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Celebrating our 26th year



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Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

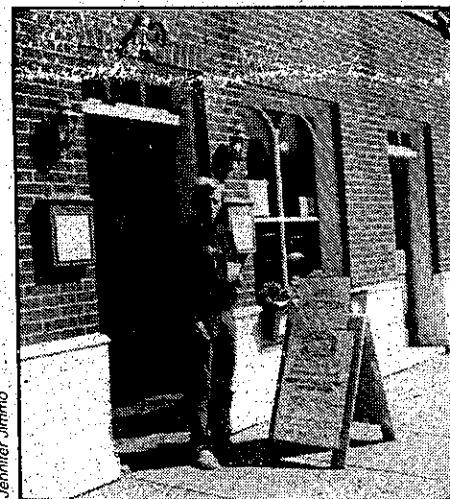
The Art of Architectural Drawings

The Ottawa Regional Society of Architects held its annual Architecture Week this year between September 11th — 18th. To demonstrate Heritage Ottawa's appreciation of local architecture as a part of the City's heritage, an exhibition was organized during this week by Heritage Ottawa, under the title: *The Art of Architectural Drawings*.

The exhibition presented the beauty and intricate nature of architectural renderings. The aim was to help the public understand that a building is more than just a pile of bricks and timber and that a great deal of artistic skill is expended before the foundation can be laid.

The Exhibition was held at 453 Sussex Drive, in a Gallery which was made available to Heritage Ottawa by the National Capital Commission. As a result of this well frequented location, and the wide ranging publicity generated by many members of the local media, the exhibition was visited by several hundred people, including local residents and tourists from the U.S.A. and overseas.

Thirty prominent architects from the National Capital Region submitted some 50 drawings, 37 of which were selected for exhibition by the Heritage Ottawa Curatorial Committee. Drawings for the show were prepared with considerable skill by



"Where's Peter? I need his help!" probably still echoes inside 453 Sussex. Museum technologist and Heritage Ottawa Board Member, Peter Irwin deserves great thanks for his superb work on the architectural drawing exhibit.

volunteers from the Membership and Board of Directors of Heritage Ottawa. The mounting of the exhibition was said to be excellent by experts in exposition design.

The Exhibition was officially opened by Councillor Richard Cannings in the presence of a crowd of Heritage Ottawa members and Ottawa residents. It was kept open from September 11th — 18th, from noon to 7:00 P.M. daily. Volunteer hosts guided the visiting public during opening hours.

After the closing of the Exhibition, the presented drawings were sold at public auction on September 19th.

Out of the exhibited 37 drawings, 35 have been bought by an appreciative public.

As a gesture of understanding the relationship between architecture and heritage conservation, the architects—without exception—donated the proceedings from the Auction to Heritage Ottawa. After deducting all expenses, this event provided a much needed sum of \$3750.00 for Heritage Ottawa!

All in all, this Exhibition was a great success for Heritage Ottawa, both as a public relations event and a fund raiser!

The Membership and Board of Heritage Ottawa would like to express our sincere appreciation:

- to the Architects who participated in the Exhibition;
- to the Directors of Ottawa Regional Society of Architects for cooperating in this project;
- to the National Capital Commission for making available the exhibition space;
- and to all those volunteers who worked so hard for the success of the exhibition!

