



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 29, 2018**

**2018 George Muirhead Heritage Awards to be Presented Tomorrow Night**

Downtown Kingston Spring General Meeting

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Residence Inn by Marriott, 7 Earl Street

At the Downtown Kingston! Board of Directors annual Spring General Meeting, the George Muirhead Heritage Awards will be presented. These awards, formerly known as the Heritage Week Awards, honour the best historically sensitive renovations and developments of properties in the downtown core. New this year is the addition of the Founders' Award, honouring an individual whose vision and foresight have been instrumental in creating the vibrant city fabric we see today.

Awards will be presented to the following:

**Founders' Award:**

Mr. George Muirhead (posthumously)

Mr. Muirhead became Kingston's first professional city planner in 1955. After taking the job as Director of Planning in Etobicoke in 1963, he returned to Kingston in 1970 as Director of Planning & Urban Renewal, a job held until he retired in the 1980's. Much of what you see in the buildings and streetscape of downtown Kingston today can be credited to him. He played an integral role in the preservation of City Hall, the development of Confederation Basin and the revitalization of Kingston's downtown. Mr. Muirhead passed away in January of 2018 in his 102<sup>nd</sup> year. Members of his family will be present to receive the award.

**George Muirhead Heritage Award Winning Projects:**

101 – 109 Princess St. (Scotiabank)

Property Owner: The Springer Group of Companies  
Business Owner: Scotiabank  
Architect: Shoaltz & Zaback  
Contractor: Buttcon East Limited

171 Wellington St. (The Kensington)

Property Owner & Contractor: Braebury Homes  
Business Owner: The Jungle  
Architect: Shoaltz & Zaback

155 - 159 Princess St. (Kawartha Credit Union)

Property/Business Owner    The Springer Group of Companies  
Business Owner:            Kawartha Credit Union  
Architect:                    Shoaltz & Zaback  
Contractor:                  Collinson Custom Building & Carpentry

82 Sydenham St. (The Spire)

Building Owners:            The Spire  
Architect:                    Bruce Downey  
Contractor:                  The Anglin Group

35 Rideau St. (Rideau St. Lofts)

Property Owner & Contractor: RHA Holdings Ltd.  
Architect:                    Shoaltz & Zaback

105 Clergy St. East (Clergy St. Apartments)

Property Owner & Contractor: RHA Holdings Ltd.  
Architect:                    Shoaltz and Zaback

Downtown Kingston! BIA is an association comprised of, and funded by 700+ downtown businesses. The association is dedicated to the maintenance and promotion of a vibrant and healthy downtown.

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*For more information, please contact:*

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Attached: Project Details

## **Project Details**

### **101 – 109 Princess St. (Scotiabank)**

- This project is a newly constructed building whose Princess St. façade looks like it has been in place for years – a compliment to all involved
- 21,000 square feet of office space were created over 2 floors, with 27 underground parking spaces accessed off the Wellington St. side
- The project has created a balance between the heritage character of the area and the requirements of a contemporary retail banking function
- It fits within the overall scale of Princess St. and blends in with the form, massing, window proportions and locations, and stone texture of other buildings in the streetscape
- The roofline also incorporates traditional elements, including parapets and low sloped gable roofs

### **171 Wellington St. (The Kensington)**

- The reaction from most people when the scaffolding came down around this building last year was a collective “WOW!”
- This project, incorporates and transforms 3 separate properties into 26 residential units, with commercial on the main floor
- The buildings, which have elements dating back to 1834 and the 1870’s, were completely redone – walls were removed and reconstructed, windows and doors were replaced, brickwork was repointed and repaired, new cornices, corbels and brackets were installed at the mansard rooflines, new storeys were added at various sections, and the historic tower, which once occupied the upper corner of the building, was re-established
- All the principal features, characteristics, context and appearance of the heritage property were maintained, and a clear distinction between the historic base and the new addition was seamlessly created
- The project has added new life to the corner of Brock and Wellington

### **155 - 159 Princess St. (Kawartha Credit Union)**

- This property, a 3 storey mixed use brick building, was originally constructed circa 1860
- It was officially designated in 1981, with the designation citing “The parapet, cornice, string courses and renovated ground floor emphasize the horizontal lines of this large brick corner building, a fine example of the 1860’s commercial block”
- The reconstruction transformed the former Dover’s Menswear to the new home of Kawartha Credit Union and the Springer Group of Companies
- Work was extensive, and included recladding of the ground floor façade, new signage, exterior gooseneck lighting, repointing, replacing of the windows, new doors, an addition of a second storey at the rear of the building and a total renovation to the interior of the space

### **82 Sydenham St. (The Spire)**

- Designed by William Coverdale, construction of what would become the Sydenham St. United Church was started in 1851, with the tower and spire added in 1854
- This building is being honoured for its adaptive reuse - its’ transformation into a bustling, vital community hub with activities in the arts, social justice and spirituality
- “Friends of the Spire”, a committed group of Kingstonians have spearheaded this transformation – one of the major components in their plan was to make the building fully accessible

- Last year a new elevator and accessible washrooms were installed, and this year a new accessible ramp and barrier free doors are being installed on the William Street side
- Over the past 20 years, congregation members have invested over \$2million dollars into the building to maintain and upgrade its roofs, masonry and other renovations – this is over and above the \$700,000 raised recently for the accessibility project – and, there is more work to come with a plan to raise a further \$1million in an endowment fund to support the long-term preservation and enhancement of the building.

### **35 Rideau St. (Rideau St. Lofts)**

- This former mixed use building at the corner of Rideau and Ordnance streets has housed a number of restaurants, a bait shop, and offices over the years
- The renovations transformed the 3 storey building into 10 residential units – 7 existing and 3 new
- Construction made the building more visually compatible with the surrounding area – the brick cladding was replaced with limestone veneer on the Rideau St. side, resulting in a façade more fitting with the St. Lawrence Ward Heritage Area
- Canopy detailing was added over each entrance helping to enhance the compatibility with the existing streetscape
- Inside, the old meets the new in each of the open concept apartments - large bright windows equipped with Solar Shades, rustic flooring, and exposed limestone and reclaimed brick are just a few of the many amenities in each unit

### **105 Clergy St. East (Clergy St. Apartments)**

- The former Ben's Pub at 105 Clergy St. East is a 3 ½ storey building, originally constructed in 1886, that has been converted from a mixed use property to one with 6 new residential units
- In converting the building back to its original use as a residential dwelling, the project incorporated the use of lighter material colours and a symmetrical arrangement of glazing and exterior elements, which resembles more closely the paired arrangement of entrance doors found in the design of the original duplex
- A common amenity space was added in the form of a rooftop deck, where the glazing of the stair enclosure and railing reduces the visual impact from the street
- Inside the building, each apartment has intricate attention to detail – with exposed limestone, brick, and wood elements coupled with all the modern conveniences
- And, each unit has a homage to the building's most recent use, with a Ben's Pub logo adorning a wall in each of the apartments