



Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

Vol. 19, No. 1, Summer, 1992

President's Message

Louise Coates

Last summer marked a new era for Heritage Ottawa. After three successful years of heritage promotion and rallying public support for such buildings as Windsor House (Dalhousie and Rideau) and the Byward Market's 19th century architecture, Richard Cannings stepped down as president.

Today he continues to champion our architectural heritage at City Hall as Councillor for By-Rideau ward. On behalf of the Board, Richard, thank-you for a job well done!

As president of our 300-strong membership, I am thrilled to lead the organization and speak out on behalf of the few gracious old buildings we have left in Ottawa.

Since last fall, we have set up regular Sunday tours of the Aberdeen Pavilion and its neighbour, the Horticulture Building. Council is soon to decide if the Watson-Hume plan — a bare-bones renovation of the buildings — will be put into action. Our December demonstration and February public lecture and rally aroused the support of hundreds of local citizens, whose signatures were sent to City Hall. We are hoping this made an impression on Council.

We lost the Daly Building last fall, after a fight that began in the 1970s and ended when its owner, the National Capital Commission, figured demolition was easier than finding a replacement for bankrupt developer Coop-Dev. We are aghast at the decision and now know that the NCC is not a judicious proprietor of the city's historic buildings and must be watched carefully. In its hands lie several outstanding examples of early Ottawa architecture.

In the heart of the city, opposite the War Memorial, the NCC-owned Chambers Building has languished empty for three years. Sussex Drive's Catholic Institut Jeanne D'Arc buildings also stand vacant. Recently, the wonderful gray stone structure that housed Guadalaharry's restaurant was vacated because the tenants couldn't afford the NCC's enormous rent increase. *cont'd page two*

Feds save grillwork

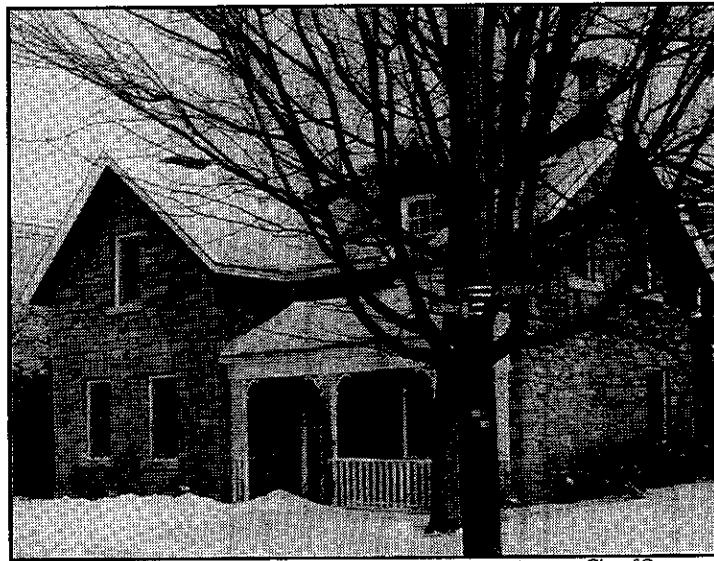
Paul Stumes

Forced retirement at age 65 is not the rule anymore at the Federal Government. Age discrimination is out and one may work until one reaches 120-years-old, or until one expires (whichever comes first). This policy, however, does not apply to elevators.

After 70 years of faithful service, the elevators at the Government Conference Centre, opposite the Château Laurier, were sacked.

An example of the Roman Classical Revival style, the conference centre was built in 1912 as the Ottawa Station for the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Later it became known as Union Station, serving both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific trains. After a station was constructed in Alta Vista, in 1967, the building was converted to its present use.

Over the past 70 years, the original elevators have been cruising inside a very ornate cage, at a leisurely pace, up and down five floors. The cage was constructed from cast iron and wrought iron components, creating an exquisite decorative grillwork. *cont'd on page two*



courtesy, City of Ottawa

A bronze plaque on this gem at 92 Stanley St., in New Edinburgh, now offers a brief bilingual description of its heritage significance. Late last year, the City of Ottawa approved installation of plaques on half a dozen properties. (see related story, page 4)

**"An Architecture of Place"
Variations in three Romantic Landscapes**

An Upcoming Lecture

**by Heritage Ottawa Board Member
and architecture critic
Rhys Phillips**

DON'T MISS !

