

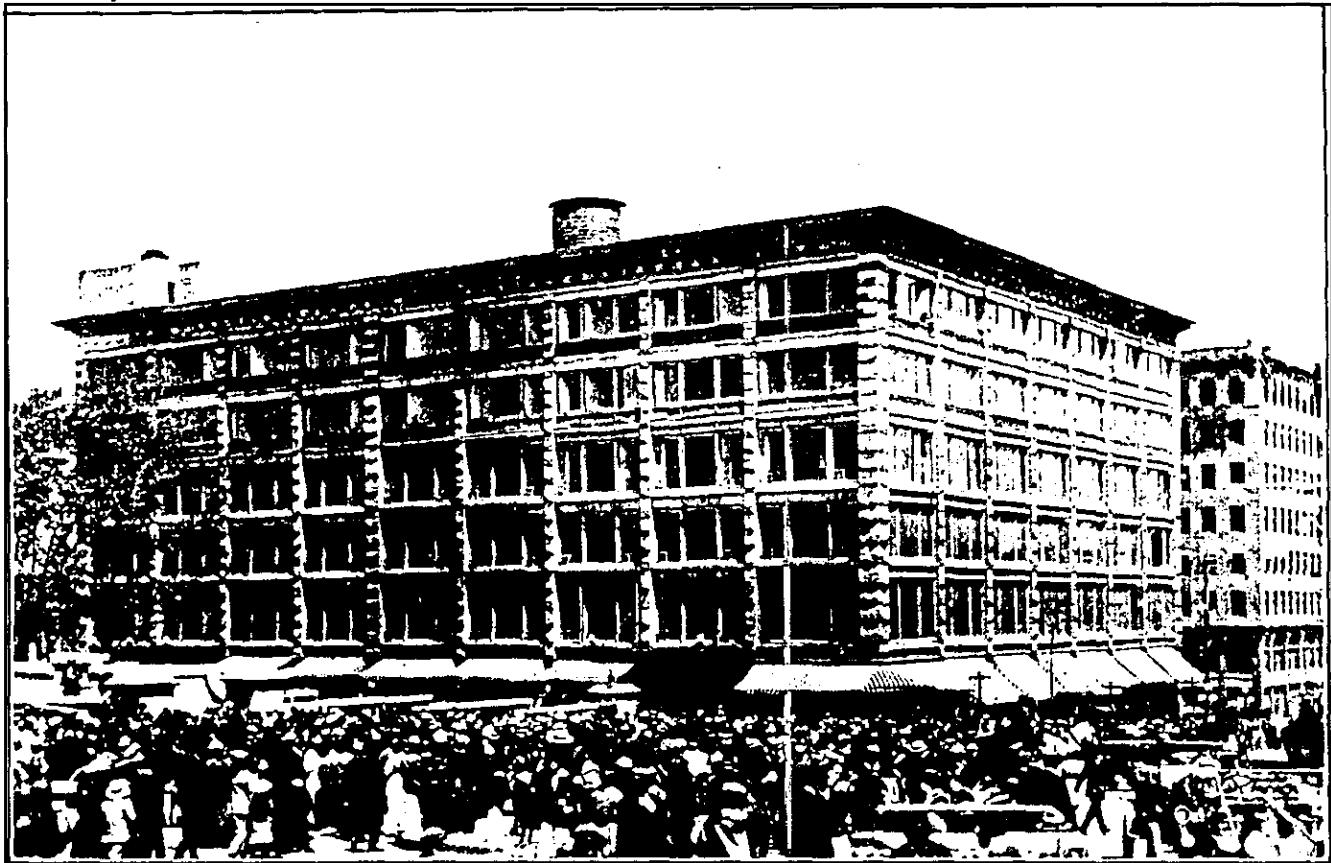
NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0808-0506

SUMMER 1984 Vol. 12, No. 3

Jennifer Roddick, President
Judy Deegan, Editor (238-8951)

The Daly Building (the A. E. Rea Co. Department Store) about 1910



The A. E. REA CO. Limited—OTTAWA

DALY BUILDING IN GRAVE DANGER

Earlier reports indicated that CN Hotels were interested in restoring the Daly Building as an adjunct to the Chateau Laurier's own conference and meeting facilities, and were negotiating with the Department of Public Works to trade a piece of CN property for the Daly Building.

