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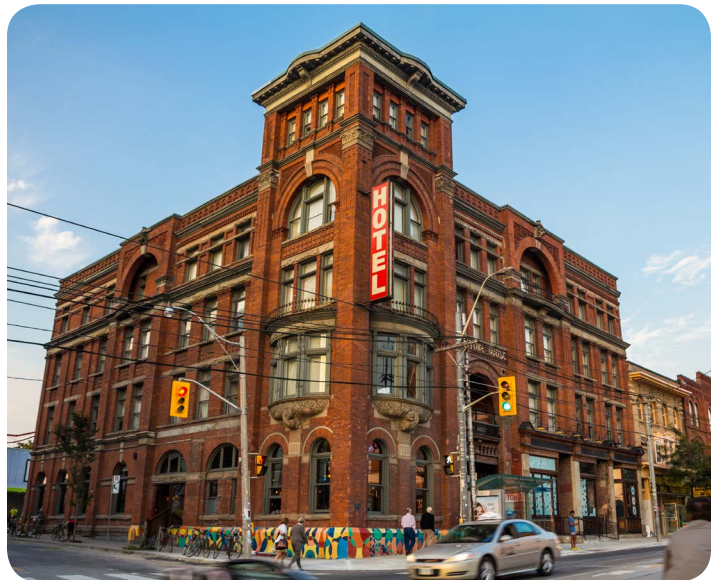
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# Planning To Preserve Neighbourhood Character In Ontario

Anyone who has spent time in small town Ontario knows the distinctive character, charm and small town feel that the historic main streets deliver. The iconic nature of small town Ontario's streetscapes provides a sense of familiarity for onlookers who knows how unique the province is. This history and uniquely familiar feeling created by these small towns is held together by a built environment consisting of building materials which were produced locally and in a sense, helps to narrate the distinct history of main street Ontario. The masonry industry has always played an important role in building historically iconic corridors, neighbourhoods, institutional buildings and entire communities and is the common thread across many of Ontario's main streets. Iconic streets such as Queen West and Bloor West maintains a built form character which provides a glimpse into the past. However, this character becomes more prevalent as you move away from larger urban centres and into small town Ontario. This is proof that not only is heritage preservation important for maintaining the character of towns across Ontario, it is something that the municipal government has deemed as important and has worked hard to protect. As the demand for housing across Ontario continues to grow it is important that municipalities continue their work in maintaining the heritage from the past while ensuring new builds are built with an eye toward building tomorrow's heritage neighbourhoods today.

“The masonry industry has always played an important role in building historically iconic corridors, neighbourhoods, institutional buildings and entire communities”



The Gladstone Hotel, built in 1889, the oldest continuously operating hotel in Toronto, Canada. Located on Queen Street West in the Parkdale neighborhood.



An important aspect of maintaining heritage is ensuring that new development blends with the built environment of the past. Municipalities understand that an important aspect of maintaining a unique character is preserving and blending heritage. The Planning Act offers municipalities important policy tools in relation to the design of the built environment. These policies are important as they provide decision makers at the local level adequate tools to exert influence over development in their municipality, allowing them to maintain desired character consistent with the heritage and history of that municipality. This is especially important for areas which are historically sensitive. In 2015, Niagara on the Lake adopted an Official Plan which stated that new developments should respect the town's historic character and called for the usage of brick and stone as the dominant design material. Preserving historic significance is something which municipalities understand and are decisions that can truly only be made at the local level.



The historic Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara On The Lake, Ontario, Canada.

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Beyond the historical and cultural implications of preserving and working to blend heritage in Ontario's communities there are other practical applications in which municipalities can utilize planning legislation. Climate change stands to impact every community across the province. As more extreme weather patterns develop it is critical that municipal leaders and decision makers retain the ability to plan safe, healthy and resilient communities. Afterall, the consequences of extreme weather events affect the communities in which they occur and therefore mitigation policy is an important tool for municipalities in managing the risk posed by the building stock in that community which is particularly true for housing stock in a municipality.

Municipalities that looks forward understand the potential impacts of climate change not only on public infrastructure assets but also on the great community building stock. The ability to address durability and resilience concerns is granted to municipal planners through the planning act. The ability to control exterior design and materiality is an important tool in building complete communities which not only persevere heritage but ensure that safe and durable communities are built for future generations.

# MasonryWorx

## Bocce

## On Ice

## 2019

A resounding success.....

The association's first annual "Bocce on Ice" Bonspiel held on March 22nd of this year was a resounding success. Team Bradstone snagged 2019's coveted title as they were crowned champions with an overwhelming participation and support from members and stakeholders. Below are highlights of the event.



## MasonryWorx is now proudly hosting the Paul De Rose Memorial Golf Tournament



We are excited to announce that MasonryWorx will now be hosting the Paul De Rose Memorial Golf Tournament. This commitment ties in perfectly with the association's goal to create closer ties and engage with the Masonry Industry in Ontario. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Masonry Contractors' Association of Toronto for the great work they have done over the past fifteen years. ***Please save the date for this year's tournament on July 31, 2019.***