Heritage Information Updates

by Louise Coates

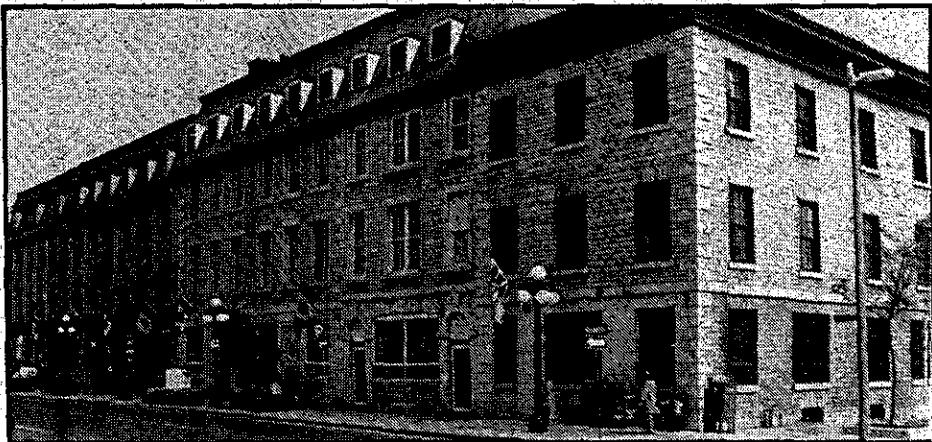
The good news in heritage this fall is that Lowertown, with buildings such as the new condominiums planned for along Clarence Street and the houses around the Market, continue to be popular dwelling places because of the wealth of heritage buildings. A recent Byward Market study determined that the character and flavour of the Market area is due to its fresh food shops and the neighborhood's rich architecture. The heritage designation given to the Market in 1992 has made demolitions much more difficult, with structures such as the old Raceway Tavern, which once would have disappeared under the wrecker's ball, soon to be renovated.

Still, a number of heritage buildings around town are in danger of disappearing this fall. Call your City Councillors today and let them know that vintage architecture has an important place in Ottawa.

Wallis House, formerly owned by National Defence and designated a heritage building, is up for sale by the department of Public Works (now known as Government Services Canada). The original asking price of \$4 million has been reduced to \$789 000 in order to find a buyer willing to restore the building. And while this is encouraging, the lack of maintenance—Wallis is entering its third winter without heat—poses a real risk to its survival. If a buyer interested in the building is not found, the lot will be sold and Wallis House will be demolished.

Forty-eight years after World War II, DND's **Canadian Forces Base Rockcliffe** is shutting down operations for good. This follows a movement across the country, with ten or so such closures planned.

Heritage Ottawa Archives



Jeanne d'Arc's pressed metal ceilings and decorative woodwork face another winter alone, as do several other NCC properties on Sussex Drive.

The military's outbuildings at Rockcliffe will be demolished and the officers' mess, once known as **Bareille House**, and built in 1840, will come down. Unfortunately, DND is demolishing the buildings before selling its land. A future buyer may have wanted to incorporate the buildings into their development plans.

Jeanne d'Arc's pressed metal ceilings and decorative woodwork face another winter unattended. However, a developer has been chosen by the NCC to begin conversion of the former Catholic Sisters' residence into retail and condominium space in the spring of 1994.

A row of four French Canadian houses along **Bolton Street**—the NCC's proposed *Embassy Row*—are slated for demolition. Last fall, the Korean Embassy bought 171-173 for a whopping \$250 000, and plan to raze it to make room for their new quarters. One of the city's few authentic Irish and French settlers' areas may give way to headquarters with little regard to the history of Lowertown.

The **McCord Apartments** at 374-380 Somerset Street West are

closer to demolition, as its neighbouring grocery store owner eyes it for parking. If the owner promises to replace the building with housing elsewhere downtown, he will probably get Council's consent. Heritage still seems to lose out to new housing in Ottawa.

An apartment row at 34, 36, 38 **MacLaren Street**, near the canal, is slated for demolition. The two-storey brick structure was probably built in the 1930's and has been ignored for decades, and forms a charming part of the neighborhood. It would have been nice if the new housing had incorporated the row structure into its plans, to have both the quiet charm of the old with the vibrancy of the new in its final product.

The fate of the **Guigues Street School**, built in 1905 at 159 Murray Street, is in limbo as owner *Conseil Scolaire de Langue Francaise* seeks a buyer. A feasible offer (the asking price hasn't been made public), was given by a provincially-supported seniors' group, but the Conseil is hesitating since the offer was considered low, says Franco-Ontarian support group *Le Regroupement des organismes du patrimoine franco-ontarien*.

