



# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage    Summer 2003 Volume 30, No. 2

## President's Report

*Annual Report of  
David B. Flemming,  
President of Heritage Ottawa  
to the 2003 Annual General  
Meeting, held at the Rockcliffe  
Park Recreation Centre on  
Thursday, May 29, 2003*

Good evening and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of Heritage Ottawa - the 30<sup>th</sup> since the establishment of the society in 1974. My name is David Flemming and I have been your President since last October 1 when I was selected by the Board to complete Carolyn Quinn's term of office as President on the occasion of her resignation from the position after serving the society diligently for over five years.

The past year has been marked by internal change within the society with the tabling of a re-organisational plan; by significant changes at the municipal level with the development of a new *Official Plan* and an *Arts and Heritage Plan*; and by a number of important advocacy cases.

After assuming the position of Vice President at last year's Annual General Meeting, I drew up a re-organisation plan which sought to address the lack of participation by the general membership in the society's day to day activities through the strengthening of our various committees, many of which have been inactive for many years. In August, the Board approved the implementation of the plan however this was postponed in October when I accepted the duties of

## J. Bowes & Son, Architects, Ottawa: A Forgotten Legacy

by Elizabeth Krug

While working with the Restoration Committee of St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church, Lowertown Ottawa, I have had the privilege of researching the work of the architect of St. Brigid's, James R. Bowes (1852-1892). In the process, the legacy of this Ottawa native, as well as that of his Irish-born architect father, John Bowes (1820-1894), has emerged from archival sources as a remarkable story. Father and son contributed significantly to building the National Capital, starting with the Parliament buildings and public institutions (the father) and closing with civic structures (the son). These buildings were commercial and religious emblems of the flourishing "Capital of the Dominion". The Bowes, father and son, appear to have been part of a group of dedicated and selfless architects and builders, serving a new Canadian culture.

**Bowes & Ottawa in the 1860s.** In 1859-1860, John Bowes, Architect, late Superintendent, Kingston Custom House, Canada West, was in correspondence with the Department of Works in Quebec City regarding gas fixtures and / or furnace repairs for the Kingston Custom House<sup>1</sup>. In 1861 he was meeting with F.P. Rubidge, A.E.P. W. and Mr. Keefer, the Deputy Commissioner<sup>2</sup>. In July 1861<sup>3</sup>, and Sept 1866<sup>4</sup>, John Bowes was employed as Measurer, Parliament buildings, Ottawa, and dealing with contractor Thomas. McGreevy<sup>5</sup>.

In 1866 both John Bowes and J.H. Pattison, Measurers of Public Buildings, Ottawa, received retroactive raises in salary<sup>6</sup>. In August 1868, John Bowes and Will. Hutchison<sup>7</sup> were working together on plans and measurements for the Library of Parliament, dealing with contractor H. McGreevy<sup>8</sup>. (fig. 1.)



Fig. 1. Public Works staff, c.1866. Parliament Buildings Construction site. L-R: J. Lebreton (Lebrett?) Ross (?), Engineer; René Steckel; Chas. Baillarge; William Hutchison; G.B. Pelham; F.P. Rubidge, Assistant Chief Engineer; John Bowes; J.H. Pattison (Patterson?); J. Larose; Arnoldi; T. Fuller; Kelly (?). National Archives of Canada copy neg. : PA-124244, Acc. 1965-049. N.B. Also in City of Ottawa Archives, copy neg. : CA-0161, Mrs. Montague Anderson Collection. Names in caption are taken from both sources. Additional information from City Archives' caption: Architects, Superintendent, Draftsmen of 1<sup>st</sup> Parliament Bldgs. Photo taken at Temporary Office in Old Barracks....

The Library of Parliament and the Centre Block had been designed by Thomas Fuller and Chilion Jones in 1859. Although the Library and the

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## President Continued...

President. The implementation of this plan and the preparation of a Strategic Plan will be the main challenges of the new Board of Directors which you will appoint this evening.