That trade has now taken place: CN swapped 30 acres of riverfront property they owned in Windsor for the Daly Building, but now say that they will find it difficult to use the Daly, even restored. A CN spokesman has said that CN might insist that the federal government give them the right to demolish the building.

The Daly Building has been designated a heritage building by the City of Ottawa, and has at least partial protection from demolition. (Under provincial legislation a city can stall demolition of a heritage building for up to nine months to try to reach an agreement with the developer. At the end of that time, however, the developer can go ahead and tear the building down.)

Not everyone likes the Daly Building but, historically and architecturally, it is of great value: it was Ottawa's first department store (doors opened 1905) and is the city's only example of the Chicago style of architecture (and is probably the purest example of the style in Canada).

The Daly Building is something of a Cinderella: it's covered with grime, it has lost its graceful cornice, venetian blinds hang awry, and paint is peeling off cracked and dirty windows. If the Daly were cleaned, if its cornice were put back up--in short, even if only minimum restoration were carried out on the exterior, it could again be the handsome building it once was.

What will happen if CN demolishes the Daly Building? One thing is certain: after having traded valuable property for the site, there is no chance that CN will turn it into a park, as many detractors of the Daly have suggested be done.

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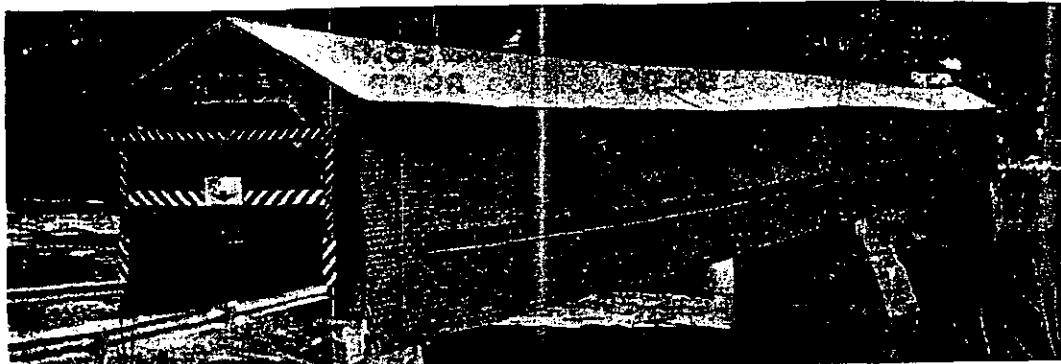
Another sure thing dictated by economics is that CN will not replace the Daly with a mere 5-storey building. Instead, they will likely put up a high-rise which will dwarf the Chateau and the Conference Centre (Union Station) across the street. (Has anyone noticed how much the new courthouse being built at Elgin and Laurier detracts, by its very size, from the Teachers' College? And it hasn't yet reached its full height!)

Why not restore the Daly? It's structurally sound. It's the perfect height for that corner. It blends well with the buildings in the area. And it's the only representative left standing in Ottawa of the Commercial (Chicago) Style of architecture.

The Daly is an important building. Help save it by calling or writing

- the Manager of the Chateau Laurier (232-3411)
- Mayor Marion Dewar (563-3251)
- Mr. David Burstow, President CN Real Estate
700 Dorchester West (5th floor)
Montreal, Quebec H3B 1X8
(514) 877-4148

Then, call Hal Kalman (238-4607) to add your name to The Friends of the Daly Building Committee, and to ask how you can help further to save this valuable Ottawa landmark.



