

ICOMOS Canada Scientific Committee 2003 Activities Report

Prepared by Christophe Rivet, interim chair.

Leadership

At the last ICOMOS Canada annual meeting in October 2002 in Ottawa, the Scientific Committee elected Victoria Angel as chair of the committee. Tamara Anson-Cartwright was congratulated and thanked for the time and dedication she had put as previous chair. Victoria Angel initiated the Strategic Plan project and led a working group to develop it. In mid-May, due to work related obligations, Victoria Angel stepped down. The executive committee designated Christophe Rivet as interim chair of the Scientific Committee.

Activities

The Scientific Committee's activities in 2003 focussed mainly on developing a Strategic Plan for the committee. A working group was formed which included Victoria Angel, Tamara Anson-Cartwright, Gordon Dewis, Deborah Hossack and Christophe Rivet. The development of the Plan included a survey, individual exchanges and working group meetings. Drafts were circulated to the chairs of the specialized committees. This activity is scheduled to be completed in January 2004.

The Scientific Committee had also worked on developing a scientific programme for the ICOMOS Canada annual meeting. It had included three workshops, one on Assessing Social and Intangible Values in Heritage Places in Canada, a second on Heritage@Risk, and a third one on Conservation, Standards and Training. The discussion of these topics was postponed to the next annual meeting of ICOMOS Canada, as the 2003 meeting was cancelled.

The Scientific Committee was approached to comment on heritage initiatives. One such initiative was the *Héritage Ontario: mise en valeur du tourisme patrimonial* piloted by the Regroupement des organismes du patrimoine franco-ontarien. The Scientific Committee coordinated comments from the cultural tourism and cultural landscape specialized committees. Comments were also provided for the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. A working group of some 8 participants was formed rapidly to answer the request for comments. The latter were presented by Guy Masson at the Canadian Commission for UNESCO's meeting.

In September, a preliminary version of a Scientific Committee electronic newsletter was circulated to all members. Titled e-COMoS, the newsletter compiles information from ICOMOS Canada specialized committees, other ICOMOS national committees, and media news clips that address heritage issues in Canada and internationally. Comments and reactions were collected and helped design a beta version that circulated in October and November. The final version should be issued twice a month starting in January 2004.

Budget

Budget this year was set at \$ 1,000. A freeze was put on all spending until the Strategic Plan was approved and until a funding strategy is identified. Although requests for funding were received for members to attend international committee meetings and others to fund guest speakers, it was felt that the budget was insufficient. Until the following conditions are met, it will be difficult to allocate funds for any activity: priorities need to be identified, a call for proposals needs to be made, specialized committees need to develop a vision plan, and a funding strategy needs to be defined.

Specialized committees activities

Archaeological Heritage Management

Organisation of a session at the annual Canadian Archaeological Association on the theme of *Linking Archaeology and the Environment in Archaeological Heritage Management*. Commented on the draft Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Voting member participation at the meeting of the international scientific committee in Madrid and Washington D.C.. Management of the secretariat of the international scientific committee.

Contact: Ellen Lee

Cold Regions Conservation

No activities reported

Contact: Lyne Fontaine

Cultural Landscapes

Commented on the Heritage Ontario initiative.

Contact: Johanne Fortier

Cultural Tourism

Commented on the Heritage Ontario initiative. The committee co-chairs met informally two times during 2003 and discussed appropriate actions for the committee leadership to reinvigorate interest in the Cultural Tourism special committee. The co-chairs agreed that the forthcoming Scientific Committees strategic plan would be vital to setting direction for the Cultural Tourism committee in the long term. They further agreed to concentrate on development of a Cultural Tourism page on the ICOMOS Canada web site in the near term. Progress in both goal areas has been frustrated by the failure of the 2003 annual meeting to take place.

Contacts: Michael Kelly and Claude Moulin

Heritage Legislation

Participated in an international survey of legislation, conducted by ICOMOS France, entitled *Heritage and Decentralization*.

