

# HISTORIC PLACES INITIATIVE PROJECT

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## Newsletter Credits

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## First Year a Success!



Heritage Resources Centre  
Centre des ressources du patrimoine

The first year of the Heritage Resources Centre's (HRC) Historic Places Initiative (HPI) project has come to a close. We would like to thank all of the individuals and groups who have helped the project succeed. We could not have completed the impressive number of nominations we achieved without your help!

The Heritage Resources Centre nomination team was initiated by Professor Robert Shipley and operates 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 within and surrounding the Grand Heritage River Corridor. This action team has consisted of high-school and university students, co-op students and recent graduates.

Due to the enormous success and recognition the project has experienced, the team will continue operations in 2008.

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## The Historic Places Initiative

Since the launching of the Historic Places Initiative (HPI) 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 have joined the program and various projects are underway 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 assets in the Province of Ontario and to help communities nominate designated heritage properties to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

The University of Waterloo's Heritage Resources Centre (HRC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the Region of Waterloo, the City of London and participating municipalities is currently undertaking a project to nominate heritage properties within and surrounding the Grand Heritage River Corridor to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

## Goals of the Project

The HRC nomination team operates based on five specific goals:

1. To continue to increase the number of places in Ontario nominated for inclusion on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.
2. To train and provide experience to 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.

## Development of the Project

The team began operations in January of 2007. The Heritage Resources Centre had not previously worked on nominating properties to the Canadian Register of Historic Places, but the Centre's director, Professor Robert Shipley, thought it was a worthwhile endeavour.

With funding from the Ontario Ministry of Culture, the team's first members were hired. These members, who are still invested in the project today, wrote the team's first nominations for the Canadian Register of Historic Places. These nominations were written based on training from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and followed the Documentation Standards created by Parks Canada.

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

The team began nominating properties within the Grand River Watershed, however the ability of the team to quickly complete well-drafted nominations led to the expansion of work outside of the initial project area.



*Past and present members of the HRC nomination team. From left: Emily Elliott, Kayla Jonas, Lindsay Benjamin and Kendra Green*

Over the course of the past year the team has exceeded their target nominations, trained young heritage workers, engaged local municipalities in the process, increased the capacity of local planners and heritage committee members, received widespread community support, entered into financial partnerships with the Region of Waterloo and the City of London and received media recognition for their efforts.



*Martina Braunstein, Kayla Jonas and Kendra Green at Chiefswood, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory*

The team has engaged 16 municipalities over the past year and has completed 337 nominations to the Canadian Register of Historic Places. This greatly exceeded the original goal of 292 nominations.

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.

## Accomplishments

Thanks to the ambition and diligence of the team several accomplishments that go far beyond the original expectations for the project have been made over the past year. These accomplishments include workshops and presentations, helping to designate of one of the Region's most famous landmarks and receiving several media recognitions.

The following highlights some of the accomplishments that the team was able to achieve in 2007.

## Networking Workshop



*Chris Mahood speaking at the Workshop*

In Ontario two other university based teams nominated properties to the Canadian Register of Historic Places. As a means to increase productivity and quality, the Waterloo team thought that it would be useful to meet with other nomination teams to share strategies, highlight successes and discuss lessons learned.

This workshop was held in late August of 2007 at the Hamilton Museum of Steam Technology. The teams from Brock University and Carleton University attended the workshop as well as staff from the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

The teams presented their projects and properties they nominated and reflected on their experiences thus far. Through discussion and brainstorming, the participants were able to learn from each other's projects, gain lessons that would be useful in their future operations and make recommendations on how similar teams could function in the future.

## Heritage Conservation Workshop



*Heritage Conservation Workshop, Huether Hotel, December, 2007*

After almost a year of nominating properties to the Canadian Register of Historic Places, the team found that they were being approached with similar questions and concerns from many contacts within their 16 partner municipalities. As a means to address these concerns and explain the next steps a municipality could take after having nominations submitted to the Canadian Register, a Heritage Conservation Workshop was organized.

This workshop was held in early December 2007 at the Huether Hotel in Uptown Waterloo. It was attended by 20 people representing eight different municipalities and groups that had worked with the team over the past year.

This workshop was directed at municipal heritage staff and volunteers and focused on cultural heritage value, heritage identification and protection, preparation of a designation By-law and Statement of Significance and the next steps after nomination to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

Presentations were made by representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the Heritage Resources Centre's nomination team. This workshop provided municipalities with an excellent opportunity to learn about heritage conservation through writing By-laws and nominating properties to the Canadian Register of Historic Places. Those who attended the workshop appreciated this learning opportunity and engaged the presenters with important questions regarding effective methods of heritage conservation.



