

CANADIAN
CONSERVATION
INSTITUTE



INSTITUT
CANADIEN DE
CONSERVATION



ANNUAL REVIEW

2007
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2008



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Canada 

ANNUAL REVIEW OBJECTIVE

This Annual Review presents the results achieved by the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) in 2007–2008 to the Department of Canadian Heritage, CCI clients and partners in Canada and around the world, and the Canadian public.



Director General's Message



2007–2008 was quite a year, full of challenges and accomplishments. Without doubt, the highlight of the year took place in September when CCI hosted an international symposium — *Preserving Aboriginal Heritage: Technical and Traditional Approaches*. Four years in the planning, this five-day event brought together conservators and Aboriginal people to share their perspectives on preserving Aboriginal objects and to discuss ways of working together.

We also re-established our conservation internship program, and if the six interns are anything to go by, the next generation of conservators will be a dynamic and committed group.

2007–2008 saw the retirements of several scientific and conservation staff as well as administrative and support staff. Of note, among those who worked directly with our clients were Raymond Lafontaine, Director of the Information Services and Marketing Directorate; Bob Arnold, Senior Conservator in the Fine Arts, Paper, and Textiles Division; and Bob Barclay, Senior Conservator in the Objects, Industrial Collections, Archaeology, and Furniture Division.

On the international stage, Charlie Costain completed his term on the Council of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), having led the development of governance policies and procedures for the organization. I was elected to a four-year term on the Council, thus continuing CCI's participation in this key forum for training and information on conservation.

And finally, the seemingly never-ending renovation of our main facility was completed. By March 31, 2008 (our fiscal year end), the laboratories were for the most part functional, the walls had a fresh coat of paint, and we collectively breathed a sigh of relief. In recognition for their service, beyond the call of duty, the CCI "renovation team" was presented with the 2007 Department of Canadian Heritage Deputy Minister's Service Award.

We continue to be grateful to Parks Canada, Library and Archives Canada, and other clients and partners for helping us through this challenging time and providing laboratory space to our conservators and scientists.

Looking ahead to 2008–2009 with renewed vigour, we will tackle new research projects, undertake conservation treatments in all of our laboratories, and strengthen our capacity to advise museums on environmental, security, and fire suppression systems. Building on the launch of CCI Notes online last year, we will be introducing several new information products on our Web site. The *Proceedings* of the symposium on Aboriginal heritage will be published, along with a report on lessons learned.

The next year will also see new management in place for both the information services and corporate services directorates, as well as several new conservation and scientific staff. It will be a year of challenges, changes, and opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne E. Inch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne E. Inch
Director General and Chief Operating Officer CCI

CCI's Mission



Through its expertise in conservation science, treatment, and preventive conservation, CCI supports the heritage community in conserving Canada's heritage collections so they may be accessible to present and future generations.

To achieve its mission, CCI organizes its operations under three business lines:

- **research and development in conservation**, including interdisciplinary research, advanced techniques for treatment and restoration, and practical and innovative solutions for caring for collections
- **equitable provision of expert services** to all Canadian clients, including scientific analysis, treatment, and advisory services that meet their needs and complement the services available from the private sector
- **dissemination of conservation knowledge**, through training, professional development, conferences, and publications, to assist professionals and volunteers from the heritage community in making informed decisions about conservation



To support these three business lines, an array of internal corporate products and services, such as informatics and administration services, management systems, etc., are available to CCI staff.



In their daily work, CCI conservators and conservation scientists:

- seek to understand the material structure of contemporary and historic cultural objects by researching and developing new methods and scientific tools
- treat contemporary and historic cultural objects by designing and applying techniques developed through scientific evaluations and treatments
- contribute to conserving contemporary and historic cultural object collections by developing and disseminating:
 - collection management strategies
 - emergency standards and plans
 - advice on presentation, storage, and transportation
 - conservation knowledge

Results Achieved in 2007-2008

2007-2008 was marked by the opening of all of CCI's renovated labs. Our conservation and restoration staff are now operating in facilities that comply with all occupational health and safety standards.