Contact: Marc Denhez

Historic Area Management

The voting member is one of the three vice-presidents of the international committee. He participated in the ICOMOS general assembly in Madrid, as well as in the CIVVIH Board meeting in Eger, Hungary. He gave a talk at this latter meeting on "Innovation dans les villes historiques: insertions, additions, nouvelles constructions ». The conference's and the Board meeting's minutes are available on the CIVVIH website at the following address <http://civvih.icomos.org/>

The member also participate in the design and creation of the CIVVIH web site and of the CIVVIH Canada website. <http://civvih.icomos.org/canada/>

Contact: Michel Bonnette

Historic Sites and Gardens

1. Support of Dr. David Jacques lecture tour (Ottawa, February 2003)

Title: "The origins of the landscape garden and its (inexorable) spread from Europe to North America"

The committee provided administrative support and garnered financial support from ICOMOS for Dr. David Jacques lecture tour. This well-known U.K. author and landscape conservation expert -also involved with at the international level of ICOMOS- provided insight into the importation of the English landscape garden from the United Kingdom to the continent and across the ocean to North America.

2. Intangible Heritage contribution (on-going)

The committee continued to be involved with this initiative, particularly Susan Preston (U. Waterloo; cultural landscapes committee) and James A. M. Ritchie (Moncur Gallery, Boissevain, Manitoba).

3. Recent initiatives in the realm of Modern Landscapes (on-going)

As conservation professionals we are more and more concerned with the potential loss of our recent past landscape works. A challenge to the landscape conservation community in identifying and protecting these "Invisible Landscapes" will result in a symposium (spring 2004) in the National Capital Area with the Garden of the Provinces (early 1960s) as the case study.

Contact: John Zvonar and Achim Jankowski

Interiors

No activities reported.

Contact: Deborah Hossack

Period Engineering

No activities reported.

Contact: Lyne Fontaine

Recording and Documentation

No activities reported.

Contact: Steve Nickerson

Religious Heritage

No activities reported.

Contact: vacant

Stone

No activities reported.

Contact: Tamara Anson Cartwright

Training and Education

The ICOMOS Canada Specialized Committee on Training and Education (T&EC) participated at the:

1. One-day workshop on “Training” in Conservation. The summary of the discussions has been transmitted by the Chair Carlos Pernaut in Spanish and is available on the ICOMOS International web site; the English and French translations of the document, done by the T&EC, are being reviewed and will be posted on the ICOMOS Canada web site
2. ICOMOS International Training Committee (CIF) as voting member from Canada. No CIF Business Meeting was held since Madrid due to the death of the President Professor Mihaly Zador, now being replaced by Carlo Cesari
3. National task group directed by the Heritage Canada Foundation; this Forum mandate focuses on the setting and the coordination of a strategic direction for ensuring greater consistency and coherence in heritage conservation training and education across Canada

T&EC was represented at the:

1. « ICOMOS XIII General Assembly - MADRID, 2002 » 105 Countries were represented²
2. Heritage Canada Foundation Conference – Winnipeg, 2003

Contact: Lyse Blanchet

Vernacular Architecture

Two members, Maria-Inès Subercaseaux and Marc de Caraffe, participated to the annual meeting of the international scientific committee that was held in Amersfoort, Netherlands. The theme was rural architecture and the protection of farms. Marc de Caraffe gave a presentation on barns in Canada. A report of this international congress is available on the ICOMOS Canada web site.

Contact: Marc de Caraffe

Wood

No activities reported.

Contact : Ian McGillivray

Direction for 2004

The main objective of 2004 will be to follow up on the approved Strategic Plan’s recommendations with an emphasis on communication and developing the scientific advisory role. Efforts will be made to identify the areas of expertise that need to be developed to fulfill the committee’s mandate, and identify the experts in Canada that can lead these areas of the mandate.

The e-COMoS newsletter will be a favoured vehicle to encourage exchange between members. Much effort will be put to ensure quality and to issue it at the expected rate of twice a month.

The chair of the Scientific Committee will ask the executive committee to support the recommendations made in the Strategic Plan and take appropriate action to implement them.