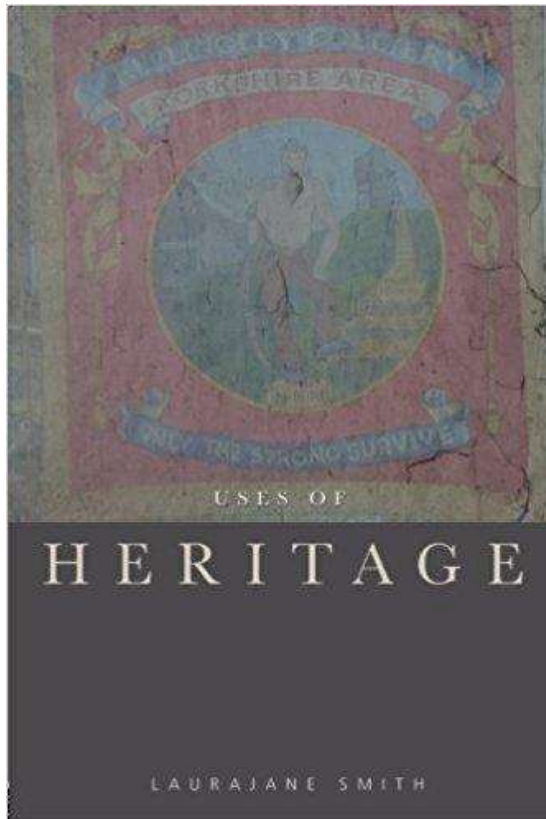


Using a different lens

- Prof. Neil Forbes (Coventry University) speaks of the “subjective, conflictive, contextual and dynamic nature of values”
 - Cultural values = those beliefs which are important to a cultural group, including but not limited to political, religious, spiritual and moral beliefs.
 - When the various legal, socio-economic, political or religious values upon which both European society and cultural heritage are based come into conflict with each other, how should they be reconciled?
 - Are there alternative value-systems that need to be considered and given weight when debating matters of policy and practice?
 - Do we need different value-based models and approaches for different visions, contexts and motivations.

Using a different lens

Larajane Smith, *The Uses of Heritage*



- Heritage is bound up by power relations = the power to legitimize or de-legitimize cultures
- Heritage ≠ common inheritance or set of values
- Heritage value is not inherent in physical objects or places, but rather that these objects and places are used to give tangibility to the values that underpin different communities and to assert and affirm these values.
- Heritage as a dynamic social and cultural process – a way of knowing and seeing

Using a different lens

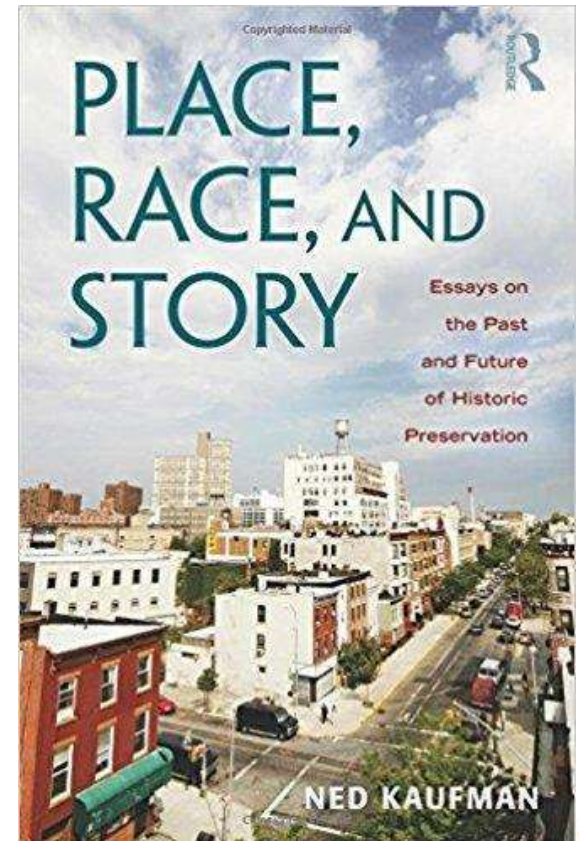
Lisa Prosper – Aboriginal Cultural Landscape

