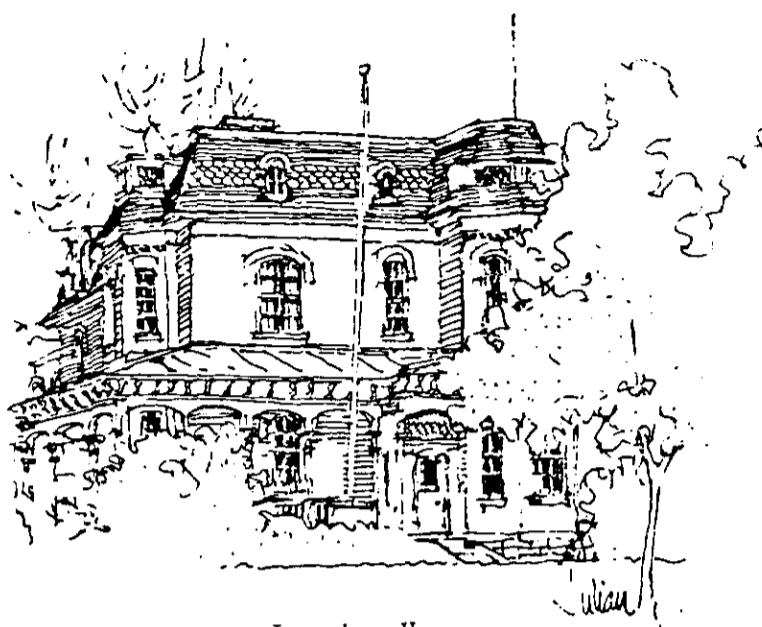


—NEWSLETTER—

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Jennifer Roddick, President
Judy Deegan, Editor



Laurier House

TOUR OF LAURIER HOUSE

Wednesday, March 30, at 8:00 p.m.

A special tour of Laurier House, 335 Laurier Ave. East (corner of Chapel), has been arranged for members of Heritage Ottawa. The tour will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will last about an hour. (There is plenty of on-street parking near Laurier House.)

Laurier House will not provide a tour for fewer than 12 people and cannot accommodate more than 24. Those who are interested in attending are asked to phone Stella Kirk Tuesday or Thursday mornings at 745-0551, or Judy Deegan at 238-8951 or 232-3497 to reserve a place.

Built in 1878 by John Leslie, a jeweller and silversmith who had an elegant store on Sparks Street, the house was sold in 1897 to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister from 1896 to 1911. Laurier lived in the house until his death in 1919. Lady Laurier willed the house in 1921 to William Lyon Mackenzie King, who lived in it while he was Prime Minister (1921-26, 1926-30, 1935-48). King bequeathed both Laurier House and his country estate at Kingsmere to the government and people of Canada. The house has been preserved exactly as it was over 50 years ago, furnishings and all, and was opened as a museum on August 1, 1951.

GIFT IDEAS

Hasti-Notes

New members (and old) may not be aware that Heritage Ottawa has for sale a delightful set of Hasti-Notes with line drawings by Julian Smith. The sketch of Laurier House at left is one of the four heritage buildings which make up the set: The Fraser Schoolhouse on John Street (Heritage Ottawa's headquarters), the Martineau Hotel on Murray, the Bishop's Palace on Sussex, and Laurier House.

Sketched in brown on heavy white folded paper (5" x 8" folded in half), they make perfect thank-you notes, invitations or hostess gifts.

Only \$2.50 for a set of 12 (three of each building per package).

Walking Tours

Heritage Ottawa offers walking tour books of New Edinburgh, Sandy Hill and Rockcliffe, for only \$3.00 each. Informative and fun to use, they also make excellent gifts to visitors and friends.

Sketches of interior and exterior details illustrate descriptions of historically and architecturally important buildings on each tour.

Both the Walking Tours and the Hasti-Notes are available at the Fraser Schoolhouse, 62 John Street (call 745-0551, or drop by).

PRESS CLIPPINGS

The 70-year old terrace on the west side of the Chateau overlooking the Rideau Canal locks may be reconstructed this summer. The project, which hinges on Treasury Board approval, is a joint venture between the NCC, Parks Canada and the Chateau Laurier.

The terrace is now used as a route for cars entering the hotel's parking garage and as an outdoor summer café.

Heritage Home Tour Planned

The Centretown Community Citizens Association hopes to organize a house tour to increase public awareness of restoration techniques and heritage, and to raise money for the Association.

The Association hopes several Centretown residents will open their homes June 19 to the curious and to renovation buffs. Last summer, \$5 tickets allowed visitors to see eight homes.

