

# ICOMOS Canada Stone Committee

## Spring 1990 Newsletter

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## **Editorial**

Fellow Committee Members:

The thought of adding the production of a newsletter such as this to one's list of previous commitments never feels as formidable as the few days before it actually gets started. Our deadline this time is generated by our promise to get this issue circulated in sufficient time to provide information on the up-coming 'Masonry Conservation in Practice' course in May, as well as the Stone Committee meeting scheduled to coincide with the course. Gail Sussman and I are co-editing this issue. Rene LeBlanc has kindly provided the French translation.

The newsletter will maintain the low budget/low tech approach to keeping members informed of the activities of our colleagues and the ICOMOS Congress.

We have planned for two issues this year. This one precedes the masonry course and the fall issue will precede the conference in Montreal in November. The deadline for submissions for the fall newsletter will be Friday, September 27, 1990.

One of the housekeeping items that remains outstanding is the directory at the back of the newsletter. I am sure it is not as current as it could be. Please submit your directory information in a manner in which you hope to see it in print. We'll summon all of our computer wizardry to do just that.

Consistent with all ICOMOS Canada Committees, we will continue to strengthen our representation from all regions of Canada. You are invited, even urged, to submit articles or notices of upcoming events. Our current policy is to limit publication to the nation's two official languages.

**William deBacker**

## **Chairman's Message**

Well, 1990 is upon us and as usual it seems to take three or four months following the Annual Meeting in November to get an edition of the Newsletter into print. This however is not an indication of committee procrastination. Quite the contrary in fact, because many of us have been busy on a number of fronts. More on this later.

You will see from the report of our last year's activities and the summary of our meeting that we shall once again need everyone's help in order to achieve our objectives. I know that we all have different expectations of the committee and these usually closely relate to the amount of free time we have to devote to such volunteer activities. I encourage everyone to contribute where they can. Feel free to call Susann Myers, our Vice Chairperson of the Stone Committee, or myself for suggestions.

Now that we have a 'Chief, ICOMOS Canada Scientific Committees' in the shape of Herb Stovel we are able to address our requests, concerns and interests through this position directly to the board. This year for the first time budget submissions had to be relayed through Herb and the two reports, on our past and proposed activities, formed the basis of our request for funding from the executive. I am pleased to report that the full amount requested was confirmed but, as usual, with some conditions. Reservations were

expressed regarding the issue of bringing international specialists to Canada versus attendance at an international meeting or training course.

Our financial position has changed since the various reports were submitted to the board and indeed for this newsletter. As a result of the unexpected financial success of the fall masonry course we were required under the conditions associated with the grant received from MCC to repay the full amount of the grant. This technically leaves us with a negative balance, however, we are hopeful that the upcoming course will turn this around.

You will read elsewhere that we are running another **Masonry Training Course**, to be held in Toronto in May. The course is similar to the one held last fall in Ottawa. This time we have included a full day on masonry cleaning. For the participants that attended the fall course, the cleaning day is offered as a separate unit. With this revision the course meets APT's training standard and participants can receive a certificate from APT.

Since a good number of our members will be in Toronto during the course, it is proposed to hold a **Stone Committee Meeting** during that week. We plan to meet for supper at about 6:00 pm on Wednesday, May 16 at a restaurant in the vicinity of the Brownstone Hotel. If you plan to attend or if you cannot, please call or write me with any issues you would like discussed or placed on the agenda.

### **Meeting Agenda**

**1. Mortars:** I believe our intention to address mortars for conservation work to be a major (and urgent) item still, and see the need for us to move quickly to develop guidelines for distribution.

**2. Cemeteries:** The cemeteries issue, in Ontario particularly, is still very much active with ongoing contributions to the regulatory process in association with the new Cemeteries Act. We are still hopeful that the publication of a handbook can also be achieved through our initiative. Jill Taylor will report on this matter in greater detail (see also Jill's article in this newsletter).

**3. Fall Committee Meeting:** I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Toronto in May.

Keith Blades, Chairman

### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

We have opened an account in Toronto and look forward to reaching a level of financial self-sufficiency to enable the committee to carry out a programme of mortar testing and organising future training conferences.

