

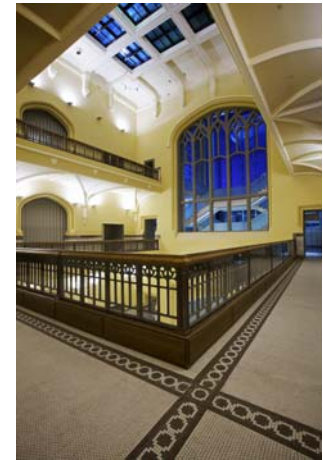


BACKGROUNDER – HERITAGE RESTORATION VICTORIA MEMORIAL MUSEUM BUILDING

At 100 years old, the Victoria Memorial Museum Building is a grand “castle” in downtown Ottawa that merits its status as a national historic site. As part of the renewal of this historic structure, the Museum has restored and preserved key heritage elements that define it as one of Canada’s most significant buildings.

Skilled craftsmen, under the guidance of PKG Joint Venture Architects and PCL Constructors Inc., worked diligently for several years to restore marble, wood, glass, stone and plaster. The results are stunning – from the remilled hardwood in the Salon, to the shiny guardrails gracing each floor of the Atrium and the colourful stained glass over the entrances.

Much of the heritage restoration can be seen in the grand Atrium – the focal point for the design of the original architect, David Ewart.



Highlights include:



- ❖ Heritage Marble - Extensive work throughout the Atrium restored the marble mosaic and ceramic tile floors, and repaired the marble wall panels and the grand staircase.
- ❖ Heritage Metal and Wood - Bronze guardrails on each floor were cleaned, refinished and restored.
- ❖ Glass – About 76 colourful stained glass panels were cleaned, repaired and restored (many with nature motifs).
- ❖ Plaster – The arched vaults in the Atrium were cleaned, repaired and rebuilt. Plaster archways leading to galleries were reconstructed and decorative plaster elements were repaired.
- ❖ Paint – The Atrium was repainted to closely match the original colour scheme from 100 years ago.
- ❖ The Museum’s interior Wallace stonework around the windows (as well as in the vaulted ceilings of the entrances) was cleaned and repaired.
- ❖ The Museum’s main oak doors and frames were restored and refinished.
- ❖ Miscellaneous - Previously hidden cornices (that capped the pillars in the former theatre) were restored. The original slate flooring in the basement reception area was reinstalled and the hardwood floor, which dates from 1910, was reinstated in the Salon, Boardroom and 3rd floor special exhibitions gallery.

