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Editor
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ABERDEEN PAVILION

by Richard Cannings

SAVE THE CATTLE CASTLE!! SIGN & MAIL ENCLOSED POSTCARD NOW!!

COUNCIL VOTES MARCH 7!!!

Just when heritage activists had breathed a sigh of relief when City Council voted 13-3 to restore the Aberdeen Pavilion last June a committee of council has voted to demolish it. This probably represents the greatest single heritage issue since the demise of the Rideau Street Convent. Both were classified as National Historic Sites. In fact, Ottawa leads the nation in attempting to destroy its national historic sites.

In general the traditional enemies of heritage have been Michael McSweeney (Canterbury), Jim Jones (Brittania), and George Kelly (Overbrook-Forbes). To their side went a surprise--Joan O'Neil (Billings)--who cast the deciding ballot. Alderman O'Neil used "economic" arguments in casting her ballot. She apparently is unaware that Grade A exhibition space is desperately needed in Lansdowne Park. If the Cattle Castle was to be demolished, a new structure would have to be erected.

Alderman George Kelly made no bones about his animosity toward the Aberdeen Pavilion when his pet project, the Triple A baseball team, was defeated. He warned fellow aldermen at that time that if the AAA team was not passed by council, the Cattle Castle could easily be a victim of his vengeance. His threats have now become a very real possibility.

Affectionately known as the Cattle Castle, the building enjoys a significant share of the history of Ottawa. It is the place where the Silver Seven won the Stanley Cup in 1904, where the troops of Lord Strathcona's Horse camped on their way to the Boer War, where the Princess Patricia's assembled before being sent to France during World War I.

Architecturally it is unique. Back in 1898 it represented the pen ultimate trade show space. When 70% of the population was engaged in agriculture, every fall farmers from all over Eastern Ontario would come to Ottawa to learn about the latest advancements in farming.

Incredibly, the Cattle Castle is the only one left standing on the entire continent! Stemming out of the Crystal Palace tradition of the London World's Fair in 1851, it represents an incredible eclectic mix of palladian windows, neoclassical facades, and romantic turrets. It might be interesting to note that it is part of the curriculum at Columbia University in New York City.

To think that council would vote to destroy this building that is so much a part of our history and our culture at no saving to the city is beyond comprehension. LACAC is calling an urgent meeting on Tuesday night, March 6 to discuss and propose a motion to save the Aberdeen Pavilion.

MAIL YOUR POSTCARD NOW!

THE DALY BUILDING

Heritage activists won a battle but not the war as far as the Daly Building is concerned. After lengthy negotiations and meetings with the developer Coop-Dev, Heritage Ottawa had insisted that the original 4'6" cornice be replaced on the Daly building and the developer use clear glass instead of a proposed green glass. The developer fought the clear glass but conceded on the cornice.

The building is extremely important as it is the first building on the Ceremonial Route and the Mile of History. In 1978 it was to be demolished. In 1982 it was to be preserved as long as the massing and stylistic details were maintained. Somehow between then and 1986 the NCC had forgotten those government directives and low and behold the developer came up with a NCC approved version whereby the cornice was to be removed, the massing dramatically enhanced, the colour of the windows changed from clear to green, and the rhythm of the windows changed from the familiar Chicago style of ABA to an unheard of ABBA. Clearly this rare and unique example of the Chicago School of Architecture has slipped into the NCC School of Architecture, a non-definable lump of a building. Both LACAC and the committee of adjustments found the developer's proposals unacceptable but finally at planning committee which spent 3 hours discussing the colour of windows, they decided to commend the developer for his bold initiatives, accepted the green windows and now the 50 million dollar project is well on its way.

The Daly is the first building to be "restored" under the Conservative government's new initiative of letting the private sector do the "restoring." In line for restoration are the Central Chambers, Scottish Chambers, Bell

Block, and the Institut Jeanne D'arc. Incredibly the NCC has no heritage policy in restoring old buildings despite the fact they are the greatest single landlord of properties in the National Capital Region. Vice President Andre Bonin (Real Estate Development) has agreed to fast track a heritage policy. The moral victory in the Daly Building episode was that in 1978 they wanted to demolish it and in 1990 they spent three hours discussing green windows. The sadness of it all is that the NCC has somehow ignored its traditional role of protecting heritage.

*(the original cornice
was removed in 1964)*





WE CAN TURN
YOUR JUNK
TO GOLD
FOR YOU!

3

JIM DURRELL, the Mayor of Ottawa, is sponsoring a PUBLIC AUCTION at the Arts Court in early April.

The Auctioneer will be PETER WALKER, the most respected auctioneer in the National Capital Region.

This is your chance to sell all those things which accumulated around the house, gathered dust in the basement and the attic--all those things you don't know what to do with, but until now did not have the heart to throw out.

At this auction you can sell practically anything, old or new, household furnishings, furniture, art objects and decorations, appliances and tools, clothing and preserves--in one word: ANYTHING!

Your articles will be sold to the highest bidder. There will be no charge deducted for the services of the Auctioneer from the sale price of your article.

THIS SOUNDS TOO GOOD! WHAT IS THE CATCH?

Of course there is a catch. In lieu of cash you will receive an official receipt for the entire sum your article was sold for. This receipt can be used for TAX DEDUCTION as charitable donation, in accordance with the applicable Income Tax Regulations.

