800 delegates coming from 70 countries participated to the ICOMOS 16th General Assembly in Quebec City
Photo: Palais Montcalm, Quebec, October 30, 2008
**In this issue:**

1. Opening Ceremonies
2. Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage
3. ICOMOS Business Meetings
4. Quilt of Belonging
5. The ICOMOS International Committees’ Day
6. Public Lecture and Martin Weaver Memorial Fund Scholarships
7. Symposium – Guest Speakers and Papers
8. Symposium – Guided Tours
9. Symposium – Finding the Spirit of Place in WHS: Aboriginal Approaches in Perspective
10. Symposium – Canadian Conservation Practices
11. Symposium – The Quebec Declaration
12. Thematic Workshops
13. ICOMOS Canada Annual Meeting
14. ICOMOS General Assembly and Elections
15. Two New International Charters
16. Hunting Ceremonial & Dining Banquet, Gazzola Prize, and Jacques Dalibard Award
17. The Raymond Lemaire International Fund
18. Post- Conference Study Tours
19. ICOMOS Canada Publication on Spirit of Place
20. Conferium, the firm responsible for logistics
21. The International Photographic Experience of Monuments
22. Special Issue of DOCOMOMO – Modern Heritage in Canada
23. Words of Thanks
24. The Next ICOMOS General Assembly

1. **Opening ceremonies under the high patronage of Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean and Grand Chief Max ‘Oné-Onti’ Gros Louis**

Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada speaking to the ICOMOS delegates

*Photo Benoît Renaud, Quebec City*

Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada was the Honorary President of the ICOMOS 16th General Assembly and International Scientific Symposium and presided over the Opening Ceremonies at Quebec City’s Palais Montcalm.
She delivered a thoughtful message that was much appreciated by the delegates from 70 different countries and the dignitaries invited for the occasion.

When speaking about the origins of Palais Montcalm, a building erected on the foundations of an old market, she recalled the lost intangible heritage to highlight the spirit of this place (the sound of horses, of merchants and farmers calling out the price of their wares, the warm, deep voice of Félix Leclerc, the great Édith Piaf, and the mythical B. B. King).

“We all share the profound belief that this intangible heritage must exist beyond the reach of time, archived and conserved, safe from all threat, just as we do with the most extraordinary building projects and important archaeological sites.”

She appealed for the conservation of intangible heritage that has become a critical issue in particular in the Americas, citing as an example the people who had been living here for thousands of years and their descendants who were dispossessed of themselves, of their language, of their culture.

“In Canada, nothing is cause for greater concern than the decline of Aboriginal languages. According to a study by the Assembly of First Nations, of the approximately 53 Aboriginal languages in Canada, 50 are on the verge of extinction.” She insisted that we need to refocus our concerns on history, to give history its rightful place in the public space and to promote heritage, particularly among our youth who are a priority for her: “Young people will keep us moving forward. They define themselves in relation to the past. The future is already their present.”

The full speech is available for download at: [http://www.gg.ca/media/doc.asp?lang=e&DocID=5509](http://www.gg.ca/media/doc.asp?lang=e&DocID=5509)

Grand Chief Max ‘Oné-Onti’ Gros-Louis of the Huron-Wendat nation was one of the guest dignitaries. He performed a purification ceremony. This is a traditional custom among First Nations; the host nation carries out a ceremony such as this to welcome other nations to its territory. The following is a list of the dignitaries who attended the Opening Ceremonies:

- Mr. Max Gros-Louis, Grand Chief of the Huron-Wendat nation
- Ms. Michaëlle Jean, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada
- Mr. Olsen Jean Julien, Haiti Minister of Culture and Communications
- Ms. Denise Trudel, Representative of the Mayor of Quebec City
- Mr. Larry Ostola, Director of National Historic Parks of Canada
- Mr. Denis Brière, Rector of Université Laval
- Mr. Laurent Lessard, Quebec Minister for Agriculture, Fishing and Food
- Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- Mr. Michael Petzet, President, ICOMOS
- Mr. François LeBlanc, President, ICOMOS Canada
- Mr. Zhang Bai, President, ICOMOS 15th Gen. Assembly and his interpreter
- Mr. Gamini Wijesuria, ICCROM Representative
- Mr. François Tremblay, ICOM/ICEE Representative
- Ms. Louise Cox, President, International Union of Architects
- Ms. Nora Mitchell, IUCN Representative
- Lord Bishop José Manuel del Rio Carrasco, Holy Seat Representative
- Ms. Lee Minaidis, Sec. Gen., Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)
- Ms. Diane Menzies, President, International Federation of Landscape Architects
- Ms. France Vanlaethem, Docomomo Representative
- Ms. Irina Iamandescu, TICCIH (Industrial Heritage) Representative
- Ms. Susan MacDonald, Getty Foundation Representative
- Mr. Michel Bonnette, President, Québec ICOMOS 2008
- Mr. François Moisan, Master of Ceremonies, City of Quebec
2. Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage

The very first ICOMOS international forum dedicated to young researchers and professionals in cultural heritage was held Sept. 27-28 at the École des Ursulines de Québec. The event was coordinated by Marie-Josée Deschênes and Célia Forget and was held just prior to the ICOMOS 16th General Assembly and International Scientific Symposium. More than 130 young people between the ages of 25 and 40 from thirty different countries registered for the event. They enthusiastically participated in the forum, which took place over two days and was organized around four workshops, the main topic of discussion of which was: Finding the spirit of place.

Youth Forum participants discussed various questions concerning the concept of “spirit of place”

The theme of the first workshop was “the role of memory”, the second focused on “the fragility of spirit of place” and the third on “safeguarding and transmitting the spirit of place”. Each workshop began with an introduction by four speakers who highlighted one aspect of the theme through their research and projects. Participants were then divided into groups of 8 and were asked to answer one of the three questions selected by the scientific committee. Each group’s conclusions were then summarized in one sentence that was presented at the plenary session. All participants could then discuss the issues raised in these conclusions with everyone present.

Célia Forget, Marie-Josée and Jean-Daniel Deschênes presented the Youth Forum results to ICOMOS’ General Assembly

The fourth theme focused on the Quebec Declaration. Participants were asked to reflect on one of the four themes of the Declaration and comment or make suggestions on the points that needed to be defined in the Declaration. The majority of their comments were integrated in the final version of the Declaration. Participants could also present their research and projects in the form of posters that were exhibited in the
room where they took their meals and breaks, and where the Saturday evening cocktail was held to welcome the ICOMOS National Committee delegates.

The conclusions of these discussions were summarized and presented by scientific committee coordinator Célia Forget to the ICOMOS delegates during their plenary session on October 2. These results were once again warmly received. Without listing them all, here are some of the most important points raised by the young professionals who participated in the forum: 1) Involvement of the local population in defining the spirit of place to ensure that the memory is not imposed from the top (politicians and scholars) to the bottom (the population), 2) Warning against the misuse of memory that could lead to overexploitation (folklore or Disneyland type approaches) of the spirit of place as well as the misuse of forgetfulness that may lead to the deterioration of spirit of place, 3) Decompartmentalization of disciplines to ensure that young researchers and professionals develop a common vision of what spirit of place is, 4) Making the transmission of everyone’s heritage as accessible as possible.

As today’s youth uses more and more new technology in a variety of fields, the international Forum opened its doors during a computing workshop as part of Quebec Culture Days to allow the general public to discover the student posters as well as the latest developments in 3D technology.

The technologies presented permit the recreation of the spirit of place through virtual images and sound. A short video on a special place inside the Ursuline Monastery was presented on a large screen to highlight these new technologies. During the workshop, participants also discovered the face of Quebec’s heritage thanks to a video about people who are bearers of traditions and today still possess special know-how that is typical to Quebec, which they pass on to new generations who are ready to keep these traditions alive.

The main objective of the people who collaborated on this Forum was to give young researchers and professionals an opportunity to update their knowledge and at the same time offer them the possibility to meet and exchange with colleagues studying in related disciplines from all over the world. The organizers also wanted to encourage the exchange of knowledge and new ideas at the national as well as international level. According to the comments received, the participants greatly appreciated the Forum’s approach. The Forum organizers are particularly proud that a resolution was adopted by the ICOMOS General Assembly to hold a youth forum at all similar future events. Everyone who helped make the event a success can now say, “mission accomplished”.

In addition to giving young people from all over the world the opportunity to meet together, the round table discussions and exchanges between participants in plenary sessions gave rise to a great deal of dynamism and the Forum’s scientific content was rigorously presented. These were the keys to success of an event that has gained recognition on the international scene.

3. ICOMOS Business Meetings

In the days prior to the ICOMOS General Assembly, the Bureau (President, Sec. Gen., Treasurer General and 5 Vice-presidents), the Executive Committee (17 members), the Advisory Committee (National and International Committees Presidents) and the International Scientific Committees (Stone, Wood, Cities, Landscapes, etc.) held several business meetings. A great number of these meetings were organized by the Paris International Secretariat under the direction of Gaia Jungeblodt, assisted by Volker Zimmermann and Henri Verrier.

The Advisory Committee examined documents and doctrinal texts that were to be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, and reviewed and suggested
names of candidates to fill posts on the General Assembly statutory committees. During the afternoon sessions, the delegates were divided into four sub-committees to discuss 1) members and by-laws 2) regional cooperation 3) cooperation between national and international scientific committees and 4) the contribution of National Committees to the ICOMOS work for the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. One of the committee's major concerns is the question of annual dues. The National Committees realize that, after paying dues to the Paris secretariat, very few resources are left to manage their national committees. However, the delegates were all very reluctant to discuss new proposals for financing the organization, which would require restructuring or new management approaches.

![ICOMOS National Committees' Presidents participating to the Advisory Committee meetings chaired by John Hurd from the United Kingdom](image1)

The delegates met the following day in sub-committees, this time to discuss questions more specific to the following regions: 1) Africa and the Middle-East 2) the Americas and Caribbean 3) Asia and the Pacific and 4) Europe. For example, one of the issues that raised much concern among the Americas and Caribbean sub-committee members was the absence of delegates from Latin American countries, especially those who benefited from an ICOMOS grant to travel to Quebec City.

Another important issue for this group was the recognition of Spanish as an ICOMOS working language. English and French are the current working languages. The introduction of a new working language would have a significant financial impact for the organization, but this did not appear to worry the Latin American delegates who were more concerned about a question of principles rather than one of financial means.

4. The Quilt of Belonging

![The Quilt of Belonging](image2)

The Quilt of Belonging was created by Ontario artist Esther Bryan. This magnificent work of art served as a backdrop for the meetings of ICOMOS delegates, reminding them that there is a place for everyone in the social fabric.