An important part of the Strategic Plan will be to substantially increase the number of members in Heritage Ottawa. Our current membership is about 150, a far cry from the 450+ members of 25 years ago. It is not only important for us to increase our membership but also to attract new members from the former municipalities which now form part of the amalgamated City of Ottawa.

The creation of the new City of Ottawa in 2001 led to the development of a number of new plans, two of which - the *Official Plan* and the *Arts and Heritage Plan* - have particular relevance to our City's built heritage resources. The response to the first draft of the *Official Plan* was drawn up by Barbara McMullen, our current Secretary, and by Board member Ron Stein. Ron unfortunately resigned from the Board late last year and was unable to continue to work on the Plan. Your Board spent many hours responding to the three subsequent drafts of the *Official Plan* and the three drafts of the *Arts and Heritage Plan*. I presented our comments in both written form and in-person before the Planning and Development Committee on four occasions. I am pleased to inform you that the final versions of both documents contain some recommendations

suggested by Heritage Ottawa and that both documents provide a sound basis for the preservation of our community's heritage.

One thing that is not contained in the plans is the political will to act upon them in the preservation of our built heritage. The many advocacy issues which we have dealt with over the past year reflect a City Council that is not prepared to "stand up for heritage" despite what they may approve in official documents. There are few champions of heritage on the current

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buildings on Gilmour and McLeod Streets. In these instances, the developer continues to submit proposals that are completely out of scale for the existing zoning. We are also closely monitoring the situation with Grant House (*Friday's Roast Beef House*) on Elgin Street and the Old Registry Office on Nicholas Street. Both are designated heritage buildings and are located on sites which are ripe for development. We continue to follow with great interest the National Capital Commissions on-again/off-again plans Sparks Street, the proposal known as "Metcalfe Lite." Heritage Ottawa members are kept up to date on these issues through articles in our Newsletter.

As I noted previously, most of our municipal politicians seem to lack the political will to make the necessary decisions to protect our built heritage. With this year's municipal election, we do have the opportunity to challenge candidates on their position on heritage preservation. One of the first jobs of your new Board will be to devise strategies to challenge candidates for municipal office on their position on heritage preservation. For this, we will need the help of the general membership.

Besides speaking at Planning and Development Committee meetings and writing letters to the newspapers and to the Mayor and Council, your President and other members of the Board have spoken on radio and television on many heritage issues. We have had information booths at Heritage Day, Museum's Day and Heritage Fair events and last weekend we adopted the Old Registry Building on Nicholas Street as part of Doors Open Ottawa in an effort to lobby for its retention. Your Past-President and I also served on the Organising Committee of Doors Open Ottawa and other Board members continue to serve on the City's Heritage Advisory Committee and the Ottawa LACAC. Heritage Ottawa had four representatives in the various Downtown Urban Design Strategy workshops and we again presented

## Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

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.

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Council. The loss of the two buildings in the Nicholas-Waller-Laurier triangle last November is a good example of this inaction. The City refused to take any decisive action such as placing a stop work order on the new building being erected by Groupe Lépine and six months later we still do not know what action the City are taking against the developer. Likewise, the Caplan building, one of the last fine examples of Ottawa's 19th century retail built heritage was lost not because of the neglect of the owner or even by the edict of the Fire Marshall. It was lost because our Councillors did not have the political will to save it. Heritage Ottawa spoke loudly on these two issues but the response of our elected representatives, with a few exceptions, was non-existent.

Besides these two issues, Heritage Ottawa has been supporting the Centretown community in opposing the Ashcroft Homes proposals for large

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# J. Bowes & Son, Architects, Ottawa: A Forgotten Legacy Continued...

