



Heritage Canada Foundation 2008 Worst Losses List

Armoury, Québec City, Quebec – LOST TO FIRE

The historic armoury, built in 1884 and owned by the Department of National Defence, contained Canada's largest suspended wood ceiling. An investigation has been launched following the devastating fire that broke out during the night of April 4th. This is a sad outcome in the midst of the city's 400th anniversary celebrations.

Bata Shoe Headquarters, Toronto, Ontario – DEMOLISHED IN THE NAME OF CULTURE

Included on HCF's 2006 Top Ten Endangered Places list, the former Bata Shoe Headquarters, a hallmark of Canadian Modernist architecture designed by John C. Parkin, was demolished in December 2007 to make way for the new Aga Khan Museum.

Walnut Hall, Toronto, Ontario – A CASE OF ARCHITECTURAL EUTHANASIA

After being neglected for 35 years by land speculators who refused to maintain it, Toronto's once elegant row of Georgian townhouses on Shuter Street dating from 1856 began to crumble brick by brick in May 2007. A city work crew tore down the remaining structure—a classic case of demolition by neglect.

Seagraves Building, Windsor, Ontario – LOST TO LANDFILL DUE TO PERMIT OFFICE OVERSIGHT

Included on Windsor's heritage inventory list, this 2-storey 1905 industrial red brick heritage building housed the Seagrave Fire Apparatus Company of Ohio that produced the first motorized fire engine in Canada. The City improperly issued a demolition permit without adhering to the required 60-day waiting period.

Balfour Building, Hamilton, Ontario – COLLAPSED DUE TO NEGLECT

The partial collapse of the Balfour Building—part of the historic Lister Block in downtown Hamilton—resulted in a public outcry against the city for not enforcing property standards. The rest was demolished with only fragments remaining of the stone elements that were to be preserved for future use. The Lister Block was identified as endangered on HCF's 2007 Top Ten list, and its future still remains in danger.

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rothesay, New Brunswick
– PAVED PARADISE FOR A PARKING LOT

After more than 60 years of service, the old church was torn down last June to make way for a parking lot to service the new church built across the street. “We need more parking so we decided that it might be a better use of the space,” explained Rev. Michel LeBlanc. Historic places of faith are in danger across North America.

Legion Building, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – **DEMOLISHED FOR LACK OF VISION**

Built in 1929 by veterans of the First World War, the Saskatoon Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion was demolished in June 2007 by developer Remai Ventures, shortly after announcing its decision not to go ahead with the hotel/spa complex development it had convinced Saskatoon city council would rejuvenate the area. This site was included on HCF’s 2007 Top Ten Endangered Places list.

Central Pentecostal Tabernacle, Edmonton, Alberta – **LOST TO CONDO DEVELOPMENT**

Included on HCF’s 2007 Top Ten Endangered Places list, the landmark mid-century Modernist tabernacle, designed by award-winning Edmonton architect Peter Hemingway, was demolished in March 2007 to make way for a condominium development.

David Graham House, Vancouver, British Columbia – **LOST TO WEAK LEGISLATION**

Designed by Canadian architecture icon Arthur Erickson in 1963, the stunning multi-storey wood-and-glass house overlooking the Pacific in West Vancouver was demolished in December 2007 due to lack of maintenance and the municipality’s inability to enforce it.

Dominion Atlantic Railway Roundhouse, Kentville, Nova Scotia
– SHORT-SIGHTED DEMOLITION

The demolition of Nova Scotia’s last roundhouse, still housing its large turntable, was approved by Kentville town council in July 2007 despite calls for delays to allow for time to consider options that would integrate the structure into new development plans and to pursue possible funding sources.

Over the past 30 years, Canada has lost 20% of its historic buildings to demolition - and the destruction continues. The time is now for the federal government to include financial incentives in the next federal budget to encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic places. Send a postcard demonstrating your support for heritage buildings to Jim Flaherty, the Minister of Finance, Treasury Board President Vic Toews, and Rob Merrifield, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance:

http://www.heritagecanada.org/petition_start.htm

