

Editor's Note

With Heritage Canada's annual conference taking place in the historic port city of Halifax in September, it is only fitting that this issue include stories about that city's outstanding built heritage. In one feature, author and preservationist Elizabeth Pacey takes us on an engaging journey to nine unique examples of Georgian architecture in "The Shapes Of Georgian Halifax." Elsewhere, the often forgotten story of Georges Island is told in Dianne Marshall's "The Jewel Of Halifax Harbour."

It is so often the fate of those familiar late 19th-century vernacular dwellings we take for granted, but that contribute so much to the historic streetscapes of our cities and towns, to slip through preservation cracks. In the cases of London and Orangeville, Ontario, factors came together to reverse that trend when two Victorian-era row houses were successfully restored. Both stories reveal just how vital municipal financial incentives have become to the success of this process.

Conversely, the unanticipated and shocking results of the City of Toronto's Preservation Board's decision to consider the designation of a rare architectural example of the Modern Movement, the Engholm-Fry House, reveal just how powerless municipalities really are in preserving their own heritage. Determined to prevent the designation, the owner took the drastic step of destroying the unique exterior features of the house with a sledgehammer, claiming his "renovation" did not require a permit. The sad story of this house's history is told in "Rare Example Of Modern Heritage Threatened In Etobicoke."

I am very pleased to introduce myself as the new editor of Heritage magazine. I recognize that following in Veronica Vaillancourt's footsteps is a daunting challenge, but her support, encouragement and cheerfulness in all things have made the production of my first issue a very rewarding experience. All the staff at the foundation have been most welcoming and helpful, and I am looking forward to establishing a fruitful working relationship with them all. Please feel free to contact me at the foundation at any time.

Carolyn Quinn