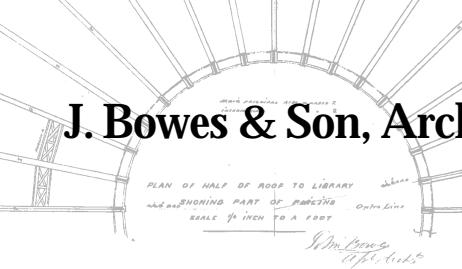


Fig. 2. Plan of Half of Roof of Library showing part of purlins, Parliament Buildings Ottawa, Iron Roof of Library, No. 1. John Bowes, Apt. Archt. 1872. Inscribed: Plan referred to in contract no. 4025 signed at Ottawa this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November AD 1872; signed: Peter Kilduff, Hector Langevin... etc. National Archives Acc. RG11M 79003/29-22. NMC 124952.

Victoria Tower of Parliament were not completed until around 1876-78 (fig. 2), Fuller went to Albany N. Y. in 1867 to design the N.Y. State Legislative Buildings, eventually forming a partnership with Augustus Laver, who, together with Frederick Warburton Stent, had designed the Departmental Buildings (ie. the East and West Blocks). The "Picturesque Eclecticism" of the Canadian Parliament Buildings was in a Victorian medievalising style, borrowing from French Second Empire architecture (the Louvre, 1852-57), as well as English, Flemish and Italian Gothic styles<sup>9</sup>. Revivalism and Eclecticism were prevalent throughout Europe and North America; Toronto's University College (architects Cumberland and Storm, 1856-1859) had already set a precedent in Canada.<sup>10</sup> Canadian religious architecture was not immune to these tendencies. Great Britain, France, and the United States were leading influences.

**Bowes & Ottawa in the 1870s.** Ottawa had become the capital of the United Canadas, East and West, in 1858. The Public Works Department moved to the new capital from Quebec City in 1866, when the Parliament buildings were officially opened. It had already been providing work for architects like John Bowes, and the demand for new buildings kept increasing. By the 1870s, as the population grew, a boom of new homes, churches, public buildings, and businesses kept architects and builders in Ottawa extremely active, despite international economic depression. The *Ottawa Citizen* ran regular detailed articles on City Improvements and

Ottawa's Progress. On December 6, 1875, the news story Ottawa's Progress cites the *Citizen's* annual custom of summarizing the year's achievements, and describes at least 30 new projects. Six of these are attributed to architects Messrs. Bowles (sic) and Son. It should be noted that the City directories of the period did list a Mr. William Bowles, clerk with House of Commons, as well as a contractor Bowles. But for the occupation of architect, we find John Bowes, and later, J.R. Bowes, listed. Although the name "Bowes" does not appear in the City directory of 1875, John Bowes and his family are listed in the Canadian Census records of 1871 and 1881.

## In 1875 the Ottawa Citizen reports:

- A New Wing of the Ottawa College on Sandy Hill:... will be one of the largest of its kind in Ontario... substantial stone masonry 125 x 50 feet, five stories high with attic. its cost when finished will be \$35,000... the interior will be fitted up in the latest and most improved plan.... the dormitory is said to be the finest in

Canada, its dimensions are 122 x 52 feet with a ceiling 13 feet high... next year... an exhibition hall 100 by 40 feet, with recreation room beneath... the building will be ready for occupation 1<sup>st</sup> of April next. The architects are Messrs. Bowles and Son... (N.B. burned down 1903) (fig. 3.).

- **Major's Hill:** Aldermen Heney and McDougal have just moved into a couple of cottages built for them during the past summer fronting Major's Hill... double tenement two storeys high, Gothic in style... two storey verandah... constructed of Toronto white brick, with free stone dressing... the design is similar to the cottages which abound in the vicinity of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia (sic)... facing as this does on the site of our contemplated city park... Messrs. Bowles and Son were the architects... It may be mentioned that as **Mr. John Bowles** is kept continually busy by the duties of his office under Government, all the outside work devolves upon his son **Mr. James Bowles** and the design for the above cottages was his work.