Gendron Bridge

GENDRON BRIDGE IN WAKEFIELD DELIBERATELY DESTROYED BY FIRE

On July 10, one of the oldest wooden covered bridges in the area was deliberately destroyed after a stolen car was driven onto it and set ablaze.

A similar attempt had been made the previous week to set fire to the 64-year-old bridge 15 miles north of Hull on the Gatineau River, but firefighters managed to bring the flames under control before they spread to the bridge.

The rage one feels at the wanton destruction of this popular landmark is compounded by the fact that only last year local residents saved it from demolition after plans were announced to replace it with a modern structure.

As well as being an important tourist attraction for the area, the Gendron Bridge had served the people of Wakefield on the west side of the Gatineau, and Edelweiss on the east, for decades. Estimates of daily commuter traffic between the two communities ranged from 50 to 200 cars. Now these commuters will have to take a 12-mile detour through Farrelton, and pedestrian traffic will no longer be possible between the two towns.

And another heritage structure has been lost.

RESTAURANT PLAN REJECTED FOR CENTRE TOWN HOUSE

Ottawa Planning Committee has rejected a proposal to convert the house at 571 Somerset St. West into a restaurant, on the grounds that it would be incompatible with nearby houses in the heritage residential zone.

The committee contended that a restaurant would have produced too much garbage, exhaust fumes and noise for a residential area, and would have drawn away from an already-existing commercial zone at Somerset and Percy Streets.

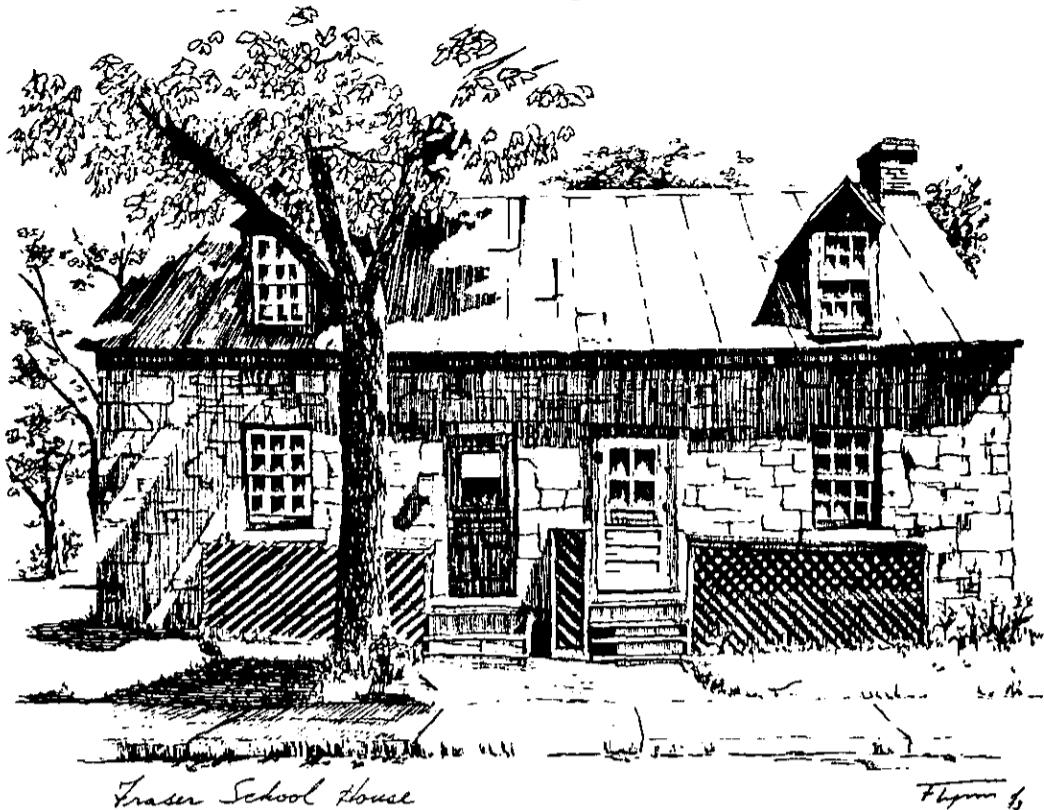
A city staff report to the Planning Committee said the goal of the Centre Town Development Plan is to enhance the residential character of the area and to concentrate new businesses in areas already designated for commercial use. The report

said that there would be more pressure on property owners to sell their houses to businesses if a new restaurant were permitted in the area.

