



CHOnews

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OLD DURHAM ROAD BLACK PIONEER CEMETERY

NANCY MATTHEWS

The Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery was recently re-named Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery. The cemetery is located at 325473 Durham Rd. B, near Priceville, in the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

The Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery and the Old Durham Road School across the road from it, are among the few remnants of a vibrant and successful Black community that existed in Artemesia Township (Grey County) from the late 1840s. The fact that by the mid-1880s few of the original Black settlers remained, in no way diminishes their contributions as pioneers and exemplary role models who emigrated as free people or who bravely fled the Southern States as refugees from slavery.

This unconsecrated burial ground, established around 1850 on land donated by a Black pioneer farmer, was used by people of African descent who started arriving in the late 1840s to settle along the newly surveyed (Old) Durham Road. Location Tickets, issued after completion of the land and road survey in 1849, set the requirements for settlement. When these were fulfilled, Crown Patents (legal title) could be applied for.

Many of the 16 families who arrived to take land on

Durham Road in the spring and summer of 1849, came from Wellington County settlements near the Garafraxa Road (Wellesley and Peel Townships.) Most had originally come from the United States and it is largely assumed that they were refugees from slavery. All these settlers had been in Upper Canada for at least 8 years, many for over 12 years, and yet others more than 20 years. The 1851 census shows almost every 50-acre lot along Old Durham Road was settled by a Black family with parents born in the USA and Upper Canada as birthplace for many of their children. These 117 Black settlers represent 12% of the total population

of Artemesia Township in 1851 however it is possible there were additional Black people not enumerated.

The Black settlement diminished over time. Some intermarried with White settlers and gradually integrated into White society. Many left their marginal 50-acre farms to seek paid work in Owen Sound, Collingwood or further afield. Others may have been quietly "dispossessed" because, for

whatever reason, their land title had not been properly registered. Throughout the province, uneducated settlers (both Black and White) often did not fully understand the need to apply for legal title and instances of title irregularities

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Memorial pavillion and boulder
Photograph: N. Matthews

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Amended Ontario Heritage Act and New Regulations Delayed

The province has delayed proclamation of amendments that were part of Bill 108, the *More Homes, More Choices Act*, along with corresponding regulations which were to have been made January 1, 2021. These amendments and regulations will have a significant impact on Part IV designations and listings. They will apply on a 'go-forward basis'. They will not apply to actions initiated by a Council under the Act prior to proclamation. The delay has occurred because "Municipalities noted that a January 1, 2021 proclamation date would pose significant capacity and operational challenges as they continue to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic". CHO/PCO has not been advised of the new proclamation date. In the meantime, the old Act remains in force.

CHO/PCO, in conjunction with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, held a webinar on the recent changes to the Ontario planning legislation. It received excellent feedback. The recording is available to view from our website.

Provincial Heritage Demolition has province-wide ramifications

Recently, the Ontario government used a Minister's Zoning Order to permit an affordable housing development and to demolish a listed heritage property it owned in the City of Toronto. This raises three issues that may affect your municipality. First, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may issue such orders anywhere in the province under the *Planning Act*, overriding municipal planning decisions including conservation of heritage properties. Second, the province evaluates the heritage value on its properties using Regulation 10/06 which requires it to determine 'provincial' and not 'local' heritage values. Thirdly, there is no requirement for any public review or input to such zoning orders.

CHO/PCO has written to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Heritage expressing its concern, requesting that such zoning orders not be issued on a municipally listed heritage property. CHO/PCO also requested that, if the province must issue such a zoning order, that the local, and not just provincial, heritage value of the property be considered and it use a public and transparent process for determining and conserving such values.

Stay safe.

Wayne Morgan

CHO/PCO MISSION STATEMENT

To encourage the development of municipally appointed heritage advisory committees and to further the identification, preservation, interpretation, and wise use of community heritage locally, provincially, and nationally.

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Articles are published in the language they are received.

Continued from page 1.

are known to have occurred in Artemesia Township.

In the 1930s, the farmer who owned the abandoned burial ground removed 90-100 headstones, ploughed the land and planted potatoes. Human remains were not removed, and recent geo-thermal scans have found evidence of at least 80 burial sites. Rumors circulate that the removed headstones were used to pave barn floors.