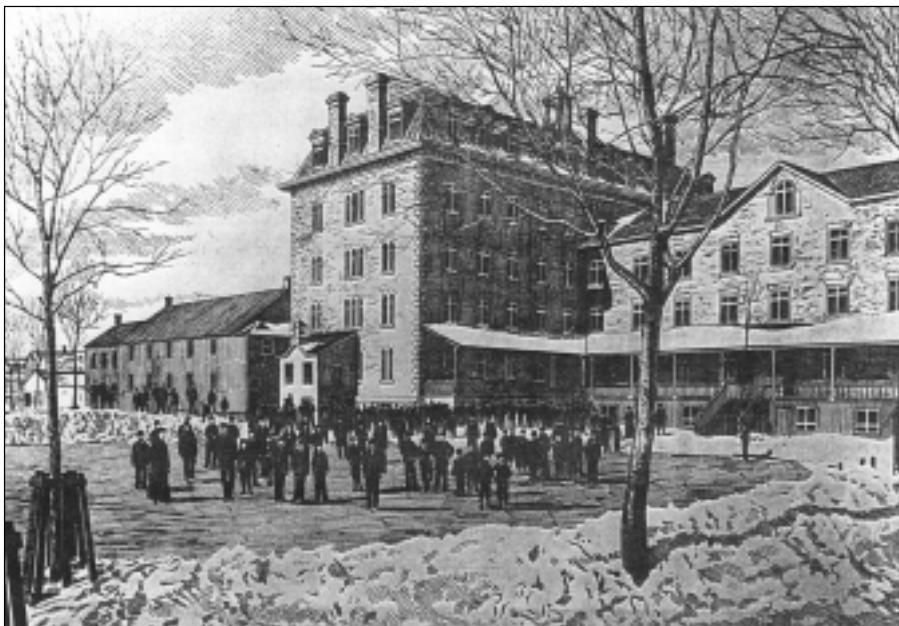


Fig. 3. Ottawa College, playground, c.1878.  
Image from the Archives of the University of Ottawa, Fonds 38, PHO-38A-1-20.

Continued on pages 4 and 5

# A Forgotten Legacy Continued...

Photo: Elizabeth Krug, 2003.



Fig. 4. Convent of the Good Shepherd. Embassy of the People's Republic of China, St. Patrick St. (formerly Park St.).

- **Mr. Landreau's block...** three storeys on the corner of Murray and Sussex... white brick... cost when finished,... \$5,500... Messrs. Bowles & Son were the architects...
- New private residences, **Enright's Cottage**, Nepean St., 25 x 35 ft, Neat cottage. Architect: Bowles and Sons
- **Convent of the Good Shepherd**, Park Street, ... Gothic, built of limestone, four storeys high with attic... 52 x 125 ft. Architect: Messrs. Bowles and Sons. (N.B. Park St. became St. Andrew St. and currently is new St. Patrick St. The Convent is now home to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 515 St. Patrick St.) (fig. 4.).
- Improvements in **Notre Dame Basilica**, Sussex St... Emplacement of galleries to run whole length of church on each side, affording 120 extra pews. A new ceiling is to be put in. Architect: Messrs. Bowles and Son. (N.B. These were replaced by architect Rev. Canon Georges Bouillon, sometime after 1878 when he became parish priest of Notre Dame, and took charge of the interior decor)<sup>11</sup>.

## Further, on June 26, 1876, the Citizen reports:

- **The Canadian Institute...** The building when completed will be quite an ornament to York Street. It is to be constructed in limestone, three storeys high, Mansard roof with ornamental iron tower in the centre. The dimensions are 107 x 57. The style of architecture is a combination of Doric and Gothic.

The basement will be used for offices, assembly, billiard and lecture rooms. The theatre will be on the ground flat. The two flats will be divided into spacious rooms to be used for a variety of purposes. The building, when completed will cost, between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The architects are **Messrs. John Bowles and Son...** (N.B. roof destroyed by fire but rebuilt and still standing, 18-20 York). (fig. 5.)