\$664,000 FACELIFT URGED FOR SOMERSET W.

Ottawa Council has agreed to ask the province for \$82,000 of a \$664,000 facelift for Somerset Street West between Bank and O'Connor, despite complaints that the total amount is too much to spend on one city block. The block contains a number of red brick heritage houses.

Under the plan, the City would provide \$254,000, the Somerset St. merchants \$328,000, and the province \$82,000. The province must, however, approve the entire project before contributing any funding.



GARDEN PARTY

HERITAGE OTTAWA and the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OTTAWA invite members and friends to an old-fashioned garden party on the lawn beside the Fraser Schoolhouse at 62 John Street on Sunday, September 9. Come join us for a pleasant afternoon get-together and a look at the Historical Society's new exhibit, "An Early Canadian Kitchen, 1850-1890".

This will be an excellent opportunity to meet fellow members and to visit the schoolhouse, built in 1837 by New Edinburgh founder Thomas MacKay as housing for workmen building the Rideau Canal. Afterwards you can stroll along the banks of the Rideau River and through the streets of picturesque New Edinburgh, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

DATE: Sunday, September 9, 1984

TIME: 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Fraser Schoolhouse
62 John Street (just off Sussex)

\$664,000 FACELIFT (cont'd)

Some Ottawa councillors were unhappy with the \$664,000 price ticket and have asked staff to try to cut the city's contribution by about \$100,000--to \$150,000. This could be done by reducing the cost of the entire project, or by making other parties pay more.

The project includes brick paving, new street lights, plants, benches and new sewer lines.

About a dozen merchants on the street have formed an association to take responsibility for paying their share of the project.

LOWERTOWN GROUP LOBBIES CITY HALL
FOR PERMANENT HERITAGE PLANNER

The Lowertown-West Community Association wants the City to move faster on hiring a permanent heritage planner to help protect historically significant buildings in the area.

The group is concerned because developers are demolishing historic buildings to build new housing units. They say that the character of Lowertown is being destroyed by the removal of older buildings. The group is willing to advise city politicians about the heritage value of area buildings if necessary.

The City, for its part, says that it is actively looking for a heritage planner to replace a planner who resigned, but claims that it is difficult to find qualified candidates.

OTTAWA EAST RESIDENTS SAY NO TO DEVELOPER

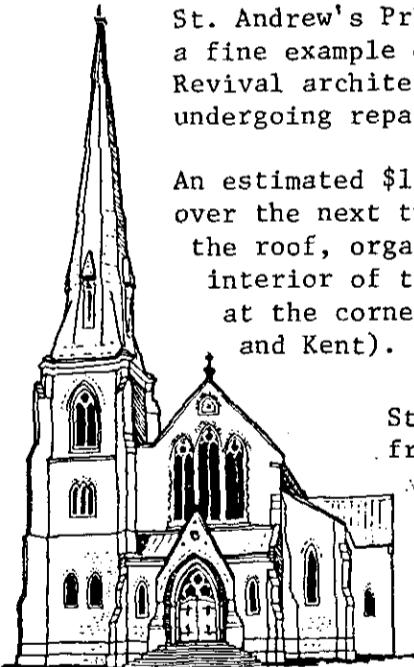
City councillors have turned down a request by a developer to tear down an old brick house on Concord Street to make way for four semi-detached houses. The Planning Committee ruled that the site was not big enough for the development.

The Ottawa East Triangle Action Group had said that they did not want to lose older houses in the neighbourhood to higher-priced new units, as such changes destroyed the old, established character of the neighbourhood.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH BEING REPAIRED

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, a fine example of English Gothic Revival architecture in Ottawa, is undergoing repairs.