In 1989, a group of interested citizens formed the Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee to restore the burial ground and register it as a cemetery. In 1990 they found four headstones in a nearby pile of rocks. These were placed at the site in a display case and in October of that year, Lieutenant-Governor Lincoln Alexander unveiled a memorial granite boulder which had an inscription that honored these early pioneers.

The cemetery committee refurbished the site in 2015. The original memorial is once again fully visible and thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the four historic gravestones are now safeguarded from further damage. They are in a covered pavilion designed to evoke memories of cemetery dead houses, roadside chapels, and rural structures such as log cabins and covered bridges. The monument symbolizes safe passage and is oriented due north to commemorate the many paths to freedom taken by refugees from slavery.



Black pioneer family names on the memorial pavillion

Photograph: N. Matthews

The Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery was designated by the Municipality of Grey Highlands in 2016. The recent initiative to add the word "Black" to the property's name will serve to better acknowledge this little-known but important piece of local history.

Now that the name change is official, there will be another Heritage Grey Highlands application to have the site recognized as having both Provincial and National heritage significance.

Nancy Matthews is a Director of CHO/PCO.

WEBSITE UPDATE ALERT!

Check out the series of videos available under the "Education" tab. Recorded at various Ontario Heritage Conferences, the videos cover a wide range of topics and are presented by top-notch professionals. Subject matter includes:

Accessibility in Historic Buildings and Landscapes
Blending Centuries: Heritage Conservation and Urban Renewal
Building Lives – Adventures in Adaptive Re-Use
Heritage Cemeteries
Heritage Property Real Estate and Insurance
Measuring the Economic Impacts of Heritage
Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act
Vacant, Derelict Heritage Properties
Youth in Heritage

Also available under the same tab is a webinar titled "The Role of Municipal Committees" and this is a great orientation tool for new members of your committee. Our most recent webinar "Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act" is also available.

Further information and tools are posted regularly to our website

communityheritageontario.ca

COLE SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE RISES FROM THE ASHES

TRACY GAYDA

The Coal Shoal Lighthouse comes back to life! Constructed in 1856, this was the last of a string of nine lighthouses along the St. Lawrence River, built to help navigate from Prescott to Gananoque. It is known by the people cruising the river as 5 Mile Light because it is a landmark situated 5 miles from Brockville. The original structure was destroyed by a lightning strike on July 23, 2018.



5 Mile Light Complete October 2020

Photograph: L. Dunning

Many were devastated that this iconic landmark was gone forever. Shortly after the shock wore off, a committee of local people was formed to start the rebuild project to replace the structure. They garnered the support of Elizabethtown-Kitley Township for assistance in acquiring the shoal and permissions needed to construct a replica of the old lighthouse. As they raised funds through canvassing and a Go Fund Me page, support for the project gathered steam with many significant donations. Both retired Senator Bob Runciman who headed the committee and G.C. Hudson



Heritage E-K Group and 5 Mile Light Plaque
L to R: Councillor Rob Smith, Mary-Anne Gibson,
Tracy Gayda, Jim McMullen

Photograph: snapd 1000 Islands

Supply, were instrumental in progressing the project. The committee used a copy of the original lighthouse plan documents from the Ontario Archives to construct the new building to the old design.

On September 8, 2020, a reception was held at Hudson Point near Brockville to thank those involved and reveal their hard work. 5 Mile Light again sits on Cole Shoal, more beautiful than before the fire. Heritage Elizabethtown-Kitley provided a plaque detailing the history from its beginning, the fire and the story of the new lighthouse. The plaque was placed on shore at Hudson's Point and will be moved to the Shoal at a later date.

Tracy Gayda is a Vice-President of CHO/PCO.

GLENGARRY COUNTY ARCHIVES GETS A NEW HOME

GINETTE GUY

MacDonell's House, Alexandria's oldest standing building, just became the Glengarry County Archives' home. The house was built in the 1830s by Col. Angus MacDonell and later used as the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Over time the building went through renovations and ended up covered in white stucco. In 2019 the hall came up for sale, and Allan MacDonald, the county archivist, knew from old photos that the walls were limestone. North and South Glengarry jointly purchased the property with plans to restore and move the county archives.

