

NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 1981 Vol. 9 No. 2 John Leaning, President Jennifer Roddick, Editor

THE CLEGG HOUSE

Following the partial demolition October 27th, 1979 of the historic Clegg House, the City of Ottawa was in the process of suing St. Peter's Lutheran Church, owners of the property, for willful damage to a heritage property. The City was also proceeding with expropriation of the property in an attempt to save it from demolition.

However, the new City Council voted February 4th in favour of dropping charges against the Church on the condition that a compromise can be reached between the two parties.

The 126-year old former home of Capt. William Clegg, Royal Engineer of the Rideau Canal, was designated as heritage under the terms of the Heritage Act in July 1979.

The house was originally built for Capt. Clegg who subsequently rented the property to Gustavus William Wecksteed, Barrister and Chief Law Clerk, House of Commons. The house was also once occupied by Louis W. Coutlee, Barrister, who participated in the capture of Louis Riel and who served in the Fenian Raids of 1886.

Following is a copy of a letter our President will be sending to Mayor Marion Dewar and Members of Council to express Heritage Ottawa's views on the decision to drop charges.

We encourage you to write down your concerns and mail them to: The City Clerk, City Hall, Sussex Drive, Ottawa; The Editor, Ottawa Citizen, Baxter Road, Ottawa; Le Droit, 375 Rideau Street, Ottawa.

THE LETTER

The Board of Heritage Ottawa understands that Council is considering abandoning its legal proceedings against St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the matter of the unlawful demolition of the historic Clegg House in October 1979.

We wish to express our deepest concerns over this negative turn of events because we feel it will render heritage legislation in this City and across the Province

ineffective. The future preservation of numerous heritage buildings across the City will be in jeopardy because indiscriminate owners will know that they can flout heritage laws.

We hope that Council realizes that the prime issue is not a question of vindictive action against a church, nor even whether the sad remains of a historic building should be restored but whether Council is prepared to uphold the principles of the City's and the Province's heritage laws.

We urge Council to proceed with the legal actions that it started and for which it obtained approval from the provincial minister, and to ensure that the site and the remains of the Clegg House are appropriately treated in accordance with the declared public interest.

Sincerely, John Leaning
President
Heritage Ottawa

"FROM OTTAWA WITH LOVE"

If you missed Heritage Ottawa's Schoolhouse exhibit entitled, "From Ottawa with Love" depicting Edwardian hand-painted picture postcards of Ottawa collected by Peter Hessel, you will have another opportunity to view the display. The postcards are on view at the National Postal Museum's east wing, 180 Wellington Street and will remain there until the end of March 1981.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The first meeting of the new year was held on January 27th at the Fraser Schoolhouse.

William Keenan and Jenny Morgan volunteered to help with the Heritage Ottawa exhibit in commemoration of Heritage Day held this year on Sunday, February 15 at the Billings Estate. Following their stint at the Estate they planned to attend, later that evening,

the 1920's Jazz Ball sponsored by the Château Laurier Hotel as its contribution to Heritage Day.

The Board decided to raise to \$160 a month the rent charged to the Schoolhouse's tenants, Canadian Parents for French, as operating costs have increased in the three years during which the group have been tenants.

The following categories for membership in Heritage Ottawa were passed by the Board:

Life Member: a one-time fee of \$150
Honorary Life Member: given as

thanks or recognition at the discretion of the Board of Directors

Household: \$10

Individual: \$7

Senior Citizens and Students: \$4

Donors: any donations will be acknowledged as and when they arrive in The Newsletter.

If the Corporate Membership Committee is re-activated, there will be a separate category for Corporate Members.

It was agreed that it would make the administration too cumbersome if we were to adopt a policy whereby new members wishing to join Heritage Ottawa six months after the beginning of the membership year were to receive a discount. However, it was also agreed that a suggestion would be made to those applying mid-way through the membership year that they wait and join in September of that year.

At a previous Board meeting, several members expressed concern that Heritage Ottawa was perhaps responsible for payment of the alterations being undertaken at our Fraser Schoolhouse on John Street. Accordingly, a letter was read to the Board sent from the NCC, from whom we lease the premises, stating that the alterations are in fact the responsibility of the NCC as they are in the nature of minor improvements and are considered generally to be for the better use, appearance and protection of the property.

The Board requested that the stone fireplace should be exposed if at all possible during the course of the current alterations.

Anne E. MacDonald

Your submissions will be accepted before the 10th of the month and may be mailed to:

The Editor
Heritage Ottawa Newsletter
44 Carmichael Court
Kanata, Ontario
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Jennifer