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Celebrating our 30th year*



Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

How to Save a Farm: Central Experimental Farm Designated a National Historic Site

by Jean Palmer

Ottawa's heritage community hails the recent announcement that the Central Experimental Farm has been designated a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, a move that will go a long way toward protecting the buildings now slated for demolition, and slow down any plans to sell off valuable land for real estate development.

Early in 1996 rumours of the impending demolition of the Booth Barn complex first focussed Heritage Ottawa's attention on the Farm buildings.

One of the oldest buildings on the Farm, and part of J.R. Booth's farm holdings, the Booth Barn was not considered to be of heritage value in a federal heritage review, and was one of forty buildings to be demolished as surplus to the needs of the Farm.

A coordinated effort by heritage groups saved the Booth Barn from demolition and led ultimately to the National Historic Site designation for the entire Farm. Each group had a role to play.

Friends of the Farm are a support group to the Farm, but they are there on sufferance. Any active lobbying to oppose Agriculture Canada's demolition plans is out of the question. Heritage Ottawa has no such qualms. It exists to preserve the built heritage and speaks out through the use of the media, and by phone calls, letters and demonstrations. In this case the Heritage Ottawa President, then Jennifer

Rosebrugh, met with the Director of the Central Experimental Farm and secured a promise that there would be consultation with community groups before demolition. The letter and promise rest in Heritage Ottawa files.

Meanwhile Ottawa's Local Architectural Advisory Committee (LACAC) researched the history and architecture of the cluster of farm buildings forming a courtyard of silos and sheds that comprise the Booth Barn complex, and advised the City of Ottawa to give them heritage designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Acting on the advice of the Advisory Committee, the City of Ottawa designated the Booth Barn, and promptly received a letter from Agriculture Canada opposing the designation and stating that federal land and facilities are not subject to municipal by-laws.

An Ontario Conservation Review was held in January 1997, to rule on the dispute. Amazingly, Agriculture Canada did not show up for the hearing, but

President's Address

by Carolyn Quinn

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for appointing me President of Heritage Ottawa and to introduce myself to those members who were unable to attend our Annual General Meeting last October.

Those of you who did attend no doubt enjoyed the interesting and entertaining talk given by our guest speaker Councillor and past-President Richard Cannings entitled, "Sex, Lies, and Heritage Conservation". The chuckles could not be contained!

With a background in history and heritage conservation I have become a passionate believer in the need to preserve those historic buildings and landscapes that remain the artifacts of our collective past. And I am enjoying the challenges that the important position my colleagues have bestowed upon me is bringing.

Our goals for the near future include rejuvenating our membership rolls and recruiting new members for the Board. And I believe that if we are to be successful we must face head-on the economic realities of this our last decade of the 20th century and the shifting social values that accompany them. Heritage Ottawa's goals for the 21st century include the creation of partnerships with other sectors like business and tourism.

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Experimental Farm con'd

Heritage Ottawa, Heritage Canada and LACAC were all there to support heritage designation. The hearing recommended that the Barn be preserved at its present site as a heritage property, and it rebuked Agriculture Canada for not attending the hearing, advising them to consult with the community.

The next crisis came when an amateur photographer saw radiators and lamp fixtures being deposited in a dumpster outside #26, on Winding Lane, a red-brick 1920s house on the Farm. The workmen told him the building was to be demolished in the next few days. The photographer raised the alarm, phoning Heritage Ottawa and the Heritage Section of City Hall, and appearing before a LACAC meeting.

Once again the Heritage Ottawa President met with the media and expressed her outrage that the Farm's Director had broken a pledge to seek public input before destroying buildings. Heritage Ottawa contacted CTV and a television camera was on hand to film the demolition.

tion crew. The demolition was called off.

Meanwhile Ottawa LACAC had already been working on another recommendation; that the entire Central Experimental Farm be designated a Cultural Landscape of National Historic Significance. LACAC prepared a resolution pointing out that the Farm, established in 1886, was nationally important for its historical role as a model of farming techniques, for its scientific achievements, including the development of Marquis wheat, a frost-resistant, early-maturing wheat that led to the Canadian prairies becoming one of the great wheat-producing areas of the world. The recommendation also stressed the role of the Farm in the nation's capital.