Fig. 5. Former Institut Canadien Français, 18 York St.

In 1877 and 1879, evidence of John Bowes' continued work with the DPW appears in the **Public Works Annual Reports**, naming John Bowes as Superintending Architect for St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary<sup>12</sup>.

### Bowes & Ottawa in the 1800s.

In 1881, Thomas Fuller returned to Canada to assume the position of Chief Architect for the Department of Public Works, a position he held until 1896. During this period, he designed 140 federal buildings, of which 80 were post offices and custom houses for growing communities in the Dominion.<sup>13</sup> Together with Thomas Seaton Scott he is credited for creating the Canadian "Dominion style",<sup>14</sup> a style that is characterised by a rough stone facade, often asymmetrical, with a large centre gable having a distinctive stone "bossage"

or "diament" pattern, rounded arches<sup>15</sup>, and towers that are often hexagonal or octagonal; all still in an eclectic medievalising style. A local example of this "Dominion" style is the Almonte Post Office (T. Fuller, 1889-91).

In the 1883 **Sessional Papers** of the Department of Public Works, John Bowes is the Superintending architect for construction of additions to the Kingston Penitentiary<sup>16</sup>. What other structures he worked on during this period remain to be discovered.

His son, James R. Bowes is not listed in the City Directories for 1882-83. In 1887, when he would have been 35 years old, City Council approved the construction of a new Central Fire Station, on ground near the rear of the new City Hall (Elgin St.) with plans by James R Bowes, "who was then city architect".<sup>17</sup>



Fig. 6. St. Bridget's Church, exterior, c. 1898. From the publication: Carre, William H., *Art Work in Ottawa, Canada*. Published in twelve parts. 1898.

**St. Bridget's Church.** In March of 1888, a committee of parishioners from Notre Dame Cathedral started meeting



Fig. 7. Congregational Church, Ottawa, c. 1898. From the publication: Carre, William H., *Art Work in Ottawa, Canada*. Published in twelve parts. 1898.

with the Archbishop of Ottawa, the Most Rev. Joseph Thomas Duhamel, to discuss building a separate church for the English-speaking parishioners of the Cathedral. Committee members included Messrs. John J. Lyons, Bingham, McEvila, O'Reilly, McDonald, and

Father J.T. McGovern. Discussion and debate as to the need for a separate parish, the location of the church, as well as the design of the church, took place in a series of meetings. By May 3, 1888, Mr. Bowes had been chosen as architect, and he submitted a plan to the fifth general meeting. By the time of the Blessing of the completed St. Bridget's Church, August 3, 1890, the architect's name is given as **James R. Bowes**.<sup>18</sup> The contractor in charge of the construction was John J. Lyons. (fig. 6.).

Prior to the official opening of St. Bridget's Church in 1890, the **Ottawa Citizen** continues recording the city's building activities. On June 13, 1888, the **Citizen** reports that the City Property Committee met to discuss plans for a new Police Station. A motion was taken to have Mr. J.R. Bowes prepare plans; however, another motion was carried to request Tenders for Plans<sup>19</sup>. The same issue describes "Four New Schoolhouses": St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's, Notre Dame, and New Edinburgh Separate Schools, all to be built to the plans of J.R. Bowes, with contracts awarded to John J. Lyons. In addition, the June 13 1888 issue of the **Citizen** carries the story "Congregational Church: Laying of the Corner-stone...". The architect was Mr. James R. Bowes, Ottawa (fig. 7.). The speech of Sir James

Grant makes mention of "a proud thing to see Roman Catholics present at the ceremony"<sup>20</sup> James R. Bowes was a Roman Catholic. The church was situated at the north-east corner of Elgin and Albert, quite close to the new City Hall, Police Station (fig. 8.), and Fire Hall. All these buildings were demolished in the twentieth century, possibly in the 1950's as part of the Greber plan.