The money raised this year will be used, in part, to help pay legal fees of tenants fighting the conversion of the Montebello and Mayfair apartments to condominiums.

Bingham-McKellar House Restoration

If City Council approves, Roboak Real Estate Ltd. will be allowed to replace the pillars in front of the 140-year-old Bingham-McKellar House on Richmond Road at Westminster Avenue, to restore it to its 19th-century appearance.

The 1840-vintage house, once owned by radio station CKOY, was designated a heritage property in 1981. It is now part of a housing project.

Alterations will restore the house to its 1879 appearance. Additional work will include the installation of shutters on the ground floor and restoration of the entrance.

City of Ottawa still Ruminating on Future of Cattle Castle

The \$6.4 million renovation of the crumbling Cattle Castle proposed by Minto Skating Club is being held up by the City of Ottawa. The Club has asked the city for a one-time grant of \$3 million.

From the city's point of view, the matter hinges on the amount of money requested, and the whole question of Lansdowne Park redevelopment in the context of the probable relocation of the Central Canada Exhibition. Ald. Howard Smith, who is sponsoring the Minto proposal, is keen to have the Cattle Castle restored, but has serious reservations about the amount of money involved. He did feel, however, that the proposal could be decided in a "couple of months", independent of the Exhibition issue.

The Club, on the other hand, says it has received "enthusiastic and interested" responses from various funding bodies from which it is seeking to make up the additional \$3.4 million. "But . . . no one is going to make a commitment of intention or

funding unless the city does. The rest of the funding should fall into line after that," said Club president Mariette Grant.

Minto says that Wintario officials have responded favourably to a request for about \$1 million. Heritage Ontario, which wants to preserve the building as an example of grandiose Victorian architecture, has been sent a request for \$250,000 in each of the next two years.



Abbotsford House, 950 Bank Street (above)

Glebe Centre officials claim they must demolish 113-year-old Abbotsford House to build a new senior citizens centre on Bank Street, despite a recommendation by city consultant Harold Kalman that the building be preserved as a heritage site.

Mr. Kalman said the 2½-storey stone structure is the last remaining farmhouse on Bank St. and was the home of Ottawa mayor and Citizen editor Charles Mackintosh during the 1870s.

The Glebe Centre's lawyer, however, argued that the house was a confusing maze for senior citizens and would be too small after renovations.

Talks continue. Anyone for letters to the editor of The Citizen on behalf of this fine old house?

Facelift for Nicholas Street Youth Hostel

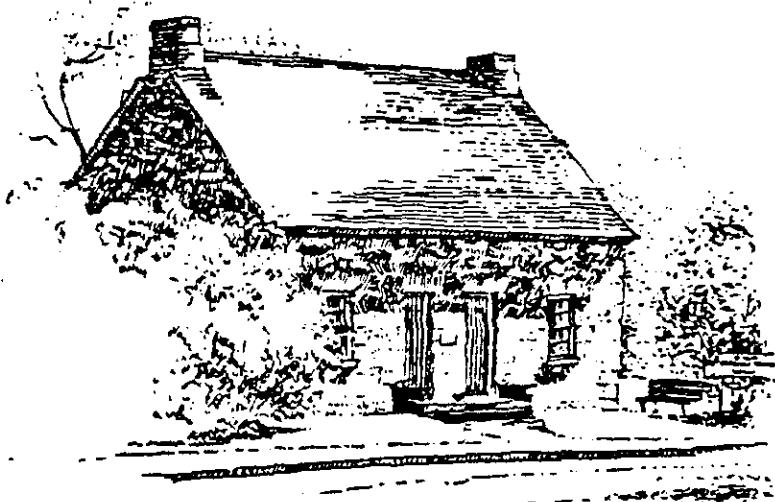
As part of a federal-provincial employment program, the Nicholas Street Youth Hostel will undergo \$109,500 worth of renovations to make the 123-year-old former jail seem less like a prison to its new users.

The federal and Ontario governments will contribute a total of \$66,500, and the hostel must make up the \$43,000 difference. The renovation program will provide seven jobs for an average of 24 weeks.

PAID UP MEMBERS OF HERITAGE OTTAWA after January List

Anglin, F.M.
Atkinson, M.P.
Barnett, Doris
Bedard, Georges
Benoit, Paul
Blais, F.M.
Burgess, J./Freeman M.
Burns, J.
Campbell, V.
Cullingham, G.
Desjardins, J.B.
Elliott, E.
Falkner, A.
Gall, F.
Grant, L.
Herman, L.L.
Hicks, C.
Hostetler, V.H.
Hudson, L.
Halpenny, E.
Heintzman, R.
Kalman, M.M.
Morin, M.R.
Pontiroli, A.