Exhibition Halls in The Commonwealth: The Glory that Was

**A Lecture
by
Fern Graham
architectural historian
and
Heritage Ottawa
Board Member**

Details in fall newsletter

Grange burns

One of Heritage Ottawa's founders suffered a devastating loss of architectural and cultural heritage when his sprawling 19th Century log home burned this spring.

Writer Bob Phillips — who in the late 1960s was instrumental in laying the groundwork for Heritage Ottawa, along with his wife, Mary-Anne — lost a treasure trove of antiques, artifacts, books, and art when his Cantley home was destroyed by an early-morning electrical fire on April 27. None of the many outbuildings at Phillips' rustic spread, The Grange, were touched, and Bob escaped unharmed.

grillwork... (from page one)

Unfortunately, as time went on certain changes were made. First, the elevator shaft was enclosed to prevent the spread of fire. Then the ironwork was repainted to mid-century hippie shades, distorting its artistry.

Finally, the maladies of old age reached the machinery. Sometimes, the elevators stopped unexpectedly, leaving VIPs and foreign dignitaries suspended between floors. The time came to retire the old elevators and install new, more dependable, electronically-controlled hoists.

This renovation, which began in January, gave an opportunity to the Federal Heritage Building Review Board to order reinstatement of the artistic ironwork to its original prominence. Plans for the work were prepared at Public Works Canada by architect Gregory Utas and engineer Chester Kukulka. For project management, PWChired Heritage Ottawa Board Member and well-known conservator of historic monuments Paul Stumes.

Since the ornamental ironwork was to have no functional role with the new elevators, Stumes designed a concealed steel structure to hold the components in place. The sensitive task of reassembling the 70-year-old pieces was given to Regional Iron Works, an Ottawa firm who stripped and refinished them to resemble the original 1912 metallic colours.

Completed in late May, the reinstated grillwork provides an imposing facade at the entrance to the new elevators at every floor, and a proud display to foreign visitors of the artistic skills of Canadian craftsmen.

Events and Activities

Heritage Ottawa will operate a booth at the Canadian College of Teachers national convention, July 4-6, at the Park Lane Hotel. Drop in and look at our books and souvenirs for sale.

During **Architecture Week 1992** — Fri., Sept 18, until Sun., Sept. 27 — Heritage Ottawa will host a number of events, including a **Cattle Castle** art contest for local artists. A panel of experts will choose the winner, who will receive a cash prize. Watch for posters and announcements around town.

Our annual general meeting takes place in November. It will give members a chance to meet the Board and discuss issues. See you there!

President's Message...

(from page one)

We hope the Daly fiasco does not repeat itself and that the lifeblood of historic Ottawa is not spilled through NCC indifference. And we are opposed to any building replacing the Daly because it would set a terrible precedent for other NCC properties. With a 20% vacancy rate for office space, taxpayers shouldn't be funding the construction of new office buildings.

Many challenges remain in 1992. We hope you will continue to support us. Please call us at 230-8841 if you want to get involved. Once these buildings are gone, they are gone forever.

May Court Coup

Louise Coates

The Chelsea Club, a residential and social club for women, and 1883 heritage building at Metcalfe and Somerset Streets, was recently renovated and then dressed up by Ottawa's best in the field of interior design.

The project, which was completed May 14, was organized by the May Court Club of Ottawa, a charitable organization that runs a convalescent home for women. The May Court

Built by Sir Alexander Campbell, then Minister of Justice, 236 Metcalfe was later owned by Sir John Carling (the author's great-grandfather), Sir Louis Henry Davies, and William S. Fielding. In 1925, the building was sold to a group of women from the Canadian Club; the next year, the Chelsea Club was formed.

The club now features a lemon-coloured living room, with grand piano, and a sunroom with a gently sloping

HELP!

Heritage Ottawa needs volunteers

Can you devote a little time -- even a couple of hours a month -- to fund-raising projects, setting up lectures or public demonstrations, lobbying, office work, etc?

If so, write us at the address on the membership form below, or call 230-8841 and leave a message.

Cow Palace Tours

Free Sunday tours of the Aberdeen Pavilion, affectionately known as the Cattle Castle, will run to the end of June and probably through the summer.

A one-hour slide show in the Horticulture Building, prepared by architectural historian Gérard Robard, begins at 2 pm, and is followed by a walk about the Castle.