The remarkable work of art Quilt of Belonging was exhibited at the Quebec City Convention Center and served as a backdrop for the meetings of ICOMOS delegates. The Quilt of Belonging is a stunning textile art project that shows there is a place for everyone in the fabric of society. Quilt of Belonging is a 120 foot
long by 10.5 foot high (36 metres by 3.5 metres) tapestry. The rich, cultural legacies portrayed in the 263 blocks include all the First Peoples in Canada and every nation of the world. Quilt of Belonging is a collective work of art that took six years to complete. The project was launched in the fall of 1998 by Ontario artist Esther Bryan and required the work of volunteers from all over the country.

ICOMOS delegates had the opportunity to meet the artist and purchase the publication (in English and in French) that describes the fascinating story behind the creation of this remarkable work of art. Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada had the opportunity to meet the artist and view the work of art. Even though she had a very busy schedule that day and had planned to stay only a few moments with Esther Bryan, she ended up spending almost an hour discussing the work of art with the artist. She was certainly touched by the story behind the making of this remarkable work.

Many other ICOMOS delegates and guests, especially from Aboriginal nations, expressed their admiration for the Quilt of Belonging. Some described the Quilt of Belonging as “A magnificent and worthy art piece with an important and timeless message”, “The most beautiful world! A world of silence and colour!”, “Quel Symbole de la richesse de l’humanité! Puisse cette oeuvre extraordinaire être porteuse de Paix!”, “Je n’ai jamais rien vu d’aussi magnifique.”

According to Esther Bryan, exhibiting the Quilt of Belonging in Quebec City was a unique time for sharing, for exchanging ideas and stories with others. For her, it was also a time of inspiration. She saw the vision, passion and dedication that so many ICOMOS members bring to their own projects, and was again reminded that each and every one of us, by using our own areas of giftedness, can truly make the world a better place.

5. International Scientific Committees’ Day

September 29 was a day dedicated to the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees. The ICOMOS National Committees’ representatives and other delegates were welcome to participate in these activities that definitely offered Canadians a good opportunity to express their points of view on the various subjects under discussion. The following is a summary of the activities each committee held during the day:

1. **ISCARSAH – Analysis and Restoration of Structural Architectural Heritage**

   ISCARSAH held a pre-conference meeting in Quebec City from September 26 to 28 at the Canard Huppé Inn on Île d’Orléans with representatives from Japan, Germany, Italy, Spain, US and Canada. On September 26 the working group reviewed the latest draft of the Heritage Structure Annex, a document to be integrated into the next edition of the international ISO standards, Assessment of existing structures. On September 27 and 28 armchair professional discussions were held on the subject of seismic
resistance of historic masonry, conservation engineering training, and non-destructive testing for masonry. Participants also discovered the beautiful landscapes and churches of Île d’Orléans, and enjoyed the delicacies of the local cuisine.

Organized by ISCARSAH and ICOMOS Canada, a dinner-and-lecture entitled The Quebec Bridge: History, Place and Spirit was held on Sunday evening, September 28, at the Parc Aquarium de Québec. This event became an informal kick off for the Scientific Committees, bringing together some 75 people of all ages (18 to 85) and from around the world at the restaurant La grande ourse overlooking the illuminated Quebec Bridge. This provided an inspiring setting for the 90-minute keynote presentation by Michel L’Hébreux, who talked about the history of the construction of the Quebec Bridge, its achievements and collapses, myths and legends.

As the longest cantilever bridge in the world, it holds special significance for engineering professionals around the world, and even more so in Canada, where an engineer iron ring is given to all graduating engineers. Mr. L’Hébreux’s bilingual presentation was preceded by two shorter lectures: an international perspective on bridge collapses in the period leading to the construction of the Quebec Bridge by Dr. Heinrich Schroeter from Germany on behalf of Dr. David Yeomans from England; and the North-American context featuring a genealogy of the Quebec Bridge by Donald Friedman, a professional engineer from New York, the hometown of Theodore Cooper, design engineer of the first bridge that collapsed.

On September 29, ISCARSAH held its annual meeting and elections that were attended by 25 participants and during which reports from various working groups, the new ISCARSAH website, upcoming activities for the next triennium, and new developments on the preparation of the annex on heritage structures for the ISO13822 standard were presented. The morning meeting was followed by lunch in Old Quebec and participants then joined the Stone and Cultural Itineraries committees to take part in the IcoFort activities during the afternoon. The visit was a unique opportunity to experience the spirit of place and discover the history of the fortifications and the challenges of their conservation in the Canadian climate.

2. CIIC – Cultural Routes

Guy Masson chaired the Cultural Routes CIIC meeting held in the Garden Boardroom, Château Laurier. 31 delegates participated in the morning meeting, and a visit to the Citadel and Old Quebec in the afternoon. Alfredo Conti and Angela Rojas gave presentations on what constitutes a cultural route with reference to the new Charter; a short discussion followed on the subject of cultural routes and the spirit of place. Participants also discussed their upcoming meeting in Japan in 2009, during which new Board Officers will be elected.
3. **ICAHM – Archaeological Heritage Management – meeting at Château Laurier**

4. **CIVVIH – Historic Cities and Villages**

Some seventy delegates participated in the International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH) meeting held at the Château Laurier Hotel on September 29. During the morning, a series of presentations highlighted the ways in which Canadians approach the conservation of their historic cities. Canada is a large country, and colleagues specializing in urban conservation from various regions were invited to present the policies, legislation and programs in place in their specific regions. This round table was facilitated by Mr. Serge Viau, Deputy Director General from Quebec City; Ms. Liberty Walton from the City of Vancouver, Mr. Darryl Cariou from the City of Calgary, Mr. Scott Barrett from the City of Toronto, Mr. Jean Laberge from the City of Montreal and Ms. Francine Bégin from the City of Quebec participated in the round table. These presentations were followed by a tour of Old Quebec led by Mr. Serge Viau, Ms. Francine Bégin, Mr. Louis-Daniel Brousseau and Mr. Michel Bonnette. Participants enjoyed a great lunch at the restaurant Les Voûtes du Cavour at Place Royale.

During the afternoon, delegates participated in a workshop facilitated by Mr. Ray Bondin, President of CIVVIH. They discussed a proposal to revise the Charter for the Safeguard of Historic Towns (Washington, 1987). Ms. Elvira Petroncelli (Naples, Italy) and Mr. Alvaro Gomez Ferrer (Valencia, Spain) presented a revision project on which they had worked during the year. The group deemed the project highly interesting, but perhaps a bit too detailed and the authors were invited to highlight the revision's main ideas to ensure that the new charter project asserts the fundamental and universal principles for the conservation of historic towns at the beginning of the 21st century. It was proposed that the document as presented by the authors be considered as an accompanying manual for the new charter project and be used as a reference for its implementation.

The day ended with a meeting of the official members of CIVVIH who discussed administrative issues concerning the Committee’s activities, in particular the updating of the website, the schedule of upcoming meetings and action plans for its regional committees (Mediterranean and Latin-American regions).

5. **IFLA- Cultural Landscapes – meeting at Château Laurier**

6. **IWC – Wood – meeting at Château Laurier and visit to Laval University**

Twelve delegates attended the ICOMOS International Wood Committee meeting. Gennaro Tampone of Italy as president was confirmed as President and Hans Sandstrom of Sweden and Ian McGillivray of Canada as members of the management group, with two additional members to be selected at a later date. The committee’s objectives in the short term are to identify a limited number of the most significant wood structures in each country and to draw up a list of ICOMOS members who have the appropriate skills and could be called upon when expertise is required. Preliminary interim meetings may be arranged in Poland in 2009 and India in 2010. The objective of the meetings is to meet in countries where ICOMOS can make a positive contribution to heritage preservation. Ian McGillivray (mcgarch@rogers.com) invites ICOMOS Canada members to nominate the 10 most significant Canadian wooden buildings, artefacts, sites or wood know-how and to send him their CVs if they have expertise in wood or wooden structure conservation and would be interested in joining the Wood Interest Group or in volunteering if called upon.

A lunch meeting was held with the Canadian representative of TICCIH (Industrial Heritage) Janet Wright, to examine the possibility of establishing a closer relationship between TICCIH and ICOMOS Canada so that Industrial Heritage issues can be appropriately represented within ICOMOS Canada and so that ICOMOS Canada can collaborate more actively with TICCIH. Preparations for a symposium in Hamilton in October 2009 are well under way. The symposium will coincide with the 150th anniversary of water production in Hamilton. Supporting organizations are Parks Canada, the City of Hamilton, TICCIH and ICOMOS Canada. Eventually, the committee would like to draw up an inventory of significant industrial heritage across Canada. Ian McGillivray invites ICOMOS Canada members to nominate what they believe to be significant industrial heritage in their province or Canada and to send their CVs if they have expertise which may be relevant to Industrial Heritage.
7. **CIAV – Vernacular Architecture**

The CIAV organized a boat ride to the national historic site of Grosse-Île-and-the-Irish-Memorial. 65 people from 19 countries took part in the excursion. In the evening, the Committee held its annual meeting at the Auberge du Quartier. Topics discussed led to the drawing up of two resolutions that were adopted by the ICOMOS GA (protection of vernacular architecture in regions struck by natural disaster and the construction of a bridge in Tomo, Japan).

65 delegates participated to the excursion to the national historic site of Grosse-Île-and-the-Irish-Memorial organized by the CIAV. Participants are seen visiting the Lazarium.

8. **CIPA – Recording and Documentation – meeting at Château Laurier**

9. **Shared Built Heritage – meeting at Château Laurier**

Nineteen delegates attended the Shared Built Heritage meeting. Following the presentation of three short papers, the participants discussed the Committee’s goals and mission. They set up a working group to prepare a triennial action plan, which will begin with a meeting in Amsterdam in January 2009.

10. **ICIP – Interpretation and Presentation – meeting at Château Laurier**

11. **ICORP – Risk Preparedness – meeting at Château Laurier**

12. **IPH C – Polar Heritage – meeting at Château Laurier and visit to Grosse-Île**

13. **ICOFORT – Fortifications and Military Heritage**

IcoFort held its scientific committee event in the beautiful and inspiring setting of the Quebec City fortifications. The agenda was filled with non-stop activities from early morning to early evening. The business meeting was held at the Officers Mess at the Citadel at the beginning of the morning and continued later in the evening, concluding with the election of a new bureau. A seminar entitled Fortifications and Military Heritage, Main Challenges, which brought together 30 participants, was held in the morning in the Salon of the Officers Mess and featured presentations from seven different countries,
namely Australia, Norway, Poland, Hungary, Mauritius, USA, and Canada. A lunch meeting was held in the beautiful dining room of the Officers Mess with a presentation by Marieke Steenbergen entitled "Réseau des sites majeurs de Vauban", about the Vauban fortresses World Heritage Site and its expansion in the years to come.