The project met with broad community support, and

\$250,000 was raised in local donations and pledges for the \$400,000 budgeted restoration. Local organizations and 230 donors helped in any way possible, a high rate of participation for the small townships. The fundraising was impacted by the pandemic, unfortunately.

In February 2020, the project received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant of \$32,000 for structural work and made the building accessible with a ramp and modified washrooms. The archives moved in the fall of 2020 and are waiting for a break in the pandemic to host the public.

The Glengarry County Archives was established in late 2013 as a jointly administered agency of North and South

Glengarry townships. The mandate is to preserve Glengarry's documentary heritage, holding 230 years of records. The new facility has 7,600 sq. ft. and plenty of room for the collection to grow. The archives are home to the D.A. Macdonald Collection, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. In a streak of good luck, the documents were found in perfect condition

after 150 years of storage in an attic in Alexandria.

The Glengarry County Archives are fully searchable at glengarrycountyarchives.ca.

Ginette Guy is a Vice-President of CHO/PCO.



Before the restoration
Photograph: Glengarry County Archives



After the restoration
Photograph: G. Guy

NINETEENTH CENTURY SAW MILLS

NEIL A. PATTERSON

Much has been researched and written about the large mid-nineteenth century saw mills in Canada. In Rideau Lakes from 1850 to 1870, two of these mills sawed between 10 and 12 million board feet of lumber annually. The lumber from these mills was shipped down the Rideau Canal, across Lake Ontario to Oswego and then through the Erie Canal to American buyers. But what about the little village mills that have been mentioned in town or township histories? Between the same 1850 to 1870 period, every village in Rideau Lakes had either a water wheel powered or a steam powered saw mill. Industrial census figures show that those mills cut from 5000 to 10,000 board feet of lumber annually. Local farmers drew logs from their land to the mills over the winter and began cutting them in the spring. This was very much a local operation, providing farmers with a cash crop.

In the period from 1850 to 1860 the village mills in Rideau Lakes cut about 810,000 board feet of lumber. The reason for all the cut lumber can be extracted from the details of what type of home and the change in farm buildings. The Canadian census figures for 1850 for Rideau Lakes list 620 log houses, 313 frame houses, 267 shanties, 58 stone houses and 2 brick houses. From the 1860 census, extracting the same details indicate there were 816 log houses, 532 frame houses, 54 shanties, 102 stone houses and 52 brick houses. By 1860 there was an increase of 196 log houses, 219 frame houses, 44 stone houses, 50 brick houses and a decline of 213 shanties. This is not surprising because as farms and



Soper Saw Mill in Elgin, with the local farmers drawing their logs in

Photograph: Courtesy of the Pennock Collection

merchants began to prosper, they built themselves better living accommodations. The farm, village, town, township and county appearances were changing. The same thing happened between 1860 and 1870.

The buildings built during the latter half of the nineteenth century can be traced not just to their individual date but to groups of buildings that were part of the heritage of an area or district during that same period. Preservation of a house or barn can be shown as the part it played in the development of its surrounding area.

Neil A. Patterson is a historian and a member of the Rideau Lakes Heritage Committee.

DESIGNATION DISRUPTED BY INSURANCE

TERRY FEGARTY & NANCY MATTHEWS

Mr. Alex Cipressi, who lives in Midland, and is renovating a prominent heritage home there, was shocked to be informed by his insurance company that his premiums would be doubling - all due to a designation proposed by the Midland Heritage Committee.

"I've done everything to mitigate the potential harm and risk that could pop up against the home, but the insurance companies don't see that... They're fearful of (old houses)," Cipressi said.