How Easy is Demolition?

by Louise Coates

According to the City's Planning Department guidelines, Council approval is needed to obtain a demolition permit, either for a heritage building or one located in a heritage district, such as the Byward Market. Council consults with the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee on the building in question and must respond to demolition requests within 90 days. It will then either give its consent, or refuse demolition for an additional 180 days, while trying to work out an alternative with the owner. This gives a total of nine months protection to the building.

Once the 270 days have passed and if no agreement has been made, demolition may proceed. How strong a safeguard has our Héritage Act given our architectural gems?

In the past year, City Council has approved a number of demolition permits. Among the most noticeable, and certainly salvageable buildings, were Nicholas Slater's house at 412 Sparks and Connaught School, a vintage Beaux Art building.

Not all demolition permits have been for heritage buildings. But some permits deal with borderline sites, sometimes found on the "of interest" list at the heritage branch. At present, the Lowertown buildings bought by the Korean Embassy and the McCord Apartments, are of concern.

Crucial changes must be made to the new provincial Heritage Act. We also need the support of Ottawa City Councillors. They need to see the reasons for preserving buildings that have become familiar anchors on a street and have embellished the fabric and feel of the city. Councillors and our provincial laws should make demolition permits for heritage buildings much more difficult to obtain.

A Changing Heritage Landscape

by Joyce Henry

The National Capital Commission (NCC) has removed the cobblestones in the courtyard between Murray and Clarence Streets. Some of you may be wondering what our local government agency is up to.

The NCC is replacing the old cobblestones with ones that have a more uniform surface in order to make the courtyard universally accessible. Gerald Lajeunesse, chief landscape architect at the NCC, says that the new stones will be similar in colour and have the same fantail pattern as the old, but they will be smoother. The old cobblestones will be used at the perimeter where benches and planters will be stationed. The excess cobblestones will be stored

at the NCC compound until they can be used elsewhere.

The NCC, as part of the overall improvement of the courtyard, has also reworked the drainage system so that the large trees located there will have adequate irrigation. This will help ensure that the cobblestones don't shift and settle.

The NCC also improved the wiring in the courtyard so that better lighting could be installed. The same heritage light fixtures will remain. It plans to stabilize the brick wall at the end of the courtyard that is starting to lean. Lajeunesse says the wall may have to be rebuilt eventually.

The entire project will cost \$375 000, says Lajeunesse.

A Seat on Every Committee

by Jean Palmer

Heritage Ottawa often finds itself on committees not specifically to do with heritage, but with a component where a watch dog is advisable.

One such committee is the *King Edward Avenue Community Improvement Plan*, a City of Ottawa project to redress the decline of that once stately ceremonial avenue. The problems of traffic volume and speed, as well as noise and pollution have created a climate where a neighbourhood is split; crossing the street is a life-threatening risk and developers shy away from restoring or rebuilding. At one point it appeared that the solution to King Edward Avenue traffic was the extension of the Vanier Parkway. Here, your Heritage Ottawa representative had to come back to the Board for a policy decision.

Can Heritage Ottawa support a roadway development that slices

through a park and a community, New Edinburgh in this case, in order to restore an avenue ruined by bad planning decisions in the past?

The Board's ruling was: "No, we are committed to preserving historic neighbourhoods." Views confirmed, your representative went back to the job of checking that new development along King Edward Avenue will respect the scale and character of the four heritage buildings remaining on a road that was once "the Champs Elysées of Ottawa".

Heritage Ottawa representatives were active on the *Lowertown West Heritage Conservation* study, and on the *Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa* (CHO), an umbrella group comprising such diverse heritage groups as Friends of the Farm and the Bytowne Bottle Seekers. Is anyone interested in representing Heritage Ottawa on Committees?

La Maison Tucker



Photo: Jean-François Beaulieu

En 1870, M. Stephen Tucker Sr a construit la maison afin de l'offrir en cadeau de noces à son fils Stephen Tucker Jr.

par Jean-François Beaulieu

Lors d'une promenade dans le canton de Clarence près de la ville de Rockland, à trente milles à l'est d'Ottawa on peut admirer la Maison Tucker. Assise sur la rue Tucker, elle domine une très belle propriété boisée de trente-et-une acres.