In the afternoon IcoFort was joined by three other scientific committees, that is to say ISCARSAH, Stone and Cultural Routes, to form a group of more than 80 participants. The afternoon started in the Citadel’s Patenaude casemate room with an impressive presentation by Parks Canada historian André Charbonneau on the evolution of defensive works in Quebec City. Site visits on three themes were offered at the Citadel: History and evolution of fortifications with André Charbonneau; challenges and conservation projects at the citadel with Jean-Yves Larin, project architect and manager with National Defence; and stone conservation at the Citadel with Denis Saint-Louis, conservation architect. The large group walked down to the Porte Saint Louis where they enjoyed a visit to the Fortification Interpretation Centre and were given an outdoor lecture on the conservation of fortifications by two Quebec City engineers, Andree Cyr (Public Works Canada) and Mélanie Tremblay (Genivar).

The group was then divided into sub-groups, with one group visiting the Chateau Saint Louis accompanied by Parks Canada archaeologists while the other visited Artillery Park. The conclusion to this wonderful day was the Ports ceremony at the Officers Mess at the Dauphine Redoubt featuring the toast to the King by the resident Captain and the launch of the Stone Committee’s Illustrated Glossary on Stone Deterioration. While some of the participants returned to their hotel after a long day, most joined with other participants from the Polar Heritage committee to attend an international buffet at the Redoubt and enjoyed the opportunity to network with members of the scientific committees in an atmosphere steeped in the great spirit of place of this WHS fortified city.

14. **STONE** – meeting at Château Laurier and site visits

The International Stone Committee, hosted and sponsored by the ICOMOS Canada Stone Committee, held a working committee meeting and offered several specialized tours to foster exchange between Canadian and international members. The tours highlighted the historic stone fortifications, conservation practices and the geology of the Quebec City region. These shared tours, organized by ICOMOS Canada members, allowed for greater exchange between several scientific committees and helped to facilitate future joint committee activities/meetings. The Stone Committee’s working meeting specifically allowed

Delegates visiting Ile d’Orléans  Reception at the Dauphine Redoubt  Denis St-Louis Arch.
Canadian members to participate in the development of the committee’s Triennial Plan and the final drafting of the revised statutes that will enable the committee to comply with the ICOMOS Eger Principles. Two highlights of the working meeting were the presentation and explanation of the committee’s recently published Illustrated Glossary on Stone Deterioration and a presentation by the Carleton Immersive Media Studio on a research project called CDMICA, which will study the cultural diversity and imagination of Canadian builders in the use of construction materials.

The meeting led to a renewed interest among Canadians in participating in international activities. Several members will submit their CVs to the National Stone Committee. The committee adopted a new direction that broadens its technical mandate and encourages collaboration with other scientific committees.

Tamara Anson-Cartwright, Vice Chair of the International Stone Committee, expressed her thanks to Deborah Hossack and Bernice Bradt who supported her in the hosting of the meetings, Istvan Kovacs for his guided tour of Montreal and Lyne Fontaine who helped organize several unique events that enabled everyone to discover the wonderful heritage of Quebec City.

Discovering the Building Stones of Old Quebec
In the context of the ICOMOS 16th GA, the Stone Committee’s international members joined their Canadian colleagues for a breath of fresh air during the lunch period on October 1st to discover the building stones of Old Quebec with Professor Robert Ledoux, Henri-Louis Jacob, and Benoit Fournier from Université Laval’s Geology Department. The pouring rain was no show-stopper for these geologists at heart. French and English tours were offered.

A field book co-authored by our guides describes the Old Quebec building stones and their alteration mechanism, as well as the replacement stone that has been used in the repairs. The original French document is available at the following website: http://www.ggl.ulaval.ca/ledoux/accueil.html.
An abbreviated version of the guide was written in English and can be found on the following website: http://gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/urbgeo/quebec/pdf/quebec_guide_excursion_e.pdf

The tour was a great opportunity to get a closer look at the typical and challenging conservation problems of the building stone material in Old Quebec. Highly interesting discussions took place among these experts.

15. **ICTC** – Cultural Tourism – meeting at Château Laurier

16. **ISCEAH** – Earthen Architectural Heritage – meeting at Château Laurier

17. **CIF** – Training – meeting at Château Laurier

More than forty people participated in the International Committee on Training meetings. It was agreed that elections would be held according to the new ICOMOS rules in March 2009 at the latest. The CIF will review the program proposals prepared by the ICOMOS Vice-President on Training, the Scientific Council, the Advisory Committee and the participants in the CIF meeting and will report results to members.

In 2005, the CIF held a workshop at Sväty Jur, a small town located to the northeast of Bratislava in Hungary. During the meeting, participants developed a long-term plan and in Xi’an, the CIF finalized the plan in reference to resolution no. 34 presented by the Africa and Middle-East working group. It is on this basis that the CIF focused its activities on conservation crafts. The complete report will be posted on the CIF website shortly. A working group was created within the CIF on conservation crafts.

The Sväty Jur report established four areas for training: 1) professional training; 2) graduate level training and education; 3) post-graduate or specialized level; 4) training and education for children, the public and users. Jaroslav Kilián (V-P) presented a draft of the Sväty Jur report which led to discussions on public education, one of the issues in point 4).
Participants agreed that public education was an essential element for safeguarding cultural heritage and therefore needed to be examined in depth. Jaroslav will write a short introduction on public education, identifying several areas for discussion and research.

Participants also discussed a proposal to create a worldwide universities network. The goal is to offer them greater guidance in their training role and to try to reach out to the other international committees. Gustavo Araoz offered to take charge of this initiative beginning with the 15 American universities linked to ICOMOS; Jan Anderson, Ed Fitzgerald and Lyse Blanchet will collaborate in the development and implementation of the initiative.

Finally, the “Guidelines for Conservation Education and Training for Monuments, Groups of Buildings and Sites”, adopted by the ICOMOS GA in 1993 in Colombo, will be reviewed. Dorian Crone (United Kingdom) will be responsible for the revision in collaboration with Lyse Blanchet (Canada).

18. **ICUCH** – Underwater Archaeology – meeting at Château Laurier

19. **ICICH** – Intangible Cultural Heritage – meeting at Château Laurier

20. **ISC20C** - XXth Century Heritage – meeting at Château Laurier

21. **ISCTC** – Theory of Conservation – meeting at Château Laurier

22. **ICLAFI** – Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues – meeting at Château Laurier

### 6. Public Lecture and Martin Weaver Memorial Fund

ICOMOS Delegates and the general public were invited to a memorable evening on Monday, September 29. Gouhar Shemdin, President of the Martin Weaver Memorial Fund Committee created by ICOMOS Canada, awarded two $500 scholarships. The fund was created to reflect the life’s work of the late Martin Weaver by promoting practical, hands-on education, training and research in the field of heritage conservation in Canada. Funds raised go towards a bursary to be awarded to students or young professionals who have demonstrated their commitment to this mission.

The scholarships were bestowed to two young professionals in the field of conservation who participated in the Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage. One of the prize
The awards presentation was followed by an Inuit “throat singing” demonstration. Inuit throat singing or katajjaq is a type of musical performance found only among the Inuit. Unlike throat singers in other parts of the world, notably Tibet, Mongolia and Tuva, the Inuit performers are usually women who sing only duets in a kind of entertaining contest to see who can outlast the other.

The public was then entertained on fascinating topics by two great lecturers, Dr. Fredrik Hiebert and renowned Canadian archaeologist Robert Grenier. This public lecture was actually a fund raising activity for the Martin Weaver Memorial Fund.

Dr. Fredrik Hiebert, archaeologist at the National Geographic Society spoke about his participation in the archaeological work that led to the discovery of what is now known as The Hidden Treasures of Afghanistan. These treasures were believed to be destroyed during the war against the Taliban, but they had been hidden by the Director of the Kabul National Museum. They were recently exhibited at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.

Robert Grenier is Head of Parks Canada’s underwater archaeology program and President of the ICOMOS international scientific committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage.

He spoke about his archaeological research in the Canadian North and the North-West Passage where the wrecks of Viking, Basque and European ships that sailed the northern seas during the 16th and 17th centuries have been discovered. He spoke in particular about his most recent expedition in the Canadian North searching for the shipwrecks of the Erebus and the Terror, the ships of Sir John Franklin. These vessels disappeared in the Canadian arctic in 1840 during Franklin’s last expedition, when 129 of his sailors perished in the cold waters off King William Island.

Robert Grenier, Parks Canada archaeologist and Dr. Fredrik Hiebert, National Geographic archaeologist

European ships that sailed the northern seas during the 16th and 17th centuries have been discovered. He spoke in particular about his most recent expedition in the Canadian North searching for the shipwrecks of the Erebus and the Terror, the ships of Sir John Franklin. These vessels disappeared in the Canadian arctic in 1840 during Franklin’s last expedition, when 129 of his sailors perished in the cold waters off King William Island.

7. Symposium – Guest Speakers and Papers

Dr. Laurier Turgeon
Symposium Scientific Coordinator
Director, Cultural Heritage Institute, Université Laval, Québec

Presentation of the Symposium’s Theme
This Symposium was organized because we thought we needed an opportunity to collectively reflect upon the notion of the spirit of place to enhance and renew our ways of thinking about and approaching heritage. Rather than separate spirit from place, the intangible from the tangible, or even consider them as opposed to one another, participants were invited to explore the many ways in which the two interact and mutually construct one another. The spirit, in the sense of the genius of the creator, constructs a sense of place and, at the same time, place nourishes the spirit of the creator and of creation. The discussion was broadened to include
not only the creators but the actual users of place, and to define place as made up of tangible elements (sites, buildings, material objects) as well as intangible elements (stories, beliefs, rituals, festivals). Hence, the spirit of place takes on a plural and dynamic character, capable of possessing multiple meanings, of changing through time, and of belonging to different groups. This more dynamic approach is also better adapted to today’s globalized world characterized by transnational population movements, increased intercultural contacts and pluralistic societies.

To facilitate thought and discussion, the theme was divided into four sub-themes and as many workshops dealing with the new concepts, the threats, the preservation and the transmission of the spirit of place. 230 papers were accepted by the Symposium’s Scientific Committee and the Youth Forum Revision Committee. They are all on a CD that was distributed to the delegates present at the Symposium. All papers will eventually be uploaded on the ICOMOS Web site (http://www.licomos.org). More than 125 oral communications were made during the Symposium and a publication comprising a selection of papers and the Quebec Declaration on the spirit of place will be prepared by the Cultural Heritage Institute of Laval University.

It is also on the basis of these texts and the thoughts that they embodied that we prepared the draft of the Quebec Declaration on spirit of place (see point 11 below). Comments from young delegates participating in the Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage and ICOMOS members who contributed their thoughts through a blog created for this purpose, were also added to the draft. The Declaration is available on the ICOMOS Website.

