



SMITHS FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Conservation Report

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*Solutions
with a
Focus on
Cultural
& Natural
Heritage*

The Smiths Falls Public Library was constructed in 1903-1904 with funds donated by The Carnegie Foundation and is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Commonwealth prepared a Conservation Report for the Smiths Falls Library Board in order to provide the Library with a clear understanding of the heritage character of this site and recommend conservation approaches that respect the heritage fabric while accommodating future interventions as well as provide the underlying principles and approach recommended for conserving these heritage resources.



The Conservation Report also dealt with three separate but related challenges in the Library's continuing mandate to provide services to its client base. The first challenge was the need to conserve the existing Heritage Fabric of the building after nearly 100 years of continued use as a Public Library. The second challenge was the necessity to make the Library fully accessible to the handicapped with no adverse consequences for the Heritage Fabric of the building. The third challenge was the need to utilize every square foot of existing space to meet the demands of a larger user base and book collection.

Commonwealth's services included a condition assessment, historic research, conservation approach, preliminary cost estimates, strategies for funding and phasing, as-found drawings as well as drawings outlining the proposed work.