- The grounded experience of place over time results in cultural identities expressed in both material and immaterial forms
- Rely on continuity of cultural practices that created them; traditional knowledge and oral narratives
- Cultural inheritance of traditional communities – held together by traditions that are practised rather than things that are protected
- Resilience in the traditions and practices that structure identity

Using a different lens

Ned Kaufman, *Place, Race, and Story*

- “Story sites”:
 - valuable for their ability to convey history, support community memory and nurture attachment to place
 - help give a disempowered group back its history
 - renew community connection to identity
 - can be identified, described, mapped and evaluated
 - can be protected but existing mechanisms are imperfect



Using a different lens

Ned Kaufman, *Place, Race, and Story*

- Storyscape surveys - Identify sites that relate to a theme of importance to the community
 - discover the stories
 - situate them within the life and beliefs of the community
 - demonstrate their connection to specific places
 - document the ways in which those places support the retelling or reliving of the story
- Use array of professionals (historians, architects, archaeologists, geographers, anthropologists) + community participation – importance of oral history

Using a different lens

NY City Landmarks Law

- Protect improvements, landscape features and districts which ‘represent or reflect elements of the city’s cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history’
- ‘Safeguard the city’s historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such places’



What can we learn from others?

- Australia
- Halifax – The Centre Plan
- Historic England
 - Sites of Memory - Black British History of the 18th and 19th Centuries
 - Pride of Place - England's LGBTQ Heritage
- Mecca Flats, Chicago

National Heritage value means:

- (1)...The National Heritage value of the place is the place's heritage value that causes the place to meet the criterion.
- (3)The regulations must prescribe criteria for:
 - (a)natural heritage values of places;
 - (b)indigenous heritage values of places;
 - (c)historic heritage values of places.



Australia - National Heritage Criteria

- Both cultural and natural history;
- Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or its natural or cultural environments;
- Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- Importance as part of Indigenous tradition.



Shared Heritage Project - Heritage Council of Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

- “seek to recognise that every place in Victoria has an Aboriginal history, and acknowledge places with a shared history, recognising that stories and memory about events and places may sometimes be divergent or conflicting”
- First phase – ensure that cultural heritage values of significance to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are accurately described in the Register.



Assessment guidelines - Landscapes of Cultural Heritage Significance (2015) – Victorian Heritage Register

- Values held by some groups may be different from, or even opposed to, those of others who are involved with and interested in the same area.
 - For each cultural heritage value – are there are locations within the study area that have particular aesthetic, social, historical, scientific or spiritual values to a group or groups of interested people?
- Statement of values should set out:
 - The cultural heritage values represented in the landscape;
 - Who holds these values; and
 - How important they are to the groups involved.

Halifax – The Centre Plan

- To consider community heritage and cultural values when making land use decisions.
 - To develop an evidence-based inventory of potential cultural landscapes, heritage properties, and heritage conservation districts in the Regional Centre to inform land use and development decisions.
- Related actions include:
 - Identifying and Protecting Indigenous Sites of Significance
 - Identification and Commemoration of Sites of Traditional Cultural Practice
 - Engagement of Cultural Communities



Historic England

4 Inclusive Heritage Initiatives focus on aspects of the past and their reflection in the historic environment

- Pride of Place – England's LGBTQ Heritage
- The Slave Trade and Abolition
- Disability History
- Women's History



