

NEWSLETTER

August 8, 1977.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The September Heritage Ottawa meeting will be held at the Billings House during the city's Heritage Week. Plan to attend on Wednesday, September 28, 8:00 p.m. Members will tour the house and hear a talk on the planned restoration of it. Details on how best to get there will appear in the next Newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MAY 24, 1977

The Annual Meeting was held at the Notre Dame Basilica on May 24. More than 60 members and friends enjoyed C. Ross Anderson's illustrated talk on "The Architecture of French Canada," and were given the added treat of a guided tour through the church's public and private rooms by Monseigneur Denis. A new Board of Directors was elected to serve for this year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1977-78

Nest Brigstocke	David Lewis
Robert Calvert	Joan Mackie
Betty Ellis	Jenny Morgan
Margaret Gardner	Margaret Oldfield
Robert Haig	Mary Anne Phillips
Gertrude Holt	R.A.J. Phillips (ex off.)
Harold Kalman	Eleanor Polk
W.E. Keenan	Martin Weil (ex off.)
John Leaning	Jerry White
	Lois Williams

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

At their May 31 meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following Executive Officers:

W.E. Keenan, President
Joan Mackie, Vice President
Lois Williams, Secretary
Robert Haig, Treasurer

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Heritage Ottawa has been blessed with a pleasant, efficient and dedicated Executive Secretary in the person of Stella Kirk. On the job since July 1, Stella Kirk has already proven her willingness to work hard for Heritage Ottawa, and many members have found that while she is slated to be in her Fraser Schoolhouse office only Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-2, she indeed spends much more time than that on Heritage Ottawa business.

COMMITTEES

At the June 28 meeting, the Board of Directors established committees in order to organize the activities of Heritage Ottawa into working groups. Volunteers from the general membership are invited to participate on these committees. Please call Stella Kirk at the Fraser Schoolhouse, 745-0551, and volunteer. The following chairpersons are organizing committees:

Finance - Robert Haig
Membership - Lois Williams
Exhibitions -
Fraser Schoolhouse - Jerry White
Heritage Tours -
Archives - Betty Ellis
Newsletter - Joan Mackie
Publicity - Joan Mackie
Docents - Gertrude Holt
Programs - Martin Weil
House Tour - Jenny Morgan
APT Convention -
Publications -

PLEASE HELP!

As the above list of committees shows, there is much work to be done and plenty of room for every member to participate in an area of particular interest to him or herself. Please volunteer to work on an on-going basis, on a committee of your choice - fill in the form provided at the end of the newsletter.

There is an urgent need for TYPISTS to assist with transcribing material gathered by the three summer students who are researching early Ottawa newspapers. Volunteers should have their own typewriters. Please notify either Stella Kirk at 745-0551 or Martin Eli Weil at 238-3608 if you can help.

People to do historical research on Lower Town buildings are sought by Margaret Oldfield who is working on a walking tour of that area. A knowledge of research techniques or a willingness to learn is essential. Please call Marg at 235-5343 or 828-3864 if this interests you.

DOCENTS are needed at Heritage Ottawa's Fraser Schoolhouse Gallery all year around, but particularly during the summer months when the gallery is open from 1-5 daily. Can you help? Please volunteer. Fill in the form, or telephone either Stella Kirk at 745-0551 or Lois Williams at 235-4104.

HERITAGE OTTAWA GALLERY

"Canada Since Confederation" - The David A. Blackman Collection of Canadiana opened at the Fraser Schoolhouse on June 25 and continues until September 3. Mr. Blackman's collection consists of historical documents of Canada, early glass slides, photos, prints, paintings, books, pamphlets, silverware, handicrafts, and chinaware.

Heritage Ottawa was fortunate to have had the assistance of Lars Lindgren in mounting this exhibition, and it was hoped that he would continue as Chairman of the Exhibitions Committee. He has, however, recently moved to Halifax.

STUDENT SUMMER PROGRAM

Heritage Ottawa received a grant from The Young Canada Works Program which enabled it to hire three university students for fourteen weeks to carry out a summer project. The three Carleton University students, Lynda White, art history, David Rankin, art history, and Stan Laba, architecture, are reviewing all newspapers printed in Ottawa prior to 1885 in order to extract all articles, notices and advertisements related to the built environment in Ottawa. This includes information on architects, engineers, contractors, craftsmen, suppliers of building materials, building supplies, structures, roads and landscaping. The material is copied verbatim and will be typed onto file cards and indexed. Copies of the material will be available to all researchers at the Public Archives of Canada and the City of Ottawa Archives.

M.E.W.

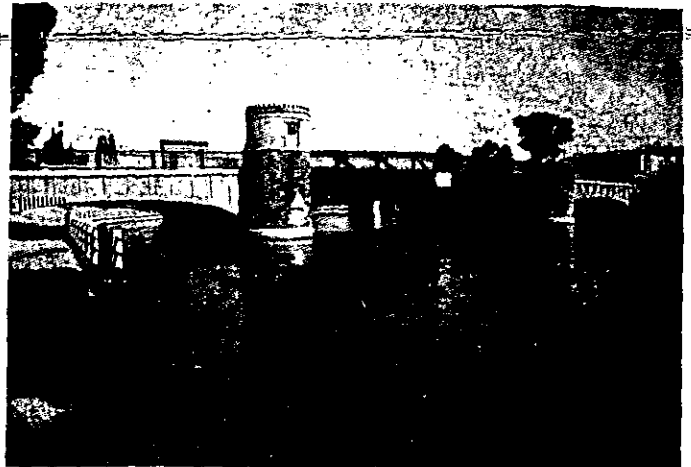
THE RIDEAU CLUB

In mid-June it became apparent that the Federal Government is considering demolishing the buildings on the south side of Wellington Street facing the Parliament Buildings - a streetscape that includes such important landmarks as the Rideau Club, the American Embassy and the old Union Bank.