CCI service evaluation mechanisms indicate a general client satisfaction rating of 95% for 2007-2008. Noteworthy among the evaluation criteria is a 100% satisfaction rating for the quality of services and the courteousness of staff.

One of the highlights of the year was Symposium 2007, the primary goal of which was to generate an opportunity for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and conservation specialists to learn from one another in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Aboriginals accounted for 38% of participants and 50% of speakers. The various approaches for preserving Aboriginal heritage were at the heart of the discussions by the 385 participants and included traditional, technical, and ethical approaches for tangible and intangible Aboriginal culture.

Performance in 2007-2008

Research and development projects:

43 current projects carried out.

Expert services: More than 180 services provided, and approximately 1500 direct responses to clients regarding phone or e-mail requests for conservation advice and information.

Training services:

611 participants attended various CCI training and workshop sessions offered internationally (5%) and nationally (95%), with 97% reporting that they were satisfied with the training.

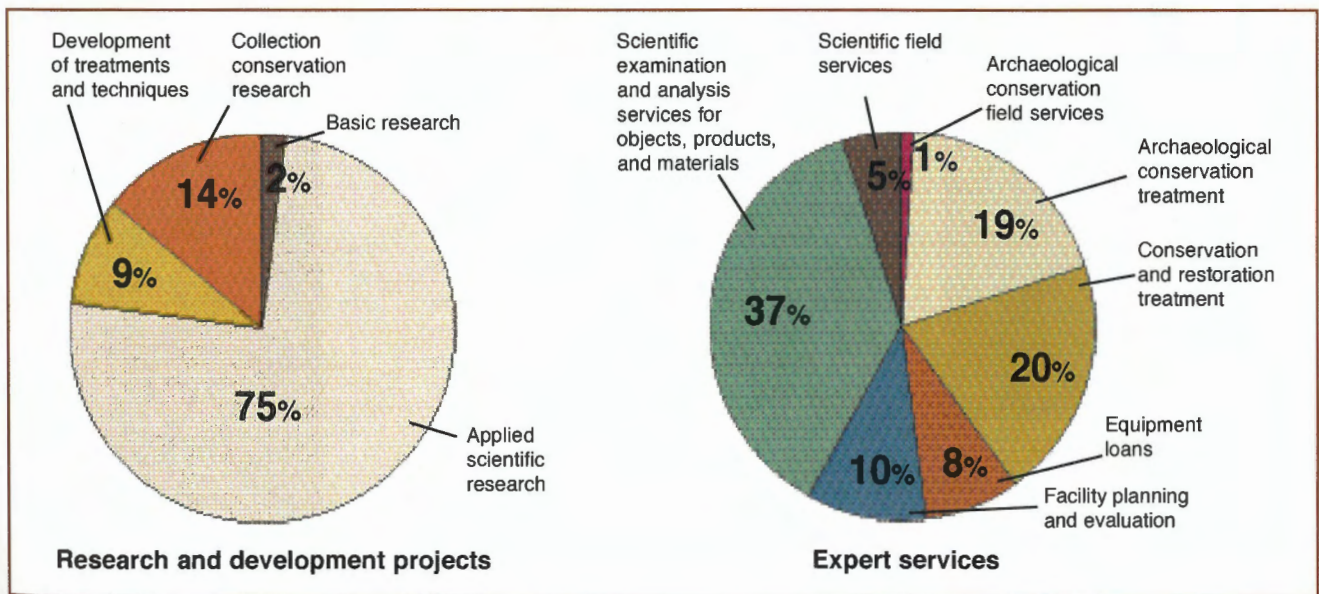
Publications: More than 4928 publications sold in Canada (25%) and abroad (75%). The publications with the highest sales are shown above.

