

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1978

Vol. 6, No. 9

W.E. Keenan, President

Joan Mackie, Editor

DECEMBER MEETING

DATE Saturday, December 16
2:00 p.m.

PLACE Laurentian Club
252 Metcalfe Street

Heritage Ottawa members will be welcome to come into the club for a tour of this superb building. Bring a friend and meet at 2:00 p.m.

The ornate brick building was originally the home of Jackson Booth, son of wealthy industrialist J.R. Booth. The senior Booth, who developed one of the largest lumber operations in Canada, died here in 1925.

Mansions of this quality once lined Metcalfe Street; the Laurentian Club is the best of the few survivors.

JANUARY MEETING

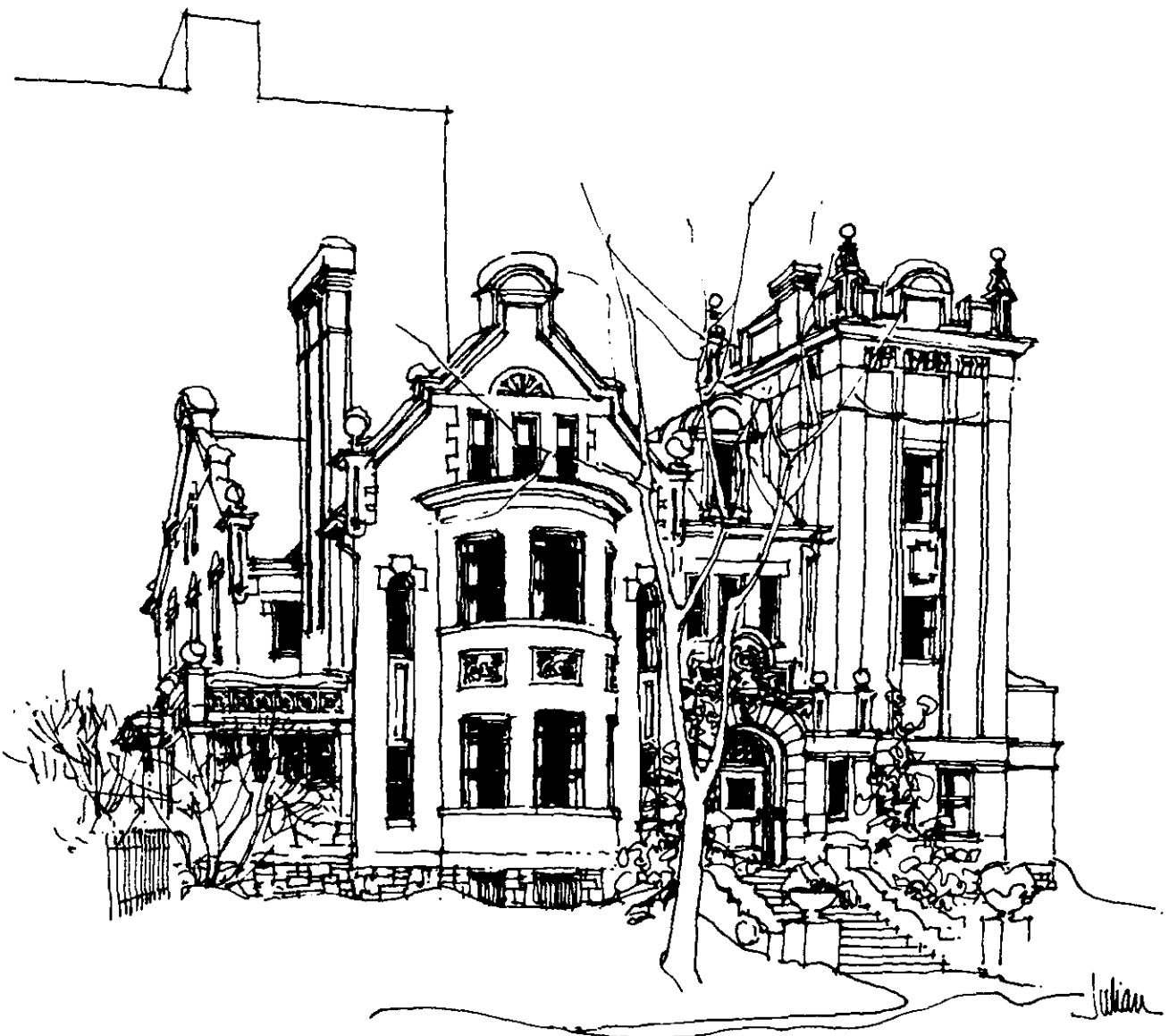
Please make a note of this date because the January Newsletter will not be printed in time to announce the event.