An estimated \$150,000 will be spent over the next two years to repair the roof, organ chamber and interior of the church (located at the corner of Wellington and Kent).



St. Andrew's Church,
from OUR ARCHITECTURAL
ANCESTRY, by John
Leaning and Lyette
Fortin.

CATTLE CASTLE PROJECT THREATENED

A lack of enthusiasm by the provincial government has put in doubt the City of Ottawa's plans to turn the 86-year-old Aberdeen Pavilion (the Cattle Castle) into a 2-level skating rink for Minto Skating Club and the general public.

Ottawa Council had hoped to get a total of \$2.66 million from Wintario, Lottario and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Ontario Tourism Minister Reuben Baetz agrees that the Minto Club needs a permanent home--and indeed has earmarked \$500,000 towards that goal--but feels that the Cattle Castle proposal is too expensive. The Club would be better served by a new arena, he said (new arenas are being built for about \$1.5 million throughout the province).

However, Minto Skating Club president Henri Duchesnay is confident that the province will reverse its stance once it receives guarantees the building is structurally sound and construction costs will not escalate dramatically.

Mayor Dewar said the Council would have to "rethink the whole thing", but suggested that, even if the skating rink proposal fell through, the City might consider renovating the building for exhibition space, a project estimated at \$5 million.

It's at least reassuring to know that most aldermen favour preserving the Pavilion, which is to be designated a building of heritage value by Council.

17-STOREY BUILDING TO OVERSHADOW MARKET AREA?

At this moment a 17-storey, reflective glass office tower is under serious consideration at 97-105 Rideau Street beside The Bay. The bottom three floors will retain their heritage facades, but the developer wishes to build an additional 14 stories, stepped back from both Rideau and George. Such a building will overshadow the entire market area, and its glass exterior will be totally out of character with the surrounding architectural design.

LOWERTOWN - RENOVATIONS PLANNED

A 100-year-old house at 49-51 St. Andrew Street will be transformed from a 3-storey duplex into two modern condominium townhouses. The interior will be completely renovated, but the heritage exterior will remain basically unchanged.

Renovations began in June. When finished, the new townhouses will measure about 1,900 sq. ft. each and will feature sundecks. They are expected to sell for between \$175,000 and \$200,000.

HELP STOCK HERITAGE OTTAWA'S BOOTH AT THE FLEA MARKET!

HERITAGE OTTAWA will have a booth at the City of Ottawa's Flea Market on Sunday, September 30, in the Coliseum at Lansdowne Park. If you have any articles you wish to donate for sale at Heritage Ottawa's booth, please call either Stella Kirk (745-0551) or Judy Deegan (238-8951) to make arrangements for drop-off or pick-up.

Ideally, old or antique items would be best, but one person's piece of junk is another's treasure. So if there is anything in your basement you are dying to get rid of, this may be your chance. Some suggestions:

Bottles, glass, stoneware	Wooden baskets
Floor mats	Old bedsteads (iron, brass)
Afghans	Dolls, pre-plastic toys
Shawls	Games
Old jewellery (valuable or otherwise)	Books and records
Cigarette tins	Inkwells
Old-style wooden clothespins	Old doilies, lace, mats
Tins, jars (especially with a label)	Wire plant stands
Pictures	Wire egg baskets
Picture frames	Stained glass
Bone-handled cutlery	Chamber pots
Dressing table items	Cups and saucers, old china
Yard goods, material scraps	Silver/silver-plated items
Walking sticks	Scrubbing boards
	Woodenware, bowls, ladles
	Small wagons

Heritage Ottawa is not a rich organization. This time, instead of digging into your pockets, dig into your basements (or closets) for items we can sell at the Flea Market. Help us make a little money to spread the word about preservation and restoration of Ottawa's architectural treasures.

We'd also like volunteers to sell at the booth. It would only be for a few hours on Sunday, September 30, and it's usually a lot of fun.