Library: 673 products delivered (staff loaned 282 books, distributed 127 photocopied articles, welcomed 126 visitors, and answered approximately 138 reference requests).

Exhibit Transportation Services: 162 exhibits transported without damage, making them accessible to the Canadian public in 127 heritage institutions in 10 provinces, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.



Web sites	CCI main site	Preserving my Heritage
Number of visitors	940 334	289 465
Number of hits	12 981 827	6 669 100
Documents viewed	2 533 573	528 601



Conservation Activities and Projects



Research and Development

Canadian Artists' Materials

Research on the materials of late-19th-century painter Cornelius Krieghoff, undertaken in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario, was completed; the results were presented in a lecture and subsequently published in the *Journal of the Canadian Association for Conservation (JCAC)*. A technical study of the materials and methods used by David B. Milne (1882–1953) in his oil paintings was also published in the *JCAC*. The completion of a detailed study of the paintings of Jean-Paul Riopelle (1923–2002) was marked by the dissemination of reports to the participating institutions. A project to study the technique and materials of Quebec painter Marc-Aurèle Fortin (1888–1970) was initiated.

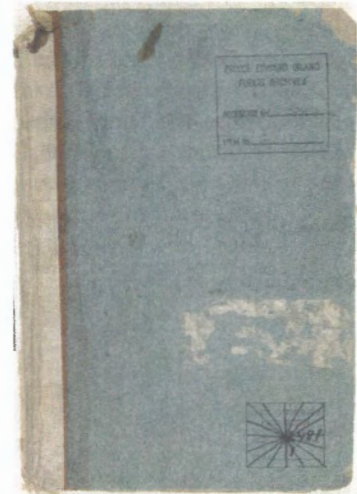
Iron Oxide Pigments

A research project on the history and characteristics of the iron oxide pigments was completed with the publication of a chapter in the fourth volume of *Artists' Pigments: A Handbook of Their History and Characteristics*. This book, published by the National Gallery in Washington, is an encyclopaedic reference for curators, conservators, scientists, art historians, and artists.

Expert Services

Thomas Wright Field Book

Likely the oldest document in the collection of the Public Archives and Records Office of Prince Edward Island, the Thomas Wright Field Book dates from June 7 to July 10, 1765. As deputy to Captain Samuel Holland (1728–1801), the Surveyor General of the Northern District of British North America, Thomas Wright (ca. 1740–1812) contributed the contents of this field book, and presumably many others, to the creation of the first highly accurate British maps of Prince Edward Island and much of the eastern coast of North America. The previous fragility of the field book prohibited public access to it. Thanks to the successful conservation treatment of the book by CCI book and paper conservators, the field book will be available for future exhibition and its contents will be available to patrons of the Archives.



Salzennes Antiphonal Project

The Salzennes Antiphonal is a book of music created in 1554–1555 by the now destroyed Cistercian Abbey of Salzennes, in present-day Belgium. The Antiphonal was brought to Halifax in the 1840s by the city's first Roman Catholic bishop William Walsh; it is now part of the rare book collection of the Patrick Power Library, St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. As part of its conservation assessment at CCI, each of the pages of the Salzennes Antiphonal was documented digitally. This was the largest digital photographic project that CCI has undertaken; 619 images (a total of 133 gigabytes of data) were archived. A detailed chemical analysis of the materials used to create the Antiphonal (paints, inks, and other materials) was also undertaken.



Painted and Gilded Leather Screen

In cooperation with Parks Canada Agency, CCI prepared conservation options for a unique painted and “gilded” leather screen acquired by William Lyon Mackenzie King during his tenure as Prime Minister of Canada. The screen is in the collection of Laurier House National Historic Site in Ottawa. It is likely a late-19th- or early-20th-century copy of traditional gilded and painted leather screens produced in Spain, France, and England during the second half of the 19th century. Because of its significance and its degraded

condition, analysis of the causes of the deterioration was undertaken by CCI. In addition to the challenges of conserving the decorative finishes on both sides of this freestanding artifact, the research associated with its treatment expanded the conservation community's understanding of the effect of adhesives on deteriorated leather.

