

NEWSLETTER

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APRIL/MAY 1982 Vol. 10 No. 4 Diane Holmes, President Jennifer Roddick, Editor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded to attend the Annual General Meeting, Monday, May 17th, 1982 at 8:00 p.m.. The meeting will be held in the Boardroom of the National Archives on Wellington Street.

Guest speaker is Sandra Gwyn who will present some amusing facts and fancies concerning the Public Servant of a by-gone era.

GRANT APPROVAL

City Council has approved our application for a grant in the amount of \$1,000. The grant was requested for "civic assistance and general operating expenses" and will be put to good use.

The following two articles were submitted by Mary Anne Phillips, founding member and dear friend of Heritage Ottawa.

FAR AWAY AND LONG AGO

The recent appointment of Dr. Boggs to coordinate plans for our long-delayed National Gallery has stirred such powerful memories that I am compelled to remind Heritage Ottawa about a promise made as the walls of the Rideau Street Convent were being bulldozed to dust.

Many fought to save the Convent or, at very least, its Chapel. But one of the fighters is now dead, Hazen Sise. As a founding member of Heritage Ottawa he gained the ear of Jean Boggs, then Director of the Gallery. One evening, early in 1972, Hazen told us in a state of great euphoria that, not only had the National Gallery and the N.C.C. agreed to salvage what they could of the Chapel (iron pillars, fan ceiling) but that Jean Boggs had promised the parts would be incorporated into plans for a projected new Gallery as an admirable and uplifting reading room.

Please, let Heritage Ottawa remember this promise. The issue of the Convent represented a watershed in Heritage conservation not merely in the National Capital but across Canada.

For all our sakes, and in memory of Hazen Sise and his fellow fighters, let us keep track of the Rideau Convent Chapel and press for its reincarnation.

Mary Anne Phillips

ATTENTION JOLLY MILLERS

Are there "seniors" (or "middles" or "juniors") in the Heritage movement with time on their hands, engineering skills, or knowledge of industrial archaeology and architecture?

Arthur Dunn of Ottawa, retired engineer and world authority on millstones and grist mills is seeking support of various kinds for his efforts to encourage restoration of the derelict mill at Wakefield Québec and the partially restored mill at Manotick. If fully operating, they would be unique in North America.

Enquiries to Arthur Dunn, Telephone: 225-4149.

Mary Anne Phillips

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

The Historical Society of the Gatineau reports that their publication "Up the Gatineau" will soon be available for purchase at \$1.50 a copy.

"Up The Gatineau" is an enjoyable reading experience full of amusing anecdotes, poems, and stories of life in The Gatineau as it was during (great) grandmother's day.

Well worth watching out for!

The Society is soliciting items for their 20th Annual Auction Sale to be held August 28th, 1982. If you wish to donate please call Stella Kirk for the Society's telephone number (Tuesday and Thursday mornings: 745-0551).

AYLMER HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The Aylmer Heritage Association reports that the Chamberlain House, 14 Aylmer Road is in danger of demolition. They are asking that anyone interested in its preservation write the Town Hall, 120 rue Principale, Aylmer.

Saved from the wreckers wrath is the McGooey House, 37 Aylmer Road.

Expropriated in 1974 for the Deschene autoroute, the House has been purchased by Danielle and Paul Martineau.

The Martineaus plan to move the House to a site on the Grimes Road.

Paul Martineau is an architect and interested in restoring this unique house, built of planks on top of planks estimated weight 80 tons. The Martineaus are researching the history of their new home and welcome any-assistance-members-may give. They are looking for pictures, etc. Please call 684-2853 if you are able to help.

The Association's Headquarters will now be located in the Farley House, 34 Aylmer Road. This House was the first Methodist Church of the region. From an early account it was known as the Hull Chapel.

The Association would appreciate donations of furnishings. Please contact the Association at P.O. Box 476, Aylmer, Quebec.

DRAWING CONTEST

Although the contest (advertising flyer attached) is now closed, we invite members to view the results of our Drawing Contest, held in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Rideau Canal.

The 36 best entries from school children across Ottawa will be on display at the Fraser Schoolhouse, 62 John Street, from June 5th, 1982 until the end of August.

The response to our contest has been unbelievable. Over 600 entries have been recorded to date, making the judges' task an unenviable one.

The 36 chosen artists will receive a scroll at the Opening Party June 5th at 2:00 p.m. at the Schoolhouse to which participants, family and friends are invited.

OTTAWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ottawa Historical Society announces the Opening of the Bytown Museum May 15th.

Included in their extensive collection this year will be a special tribute to the Rideau Canal 150th Anniversary. The exhibit is entitled "Colonel By -- The Man, The Engineer".

THE DALY BUILDING

The following was submitted to Heritage Ottawa by the Public Archives and is of great interest especially at this time when the Daly Building's future is still in question.

In the first part of the Twentieth Century, Ottawa finally began self-consciously to beautify itself. It was felt that it should be the jewel of the Dominion. In 1899 Laurier began a process which led to the formation of the Ottawa Improvement Commission, which in 1903 began making gardens and scenic driveways throughout Ottawa. A rigorously Classical plan was conceived for the Capital (though not carried out). And yet embedded in this formal and somewhat backward-looking aesthetic, a private building chose a futuristic and daring alternative on what was understood to be one of the most prominent sites in Ottawa. (The Chateau Laurier and the Union Station had not yet been built).

The department store was a nineteenth century invention, and in Canada department stores were consistently conservative architecturally. The early part of Morgan's (now the Bay) in Montreal is a massy Romanesque pile. Similarly both Eatons and Simpsons in Toronto were of a more historical architecture. Thus the Daly Block was very much in step with the time, unusual for Canada.