Fig. 8. Ottawa Police Station, Elgin St. c. 1938.

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Elizabeth Krug worked for the Nat. Archives, in the Documentary Art and Photo. Div., for 15 years before taking early retirement in 2001. Her last three years with the Fed. Gov. were with Industry Canada's Digital Collections Prog. She lives in Lowertown and served as a volunteer researcher with St. Brigid's Church in the fall of 2002.

This article is to be continued in the next issue of Heritage Ottawa News.

# Growing up in Lower Town (Part 1)

By J.W. Guy Fortier

**L**ower Town, before and during the early years of the Second World War was quite different than it is today. It had three main population groups, French, English (mostly Irish,) and Jews. Each group had its own schools, churches and synagogues and they rarely mixed with each other except for sports such as softball, hockey or football. Competition in those sports was keen.



Bakery, circa 1930.

## The Jews

Of special interest to us French Canadians were the Jews. They had a special relationship with us. Most Jews were of Russian origin and had come to Canada to avoid the pogroms which often occurred in their homeland. Most were poor and did anything to survive. Some roamed the streets in horse drawn wagons buying up used metals or clothing or selling fruits and vegetables. They stood up to insults and teasing and concentrated on making things better for their families. They pressured their children to excel in school and to become highly recognized professionals. They were most successful. Three cases in particular come to mind. One was A.J. Freiman, a successful Department Store owner. The store bore his name. It's now The Bay located on Rideau

Street. Mr Freiman hired many French or bilingual Canadians since the majority of his clientele was French. He was fair and honest and treated his workers well. Another Jew who cared for the poor was a Max Mosion who owned The Dominion Bakery at 914 St. Patrick Street. He had two or three horse drawn wagons which delivered bread. Every night when the wagons were coming home, the poor would line up and Mosion would give away any unsold items. Another was a Mr Pleet who sold clothing, usually on credit, from house to house. I still remember that he sold my parents my First Communion suit. I don't know how much it cost, but I remember him coming home at the end of each month and collecting a 50 cents payment.

A certain rag picker's son became a medical doctor, and my mother was, I think, his first patient. He became her Doctor and she was so impressed with him that she spread his name amongst all the neighbours. He later became very well known, but he never forgot her. Anytime my parents or other members of my family were ill, in spite of his busy schedule, he would always make a house call. I often think of these poor, hard working parents who sacrificed everything for their children's education when I look around and see the many successful Jews today. They owe their parents and grandparents a lot!

## The Gangs

Most of the French kids hung around in gangs, generally there were three kinds that were based on age groups. We knew most of the gangs. The first gang that I belonged to was composed mostly of kids up to about age 12 who lived on Water Street (now Bruyere) between Cumberland and King Edward Streets.

The next step up was a large gang of about 25 or so whose ages ran from around age 12 to 16. This gang hung around the #5 Fire station grounds

located on the north-west corner of Bruyere and King Edward streets or across the street on King Edward that then was a two lane boulevard running north and south from Rideau to Sussex. It was a great place to hang out. This part of King Edward was reconstructed for the 1939 Royal Visit.

The gang for grown up teenagers, who either worked or went to school, covered all Lower Town and they hung around a restaurant located on the corner of Bruyere and Dalhousie streets.

## The Games We Played

Every season had its own games. In winter it was hockey and skating. All age groups, both boys and girls, skated at Bingham Square which we called Cathcart Square, and which was, (and still is today,) encircled by Parent, Cathcart and Bolton Streets. In the center of the square was a hockey rink that was encircled by an oval shaped skating surface. We always skated clockwise, in a very orderly manner because the older guys were usually paired with girls and wouldn't stand for much nonsense that interfered with their courting.

