

Heritage conservation award goes to town for Chateau Bellevue renovation

The Heritage Conservation Award for 2021 was given to the municipality of Morin Heights for the care in which they renovated the heritage Bellevue Hotel. The town created a new community centre that totally respected the architecture of the original 1945 building, including the wonderful veranda that surrounds the building on three sides. Work was done between 2015 and 2017. This project stands as a model for the future on how to preserve the look of a heritage building while repurposing it for a modern usage.

See *The Porcupine 11* for the full story of this magnificent heritage building.



Early 1950s



2021

The Bellevue hotel was built by the Basler family in 1945 to replace their boarding house that burned to the ground. It was the largest and grandest hotel in the town. The Baslers sold the hotel in 1968 to the Chen family who operated the hotel until 1987 when it was converted into its second life as a senior's residence called Château des Aînés. The Plamondon family operated the Château from 1990 until spring 2015.

In the 1930s, 40s and 50s, trains brought weekend skiers to Morin Heights by the hundreds, and a dozen boarding houses and small hotels welcomed them with basic accommodations and home-cooked meals. Bunny Basler's father, John, who came to Canada from Switzerland in 1911, operated one of these boarding houses along with his new wife from the Gaspé. Their Bellevue House—located further along rue Bellevue-- was destroyed in a fire in 1945. The location was perfect—close to the train station and near Kennedy's ski tow (on the side of Sunset Hill), and later Ken and Eddy's ski hill which was taken over by the Basler family in the 1950s and renamed Mont Bellevue.