Dr. Pierre Lucier
Philosopher and Theologian
Fernand-Dumont Chair on Culture INRS - Urbanization, Culture and Society, Quebec

*The Spirit of Place and the Disenchantment of the World*

Does the idea of a spirit of place, which is supposedly hiding somewhere, not belong to an "enchanted world" which is about to be deconstructed? In fact, is it not only places, objects, lines, shapes, colors, and scents, all essentially "material", that produce their "intangible" effect through the very circumstance that they signify and project a meaning which is still alive? There are places that "inspire", less because they are "inhabited" but because they "mean" something here and now. Like the Oracle of Delphi described by Heraclitus (fragment 93), a place "neither utters nor hides his meaning, but shows it by a sign". Beyond all types of magical, romantic or voluntaristic approaches, the deciphering of signs and their power of signification could therefore be the key to effective strategies for identifying, preserving and transmitting the spirit of place. In the long term, one really only holds on to what is significant.

Dr. Michael Petzet,
Art Historian
President of ICOMOS

*Genius Loci - The Spirit of Monuments and Sites*

In Roman antiquity it was not only man that had his genius, a guardian angel that accompanied him through life and determined his fate, but certain places, be it a temple or an entire city, also had their genius loci, a divine spirit which to this day is a secret ally for us preservationists provided that we are at all able to recognize the genius loci that is intimately connected to the spiritual message of a place.
Mr. Enrique Sobejano  
Nieto & Sobejano, Architects  
Madrid, Spain

**Design or Relate?**
Our projects already exist unwittingly in our memories. They reappear unexpectedly, triggered by strange associations we are scarcely aware of. We are bound to recollections, images, impressions that mostly occur in our childhood and adolescence and alter with new experiences, in permanent renewal. At some point a forgotten memory, an image, a sound or a phrase we recorded reappears in the process of every project: an indication that guides us towards a certain path.

Designing is equivalent to relating: we merely try to establish intangible connections between needs, places, forms, materials and concepts which appear in an instant, in a fleeting vision, which we try desperately to capture and materialize. Architecture always proceeds from a combination of information stored in our memory, which we rearrange in different ways each time. When we are lucky, we ingeniously combine fragments of this memory in suggestive, sometimes unexpected ways. The new project then evokes in us the satisfaction of discovery. Yet, are we not actually regressing to sometime that existed before it became architecture? Could this perhaps be a memory rather than a novelty?

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Mr. Henri Dorion  
Geographer, Canada  
Mr. Pierre Lahoud  
Photographer, Québec, Canada

**Québec, recto verso**  
Québec, like other World Heritage cities, proudly displays the natural and human elements which earned it this honour. But the spirit of place is also nurtured by what can be found in less well-known and even secret places which deserve to be revealed to all those interested in the lesser known history behind the reputation of World Heritage sites. They presented the city of Québec in this light, highlighting points of comparison with other World Heritage cities.

Dr. Christina Cameron  
Art Historian, Holder, Canada Research Chair on Built Heritage. Université de Montréal. President of the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee

**In Conclusion...**
All this reflection on the Scientific Symposium’s theme of spirit of place certainly constitutes an impressive body of work that will help nourish future reflections and actions on the subject, not only on the part of ICOMOS, but also UNESCO and in particular the World Heritage Committee.

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**A selection of abstracts from various sessions gives an idea of the variety and the high standard of reflection of the oral communications made during the Symposium**

**Session A2 – World Heritage: Threats and Actions**

Paper by Graham Brooks, Chair, UNESCO International Cultural Tourism Committee, Mosman, Australia  
*Developing Guiding Principles and Policies for World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism - A Major UNESCO World Heritage Centre Initiative*

This paper presented a midterm progress report on a ground breaking project that is at the very heart of how ICOMOS protects and transmits the tangible and intangible values of heritage places and the
communities who sustain them. The 18 month UNESCO World Heritage Centre project brings together the conservation and tourism sectors to generate shared and sustainable policies, guidelines and methods to ensure that tourism activities contribute to the protection and conservation of World Heritage sites. For the first time, a number of major international agencies including UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, the Nature Conservancy and the World Bank have joined UNESCO and representatives of the tourism private sector to craft common tourism and visitor management principles. These will be used by all participants to improve the management of tourism at World Heritage sites. Such sites will become best practice exemplars for other heritage places throughout the world. This is a project of great importance for ICOMOS as it considers ways to enhance and protect the spirit of place from increasing tourism pressures at heritage places.

Session B2 – Threats to Traditional Places and Vernacular Architecture

Paper by Eloy Perez-Sibaja, University Benito Juarez of Oaxaca, Mexico
Caves of Yagul and Mitla in Oaxaca, Mexico: The Fragility of the Spirit of a Place

A cultural landscape composed of a series of ancient human-occupied caves and rock shelters in Oaxaca, Mexico, is teaching us how this fragile cultural resource is threatened by a number of contemporary factors. The caves of Yagul and Mitla are counted among the most important prehistoric places in Mexico due to the fact that it is one of the sites in which agriculture first developed in Mesoamerica; however this site has not been valued by common people. As a result, it is recognized as just one beautiful landscape in the Valley of Oaxaca, and not as the site that detonated the shift from the nomadic life to sedentary. A project to both inventory and disseminate the archaeological data obtained from the many caves has already started. The objective is to provide the public with data and knowledge to recover the spirit of this place.

Session C1 – Memory as the Spirit of Place

Paper by Eman Assi, Sharjah University, United Arab Emirates
Memory and Place

The landscape of the environment we live in is an image of our common humanity. The sense of place individuals and people as a whole have is both a biological response to the surrounding physical environment and a cultural creation. People get attached to places that are critical to their well-being or cause them distress. This paper sketched the story of 'Sahet Alqaryoun', a public open space in a residential neighbourhood in the historic city of Nablus, West Bank. The question of how 'Sahet Alqaryoun' as an open public space is appropriated by the various segments of the population, and how this has been changing over time is addressed here by examining the various stakeholders and users of the place beginning with the individuals and families living in the neighbourhood and even the municipality and professionals who are responsible for any future intervention proposed for Sahet Alqaryoun. The paper explored the structure of such a shared place, how it is related to the social meaning and also its cultural connotation as a place of collective use that is perceived through representation and images produced by its residents. It also studied the physical evolution and different factors that shaped 'Sahet Alqaryoun' and demonstrated the sustainability of this historic place through time, re-identifying it and re-establishing it as an essential part of the social, socioeconomic and political fabric of the city. The paper argued that urban spaces do present a public history. Our responsibility as professionals in preserving our historic spaces is to try to understand all factors that have played a role in shaping this space and to try to recognize and respect the long social and cultural history as successive stages of the city’s evolution.

Session D2 – The Impact of Tourism

Paper by Wantanee Suntikul, Institute for Tourism Studies, Macau, China
The Impact of Tourism on the Monks of Luang Prabang

The attractiveness of Luang Prabang's temples for both heritage and religious tourists reflects their profound embodiment of the spirit of the place, yet tourism can also be seen as a threat to this very spirit. Exposure to tourism and social contact with tourists is influencing the values and aspirations of the city’s
many monks, as evinced by trends such as monks eschewing the study of traditional skills in favour of foreign languages to help them enter the tourism industry. The paper explores the effects that contact with tourists has on the values and practices of the monks of Luang Prabang and, in turn, how these changes have affected the spirit of the place. It is based on on-site observation, surveys of monks and tourists, as well as elite interviews with religious leaders.

**Session E1 – The Spirit of Place as a Poetics of Place**

*Paper by Julio César Pérez Hernandez, Architect and Urban Planner, Havana, Cuba*

*The Magic and Poetry of Havana*

Havana, a Caribbean Metropolis with a European influence, was spared the damage of the global urban renewal and overdevelopment of the second half of the 20th century. Even today, it keeps intact its traditional urban fabric. Its unique and appealing spirit stems not only from the well-known quality of its music and rhythms, its vibrant street life and its friendly ambience, but also from its built environment. However, the city's harmonious juxtaposition of different architectural styles, displayed by an impressive collection of buildings authored by world famous local and international architects, is currently threatened by overdevelopment, sprawl and neglect. A comprehensive Master Plan aimed at preserving the city's spirit and its historic, urban and architectural legacy has been devised. It is intended to encourage Havana's future urban and economic development, while respecting its spirit and remaining true to its history, its people's idiosyncrasies and its landscapes. The plan acknowledges Havana's readiness for a sensitive change and renovation according to sustainable principles that reconcile human needs with ecological imperatives. It envisions Havana's survival as an urban place with a strong cultural identity. For the first time, it supplies a comprehensive and long-term vision that guarantees total connectivity and a seamless urban layout. The plan deals with the oldest areas by creating buffer zones that grant urban continuity, as well as social and cultural integration.

**Session F3 – Spirit, Sites and Museums**

*Paper by Gerard Corsane, Peter Davis, Stephanie Hawke and Michele Stefano, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK*

*Ecomuseology: A Holistic Model for Safeguarding ‘Spirit of Place’ in the North East of England*

This article explores whether or not ecomuseology can provide a model for safeguarding ‘spirit of place’ in the North East of England. The philosophy of ecomuseums is briefly explained, paying particular attention to the relationship between places, communities and their heritage to explore the idea of how intangible and tangible heritage resources contribute to ‘spirit of place’. Expressions of intangible heritage from which senses of belonging, pride and place stem, along with various community-based heritage projects in the rural area of the North Pennines, are described and analysed to examine the community-heritage interaction. The limitations of the more ‘traditional’ approaches to heritage management and museum work are compared to those embedded in ecomuseum processes.

**Session G4 – Transmitting the Values of Place – The Cultural Transmission of the Spirit of Turtle Mountain**

*Summary prepared by Michel Bonnette*

Take a pencil and draw North America’s contour, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf of Mexico to Baffin Island. Then place the tip of your pencil in the center of the drawing. This is where Turtle Mountain is located; this plateau straddles the border between Canada and the USA, at the junction of Manitoba and North Dakota and is a sacred place for the nations that for millennia have inhabited this region. There is a network of subsoil warm springs that have forever made it a comfortable hibernating place and an area for compulsory cohabitation. Without a doubt, this explains why during centuries so many peace treaties were signed there. The spirit of these treaties and their associated ceremonials still live in Turtle Mountain.
Several First Nations and Métis communities that are currently culturally linked to this site wish to see the site inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. This question was the subject of lively discussions during the session. During his speech entitled The Cultural Transmission of the Spirit of Turtle Mountain, Chief Frank Brown of the Dakota Canupawakpa Nation (Canada) spoke of the importance of conserving this land to maintain the community’s identity and he wished that Canadians would recognize and respect the sense of belonging that binds his community to the spirit of this place. During the same speech, David Brien of the Chippewa Nation (USA) spoke of the women in his community who make tobacco and reed perfumed baskets. These perfumes belong to the spirit that lives in Turtle Mountain. He passed along a few of these baskets to the people in the audience and asked them to sniff the baskets and imagine them filled with invitations to travel. “You must not resist the urge to come and visit us and share with us the spirit of Turtle Mountain,” he said.