Spencer Higgins, Secretary-Treasurer

### **Summary of Committee Activities in 1988/89**

The Stone Committee proposed an ambitious programme for the year at the Committee's annual meeting held during the 1988 ICOMOS Annual Congress. Executive summaries of each committee follows:

## **Newsletter**

One issue was produced in March of 1989 by Gail Sussman and was circulated to all committee members, the Board, and some twenty other interested individuals. One article by Susann Myers on Cemeteries was reproduced by several heritage organisations and distributed through various newsletters and publications.

## **Education And Training**

The Stone Committee in conjunction with APT (via Herb Stovel and Francois Leblanc) ran a training course in masonry conservation. Five committee members were involved in the organisation and presentation of the course: Keith Blades, Spencer Higgins, Anna Kozlowski, Susann Myers and Gail Sussman. Two other committee members, Mel Chapple and Lauren Greszecki were participants in the course. John Ashurst from English Heritage in England contributed as part of the faculty and Renee Leblanc provided much appreciated organisational support. It was both a financial and educational success. The course was fully booked and we received many positive comments.

The committee was also active in a coordinating role in the area of trade training. We received enquiries from the Provincial Government in Ontario and from Algonquin College in Perth for input related to the setting up of masonry trade training courses. We were able to bring these groups together and link them with the programme running in Nova Scotia. At one steering committee meeting five stone committee members were in attendance.

## **Cemeteries**

Our input related to the situation in Ontario where a new Cemeteries Act was introduced. In response to our concerns expressed to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, we were invited to appear and make a submission before the Standing Committee examining the Bill. As a result we have been asked to participate in the preparation of regulations forming part of the Act. Jill Taylor has played an active role attending meetings and coordinating our efforts in Toronto.

## **Mortar Programme**

Some preliminary work was carried out on this project, including literature research, market survey and the establishment of preliminary commitments from industry to support a mortar testing programme.

## **Summary**

Not all of the activities proposed were addressed but in retrospect the committee felt it was a very successful year. While the committee did not meet as a whole, there was contact with most members and particularly in conjunction with the two major projects undertaken, the training course and the cemeteries issue.

The committee incurred no expenses with the exception of the cost of translating the newsletter which was paid directly by the Board.

The committee has received a cheque for \$5,000.00 as the proceeds from the training course.

Expenses of approximately \$400.00 resulting from the presentation on the cemeteries issue will be met from the committee's own funds.

Keith Blades, Chairman

## **Summary of Stone Committee Meeting in November of 1989**

As a result of recommendations made at the meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Committees regarding their roles and responsibilities the Stone Committee, at their annual meeting, elected Susann Myers to the position of Vice-Chairman and confirmed Jill Taylor in the position of Joint-Treasurer.

The Stone Committee's slate of officers is now made up of the following members:

Chairman:	Keith Blades
Vice-Chairman:	Susann Myers
Secretary-Treasurer:	Spencer Higgins
Joint-Treasurer:	Jill Taylor

### **Newsletter**

William deBacker will take on the coordinating role of the newsletter with support from other members. This same group agreed to provide a report on our activities/newsletter to the Chair of the Scientific Committee on an as-required basis.

### **Education And Training**

The committee will continue in its coordinating role, particularly in the area of trade training.

The committee plans to run another training course on masonry conservation this year. Invitations to host this event have been received from colleagues in Port Hope and Toronto and we have been asked to consider running the course around the 1990 APT/ICOMOS annual meetings.

### **Cemeteries**

The committee will continue to act in an advisory role to MCCR and assist in developing regulations as part of the new Cemeteries Act. However, our participation will continue on an "as available Basis" by committee members volunteering their time. If more formal input is requested on specific issues the committee would submit that request through the Board.

The committee still sees its role in this area to be the production of national guidelines for cemetery conservation and will work towards achieving that goal during the coming year.

### **Mortar Programme**

The mortar programme is felt to be the other area where the committee wished to concentrate its efforts this year, building on the work towards developing

recommendations for mortars for use in conservation work across Canada. We believe that this project has much broader implications and is relevant to the entire masonry industry. Within the conservation field pragmatic solutions which address the durability issue are urgently needed.