Analysis and Scientific Examination

Many museum objects were analysed and more than 60 reports were produced for CCI clients. Objects examined included several paintings from the National Gallery of Canada (by Alfred Pellán, Vincent van Gogh, and Paolo Veronese among others) and paintings being treated at the Centre de conservation du Québec (works by Claude Vignon, William Berczy, Joseph Légaré, and Théophile Hamel). Analyses were undertaken for many other clients across Canada including: PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation (Prince Edward Island); Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (Haines Junction, YK); McCord Museum (Montreal, QC); Musée de Lachine (Montreal, QC); Musée de la civilisation (Quebec City, QC); Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto, ON); The Assembly of First Nations (Toronto, ON); Canadian Museum of Nature (Ottawa, ON); Canada Museum of Science and Technology (Ottawa, ON); Burnaby Village Museum (Burnaby, BC).



The different voices we heard, the respectful environment and the wisdom and knowledge imparted that gave me so much pause for thought.

Authentic and meaningful Aboriginal participation.

Equal sharing of information.

I will think about objects in a different way... Important to be mindful of intangible elements and community consultation.

(I will) work to partner with descendant communities as part of the exhibition planning process...

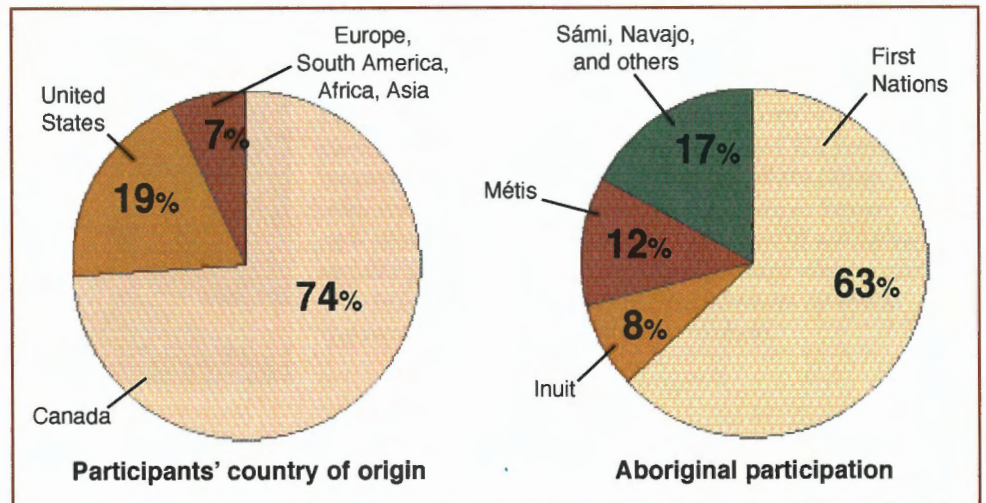
This symposium provided me with the impetus and encouragement I need to take a few big steps away from the clinical scientific approach with which I have been trained to approach my work.

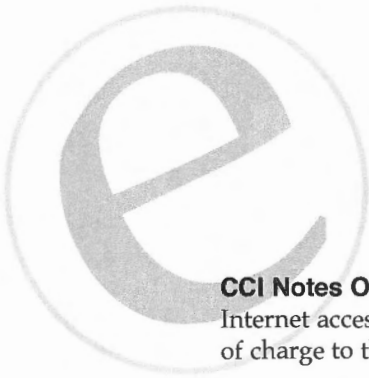


Dissemination of Knowledge

Symposium 2007 - Preserving Aboriginal Heritage: Technical and Traditional Approaches

