



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2008**

### **RENOVATIONS TO KINGSTON LANDMARK BUILDING UNDERWAY**

Kingston, ON: The Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) congratulates The Springer Group of Companies on the renovations which are underway to one of Kingston's historic landmark buildings, the Prince George Hotel at 200 Ontario Street.

Built in 1809, the Prince George Hotel has been a landmark site in Kingston from the beginning. Over its two centuries, the "P.G." as it is affectionately nicknamed, has had a varied history from being an overnight stop for sailors during Kingston's shipping hey-day; to an active inn-style hotel for visitors to Kingston's growing downtown; to a regularly featured stop on local haunted walk tours. Fire damage in 2004 to upper levels of the building forced hotel services to shut-down. Today, the Prince George Hotel building is home to the Lily Herchmer Social Club, the Haunted Walks of Kingston ticket kiosk and the Tir Nan Og Irish Pub, located on the ground level of the historic building.

Work includes retrofitting the building to house 13 loft-style apartments on the upper floors; restoration of the exterior to its former excellence including masonry repointing and repair to the original woodwork; and, a new roof. Completion date for the project is anticipated for the end of August. Exterior work on Clarence and Ontario Streets will be complete by Victoria Day weekend to ensure no disruption to the Tir Nan Og Irish Pub patio.

Bryon Springer, spokesperson for The Springer Group of Companies states, "We're excited to have this project underway and restore the Prince George building to her glory. We have been working closely over the past year with the Kingston Municipal Heritage Committee and City staff, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Parks Canada to ensure that the restoration work meets with heritage guidelines and all the appropriate approvals are in place."

Robin Etherington, Manager of the Culture & Heritage Division for the City of Kingston notes, "Such efforts are important to not only maintaining the City's cultural heritage resources but also to contributing to the City's sense of place, vitality, liveability and sustainability".

The restoration and renovation work is being overseen by local architect and historian Bruce Downey, Hughes Downey Architects and the five-generation Kingston-based contractor T.A. Andre & Sons.

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For more information please contact:

Bryon Springer  
The Springer Group of Companies  
Tel: 613-542-7343  
Email: [bryon@springergroup.com](mailto:bryon@springergroup.com)

Jeff Garrah, CEO  
Kingston Economic Development Corporation  
Tel: 613- 544-2725 ext. 230  
Email: [garrah@kingstoncanada.com](mailto:garrah@kingstoncanada.com)