Because there is interest in this area within the Cold Weather Committee we have set this as a joint project to maximise the benefits of our efforts. We have both committed to holding a joint meeting this year and should like to invite Scandinavia experts in the field to Canada to review our progress and share their experience with us. If funding permits and, indeed we are in a position to hold such a meeting with participation from abroad, we would enlarge the meeting to include all interested parties.

### **Meetings**

The committee plans to hold a mid-year meeting in addition to the joint meeting proposed above. In addition a number of field trips or excursions in areas of interest are proposed.

### **Budget Submission**

The committee felt that because of the overall funding shortfall, that the submission made by the Stone Committee should reflect as accurately as possible a realistic projected expenditure for the coming year. Therefore, to support the above programme our request has been for the following funding support:

1. **International Activities:**

The committee did not propose to send anyone abroad this year. However, we proposed inviting one or more overseas specialists to a joint national meeting of the Stone and Cold Weather Committees. Therefore we requested \$1,000.00 to support this activity.

2. **National Meeting:**

We requested \$500.00 to support travel costs of members attending a national meeting. It is understood that up to 75% of travel costs may be reimbursed upon receipt of expenses. It is also understood that expenses related to the organisation of a meeting are eligible in this category.

3. **Newsletter:**

We requested \$250.00 to support the expenses related to the production and distribution of the newsletter.

4. **Committee Funding:**

The committee currently holds a balance of approximately \$4,600.00. We intend to use this funding this year in the following manner:

- a. To meet limited expenses incurred in carrying out our programme of activities where not covered by central funding.
- b. To support the organisation and running of a second training course should grant assistance not be available this year.

**Keith Blades**

## **Education and Training**

### **Masonry Course in Toronto**

This is a repeat of the very successful 'Masonry Conservation in Practice' course which was held for the first time in Ottawa last fall. I attended it last fall in Ottawa and found it to be the most effective workshop I have ever taken.

The course is intensive and is designed to help heritage consultants, architects, engineers, administrators and contractors to apply the theory of masonry repointing, repair and cleaning to practical on-site situations.

Topics to be covered include a conservation approach to the analysis of masonry problems, contract strategies, specifications, site supervision, and repair techniques such as grouting, repointing, use of stone dutchmen, stabilisation and chemical consolidation of friable surfaces. A special session on masonry cleaning has been added this year.

The Faculty for the course have been selected from the best in the country, and include Keith Blades, Conservation and Masonry Specialist; Spencer Higgins, Conservation Architect in private practice; Susann Myers, Conservation Architect with the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications; Gail Sussman, Architectural Conservator with the Ontario Ministry of Culture And Communications; and Herb Stovel, Architect and Director of the Institute for Heritage Education. We are delighted to have a return visit from John Ashurst, Principal Architect, Research, Training and Technical Advisory Services, English Heritage in London, England.

Due to the hands-on nature of some of the sessions, registration is limited to 50 participants.

The course runs for four full days, from the morning of Monday May 14 to Thursday May 17 (including evening sessions), and will be held at 900 Bay Street, Toronto. The fee is \$475.00(Cdn) or \$400.00(US).

A copy of the course brochure and registration form has been included with the newsletter. If you have not received a copy, further information may be obtained from Francois Leblanc, 306 Metcalfe, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1S2 (613) 749-0971 or Susann Myers in Toronto at (416) 965-4961.

The course is jointly sponsored by ICOMOS and APT. The Ministry of Government Services of Ontario is kindly providing assistance in the form of facilities, equipment and support staff for the course.

**William deBacker**

### **Masonry Workshop in Montreal**

A masonry workshop is being planned for Montreal this coming fall. It will take one of the following forms:

1. A France-America technology exchange workshop, jointly sponsored by the "Compagnons du Devoir" and APT, to be held as part of the annual APT Conference in September in Montreal, or;
2. An introductory 4-day course sponsored by the Universite de Montreal as part of its masters program in Conservation.

For details contact Dinu Bumbaru in Montreal at (514) 842-8678.