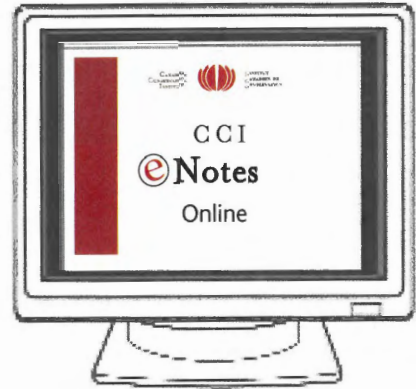
Ninety-five percent of the 385 participants at Symposium 2007 confirmed that the information and strategies on preserving Aboriginal heritage that were disseminated during the event met their expectations. Ten workshops were offered during the symposium, attracting more than 226 participants.





CCI Notes Online

Internet access to 105 CCI Notes, offered free of charge to the Canadian heritage community, was a clear success: 14 324 visitors consulted CCI Notes, specific to the care of collections, online (<http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/crc/notes/index-eng.aspx>).



Pesticide-contaminated Collections

New information related to handling and caring for collections contaminated by pesticides was disseminated through a lecture and two workshops at Symposium 2007- *Preserving Aboriginal Heritage: Technical and Traditional Approaches*. Ongoing research was also presented at an international seminar in Germany entitled *Cultural Heritage Between Conservation and Contamination — The Issue of Biocidal Products in Museum Collections and Monuments*.

Training

International workshops: A workshop on conserving metals was offered at the Heritage Conservation Centre in Singapore to 11 participants from the Americas, Europe, Australia, and Asia. The fourth CCI-ICCROM course on *Assessing Risks to Collections* was held in Sibiu, Romania. It was organized in collaboration with the Romanian Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, the National Museum Complex Training Center of Conservators and Restorers, the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the National Museum of Belgrade Department for Preventive Conservation. The 22 course participants came from Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and South America.

National workshops: Three hundred and ninety-five participants from nine provinces and three territories participated in 26 workshops offered by CCI. French-language workshops were offered in collaboration with the Centre de conservation du Québec. Seven new workshops were added to the series of workshops regularly offered to the Canadian heritage community. One hundred and twenty-five participants attended the new *Exhibit Transportation* workshop.





External Publications and Conferences

At the invitation of national and international institutions and organizations, CCI staff presented at 28 conferences, enabling CCI to disseminate and share its research and advances in conservation.

Technical Bulletin 28 *Guidelines for pH Measurement in Conservation* by Season Tse was published.

Nine staff members wrote or co-wrote 11 specialized articles that were published by scientific journals or magazines (CCI staff members in **bold**).

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Grattan, D., and J. Moses. "Intangible Heritage: Museum and Preservation." pp. 42–53 in *Preservation Management for Libraries, Archives and Museums*. London, UK: Facet Publishing, 2006.

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Selwyn, L. "Corrosion of Metal Artifacts Displayed in Outdoor Environments." *ASM International 13C* (2006), pp. 289–305.

Selwyn, L. "Corrosion of Metal Artifacts in Buried Environments." *ASM International 13C* (2006), pp. 306–322.

Sirois, P.J., C. Stewart, K. Helwig, E. Moffatt, and K. Legate. "A Technical Study of the Materials and Methods Used by David B. Milne in his Oil Paintings." *Journal of the Canadian Association for Conservation* 32 (2007), pp. 17–33.

Webb, M., **E. Moffatt, M.-C. Corbeil,** and N. Duxin. "Examination and Analysis of the Chinese Polychrome Sculptures in the Collection of the Royal Ontario Museum." pp. 188–197 in *Scientific Research on the Sculptural Arts of Asia, Proceedings of the Third Forbes Symposium at the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.* (edited by J.G. Douglas, P. Jett, and J. Winter). London, UK: Archetype Publications, 2007.



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Corporate Initiatives Completed in 2007-2008



e-Services: The e-Services portal (<http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/services/index-eng.aspx>) was launched on April 4, 2007 to introduce CCI's comprehensive services framework and provide greater accessibility to CCI services. Since the launch, 753 Canadian clients have enrolled.

