

# NEWSLETTER

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John Leaning, President

Jennifer Roddick, Editor

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

July's meeting of the Board of Directors was held on the 22nd in the Fraser Schoolhouse.

Most of the meeting centered on a discussion of the upcoming MacKay Centenary celebrations to be held by the Ontario Heritage Foundation at City Hall. The Board decided that much of Heritage Ottawa's energies and money for this year would be spent on the Centenary. We agreed that photos and mementos of the New Edinburgh area should be part of the exhibition and that copies of our publications would be on view and for sale at City Hall on the 14th August and also in mid-September when a Centenary plaque will be installed near the Schoolhouse to honour Thomas MacKay. Anyone having photos or memorabilia of the MacKay vintage (circa 1850) which they might lend to Heritage Ottawa for the exhibit in September is asked to contact Vicki Henry, organiser of the Centenary, at 232-3975 or 749-7811.

The Board authorized Vicki to have 500 copies printed of the booklet "A Walking Tour of New Edinburgh" in time for the September festivities at the Schoolhouse. Last published in 1972, the New Edinburgh book resembles Heritage Ottawa's successful "Walking Tour of Sandy Hill" which is available for sale at the Schoolhouse.

In order to offset some of the costs of invitations and refreshments to be served at the unveiling of the plaque, John Leaning, President, will write to Syd Wise, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, to ask the Foundation to match the costs incurred by Heritage Ottawa.

Vera Campbell outlined some of the suggestions she and Albert Adey, both members of the Program Committee, had for the coming months. They included: a possible tour of the Martineau Hotel, a guided tour of the Parliamentary Library and the East Block (which is almost finished being renovated), a history of the buildings at the Experimental Farm with a picnic, a

tour of the Nicholas Street Jail now being used as a youth hostel, and, a talk and slide show on "Vanished Ottawa". The Program Committee promised us that one tour or talk would take place in October.

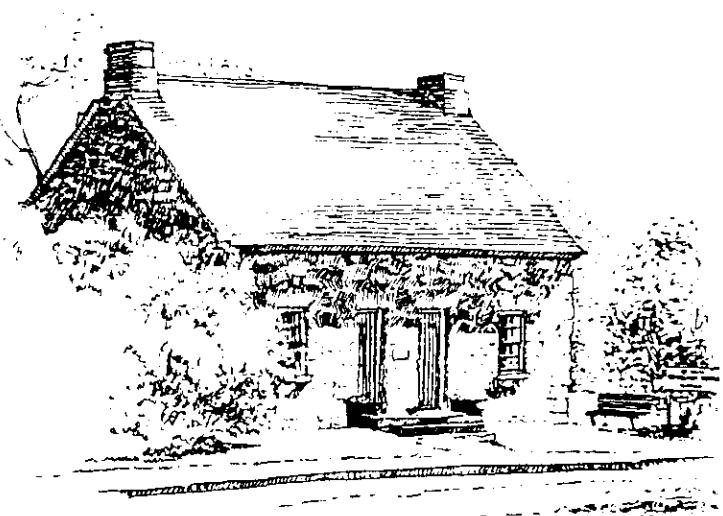
Gerry White of the Buildings and Exhibitions Committee indicated that the NCC would shortly be starting some of its work on the Schoolhouse: lights outside to lessen the isolation of the building on John Street and some interior work. This would all be finished for the unveiling of the MacKay Centenary plaque in September, as would a new sign describing the Schoolhouse to be placed in front of the building.

Anne E. MacDonald

## HASTI-NOTES ON SALE

Just a reminder that Heritage Ottawa Hasti-notes are on sale at the Fraser Schoolhouse Gallery. Price per package of 12 notes and 12 envelopes is \$2.50 including sales tax.

These notes are exclusive to Heritage Ottawa and make excellent gifts.



Fraser Schoolhouse (1837)  
From Heritage Ottawa Hasti-Notes

HISTORY OF  
SACRED HEART CHURCH  
(Part 3) Conclusion

Although the church's physical being was destroyed on that fateful day in November 1978, the decision to continue its spiritual life in a new structure was quickly made. As soon as the flames had died down and the stones cooled off, an Advisory Committee was formed, consisting of four members of the Oblate Order (who own the church, one of the few to which they still hold title) and five parishioners. They considered, but discarded, such ideas as: moving the site to a location closer to the geographic centre of the parish; sharing facilities with a neighboring church; and buying an existing building. Their decision: a new church on the same site, although it is on the extreme southwest edge of the parish. Financing was not such a problem this time since there was insurance money, although the parish missed out on the fun of the "Kermesses and Tombolas" held after the first church burned down.

With a keen sense of the church's place in the history of the area, the Committee hoped to use, or duplicate, as much of the old church as possible. But how could this be done? A replica was not feasible. Use of the old building stones was ruled out because many had been cracked in the heat of the fire, and stone masons to fit new blocks are in short supply. In addition, the mortar in the old foundations has rotted. Could a new church be constructed inside the still standing walls? The enormous problems encountered by other churches in trying to retain the heritage character of their buildings in this way ruled out that alternative. So it was decided to start afresh, but to incorporate into the new building as many parts of the old as possible.

St. Denis and Thibault, Ottawa architects who won the contract to rebuild, have designed a group of hexagonal buildings of varying heights to be finished in brown brick and bronze which satisfies the Committee's wish for continuity between the old and new. There will be a church to be used exclusively for worship (and not, as is some times the case nowadays, to be turned to secular use during the week); a hall for parish activities which

can be opened up by means of sliding doors to enlarge the church for special occasions; a residence for the priests; and offices in a central hall, allowing controlled access to the complex. A 24-hour-a-day chapel will be built at the front of the buildings. In it will be used the bronze cross and the forged iron lampstands saved from the fire. The iron skeleton of the old steeple will be bronzed and placed so that its attractive silhouette will be visible from the street. Madame Tassé's Bell, named Marie Emmanuel, also rescued from the ruins, will ring out from the open steeple. Both the Committee and the architect have succeeded in respecting the traditional character of the church in their plans for the new Sacred Heart Church and the corner of Laurier East and Cumberland Street will soon again be graced with an attractive and historic addition to the life of Sandy Hill.

Construction will start this summer, with plans for a first Mass to be sung in the new building on Easter Sunday, 1981. An old ritual, in a new setting, at the season of renewal. A propitious time for the opening of a new chapter in the life of one of Ottawa's most cherished institutions.

Janice Sutton

Thank you to contributing authors Janice Sutton and Anne MacDonald.

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

Jennifer