

HISTORIC PLACES INITIATIVE PROJECT

December 2009

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Newsletter Credits

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Heritage Resources Centre
Centre des ressources du patrimoine

A Successful Three Years

The third and final year of the Heritage Resources Centre's (HRC) Historic Places Initiative (HPI) project has come to a close.

In 2009, the team engaged eight new municipalities, completed 251 nominations for the Canadian Register of Historic Places - exceeding the initial goal, prepared six bridge designation files and inventoried 133 bridges and culverts in the Township of Centre Wellington. A very productive and

successful 2009!

We would like to thank all of the individuals and groups who have helped the project achieve its many successes. We could not have completed such a remarkable number of nominations without your help!

The HPI project was initiated by Professor Robert Shipley and operated out of the Heritage Resources Centre at the University of Waterloo.

In January 2007, the HRC

organized an action team that has been responsible for assisting municipalities in completing nominations for selected heritage sites. The project started in the Grand Heritage River Corridor and has steadily expanded throughout south western Ontario.

Over the last three years the action team has consisted of high school, university and co-op students, as well as recent graduates.

The Historic Places Initiative

Since HPI was launched in 2003 by the federal government, steady progress has been made in the effort to standardize the methods for historic place recognition across the country, create a national register and introduce new programs for heritage conservation. All of the provinces and territories joined the program and various projects were undertaken to achieve the goal of promoting a better understanding of Canada's historic places.

In 2006, the Ontario Ministry of Culture, with funding from Parks Canada, began a series of pilot projects in partnership with educationally-based research centres to raise awareness of heritage resources in the Province of Ontario and to help communities nominate designated heritage properties to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

The HRC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and participating municipalities, has undertaken

and now completed a project to nominate heritage properties within south western Ontario to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

To access the Register please visit:

www.historicplaces.ca

The website has listings of formally recognized properties in Canada, as well as themed tours and fact sheets relating to heritage.

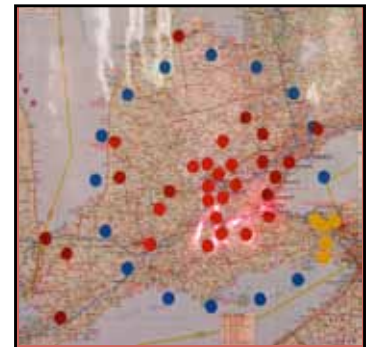
Goals of the Project

The HRC nomination team operated based on five specific goals:

1. To increase the number of places in Ontario nominated for inclusion on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.
2. To train and provide experience for the skilled heritage workers of the future.
3. To build the capacity of municipal staff, heritage committee members

and others in completing the Historic Places Initiative documentation processes.

4. To encourage local councils to plan and budget for the completion, ongoing maintenance and upgrading of their heritage property registers.
5. To increase local interest in and knowledge of the Historic Places Initiative.



The red dots represent the municipalities the HPI project has worked with over the past three years.

Development of the Project

The team began operations in January 2007. The HRC had not previously worked on nominating properties to the Canadian Register of Historic Places, but thought it was a worthwhile endeavor.

With funding from the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Parks Canada, the Region of Waterloo and the City of London, the team's first members were hired.

These members, some of whom worked on the project throughout its

entirety, wrote the team's first nominations for the Canadian Register of Historic Places. These nominations were written based on training provided by the Ministry of Culture and followed the Documentation Standards created by Parks Canada.

With the training and guidance provided to the team, they were able to develop a set of templates and create a standardized process that became the basis for all nominations written by the team.

Properties within the Grand River Watershed were the first to be nominated, however the ability of the team to quickly complete well-drafted nominations led to the expansion of work outside of the initial project area.

Project Completion

December 2009 marks the end of a very successful three-year partnership between the Ministry of Culture, Parks Canada and the Heritage Resources Centre. The HRC's team wrapped up the HPI project, completing a grand total of **878** nominations, a number far exceeding initial expectations.

This year the team also concluded an additional project carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and the Grand River Conservation Authority. Historic bridges became the focus of study, resulting in the preparation of designation files for six bridges in various municipalities,

including the Township of Centre Wellington, the Region of Waterloo, the Township of Wellesley, and the City of Brantford. A pilot bridge inventory project was also carried out in the Township of Centre Wellington, which provided detailed information on the 133 bridges and culverts found in the municipality.

It is hoped that the research carried out by the HRC will assist these municipalities in making decisions about their historic bridges.

Over the course of the past year the team has exceeded their target nominations, trained young heritage workers, engaged local municipalities



HRC Team, April 2009

and increased the capacity of local planners and heritage committee members.