Acting on the instructions of the Board of Directors, the President sent a letter to the Advisory Commission on Parliamentary Accommodation, outlining Heritage Ottawa's concerns. A reply was received from the Secretary of the Commission reporting that Heritage Ottawa's views had been noted and would be given consideration at the appropriate time.

HERITAGE WEEK - SEPTEMBER 26, 1977

Mayor Greenberg has declared that Heritage Week in Ottawa will be celebrated commencing September 26. One of the issues that Heritage Ottawa will be drawing to the public's attention at that time is the precarious future of the Rideau Club. Members are urged to encourage their friends to join Heritage Ottawa and thereby join the campaign to save the Rideau Club.



THE PRETORIA BRIDGE

The Pretoria Avenue Bridge will be replaced next year by a new, but similar, structure. Recent engineering tests carried out by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton revealed that both the steel superstructure and the concrete piers have deteriorated beyond feasible repair (as a result of the application of road salt). Heritage Ottawa reluctantly accepted the results of these tests. This will mean the loss of an historically significant structure, a rare kind of vertical-lift bridge designed by the Strauss Bascule Bridge Company of Chicago, and built in 1915-16 by the Dominion Bridge Company of Montreal.

Heritage Ottawa joined forces with the Glebe, Ottawa East, and Ottawa South Community Associations in opposing plans for a larger or higher new canal crossing. The Transportation Committee of the Regional Municipality consequently recommended at its meeting of July 6 that the replacement bridge be identical in alignment, width, and height to the existing bridge. It further recommended that, aside from shortening the lift span, the bridge design should "simulate as much as possible the design of the existing bridge." It further recommended that a joint committee to be established for implementing the project should include representation from Heritage Ottawa.

This decision is subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee and the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Council. Next month's Newsletter will report upon their decision.

H.D.K.

IN MEMORIAM

It was with deepest regret that the members of Heritage Ottawa learned of the passing of Eleanor Polk on May 31, 1977. Eleanor, a founding member, past president, and great friend of Heritage Ottawa, was among the first of Ottawa citizens who became concerned in the early 1960s over the continuous destruction of Ottawa's architectural patrimony. She first became active in the campaign to preserve the character of her own neighbourhood of New Edinburgh. Later she was to join the founding members of A Capital for Canadians and the Heritage Committee.

Eleanor was always in the forefront of the citizens' movement to protect the character of Ottawa. She was often found at City Hall making presentations to officials, who came to respect her position and her opinions on heritage matters as well as her forthright manner.

Last February, when Eleanor was awarded a Heritage Ottawa Certificate of Merit in a ceremony held in the Mayor's office, she noted that the phrase "go fight City Hall" was not part of the Ottawa preservationists' vocabulary. This is due in large part to the industry and personality of Eleanor.

We shall surely miss Eleanor. Her counsel, her friendship, and her effervescence were a constant source of pleasure to those who were associated with her.

M.E.W.

ELEANOR POLK MEMORIAL FUND

The Eleanor Polk Memorial Fund, created at the request of the Polk family, currently contains over \$300.00.

The Board of Directors have not come to a decision as to the use of the fund and would welcome suggestions from the members of Heritage Ottawa.

Those wishing to contribute to the fund may send their gifts to the Executive Secretary. All donations are tax-deductible.

M.E.W.

LOWERTOWN-MARKET AREA HERITAGE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

During the past year, technical discussion has taken place primarily between the City, the N.C.C., and Heritage Canada regarding the need to protect, conserve and even restore this, the most significant heritage area in Ottawa. The original site of Bytown, the area under study is roughly that bounded by Rideau, Sussex, Boteler and King Edward.

A pro-tem committee, consisting of representatives from the N.C.C., the City, Heritage Canada, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, local business, and citizens' groups has been established to work out details for the formation of, and terms of reference for, a Heritage Implementation Program. Heritage Ottawa has been invited to sit on this pro-tem committee. A report of its first meeting will appear in the next Newsletter.

FOR RENT

The William McArthur House, Aylmer - 1850 - is for rent. This heritage home has six rooms, 2200 sq. ft., one acre of park-like land, and is warm and charming. It is available in the fall on a two-year lease. Phone 684-9997 after August 13.

Have you any NEWS for the NEWSLETTER?
Please pass it on either to Joan Mackie,
236 Queen Elizabeth Drive, 238-4607, or
to the Executive Secretary.

YES, I would like to participate in the activities of Heritage Ottawa.

NAME

ADDRESS PHONE NO.

I have the following skills (eg. typing, writing, design, carpentry)
which I would like to use

.....

I would be particularly interested in serving on the following
committee(s)

.....

PLEASE mail this form to Stella Kirk, Executive Secretary, Heritage
Ottawa, P.O. Box 510, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5P6.