



HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

PRESERVING NOVA SCOTIA'S BUILT HERITAGE

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Announces Diverse Group of Heritage Awards

HALIFAX, NS, June 7, 2020.....The Board of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia (HTNS) has announced five Built Heritage Award recipients, after recently endorsing the HTNS Awards Committee's recommendation.

For the first time, HTNS will recognize a project for excellence in the respectful insertion of a new building among heritage buildings: Brian MacKay-Lyons of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects repurposed an existing 19th century building and attached a new-build which reflects the vocabulary of Lunenburg's marine industrial buildings. The resulting B2 Lofts provides six residential units atop two main floor commercial spaces, which pay homage to the town's UNESCO heritage status with their lovely design and bright colours.

The other winners for 2019 and their award categories are:

- Bank of Montreal Building, Lunenburg, owned by Garth Turner (Commercial Adaptive Reuse);
- Kentville Library in the former St Stephen and St Paul United Church, owned by John Parsons (Places of Worship);
- Old Town Clock, Halifax, owned by Government of Canada (Exterior Conservation of an Institutional Building); and
- White Cottage, Chester, owned by Mark Narsansky and Philip Mitchell (Excellence in Supporting Heritage Conservation).

"Every project had its own story of meeting unexpected challenges or finding new opportunities," said committee chair, William Breckenridge. "That is what makes this recognition so rewarding."

Few challenges are as extreme as Chester's White Cottage where prospective buyers were advised by the realtor not to try to save it. The new owners discovered so many problems that they had to take it down to the ground, numbering pieces as they went and then storing the house in container boxes while the foundation was rebuilt and suitable material found to replace anything that was rotten or not salvageable. Initially, the committee discussed intently whether to consider a totally rebuilt house. However, one of the mandates of the awards committee is to recognize properties preserved in the face of probable loss. And the likely fate of this property, had it not been bought by the current owners, was demolition of the existing cottage dating, in parts, from the late 1700s-early 1800s and division of the waterfront lot for re-sale and development.

In the case of the Old Town Clock, early consultation by federal staff with HTNS and local experts steered the proposed conservation work more in line with best practices as laid out in the federal *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

The original structure of the Bank of Montreal Building in Lunenburg was completed in 1907 and is a rarity in the area, being constructed of grey Shelburne granite while the Kentville Library's beauty is accentuated by the incredible stained glass craftsmanship, high ceilings and natural light.

“Visiting the nominated buildings was a real treat and we were truly gratified that all those involved were deeply interested in their local history and proud to have been involved in saving and/or restoring a heritage building,” added Awards committee member Michal Crowe. “There was a common thread of pride in repurposing and refurbishing as well as a heritage vision.”

Usually recipients would be recognized on Historic Places Day (July 4, 2020) but in light of the current global pandemic situation, these 2019 Built Heritage Awards will be formally conferred in 2021 along with any winners from this year.

Canada’s Historic Places Day is a national celebration to encourage Canadians to visit historic places close to home. The Trust’s Built Heritage Awards bring attention to excellence in heritage conservation. The awards are designed to recognize and honour outstanding individuals, groups, companies and government departments who have made a significant contribution towards preserving and rehabilitating Nova Scotia’s built heritage.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, founded in 1959, is a non-profit registered charity whose goal is to conserve buildings and sites of historic significance, and to promote this important cultural component of Nova Scotia’s identity.

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