Through the efforts of the Heritage Resources Centre's Historic Places Initiative Project, the Grand River Watershed and surrounding area will be well-represented on the Canadian Register of Historic Places and better positioned to protect its heritage resources.

Highlight of our Final Year

On November 6th, four researchers from the HRC received the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's **A. K. Sculthorpe Award for Advocacy**. This award recognizes their work in nominating heritage properties to the Canadian Register and for such projects

as the recent study of 32 Heritage Conservation Districts, as well as for their leadership in communicating the value of heritage conservation to others, including dozens of city councils and community groups.



HRC researchers, Paul Dubniak, Kayla Jonas, Martha Fallis and Lindsay Benjamin with ACO President Lloyd Alter, accepting the A. K. Sculthorpe Award, Toronto 2009

Community Outreach



Goderich CHL Workshop, October 2009

The Historic Places Initiative team participated in many community events throughout 2009.

Grand River Heritage Day

On February 16, the team traveled to the Wilmot Recreational Complex in Baden for the Heritage Day Workshop titled, "Rural Routes - Rural Roots". The team enjoyed presentations, promoted the Historic Places Initiative

and networked with other organizations.

ACO/CHO/CAHP Conference

The HPI team attended the "Heritage in Creative Communities" Heritage Conservation Conference, held in Peterborough from May 29 to 31. The team displayed their updated poster board. It was an excellent opportunity to network and promote the success of the project.

Heritage Canada Foundation Conference

The HPI team had a large presence at this year's Heritage Canada Conference, entitled, "The Heritage Imperative: Old Buildings in an Age of Environmental Crisis", held in Toronto from September 24 to 26. The team was able to network, promote the success

of the project and attend some interesting sessions.

Goderich Cultural Heritage Landscapes Workshop

In October, members of the HRC team traveled to Goderich to help facilitate a workshop on designating Cultural Heritage Landscapes. The team was able to meet some great new contacts.



Beatrice Tam, Chelsey Tyers, Paul Dubniak and Martha Fallis at Grand River Heritage Day in Baden, February 2009

Training Young Professionals

In addition to the regular Heritage Resources Centre staff, the HRC has trained a variety of young heritage workers in drafting nominations to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

For a third consecutive year the HPI team was able to hire a Summer Experience Program student for seven weeks during the summer phase of the project. This was made possible through the HRC in cooperation with

Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) and the Ministry of Culture.

This year the successful candidate was **Karthy Chin**, a Grade 12 student, chosen out of over 100 applicants. During her seven weeks, Karthy learned the importance of designation and the nomination of sites, as well as the benefits of listing these sites on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

The HRC team also undertook to teach Statement of Significance Workshops to over 60 students in Professor Robert Shipley's Heritage Planning classes at the University of Waterloo. Each student was given the opportunity to draft a nomination for a local site, broadening their understanding of the importance of heritage resources in the region.

Thank You!

The Heritage Resources Centre would like to extend our deepest thanks to all of those who made this project possible over the past three years. The project would not have been so successful without your support and cooperation.

Thank you to all of the municipalities who have participated in the Historic Places Initiative Project:



Kayla Jonas, Martha Fallis, Chelsey Tyers, Karthy Chin, Beatrice Tam and Paul Dubniak at the Ontario Heritage Conference, May 2009

Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
Municipality of Bluewater
City of Brampton
Municipality of Brant County
City of Brantford
Municipality of Brockton
City of Burlington
City of Cambridge
Town of Caledon
Township of Centre Wellington
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

City of Guelph
Town of Goderich
Town of Halton Hills
City of Hamilton
Municipality of Huron East
City of Kitchener
Municipality of Kincardine
City of London
Town of Markham
Town of Milton
City of Mississauga
Township of Norwich

Town of Oakville
Town of Orangeville
City of Owen Sound
Six Nations First Nation
Town of St. Mary's
City of Stratford
City of Waterloo
Township of Wellesley
Township of Wilmot
Township of Woolwich

And thank you to all past and present HRC staff members who's hard work and dedication led this project on a path to great success:

Kayla Jonas
Paul Dubniak
Lindsay Benjamin
Martha Fallis
Kendra Green
Martina Braunstein

Lyndsay Haggerty
Steve Bell
Emily Elliot
Mary Tivy
Kirsten Pries
Chelsey Tyers

Diane Unger
Beatrice Tam
Karthy Chin
Andrea Lam

The HRC also gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions and support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Parks Canada, the Region of Waterloo and the City of London, as well as the guidance provided by staff at the Grand River Conservation Authority.

We look forward to working with many of you again in the future!