On the north side of the square were two temporary shacks that were set up by the City of Ottawa for the winter skating season. Most of us boys put on our skates at home and skated on the street to the rink. There was a shack for boys and one for girls. We boys used to try and hang around the door of the girls' shack hoping to pick up a skating partner. Sometimes a girl would only skate one or two laps with us and then go back in the shack. If you were lucky, you would skate all evening with the same girl, and if you were really lucky, you got to walk her home.

Back streets were not cleared of snow in those days. The snow plows would simply shove the snow to the kerbs. Over the winter, huge snow banks would build up and the younger kids would build forts in them, complete with tunnels. City crews would clean driveway entrances so that most forts were family owned and their intricacies were generally an indication of how many kids lived in the house fronting the fort.

Hitching rides was another fun sport. The main streets such as Rideau and Dalhousie were usually cleared of snow that was hauled away in huge wagons which had hinged sides. These wagons were filled by shovelling crews, and when full, were pulled by a two-horse team to King Edward Park and dumped into the Rideau River. Over the winter, huge mountains of snow would build up and these were great places for us kids to play and slide.

We would wait for these rigs on Dalhousie Street, jump on the back panels and ride to the river. The drivers would leave us alone most of the time. Some tried to chase us away but soon gave up. Except for a few main streets, most streets were never bare, nor were they sanded and thus were slippery. We would hang on to the bottom of the rig, squat on our haunches and slide on our boots for blocks at a time. Sometimes we would hit a bare spot and come to an abrupt stop, tumble around, and unless we were hurt, run back to the rig and start all over again.

There was little automobile traffic then, and for a variety of reasons. Mostly, Lower Town residents were too poor to own autos and they were in any case treated as a luxury item, only to be taken out on special occasions, including the odd Sunday drive. Also, this was during the depression and the early years of the Second World War when gasoline was rationed.

The braver ones amongst us would go "Bumper Riding." The routine was the same as riding snow rigs. We would wait for a car to stop at the corner of St Patrick and King Edward streets, grab a car's bumper and ride all the way to Sussex Street. Sussex Street always ended these adventures because it had streetcar tracks. In those days, the "Rockcliffe" streetcar would start its run in Hull, go along Sparks, down to Rideau, turn onto Sussex, and end up at the entrance to Rockcliffe Park where it would turn around and head back.

The bravest of us would ride the streetcar to the park and back, but this was very dangerous. We would hook onto the streetcar tow bar and slide. Sometimes, if we wanted to get off, we



Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lithwick in front of their grocery store, ca. early 1930.

would reach up and pull on the cord that was tied to the overhead wires to disconnect the power feed. Without power, the streetcar would slow down rapidly and we would get off and run away before the street car conductor could catch us.

Spring was rather a dull time. Skating was over, as was snow rig and car riding, and there wasn't much to do until the snow and ice melted and the streets became clear. To speed the melting we chopped the ice from the sidewalks in front of our houses and threw it on to the road to be crushed by passing automobiles.

A favourite haunt was the "Black Bridge," a railway trestle bridge on which a daily freight train crossed the Rideau River at the end of Redpath Street. Today, Boteler is the last street running East-West before Sussex. In between these two streets is a road leading to the MacDonald-Cartier Bridge. In those days, north of Boteler was Redpath Street, followed by Baird Street. Between Baird and Redpath were train tracks leading to various warehouses, like the Lawrence Paper Company, the Gamble Fruit and Vegetables Company. The piers

supporting the bridge still exist today and can be seen from the surrounding parks or the Minto Bridges, and the railroad right of way is part of the existing and planned extension of the Vanier Parkway.

As Spring wore on, the city would cut channels and blast the ice off the Rideau River to avoid having it flood along its banks. So at the Black Bridge, we would go to the bottom of the piers and amuse ourselves by jumping on large ice flows that had been dynamited, and riding them down the Rideau River to the Minto Bridges. There, the Rideau narrowed and caused an ice jam that enabled us to jump off and walk back to the Black Bridge to start again.