Cohen takes City prize

Winning the Award of Excellence in the restoration category at the City of Ottawa's Heritage Day ceremony was the former St. Louis Hotel, at 41 York St.

Owner Eric Cohen hired architect Julian Smith, Cimmeron Development, and Uniat Design Management to carry out the restoration of the 1874-1875 stone and brick building, which had become a mongrel through years of neglect and renovation.

In the adaptive re-use category, the Champagne Bath at 321 King Edward Ave. took the honours for a joint effort by the City departments of Recreation and Culture and Housing and Property. Receiving framed certificates as well were Robert Halsall and Associates, Goodkey Weedmark and Associates, and R.J. Nicol Construction.

Built in 1921-1922, the Champagne Bath was designed by noted Ottawa architect W.E. Noffke. Work included enhancement of interior and exterior architectural finishes, updating of mechanical and electrical systems, insertion of an elevator, and the addition of a glass-roofed atrium on the south side to enlarge the pool deck and house a sauna.

Membership Application

standard membership \$20.00
senior citizen or student \$10.00
patron \$50.00 or more

Name _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (business) _____

Telephone (home) _____
Please forward with payment to: Heritage Ottawa
2 Daly Ave.
Ottawa, Ont.
K1N 6E2

Infill wizard Barry Hobin and Charlesfort Development Corp. won one of two Awards of Excellence in the infill category for the Barrett Lane project at 215 St. Patrick St. The new building, which recalls mid-to-late 19th Century Byward Market architecture, was inserted between a stone and brick building of the period. The new structure is divided into two bays, each featuring a wooden porch characteristic of the street.

Charlesfort won a second plaque for its role in the Leaning and Associates infill project at 90-96 Flora. Two units were inserted among three late 19th Century clapboard houses. Carmen Scaffidi Argentina, C.S.A. Development Incorporated, and the Leaning firm also received plaques.

Leaning and Assoc. won a second plaque for the new Keg Restaurant at 75 York, for their mating of contemporary forms with the spirit and scale of the Market. Ed. Brunet et fils Ltee. won a plaque for the project as well.

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Heritage Information Updates

Heritage Ottawa Celebrates 25 Years

Heritage Ottawa is celebrating its 25th year in 1992. In early August, a party in the Gatineau rounded up former and current members (including youngest member, three-month-old Mary Irwin) to discuss heritage buildings and the group's direction. Founding member Bob Phillips said Heritage Ottawa must continue to be a force that "developers don't want to tackle."

Byward Market Plan

Is there a plan, a vision, for how the Byward Market should develop over the next decade? Or should we allow commercial forces to control its fate? In two years, leases will expire for most of the food retailers along the west side of Byward St. The owner of many of these properties, Loeb Inc., may raise rents in line with property values. A likely scenario is that the 15 or so retailers will be forced out.

The City and Heritage Ottawa believe food selling is crucial to keeping the market alive. The City of Ottawa hired a consultant group which prepared an initial list of ways to meet this goal. These include turning the central market building into food stores, having the City buy out Loeb's properties, or having the City rent from Loeb and sublet to retailers. Heritage Ottawa is involved in these discussions and will try to ensure that the area's development is not controlled only by those who can afford 1994 rents.

Central Canada Exhibition

Heritage Ottawa maintained a booth at this year's Central Canada Exhibition, August 20 to 30. Crowded among funk rappers and karate classes, our stand attracted many people with an interest in Ottawa history. Photos of Wallis House provoked memories for Armed Forces visitors; many viewers had also

attended the Rideau St. Convent. A 100-year-old woman remembered when the Aberdeen Pavilion was being erected.

A model of the revitalized Cattle Castle was generously made available by Lansdowne Park, and sales of books and cards earned money for Heritage Ottawa's work. To all those (including the above-mentioned centenarian) who guessed that the photo featuring pigs and wooden shacks was Sparks Street in the late 1800s, congratulations!

44 Bolton St.:

In July, when Ottawans were on holiday, the NCC demolished a charming, turn-of-the-century house in Lowertown. The owner realized renovations would be costly, called in the fire marshall to condemn it, and refused to sell it to an interested buyer. We suspect the NCC has future plans for a building on the property.

