



# GANANOQUE TOWN HALL ADDITION



# HERITAGE CONSERVATION

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The following guidelines and principles provide a framework for appropriate architectural conservation, developed by the Gananoque Heritage Trust and acts as a touchstone that +VG uses to evaluate our projects. Our intent is to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of this region. The main objective for this project is to improve the long-term viability of the building as the Town Hall, while restoring portions of the house that have fallen into disrepair.

- 1. Respect for documentary evidence**
  - Do not base restoration on conjecture.
  - Conservation work should be based on historic documentation, such as historic photographs, drawings and physical evidence.
- 2. Respect for the original location**
  - Do not move buildings unless there is no other means to save them. Sites are integral components of a building. Any change in site diminishes heritage value considerably.
- 3. Respect for historic material**
  - Repair or conserve rather than replace building materials and finishes, except where absolutely necessary. Minimal intervention maintains the historical content of the resource.
- 4. Respect for original fabric**
  - Repair with like materials, to return the resource to its prior condition without altering its integrity.
- 5. Respect for the buildings history**
  - Do not restore to one period at the expense of another. Do not destroy later additions to a house solely to create it to a single time period.
- 6. Reversibility**
  - Alterations should be able to be returned to original conditions. This conserves earlier building design and technique. For instance, when a new door opening is put in a stone wall, the original stones are numbered, removed and stored, allowing for future restoration.
- 7. Legibility**
  - New work should be distinguishable from old. Buildings should be recognized as products of their own time, and new additions should not blur the distinction between old and new.
- 8. Maintenance**
  - With continuous care, future restoration will not be necessary. With regular upkeep, major conservation projects and their high costs can be avoided.



# Gananoque Town Hall Expansion - Heritage Committee Notes.

## **Guiding Principles for the Conservation of Historic Properties**

The development of the Town Hall Addition Project was founded on these guiding principles. The most important aspects are listed below and the relative relationship to Gananoque Town Hall.

- **Conserve Heritage Value**

Conservation work was based on the original historical documents. Work has been undertaken to remove non-character defining elements from the building to return the original structure.

- **Respect for Original Location**

The site that surrounds the original Town Hall building is almost as important as the building itself. The addition was sited in order to maintain the view of the original McDonald house from King St as it sits in its original location

An arborist was retained in order to evaluate all of the existing trees on the property and has made a recommendation to remove trees that are at the end of their life span. Any trees that are affected by the town hall addition are non-native species and have been earmarked for removal by a third party arborist.

- **Respect for Historic Material**

Where the original building is being altered, repairs will be made with similar materials as to maintain the integrity of the original building.

- **Reversibility**

By creating an addition that is not structurally integral to the existing McDonald house we were able to have as little impact as possible on the existing building. The new addition could be removed

- **Legibility**

The design of the new town hall building is intended to be similar in scale and stature to the existing building. A 'gasket' or recessed space was provided and a glass atrium space acts as a separation of the two structures. The new building is also intended to be clad in a different material from the existing building in order to not affect the legibility of the original house.

The addition should be recognizable as a building from this time and not confuse visitors.

- The connections of some of these additions also include a “gasket” detail that relieves the pressure on the connection between the two buildings through a glazed “link”, creating a juxtaposition between new and old.
- Our overall approach in Gananoque was to create an addition that was similar to the original building in scale, size and material, using a cementitious panel as an alternative cladding to brick, that was in keeping with the grammar of the existing building without mimicking it.
- The suggestion of using stone on the entire building was a concern only because it may overpower the original building. But of course we want to work with the committee and the town. The suggestion of the orange/red fibre cement panels in lieu of grey is something that is being considered, and possibly using a larger Colby stone (a larger brick/block) might also work.
- Ultimately, we are all working towards the same goal of improving the Town Hall. The approach we are taking is one that has been reviewed and discussed during previous open houses. But we would like to continue to work with you to achieve the desired end project – an addition to the Town Hall!