

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1979 Vol. 7, No. 9 John Leaning, President Jennifer Roddick, Editor
Julian Smith, Artist

ISSN 0708-0506

MARTINEAU HOTEL

Although fire recently damaged the 108-year old Martineau Hotel at the corner of Murray and Parent Streets, its bright future has not been greatly affected.

The Hotel, formerly known as "Heritage House", was recently purchased by By-Mark Developments Inc. and is the principal element in a major Lowertown development.

Reputed to have been used as a brothel in the twentieth century, the Martineau Hotel was constructed in 1871 by its namesake, Eugene Martineau, once Mayor of Ottawa. From 1875 the structure contained four hotels which, like innumerable others in Lowertown West, catered to itinerant raftsmen. A boarding house occupied the premises from 1878 to 1972 when the building was offered for sale when the then owner died.

Sensing that the building was in danger of demolition because of the commercial value of its site, Jack Appleton, a former member of Heritage Ottawa, purchased the hotel in 1974. The building later passed into the hands of Heritage Canada, who purchased it in 1977 for use as a national headquarters. Their plans changed and, in the summer of 1979, the Martineau became the property of By-Mark Developments Inc. who also purchased the former Clarence Hotel, a red brick commercial structure to the West of the Martineau on Murray Street, and the parking lot between them.

Although the recent fire destroyed the roof and supporting timbers of the Martineau, designers of the project, Eriksson Padolsky Architects, indicate that construction will proceed as planned. A



new gable roof with dormers identical to the original will be built. The 28-foot timbers, which were good examples of the capability of Ottawa-Hull's lumber industry in its hey-day, will be replaced by steel beams. On the exterior, two filled-in carriageways will be opened, fire escapes on the façade removed, and double-hung windows installed.

The interior, which had been made ready for redecoration prior to the fire, will be rebuilt to house a restaurant and lounge, shops, offices, gallery and architects' offices. The western carriageway will contain the restaurant's outdoor terrace while the eastern carriageway will lead to a rear courtyard to be surrounded by small commercial structures in a style sympathetic to the Martineau. The Clarence Hotel will be restored and an infill building constructed in what is now part of the parking lot between the two hotels.

Future plans call for construction of residences in the parking lot at the centre of the development to provide round-the-clock occupancy of the site.

Negotiations are underway with the National Capital Commission to construct a path and court behind its properties along Sussex Drive between Murray and St. Patrick Streets, extending the present pedestrian network to the Notre-Dame Basilica.

In total, the development will bring new life to an unfrequented part of old Bytown, and, hopefully, will encourage restoration of other nearby historic properties in the oldest section of the City.

Marg Oldfield

THE CLEGG HOUSE

In a desperate attempt to save the Clegg House, City Council voted September 19 to expropriate the house and lands from St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Georges Bédard, Alderman for By St-Georges Ward and Chairman of LACAC, expressed his hope that an agreement could still be reached with the Church which would be less drastic and more acceptable to both parties.

The present value of the property has been established at \$120,000. The value after renovation would range between \$165,000 and \$195,000, depending on financing arrangements. The final cost to the City could be between \$10,000 and \$55,000. A possible purchaser has been identified.

Since the Church originally wanted the property to use as a parking lot, the suggestion has been made that an agreement be undertaken with the City providing for weekend use of the five parking spaces included in the acquisition. The \$120,000 received by the Church through the sale of the property could be used to rent spaces in a commercial parking lot nearby.

JR

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Bob Haig: Secretary-Treasurer

Bob Haig is too young to have served in the Great War of the second decade of this twentieth century. He was born - in Montreal - in the year that that gory conflict came to an end. But the God of War caught him the second time around - as he entered his own second decade - in WW II. He saw very active service, bearing arms for Canada, in Egypt, Italy and France.

After the war, he went back to Britain, to Edinburgh, to study European History. Following a sojourn in the "auld" country, Bob returned to Canada where he became re-involved with electronics (he had worked in that field before the war) and with Marconi. Eventually, he found his way into the esoteric world of guided missiles as a Logistics Officer.

Since those days, Bob has been writing and publishing. He put together an important book, "Ottawa, City of the Big Ears", named for some of the original inhabitants of the Outaouais Region. This book has some 72,000 copies in circulation - quite an achievement.

Bob Haig's appreciation for history (the how of what is now come to be - as one old sage put it), it is evident, goes back a long way. He came to be involved in "heritage" in its broadest sense and was a member of the original "Heritage Committee of a Capital for Canadians" in 1966. This was a forerunner of Heritage Ottawa, formed in 1972. Bob also became among the first to join Heritage Canada in 1973.

The National Capital Commission was fortunate indeed, in 1970, to secure the services of Mr. Haig where he is an Historian concerned with "architecture". Teamed up with Rolf Latté, he has put together a "Heritage Register" of some 6,000 properties in the National Capital Region through which a wealth of information, to those who would restore our built heritage to its former state, has become available.

Bob gains considerable satisfaction from having seen a growth of concern for heritage exhibited by many Canadians; including those in a position to influence the preservation of the physical manifestation of our past, before it is too late.

Peter Dobbing

LACAC Public Relations Sub-Committee

LACAC recently established a Public Relations Sub-Committee with the purpose of improving public awareness of the functions of Ottawa's Heritage Advisory Committee.

Committee members are: Roberta Butler, Bill Shenkman, Michael Newton and Micheline Calvert, who may be reached through the LACAC Committee at City Hall.