It is essential to let the First Nations and the Métis communities debate this question and try to identify the reasons why Canada should recommend the inscription of this site on the World Heritage List. ICOMOS Canada wishes to thank Chief Frank Brown and David Brien for coming to speak to us about this issue, an important concern that is at the heart of their own Nations’ identity.

Session G5 – An Exemplary Case: the Restoration of the Canadian War Memorial in Vimy, France

Summary prepared by Ève Wertheimer

The workshop on Canadian Practices ended with a full session dedicated to a Canadian practice exemplary case: the restoration of the Canadian War Memorial in Vimy, France.

Four of the main people involved with this project were present and gave an overview of this complex project, which was inaugurated on April 9, 2007, after lengthy restoration work undertaken by Veteran Affairs Canada.

The Canadian War Memorial in Vimy, France, a monumental piece of work created by Canadian sculptor Walter Allward

The names of the thousands of Canadians who died in France and for which there is no known burial ground are engraved on this white stone memorial. It stands in the middle of the old battlegrounds, on the ridge that was recaptured by the Canadian troops in April 1917, a historic victory.

This monumental piece of work created by Canadian sculptor Walter Allward was identified as being part of the artistic productions of the 1920s and 1930s by architectural historian Jacqueline Hucker, a period that was deeply affected by the Great War.

Julian Smith and Daniel Lefèvre, the project architects, then talked about the deterioration of this very large stone structure exposed to the elements and whose symbolic reach was compromised.
They also described the philosophical approach and the techniques selected to fully restore the sacred and commemorative dimensions of this monument.

Finally, Guylain Claerbout, a representative from the construction firm responsible for the work, spoke about the issues inherent to the implementation of these approaches on site. The presentations were illustrated by images that conveyed the fact that this restoration work did manage to keep the spirit of this emotional place.

8. Symposium – Guided Tours

October 3, a crisp, windy and beautiful autumn day, was devoted to the discovery of Quebec City and its surrounding area.

Several regional groups and organizations worked closely together to offer delegates an overview of how local heritage organizations and people are committed and strive to safeguard the spirit of place for which they are responsible. The goal was to enable delegates to experience exceptional moments by offering them unique tours and meetings.

Seven different tours were available: Old Quebec and Île d’Orléans, Wendake’s Traditional Huron Site, the village of Deschambault and surrounding area, the Domaine Joly-de-Lotbinière and surrounding area, the Battlefields Park, the fortifications and Citadel, and the conservation of museum collections and museology in Quebec City. More than 600 delegates participated to the tours.

The proposed activities were original and tailored to the needs of the ICOMOS delegates. Groups such as Baillairgé Cultural Tours, Culture et patrimoine Deschambault-Grondines, the Fondation du Domaine Joly De-Lotbinière, Wendake Tourism, the Commission de la Capitale nationale, the Auberge Saint-Antoine, the Moulin du petit pré, the Musée de la Civilisation, the Centre de conservation du Québec, Parks Canada, and the National Battlefields Commission were all partners in this venture and we would like to sincerely thank them all for their contribution to the organization of this very special day.

An organ concert in Deschambault, and meetings with conservators, architects, archaeologists, horticulturists, fauna nature reserve conservators in cap Tourmente, were all special moments that touched the delegates and will surely leave a strong and lasting impression of the passionate commitment of Quebecers to the preservation and sharing of their heritage. The discovery of the local cuisine in each region visited was also an important element as special meals were prepared specifically for the delegates.

Special thanks go to the organizing committee members Louise Mercier, David Mendel, Marie-Dominic Labelle, William Moss, Michel Bonnette and Bruno Bégin who worked relentlessly from the beginning of
the year to ensure that the program would be both stimulating and relevant. Annick, Stéphanie and Pascale from the great team at Hospitalité Québec (Conferium) were responsible for the day’s logistics. Finally, the accompanying guides showed talent, kindness and great consideration while accompanying the groups during the tours.

The delegates truly appreciated this day and the options offered to them. Many said that they would have liked to spend more time on site to ask local people and experts more questions. Many privileged international contacts were made during the day and this was also one of the day’s objectives.

9. Symposium - Finding the Spirit of Place in World Heritage Sites: Aboriginal Approaches in Perspective

The focus of the session Finding the Spirit of Place in World Heritage Sites: Aboriginal Approaches in Perspective was the spirit of place in and around World Heritage (WH) Sites as evoked and understood by Aboriginal peoples.

Guy Sioui Durand of the Huron-Wendat Nation wearing ceremonial headdress, speaking to the delegates participating to the session “Finding the Spirit of Place in World Heritage Sites: Aboriginal Approaches in Perspective”

The following five participants gave their views on the theme in relation to the WH sites where they have lived and/or worked:

- Jonas Antoine, Nahanni National Park Reserve (Northwest Territories)
- Barbara Wilson, SGang Gwaay (British Columbia)
- Francois Paulette, Wood Buffalo National Park (Alberta), Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (Alberta)
- Damein Bell, Australia, Chairperson, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation
- Gerard O'Regan, New Zealand, Ngai Tahu Maori Rock Art Trust.

The premise of the session was that national parks agencies and government authorities around the world that manage or oversee WH sites are looking at ways to better convey spirit of place and the cultural/natural evolution of a site, as interpreted by the indigenous people who live in and around them. The aim is to identify tangible ways to work with Aboriginal groups that are the guardians of this important cultural/natural heritage fabric that has sustained local people, while ensuring that the representation of a site’s character and integrity retains its authenticity.

The objectives of this session were to:

- Define “spirit of place” as identified and represented by individual Aboriginal groups living in and around World Heritage sites in Canada;
- Present approaches that show how “spirit of place” can be better incorporated in the planning process and management of WH sites; and
• Demonstrate how these approaches can be implemented.

The session opened with a blessing and purification ceremony by Huron Wendat Nation elders Diane Picard and Rolland Sioui from Wendake, located north of Quebec City. A keynote presentation was then given by Guy Sioui Durand, a sociologist (Ph.D.), art critic and independent curator who spoke of the philosophical and embedded nature of Aboriginal heritage in Canada and its representation.

Jonas Antoine then opened the speakers’ presentations comparing and contrasting Western perspectives on culture and spirit of place with those of his Deh Cho people and how it is represented at Nahanni. Barbara Wilson then spoke on the unique aspects of Ssang Gway in the Queen Charlotte Islands, and the efforts to preserve the totem poles and other material remains against the elements and human incursion. Francois Paulette concluded the morning session with his views on the natural aspects of Wood Buffalo National Park and how it was being threatened by the effects of tar sands oil extraction to the south and a proposed road that would cross through the middle of the park.

At lunch, Diane Picard gave a drum performance and Rolland Sioui talked about some of the unique cultural and historical aspects of the Huron, including their origins near the Great Lakes in southern Ontario and Michigan. At the afternoon session, Damien Bell presented the origins of the Aboriginal culture of the Gunditjmara people in southern Australia and the efforts being made to restore the water levels of Lake Condah and promote Budj Bim as a WH site. Gerard O’Regan then spoke of the efforts to protect the unique cave drawings of Ngai Tahu, and the promotion of Maori culture in New Zealand.

What emerged from these presentations was that, though the opinions on what constituted spirit of place at these sites were diverse, everyone expressed a common concern for their sustainability. Ssang Gway was being buffeted by high winds and rising sea levels possibly caused by climate change. Nahanni National Park is located in close proximity to the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline route. Wood Buffalo is threatened by the tar sands pollution of the Peace River and local air quality. Lake Condah is experiencing a decline in its eel population, a core food source for the local population. All of these factors indicate that, though there is a need to support cultural sustainability, the WH sites must be considered in a broader context in regard to the environmental impact that could potentially diminish the indigenous spirit of place.

There are plans to produce a publication that would include the session presentations, as well as those of the participants who could finally not attend, to capture the views and perspectives expressed and present them to a broader audience.

The organizers of the session were Daniel Arsenault (UQAM), Fergus Maclaren (Secretary, ICOMOS Canada) and Jim Molnar (Parks Canada).

10. Symposium – Canadian Conservation Practices
More than twenty Canadian panellists came to talk liberally about their experiences, and the challenges they face in their working environments and also to reflect on future approaches to the conservation and enhancement of Canada’s heritage, which has a spirit of place that varies greatly both in terms of its history and its geography.

The panel was made up of a group of invited guests who were very representative of the country’s diversity and size, of the older and more recent immigrants who have built cities and left their mark on our landscapes; they honoured us by their presence and their thoughtful remarks.

A promising dialogue was established between participants from across Canada, from Nova Scotia to Yukon; they came from such regions as Cape Breton Island and metropolises such as Montreal and Toronto; there were representatives from various government levels, heritage organizations, universities and the private sector; there were participants from old cities such as Quebec and more recent ones such as Calgary and Vancouver with their unique problems.

Everyone agreed on the importance of ensuring that our heritage is pertinent, of arousing a sense of belonging in the general population and therefore of creating this need to learn, make known and raise the public level of awareness in order to transfer values, knowledge and conserve their material manifestations. One of the main issues is to convince decision makers and real estate developers that heritage is far more than a phenomenon of fashion and style. Another major challenge is to integrate the will to preserve into land use planning practices and get the people who live in heritage districts involved in the process while not diminishing the need for experts, regulations and fiscal policies. The importance of sharing experience and expertise, of transmitting know-how and traditions, which are learning methods that are practiced by many local and national heritage organizations as well as citizen groups, was discussed.

The workshop was coordinated by an ICOMOS Canada committee comprised of Lyse Blanchet, John Ward, Tom Urbaniak and Madeleine Demers. The latter two were co-facilitators of the workshop and responsible for content and logistics.