## Training Young Heritage Workers

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.

The first of these instances was through an opportunity provided by Professor Shipley. He teaches a fourth year Heritage Planning Workshop Class where the team was given the opportunity to teach University of Waterloo students how to write a Statement of Significance.

The class, of more than 20 students, was coached through the Statement of Significance writing process and asked to draft their own. These drafts were then reviewed by the team who gave the students suggestions and comments.

Additionally, the team was able to hire one Summer Experience Program Student for seven weeks during the Summer 2007 Phase of the project. This was made possible through the Heritage Resources Centre, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Community Heritage Ontario.

The successful candidate was Steve Bell, a high school student from the City of Waterloo, who was able to learn the importance of the designation and nomination of historic sites and the benefits of listing on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. He drafted six nominations to the Canadian Register, wrote an article for CHO News, accompanied the team on tours and municipal presentations and shadowed Chris Mahood at the Ministry of Culture offices in Toronto.

Finally, the team noticed that there was interest among students working at municipal offices in the summer to learn how to write nominations to the Canadian Register of Historic Places. At the team's suggestion, the Ministry provided training participants with a certificate of recognition. This is something tangible that those who were trained can show as an accomplishment.



*Andrea Westfall, Planning Student at the County of Brant with her Certificate*

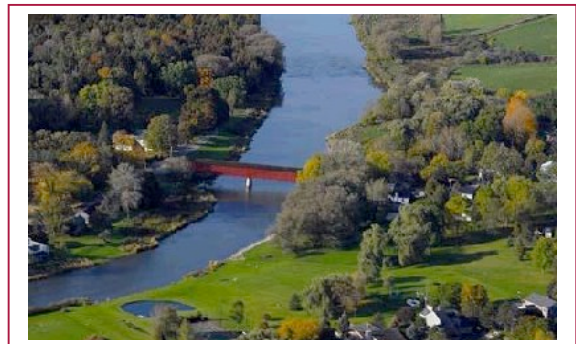
Through training these young heritage workers, the HRC team was able to spark their interest in heritage issues as well as increase knowledge of the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

## Recognition of a Region Landmark

The team was asked to help write the designation by-law for the West Montrose Covered Bridge for the Township of Woolwich. This gave the team experience in the designation process and demonstrated how a well-written designation By-law can easily be used to create a Statement of Significance for the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

The team is exceedingly proud of this accomplishment as one of the most recognizable landmarks in the Region of Waterloo is now properly protected.

Thanks to efforts of the Township of Woolwich and the team, the West Montrose Covered Bridge is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and is listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.



*West Montrose Covered Bridge, Township of Woolwich*

## Media Recognition



*Kendra Green, Emily Elliot and Kayla Jonas presenting at the ACO November Meeting*

Due to the immense success of the project resulting from the hard work and dedication of the Heritage Resources Centre nomination team, the project has received six local media recognitions.

These recognitions praise the team for their dedication to the project and highlight some of their specific accomplishments.

### *Township of Woolwich*

The local community in the Township of Woolwich was so pleased with the designation and nomination of West Montrose Covered Bridge, that the local paper featured the team in two stories during the summer of 2007.

### *Community Heritage Ontario (CHO)*

It was through the support of Community Heritage Ontario that the team was able to hire a Summer Experience Program Student for seven weeks. After completing his time on the project was complete, Steve Bell wrote an article for the October 2007 issue of CHO News, which described the project, detailed his experience and what he gained from it and outlined the project's benefits to municipalities.

### *Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO)*

The North Waterloo Region Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario has been very supportive of the team's work. The team was highlighted in the North Waterloo's Branch newsletter in the winter 2007. In addition they attended the joint ACO/CHO/CAPHC Conference in May 2007 and were asked to speak at the North Waterloo Branch's November 2007 meeting. Here the team explained the project to the members, highlighted its accomplishments and described some of the most interesting properties within the City of Waterloo that the team nominated to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

### *University of Waterloo (UW)*

The University of Waterloo recognized the team's efforts through the promotion of the Heritage Conservation Workshop in the November/December Environmental Studies Newsletter as well as in the November 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of the University of Waterloo Daily Bulletin. These recognitions also informed the University population of the project and the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

## 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 year. The project would not have been so successful without your support and cooperation.

Special thanks to the Region of Waterloo and the City of London whose financial contribution allowed the team to exceed their nomination goals and populate the Canadian Register of Historic Places with a wide sample of properties from these two areas.

The HRC also gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions and support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Parks Canada.

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