Kealey, J.E.
Kemp, A.M.
MacDonald, L.
MacDermid, H.D.
Mahon, E.C.
Martin, V.
Murchison, J.T.
Northgrave, V.
Raven, C.
Robertson, A.W.J.
Rusk, B.M.
Ryan, E.
Sawford, S.
Smith, J.
Starke, F.
Stevenson, B.
Schade, H.
Treau de Coeli, M.
Whitehall, G.C.
Wilkinson, A.
Wilkes G./N. Dahl
Valliant, D.
Yeates, M.B.



The Fraser Schoolhouse (1837)
62 John Street



The Martineau Hotel (1872)
Murray Street

"Residents upset by Minto Condominium Plans"

In February we alerted members to the fact that the gracious old Tudor-style building (the Protestant Children's Village) just east of the Civic Hospital was threatened by demolition to make room for a 142-unit low-rise condominium development by Minto Construction.

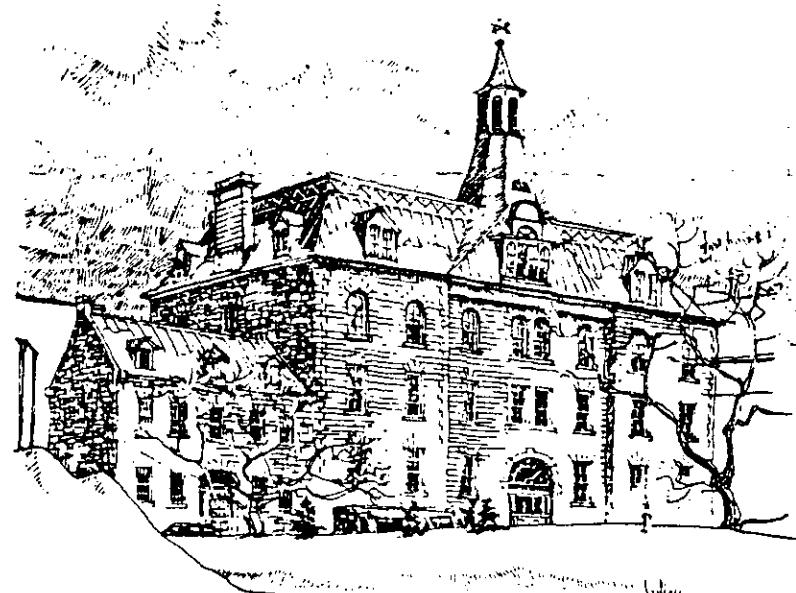
The building is indeed in very great danger: Minto's plans are contingent on being able to tear it down.

The large, 2½-storey, half-timbered house, built in 1930, is very attractive, but is not considered (by LACAC) to be significant enough architecturally for designation. No one of great fame or notoriety has lived in it, so it fails historical criteria. And it's only 53 years old--not old enough to be considered on age alone.

A Minto spokesman has said the company would do its best to retain as many trees as possible on the site: "Keeping the site attractive is in the developer's best interests as well," he told The Citizen. Why Minto cannot incorporate this lovely old house into its development plans is very hard to understand.

Area residents are most concerned about the loss of this building (which fits into the present surroundings very well), about the increase in population density, and about the very significant increase in traffic as a result. They have made their views known to the city, but would like support by other concerned citizens. They ask any members of Heritage Ottawa who feel strongly about the building to get in touch with members of the city's planning board, which will meet in April to consider both Minto's proposal and the community's request to have the area rezoned.

Further information can be obtained by calling Chuck Svoboda at 593-6646 (office) or 722-9704 (home).



The Bishop's Palace (1849)
Sussex Drive

ROOTS

The City of Ottawa's Municipal Archives Section is offering two very helpful publications, free of charge, to anyone who wishes to trace the history of his/her house or family in Ottawa.

Tracing your Ottawa Family/Découvrir ses ancêtres à Ottawa and Tracing the History of your House in Ottawa/Connaitre l'histoire de sa maison ottavienne give step-by-step directions which make it easy and fun to carry out this type of research.

Both booklets are available from:

City of Ottawa Archives
174 Stanley Avenue
Ottawa K1M 1P1
563-3115

The Archives office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays. Publications may be picked up there, or can be mailed out to you by the Archives staff.

NEW--AND RENEWED--MEMBERSHIPS

On the back of this page are the names of new or renewed members which should be added to the list in the January newsletter.