The Midland Today article discusses many ongoing issues with finding affordable property insurance for heritage homes, particularly if designated:

bit.ly/MidlandHomeownerWinsDelay

Similar designation vs. insurance conflict in a different locale: bit.ly/HeritageHomeowners

The Midland situation is far from the only time that the owner of a heritage property has requested deferral or reversal of a heritage designation because of crippling insurance premiums. Justifications for exorbitant heritage premiums frequently cited by insurance brokers:

- Heritage buildings are poorly built and/or in derelict condition
- Greater risk of fire or flooding due to outdated heating, wiring, plumbing
- Belief that the policy for designated heritage property must ensure replacement using the same workmanship and materials as in the original construction
- Designation increases the value of a heritage property
- The difficulty and expense to find craftsmen qualified to replace or repair heritage windows, woodwork, plaster molding, brick, or stonework; and more time needed to repair said heritage features

Heritage buildings that are a minimum of several decades old were not built to meet current building code or safety standards, and may contain contaminants, so some increased risk is a legitimate concern. But coverage and high premiums may also be based on incorrect assumptions about the structural integrity of heritage buildings and/or a misunderstanding of the protection required in the relevant designation by-laws or easement agreements:

- Many/most heritage buildings are better built and more environmentally "green" than anything built today and should be supported, not denigrated
- Brokers should acknowledge risk reduction following appropriate replacements of outdated systems



Alex Cipressi's century home

Photograph: N. Matthews

(comprehensive list below)

- There may be NO requirement (under law) of re-creating a destroyed heritage structure using original materials or techniques
- When a property is publicized for designation, the insurance company may recognize a previous evaluation error. Insurance may be higher because it is an older building, but premiums should be the same, whether designated or not
- Heritage craftsmen ARE at a premium. But owners can choose to accept a facsimile of heritage features using modern materials and craftsmanship and/or replacement by similarly sized building on the same location which could emulate but not necessarily reproduce heritage attributes
- The expected higher cost and longer time needed for repair work on buildings constructed of older or "special" materials, or having unique features is only applicable if owner chooses a policy for replacement in kind

Recommendations for owners seeking fair and equitable heritage property insurance

- Each insurer has a different attitude towards heritage buildings so shop around for a broker and/or insurer who understands the specific risks associated with a heritage property. The best providers consider each home on an individual basis and allow customers to personalize coverage.

- Provide comprehensive information on unique characteristics of the property with descriptions and photos of heritage features such as hand-carved elements, antique chandeliers, plaster walls and moldings, as well as photographs of all interiors, exteriors, and outbuildings.

- For properties designated or otherwise subject to heritage protection, educate your broker/insurer as to what heritage features are protected, what is the degree of protection, and what is not protected.

- Understand the difference in coverage and premiums between different types of policies. EG: Named Perils coverage vs. an All-Risks policy; Replacement Cost coverage vs an Actual Cash Value policy; is coverage subject to a depreciation factor?

- Get the right amount and type of coverage – owners may be able to choose a facsimile rather than full replacement in kind and still meet heritage protections.

- Provide an appraisal from an experienced heritage appraiser to assess the true value and potential future replacement/repair costs.

As the cost of insurance is totally related to risk (actual or perceived), many companies will lower premiums if owners provide documentation of risk reduction through installing or upgrading the following:

- Copper wiring from knob-and-tube or aluminum
- 100 amp-service from 60-amp
- Gas or electric furnace from oil or wood
- Copper or plastic piping from galvanized or lead
- Steel or stone roof from asphalt shingle
- Energy-efficient windows
- Sewer lines or septic tank
- Sump pump and/or backflow valve to prevent flooding
- Smoke and CO2 detectors
- Monitored burglar and fire alarms
- Inspections of fireplace, wood-burning stove, foundation
- Adequate fire break if property is semi-detached or

row house

Other Insurance strategies:

- Reduce premiums with increased insurance deductible

- Many insurers offer discounts to non-smokers or owners with good credit rating

- Bundle all your policies under one insurer to qualify for a loyalty discount

- Avoid adding risk like installing a pool or hot tub

- Consider the insurance impact before opening a claim

The Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) will assist consumers to find insurance and obtain information:

Consumer Centre 1-844-227-5422

Insuring heritage properties: bit.ly/IBCHelp

Magazine article: bit.ly/HeritagePropertyInsurance

A National Trust webinar in December established that insurance difficulties continue to be experienced by heritage property owners in all provinces. Consensus favored setting up a “task force” wherein heritage advocates, government agencies and insurance companies could educate each other on possible solutions and/or policies to address problems in providing adequate and affordable insurance for heritage buildings.

The authors are in the process of contacting the ministry and some insurers in hopes of providing more information for a future article.

Terry Fegarty and Nancy Matthews are CHO/PCO Board members.