Au XIX siècle, M. Tucker Sr est entrepreneur et homme d'affaires influent, propriétaire de plusieurs milliers d'acres de terre dans les cantons de Cumberland. En 1853, M. Tucker est propriétaire des terres du site du village de Clarence Creek. Après y avoir exploité la coupe du bois il a vendu ses terres aux colons, dont certains sont francophones permettant l'établissement du village de Clarence Creek. M. Tucker Sr possède plusieurs commerces dont un magasin général, une boutique de forge, une cordonnerie et une manufacture de briques.

En 1870, Tucker construit la maison qui porte son nom afin de l'offrir en cadeau de noce à son fils Stephen Tucker Jr. Celui-ci se marie à Margueret Dickson. Le jeune couple s'y installe et y élève éventuellement six enfants.

La maison de trois étages en brique rouge, véritable manoir situé en retrait de la rue, nous plonge dans une autre époque par son style Georgien d'allure noble et imposant. La maison fut construite avec des matériaux locaux : la pierre venait d'une carrière située à proximité, la brique venait de la manufacture de

M. Tucker Sr. et le pin provenait de ses chantiers de coupe.

Sur le terrain en arrière de la maison, se trouvent encore les dépendances de l'époque : un hangar à outils et une grange à foin. Le carrousel servant à l'entraînement des chevaux a été démolie récemment.

Au cours des années, la maison subit certaines altérations. C'est ainsi que la véranda décorée qui entourait la maison a été enlevée tout comme le balcon au dessus de l'entrée principale. On peut encore y détecter les démarcations. De même, les corniches décorées ont aussi été retirées.

La rue Tucker présente un cachet de patrimoine particulier, car, en plus de la Maison Tucker, on y retrouve encore intact de l'autre côté de la rue la maison de ferme blanche du contre maître de M. Tucker et à droite une petite maison de brique rouge qui est l'ancien magasin général de M. Tucker.

La maison demeura propriété de la famille Tucker jusqu'en 1963 alors que Grace et Marguerite Tucker l'offrent pour une somme minimale à l'Association Baptiste d'Ottawa. Les soeurs Tucker souhaitaient que la propriété soit utilisée pour des activités de l'église en souvenir de leur grand-père qui fut le premier à recevoir le baptême baptiste dans la rivière Outaouais en 1829.

De nos jours, propriété de la Communauté Baptiste de l'Ontario et du Québec, la Maison ouvre ses portes pour les retraites, les séminaires, réunions familiales et diverses autres activités.

On souhaiterait que la Maison Tucker soit désignée monument historique, car elle rappelle l'histoire de la Famille Tucker et son rôle dans le développement de la région.

Position Paper

John Leaning, architect and heritage activist, recently prepared a position paper entitled, *The Preservation and Reuse of Heritage Properties in Ottawa*, for Heritage Ottawa.

The paper will be presented to City Council, so that heritage policy can be officially adopted by the City.

The text is as follows:

Heritage Ottawa request the City of Ottawa to actively encourage the preservation and reuse of heritage properties in the City, both public and private, by the following actions:

1. The City (along with Regional, Provincial and Federal Government), in accord with Chapter 11 of its own official plan, should set an example by ensuring that its own heritage properties are preserved and reused.
2. The City should deter the demolition of heritage properties by substantially increasing demolition fees where whole buildings are involved, which fees should be directed towards the support of the Heritage Grant Program, assisting the restoration of designated heritage properties.
3. The City should maintain and enhance its Heritage Grant Program by using money obtained from demolition fees.
4. The City (and other levels of government), should give tax benefits (relaxation of property and other taxes), to heritage properties to encourage their retention and rehabilitation; which benefits should cease if a property is demolished or defaced, (by LACAC judgement).
5. The City should employ planning provisions (as in Toronto, granted by Provincial legislation), to ensure that heritage properties may only be demolished when planning permission for replacement is in place.
6. The City should publish an illustrated and, annotated list of heritage properties, along with a summary of reasons for designation, so that the public is fully informed of legislative heritage protection.
7. If legislation is lacking to carry out the above, the City should actively seek legislation.