CCI e-News: An e-mail broadcast system (*CCI e-News*) was launched on May 18, 2007 to keep clients up-to-date with the latest developments at CCI; 5283 heritage organizations and professionals have registered.

Building: The final phase of renovation work is almost complete. A few common areas still need to be modified to make the CCI building fully accessible to disabled persons.

Property management: To assume its property management responsibilities, CCI developed a management plan for its three properties and implemented procedures to ensure that the work environment is healthy, safe, and functional.

Services: Owing to operational considerations, Exhibit Transportation Services was shut down after more than 30 years of service.

Communication with clients: CCI staff participated (presentations, conferences, workshops, and display booths) in more than 50 provincial, national, and international events assembling specialists and volunteers from the heritage community.

Human resources: CCI appointed three senior scientists and conservators — a senior textile conservator, a senior archaeology conservator, and a senior objects conservator / senior conservation scientist. Six professional interns and a post-doctoral fellow also joined the CCI team.

CCI undertook an organizational assessment of the Business Planning and Administration Directorate (BPA) and the Information Services and Marketing Directorate (ISM). This assessment was stimulated in part by the retirement of the ISM Director (February 2008) and the impending retirement of the BPA Director (2009), as well as the need to meet new challenges in three key areas: Facilities Management/Custodianship, Knowledge/Information Management, and Knowledge Dissemination. The results of the review will be implemented in 2008-2009.



Appreciation Awards



CCI "Renovation Team":

The Deputy Minister of the Department of Canadian Heritage (Judith LaRocque) recognized the CCI "renovation team" with the **2007 Deputy Minister's Service Award** for their exceptional contribution to CCI. (Back row, left to right) Craig Lauber, Jean Bisson, Judith LaRocque, Bob McRae, Richard Bédard, and Jean Boucher; (front row, left to right) Maureen MacDonald, Michael Harrington, Lise Perron-Croteau, and Colette Landry.



CCI Interns:

CCI wishes to thank the young heritage professionals who created the Canadian Association of Emerging Conservators. This initiative provides a forum for the exchange and development of competencies, and will undoubtedly be one more tool for the heritage industry as it searches for successors to the experienced conservation specialists set to retire in the coming years. (Back row, left to right) Amanda Salmon, Amanda Gould, and Carmen Li; (front row, left to right) Marie-Catherine Cyr and Myriam Lavoie.

Financial Statement for 2007-2008

Revenues

Appropriation		8,424,965
Internal transfers for CCI's operation/renovations		348,576
Vote-netted revenue ¹		1,905,000

Total – Operating budget 10,678,541

Earned revenues

Publications and library services	98,697	
Scientific and conservation services	309,986	
Exhibit Transportation Services (ETS) ²	1,392,781	
Total – Earned revenues		1,801,464

Total – Operating budget and earned revenues 12,480,005

Expenditures

Salaries and wages		6,338,212
Operating costs – CCI ³	2,819,425	
Construction – CCI renovations ⁴	578,254	
Operating costs – ETS	758,350	
Total – Operating costs		4,156,029

Total – Expenditures 10,494,241

Refund – Vote-netted revenue 1,905,000

Total expenditures and refund of vote-netted revenue 12,399,241

Balance 80,764

1. Vote-netted revenue is a financial procedure enabling the Government of Canada to provide an amount in relation to anticipated revenues.
2. The financial statement includes an item relating to Exhibit Transportation Services.
3. Operating costs include the following expenditures: transportation and communication (telephone, mail, travel to museums and sites, participation in conferences, business trips for professional associations, travel for training and emergency services), information (printing, publication, advertising), leases, maintenance and repairs, equipment, supplies and materials, professional services (including contract work, consultation and professional advice).
4. Renovation work was funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage and CCI.