Anna Kozlowski

### **RESTORE Programs**

Founded in 1976, RESTORE is a non-profit, New York based educational corporation. Its programs address the conservation and preservation maintenance of masonry buildings at a hands-on level. Its sponsors are the International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen, the International Masonry Institute, and the Masonry Contractors Association of America. RESTORE is accredited by the American Institute of Architects.

RESTORE has two main program components. There is an annual nine-month evening course and an annual five-day intensive workshop. The latter is held at Colonial Williamsburg. The principal lecturer is Norman Weiss.

RESTORE also provides a Masonry Conservation Video Series, a Masonry Conservation Library, and a portable Masonry Conservation Laboratory. For more information contact Jan C K Anderson at (212) 766-0120.

Anna Kozlowski

### **Summary of RESTORE 1990 Workshop**

I attended the 1990 five day workshop and recommend the visit to Williamsburg, whether you take the course or not.

The course structure was presented to provide an overview of the doctrines needed to provide proper analysis of a building's fabric, such as chemical and geologic make-up, geographic location and environmental parameters that affect the original construction and subsequent deterioration. During the one week course, students were exposed to new and traditional methods of building restoration and the basics of ascertaining the proper method for each situation. Examples of these methods included how to match original consistency and colour of mortars, and how to mix and apply a poultice for stain and salt removal.

The most important subject covered was how we determine what needs to be restored. Professor Norman Weiss provided a series of questions. They are the following:

1. Does it need to be restored?
2. Why are we restoring a particular building?
3. Why did we choose the method for repair?
4. To what extent do we restore?

Professor Weiss felt that if any of these questions were unanswered, the work should not proceed unless there is a potential for danger to the public, then methods of consolidation could be employed as a temporary stopgap.

In concluding, this workshop helped me, and I recommend it to any person who is involved with restoration. It can also benefit new construction by providing studies of why building methods have changed.

**Tim Frazer**  
**Belair Restoration**

### **Tour of Stone Quarries**

We are considering arranging a tour of the stone quarries in the Bruce Peninsula area for this fall. It would be sponsored on behalf of the Stone Committee of ICOMOS Canada and the Toronto Chapter of CSC (Construction Specifications Canada). The tour would last one day, include a one hour lecture by a stone specialist, handouts and discussion by a specification writer and a visit to several of the quarries in the area. Costs would include the bus and the lecturers. Please indicate your interest to me by fax or telephone one week in advance of the May meeting so that we can confirm the arrangements during the meeting if there is sufficient interest. To date, four people have responded to a similar notice in the Toronto Specifier, the newsletter of the CSC Toronto Chapter.

**William deBacker**

## **Technical Section**

### **Specification Tips**

During the masonry course last fall, a presentation by Gail Sussman included a demonstration of the testing procedures for the bulking of sand used for mortars. Based on the handout prepared by Susann Myers, we decided to develop it as a part of our specification. We have included it in Section 04100 - MORTARS. It is located in Division One under an article entitled 'Preparation'. The two relevant paragraphs and their sub-paragraphs are reprinted here for your interest:

#### **7.1.1 Bulking of Sand:**

1. Bulking is the increase in volume of dry sand when it becomes damp.
2. Damp sand can occupy as much as one-third more volume than either dry or saturated sand.
3. Damp sand can be used, however, if its volume is adjusted for bulking.

#### **7.1.2 Test and Adjustment of Sand Quantities for Bulking:**

1. Test sand to be used in mortar for bulking at the start of the work, after each new delivery of sand and any severe change in weather.

