

#001 / 25 May 2020



Heritage materials are long-lasting with proper installation and care. Repair is almost always preferable to replacement – even for new building elements. Get in touch to discuss your options.



## Built Heritage in the Time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is doubtlessly affecting everyone reading this in one way or another. At Heritage NL we have transitioned mostly to working from home. Our programs are proceeding as usual and staff remain available for inquiries (though we recommend using email at this time). While our work-days have changed, we are as busy as ever. In addition to our regular duties we are actively working with the [National Trust for Canada](#) and counterparts in other provinces to secure federal support for heritage projects as part of longer-term community economic adjustment initiatives. As well, we partnered with Municipalities NL to do a webinar, “Undertaking Heritage Initiatives as Part of a Post-COVID Community Economic Adjustment Strategy” that made the case for, and offered planning support to, undertake heritage initiatives intended to help

communities create jobs and economic opportunities.

We have also heard from property-owners who are planning to take advantage of the downtime mandated by isolation measures, to undertake building repairs and maintenance. For those we have not heard from we would like to offer a few suggestions for the coming weeks and months:

### **Work through the downtime (if possible)**

For businesses and organizations with the means, a period of closure is an ideal time to take care of work that would otherwise impact normal business operations. Work like painting, restoring historic interior finishes, or repairing windows and doors is best done when rooms are clear and windows, for instance, are not being used.

Owners of historic buildings might find themselves with the time and inclination to take on a few projects of their own. [Damaged clapboards can be replaced](#) with minimal materials and a careful touch. [Painting](#) is an accessible project that can be spread over days and weeks. Even [simple window repairs and touch-ups](#) can be completed by an owner with a few common tools.

### **Self-assess**

If your budget, schedule, or skillset prevent you from taking on a project, this can also be a good time to identify work to take care of in the not-too-distant future. Take a walk around your property with a camera to check for signs of deterioration or necessary maintenance, making notes as you go (see the [visual inspection guide in our previous newsletter](#)). If your property requires more detailed assessment to identify potential issues, you may be eligible for a [Building Assessment Grant](#) to hire a qualified building assessor. This is useful for developing a scope of work for any future conservation work.

### **Plan ahead**

After identifying maintenance tasks above be sure to draft a work plan and knock items off your list as circumstances allow. When planning work make sure to check with us on the [eligibility of your project for funding](#). Planning a large project that could benefit from additional support? Contact us and we can let you know about any potential programs that you may be eligible for. We can share the experience of some not-for-profit heritage attractions which are availing of business support and employment programs to undertake repair and maintenance work. Currently, we are waiting to see what might become available through new federal funding to put people back to work when things start to return to normal.

### **Research your building**

If you have extra time on your hands, now is also a good time to try filling in the gaps in your building's history using [resources available from home](#). Understanding the history

of an historic structure not only adds to its interest, but can provide valuable information about changes over time that are useful when making decisions about conservation measures. For tips of where to find information see the link below. You can also give us a call to see if we have any other research suggestions

## The need to consult with Heritage NL when undertaking work on a Registered Heritage Structure

We hope that as the owner of a Registered Heritage Structure you will see Heritage NL as a resource for technical information about building conservation. Our goal is to work with you to make your heritage property work for you. We recognize that buildings need to adapt to fit new uses or to accommodate contemporary needs.

It is important for owners and managers of designated structures to contact us when considering any conservation work or changes to a building. If your property has received a grant in the past, there will be a registered legal agreement (an easement) which remains with the property even when it changes hands. We recommend that you review your easement agreement to understand your obligations. Let us know if you do not have a copy and we can provide you with one.

Heritage NL follows the national [Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada](#). Inappropriate changes to a building could result in a property being removed from the Heritage NL registry and it being ineligible for future restoration or maintenance grants. The installation of unapproved vinyl windows and steel doors are the biggest problems we encounter. We are happy to work with building owners that have unapproved doors and windows (or other changes) to develop a plan for coming back into compliance with conservation standards. We understand that the installation of vinyl windows often reflects a desire to improve their insulation value or maintenance. We can provide advice on such things as: options for installing easy-to-maintain storm windows; names of qualified contractors who can restore historic wood windows and doors; and paint products that will outlast typical latex paints.

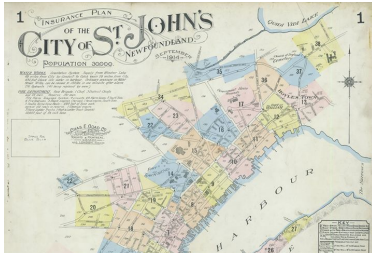
We also have information on: qualified restoration carpenters and masons; how best to install traditional cladding and roofing to prolong their life; and finding cost-effective conservation and maintenance treatments for heritage properties.



**Today at Heritage NL**

**Property-owner resources**

**Heritage news**



With COVID-19 restrictions ongoing, Heritage NL staff have been creating online workshops, guides, and activities:

[House Histories: Researching old houses from home.](#)

[Just For Fun](#) activities for kids and kids-at-heart

Latest resources from Heritage NL and beyond:

[Contractors who have completed training in wood window restoration are now listed on our website.](#)

[Join the Built Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador Facebook group](#)

Heritage news from around the province and globe:

[Bowring Park bridge gets heritage status... \(CBC\)](#)

[Heritage Sector Response to COVID-19: Join the Movement \(National Trust for Canada\)](#)

[Heritage NL partners with Happy City St. John's to pilot process for better development](#)



*The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is a crown agency with a mandate to help preserve the rich heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.*

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*You are receiving this email because you are listed as the owner of a Registered Heritage Structure in Newfoundland and Labrador. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please [let us know.](#)*