It may be useful to track the sequence. LACAC prepared the recommendation and asked Ottawa City Council to send it to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board for study and consideration. City Council passed the resolution and forwarded it to the HSMB, who studied the recommendation, did further research, and in their annual June meeting passed a motion to declare the Central Experimental Farm a National Historic Site.

Oddly enough, neither Agriculture Canada nor the Department of Heritage made the announcement for another six months. Finally, early in February 1998, a hasty news conference was called at

the Farm, and the designation was announced by Agriculture Canada . . . a happy outcome for Friends of the Farm, Heritage Ottawa, Heritage Canada, the photographer who had raised the alarm, LACAC who had prepared the recommendation, City Council who had passed the recommendation and sent it on to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, and to all concerned citizens who support heritage conservation. It takes us all to save our old buildings and to gain protection for our historic and beloved Central Experimental Farm. It is a satisfying achievement.

Sadly, heritage designation does not guarantee that buildings and farmlands remain intact. It does however gain time and consultation before decisions are made. ♦

President's con'd

We must not be perceived as the nemesis of the business community; recycling and reusing a heritage building makes economic and ecological sense. The spin-offs are numerous as can be seen in the tourism industry where growth has been linked directly to the appeal of heritage related sites and events. Ottawa benefitted directly by the success of heritage conservation when Nortel decided to expand its Carling Avenue business campus and hire 5,000 new employees. The headline in the *Ottawa Citizen's* June 7th edition this past Summer read: "Ottawa Lifestyle Wins Nortel Over". Heritage as a very visible part of the city's lifestyle is a significant dimension that creates jobs and attracts employers.

Yet, we must avoid the danger of compromising heritage by turning it into a commodity. There is a danger that heritage buildings will be reduced to their decorative components; components that can be bought off the shelf as people attempt to "create" heritage for themselves.

So what then must accompany a shift to stressing the economic benefits of heritage conservation? The answer is simply education. We must emphasize the importance of going beyond the heritage facade to rooting it in a sense of community and a sense of place. Keeping historic buildings alive by keeping people connected to not just the buildings themselves but the stories associated with them is crucial; this is the information that links our heritage buildings to their locations and to their communities.

In this pursuit Heritage Ottawa will maintain the momentum generated by last season's successful Walking Tours Program. The 1998 season promises to be more extensive and equally interesting and entertaining. I would like to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the Walking Tours Program so successful: Louisa Coates, Jennifer Rosebrugh, Paul Stumes, Stephane Hoffman, Hagitt Hadaya, Judy Deagan, David McKay and Curtis



Heritage Ottawa is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating the preservation, restoration, and adaptive re-use of the National Capital's built and natural heritage.

Membership fees: Individual \$25; Family \$30; Student/Senior \$15; Patron \$50; Corporation \$75

Heritage Ottawa, 2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1N 6E2, Tel. 230-8841

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Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Quinn
Layout: Heather Freeman

Keeble. I look forward to working with you again this season!

There is so much work to be done; more than our available people power can accomplish. Please phone the Heritage Ottawa office at 230-8841 if you have even the smallest amount of time to donate—it is the accumulation of all our efforts, large and not so large that keep volunteer organizations like ours alive.

Before closing I would like to thank our past President Jennifer Rosebrugh for her dedication and hard work that led to many success stories over the past two and a half years. I can only hope to follow in her footsteps. Jennifer has embarked on a new and interesting adventure with her posting in Moscow and keeps in touch with us via the wonders of electronic mail!

Also, a fond farewell and best wishes to long-time member Stephane Hoffman who has relocated to Vancouver.

Stephane's active role in the heritage community will be sorely missed in Ottawa. It is our loss and Vancouver's gain. ♫

A successful compromise with the Korean Embassy? You decide.

Heritage Ottawa was instrumental in stopping the Korean Embassy from demolishing both of the houses on Bolton Street, built around 1861 and 1914 respectively, and part of the Lower Town West Heritage Conservation District, that were slated for demolition in favour of an Oriental garden.

