

—NEWSLETTER—

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MAY 16

All members are invited to attend Heritage Ottawa's annual general meeting on Monday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the National Research Council auditorium, 100 Sussex Dr. (There is plenty of free parking at the side and back of the NRC.)

Barry Padolsky, well-known preservation architect, will speak on "Current Restoration Projects in Ottawa", and will illustrate his talk with slides of the soon-to-be-opened Fleet Street Pumping Station (the Waterworks) and Wilson's Carbide Mill on Victoria Island.

It promises to be a splendid evening. We hope to see you all there.

OPENING OF NEW DISPLAY AT 62 JOHN STREET

The Ottawa Historical Society invites members of Heritage Ottawa to the opening of its new display, "Education in Bytown 1826-1960", at the Fraser Schoolhouse.

A small celebration to open this exhibition of artefacts and photographs will take place from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, at 62 John Street. All are welcome.

OTTAWA HOSTS 1983 LACAC CONFERENCE

The City of Ottawa will host the 1983 conference of Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees (LACAC). The conference will take place from June 23-26 at the University of Ottawa, and has as its theme this year "Preservation for Profit".

Last year's LACAC conference was very well attended, and organizers may have to limit participation to the first 400 applicants.

This year's program is exciting and timely, particularly in a period of economic hardship. Study sessions (June 24, 25, 26) focus on the conference theme of preservation for profit, as well as on programs to revitalize historic commercial and residential areas. Demonstration tours take place June 23-26, concluding with a trip to Perth, which has succeeded in preserving much of its architectural heritage.

Study sessions include, among others:

- "Heritage--the Catalytic Element" (the multiplier effect in the community)
- "Private Sector Profitability"
- "Funding Sources and Taxation" (grantsmanship and taxation)
- "New Federal and Provincial Policies affecting Conservation"
- "Main Street Programs"

The tours are of

- The East Block
- "Lunch at the Waterworks"
- Rideau Street-Byward Market area
- Sparks Street Mall
- Sandy Hill conservation districts
- Sussex Drive-Rockcliffe Park
- Perth study tour and lunch on the banks of the Tay River

The registration fee for the conference is \$50 before May 13 (\$60 after May 13). A modest charge is also assessed if participants require buses to tour locations. For more information and a complete conference package, get in touch with:

Sandra Huntley, Conference Coordinator
Arluce LaBond, Assistant
LACAC Conference Office
353 Friel Street, Ottawa K1N 7W7
Telephone: 232-5273

THE PANET HOUSE: A HOT ISSUE FOR THE OTTAWA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Concerned Sandy Hill residents met with city officials at a public meeting March 29 to protest the city's proposal to demolish the 108-year-old Panet House (on the NE corner of Laurier and King Edward) to make way for a new fire station.

Last year, council approved a 5-year, \$14 million plan to relocate seven fire stations to give faster service to neighbourhoods which the fire department considered poorly protected. The location of each firehall has been calculated by computer to give the best response time to each area. The fire department claims that if one station is misplaced, it throws the whole system out by leaving one area with too much protection and another with too little.

THE PANET HOUSE (Cont'd)

Community representatives voiced concern about

- the loss of a heritage building and the detrimental effect a new firehall would have on the heritage block of recently-renovated Victorian row houses along King Edward;
- the noise factor and danger represented by the location of a firehall on a congested corner of a primarily residential neighbourhood;
- the loss of several rental units if the Panet House (12 apartments) and two adjacent buildings were torn down.

Heritage Ottawa representatives attended the meeting and expressed strong support for the preservation, and restoration, of the Panet House. (Members with a copy of Walking in Sandy Hill will find, on p. 54, a photo of the Panet House as it was before its mansard roof was removed.) We also said we felt that a firehall would destroy the heritage character of the streetscape along King Edward.

The corner of Nicholas and Laurier--the location of a firehall for many years in the past--was suggested by community representatives as a preferable alternative: the site has no buildings of value on it, is in a less congested area, and has quick access to major traffic arteries.

The Fire Chief countered by saying that response time to the farthest areas of Sandy Hill (the SE corner) would be increased if the firehall were located at Nicholas and Laurier, but when pressed admitted that the difference in response time could be measured in seconds.

