

The rewards are not only cultural. In the U.S.A., heritage policies have helped fuel a \$52-billion annual renovation industry, which has had a domino effect on the construction industry and the GNP. The "smokestack" cities, whose downtowns had been written off, are witnessing an urban miracle. Core area housing is being improved. Tourism is up substantially. Needless to say, the support in Congress stems not only from the "heritage" fans; the most powerful lobby comes from those committed to economic growth, municipal affairs, housing, job creation and other affected areas.

Similar interests are starting to be heard in Ontario. The long-suffering crew at the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, who have had to live with awkwardness and inadequacies of the current statute for years, are showing signs of a resurgence of optimism over the prospects for change. Elsewhere, at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Housing & Renewal Officials (Toronto, last June), some of the brightest lights from what was then the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing (now two ministries) were broaching both the subject of tax incentives for rehab and new demolition controls. Throughout various ministries, there is a growing mood that the time is ripe for a comprehensive new initiative - not only for the sake of heritage, but also to capitalize on a variety of other economic and social opportunities which are demonstrably achievable at the same time.

The economic and social track record of such initiatives, from other jurisdictions, is also at Ontario's disposal. In due course, this should not only bolster the case for innovation, but also reassure the private sector that these initiatives are consistent with its own long-term interests. Indeed, it should be possible to predict (with some accuracy) how a new heritage package will benefit a wide variety of public and private goals.

In short, a new initiative on the heritage front need not give rise to a host of political and economic uncertainties. On the contrary, Ontario may be pleasantly surprised, and learn that the right package actually can bring developers and conservationists together—in a way that fulfills the optimistic predictions arising from economic research elsewhere. In due course, Ontario may realize that the most rewarding discovery about a new heritage package is that it accomplishes exactly what the pundits have said it would; or, to put it another way, that once again the best surprise is no surprise. □

ICOMOS CANADA Update

by Judy Oberlander

The first national conference of ICOMOS CANADA was held in Ottawa on November 2-3, 1985 and it resulted in a most enthusiastic response from all attendees. Organized around a central theme "The Professional Practice of Preservation," the two day meeting provided the opportunity to discuss in depth a wide variety of topics and to explore various ways of exchanging information and expertise in the preservation field. The meeting was organized by Alain Lafreniere, Claude Moulin, Renee Leblanc, Herb Stovel, Francois Leblanc, Jacques Dalibard and various ICOMOS CANADA board members and was attended by seventy people from across Canada.

ICOMOS CANADA which is a National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, is one of the organizations which represents Canadian preservation interests abroad. ICOMOS itself is "an international non-governmental organization bringing together people and institutions actively concerned with the conservation of buildings, groups of buildings and larger units of archaeological and historical interest." The ICOMOS headquarters are in Paris where the Secretariat and Documentation Centre are located and it is guided by a Secretary General, President, Treasurer General and Executive Committee whose members live around the world. A General Assembly is held every three years with the next meeting being held in Washington, D.C. in May 1987. These meetings provide an opportunity for members of the National Committees and the International Specialized Committees to present papers and to discuss topics of common interest.

The Ottawa meeting had three main parts; a panel discussion, a series of workshops and a general assembly. This programme permitted discussions in both large and small groups as well as an opportunity to focus on specific issues related to the preservation movement in Canada. The panel was composed of Julia Gersovitz, an architect in private practice, Jacques Dalibard, Executive Director of the Heritage Canada Foundation, Linda Fardin, a landscape architect with Parks Canada and Phil Wright an archaeologist with the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. Following a short presentation by each member of the panel on the theme, "Professional Practice of Preservation" there was a general discussion with the audience. Discussions centered around the topics

of preservation as a profession, professional accreditation and the different experiences of working in the private and public sectors.

The afternoon workshops were organized around the subjects of the ICOMOS International Specialized Committees and were chaired as follows: Julian Smith - Doctrine; Robin Letillier-Recording and Documentation; Walter Jamieson - Historic Towns; Claude Moulin-Cultural Tourism; Herb Stovel-Vernacular Architecture and Marc Denhez-Heritage Legislation. National Committees have been established for each subject and if you are interested in a particular committee you are requested to write to the session chairs listed above at the ICOMOS office in Ottawa.

The closing session of the conference consisted of a series of reports by the President of ICOMOS CANADA, Jacques Dalibard, the Secretary-Treasurer, Francois Leblanc, the chairman of the English-Speaking Committee, Herb Stovel and the chairman of the French-Speaking Committee.

A closing discussion centered around the topic of "professional" and the question of professional accreditation. Is this a desirable option for people presently involved in some aspect of the preservation movement? What constitutes a "professional?" These are some of the questions which came up for discussion and will undoubtedly be debated for sometime. This meeting gave everyone a great deal to think about both within their own discipline and how it relates to the larger context of the preservation movement in Canada.

If you are interested in becoming a member of ICOMOS CANADA or participating in one of the specialized committees please write to: ICOMOS CANADA, Box 737, Stn. B, Ottawa, K1P 5R4. □

Report From Saskatchewan

by Stuart Lazear

Since the adoption of Saskatchewan's Heritage Property Act in 1981 there have been 224 municipal heritage designations and 22 provincial heritage designations across the province. An additional 150 properties are in the process of being designated. A total of 1.7 million dollars has been provided over the past four years by the Province of Saskatchewan to owners of designated municipal and provincial heritage properties and heritage organizations. These funds have been allocated on a matching basis for the purposes of restoration rehabilitation and stabilization of properties through the Provincial, Municipal and General Heritage Grant Programs of Saskatchewan Culture and Recreation. The average grant to an owner of a municipally-designated heritage property would be between \$1,000 and \$5,000 in 1985. A provincially designated property could receive up to \$100,000 over 5 years. The great success of this program has increased demands on the existing provincial grant allocation which has remained constant over the past few years. The individual grants have therefore been reduced each year. The success of the grant program and the enthusiasm over Heritage Year in Saskatchewan in 1985 will hopefully encourage increased provincial grant allocations.

For further information on the grant programmes please contact Dean Clark or Frank Korremaker, 3rd Floor Ratner Building, 1942 Hamilton Street, Regina, Sask. S4P 3V7 (306) 787-2809.

As is often the case with provincially-funded grant programmes, the greatest success is achieved in smaller communities and rural areas. The absence of development pressures present in larger urban centres, combined with a strong appreciation of the community's heritage often makes municipal heritage designation and a municipal heritage property grant attractive preservation options. Saskatchewan's largest centres, Regina and Saskatoon are fortunate in that they have buildings which were built for or bought by the Government of Saskatchewan and its agencies. These government office and educational buildings are protected through provincial designation, through continued use and/or through community pressure.

The combined benefit of government ownership and the Provincial Heritage Property Grant was seen in the recent sale of the Canada Life Assurance Building (also known as the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office Building) to Silver Developments of Regina. The office building was a provincially-owned, provincially-designated heritage property which stood vacant for several years in Regina's downtown core. It is one of the province's most significant early 20th century commercial office buildings. It was designed by the architectural firm of Brown & Vallance using terra-cotta on the facade.

Many factors combined to make this pioneering renovation/restoration work.

1. The Government of Saskatchewan sold the building at a bargain price below market value.
2. The developer, Mark Silver, was sophisticated. He had seen that