

Heritage Ottawa

CP/PO Box 510, Station B, Ottawa Ontario

Editorial

The National Capital Area has thrown away proportionately more of its heritage in architecture than almost any other community in Ontario. What our generation has received from a century past we have sold off for a mess of asphalt, forgettable shopping centres, undistinguished high-rises and even less distinguished town houses.

The City of Ottawa profits well from its heritage through the tourist industry yet it is content to lie back and let the Federal Government be the sole agent of preservation. The Federal Government is investing millions on Sussex Drive to reconstruct heritage buildings but only a short distance away a unique example of our Victorian heritage was bulldozed away with lightning speed.

From the folly of the past, some lessons for the future:

1. Every owner of heritage property should be advised to look for buyers who will retain its heritage features. Heritage Ottawa will continue to help search for sympathetic buyers.
2. Heritage Ottawa will continue to press for the appointment of an advisory board to counsel the City on designating heritage properties.
3. The loss of The Pines underlines the bankruptcy of the laws of the Province of Ontario as they apply to heritage. Had protective legislation been available, the owners would have been eligible for financial aid to maintain it.
4. To increase the effectiveness of the conservation movement, Heritage Ottawa must mobilize more concerned citizens. The loss of The Pines proves that the concern of people in the immediate area is not sufficient to move the City of action.



News from the East Block

Despite much uncertain weather, the summer months at the East Block have been extremely active ones. Close to 4,500 visitors have toured the building from as far away as Venezuela, Australia, Mexico, Uruguay and Japan. For 9 weeks, the East Block became one of the more interesting stops for touring Educanada students. In addition, the tour guides had the pleasure of escorting over 400 senior citizens through the building during the months of June and July.

The end of August saw the arrival of four new guides. Helen Wilson, a graduate student at Carleton comes to us from Jamaica where she conducted tours of the "Great Homes" of that country. Karen Biggs and Marc Lafleur both undergraduate university students bring to the East Block their experience with the Capital Regional Hospitality Service, conducting bus and walking tours of Ottawa.

On September 29th two bus loads of delegates to the Annual Meeting of Heritage Canada included the East Block on their tour of Ottawa. We are looking forward to an equally active winter season thanks to your support.



This space will be reserved for any comments you may have on the heritage scene in Ottawa.

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Parliament Hill Environs Committee

At the February meeting of Heritage Ottawa, Martin Weil gave a presentation on the potential danger to the buildings in the area bounded by Sparks, Wellington, Elgin and Bank that was being expropriated by the government. Mr. Weil proposed that a special committee be set up to study the area in order for Heritage Ottawa to take a position on the area. The members voted to establish the Parliament Hill Environs Committee with Mr. Weil as the Chairman.

During the next several months committee members Susan Buggey, Carol Whitfield, Ash Randev and Ted Macdonald worked with a group of history and architecture students from Carleton to obtain a grant to carry out the study during the summer. In June, the committee received a \$5,000 grant from Imperial Oil to hire five students for 10 weeks to work on the study. The grant was made under a summer program that Imperial Oil runs to promote study of heritage. In addition to the grant the Board of Directors of Heritage Ottawa gave the Committee \$500 for expenses. The National Capital Commission, Carleton University and the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings have also given aid to the project. The students who worked on the study were David Mills and Ben Forster, Department of History, Carleton University; Elizabeth Doherty and Deborah Shadbrage, Faculty of Architecture, Carleton University; and Claudia Milne, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo.

The Committee is attempting to raise funds to publish the work with plans for a series of presentations to be made during the fall and early winter.

Many thanks to Gloria Sanders and the volunteers of Heritage Ottawa who kindly typed the drafts of this report.

/ Martin Weil



Walking Tours

The Walking Tours of Sandy Hill and New Edinburgh are available at the following locations:

SANDY HILL COMMUNITY OFFICE
HISTADRUT CENTRE
292 LAURIER ST. EAST

"ANTIQUES"
12 BEECHWOOD AVE.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA BOOKSTORE

BYTOWN GLASS
21 YORK ST.

OTTAWA HEALTH AIDS
280 NELSON

and by writing to HERITAGE OTTAWA
P.O. BOX 510
STATION B OTTAWA

Notice of Meeting

The Old Marble Warehouse at 0.. ..00000 Waller Street (across from a restaurant haunted by the restless spirit of the Rideau Street Convent which refuses to be buried) is one of the topics of discussion for our meeting.....

MONDAY OCTOBER 28th 8:00 P.M.
THE AUDITORIUM (FIRST SUB-BASEMENT)
OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY--
METCALFE STREET

.....
Barry Padolsky and Nigel Hutchins will talk about the restoration of this 140 year old structure and share some of their research into early Canadian architecture that preceded this restoration.

One of the important items to be discussed at the general meeting will be the incorporation of Heritage Ottawa as a charitable corporation.

Nous avons a votre disposition des exemplaires de ce bulletin. Si vous desirez le recevoir veuillez nous le faire savoir et nous vous le ferons parvenir par la poste.

newsletter