It should be noted that the above recommendations involve no increased expenditures on the part of the City.

Any One for Cricket Pavilions?

by Jean Palmer

One would think that a small pavilion with a conical tower and verandah, built sometime between 1883 and 1903 in New Edinburgh, would have heritage designation and funding.

Not so. The architectural gem in question is the cricket pavilion on the grounds of Rideau Hall, just inside the iron gate (usually unlocked), across from 157 MacKay Street.

When it was noted that the shingles on the roof were in bad shape, Heritage Ottawa wrote a polite note to NCC's Official Residences pointing out our concern. In reply we were informed that "the maintenance of this structure rests with its owner, the Cricket Club," and that our letter would be forwarded to them.

The president of the Club, Ed Meyers, soon gave us a call and invited us to the Club one sunny late afternoon in August. There is something about those figures in cricket whites against the green grass that evokes days of ladies' parasols, cucumber sandwiches and lemonade. In fact there is a bar, no parasols, but a lively and dedicated group of players from most of the countries once part of the old British Empire, including Canada.

We were assured that the Rideau Hall Cricket Club, as it is properly known, does indeed own the building even though it is on the grounds of Rideau Hall.

It has an interesting history. When Thomas Mace sold his estate to the Government of Canada in 1868 for a Governor-General's residence he insisted on a proviso that allowed the Cricket Club access to the grounds in perpetuity.

The cricket field was laid out in 1866-1867 by Captain Pemberon of the 60th Rifles, while the estate was being rented for the use of the Governor-General, but before the purchase. It is not known when the first pavilion was

built, but the planning of it is recorded in 1872. A photograph of 1883 shows a one-storey structure with open bleachers which was destroyed by fire some years later, and replaced by the present board and batten pavilion.

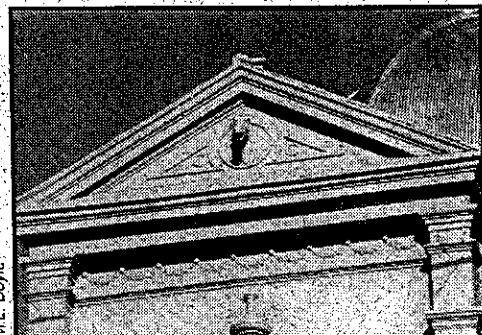
The actual building date is unknown, but there is a pedimental tracery which provides a clue to the dating. It is a clever bit of millwork or gingerbread in the gable, incorporating the initials OCC, for Ottawa Cricket Club. By 1909 newspaper articles made reference to The Rideau Hall Cricket Club, so the tracery is certainly earlier than 1909. The gable design is a high-spirited heraldic whimsy. The "O" in the apex also represents the cricket oval. Diagonal lines representing the wickets are flanked by cricket bats with a ball in either corner of the base. It is in a remarkable state of preservation and worth a visit.

The survival of the building for a century or so with no official support is entirely due to the cricketers who pay club dues and do much of the work themselves. This year they managed to have part of the roof shingled, but not the little conical tower. What is needed is heritage funding, and there's the rub. There has to be heritage designation first. The Club owns the building but not the land on which it sits. Let us hope that Official Residences and its parent body, the National Capital Commission gives permission for LACAC to consider the pavilion for heritage designation.

Like the Aberdeen Pavilion, it may be the only one of its kind left in Canada. Rideau Hall cricketer, Randy Marine, mentions that a recent English magazine shows a photo of a very similar cricket pavilion, with a caption commenting on how few of them remain in England.

How can we allow a building on the grounds of Rideau Hall to be endangered because of a lack of funds?