DATE Wednesday, January 10
8:00 p.m.

PLACE The Supreme Court of Canada
Wellington Street

A tour of this important building, designed by Ernest Cormier and built in 1938, has been arranged.

Meet in the lobby at 8:00.



The Laurentian Club, 252 Metcalfe Street. It was built in 1912 for Jackson Booth, the son of J.R. Booth.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Heritage Ottawa, I would like to extend Season's Greetings to all of our members and friends, and to express the sincere hope that you and your families will enjoy a blessed and pleasant Christmas, and have a happy and rewarding New Year.

Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with many of you on our projects such as the APT convention and the House Tour, and I look forward to being able to call upon more of you in the forthcoming months. It is most gratifying to have your support in the cause of conservation of our heritage.

W.E. Keenan

HERITAGE OTTAWA GALLERY

"Nineteenth Century Building Technology in the Ottawa Valley" continues at the Fraser Schoolhouse, 62 John Street. The exhibition will close on December 17 and the Gallery will re-open in the new year with a new show. Check the January Newsletter for information on the forthcoming exhibit.

PRETORIA BRIDGE UPDATE

The design of the replacement for the Pretoria Avenue Bridge (which had been damaged beyond repair by corrosive road salt) is still under discussion, one and a half years after the debate began. C.C. Parker Ltd., the engineering consultants, have produced a new design after a previous one had been criticized by the National Capital Commission and Parks Canada. The current proposal, which was approved on 1 December by the Pretoria Avenue Bridge Replacement Committee, closely resembles the existing bridge. The three spans have each been reduced slightly, an adjustment that was made necessary because the stone abutments at either side have been redesigned to provide arches over the bicycle paths. Bicyclists will no longer have to cross Hawthorne Avenue, nor duck under the bridge on the western bank.

It is hoped that construction will begin in early spring. A temporary steel bridge for pedestrians and bicycles in line with Graham Avenue will be built first. It will remain up for the duration of bridge construction. Navigation and skating on the canal will not be interrupted.

Harold Kalman

NOVEMBER SEMINARS

Heritage Ottawa members and friends who attended the three seminars at Lisgar Collegiate last month were treated to some of the most interesting illustrated lectures ever given to the organization. The topics covered provided a unique opportunity to learn about conservation activities around the world. Many thanks to Paul Stumes, R.A.J. Phillips, and Julian Smith for three superb sessions.

BUSINESSES SEE THE LIGHT

Next time you happen to be shopping downtown on Bank Street, look at what has been happening to the east side of the street between Slater Street and Laurier Avenue. Within the last year and a half, five buildings on the block have been renovated or cleaned. They are Mic's at Bank and Slater, Book Bargains at 147 Bank, Stein's and Folio Graphics at 149-151½ Bank, Dover's at 155 Bank, and Kiddytown at 157 Bank.

The renovation most sympathetic to the original fabric of its building was recently completed by Norman and Harris Stein, owners of Stein Bros. Ltd. and Folio Graphics Ltd. respectively. The renovation was planned by Claude Design and brought into reality by René Goulet Construction Co. Ltd.

When asked what motivated the owners to return to the store's original appearance rather than to "modernize" their heritage building, Harris Stein replied that, in his view, bringing a storefront back to its original appearance is the least expensive method of renovation as well as the most appealing. Photographs of the original storefront, a two-storey affair with two entrances, were used to work towards a design comparable to the original but amenable to the present store interior.