List of panellists:
- Francine Bégin, Director, Design, Architecture and Heritage, City of Quebec, Land use planning
- Natalie Bull, Director General, Heritage Canada Foundation
- Dinu Bumbaru, Director of Policies, Héritage Montréal
- Dr. Christina Cameron, Former President, UNESCO World Heritage Committee
- Daryl Cariou, Chief Heritage Planner, City of Calgary, Alberta
- Claude Charbonneau, Senior Advisor, Historic Sites, Parks Canada
- Marc Denhez, Solicitor and tax expert
- Mario Dufour, President, Commission des biens culturels du Québec
- Lyne Fontaine, engineer, Heritage Advisor, Public Works and Government Services Canada
- Robert Grenier, Manager, Underwater Archaeology, Parks Canada
- Bill Hockey, Heritage Consultant, Halifax, Nova-Scotia
- Kayla Jonas, graduate student, Heritage Resource Centre, University of Waterloo, Ontario
- Marie Lessard, President, Montreal Heritage Advisory Board
- Richard Moorehouse, Director General, Ontario Heritage Trust
- Dr. Tania Martin, Canada Research Chair for built religious heritage, Université Laval, Quebec
- Catherine Nasmith, President, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
- Dr. Richard MacKinnon, Canada Research Chair in intangible heritage, Cape Breton University
- Douglas Olynik, Manager, Historic Sites, Yukon government
- Larry Ostola, Director General, National Historic Sites, Parks Canada
- Herb Stovel, Professor, Cdn Studies, Carleton University / Former ICOMOS Canada President
- Liberty Walton, Town planner, City of Vancouver
11. Symposium – The Quebec Declaration

The Quebec Declaration on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place provides principles and recommendations to preserve the spirit of place, which is regarded as an innovative and efficient manner of ensuring sustainable and social development throughout the world. Spirit of place is defined as the tangible (buildings, sites, landscapes, routes, objects) and the intangible elements (memories, narratives, written documents, rituals, festivals, traditional knowledge, values, textures, colours, odours, etc.), that is to say the physical and the spiritual elements that give meaning, value, emotion and mystery to place. Rather than separate spirit from place, the intangible from the tangible, and consider them as opposed to one another, ICOMOS has examined the many ways in which the two interact and mutually construct one another.

The Quebec Declaration is part of a series of measures and actions undertaken by ICOMOS over the course of the past five years to safeguard and promote the spirit of places, namely their living, social and spiritual nature. The Quebec Declaration is available for download from the ICOMOS website http://www.icomos.org

12. Thematic Workshops

Five thematic workshops were held on the evening of October 1, from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM.

WORKSHOP 1 – ICOMOS and the World Heritage Convention
Moderator: Tamas Fejerdy, ICOMOS Hungary
Coordinator: Regina Durighello, Director of the ICOMOS World Heritage Program, International Secretariat, Paris, France

One of ICOMOS’ central tasks is its involvement in regard to new sites nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, as well as those already inscribed which are the subject of special attention from the World Heritage Committee due to circumstances that may put them at risk and in danger. To ensure the consistency of its actions and opinions on these matters, two years ago the ICOMOS Executive Committee established a World Heritage Working Group. The workshop "ICOMOS and the World Heritage Convention" enabled the Working Group to present its activities to ICOMOS members and the members in turn were able to ask questions and discuss their organization’s work in this field.

WORKSHOP 2 – Heritage and Climate Change
Moderator: Pamela Jerome, US/ICOMOS

Following preliminary research proposed during the June 2006 Rome Scientific Council (SC) meeting held in Edinburgh in September 2006, the SC voted to adopt Global Climate Change (GCC) and its effects on
cultural heritage as its three-year interdisciplinary research theme for the International Scientific Committees (ISCs). In 2007, twelve papers were submitted to Heritage @ Risk and a Scientific Council symposium was organized in Pretoria, South Africa on the topic of Cultural Heritage and Global Climate Change. Moreover, several regional ICOMOS meetings were held that broached the subject and reflected the pressing need for more discussion on methods of adaptation. The Pretoria symposium resulted in recommendations that were distributed in March 2008. The Quebec workshop used the Pretoria recommendations as a basis for examining the training that could be offered to heritage managers and other contributors in the field of heritage on how to implement the recommendations.

WORKSHOP 3 – Heritage and International Development
Moderator: Dinu Bumbaru, ICOMOS Canada

International cooperation agencies traditionally centre their efforts on social, educational, medical or economic issues. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals focus on the fight against poverty and hunger, gender equality, child mortality, the environment and the establishment of a global partnership for development (www.un.org/millenniumgoals). In this context, cultural heritage is arousing increasing interest as a factor of identity or as a source of know-how that is essential for sustainable development. Several initiatives illustrate this development which is in line with ICOMOS’ objectives and the interests of its members and committees; for example, projects led by Scandinavian countries or Italy to support the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa or the adoption of a law in Japan making the inclusion of heritage in the field of international cooperation an obligation. Furthermore, ICOMOS is increasingly involved in this domain as can be seen by its participation in the Euromed Heritage IV project with the European Commission. This thematic workshop provided a better understanding of these experiences and the opportunities available to ICOMOS members and committees in this area of cooperation, while identifying some avenues for the future action plan of ICOMOS.

WORKSHOP 4 – Historic Urban Landscapes
Moderators: Michal Firestone, ICOMOS Israel
             Wilfred Ferweda, ICOMOS Canada
             Naomi Lane, INTBAU Canada

The increased pressures of development in recent years have led to the construction of large-scale structures and infrastructures in historic cities. The multiplication of cases where these projects threatened the visual integrity of World Heritage sites has prompted the World Heritage Centre to initiate efforts to complement and update the existing recommendations on historic urban landscapes. In 2006, the Scientific Council suggested that ICOMOS support the work of the World Heritage Centre by instigating a parallel process. Five discussion groups with a total of some 150 members were subsequently formed. Discussions were held on the Internet and each group was informed of the work of the others. The results of these discussions contributed to ICOMOS’ position paper on HUL. The workshop served to update the participants on recent related discussions and aimed to draw on the professional experience of ICOMOS members in order to shed new light on the subject of HUL. To prepare for the workshop, papers were available for download at: http://public.me.com/michalfirestone.

WORKSHOP 5 – Networks for the Interpretation and Presentation of Archaeology: Trends and Challenges
Moderators: Sophie Limoges, ICOMOS Canada
             Pierre Desrosiers, ICOMOS Canada

Archaeology readily captures the attention of visitors to museums and interpretative centers and, even more so, of those visiting individual sites and circuits developed for public display. Archaeological sites around the world arouse the interest of tourists and offer local communities new development potential. Archaeology has become a formidable tool for cultural, educational, social and economic development. This workshop focused on the means by which archaeological and museum professionals can collaborate to present archaeological sites in an original and authentic manner. What type of networking can be developed in order to involve local communities in the development of sites and archaeological experiences? What benefits can be procured from the presentation of archaeology to the public? These were the principle questions discussed during the workshop.
13. ICOMOS Canada Annual Meeting

ICOMOS Canada’s Annual Meeting was held on the evening of October 30, at the end of a long and extremely busy day for all the delegates. The Executive Committee members presented their brief annual activity reports, and the reports were ratified by the Assembly.

- President: François LeBlanc
- Secretary: Fergus Maclaren
- Treasurer: Lyse Blanchet
- Vice-president of the French-Speaking Committee: Alain Dejeans
- Vice-president of the English-Speaking Committee: John Ward
- Vice-president of the Scientific Committee: María Inés Subercaseaux

Further to discussions, four motions were adopted:

- Nomination Committee for the Jacques Dalibard Award – A permanent nomination committee was set up. It is made up of three members and will operate on a rotating basis; each year, a member will leave the committee and a new one will be nominated by the ICOMOS Canada Board, ensuring renewal while maintaining the recollection of earlier decisions. The starting committee is made up of the following members: Lyne Fontaine (1 year), Jeannette Hlavach (2 years), and Richard Unterman (3 years). The Board will also annually assign a representative who will join the committee.
- An annual invitation will be extended to Ms. Rina Dalibard for the Jacques Dalibard Award.
- Creation of the ICOMOS Canada Award of Merit – This award will recognize an exceptional contribution to the goals and implementation of ICOMOS Canada principles and guidelines and will be awarded annually.
- The appointment of a task force to propose amendments to the ICOMOS Canada By-Laws. The task force will ensure that the By-Laws meet all Canadian legal requirements for non profit organizations as well as ICOMOS international guidelines and that the National Committee’s structure is best suited to meet the challenges of our times. The Task Force will comprise 4 to 8 members designated by the Board.

Copies of the motions are available from the ICOMOS Canada secretariat at P.O. Box 737 station B, Ottawa, ON K1P 5P8 (Canada@icomos.org)

14. ICOMOS General Assembly and Elections

Michel Bonnette presiding over the ICOMOS AGM and Francesco Bandarin, Director, UNESCO World Heritage Center speaking to the ICOMOS delegates
Michel Bonnette was elected President of the General Assembly and presided over the debates throughout the meeting. The AGM approved 32 resolutions and adopted two new charters that will be added to the ICOMOS corpus of doctrinal documents: the ICOMOS Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites and the ICOMOS Charter on Cultural Routes. These documents will be used to define and promote the best conservation and management practices for cultural sites. The AGM also adopted the Quebec Declaration on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place.

The General Assembly elected new members to the Executive Committee:

President: Gustavo Araoz (USA)
Secretary General: Bénédicte Selfslagh (Belgium)
Treasurer General: Jadran Antolovic (Croatia)

Vice-Presidents:
1. Kristal Buckley (Australia)
2. Guo Zhan (China)
3. Francisco Lopez Morales (Mexico)
4. Andrew Hall (South Africa)
5. Olivier Poisson (France)

Other members:
1. Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias (Greece)
2. Alfredo Conti (Argentina)
3. Gideon Koren (Israel)
4. Kirsti Kovanen (Finland)
5. Philippe La Hausse de la Louvière (Mauritius)
6. Wilfried Lipp (Austria)
7. Christoph Machat (Germany)
8. Yasuyoshi Okada (Japan)
9. Hae-Un Rii (Republic of Korea)
10. Angela Rojas (Cuba)
11. Hristina Staneva (Bulgaria)
12. Boguslaw Szmygin (Poland)

Voting members of the National Committees having their special badge scanned to confirm their identity and the number of votes to which they were entitled. The electronic voting system was developed by TM Technologies Elections Inc.

An electronic voting and tallying system was used for the elections. The advantage of this system is that votes are tallied and transmitted by the electronic ballot box to a printer located in a sealed box as soon as voters have validated their votes. Twelve electronic ballot boxes were available to the delegates.

The system was checked and certified for accuracy by the Teller before voting began. When voting was completed, the Teller opened the sealed box, examined and certified the results and handed them over to the General Assembly President and Secretary General for posting. The printer is located in a sealed box.
and the printout permits verification that the number of votes cast corresponds to the number of votes authorized.

This very efficient voting system was developed by Canadian company TM Technologies Elections Inc., which is based in Thetford Mines, Quebec. The company’s electoral solutions advisor Mr. Gerry Dumas worked closely with the Organizing Committee members to ensure that the system would function well. The delays to post the results of the first ballot were due to a decision by the ICOMOS Tellers to check and recalculate all the results registered by the machines. Once they had ascertained that the system was functioning properly and without errors, the process went much more quickly.

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Commenting on the success of the event, the newly elected President, Gustavo Araoz said: “In theme, scope and reach, this General Assembly is perhaps one of the most ambitious in our 43-year history. We have a debt of gratitude to the organizers from ICOMOS Canada for having created so many stages in which the world could explore the expanding significance of heritage in all cultural communities as we undergo the well-documented globalising trends.”

