

Shifting the Foundations

reaching out to new audiences at national historic sites

ATTENTION: THIS MESSAGE WILL SELF-DESTRUCT UPON READING.

you've been selected for an operation requiring your skills and knowledge

Your mission: To infiltrate the National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario's 2009 Conference.

Our purpose: The retrieval of valuable information pertaining to the success of our historic sites' future.

Location: Carp, Ontario: The Diefenbunker National Historic Site; previously known as the Central Emergency Government Headquarters.

When: October 5 - 7, 2009.

(entrance tunnel. map available.)

At a time when nuclear war seemed imminent, the Government of Canada took preventive measures against the collapse of our country. The Diefenbunker was built as a nuclear shelter for government officials. It was part of network of provincial headquarters that would be the foundation for a continuity of government, ready to assist the surviving Canadian population rebuild a civil society.

Within this Civil Defense program lies the understanding that the protection of a nation includes the preservation of its cultural heritage.



"Tunnel Highrise". credit: Paul Couvrette

Canada's National Historic Sites are the foundations upon which we may build an understanding of who we once were and how we came to be. But, with an increasingly diverse demographic, the face of Canada is changing and so are our audiences. Their understanding of Canadian history and heritage varies. This begs the question:

How do we continue to make Canada's National Historic Sites relevant and significant today?

How can our sites become relevant in this increasingly diverse and pluralistic society? How can we create compelling programming, offer fresh perspectives on histories, or validate the differing experiences of the public? How can National Historic Sites share their significance now and tomorrow?

**Registration starts soon.
Spaces limited.**