



Spring 2026 - News and Updates

Upcoming Event ...

Turning Historic Compliance into Value

Parquet Restoration Insights from Europe

The Secret Garden
73 Sydenham Street
Thursday April 16, 2026
7 to 9 p.m.
Light refreshments
Members only (limited space)

Protecting our built heritage

Don't Delay! Spots are still available for this fascinating look into 300-year old flooring restoration.

Email contact@frontenacheritage.ca to be added to the list.

In November 2025, the FHF sponsored a Heritage Planning Course by Marcus Létoumeau that asked the question: "How can heritage compliance become a value-added activity rather than an impediment to project completion?"

Sheffield Hardwood, owned by FHF members Donna and Delbert Adams, promotes heritage wood restoration excellence in their work. Recently, they were in Dusseldorf (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic), and Vienna (Austria) working as restoration volunteers from first principles to learn the skills needed to perform this level of excellence competently in Canada. Delbert will give a presentation and share methods/techniques used to repair and restore 300-year-old flooring and give insights on how this can be applied to benefit wood flooring and parquet in Canada.

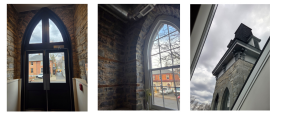
Sheffield Hardwood, based in Tamworth, Ontario, operates a heritage floor restoration and custom parquet business. They believe every floor they work on is a heritage floor, whether it is a 1950's bungalow or an 1850's historic inn like the Secret Garden. (*See the beautiful logo in marquetry done by Delbert in the entrance hall flooring of The Secret Garden.) Sheffield Hardwood's key value-added work includes heritage compliance, authenticity, longevity, and occupant experience.

Recap: March 9 Queen's Archives with Heather Home



On **March 9th**, Heather Home, archivist at Queen's Archives gave a small tour and a talk on new technology and the impacts on the "fonds" of the archives. AI is making great headway in reading and transcribing handwritten documents and letters. The members present were astounded how quickly and accurately AI Gemini 2 'read' various artefacts that were undecipherable to most of us there! We had a quick tour of the climate controlled stacks. Anyone is welcome to come and research items held by the archives. Online access is provided at [Kingston Picture collection | Queen's Digital Collections](#)

Recap: March 16 Tour of 47 Wellington Street



On **March 16th**, Oliver Jacobs from Keilty Property Investment Company led 17 FHF members on a tour of 47 Wellington Street (Faculty 47). We viewed a first floor three-bedroom unit with exposed limestone walls, exposed ceiling ductwork and wonderful restored arched windows facing the street. We also went into two units in the new rear addition, each of which was unique and had views of the neighbourhood. A couple of the bedrooms had beautiful views of the tower from overhead skylights. Despite an exceptionally windy day, the membership braved the rooftop patio (amenity area) that felt safe and secure and had views in all directions. Oliver indicated that after April 30th when the students are gone, if the membership is wanting it, he would be pleased to give us a more extensive tour. If you are interested in a longer tour of 47 Wellington, email Diane at contact@frontenacheritage.ca

Other Items of Interest and Opportunities

Winter 2026 FOUNDATIONS



Our latest colour digital version of FOUNDATIONS is now available online for FHF members! You won't want to miss this one! Articles include the McIntyre-McFadden Farmhouse Reconstruction 2011 to 2016, some interesting architectural details about Fairfield Gutzeit House, a new plaque honouring the Sisters of Congrégation of Notre-Dame, an update on Horne's Ferry, and so much more! Now is the perfect time to join or renew your membership for 2026 to receive the online link.

If any member wishes to write an article for FOUNDATIONS, we would be pleased to consider it. Please forward to contact@frontenacheritage.ca

Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP)

Parks Canada plans to discontinue/decommission an important online public resource called the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP). Municipalities, heritage professionals, planners, heritage organizations, and laypersons rely on this database to learn the history and significance of heritage buildings across our country. In many instances, this is the only resource available for information. A letter was sent to the Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature from organizations such as the National Trust and the professional planners association. The FHF added our concerns through a letter to the minister and copied to our MP Mark Gerretsen. The only positive news is that in the interim an AI expert has downloaded the entire database ([Heritage Guide](#)) to preserve it. It is great we have this database preserved but it is static. We need an active database that can be added to as significant buildings are designated.

Community Support Needed!

A note from Sam MacLead, general manager:
As you may be aware, The Spire is part of this year's Next Great Save competition. If we win, we begin our decarbonizing/new energy systems journey, beginning with bringing heat and cooling to our upper hall via heat pump. The Spire has a failing heating system. This past winter, we dealt with a major fix and cold days, however it was a patch. The system will fail again (is old and uses industrial revolution level tech). If it fails, The Spire fails, and



that cannot happen for the sake of thousands who use this building regularly. For the people who rely on the food program, for our arts community, our youth programming, AA groups, faith communities, sword fighters, social services, seniors' programs, and on and on. To accomplish this, we need you.



From April 7 to April 24, votes can be cast, with the facility with the most votes taking home the prize. We can do this, but we need your help. Each email address can vote once per day. Please consider voting and voting often. The voting link is here: <https://nextgreatsave.us/launchpad66.com/NextGreatSave2026/the-spine>

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 and one of our board members will reach out to you to discuss next steps.

Frontenac Heritage Foundation Annual General Meeting

The Frontenac Heritage Foundation AGM is June 7 at The Secret Garden, 73 Sydenham Street South, from noon to 2 p.m. More information will be provided over the next few weeks.

Please plan on joining us! Your voice matters - there is still time to renew your membership to participate!

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 delivered to your inbox, and so much more.

More information at www.frontenacheritage.ca

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!