Michel Bonnette, President of the General Assembly and the Organising Committee, for his part said that “as early as in its planning stage, this event was placed under the banner of participation. We wanted it to be an opportunity for each member of ICOMOS not only to attend conferences and meetings but also, and above all, to contribute personally to the reflections and discussions.

We must thank our many partners and especially the almost one hundred people, volunteers for the most part, who helped make this meeting a success, both in its content and its presentation. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I wish to thank the governments of Canada and Quebec, the City of Quebec, the ICOMOS Executive Committee and the Board of ICOMOS Canada, for their confidence and support throughout this great adventure.”

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Gustavo Araoz, ICOMOS President Elect

Michel Bonnette Organizing Comm. President
15. Two New International Charters

Two new international Charters were adopted by the General Assembly.

The ICOMOS Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites

This new Charter deals with the methods and technologies of effective, responsible public heritage communication. Indeed, the need for internationally accepted principles of interpretation and presentation is a matter of increasing urgency at a time when environmental and human threats to heritage are intensifying and an increasing number of elaborate heritage “theme-parks,” designed primarily to generate income rather than conservation or education, are being created in many regions.

The Charter does not prescribe specific content for site presentations, nor does it impose a “uniform” pattern on how particular monuments, sites, or cultural landscapes should be explained to the public. It deals instead with the fundamental issues of “Access”, “Information Sources,” “Context and Setting”, “Authenticity”, “Inclusiveness”, “Sustainability”, and “Research, Education, and Training”. It seeks to ensure that these issues are considered and incorporated into public communication with all heritage stakeholders, including tourists, local and associated communities, and local educational systems. The new Charter constitutes a consensus by the ICOMOS community on the central principles of the interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage sites.

The ICOMOS Charter on Cultural Routes

This Charter proposes a definition, the basic principles and a specific methodology for the identification, research and proper assessment of cultural routes. It also suggests guidelines for their protection, conservation, correct use and management. The concept of “Cultural Routes” covers the heritage content of a specific phenomenon of human mobility and exchange that developed via communication routes that facilitated their flow and which were used or deliberately served a concrete and specific purpose. A Cultural Route can be a road that was expressly created to serve this purpose or a route that takes advantage either totally of pre-existing roads used for different purposes. But beyond its function as a means of communication or transport, its existence and significance as a Cultural Route can only be explained by its use for a specific purpose over a long period of time and by the creation of heritage values and cultural properties associated with it, which reflect reciprocal influences between different cultural groups as a result of its own particular dynamics. ICOMOS voiced the need to better define this specific category of cultural heritage in 1993, when the Route of Santiago as a UNESCO World Heritage site was being evaluated, and since then has been working towards establishing the conceptual and operational aspects.

16. Hunting Ceremonial and Dining Banquet, the Gazzola Prize, and the Jacques Dalibard Award

This ceremonial was supposed to be held in the magnificent historic interior of the Quebec Military Drill Hall that was unfortunately destroyed by fire on April 4, 2008. The alternative solution was to organize the event under a large tent on the Plains of Abraham, near the Joan of Arc gardens.

Local Aboriginal artists performed a traditional hunting ceremonial and then Samuel de Champlain himself, the founder of Quebec City, welcomed the guests and introduced the speakers who presented the Piero Gazzola Award and the Jacques Dalibard Medal.
The Piero Gazzola Prize

The Piero Gazzola Prize was established in 1979 in memory of one of the greatest defenders of the conservation and restoration of historic monuments and sites, and a founder and the first president of ICOMOS. The prize is awarded every three years at the ICOMOS General Assembly to an individual or a group of people who have worked together and contributed with distinction to the aims and objectives of ICOMOS. The recipient must be a member of ICOMOS and is chosen by a Selection Committee.

Ms Carmen Añón Feliú from Spain accepting the Piero Gazzola Prize during the banquet on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City. Mr. Benjamin Mouton (center) was the president of the selection committee.

This year the prize was awarded to Ms. Carmen Añón Feliú, Landscape architect specializing in historic gardens, Professor of the history of gardens and restorer of historic gardens, Member of ICOMOS Spain, Honorary President of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Committee on Historic Gardens (now Cultural Landscapes), and Former President of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee (1992-1997). The Prize is a commemorative medal and diploma, and has been previously awarded to:

- Mr. Jean Trouvelot (1981)
- Mr. Stanislas Lorentz (1984)
- Mr. Masaru Sekino (1987)
- Ms. Gertrude Tripp (1990)
- Sir Bernard Feilden (1993)
- Mr. Ernest Allen Connally (1996)
- Mr. Roland Silva (1999)
- Mr. Cevat Erder (2003)

On the occasion of the 16th General Assembly, ten members were elected as Honorary members of ICOMOS for their distinguished service in the name of the preservation of monuments and sites:

- Mr. Juan-Benito Artigas Hernandez (Mexico)
- Mr. Cyro Correa Lyra (Brazil)
- Mr. Hernan Crespo Toral (Ecuador) – posthumously
- Mr. Tamas Fejerdy (Hungary)
- Mr. Jonas Glemza (Lithuania)
- Mr. Zahi Hawass (Egypt)
- Ms. Birgitta Hoberg (Sweden)
- Mr. Michel Jantzen (France)
- Mr. Gilles Nourissier (France) – posthumously
- Mr. Kiyotari Tsuboi (Japan)
The Jacques Dalibard Medal

This Award was designed to commemorate the dedication and many initiatives of Jacques Dalibard. Jacques was recognized for his contribution to heritage conservation for more than 30 years in many capacities: ICOMOS Canada President, Founding Director of Heritage Canada and a founder of the Association for Preservation Technology. The nominee for this award must have made a significant contribution to attaining the objectives of ICOMOS Canada. The recipient must have shown a steadfast commitment to the promotion and safeguarding of our shared cultural heritage at the national and international level.

Since 2002, ICOMOS Canada has had the honour of presenting this award to fellow members who have distinguished themselves during their career in the field of heritage conservation. Jacques Dalibard was the first, followed by Christina Cameron, Martin Weaver, Francois and Renee LeBlanc, and Robert Grenier. In 2007, the Jacques Dalibard Medal was posthumously presented to Robin Letellier. This year, the award was bestowed to Herb Stovel.

Herb Stovel began his career at the Ontario Heritage Foundation where he worked from 1978 to 1984. From 1984 to 1988, he was Director of Education for Heritage Canada’s Main Street Program. He was Director of ICCROM’s Heritage Settlements in Rome from 1990-1998. From 1989 to 1991, he was President of APT. From 1990 to 1993, he was ICOMOS Secretary General and was President of ICOMOS Canada from 1993 to 1997. He is currently a professor at Ottawa’s Carleton University.

In 2006, Herb was honoured by the Republic of Lithuania, which awarded him the Medal of the Order for Merits to Lithuania during what is reportedly one of the first official acts of the new republic.

17. The Raymond Lemaire International Fund

The new Raymond Lemaire International Fund was created at the Youth Forum in Quebec City on 29 September 2008. The objective of the new ICOMOS program is to provide training for young professionals: thanks to study bursaries and cooperation agreements with training centres, young heritage professionals will be able to take part in post-graduate courses or traineeships in conservation and restoration throughout the world.

Professors Piero Gazzola and Raymond Lemaire, two of the founders of ICOMOS, attached the greatest importance to training young professionals and welcoming them into the ICOMOS family.
If you want to help the Fund, please send your donations to the ICOMOS account:

IBAN: FR76 3007 6023 5211 0020 018

BIC / SWIFT Code: NORDFRPP - Please mark your donation “Fonds Raymond Lemaire”

18. Post-Conference Study Tour of Canada Centre

The ICOMOS post-conference study tour of Canada Centre, which focused on the theme of Conserving Cultural Landscapes, was enjoyed by all. Part A (5-7 October) centered on Montreal and included an intensive but varied schedule of walking tours and discussions on Mount Royal, the Lachine Canal, the heart of downtown and its modern heritage, Old Montreal, Saint-Laurent Boulevard and the Plateau Mont-Royal neighbourhood.

Part B (7-9 October), which took place in Ottawa and Montebello, included a rich and diverse series of presentations and exchanges about Parliament Hill, the Centre Block, the Parliamentary Library, the Rideau Canal World Heritage Site, Manoir Papineau and Château Montebello. In addition to a great deal of walking and a few boat rides in what turned out to be, for the most part, splendid autumn weather, the program included ample opportunities to chat with the representatives responsible for each of these sites during some memorable meals and receptions in special places, including informal get-togethers with local ICOMOS Canada members in Montreal and Ottawa.

The success of the study tour was due in large part to the interest, energy and enthusiastic contributions of the ICOMOS participants. Both tours were full to capacity: there were 47 participants in Part A and 20 in Part B. They represented several continents and 17 different countries: Africa (3 from South Africa), Australia (8), Latin America (2 from Brazil, 1 from Venezuela), North America (1 from Canada), and the European Union (1 from Austria, 3 from Belgium, 2 from France, 2 from Germany, 2 from Hungary, 6 from Italy, 7 from Norway, 1 from Scotland, 1 from Spain, 3 from Sweden, 2 from Switzerland and 2 from Turkey).

The group was made up of a wide range of heritage conservation specialists, including architects, engineers, urban planners, professors, managers, directors, and artists, as well as an art historian, an archaeologist-historian, an ethnologist-curator and a heritage tourist guide.
Over 40 conservation experts, including many ICOMOS Canada members, representing over 15 different federal, provincial and municipal government agencies, private companies and non profit heritage organizations were responsible for making the tour informative, interesting and relevant.

Most of these people worked closely with coordinators Susan Bronson and Jeannette Hlavach over the last eight months to prepare and fine-tune the program. In addition to presenting their respective sites, answering participants’ questions and joining us for further discussions over food and drinks, most of these individuals worked with us, over the past eight months, to help design the program and refine its itinerary. They deserve our heartfelt thanks! Special thanks must be given to Yvon Desloges of Parks Canada in Québec, who led Part A with me, and John Zvonar of Public Works and Government Services Canada in Gatineau, who designed and led Part B.

Very special thanks should also be extended to Alain Laflèche and Marie-Pier Lauzon of Global Tourism International, who provided excellent advice on the study tours during the entire eight-month planning process and looked after all the registrations and reservations in an efficient and professional manner. Global’s representative on the tour, professional guide Phillip Seebold, deserves all our gratitude for enriching the bus rides with his rich and colourful commentary about Montreal, Ottawa, Montebello, and the landscapes between them, as well as for his wit and humour and his extraordinary efficiency at handling logistical details.

Last but certainly not least, many thanks and our sincere gratitude to Susan Bronson and Jeannette Hlavach who organized and coordinated this very special post-conference study tour.