THINGS TO DO

THE BILLINGS ESTATE

The former home of Braddish Billings, one of the area's earliest settlers, the Billings Estate is open to the public until early November, one month longer than usual. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday to Thursday (closed Friday and Saturday).

Regular features of the Cabot Street house are

- Guided Tours
- Tea on the Lawn (10:00 to 4:00)
- "Braddish's Neighbours" (a bi-centennial exhibit)
- Meeting room facilities

Special Event:

- Sept. 2: "Working at Home"

For more information about group tour arrangements, meeting room rentals or details of special events programs, call 563-3075.



The Billings House (1828-29)
2100 Cabot Street
(from OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY)

COUNTRY FAIRS

Sept. 5-9:	Renfrew
Sept. 6-9:	Almonte
Sept. 7-8:	Spencerville
Sept. 14-16:	Richmond
Sept. 21-23:	Carp
Sept. 22-23:	McDonald's Corners
Sept. 28-30:	Metcalfe
Oct. 3-7:	Ottawa Winter Fair

VISIT THE LOG FARM IN OCTOBER

Think about joining us on an outing to the NCC's 19th century Log Farm in October.

The log farmhouse and the various farm buildings are original, built by the Bradley family on this site (in the Greenbelt) in the 1850s.

A visit to the Farm will let you experience life in the Ottawa Valley a century ago, and give you a better appreciation of the hardiness and self-sufficiency of the early settlers.

Watch for further details in the September Newsletter, or call Annette Yuar, Programme Chairman, at 749-5617.

COURSES OF INTEREST

Housebound? Tune in at home to Carleton's instructional television (ITV) courses. Of particular interest to Heritage Ottawa members is

"Structures in Architecture: What Makes Buildings Stand Up" (Architecture 77.113)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-6:00 p.m. (live)
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to noon (rebroadcast)

Dates: September 11 to December 8.

For more information, call the School of Continuing Education at 231-6660.

The University of Ottawa offers, on a non-credit basis:

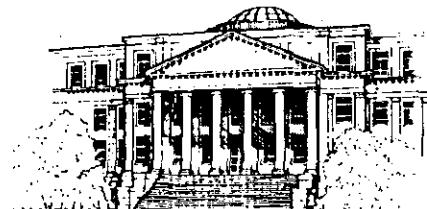
"The Art and Architecture of Japan"

Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
October 2 to November 20
Cost: \$65 (\$55 for seniors)

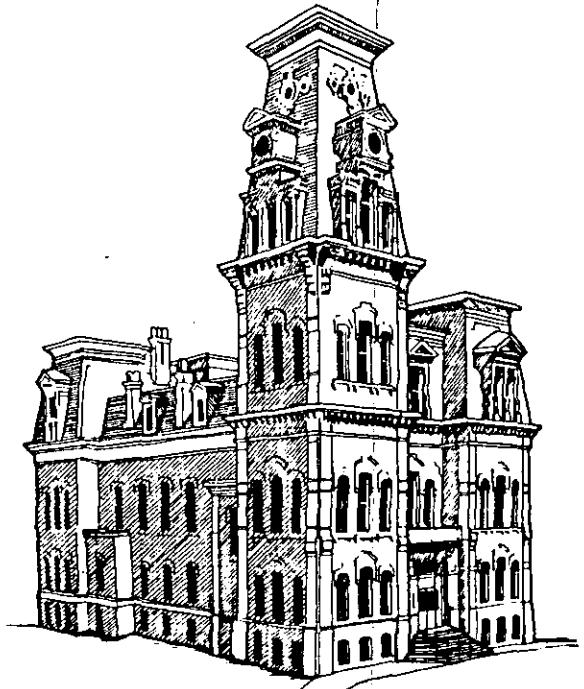
"Gardens of Earthly Delight: Northern Italy" (the garden as an art form)

Thursdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
November 1 to December 6
Cost: \$55 (\$45 for seniors)

For more details, call the University of Ottawa at 231-4263.