2. Obtain a sample of sand which accurately reflects the average condition of the pile of damp sand, by the following method:
  - a. Take 4 shovelfuls of sand, each from a different level of the pile, and mix thoroughly.
  - b. Place this sand in a conical pile and divide into 4 quarters with a board. Remove 2 opposite quarters from the pile, and combine the 2 remaining quarters and mix thoroughly.
  - c. Repeat this quartering and mixing procedure until a sample of the size required for testing remains.
3. Fill a 1-litre capacity jar, about two-thirds full with the damp sand to be tested. Drop the sand in loosely. Do not pack it in. Level off the surface, then measure the depth of the damp sand (D).
4. Empty the sand into another container, being careful not to lose any, and half fill the first container with water.
5. Pour back about half of the test sample of sand slowly into the water so that it is entirely saturated. Rod it thoroughly to remove any air.
6. Add the rest of the sand, rodding again to remove air and level off the surface. Measure the depth of the saturated sand (S), which will be less than the depth of the damp sand.
7. Calculate the percentage bulking, using the formula:  $[(D-S) \times 100\%]/S =$  percentage bulking; where D = depth of damp sand, and S = depth of saturated sand.
8. When batching the sand for use in mortar, increase the volume of the sand used by the percentage bulking shown in the test. For example, if the mortar mix is a standard 1:1:6 mix requiring 6 parts of sand and the percentage bulking is found to be 20%, the volume of sand used in the mortar should be:  $(6 \times 120)/100 = 7.2$  parts. To adjust for bulking, the actual mortar mix will therefore be 1:1:7.2 when this same damp sand is being used.

William deBacker

## **Israel: Universal Problems**

### **Context**

This past January I was fortunate to be able to spend the month on a working holiday. It was an opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of the way in which a small and very ancient country tries to protect its historic sites. ICOMOS colleagues were able to guide me through the discovery process.

Actually, it was Herb Stovel, our celebrated international traveller, who first gave me the name of Giora Solar, Vice-Chairman of ICOMOS Israel. Through the Canadian Institute of Planners with funding from CIDA, I was able to sponsor Giora for a three week visit to Canada in May, 1988. He attended the Training Committee meeting in Montreal and the Documentation Symposium in Quebec before spending a week with me in Toronto. Now was his turn to play host.

### **Legislation**

Giora is Head of the Preservation Section of the newly established Antiquities Authority which is responsible for the administration of the Antiquities Act. The former Antiquities Department was separated from the Ministry of Education and Culture to enable the Authority to raise its own funds from sources that the Ministry of Culture could not. The obvious downside is that many historic sites must be self-supporting. Therefore, selected sites are necessarily 'sacrificed' in the name of cultural tourism. Another dramatic problem that Israel faces is that the present act only protects cultural property and historic structures built before 1700. In this period when our greatest interest lies in the protection of our earliest buildings, Israel has no protection for its 'recent' historic sites. Clearly new legislation is needed to protect sites built after 1700.

### **Archaeological Sites**

Archaeologists from all over the world converge on Israel to explore its many historic sites. All expeditions must receive a licence before they dig. It is also a requirement that at least 40% of every project budget must be set aside for conservation of the site and for publication. In reality, many sites are not conserved and the excavations are left exposed to accelerated deterioration once the season is over. A case in point is the dig at the top of the tell at Beit She'an where the adobe brick are disintegrating. The Antiquities Authority is rapidly expanding its staff to provide further information on good conservation practice and enforcement on the conservation of sites.

### **Masonry**

Masonry problems abound just as we see here in Canada. Much of the repointing is done with cement rich mortars. Israel also does not have sufficient trained masons for conservation projects. ICOMOS members play a key role in the development of training courses in cooperation with ICCROM.

### **ICOMOS Israel**

Membership in ICOMOS Israel is very small and there are no specialised committees as we have in Canada. The national body is composed of dedicated overworked professionals trying to do their best to protect sites, change attitudes and raise the level of knowledge of good conservation practice. Sound familiar? I felt perfectly at home and hope to go back soon to work on these universal problems.

Gail Sussman

## **Review of the Cemeteries Act**

On Thursday, September 28, 1989, Keith Blades and I made a presentation to the Standing Committee on Resources Development regarding the second reading of Bill 31, 'An Act To Revise The Cemeteries Act'. The presentation was comprised of slides pertaining to the cultural and heritage value of cemetery markers and documentation of the destruction of two Ontario cemeteries. This destruction occurred after a letter was sent from the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to Municipalities across the Province informing them of their liability in cemeteries. Our presentation was one of two that day which dealt with the heritage value of cemeteries. The previous presentation by Dorothy Duncan and Christine Carropo of the Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Association of Archaeologists had alerted some of the members of the Standing Committee for what seemed to be the first time to the significance of these sites, and the incompatibility between the proposed Legislation and principles of Heritage Conservation.