19. ICOMOS Canada Publication on Spirit of Place

It is within the framework of the ICOMOS 16th General Assembly and International Scientific Symposium, an important world event, that this publication was prepared by ICOMOS Canada professionals who wanted to share their point of view on the Symposium’s theme Finding the Spirit of Place with their colleagues from the international community.

What does spirit of place mean in Canada? What gives Canada's spirit of place its spirit? Where does spirit of place reside in Canada? Natural, built, urban or rural, living or intangible... Where is spirit of place particularly evocative in Canada? How does one identify and preserve Canada's spirit of place? What must be done to protect spirit of place? These are some of the issues examined in the publication.

Whether it is the powerful spirit of pioneers with huge ambitions who created power generating stations in some of the most difficult and rugged environments such as Niagara Falls or the beliefs of a particular society, especially in the realm of supernatural ontology such as the one who thrived at SGang Gwaay in the Queen Charlotte Islands, each has left an imaginary that has profoundly marked North-American culture and Canadian culture in particular.

To obtain a copy of this publication please write directly to Alain Dejeans or Alain Prince at 1097 rue Saint Alexandre, bureau 303, Montréal, QC CANADA H2Z 1P8.
20. Conferium, the firm responsible for logistics

Bruno Bégin is an Associate at Conferium, the firm that was responsible for the event’s logistics. He and his associate Michel Walters began to prepare this congress in 2003 under the direction of Michel Bonnette and William Moss, respectively President and Treasurer of Quebec ICOMOS 2008 Inc., a company created specifically to host this event.

The following people have been involved in the event’s organization since then:

- Annick Létourneau, Project Manager
- Pascale Dallaire, Assistant Project Manager
- Stéphanie Major, Assistant Project Manager
- Alexis Levesque-Dutil, Assistant Project Manager
- Chantal Grenier, Registration
- Stéphane Roy, Computing, Website and CDROM production
- Carole Larochelle, Assistant Project Manager
- Katie Boulet, Accounting and Finance
- Marie Andrée Bégin, Preparation of printed documents
- Micheline Fiset, Assistant Project Manager, Banquet

Many freelance workers also helped organize the event. To work in three languages while coordinating four or five other events at the same time definitely has its share of organization and logistics problems. The Conferium team received and answered more than 6,000 emails during the preparation stage of the congress.

The Conferium team coordinated:

- The Executive meetings prior to the beginning of activities
- The Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage
- The Scientific Committees meetings
- The General Assembly
- The Scientific Symposium
- The thematic visits on October 3

The first two years focused on the event’s preparation, financing and working closely with the Organizing Committee of Quebec ICOMOS 2008. Plans had to be reviewed and changed many times as time went by, especially when the Military Drill Hall (where the final banquet was to be held) was destroyed by fire. At least five other alternative plans had to be prepared to resolve the issue. If we compare the ICOMOS congress to other similar events, it seems that a great deal of energy and money is spent to organize and hold the elections, a process that appears to be far too complex for an organization the size of ICOMOS. It would probably be advantageous to examine ways of simplifying this procedure.
21. The International Photographic Experience of Monuments

Each participant was given an envelope containing two postcards representing Canadian heritage sites. The pictures chosen to illustrate these sites were selected from the winning photos of the Quebec chapter in The International Photographic Experience of Monuments contest, which was initiated in 1996 by the province of Catalonia, Spain.

This contest was established to help raise awareness of cultural heritage preservation among young people between the ages of 9 and 21. To date, Quebec is the only Canadian province to have participated in the annual contest. The Quebec National Capital Commission sponsored the printing of these postcards.

22. Special Issue of DOCOMOMO

Modern Heritage in Canada

ICOMOS Canada wishes to thank the International Working Party for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement (Docomomo) which, for the ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Quebec City, published a special issue of its Bulletin that focuses on the conservation of modern heritage in Canada.

Each participant was given a copy of the Bulletin. Normally, Docomomo publishes in English only. But, as the ICOMOS meeting was held in Quebec, a French version was also published thanks to contributions from the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Université du Québec à Montréal and the Organizing Committee of Québec ICOMOS 2008.

ICOMOS Canada wishes to sincerely thank France Vanlaethem, President of Docomomo Québec, who presided over the editing of this Bulletin.
23. Words of Thanks

To all our collaborators, colleagues and friends,

The ICOMOS 16th General Assembly is now over and consigned to our memory. The comments that we continue to receive from the participants and delegates lead us to believe that this congress left everyone with happy memories. The Scientific Symposium, the Youth Forum, the participation of First Nations, the Governor General’s speech, the thematic workshops, the Friday October 3 guided tours, the celebrations under the tent (and in the wind...), in short, all the activities scheduled on our program seem to have been enjoyed by all. This was made possible because of you.

The success of an event such as this rests on millions of small gestures. We truly appreciate each and every one you made. We sincerely thank you for the support you provided to this project through your ideas, your energy, your heart and your dedication. We hope that you too retain fond memories of your participation.

François LeBlanc, President, ICOMOS Canada & Michel Bonnette, President, Québec ICOMOS 2008.

A few comments and thank you notes from participants

• “CIVVIH would like to thank Michel Bonnette and our Canadian colleagues for the opportunity to hold one of our best Committee meetings. The information we got from our Canadian colleagues was of great interest to us all. The Committee meeting itself was the best attended so far, both in terms of numbers an countries represented. Québec was a great experience for all those that attended. The interest in CIVVIH has continued to increase. We shall be sending a report in the next days. “Ray Bondin, President, CIVVIH – Historic Towns
• “A huge thank you for all the information regarding the ICOMOS Conference. The interviews we had were WONDERFUL. My morning show host is still talking about Robert Grenier! Thank you again and I hope everything was a success on your end.” Rachelle Solomon, Program Director, The Morning Show, CBC Radio One, Quebec

• “Very informally and from the heart, I really have to congratulate and thank you for a magnificent General Assembly, Symposium, Youth Forum, and for taking all the necessary actions to allow our Advisory Committee, the International Scientific Committees and the Scientific Council to do their work and flourish. There may have been no elephants, operas and fireworks, but the stimuli bombarding all of us in Quebec was truly overwhelming to all who were fortunate to be there. You offered so much, and it was all so rich. I came away paradoxically exhausted, but also invigorated to begin to work with all willing members to transform ICOMOS into the dream that we all share.” Gustavo Araoz, President, ICOMOS

• “Veuillez recevoir mes plus amicales commentaires sur la magnifique réalisation de l’Assemblée et du Symposium de l’ICOMOS. Le séjour à la belle ville de Québec a été inoubliable pour nos collègues du monde entier et votre gentillesse bien enregistré par photo au cadre du Plenarium sera pour toujours un souvenir matériel de la force immatérielle des esprits du lieu, qui remplissent les jolies endroits, places, jardins et rues, québécoises. Merci, mille fois merci!!!! » Suzanna Sampaio, ICOMOS Brésil

• “I just wanted to say what a fabulous effort, process and outcomes for ICOMOS Quebec! All of ICOMOS must be indebted for your extraordinary efforts for the 2008 General Assembly. I enjoyed the symposium sessions and workshops very much. The posters were a great addition. The session I moderated was quite interesting and well received. The General Assemblies were inspirational. The logistics were very well handled. I send you my deepest thanks and very best regards for a bit of a rest as the days of fall move ahead.” Patricia M. O’Donnell, US/ICOMOS

• « Cher Michel, je te remercie beaucoup de nouveau pour cette semaine inoubliable. Tout était formidablement bien organisé... Et ce fut merveilleux pour moi de découvrir votre chère ville de Québec. A bientôt, avec mes grandes salutations d'Istanbul » Nur Akin, Présidente, ICOMOS Turquie

• « Je voudrais tout simplement vous féliciter pour un travail bien accompli en ce qui concerne le 16ième Assemblée générale. Je crois que les membres en été bien satisfaits de l’organisation et de la qualité des présentations. » Christina Cameron, Chaire de recherche du Canada en patrimoine bâti, École d’architecture, Faculté de l’aménagement, Université de Montréal

• “Will take the opportunity to thank you, again, for a wonderful experience and a job excellently done.” Michal Firestone, ICOMOS Israel


• “Thank you so much for a wonderful conference full of great papers, great company and so well organized. It was lovely to be in Quebec again and enjoy its ambience and see a little bit more of its rich heritage.” Susan Macdonald, Head of Field Projects, Getty Conservation Institute

• "En nombre de ICOMOS Venezuela les envío un saludo de agradecimiento por la organización de la 16a Asamblea General y Simposio Científico Internacional de ICOMOS, recientemente desarrollados en la ciudad de Quebec, y por las atenciones que tuvieron hacia nosotros durante estos eventos. Gracias por haber ofrecido Quebec como sede de la Asamblea, pues nos brindaron una excelente oportunidad para conocer su hermosísima ciudad, su interesante historia y su amable gente. Igualmente a las personas de la empresa Conferium quienes contribuyeron a nuestro arribo a esa ciudad, así como la agradable estadía y la movilización en la misma.” Ileana Vásquez, Presidente, ICOMOS Venezuela
• “Thank you for making the ICOMOS General Assembly and all the related events, so enjoyable. I had a great time in Quebec.” Louise Cox, UIA President

• « Salut à toute l’équipe. J’espère que vous êtes plus relax après la tornade… ICOMOS. Je tenais à vous dire que ce fut un plaisir pour moi de travailler avec vous. Votre écoute, votre respect des ententes, votre disponibilité et votre bonne humeur malgré la pression ont été pour beaucoup dans le succès de nos rapports et je suis certain de votre événement. » André-Michel, Maison Amérindienne, Saint-Hilaire, Québec

• « Je suis contente que la présentation des résultats ait été un tel succès. Il faut dire que le forum fut extrêmement riche et dynamique ce qui m’a permis d’émettre de tels résultats. J’ai rarement assisté à une telle émulation de cerveaux ! Marie-Josée et moi avons travaillé fort pour que ce premier forum soit un succès et nous sommes très fières qu’une résolution ait été votée pour la tenue d’un forum à chaque AG. J’ai énormément apprécié travailler sur ce projet et je dois admettre qu’à la vue des résultats, le nombre d’heures incalculables à la préparation de ce forum en valait la peine. » Célia Forget, Institut du patrimoine culturel, Université Laval.

24. The Next ICOMOS General Assembly

One of the last symbolic acts of the 16th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium was to pass on the ICOMOS torch to the team that will be organizing the next Assembly. It will be held in Isfahan, Iran in 2011. Dates and details will be posted on the ICOMOS website as soon as they are available. We all hope to see you in Isfahan in 2011 and wish our ICOMOS Iranian colleagues all the best.

François LeBlanc, ICOMOS Canada President handing over the ICOMOS flag to Haghighi Abdolrasool Vatandoust [right] of ICOMOS Iran, host of the 17th General Assembly and International Scientific Symposium that will be held in Isfahan in 2011

Naghshe Jahan Square in Isfahan, Iran