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WHICH FEATURE CONTRIBUTES TO THE UNIQUE IDENTITY OF YOUR COMMUNITY?

MAGGIE WHALLEY

Recognizing resources that are valued in our communities is a constantly evolving process. It is a challenging proposition for a municipal heritage register to include absolutely all resources of cultural heritage value or interest. There is always a risk that a valued resource has not been included on a register or been designated pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Our concept of cultural heritage value continues to evolve and careful consideration of resources that are included (or excluded) from our heritage conservation efforts is needed.

Applying the “40-year rule” often applied in Environmental Assessment survey and inventory work, any resource built prior to 1981 could be flagged for their potential cultural heritage value or interest. Including all resources within a municipality built prior to this date is not always practical or appropriate.

As municipal heritage committees across Ontario consider which resources in their communities are recommended for inclusion on a municipal heritage register, looking for specific resource types can often help to focus research and surveying efforts.

In London, a devoted group of researchers has been working to identify, document, and ultimately learn more about the London Doorway – a specific and unique doorway that is only found in the London area.



Home of Jeremiah Moran, built in 1875 in London's East Woodfield Heritage Conservation District.

Photograph: K. Gonyou

A London Doorway can be identified by its triple arches: it has arched sidelights that extend above the head of the door jam, with a rounded arch transom window that is set in a segmented arch opening. The arches of the sidelights must break the head of the door jamb. London Doorways are single-leaf doorways and are always symmetrical. The sidelights may be divided and the transom may feature an oculus or etched glass. London Doorways may vary slightly in proportion (height and width but scaled) and often differ in carved and applied detailing.

While further research is needed to confirm, the construction of all London Doorways may be the work of one artisan or tradesperson. The classical yet conservative expression reflects the time, place, and context of the London Doorway, offering insight to the values and aspirations of its originators.

Local expressions of popular architectural trends can be found in every community in Ontario and they help to celebrate what makes each of our communities unique and worthy of conservation.

What can a municipal heritage committee member do to identify cultural heritage resources?

- **Leverage Previously-Completed Research** – Forty-seven London Doorways have been previously identified by the research of Herbert Craig and Julia Beck, and were documented in the publication of *London Doorways: A Study of Triple Arched Doorways* (2014). About twenty more confirmed and suspected London Doorways have been identified since.

This research identified that London Doorways were found on mostly Italianate style houses constructed of buff brick or frame and built between 1868 and about 1890. Identifying this trend has focused further research efforts.

- **Use Geography to Your Advantage** – All London Doorways were mapped using an online, free mapping platform that was easily accessible to researchers. Gaps in the spatial distribution of the confirmed London Doorways identified areas to focus subsequent survey work.

Eighty percent of London Doorways are located within the geographic area of Middlesex County, including the City of London.

- **Get Out and Survey** – In the gap areas, survey work was completed either on foot (in urban areas) or by driving (in rural areas). In urban areas, remain on the sidewalk to observe what you can see from the street. When trying to complete a survey while driving, assign a driver and a surveyor – it isn't safe to try to do both at the same time. Document your research subject with photographs and



This London Doorway on a c. 1880 cottage in London's SoHo area was recently discovered when an enclosed porch was removed

Photograph: K. Gonyou

note any key details, unique features, and the property's address.

At least two London Doorways have been identified following the removal of a porch or other enclosure on a historic home since the first survey. Re-surveying areas is not a waste of time!

- **Share Your Story** – Talk to knowledgeable people in your community. They may know an example of what you're looking for or can help you in your search.

Using this approach highlighted a historic area of London with very few London Doorways documented, despite a concentration of homes built in the later part of the nineteenth century. Street-by-street surveying was completed on foot, which identified three further London Doorways!

So, the next time you are out exploring the unique influences found in your own community, will you take a second look to see if you spot any London Doorways?

More information on London Doorways can be found at londondoorways.ca.

Maggie Whalley is a Vice-Chair of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage, the City of London's Municipal Heritage Committee.

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Accessing Land Registry Records

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**Video tutorials
are available at**

ogs.on.ca/land-records
help.onland.ca/en/video-guides

**The Land Registry
offices closed in
October 2020.
All services are now
available online only.**

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NATIONAL TRUST OF CANADA AWARD-WINNERS

ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE CORNERSTONE AWARD

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Awards bring national attention to exemplary projects and places that contribute to quality of life and sense of place and illustrate the viability of heritage buildings and sites for traditional or new uses. The awards are presented in two categories, with the potential for up to six (6) awards in each category.