Roger's Cable

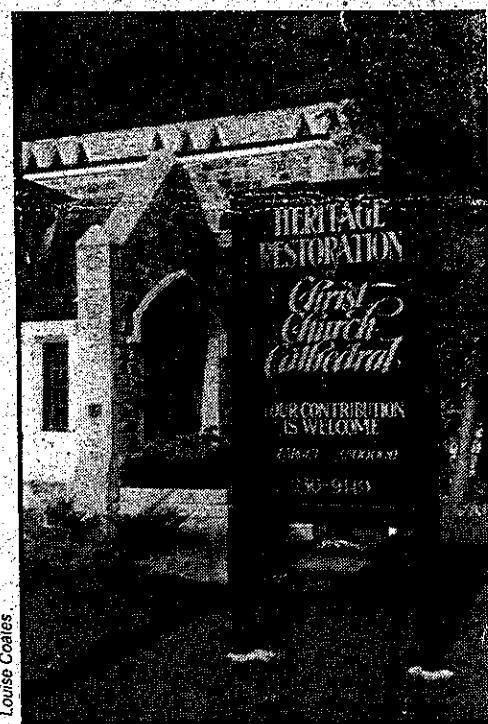


Detail of metalwork at the south entrance to the Aberdeen Pavilion.

On October 14, 1993, three Heritage Ottawa Board members as well as architect Julian Smith, and Rogers Cable TV producer, Alan Jones, met at the Aberdeen Pavilion. They worked together to film a Heritage Ottawa Success Story, scheduled for broadcast on December 13, 1993.

Heritage Ottawa would like to thank Rogers Cable for donating its people, equipment and facilities so that Heritage Ottawa's message can reach TV viewers across the city.

A complete listing of the Rogers Cable presentations can be found on page 6 of the newsletter.



Heritage restorers, indeed. Restoring the Cathedral while tearing down Canterbury House at 412 Sparks Street has lost the Anglican Diocese any heritage credibility.

The Canadian Home

Heritage Ottawa past president Marc Denhez's book, *The Canadian Home*, is expected to appear on bookstore shelves in the next few weeks. This history of Canadian housing covers subjects from the nation's first known home (a cave in the Yukon), to prospective subdivisions on Mars. The two hundred illustrations include prominent housing in Ottawa, such as Earnscliffe, Sir John A. Macdonald's house on Sussex Drive (where Lady Macdonald kept a cow and chickens so that the Macdonald's could start the day with a fresh breakfast), apartments in the style aptly named "Brutalism", and Gorffwysfa, the 1867 home whose name in Welsh means "the Place of Peace", and is better known as 24 Sussex Drive. Pierre Berton has described Denhez's book as a "fascinating history, which deserves a permanent position on any library shelf." Dundurn Press, \$39.99.

Notice to all Members:

Please note that Heritage Ottawa's Annual General Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 12, 1994 at 7 P.M. in Room 256S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill. Refreshments will be served.

Rogers Cable

Heritage programs are aired Mondays at 6:30 P.M. on channel 22 in both Rogers and Maclean Hunter areas, and are repeated on Saturdays at 10:00 A.M.

- November 29 University of Ottawa: Archives
- December 13 Heritage Ottawa: Our Heritage Victories
- January 10 Friends of the Farm: Heritage Barns
- January 24 Historical Society: Minto Bridges
- February 21 Action Sandy Hill: Preservation
- March 7 Bytowne Museum: Museums and Volunteers
- March 21 HODI: The Restoration Environment
- April 4 Bytown Bottle Seekers: Bottle Collecting
- April 18 Archeologists: A Dig in Progress
- May 2 Genealogists: Tombstone Glory
- May 16 City of Britannia: Britannia Heritage
- May 30 Heraldry: Sussex Drive
- June 13 Friends of Billings: Four Generations of Billings
- June 27 Medical History: Tate McKenzie

Membership Message

Membership is vital to Heritage Ottawa for three reasons:

1. Membership dues are one of Heritage Ottawa's main sources of income and are essential for our operations to continue.
2. We need members who can volunteer their time and talents to our various projects. A few people are presently carrying a big load — your help is always appreciated.
3. Members are important in influencing individuals, corporations and governments regarding heritage issues.

Heritage Ottawa Newsletter

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Please forward with payment to:

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Heritage Ottawa memberships are for one year from date of purchase; you will be contacted during the month in which your membership expires. Please renew promptly.
Heritage Ottawa newsletters will be sent to your home address, unless otherwise indicated.