



Adapting Canada's Built Legacy 2026 Webinar Series

Part 2 (2026): June 17, 2026

Historic Masonry Conservation from the Contractor's Lens

Session Abstracts

Session 1: Restoring Remnants: The Wharf Street Retaining Wall Project

Gavin Chamberlain

Situated along the Inner Harbour, the Wharf Street retaining wall stands as a significant remnant of the historic Hudson's Bay Company's warehouse and a prominent piece of Victoria's waterfront history. Heritage Masonry & Conservation was commissioned by the City of Victoria to do a comprehensive replacement and repoint, addressing advanced stone delamination, brick deterioration and mortar failure. The aim was to preserve the wall with minimal intervention and considered heritage accuracy. This presentation highlights how craftsmanship, historical understanding, and thoughtful project management come together to revitalize an important piece of Victoria's built heritage.



Session 2: Conservation of Historic Canadian Dry Stone Walls

John Scott

Dry stone walls are recognized by UNESCO as holding global heritage significance. But these walls seem more at home in the sprawling rural landscapes of Yorkshire, the steep olive terraces of the Mediterranean, or the mysterious Incan hillsides of ancient Peru. So why are dry stone walls also found on Canadian heritage sites? This presentation discusses the anatomy of traditional dry stone wall construction and investigates the variations that were constructed throughout Canada. Who built these walls and where were they from? What significant events occurred across the Atlantic that led to a dry stone legacy here?

These topics will be addressed through two recent case studies of dry stone conservation: an 1860's farm wall relocation in Kingston, Ontario; and the restoration of a c1750 wall at Little Dutch Church National Historic Site in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

