

Province House Conservation Update

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25-4-17
EA

April 25, 2017

- The Government of Canada recognizes the national significance of Province House National Historic Site (NHS) as the location of the Charlottetown Conference of 1864 and is investing approximately \$41 Million in a program to conserve this historic structure.
- Parks Canada Project team has completed a thorough investigation of the building, giving us a full understanding of how the building was constructed, and the current condition of the various elements of the structure. Concept designs have been completed, and options and solutions have been developed in greater detail by our consultant.
- The initial investigations conducted in 2015 found that Province House was in need of significant and extensive repairs to preserve the structure and allow for its continued use.
- Parks Canada is committed to protecting the character-defining historic elements of Province House and is therefore approaching the conservation project with exceptional caution in the interest of the building

Phase One

- The first phase of construction has been tendered and awarded March 21, 2017 to Quinan Construction from Ontario. Quinan will be engaging several local subcontractors in their work.
- Quinan construction is expected on site as early as April 24, 2017 to begin to set up of temporary fencing and a job trailer. The work of this contractor is expected to end by December 2017.
- Parks Canada has advised they will be installing video cameras the first of June 2017 to capture and broadcast images of the progress of this phase of work.
- During this phase of the project, finishes from interior walls of the building, and the walls extending five feet inside of each room will be removed. This will give access to

the exterior sandstone walls. The mechanical and electrical systems, as well as all exterior doors and windows, will also be removed. The foundation will be dug out, foundations under the porticos will be replaced, and a steel scaffold will be erected around the entire structure. This will provide a platform for the work scheduled for phase two.

- Some trees close to Province House may be affected by the construction. If this happens, an arborist will be consulted and as many trees as possible will be saved.

Phase Two

- The second phase of the work is being designed at this time and is expected to be tendered in November of 2017 with an award and construction start in January 2018 and is expected to continue through to 2020
- During phase two, the entire exterior of the building will be cleaned to better highlight any damaged stones. Beginning at the roof level and extending downward to the foundation, the exterior stones will be removed from the structure one at a time and carefully catalogued and stored. The interior wythe walls will also be removed at the same time. (Wythe is a continuous vertical section of masonry). The current stone foundation of the building will be replaced with concrete, beginning one foot below ground level, so as not to be visible from the exterior.
- As repairs to the structure continue, the exterior stones will be reset and the entire structure rebuilt from the ground up. Any damaged stones will be replaced with sandstone taken from a quarry in Wallace, Nova Scotia, near the site of the original quarry used for the construction of Province House in 1843. The original interior stone wythe in the north and south walls will be replaced with brick, as is currently used in the east and west walls. Roof repairs will be undertaken as well as the interior of the building, along with the mechanical and electric systems, will be replaced.
- The Province has requested that the Island stone being replaced by brick be turned over to the Province. The Province will receive this stone and store at the new Queens County Highway depot yard in Brackley.
- Parks has asked to retain a small quantity of this stone for their use. The Province is now considering options for using the remaining stone in ways that reflect its historic value.

Phase Three (to be incorporated during Phase 2 work)

- Parks indicates that the Province can add some features to the building during the restoration to improve the operations of the Legislative Assembly. These features will be at the Province's cost. The Province believes that including these items during the restoration work will create some economy of savings.
- Some of the enhancement items include improved access control for security at the south entrance, improved site lighting, and impact resistant film on exterior windows. Ventilation and cooling will be improved where it can be incorporated into the heritage fabric of the building.

Timing

- Parks Canada is optimistic that all the restoration work will be completed before the end of 2020.

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