Keith's presentation stressed ICOMOS Canada's interest in the proper conservation and stabilisation of markers, and the techniques which could be used to avoid irreversible damage to the historic resource. The proposed Act was evaluated on a point by point basis in order to isolate clauses which were judged to be in contravention of recognised principles of conservation. It was also pointed out that in other jurisdictions, specific legislation had been introduced which addressed the conservation issues.

In summary, the following was proposed:

- The value of cemeteries and their above and below ground character as a heritage resource should be recognised in the Definitions in the Act.
- That the Ontario Heritage Act prevail over any part of Bill 31.
- That our Committee was willing to assist in the formation of Guidelines which could form part of the Act.
- That our Committee and other heritage interests must in the future be fully consulted before the formulation of legislation which affects heritage resources.

The presentation was well received by the Committee, and certain members paid particular attention to be able to bring heritage matters to the fore in the remaining review process. Unfortunately, after third reading, the Bill was passed with little attention to heritage issues. Reference to the issues of conservation was relegated to the formulation of Regulations to be drafted at a later date.

Since that time, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations has organised three round table sessions including Heritage Representatives and Cemeterians to address the formulation of Regulations. Our contributions at these meetings were met with a guarded recognition of the importance of the issues. Deadlines were established for the submission of our statements and outlines for Regulations for early January 1990. Due to a change of staff at the Ministry and a review of their schedule, the preparation of these Regulations has now been postponed. The Committee is presently preparing draft responses to MCCR, including a mission statement and guidelines for the protection and conservation of markers. We are also addressing the issues of abandonment and relocation.

A positive initiative occurred recently at a meeting called by an unlikely ally. The Ontario Association of Cemeteries chaired a meeting of Concerned Heritage Groups, including ourselves, the Ministry of Culture and Communication, the OHS, the Ontario Geneological Society and the Association of Heritage Consultants, in order to initiate a process to develop proper methods of ensuring the safety of memmorialials. At that meeting in Toronto in late March, it was decided that a series of publications would be written by the heritage interest groups and distributed by groups such as the Cemeterians which would alert the public, the Municipalities and the Cemeterians to the issues at hand. These publications will be initiated by the Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Geneological Society and will be drafted at the end of May. In the meantime, the chairman of the Ontario Association of Cemeteries and I will meet to prepare a letter to the Honourable Gregory Sorbara, MCCR, to request the publication of a letter to all Municipalities and Cemeterians by his Ministry indicating that Regulations and Guidelines governing the stabilisation of cemetery markers are in the process of being written, and that the improper disposition or stabilisation of markers is to be avoided.

Jill Taylor

## Members List

### Chairman:

Keith Blades  
Conservation and Masonry Specialist  
PO Box 3039  
Station D  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 6H6

Telephone (613) 256-4567  
Fax (613) 256-2073

### Joint-Treasurer:

Jill Taylor  
Jedd Jones Architect  
227 Front Street East  
Suite 400  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5A 1E8  
Telephone (416) 862-7500  
Fax (416) 862-7519

### Past-Chairman:

Denis St Louis  
1131 Avenue des Erables  
Quebec, P Q  
G1R 2N3  
Telephone (418) 647-2588

William deBacker  
Spencer R Higgins Architect Incorporated  
10 St Mary Street  
Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4Y 1P9  
Telephone (416) 922-7507  
Fax (416) 922-1681

Lauren Gruzsecki  
Architectural and Engineering Services  
for Environment Canada  
Les Terrasse de La Chaudiere  
10 Wellington Street, 4th Floor  
Hull, Quebec  
K1A 0H3  
Telephone (819) 997-0144  
Fax (819) 997-9113

Anna Kozlowski  
Conservation Architect  
Heritage Conservation Program  
Public Works Canada  
10 Wellington Street  
4th Floor,  
Hull, Ontario  
K1A 0H3  
Telephone (819) 997-4976  
Fax (819) 997-9113

### Vice-Chairman:

Susann Myers  
Education/Technical Advisor  
Heritage Branch  
Ministry of Culture and Communications  
77 Bloor Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9  
Telephone (416) 965-4961  
Fax (416) 342-4692

