

Tribute to Susan Buggey, Honourary Member of the CSLA

By Ron Williams, FCSLA

Dear colleagues,

The CSLA is very sorry to inform its members that Susan Buggey, a distinguished authority on cultural landscapes in Canada and around the world, and an Honourary Member of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, passed away on April 16, 2015, in Ottawa, Ontario. Through her work with Parks Canada and her participation in a great many voluntary and scholarly activities over more than five decades, Susan made outstanding contributions to the development of landscape architecture and, in particular, to the study of the history of landscape architecture in Canada.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Susan graduated with a B.A. from the University of Manitoba, followed by a Certificate in education from the same institution. Susan worked for many years with Parks Canada, beginning as a historian in 1970, where her duties involved her in a variety of projects at the national and regional offices. While at Parks Canada, she also undertook graduate studies in history at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS, completing her Master's in 1981, and subsequently continued her work with Parks Canada in a succession of increasingly responsible posts, culminating in the directorship of the Historical Services Branch, 1994-1997. During her career with Parks Canada, she was instrumental in introducing and promoting the idea of Cultural Landscapes as a central responsibility of that agency. She did much to identify, protect, and develop tools for the interpretation of these landscapes, which are essential elements of Canada's heritage. She established many of the basic concepts and fundamental documents within this field, from research papers to technical reports to videos. Among a multitude of ground-breaking studies and publications, her landmark 1975 article with John J. Stewart, "A Case for the Commemoration of Historic Landscapes and Gardens" (*APT Bulletin*, VII:2) and her 1999 research paper "An Approach to Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes" for Parks Canada and for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board stand out as permanent classics.

As a part of her work with Parks Canada, Susan advised the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada on the identification and recognition of many national historic sites, and participated in the evaluation program of Federal Heritage Buildings from 1988 to 1997. She also played an important role at the international level, taking part in many meetings and programs concerning cultural landscapes, through the auspices of UNESCO, ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites), and the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature).

Susan also served as a key member of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT), an organization dedicated to promoting the best technologies for conserving historical structures and their settings, and was a founding member, in 1978, of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation (AHLA), an interdisciplinary organization that brings together professionals from across North America who are dedicated to the

preservation and conservation of historic landscapes. Susan occupied many executive positions with both of these organizations over the years, and was recognized as a Fellow of APT in 1999.

Anxious to communicate her ideas to a wide audience, Susan was much involved in teaching, both within the federal government milieu and at universities across the country. As an Adjunct Professor at the University of Manitoba in the 1980s, she developed and taught the first course in landscape preservation; and the annual intensive course in Cultural Landscapes that she taught at the University of Victoria from 1998-2005 became a legend. She served as a *Professeure associée* (Auxiliary Professor) in the School of Landscape Architecture at the Université de Montréal for over ten years (1997-2008), helping to establish Canadian landscape history as an important part of the curriculum. She co-chaired the 1998 CSLA Congress held at the Université de Montréal, which was entirely focussed on this subject and attracted many key authors and scholars within the field, generating a whole series of seminal papers and presentations on Canadian landscape history. At the Université de Montréal, Susan provided invaluable support to the writing of the book *Landscape Architecture in Canada*, which sought to explore this field in a comprehensive manner. Susan greatly helped the author, Ron Williams, throughout the composition of the book (published in May 2014), providing introductions to many essential projects and sites, ensuring access to the extensive documentary and human resources of Parks Canada, and reviewing portions of the book, which could not have been written without her contributions.

In recognition of her unique contribution to the field of cultural landscape studies and the history of landscape architecture in Canada, CSLA recognized Susan Bugey as an Honourary Member of our Society, at our historic 80th anniversary Congress in Ottawa in May 2014. We share, with her many friends and colleagues throughout Canada and in the worldwide cultural landscape community, a great respect for her contributions, and cherish our memories of her warm personality and her inspiring and innovative leadership.

Ron Williams, FCSLA

28 April 2015