In the end, a compromise position was reached with the City whereby permission was given to demolish the younger of the two buildings as long as the older, squared timber structure, a rarity in the urban core, be restored. Larry Gaines Architect has been hired to design the restoration project. It focuses on the exterior of the building with marginal involvement in the interior work. Drive by to appreciate a work-in-progress.

The Victoria & Chaudière Islands District in Canada's Capital

by Mark Brandt, Architect, O.A.A.

The Victoria and Chaudière Islands district is one of significant local and national heritage importance. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has recognized this as part of a comprehensive study of historic industrial sites across Canada.

The National Archives of Canada as well as those of the National Capital Commission, the E.B. Eddy Company, the City of Ottawa and others, retain numerous testaments to the historic significance of this district from pre-European times through to the high industrial period of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These documents include photographs, plans, maps and writings as well as studies and reports on everything from civil engineering to redevelopment schemes.

In terms of its life as an urban place, the district is now at a major cross-roads. Much of the area is derelict or largely unused, yet important components of the former industrial glory remain in situ. The property owners, including the federal government, power companies and E.B. Eddy, continue to use the area in low-density and low-land-value ways which do not harmonize with its central location in the shadow of the Peace Tower, straddling two major Central Business Districts.

Perhaps because there is precious little industrial heritage to preserve in the Region, the importance of this nationally and locally significant site is even greater to the people of this Capital. And, despite a resurgence in historic conservation, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of industrial sites across the country, this one remains in a state of slow disintegration. This is due to a number of reasons, including multiple land owners, each with their own agendas; the lack of public knowledge

about the site's historic significance and current state; the lack of a clear champion for the cause or at least an organized group of stakeholders; and the fact that it has no political constituency (no voters reside here) and at the same time many political "masters", i.e. federal, two provincial and at least two local governments.

Clearly, if the local and national economies continue to improve, there will be pressure on this real estate to develop, potentially putting the historic fabric at risk. Conversely, should economic stagnation occur, the likely result is continued decrepitude, also putting the historic fabric at risk.

It is time for the site's various stakeholders to reinvigorate attempts to protect the historic fabric of the district, through promotion of heritage-sensitive redevelopment and/or through direct preservation of the remaining structures, landscape and artifacts.

I recommend to the various stakeholders to form a working group whose first task will be the establishment of a formal structure, a clear mandate and timeline for action and agreement upon a detailed inventory of what sites, structures and artifacts of the district shall be preserved for future generations. ♫

Editor's Note: Mark Brandt is a local architect and a long time member of Heritage Ottawa. Mr. Brandt is presently the Chair of the Local Architectural Advisory Committee of Ottawa. (LACAC). Heritage Ottawa supports Mr. Brandt's proposals in this matter.

First Meeting Bytown Council of September 18th, 1847

by Glenn J. Lockwood

Editor's Note: This imaginary address to the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Bytown, on September 18, 1847, is based on historical facts. It was written and presented to the Council Meeting of the City of Ottawa by Dr. Glenn J. Lockwood, on September 18, 1997, on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Municipality of Bytown, the legal predecessor of the City of Ottawa.

Your Worship, Honourable Councillors, Mesdames, Messieurs, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is William Stewart, member of the legislative assembly for Bytown. Today, September 18th, 1847, you are holding the first meeting of Bytown's municipal council. This is a day the inhabitants of Bytown have long awaited.

Some may argue that only fine words should grace this occasion. But, your worship, fine words butter no parsnips. Life in Bytown has been unbearable because we have been a company town controlled by the British Ordnance running the Rideau Canal.

True, Bytown would not exist without the Rideau Canal. If Colonel By had set up his headquarters at Kingston Bytown today would be like Smith Falls or Pembroke, with a population of a few hundred, rather than an urban Centre with 5,000 citizens. Bytown is now the centre of the Ottawa Valley timber trade, bringing in 300,000 in trade each year.

So, what has been wrong in Bytown? Up until today the British Ordnance controlled Bytown, while we stood by, unable to take charge of any of our local affairs.

Ordnance struck down all attempts of Bytown to be incorporated. Why? For

one thing, they fear we will change the name from Bytown. Ordnance does not want its property assessed for municipal taxes, not only the areas used for Rideau Canal and defence purposes, but also land it holds in speculation and sells for building lots. Would you believe it, the Ordnance department is now resisting giving up the streets to the incorporated town? It claims that it laid out most streets and they are located on Ordnance land, therefore they cannot be changed or altered unless Ordnance agrees.