Tabaret Hall, University of Ottawa
Built 1904, Count A. O. Von Herbulis,
architect (from OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY)



Second Ottawa City Hall
Built in 1877, burned in 1937
Architects: Horsey and Sheard
(from OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY)

HINTS (HERITAGE AND OTHERWISE)

Gail Sussman's tip in the August-September issue of Canadian Heritage is worth repeating, in case some of you missed it:

"Use WAX, not soap, to lubricate screws, windows and drawers. Soap is hygroscopic; that is, it absorbs water, which will rust screws and cause the wood in drawers and windows to expand and stick."

Ficus Benjamina (Weeping Fig) Cuttings

If you've had problems getting Weeping Fig cuttings to root in water, it may be that you haven't been changing the water often enough.

Cuttings from this plant give off a lot of acid, and the water they are kept in will eventually kill them if it is not changed fairly often.

A complete change of water is recommended once a week.

JAD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For those of you who were not able to attend the Annual General Meeting on May 29, a copy of President Jennifer Roddick's report to the membership is attached.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have had a busy year this year, with most of our energies being directed towards saving the Rideau Convent Chapel ceiling--for the second time. As reported in our Newsletter, the Chapel ceiling was once again endangered when the National Gallery, which had promised to re-erect the ceiling in its new premises, suddenly announced that there would be no room for the ceiling. We joined forces with many other concerned people to write letters and make a loud noise to persuade the Gallery to change its mind. Later this evening you will be brought up to date on the status of the ceiling restoration by our Vice-President, Georges Bédard.

As mentioned at our last annual meeting, the Historical Society of Ottawa has been sharing our Fraser Schoolhouse while renovations are being made to the Bytown Museum. The renovations are expected to be completed by January 1985, and the Historical Society has kindly agreed to continue with their fabulous exhibits in the Schoolhouse Gallery until that time. This past year the Historical Society's exhibits, set up by curator Vera Campbell, were entitled "Bytown Education", "Toys", and "Fans and Furbelow".

Heritage Ottawa's programme director, Cathy Raven, worked overtime this year to bring us some of the most interesting evenings. We had a tour of the currency museum to see the exhibit "Gold of Ecuador". On another evening we were treated to the films "Caring for History" and "The Woodstock County Courthouse". And for another evening Cathy arranged for Gail Sussman from Heritage Canada to present a lecture on "Everything you wanted to know about Paint", which was concerned with painting heritage homes.

Judy Deegan, editor of our Newsletter, reviewed some books for us which she recommends we read. The first is entitled Respectful Rehabilitation: Answers to your Questions about Old Buildings, by the Technical Preservation Services of the U. S. National Park Service. Another is Our Architectural Ancestry, a new book written by our own John Leaning and illustrated by Lyette Fortin . . . and sponsored by Heritage Ottawa. The fact that we make money on every book we sell has nothing to do with the fact that I highly recommend this book. Stella will be selling it at the door tonight, and I do suggest that you take a look at it.

As well as working towards the restoration of the Chapel Ceiling we wrote letters and made phone calls on behalf of the following:

The Zellers Building: which as you know has been saved by virtue of having its facade incorporated into the new bank building which is being erected inside it.

The Panet House: which was threatened by demolition to make way for a new fire station; the City has decided to build the fire station on the opposite corner;

The Daly Building: our window-washing escapade of 1982 resulted in much-needed publicity for the Daly Building, which in turn led to further discussion on its future. Thanks to the support of Bob Phillips, Chairman of the Friends of the Daly Building Committee, and his committee members, negotiations to restore the property are continuing and we consider the building to be safe--for the moment.

And lastly, the Teachers College: we supported the City in its bid to turn the College into a centre for the arts; however, now that the City has promised \$4 million to the Aberdeen Pavilion, it is doubtful that they will be able to find the money or the votes to restore the college. Other organizations are interested in the property, however, and I am assured that it is in no danger.

