

# NEWSLETTER

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John Leaning, President

Jennifer Roddick, Editor

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder...

Heritage Ottawa Annual General Meeting will be held May 27th, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall of Notre Dame Basilica, Sussex Drive (enter from Guigues Street, recessed behind iron gates). Guest speaker will be Dr. Harold Kalman, Consultant in the History and Conservation of Architecture.

## PRESENTATION

You are cordially invited to attend the following technical presentation sponsored by the Department of the Environment, Restoration Services Division:

"Open-Air Museums - Their Role as Vehicles of Conservation", speaker: Herb Stovel, Architectural Conservation Officer, Heritage Trust, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation. To be held May 22nd at 2:00 p.m. in Room 922, North Tower, Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, 10 rue Wellington, Hull, Québec.

Everyone is welcome.

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The following article was submitted by Mary Anne Phillips, who, together with her husband - our first President, Bob, helped establish Heritage Ottawa.

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## DIAL-A-MEMORY

We live outside the City now so I can't do much for Heritage Ottawa except love it.

But being out of the mainstream has its advantages. There's a sense of perspective, and there are memories.

Like the morning Gladys Blair looked out her kitchen window and saw a bulldozer gnashing its teeth at the Fraser Schoolhouse. Telephone alert! Or the meeting when Mary Roaf said she had heard an unbelievable rumour that the Rideau Convent was for sale. Or the hours spent by Eleanor Polk on public hearings -- highrise vs. LaSalle Academy. One of the earliest challenges, which caused President Kathleen Ransom to square her shoulders and set her jaw, was the plan to pulverize old Union Station in favour of a school bus parking lot during Centennial Year.

Then there was the East Block and the building tours arranged by Bob Haig. Well, now they're pouring insulation and repairing windows, it's being recognized as an historic structure thanks, in part, to the man, woman and student hours lavished by Heritage Ottawa.

On my weekly jaunts to town I pass a whole variety of monuments, large and small, of which 1980 members may be unaware.

There's a grateful nod to Lorry Greenberg, holding court, nowadays, in his store on Sussex Drive.

The swarms of happy Canal skaters on bright winter days also evoke memories. Of course we must thank the N.C.C. but old-timers like myself will recall the preliminary months and years put into Canal parties and other efforts to focus attention on our historic waterway. There was also one memorable meeting when Rod Clack of the N.C.C. confided a plan to clear a stretch of ice for skating. "Please urge your friends to get out on the Canal next Sunday", he said. "Your ideas are a gamble. If noone turns up, we won't be able to carry on."

That next Sunday was a dazzling day and the Canal was like a Brueghel painting.

I pass sad corners too.

The place where the Brown House stood (now replaced by the Cuban Embassy with its intimidating iron fence).

There is the Armstrong House (behind Neighbourhood Services) falling ever more rapidly into decline.

And the block where the Rideau Convent once raised its imposing limestone walls.

When remembering the Rideau Convent I remember its breathtaking Chapel. Parts of this are stored away, awaiting incorporation into the new National Gallery. In all the discussion about a new Gallery, let Heritage Ottawa never forget the orphan which it saved.

Then, as I leave the silver towers of Sussex Drive for the Gatineau Hills I see one more little relic, fading daily.

On the corner of the General Hospital is a sundial of charming and ancient design. Like the Basilica, it carries the flavour of our bicultural past. In Trois-Rivieres, in Edinburgh, in Chartres and Prague, such sundials are tourist attractions and landmarks. Over the years, one of our founding members, Gertrude Holt, has drawn attention to the dilapidated condition of this particular piece. She has appealed, without avail, to the hospital, to the N.C.C. and to anyone who would listen.

Now, with changes in the air for the General, it is surely time for some artist's hand to retouch those ancient numbers?

Tempus fugit.

But here and there, time stops, thanks to Heritage Ottawa.

Mary Anne Phillips

#### OF INTEREST...

A brochure entitled "Methods and Means in Municipal Heritage Conservation" is available, free-of-charge, from the Administration Division, Heritage Conservation Branch, Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X4.

The pamphlet of 16 pages outlines the methods and means of municipal heritage conservation specified in Part III of the B.C. Heritage Conservation Act. Although prepared primarily to meet the needs

of municipal councillors, officials and heritage advisory committees, it is also intended to clarify the legislative background of heritage conservation for all involved in this activity.

For further information, please contact the Consulting Services Section at the above address or telephone (604) 387-5917.

#### NOTES FROM LACAC

City Council voted May 7th to allow demolition of the vacant properties at 94 to 104 Murray Street. Worried neighbors are pleased with the decision because the property is reputed to be a fire hazard.

At a meeting on May 6th LACAC members engaged in a heated discussion over the property's future. Inspector Trudel of the Ottawa Fire Department declared the buildings structurally unsafe and expressed concern over the possible consequences should anyone enter the premises.

According to information submitted at the meeting City Council has been aware of the growing problem since 1977 and has spent some \$10,000 keeping the property clean, boarded up and free from intrusion. LACAC recommended that a demolition permit be granted due to the poor condition of these once fine heritage designated properties. However, Chairman, Ald. Georges Bédard, suggested that City Council determine whether or not an owner should have the responsibility of keeping a vacant property up to standard from the time of closure, thus relieving the City of this burden.

#### Recommended Designations:

314 St. Patrick Street (St. Brigid's Church), 125 Daly Avenue (St. Alban's Anglican Church), 89 Daly Avenue and 112 Daly Avenue.

As a means of protecting Rideau Street properties during the construction of the Rideau Centre the following were recommended for designation:

Rideau Street #89, 91, 97, 101, 103 to 105 and 107 to 115.

Please send your submissions to: The Editor, 44 Carmichael Court, Kanata, Ontario (K2K 1K2) or telephone: 592-4209 -- before the 10th of each month. Thank you.

Jennifer