Bytown inhabitants have been helpless when groups of violent men stalked our streets. Before Upper and Lower Canada united into one province six years ago, men committing violence skipped across the Ottawa River to evade the law . . .

From the moment it sprang up, Bytown has been a part of Nepean, whether or not it wanted to be. The interests of a rural township have little in common with those of a town. What did the justices of the peace running Nepean do? Three things. They appointed pathmasters to build and maintain roads, fenceviewers to maintain fence heights to prevent livestock straying into neighbours' crops, and poundkeepers to capture stray livestock. This was fine for Nepean farmers, but it did not meet Bytown's needs.

What are our needs? We have been "labouring under countless evils in consequence of not being incorporated". Bytown swarms with many unlicensed taverns. There is no regulation of the price and quality of market foods such as bread and beef, posing health risks. We are under constant threat of fire from the careless practice of running stovepipes through the roofs of houses, often not more than a few inches from dry shingles. Our citizens are threatened by violent individual who disturb the peace of the town. Streets are blocked up with

piles of wood and heaps of stone and obnoxious dirt. There is no proper market place, hence most days sleighs and wagons block up Lower Town streets that serve as a market. Water for drinking, cleaning and fire protection is at a premium. We see dead dogs dropped into the few wells and horses washed beside them. The need for order, a water supply, and a board of health was underlined by the typhus epidemic this summer. Sidewalks are non-existent. Potholes are a menace to our population. Incorporation, your worship, guarantees we will never again suffer from potholes!

In 1835 the Perth Court of Quarter Sessions appointed street surveyors for Bytown, under an 1824 statute giving magistrates jurisdiction over repair of roads. By so doing the magistrates reacted against the 1835 township officers Act which granted township ratepayers the right to elect three commissioners. At a January 1836 meeting in Bytown, Nepean commissioners claimed the right to appoint pathmasters to oversee road building and repairs in Bytown. Bytown inhabitants denied Nepean's jurisdiction in the matter, and were hauled up before the Nepean commissioners for refusing to perform statute labour. Bytown magistrates refused to account for Nepean road moneys still under their control. The attorney general backed the magistrates, declaring Bytown to be a town within the meaning of the 1824 statute, but everyone knew Bytown was not a legal entity. Elected district councils replaced the Court of Quarter Sessions in 1840. Nepean once more had legal authority over roads and appointed three pathmasters for Bytown. Relations between Bytown and Nepean grew more distant. Literally! Township meetings as late as 1836 were held at J.R. Stanley's tavern in Bytown. After the Shiners disrupted Nepean council, meetings were moved to

Bell's Corners, nine miles away. Bytown was weakly represented among Nepean's township officers until our town was incorporated by an Act of the province of Canada on July 28, 1847.

As early as 1828 the inhabitants of Bytown attempted to remove themselves from the control of Nepean Township. On March 22, 1828 inhabitants met at Mr. Calder's in Upper Town to elect magistrates to govern Bytown, to have the town 'regularly incorporated by the inhabitants themselves,' and to select a roster of officers including a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, ten councillors, three deacons and a convenor of trades. The titles of office reflect the origins of the so-called "Scottish Mafia" running Upper Town, but the Upper Canadian administration refused to allow it. While a centre such as Brockville (population 1,132) was incorporated in 1832, our several attempts to have Bytown incorporated as a police village or town were frustrated by counter-campaigns of the Ordnance Department. Finally, this year, I pushed an incorporation bill through the Canadian legislature. Some Lower Town residents complain that I have foisted a Tory gerrymander on them, with the 234 Upper Town householders represented by three councillors, while 645 Lower Town householders are represented by four councillors. Even so, the municipal election just past was marked by good order. Lower Town voted as a bloc, and elected four Reformers to Upper Town's three Tories. Reform councillors outvoted Tories, giving us this evening our first town council: a Reform mayor presiding over a council equally divided between Reformers and Tories.

This is a day to be proud of, even if Ordnance uses its influence in London to try and have Bytown's incorporation quashed. They may try, but the 5,000 citizens of Bytown, for now, have their own municipal government.