IT IS YOUR CHOICE: Let those things gather dust around the house or turn them into dollars in the form of legitimate TAX DEDUCTIONS>

ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION MAY BE DELIVERED TO:

Architectural Antique Company--1240 Bank Street

(next to Hitsman's Restaurant)

Until March 20--weekdays, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

If you need assistance delivering articles call: 738-9243

For further information call: 230-8841

MARKET SAVED!

City Council has passed a by-law saving hundreds of buildings in the Byward Market. The City of Ottawa has undertaken a study the goal of which is to create a Heritage Conservation District of the Byward Market. The market is the second most popular tourist attraction in our city. Economically, tourism is important to every citizen.

All site applications will be removed from staff to the planning committee for approval.

FEDERAL HERITAGE AWARDS

On Heritage Day, Monday, February 19, 1990 the Honourable Lucien Bouchard, Minister of the Environment presented the Canadian Parks Service Heritage Awards. These awards were developed in 1978 to honour exceptional achievement by persons or groups, other than federal government employees, in natural and cultural heritage conservation.

As the Jarvlepp Quartet entertained people began to file in. Quiet conversation echoed in the beautiful West Block room. Presently, a fife and drum led the parade of 1989 award winners. Several employees in period dress added to the glamour of the event. As I heard O Canada sung in both our official languages, a tingle of excitement crept up my spine.

Pierre Berton speaking on heritage said, "today ought to be a holiday, don't know why it isn't." He went on to say that heritage now takes on broader terms because it includes our natural and multicultural as well as our built heritage. One of the founding members of Heritage Canada, Mr. Berton stated that heritage has become acceptable, popular and fashionable. This means our children will be raised in an environment that tells them something of their heritage.

Recipients of the 1989 Heritage Awards were: Joy and Cam Finlay, Alta.; Phyllis Lambert, Quebec; Ursuline Monastery of Quebec; Ontario Heritage Foundation; Quidi Vidi Rennies River Development Foundation, Newfoundland; VIA Rail Canada; Village of Kaslo, B.C.; Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Incorporated, Saskatchewan; E. Keith Winterhalder, Ont.; Yarmouth County Museum, Nova Scotia.

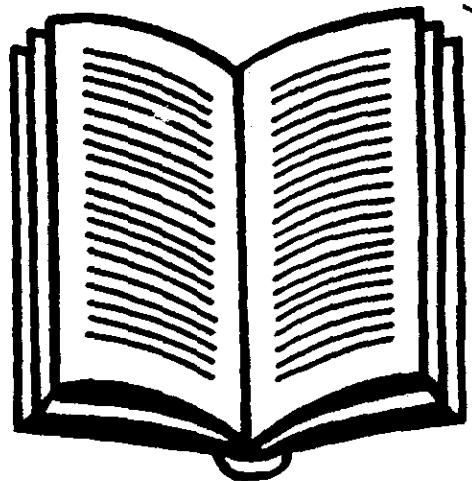
HUGO LEVENDEL (centre) surrounded by admirers at opening night vernissage of his photographic exhibit "Byward Market: 1930's." The show ran from November 9-23, 1989.



BOOK REVIEW:

John Blumenson, Ontario Architecture, A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the Present, Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Toronto, 1990.

by Rhys Phillips



Over the last 30 years, an increasing number of people have developed an appreciation of Ontario's rich architectural heritage stretching back over 200 years. To feed this interest, numerous books have appeared on unique buildings, on the architectural legacy of specific towns, cities and counties and on the painstaking craft of restoration and preservation. A few have identified the broad design periods which left, over time, their imprint on Ontario. What has been missing, however, has been a comprehensive layman's guide to these styles.

John Blumenson's Ontario Architecture, subtitled A Guide to Styles and Building Terms, 1784 to the Present, is an admirable attempt to fill this gap. Richly illustrated by over 450 of Blumenson's own photographs from every nook and cranny of the province, the book identifies some 27 distinct styles. Each chapter is introduced by a brief history of its development and a usually clear review of its distinguishing characteristics.

Although Blumenson's prose is rather dry and his background as a heritage expert (until last fall he was a City of Ottawa heritage planner) shows through when undefined technical terms sometimes overwhelm, clarity is usually restored through his crisp, annotated photographs. These comprise most of each chapter.

The book provides a much more thorough breakdown of the styles which rose and fell prior to the 20th century than is found in previous guidebooks. But what also is unique is its attention to the last 90 years. Art Deco and the International Style are documented along with Bungalows and the even more humble veterans' Victory Housing. Chapters on Colonial Revival, Period Revivals and Post Modernism demonstrate the staying power of historical precepts.

The book, as Blumenson admits, concentrates on "facades." It declines to deal not only with plans and functions but also with the cultural tensions which shaped the building art in Ontario. But within the limits of its own stated objective to "identify and illustrate architectural styles and features as they would be seen along a street or a rural highway", the book succeeds admirably. Ontario Architecture is a useful guide to the oldest of Ontario's towns; it is just as easily a fun guide for a casual stroll in any Ottawa neighbourhood no matter how new.



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES:

Just a reminder to anyone who has not renewed their membership to do so. If there is a red dot on this page, this will be the last newsletter you will receive! Renew now!

If you wish to volunteer some time to answer phones or help out in any way please leave your name and number on our machine. We appreciate your cooperation.

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