King Edward Avenue Community Improvement Plan

by Caroline Guay

On July 9th, Ottawa city council approved the conceptual design for the King Edward Avenue Community Improvement Plan. Initiated in January of this year, the plan was developed in response to the numerous problems articulated in community consultations, and a review and analysis of the avenue. The plan was developed with the co-operation of King Edward Avenue and Lowertown residents, Rideau Street merchants, RMOC, Heritage Ottawa, the City of Ottawa and its consultants.

Residents of New Edinburgh, reassured that the plan does not re-route traffic through to the Vanier Parkway, have expressed their support.

Currently, King Edward Avenue is a six-lane divided urban roadway, functioning as an interprovincial transit route. It provides a primary route for heavy trucks travelling from Quebec to Ontario. Heavy traffic, fumes, dust and noise create an inhospitable environment for local residents and pedestrians.

The plan illustrates how the section of King Edward Avenue from Sussex Drive to Rideau Street can be developed as a "civic boulevard", knitting together the communities of Lowertown East and West, as well as serving as part of the region's roadway network. The plan encompasses the following improvements:

- narrowing the travelled portion of the roadway south of Murray Street and creating a wider median;
- narrowing the median and widening the sidewalks at the predominantly residential northern end;
- modifying the intersection of the avenue with the access/egress from the MacDonald-Cartier Bridge to a signalized "T" intersection and realigning the Avenue towards Sussex Drive;
- increasing the number of pedestrian crossings;
- minor zoning changes imposing a height restriction on the northeast corner of King Edward Avenue and,

Rideau Street and the creation of "build-to" lines on certain redevelopment sites to help define the street edge; and,

- improving the aesthetics of the avenue, such as adding planting areas: in the southern section they would be concentrated in the median, and on the sidewalks of the northern section a buffer would be created between traffic and housing. At the moment, heritage buildings are "lost" by the lack of definition of a street edge. Vertical elements such as light standards, flag poles and bollards would help to unify the street and define its edge.

Final details of the community Improvement Plan are being presented to City Council in November. The plan is seen as a prelude to the future elimination of interprovincial truck traffic from the King Edward Avenue corridor. An interprovincial bridge study, seeking alternative routes, is slated to present its findings next year.

Ms. Guay is an architectural technologist

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Our annual general meeting takes place **Tuesday, November 24, 1992**, on Parliament Hill, Centre Block, Room 237. This year's guest speaker is the new chair of the NCC, **Marcel Beaudry**. Mr. Beaudry will address the NCC's plans for its heritage properties, a highly topical issue today. Free parking is available in the evening, beside the West Block. Please plan to attend!

Public Announcements

A public meeting on the Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District will be held December 9, 1992, 7:00pm at City Hall.

The St. George's Housing Cooperative on Henderson Avenue, designed by Barry Padolsky, recently won Ottawa's "Architectural Conservation Award".

The fate of Guigues Street school, on Murray, between Dalhousie and Cumberland, is in jeopardy. Its owner, the French language school board, cannot find a buyer for the 19th century school — takers, anyone? It would make a fabulous office building.

Reminder to Members

Heritage Ottawa has appreciated your support throughout 1992. But there are still many buildings in danger of demolition that need our attention in 1993. We hope you will renew your membership and return the attached application to Heritage Ottawa. (Memberships expire in December every year.)

A Heritage Ottawa membership makes an excellent gift for anyone concerned with local architecture. Members will receive regular newsletters, be invited to public lectures, and be kept up to date on current issues. Help save our built heritage environment! Become a member today!

Heritage Ottawa's "Three - Part Lecture" Fundraising Series

"Exhibition Halls in the Commonwealth: The Glory that Was"

January 12, 1993, 7:00pm — Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Ave., Rockcliffe Park
by Fern Graham, architectural historian and Heritage Ottawa Board Member

"An Architecture of Place: Variations in Three Romantic Landscapes"

January 21, 1993, 7:00pm — Ottawa Public Library, 120 Metcalfe St., Ottawa
by Rhys Phillips, Heritage Ottawa Board Member and architecture critic

"From Barracks Hill to Parliament Hill"

February 9, 1993 7:00pm — Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Ave., Rockcliffe Park
by John Stewart, historian.

Cost: \$15.00 for all three lectures; \$6.00 per lecture.

Heritage Ottawa Newsletter

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Membership Application

Standard membership \$20.00

Senior citizen or student \$15.00

Patron \$50.00 or more

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

(business) _____

Please forward payment to:

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