God Save the Queen. ♫

Heritage Ottawa wishes to thank the author and the City Archive of Ottawa, for permitting the publication of this article.

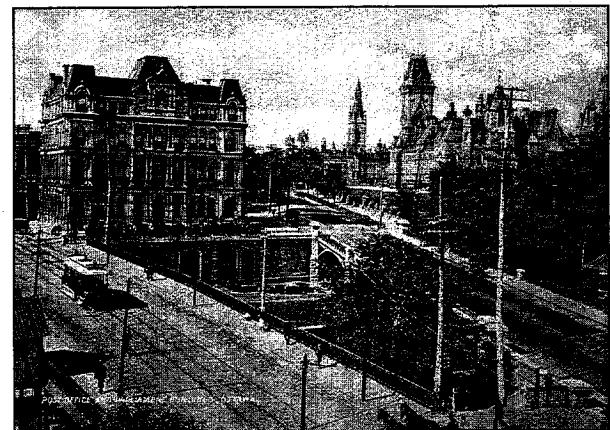
PLAZA BRIDGE PROJECT

by Gordon Cullingham

It seems that work under the Plaza Bridge has been going on forever. The drive down to the Bytown Museum won't improve either, not for another two years. The work of restoring the structure to its 1912 appearance will be completed in time for that demanding bimillennial of 2000.

The Plaza Bridge now just seems to be part of Confederation Square, with little sense that water is flowing underneath—not to mention the roadway. It had been changed in 1938 at the time of the construction of the War Memorial and the Post Office and considerably enlarged into its present broad expanse. This latest modification will pay more respect to Colonel By and his Engineers, Sappers & Miners, who built so well.

This point where the Rideau Canal creates the need for bridges has always been the heart of Ottawa. One of By's first undertakings in 1826, when he began his great canal project, was to erect the Sappers Bridge, a stone arch structure that thrived for eight-five years, and protested stoutly when its demolition was undertaken in 1912 to permit the beginning of the present bridge. It took days of dogged bashing from huge rocks dropped on it from above before it forsook its allegiance to those worthy Sappers. The Sappers Bridge, which connected Rideau Street to Sparks Street, had been joined in the 1870s by the Dufferin Bridge to its north, joining Rideau Street to Wellington Street. They formed a "Y," with the ornate old Post Office occupying the top of the "Y." As can be seen in the photograph of about 1876, Sparks Street is on the left, with Wellington and the old Parliament Buildings on the right.



The Dufferin and Sappers' Bridges, showing the old Post Office and part of the old Parliament Buildings, circa 1876.

Both bridges came down together in 1912, and the subsequent combined structure was called the Connaught Bridge for a while, but usage soon favored Plaza Bridge. That was a signal year in this part of Ottawa, for it also saw the opening of two fine Grand Trunk Railway edifices, the Railway Station and the Château Laurier Hotel.

Thirty-five years later work was underway to create the present arrangement, with the bridge integrated into the Confederation Square concept. Soon history will lurch again, the bridge will be reduced in size, changed in many ways, a main one being the construction of stairways down to the canal from near the present pedestrian crossing island at the east end. Other changes are planned by the heritage and history conscious designers at the National Capital Commission, the result of scrupulous archaeological investigation and study of earlier structures. Some remnants of the Sappers Bridge have been found and will be visible. Visitors by foot will be made welcome, and automobiles will be able to reach the Bytown Museum throughout and after the construction.

The work—called "Rehabilitation"—is being carried out by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton in cooperation with the NCC. They should have it complete for New Year's Day, 2000. ♫

Gordon Cullingham Receives Provincial Heritage Award!

The Ontario Heritage Foundation presented Heritage Ottawa Board Member Gordon Cullingham with its prestigious Heritage Recognition Community Award at a recent Ottawa City Council Meeting.



Gordon's contribution to Ontario's heritage conservation is well-known locally where he has served on the Board of the Historical Society of Ottawa, helped to organize The Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa (CHOO), an umbrella group for heritage organizations each concerned with an aspect of heritage preservation, and then served as its first Chair.