I will take this opportunity to mention that one organization most anxious to move into the Teachers College is the Royal Society of Canada, who are interested in turning the building into a centre of learning or a House of Academies such as exists in other countries around the world. They first expressed their interest in the College almost ten years ago and are now negotiating with the government to be allowed to lease the property if and when the negotiations with the City fall through.

Last summer you may recall that we hired three summer students to put together our School Education Programme. The School Education Programme is designed to be used in the classroom by teachers of grades V to VII during Heritage Week. It consists of activities and stories and suggested programmes with the purpose of increasing the children's awareness of the importance of heritage. The material collected and presented to us by those students was superb and certainly packed full of interesting material for the teachers. However, it was too long, and so this summer we will again have three students working to edit the material and put it into a more usable format for the schools. We hope to present it to the school board and have them accept it for use next February. Grant money will be sought to implement the programme.

And finally, I have some very exciting news for all of you--but especially those of you who have been with us over the past seven years: the Murray Street Synagogue murals have been installed in their new home in the Jewish Community Centre on Rideau Street. If you have not already done so, please go and see them. Although separately they are not the most beautiful works of art ever seen, they are a sight to behold on the walls of the lobby of the Community Centre--and well worth a visit.

I would like to thank the members of the Board for 1983-84 for all their hard work and dedication--and to say a special thank-you to Stella Kirk, without whose competent administration Heritage Ottawa, I'm sure, would be floundering in the dark.

During the coming year we will direct most of our attention towards saving the Rideau Chapel Ceiling and continuing in our role as watch dog over Ottawa's treasures.

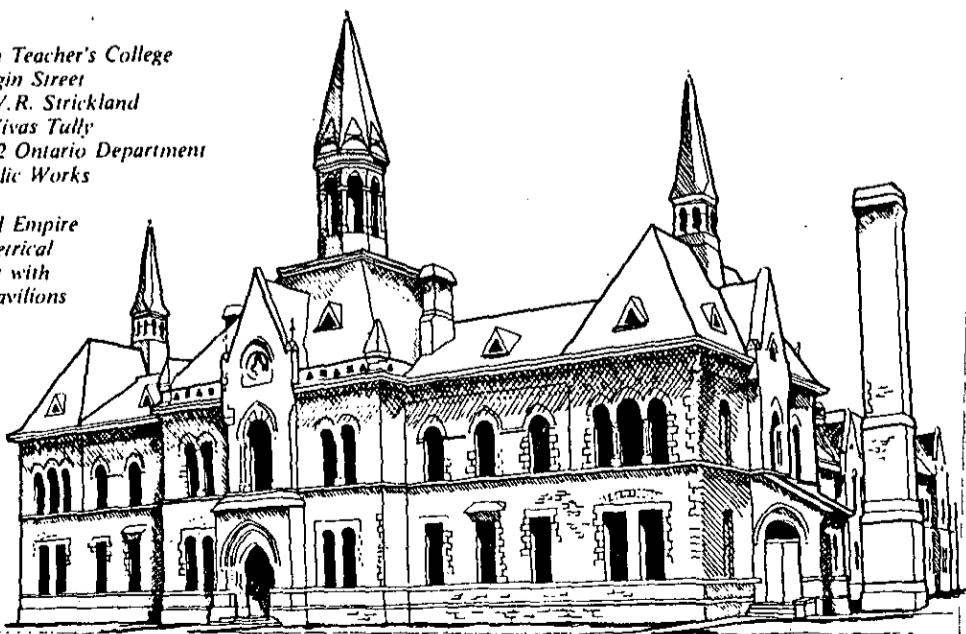
Thank you.

May 29, 1984

Jennifer Roddick
President

*Ottawa Teacher's College
195 Elgin Street
1875 W.R. Strickland
1879 Kivas Tully
1891-92 Ontario Department
of Public Works*

*Second Empire
Symmetrical
Layout with
End Pavilions*



From OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY,
by John Leaning and Lyette Fortin