



# City of Peterborough

## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2005  
Peterborough, ON --

#### **City employee to join damage assessment team in New Orleans**

Erik Hanson, the City's Heritage Preservation Officer, has been invited to join a team of preservation experts in New Orleans assessing damage inflicted on historic buildings by Hurricane Katrina two months ago. In a joint effort between the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Preservation Resource Centre of New Orleans, teams of preservation professionals are being assembled to spend a week in the City documenting the damage and working with homeowners to educate them about their options.

Currently the focus of the field work is getting into affected neighborhoods, taking notes and photos, talking to residents about their rehabilitation options and about general conditions. Several members of the team Hanson will be on are architects or engineers and they will be offering technical expertise as appropriate. "A lot of what we will be doing is talking to owners and residents about issues like mold and contamination within the building. Sometimes it will be as simple as distributing cleaning supplies," says Mr. Hanson "But the Preservation Resource Centre also needs trained eyes to document conditions. The City's preservation staff in New Orleans has been hit hard by emergency downsizing after the hurricane and the national trust teams are a way to get data to the City about existing conditions – it's part of a way to accurately target how scarce resources are used".

Malcolm Hunt, Acting CAO for the City of Peterborough notes that the invitation is recognition by a national organization in the United States of the skills of our City staff. "It's one thing to attend a preservation conference or workshop, but to participate directly in a hands-on exercise in preservation disaster management will provide a far greater educational experience for Mr. Hanson" said Mr. Hunt.

Mr. Hanson will leave Sunday, November 13 and return Saturday November 19.

This information is also available on our City of Peterborough website at [www.city.peterborough.on.ca](http://www.city.peterborough.on.ca)

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