Gordon was also a founding member of the City of Ottawa's Cultural Leadership Committee, and served two terms on LACAC, the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, where his considerable skills as a radio journalist were used to prepare press copy, to write proposals for heritage designation and to address public meetings defending threatened heritage structures.

Charming and persuasive, with a scathing wit, Gordon acted as liaison with the City of Ottawa to have August Bank Holiday declared Colored By Day. Now towns along the Rideau Waterway have made the same declaration. Gordon chaired the committee organizing the ceremonies for Ottawa's first Colonel By Day and set a tradition for years to come.

His three cassettes for use as guided historical car tours of local waterways are well-known: Talking Up The Rideau, Talking Up The St. Lawrence, and Talking Up The Ottawa.

As one of the Talking Heads gathered monthly around our Heritage Ottawa Board Room table, Gordon brings an astonishing range of local history, a passion for heritage architecture and a tactical skill that helps us achieve our heritage goals.

Congratulations Gordon Cullingham! ☺

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES....

by Paul Stumes

The Heritage Conservation movement has a very influential and extremely active friend at City Hall. This friend is the LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, or LACAC for short. These committees exist in most municipalities all over Ontario.

The role of this Committee is defined in Ottawa City By-law 198-76 and its amendment of By-law 282-87. The preamble of these By-laws defines the duties of LACAC as follows:

"The LACAC shall advise the City of Ottawa on all aspects of the City's Heritage Program. This advise shall pertain to the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs for the protection, conservation, regulation and enhancement of Ottawa's Heritage.'

The Committee consists of 12 volunteers from the general public. They are appointed either because of their devotion to heritage conservation or because of their expertise in some related profession. At the present time two members of the Board of Heritage Ottawa sit on LACAC. (It must be noted that these two were selected because of their acknowledged expertise and not because they are members of Heritage Ottawa). A City Councillor participates in the meetings as a non-voting member. The work of LACAC is supported from the City staff by an administrative assistant and two senior officers from the Heritage Section.

The work of LACAC is multifaceted, reaching every aspect of the field of heritage conservation. For example:

- LACAC proposes to City Council the designation of Heritage Districts and individual Heritage Properties;
- alerts City Council about intended demolitions or unauthorized alterations;
- advises on heritage related financial programs;

- acts as City Council's liaison by inviting and hearing delegations;
- develops awareness and promotes heritage conservation among the citizens of Ottawa; and
- maintains active communication with various heritage related organizations.

With very rare exceptions, City Council always accepts LACAC's recommendations and acts accordingly. LACAC's crucial role in the fight for the preservation of the Aberdeen Pavilion and the designation of the Central Experimental Farm as a National Historic Site, among other achievements, is undeniable.

LACAC is a staunch ally of Heritage Ottawa in our fight for the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage. If we have to fight City Hall, we have friends there among the many foes.

For further information about Ottawa LACAC and for opportunities to join the ranks of appointed members of the Committee call Ottawa City Hall, 244-5300, and ask for:

- Brenda Emond, ext. 3541
- Stuart Lazear, ext. 3855
- Sally Couts, ext. 3474 ♫

UNION MISSION UPDATE

by Carolyn Quinn

Although initially the Union Mission's Board of Directors had placed a November deadline on the "rescue package" for 53 Daly Avenue, Heritage Ottawa successfully lobbied to extend the stay of execution to May of this year. Many people have come forward to support and assist in this potentially beneficial rehabilitation project. The benefits are twofold: desperately needed shelter space would be increased while at the same time a late nineteenth century building that makes up part of a Heritage Designated District would be given renewed life.

Historic Ottawa Development Inc. (HODI) continues to honour its offer of a \$25,000.00 loan to restoration work on the building as well as to place certain expert advice at the project's disposal free of charge. Thompson Brandt Architects provided some initial site evaluations while Jacques Hamel Architect produced

site drawings that would see the building rehabilitated to a twelve bed facility. Andrex Holdings Inc. has estimated the cost of the project at \$200,000.00 and has offered full project management services. Algonquin College's Heritage Trades Program sees it as a likely fit for the practicum phase of its curriculum. As it stands we have an expression of interest in participation from Habitat for Humanity and Investors Group.