At the LACAC meeting September 18 the Committee put forward several project proposals for the approval of the Committee of the Whole. Following are the approved items.

- a) a permanent display, which could be easily moved to different locations throughout the City, describing the role of LACAC and some of its accomplishments.

- b) a feature programme on local television.
- c) a publicity handout.
- d) a column in the local newspapers.
- e) Heritage Day workshops, to be carried out jointly with Heritage Ottawa, on the care and maintenance of a designated building.

LACAC members were enthusiastic about a suggestion for a 15-minute television programme, on topics such as, "A Walking Tour of Sandy Hill", which could possibly be produced by a local television station.

The Committee discussed the need for a more effective liaison and communications channel with local heritage organizations. To this end, as your representative, Heritage Ottawa's Publicity Committee Chairperson, Jennifer Roddick, was appointed to the Sub-Committee.

To further encourage this communication, Nan Griffiths from LACAC will be appointed to the Board of Directors for Heritage Ottawa in an ex-officio capacity. In exchange, a member of our Board of Directors will be nominated, subject to Council's approval, to sit on LACAC.

LACAC Chairman, Georges Bedard, and Heritage Ottawa President, John Leaning, expressed their belief that this new union means that a stronger, more forceful voice will be heard when confronting controversial heritage issues.

JR

CITY PUBLIC RELATIONS NEEDED

As an example of the need for better public relations, LACAC members were confronted with a problem which Mr. Joseph Petrie encountered when attempting to renovate his soon-to-be-designated heritage home.

Mr. Petrie, owner of 188 St. Andrew Street, contacted the City for advice before commencing renovations early this summer. He was also investigating the possibility of a heritage grant but was never told he would not be eligible to apply until December 5th when the heritage designation would come into effect.

Wanting to do the right thing by his elderly home, Mr. Petrie requested plans and a survey from the City, for which he paid \$175 and \$150, respectively. These plans were not received for more than two months, some weeks after their completion.

In the meantime, Mr. Petrie stalled his contractors, waiting for the plans and advice which never came. Time passed and it became too late in the year to begin certain projects - such as roofing and windows - which will now have to wait until next year.

Mr. Petrie contacted LACAC in an attempt to solve his problems. After much discussion and letter-writing Mr. Petrie now has his plans and his advice. However, the renovations to his home would have been long finished if he had been told, in the first instance, that he could go ahead with any renovations that pleased him because his home is not, as yet, a heritage designated property and does not fall under the restrictions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

JR

VICTORIAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA

In late August, Heritage Ottawa entertained the Victorian Society of America who were on tour in Quebec and Ontario. The Society is a national organization interested in Victoriana. The Society's headquarters is located in Philadelphia. This visit was coordinated by Marg Oldfield, Board Member, Heritage Ottawa.

The Ottawa program for the Victorians included, among other things, a morning visit to the Bytown Museum, luncheon at the Rideau Club, a tour of Ottawa and an afternoon tea at the Fraser Schoolhouse.

Judy Burns organized the Bytown Museum visit where the Historical Society of Ottawa, of which Judy is also a member, gave a talk for the visitors and showed a film.

The late afternoon tea was convened by Mrs. Oldfield, Marg Oldfield's mother. The visitors were delighted by the Schoolhouse and enjoyed the watercress sandwiches, and home-baked pastries. The goodies were provided by members of Heritage Ottawa.

Several members of the tour went home with Heritage Ottawa souvenirs which they purchased at the Schoolhouse-in particular, copies of the National Capital Region Heritage publication.

Despite the rainy day, the visitors had a pleasant and interesting tour. As a thank you, Heritage Ottawa has been presented with a year's membership in the Victorian Society of America. Information concerning this membership and its privileges may be obtained by calling Stella Kirk at 745-0551.

Irene Lackner

HERITAGE OTTAWA SEMINAR

A talk and slide presentation entitled, "Bank Street...the evolution of Ottawa's first neighborhood business street", will be presented on Monday, 5 November at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library, Metcalfe Street.

Robert Smythe, researcher for the Bank Street Heritage Study and representative of the Centretown Citizen's Community Association, will give the history and some amusing anecdotes of interesting buildings, including the Alexandra Hotel, which he uncovered while doing the first research of its kind of the Bank Street business community.

The most endangered and best examples of late 19th Century commercial architecture will be included among the 25 buildings and slides Robert will be showing us.

Heritage Ottawa members and Centretown Citizen's Community Association members are invited.

NOVEMBER TOUR

Heritage Ottawa members will have the privilege of a personalized tour of Laurier House on 22nd November at 7:30.

The curator of the House will be on hand to answer questions and coffee will be served.

Please try to be there -- this is a unique opportunity to view the House in a completely different atmosphere.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Heritage Ottawa current membership year ended on 30 September 1979. To indicate your continued interest in the conservation of Ottawa's architecture please renew your membership now by remitting the coupon below to:

Heritage Ottawa
Membership
P.O. Box 510, Station "B"
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1P 5P6

Thank you.

Many thanks to contributing authors this issue:

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Irene Lackner
Peter Dobbing

Anyone wishing to submit articles or announcements to The Newsletter is asked to contact:

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Your continued support and complimentary letters are greatly appreciated.

JR

Heritage Ottawa Membership Application

Category

Renewal ☐

New Membership ☐

Individual	\$ 7 <input type="checkbox"/>
Household	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Citizen/Student	\$ 4 <input type="checkbox"/>
Patron - donations over	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____