



## February 2026 - News and Updates

### Frontenac Heritage Foundation & Kingston Historical Society - February Event



# Kingston Heritage Now

*Goals, Challenges, and Experiences*

Heritage Hour Talk  
by Dr. Joel Konrad, Manager, Heritage Planning,  
Heritage Services, City of Kingston

Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm  
Kingsbridge Retirement Community

A free, public Heritage Week event.  
In the Theatre on the lower floor  
at 950 Centennial Drive  
(free parking beside the building).

Also viewable on Zoom. Email  
[contact@frontenacheritage.ca](mailto:contact@frontenacheritage.ca) for the link.



The event for February to celebrate Heritage Month is a joint venture with the Kingston Historical Society and the Frontenac Heritage Foundation. Members of the public are also welcome to attend.

**Dr. Joel Konrad, Manager Heritage Planning, Heritage Services with the City of Kingston** will talk about **Heritage Now: Goals, Challenges, and Experiences**.

The talk will be held in the theatre in the lower level of Kingsbridge Retirement Residence at 950 Centennial Drive (near Princess St). The talk begins at 7 pm. If you cannot attend in person, the lecture will be available on Zoom. For more information, [contact@frontenacheritage.ca](mailto:contact@frontenacheritage.ca).

### Recap: January 19, 2026 Heritage Now Talk



The Zoom talk and discussion with Chris Wiebe of the National Trust for Canada was a very interesting cross-Canada journey highlighting the adaptability of the heritage community and its builders to address current day challenges. Many innovative transformations were shown, and the resilience and creativity used to produce these heritage renovations was inspiring.

Chris also noted the National Trust will be holding a conference in October in the Kitchener Waterloo area and he will send us further information when available.

Watch the video on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/6aEMw6707og>

### Frontenac Heritage Foundation Website

Visit [frontenacheritage.ca](http://frontenacheritage.ca) and see what's new!

1. The downloadable membership form has been updated and can now be filled on the computer before printing out if that is preferred.
2. The "Year in Review" presentation has been added to the website. Find it directly from the homepage or from the events page.
3. Ban Righ Hall & John Deutsch University Centre images have been added to the Gallery.
4. October, November, and December Newsletters have been added to the Newsletter archive.
5. Zelly membership form 'guidance' added to website.

### Educational Event!

#### Kingston Regional Heritage Fair / La fete Regionale du Patrimoine de Kingston

Heather Montague, the Chair of the Regional Heritage Fair has asked the Frontenac Heritage Foundation if we would be interested on having a booth at the annual fair. This year, the one-day event is planned for Friday May 15, at Duncan McArthur Hall (West Campus of Queen's). The exhibits, approximately 30 minutes per class, are to be geared to students from grade 4 to grade 8. Interactive displays or activities for the students to participate in are preferred. The last time the FHF participated was in 2023 and it was a fun experience.



If any former teachers or history buffs are interested in working on this project, please contact Diane at [contact@frontenacheritage.ca](mailto:contact@frontenacheritage.ca) and a team will be formed to meet and discuss ideas.

## Other Items of Interest and Development Updates

### Official Plan Update:

Before Christmas, the FHF received an email from city planning staff that they would not be meeting with us to talk over our concerns on the first OP draft. Our concerns were noted in a letter from Marcus Létourneau, heritage consultant, acting on our behalf. Laura Flaherty, project manager with the City of Kingston, noted that they would be producing a summary document of all the comments submitted from the public on the first draft. To date no summary document has been released. In the interim, the City has noted that a second draft of the OP is expected in early March. It states that the second draft will reflect recommendations from a variety of studies and will include revisions in response to public feedback on the first draft. We will have to be sure to review the draft in hopes that our initial feedback on the first draft is reflected in the new version!

A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 31 on the second draft. A final draft is expected by Mid-May, followed by a statutory public meeting tentatively planned for June 18th, with the final draft to city council on June 30 (special meeting). There are lots of questions and concerns that still have to be responded to, yet this New Official Plan seems to be fast tracked for approval (before the municipal elections?).

### Overbuilding in the Downtown: 281 Princess Street



The FHF submitted a letter to the Planning Committee with our concerns on the redevelopment proposal for the 281 Princess Street/Blockbuster site. The January 15th public meeting was well attended with 57 people in person and 35 on zoom. Twenty-two people spoke, including Kristine Hebert of the FHF, in opposition, raising concerns on height, massing, parking, streets (i.e., only private not mixed housing), trees, setbacks, accessible parking, and lack of a student housing strategy.

Modifications to reduce the massing and height will hopefully be forthcoming. There was strong support for the OLT building compromise that resulted in the nine-storey condo building at 223 Princess Street at the Capital Theatre, a short distance up the street.

### Our Properties at 62-66 Brock Street

(Olive Oil Co and Martello on Brock plus three residential units above)

The Board of the FHF at it's January 26th meeting unanimously agreed that our organization needs a property committee whose mandate would be to prioritize short, mid and long term strategies for maintenance, repair, upgrades, and tenancy issues associated with our designated buildings. Three members of the board are ready to sit on the committee but we would like members at large to assist in this endeavour, especially if you have had a history with the building and/or have an expertise in repair and maintenance of heritage and older structures. Start-up of this committee would be in the spring of this year. Please let us know if you're interested by emailing [contact@frontenacheritage.ca](mailto:contact@frontenacheritage.ca) and one of our board members will reach out to you to discuss next steps.



**Attention All Students!**  
If you have any local family members who are students or have connections to students as clients or tenants, point out the benefits of joining the Frontenac Heritage Foundation for only \$10 per year! Great events and knowledge for projects!

**Renew your support for heritage by joining the FHF for 2026!**



**Don't miss out on what we have to offer, including members-only events and tours, access to our prestigious *Foundations* digital booklet, a monthly newsletter deliver to your inbox, and so much more.**

**More information at [www.frontenacheritage.ca](http://www.frontenacheritage.ca)**