Initially, Heritage Ottawa's motivation rested with its mandate to preserve a heritage building dating from 1871 that is an integral part of the Sandy Hill streetscape and key to the fabric of Daly Avenue. That the adaptive re-use proposed is tied to such a valuable community service as that provided by the Union Mission only makes this project all the more crucial. And Heritage Ottawa is proud to have been involved in its genesis.

The time is now for such a project because should the building be lost the ability of the Union Mission to find the funds for a total reconstruction are unlikely; the property would be left vacant.

Look to your local newspapers for a forthcoming announcement!! ♫

STAY ALERT!! HERITAGE STORIES IN THE MAKING:

The Department of Public Works is presenting a proposal on behalf of the National Archives to renovate the West Memorial Building on Wellington Street to establish a loading dock on Sparks Street and a new entrance on Bay Street. The East and West Memorial Buildings are examples of 20th century, purpose-built, federal government buildings valued for their monumental scale and massing and their fine materials and craftsmanship. They have been designated "classified" by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office.

Breaking through the Sparks Street facade to create a loading dock could compromise the heritage value of the building that could further reduce the heritage significance of the Memorial Buildings and the Veterans Arch which together form a national monument by the Canadian people to our veterans.

Concerns have been raised about the potential impact such alterations would have on the Sparks Street Mall, a major pedestrian walkway and urban open space. The Mall Authority's priority has been to preserve the Mall as a viable tourism location, and to keep Sparks Street as a people place next to Parliament Hill that serves to link the Mall with the western hotels and the Park of the Provinces, and to be the pedestrian walkway to Confederation Square.

Robert Groh, Senior Project Manager with Public Works, states that the Department is unable to release any information at this time. He writes that not until the "several agencies" involved have committed to an approach will information be available for reference.

Stay tuned ...

Editor's Note: In other words, once a deal has been struck the public will be notified of the government's decision; local public input, it would seem, is not wanted at the formative stage.

HERITAGE FORUM—

Presented by the Heritage Conservation Program, School of Canadian Studies, Carleton University

February 12, 1998—Barry Padolsky of Barry Padolsky Architect, Ltd., "Ottawa's By Ward Market Building: The Next Generation".

March 12, 1998—Diane Brydon, Chief of Education and Visitors Services, Parliament of Canada, speaking with Chris Castle, Conservation Consultant, Toronto, "Interpreting Canada's Special Places".

April 9, 1998—Peter Harris, Executive Director of the Preston Street Business Improvement Area, "History and Potential: The Development of the Preston Street Area".

Lectures begin at 7 pm in The Pit, School of Architecture, Carleton University. Parking available adjacent to the School of Architecture. Refreshments to follow.

Contact: School of Canadian Studies at 520-2366 for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Winners of the 1997 Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards!!

RESTORATION

Award of Excellence

- Wallis House,
589 Rideau Street

ADAPTIVE USE

Award of Excellence

- Centre de Jour Guigues,
159 Murray Street

Certificate of Merit

- 465 Sussex Drive
- 62-64 John Street
- 115-117 Holmwood Avenue

INFILL

Award of Excellence

- Jefferson Hall,
217 First Avenue

Certificate of Merit

- 22 Morris Street

CENTRAL AREA WEST HERITAGE STUDY

You are invited to a Public Meeting

Monday, March 9, 1998

Champlain Room

Ottawa-Carleton Centre

111 Lisgar Street

7 p.m.

The City of Ottawa is holding this first of two public meetings to introduce the building research and evaluation carried out as part of the initial phase of the Central Area West Heritage Study.

A second public meeting will be held in the Spring to review recommendations relating to the potential heritage designation of parts of the study area under the Ontario Heritage Act.

For further information and/or to be advised of the second public meeting please contact:

- City of Ottawa, Stuart Lazear
244-5300 ext. 3855, fax 244-5601
- Consultants
Mark Fram (416) 961-9956 (tel & fax)
Victoria Angel 234-7947



PLEASE, forward with payment to:

HERITAGE OTTAWA
2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa, ON
K1N 6E2

230-8841, fax 564-4228

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual: \$25
Family: \$30
Student/Senior: \$15

Patron: \$50
Corporation: \$75

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (business) _____

E-mail: _____