Mr. Stein feels that the expense of oak and leaded glass for the display windows is worthwhile, because the materials are beautiful, durable, and in keeping with the style of the original façade. "If all store owners would use similar materials rather than the usual aluminum facing and glass signs," said Mr. Stein, "their storefronts would be cheaper to construct and easier and cheaper to maintain."

The owners of 149-151½ Bank St. intend to apply for one of the City of Ottawa's grants to owners of heritage properties after the proposed grant programme has been approved by City Council. They indicated that other business owners on their block and in other parts of the city will likely consider sympathetic renovations or restorations if and when they are given financial incentives.

Margaret Oldfield

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU
ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF ITS ANNUAL ESSAY
CONTEST.

First prize of \$500 was awarded to Barbara Benoit, a Heritage Ottawa member, for her essay, "Record of a Summer: L'Echo de la Gatineau of 1889." Second and third prizes were awarded to Gwenda Lambton and Lynda Renaud respectively, and Claude Brind'Amour received an honourable mention.

LACAC NOTES: ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

A zoning by-law may cause the demolition of the historic St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Kent and Wellington Streets.

Established in 1828, St. Andrew's is the oldest Protestant congregation in the City of Ottawa. The present church was designed in 1872 by prominent Canadian architect William T. Thomas in the Gothic Revival style so popular for ecclesiastical building in the late nineteenth century. The building was declared a heritage structure in September 1977, pursuant to the provisions of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974.

The historic building requires a great deal of care to maintain. The care costs money, and the church is in financial difficulty. In order to raise money for the purpose of continuing the church functions, the church building committee decided to tear down the early twentieth-century church hall, which had been extensively damaged by fire, and to erect a ten-storey office building. Some of the offices would be rented and others used to house the many social activities, such as meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, for which the church provides space.

After receiving approval to build from City Council, the church spent \$50,000 on planning. The architectural drawings and

models (by Jim Strasman of Toronto) show a building with three sides of light-coloured stone alternating with glass, and a fourth side totally in glass, designed to reflect the dramatic and beautiful church steeple. Commercial space below ground would connect with the underground passages of the Place de Ville complex.

A problem arose when it was discovered that a zoning by-law prevents the construction of a ten-storey building on this site. The zoning permits only a much larger structure, and this would be financially impossible for St. Andrew's Church.

The church building committee approached LACAC for a zoning change, which they thought would be automatic. Following the presentation on November 21, LACAC members engaged in a heated discussion. Some members do not want to see the church hall demolished. In response, a church spokesman pointed out that without the additional revenue from the office space, there is a strong possibility the church itself would be lost.

The LACAC Chairman, Alderman Georges Bédard, stated that, since the church spent a great deal of money because LACAC and City Council had given them the "green light" on this project, it would be unfair to change in mid-stream. It would be morally wrong, he said, to retract permission to build at this late date. LACAC member Bruce Grant agreed. He expressed his belief that St. Andrew's should be commended in their effort to "save the more valuable part of the building by making money from another part."

A proposal that the church be re-designated as a heritage structure together with the church hall, rather than excluding it as in the previous designation, was voted upon and rejected. If adopted, this would have prevented St. Andrew's from working on the site. No recommendation on the zoning change was made, however, and so the church remains in a difficult situation.

Jennifer Roddick

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you have not already done so, please send in your Heritage Ottawa membership renewal before the end of the year. The January Newsletter will include a list of all paid-up members. And remember -- effective January 1, 1979, Heritage Canada will no longer be accepting joint memberships at reduced rates, so take advantage of this offer before it expires.

Category		Heritage Ottawa Only		Heritage Ottawa plus Heritage Canada	
Renewal	Individual	\$ 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Membership	Household	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Senior Citizen/Student	\$ 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Patron - donations over	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/Province _____ Postal Code _____