Transformative Heritage Projects

Projects completed between 2016 and 2019 that have creatively renewed or transformed historic places or landscapes for new or traditional uses. Award winners from Ontario are:

Montgomery's Inn Museum. Toronto nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-awards/montgomerys-inn-museum-restoration

Senate of Canada Building. Ottawa nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-awards/senate-of-canada-building

Westinghouse Headquarters. Hamilton nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-awards/westinghouse-hq

Resilient Historical Places

Historic places or landscapes that illustrate extraordinary resilience, significance, and benefit to a community over a sustained period of time, with a successful track record of 10 years or more.

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. Almonte nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-awards/mississippi-valley-textile-museum

Shingwauk Residential School. Sault Ste. Marie nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-awards/shingwauk-residential-school-site

Victoria Jubilee Hall. Walkerton nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-awards/victoria-jubilee-hall

PRINCE OF WALES PRIZE

The Prince of Wales Prize recognizes communities and their local governments for the successful heritage stewardship of a town, city, First Nations reserve or community, rural region, or district. The award winner from Ontario is:

Niagara on the Lake nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-awards/the-town-of-niagara-on-the-lake

Community Heritage Ontario congratulates all the winners for 2020!

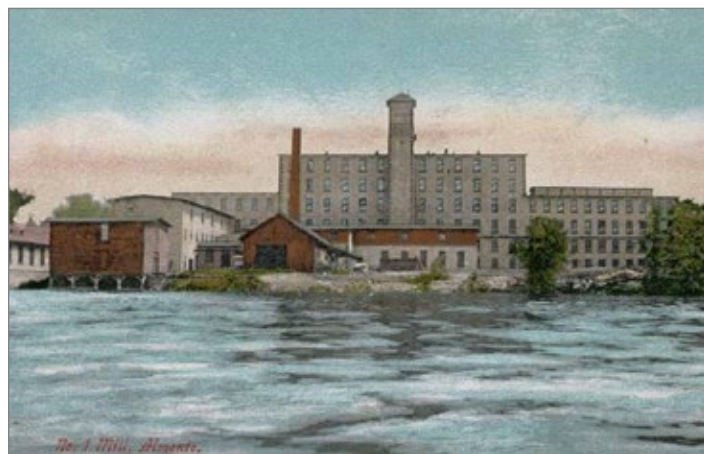
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY TEXTILE MUSEUM WINS THE RESILIENT HISTORIC PLACES AWARD

MICHAEL RIKLEY-LANCASTER

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (MVTM) is proud to announce that our museum is a National Trust for Canada's 2020 Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Award Winner. The MVTM received the Resilient Historic Places Award.

The MVTM – which pioneered the first proclamation of pride month in the municipality of Mississippi Mills in 2020 – prides itself on having open door, safe space policies for community members of all ages. They also have a longstanding partnership with the local college, providing student training opportunities.

The MVTM is located in the annex of the former Rosamond Woolen Company (built in 1867). The MVTM has been part of the community for over 35 years. A National Historic Site, this industrial museum combines traditional textile displays with activities and events focusing on the region's heritage, culture, and role of the textile industry.



Mill No. 1 postcard
Image: MVTM

Through the years, the museum has evolved and adapted to make the site more inclusive to visitors and to ensure

that it is well maintained for future generations. The jury commented:

"An impressive industrial museum that has remained open and functioning for 35 years – and still significant to the community."



Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
Photograph: MVTM

Executive Director/Curator Michael Rikley-Lancaster reflects on leading the museum through thirteen years of the following major accomplishments:

The museum raised funds and oversaw the following:

- Repointed and conserved the exterior of the building;
- Insulated the building for year-round use;
- Installed energy-efficient track lighting in all gallery spaces;
- Painted the exterior trim back to their original colours and preserved the original windows;
- Installed six furnaces and four air conditioning units and ductwork into our gallery spaces (which were not heated and airconditioned prior to that);
- Installed security systems;
- Revamped our interpretation of how industrial textile processing is done;
- Made our museum accessible to people with mobility limitations by installing exterior ramps, automated push buttons at all doors leading to and from the exterior ramp and to the newly installed elevator shaft and elevator, and made our washrooms accessible;

- Constructed a dedicated education room within the museum;
- Catalogued our artifact and research collection;
- Worked with our local library to scan 150 years of our local newspaper, and launched this as an online searchable database.
- Replaced all emergency exit doors with metal doors with wood facades to match the historic look of the building;
- Conserved the interior plaster and stone walls in our galleries to preserve mill worker graffiti on the walls;
- Installed new proper artifact shelving for our book and textile collection.

This was an ongoing team effort, and we are thankful for the assistance and support of the following people and organizations:

Our key Players in making the Museum a success: Lizz Thrasher, Sean Joynt, Ryan Milton, Melanie Girdwood-Brunton, Jayne Henry, Jo Danaher, Matthew Moxley, Jean Down, the late Ron Caron, former and current museum board members, Charlotte Farmer, Jason Gilmour, Ian MacLean, the late Helen & Herb Pragnell, Alex Hughes, Brian Hughes, Anne & the late Gerry Wheatley, the late Reva & Len Dolgoy, Roberta Murrant, Barbara Dickson, Rosamond Family descendants, Friends of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Algonquin College – Heritage Masonry Program & the Applied Museum Studies Program, Mississippi Mills Public Library, Mississippi Mills Youth Centre and Michael Rikley-Lancaster.

Our trusted main contractors: Paul Laforce of Jack O' Trades, Richard Carroll of Mississippi United Construction Limited, Sean MacKenzie of Dominion Masonry and Eric Stewart of Historic Plaster Conservation Services.

Our Funders, who have enabled so many of our projects and efforts: Municipality of Mississippi Mills, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Parks Canada National Historic Sites Cost Sharing Program, Department of Canadian Heritage – Museum Assistance Program, Enabling Accessibility Fund, Department of Canadian Heritage – Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, Community Foundation of Canada, Benjamin Moore, Elizabeth Kelly Foundation, Canada 150 Infrastructure Fund, Colby Foundation, County of Lanark.

Michael Rikley-Lancaster is Executive Director – Curator of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK SCHOFIELD

The Board of Directors convened for a virtual meeting on November 22, 2020, using the Zoom app. Wayne Morgan, President, outlined that board meetings will

proceed this way for the near future. Virtual workshops will also be planned to help keep MHCs and CHO/PCO members updated on heritage preservation issues.

The Corporate Secretary/Treasurer indicated that membership renewals for 2021 were behind schedule due to the fact that many MHCs and municipalities were unable to work in the usual manner during the shutdown. This issue of CHOnews will be the last issue distributed to those who were members in 2020. All MHCs are urged to send their 2021 membership renewal form and fees as soon as possible. If payment is being made via PayPal or etransfer, please remember to have someone complete the membership renewal form and send it in as well. For the benefit of those who have not yet renewed, a membership form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Financially speaking, our 2020 audit was completed and revenue remained comparable with 2019. With fewer issues of CHOnews published, no conference expenses, and the Board meeting virtually, disbursements were cut in half, leaving the accounts in good shape for 2021.

The Conference Committee announced that Brockville has agreed to hold the conference in 2022. CHO/PCO members are asked to keep up-to-date with CHOnews notices and the website for future announcements. The same holds true for workshops which the Communications Committee has cancelled until further notice. The Facebook page is also a good source for updated information.

As a result of the uncertainty of conference scheduling, the Awards Committee will continue to receive recommendations but will not make final decisions.

The Communications Committee will continue its usual work of producing CHOnews, one of the few responsibilities not affected by the current pandemic situation.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held by Zoom on March 28, 2021.

Rick Schofield is the Corporate Secretary/Treasurer of CHO/PCO.

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Program Officer **Ginette Guy**

BOARD MEETINGS

CHO/PCO Board of Directors meetings are open to any MHC member. Meetings will be held virtually until further notice. Please contact the Corporate Secretary if you wish to attend.

ARTICLE DEADLINES

JANUARY 10

MARCH 10

JUNE 10

OCTOBER 10

Article submissions are always welcome.