At the end of the meeting, Mayor Dewar did a superb job of addressing the concerns expressed by area residents, and promised that the city would take another look at its plans. The Fire Chief sounded an ominous note, however, by warning that, if the Panet House site was not used, another "within a 50-foot radius of the centre of that intersection /King Edward and Laurier/" would be chosen.

We are not going to preserve the heritage character of that block by letting them put the fire station across the street, either. This bears watching.

CANADA PACKERS PLANT TO BECOME RESTAURANT?

Rather appropriately, perhaps, a large restaurant and a museum are among uses being suggested for the 6.4-acre lot and buildings which Hull City Council bought for \$300,000 from Canada Packers in early April.

A study group will be formed to look at possible uses for the grey stone Montcalm Street building, which opened as a packing plant in 1890.

PRESERVATION OF NEW EDINBURGH

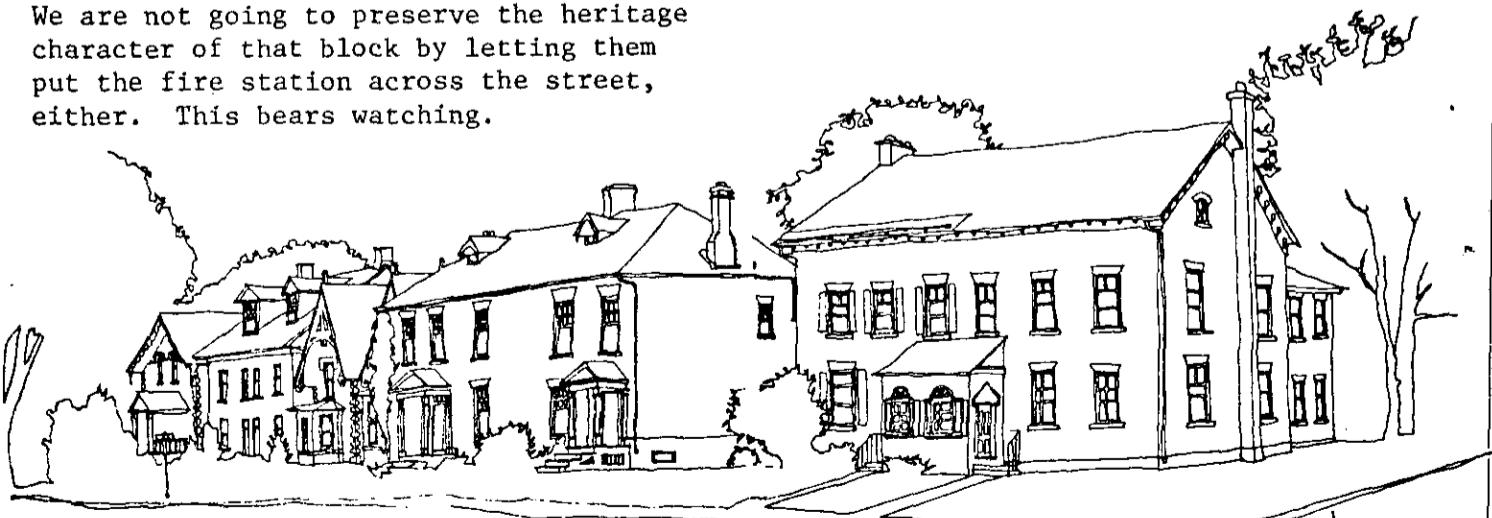
New Edinburgh residents strongly favour controls on new development in the area, and have sent proposals to the Ottawa Planning Board to help preserve the special character of their neighbourhood.

Most of the 250 residents who attended an April 12 meeting on the subject voted for controls which would mean that

- new buildings would have to be similar in style to existing ones;
- demolition of buildings would be prohibited until replacement structures were guaranteed;
- construction would not be allowed on lanes unless they were at least 9 metres wide;
- development would be allowed only in areas with fire hydrants.

As well, a heritage area has been proposed between Sussex Drive and Victoria Street. The City's design committee would review and approve the design of any new structures to be built within this area.

Planning Board is expected to consider the proposals within four weeks (i.e., by mid-May).



New Edinburgh streetscape: MacKay Street

(from Walking in New Edinburgh, available in English or French for \$3.00 from Heritage Ottawa, 62 John Street, Ottawa K1M 1M3)

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