

**LINDA BURTCH**  
**Co-Recipient Cultural Advisory Board Community Recognition Award 2006**

Linda Burtch was an active member of the Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee from 1998 until 2004, serving as Vice-Chairperson from 2000 to 2003 and Chairperson for the year 2004. Ms. Burtch headed the Committee's Strategic Plan initiative. In 2004, Ms. Burtch was the driving force behind participation by the City of Sault Ste. Marie in Doors Open Ontario, a community event that welcomed over 10,000 visitors to our local heritage sites. Upon the recommendation of her physician in late 2004, Ms. Burtch reluctantly submitted her resignation as a member of the Committee, she has, however, continued to support the efforts of the Municipal Heritage Committee from a distance.

Ms. Burtch's contributions to heritage have been expressed in a number of ways and include:

- Creating a text and photographic inventory of plaques and monuments located in Sault Ste. Marie,
- Creating a photographic inventory of the headstones located in the Queen Street Cemetery, and
- Preparation of the publication '*Historic Sault Ste. Marie – a Guide to the Historic Plaques and Monuments in Sault Ste. Marie*' and '*Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario – Heritage Buildings and the 1923 Pilgrimage of History Plaques*' a millennium project of the Municipal Heritage Committee. Ms. Burtch's contribution to these valuable publications include, writing the text, taking all the photos and development of the layout.

Proceeds from the sale of '*Historic Sault Ste. Marie – a Guide to the Historic Plaques and Monuments in Sault Ste. Marie*' were used to establish the Historic Monument Grant Program. Funds assist in the replacement, restoration and maintenance of plaques, monuments and historic cemeteries. The availability of these funds has made the electromagnetic study and the 2003 - 2004 restorations of the headstones at Queen Street Cemetery, a designated heritage site, possible.

Ms. Burtch currently works at the main branch of the Sault Ste. Marie Library as a reference librarian and archivist. As a result of her diligent work with representatives of all four companies comprising the Clergue Empire she has been able to obtain, on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library, valuable documents relating to the history and development of our community. These documents have been preserved and are accessible to all and are in use by teams of local and national researchers.

In 1991, when Great Lakes Power Limited (now Brookfield Power) celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Ms. Burtch was retained by the company to prepare a historical brochure. This publication has been and continues to be circulated at the National level.

In 1992 Ms. Burtch carried out restoration work on a number of hundred-year-old survey plans of areas of the Town of Steelton and Townships east of the Soo. These framed plans are on prominent display at the Sackville Road Offices of Brookfield Power, successor company to Great Lakes Power Limited. The plans are a treasured part of the company's archives and have been commented upon most favourably by both employees and visitors to the company's offices.