Historic England

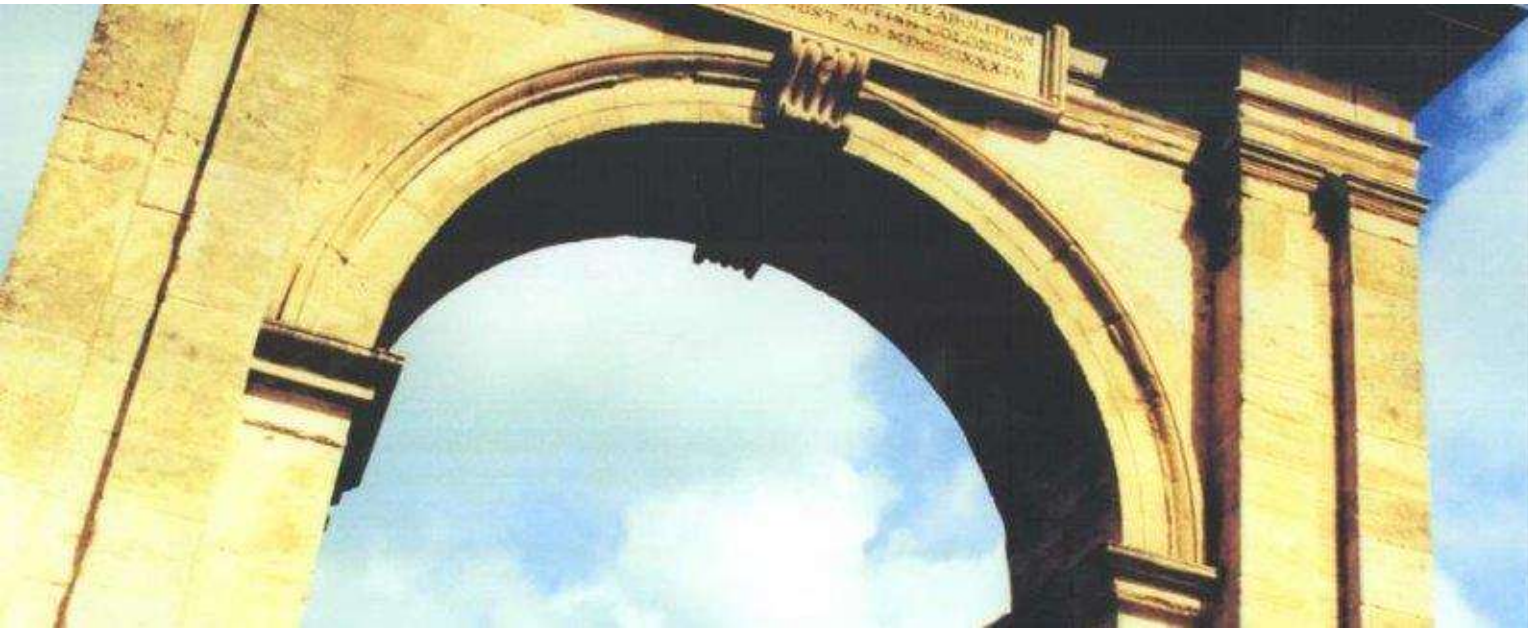
Pride of Place initiative:

- To identify, document, and increase awareness of the significance of LGBTQ histories and heritage in relation to England's buildings and landscapes.
- To identify key LGBTQ heritage sites for inclusion on the National Heritage List for England and to amend existing entries.
- To nominate buildings or landscapes for consideration for local heritage listing.
- To encourage the management of heritage sites open to the public to include LGBTQ histories in their interpretive content as a key part of engaging with the public.



Historic England

- Sites of Memory: Black British History in the 18th and 19th Centuries
 - Explore the stories behind local streets, buildings and landmarks
 - Personal fortunes made from the slave trade
 - The abolition movement



Historic England

Enrich the List campaign (2016)

- To keep the list relevant and up-to-date
- 99% of people in England live within a mile of a listed building or place.
- Public invited to share photos, historical events or social history, changes since the building was listed, information about the architecture or archaeology



HE Archive  @HE_Archive · Jun 7

Happy 1st birthday to Enriching the List! [#ListEngland](#) 1 of my fave [#Aerofilms](#) images so far is of Ironbridge Gorge bit.ly/2qWGRRX



Historic England Archive: EPW046398

Mecca Flats - Chicago

- A story of Intangible and tangible values in conflict
- Interplay of music, community and place
- Gentrification and racism
- Urban renewal and the introduction of modernist architecture to Chicago
- The stories of the apartments remain and are celebrated



The Canadian Context

- The Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982)
- The Supreme Court, Oral History and Aboriginal Title (T'silhqot'in case, 2014)
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report (2015)
- Multi-Culturalism, pluralism and diversity in Canadian Society



lyse doucet
@bbclysedoucet

Follow

Sweet surprise. A #Syria reunion in #Toronto #Canada - how life has changed for family last saw in Syria more than 2 yrs ago. BBC 2200



RETWEETS 139
LIKES 296



1:52 PM - 19 Sep 2016

What's happening in Ontario?