### Secretary-Treasurer:

Spencer Higgins  
Spencer R Higgins, Architect Incorporated  
10 St Mary Street  
Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4Y 1P9  
Telephone (416) 922-7507  
Fax (416) 922-1681

Mel Chapple  
322 Ridout Street  
Port Hope, Ontario  
L1A 1R1  
Telephone

Lynne Di Stefano  
222 Central Avenue  
Suite 4F  
London, Ontario  
N6A 1M8

Peter Elliott  
Easements Advisor  
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9  
Telephone (416) 965-5727  
Fax (416) 965-4315

Martin Osborne  
Contract Inspector  
Design and Construction Services  
Room B29C  
Legislative Building Queens Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A2  
Telephone (416) 963-2307  
Fax (416) 965-9332

**France Remillard**  
476 Derochers  
Ville de Vanier  
Quebec  
G6W 1C2  
Telephone (418) 643-7001  
Fax

**Gail Sussman**  
Education/Technical Advisor  
Heritage Branch  
Ministry of Culture and Communications  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9  
Telephone (416) 965-4961  
Fax (416) 324-4692

**Adam Zielinski**  
Manager  
Roberts Seymour and Associates  
178 Jarvis Street, Suite 607  
Toronto, Ontario  
Telephone (416) 346-5391  
Fax (416) 670-4954

**David Panton**  
Project Officer  
Commemoration Review Project  
Programs Branch  
Veterans Affairs Canada  
PO Box 7700  
Charlottetown, PEI  
C1A 8M9  
Telephone

**John J Stewart**  
Commonwealth Historic Resource  
Management Limited  
77 Gore Street East  
Perth, Ontario  
K7H 1H8  
Telephone (613) 267-7040  
Fax

**Gerry White**  
17 McGonigal Street East  
Arnproir, Ontario  
(613) 623-6145

**Keith Blades**  
Conservation and Masonry Specialist  
PO Box 3039  
Station D  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 6H6

**Susann Myers**  
Education/Technical Advisor  
Heritage Branch  
Ministry of Culture and Communications  
77 Bloor Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

**Jill Taylor**  
Jedd Jones Architect  
227 Front Street East  
Suite 400  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5A 1E8

**Spencer Higgins**  
Spencer R Higgins, Architect Incorporated  
10 St Mary Street  
Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4Y 1P9

**Denis St Louis**  
1131 Avenue des Erables  
Quebec, P Q  
G1R 2N3

**Mel Chapple**  
322 Ridout Street  
Port Hope, Ontario  
L1A 1R1

**William deBacker**  
Spencer R Higgins Architect Incorporated  
10 St Mary Street  
Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4Y 1P9

**Lynne Di Stefano**  
222 Central Avenue  
Suite 4F  
London , Ontario  
N6A 1M8

**Lauren Gruzsecki**  
Architectural and Engineering Services  
for Environment Canada  
Les Terrasses de La Chaudiere  
10 Wellington Street, 4th Floor  
Hull, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

**Peter Elliott**  
Easements Advisor  
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9  
Telephone (416) 965-5727

**Anna Kozlowski**  
Conservation Architect  
Heritage Conservation Program  
Public Works Canada  
10 Wellington Street  
4th Floor,  
Hull, Ontario  
K1A 0H3

**Martin Osborne**  
Contract Inspector  
Design and Construction Services  
Room B29C  
Legislative Building Queens Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A2

**France Remillard  
476 Derochers  
Ville de Vanier  
Quebec  
G6W 1C2**

**David Panton  
Project Officer  
Commemoration Review Project  
Programs Branch  
Veterans Affairs Canada  
PO Box 7700  
Charlottetown, PEI  
C1A 8M9**

**Gail Sussman  
Education/Technical Advisor  
Heritage Branch  
Ministry of Culture and Communications  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9**

**John J Stewart  
Commonwealth Historic Resource  
Management Limited  
77 Gore Street East  
Perth, Ontario  
K7H 1H8**

**Adam Zielinski  
Manager  
Roberts Seymour and Associates  
178 Jarvis Street, Suite 607  
Toronto, Ontario**

**Gerry White  
17 McGonigal Street East  
Arnproir, Ontario**