Brock's Monument – expanding interpretation

- First monument completed 1827
- Second monument – 1859
- 1912 – Centennial Celebration of the Battle of Queenston Heights
- 1994 – Ontario Heritage Trust unveils provincial plaque commemorating the efforts of the 'Colored Corps' throughout the War of 1812.



What's happening in Ontario?

Brock's Monument – expanding interpretation

- 2005-7 – a memorial appears at the foot of the monument commemorating Six Nations
- 2016 – The Landscape of Nations monument is unveiled.



What's happening in Ontario?

Cultural Landscape Inventories & Studies

- Waterloo Region
- Oakville
- Kitchener
- Thorold
- Mississauga
- Caledon



City of Windsor
Cultural Mapping Project

Cultural Mapping

- St. Thomas
- Kingston
- Windsor



What's happening in Ontario?



Bala Falls:

"In Bala, it is readily apparent that the natural environment and scenic beauty are closely intertwined with areas of human intervention. ... The challenge, ... is transferring the "spirit and sense of place" elements of the valued natural environment and scenic beauty into the "real property," "heritage attributes," "buildings or structures" type definitions and provisions that constitute the Act. Evidence of human intervention is not the entirety of what holds value in an area like Bala."

(CRB Report 1109, March 13, 2013. p. 35)



What's happening in Ontario?

Oro African Church Preservation Project

- Built in 1849, the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church - designated as a National Historic Site - one of the last built remnants of a community of African Canadians with roots anchored in the history of UELs.
- In 2014, the Church was at risk of collapsing. - Township of Oro-Medonte raised funds to preserve and restore the church.
- Crowdfunding campaign - Site's cultural, historical & spiritual connections



What's happening in Ontario?

Save the Evidence Campaign

- Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School operated in Brantford, Ontario from 1828 - 1970.
- Significant insight into the Residential School System
- Renovations to ensure the physical evidence of the dark history of Residential Schools in Canada is never forgotten.



What's happening in Ontario?

Moccasin Identifier Project, The Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation

- “Know whose land you’re on.”
- How will they ever know about us?
- How will they recognize whose land they’re on?
- Indigenous sites across cities and towns will be publicly identified with a moccasin symbol to represent the tribe that inhabited each location.



Going forward

- Not suggesting that the sites currently listed, inventoried, designated or otherwise protected shouldn't be
- How do we broaden the protection framework to more accurately reflect the story, values, participants of our communities?

Going forward

What can you do in your
community?



Going forward: Some thoughts

- Evaluate our Portfolios, Registers and Lists to identify gaps → Identify the gaps → Open conversations with cultural groups, indigenous peoples whose history is not reflected
- Know what other inventories & lists are held in the community
- Treat assessments of value as living documents:
 - Understanding of value may change as more information becomes available
- Consider the need to re-visit the models
 - What questions are we asking?
 - Whose values are represented?
- Some sites may need Statements of Significance

Going forward: Some thoughts

- Develop municipal guidelines for the application of the criteria in Reg 9/06:
 - Example of the Australian Heritage Council guidelines for the application of the NHL criteria – provides for each criterion a series of explanatory notes, key definitions, considerations in applying that criterion, indicators of significance, examples of places that illustrate.
- Consider use of cultural landscape approaches
- Consider use of municipal easements for some types of resources

Going forward: Some thoughts

- Ensure there are different perspectives, backgrounds, interests and expertise on MHCs
- Revisit who is involved in our assessments
 - Have associated people / communities been identified?
 - Are opportunities provided for them to participate in assessments / value setting?
 - How are their contributions included?
- Use themes and stories as a starting point → move to physical representations of those values

Questions

Resources to explore

- Australia ICOMOS, The Burra Charter
- Burra Charter – Practice Note
- Nara Declaration (1994)
- Australian Heritage Council
- Victorian Heritage Register Assessment Guidelines
- Historic England
- Ned Kaufman, Place, Race, and Story
- Larajane Smith, Uses of Heritage
- Randall Mason, “Assessing Values in Conservation Planning”
- Rodney Harrison (ed.), Heritage - Critical Approaches
- Truth & Reconciliation Commission Report

For further information, please contact

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