Another spring activity was to see who would be the first to go swimming. Being first to swim even for a short time in the icy cold water was quite a feat and earned the respect of all gang members. Word would quickly get around that so-and-so had been swimming and the other members quickly followed suit, so as not to be thought "chicken."

The Black Bridge had three piers. We shared the bridge with an Irish-English gang that lived in New Edinburgh, and we

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## Growing up Continued...

all followed a strict conduct protocol. We never spoke to each other and when walking on the bridge, we kept to the right and they to the left. It was as if the other side was invisible.

We also each had our own pier to swim from. We swam at the third pier counting from west to east, whereas the other gang swam at the second pier. This meant that we often passed each other going swimming, but we all observed the "rules" and there were rarely any problems.

To the east of the bridge was a city run swimming pool called "Flatrocks." It was there that we younger ones learned to swim. Once we could, we would be accepted to swim at the Black Bridge. But there was a test to pass. To really be welcomed, you had to swim from there to one of the Minto Bridges and back. If you had to rest along the way by floating on your back, this wasn't so good. To really be part of the swimming gang, you had to swim non-stop.

There was also status attached to diving off the bridge. Most of us could jump or dive off the middle span half way up to the top. The real heroes were those who climbed all the way and then either jumped or dived from the top.

As summer came and days got longer, we would hang around the boulevard, usually after supper, on King Edward Street across from the fire station. One of our favourite games was Kick the Can. This consisted of gathering around an empty tin can, selecting one person to guard the can and someone to boot it. Once the can was kicked, the guardian would run to retrieve it and bring it back to its original position. In the meantime, the rest of us would run away and hide, usually behind trees or nearby cars. The guardian, would replace the can and call out the names of those he saw or suspected were hiding nearby. He had to go close to where a person was hiding, identify him and run back to touch the can. Those who were caught this way would hang around the can and as the guardian roamed further and further

away they would hope that someone would run from his hiding place and kick the can before the guardian could get back to it. If that happened, then all those previously caught would be free to run and hide, and the game would start all over again. If the guardian managed to catch everyone, he would select a new guardian to replace him and we would start over. Supper was usually around five o'clock for most of us and by 5.30 we gathered to play the game. It would last until darkness.

Younger boys did not play Kick the Can and their gang had to make its own fun. At night we used to run the sheds. In those days, practically every house had a garage or a shed at the back of the lot line so that the sheds from one street backed on the sheds or garages of the next street. Each of these were different so that to go from one to the other you either had to climb up or jump down to the next. We used to have races starting on the sheds nearest King Edward Street and running west to Cumberland Street. I don't recall anyone chasing us away. Maybe we were too fast or too quiet, in any case, we didn't stay too long in one area.

More a trick than a game was playing ghosts. This required stealth and consisted of one of us climbing on the back porch of a home and quietly hang a thread that was attached a small metal washer at the top of the window frame with a thumb tack. We would then tie a thread to the washer and play it out all the way to the back garage or shed. Then we would lie down quietly on the roof, wait until the lights in the bedroom were turned on and then off and gently tug on the thread. The washer would hit the window and make a slight noise. After about a dozen tugs, the lights would go on and the window would go up as the occupants searched for the source of the noise. We always used a black fishing line and would tug on it very hard and usually the thumb tack would pop out and we could pull everything away without leaving any evidence. Neighbours often talked about the mysterious ghosts clicking on their window panes.

During spring, summer and fall we played "The Four Corners." By this we meant where the four street corners of

city blocks met at an intersection. With us, it was the Bruyere and Cumberland streets intersection. In those days, the street corners were usually lit by a 100-watt bulb hanging from a plate shaped socket in the middle of the intersection. One person was elected to stand under the light equidistant from all four wooden light poles that were at the four corners. Four other persons would each occupy (touch) a different pole. The idea was for two players to exchange positions by running from one pole to the other. The middle person would try to reach and touch one of the vacated poles before the runner trying to reach it could get there. Whoever the loser was would exchange places with the one in the centre and the game would start all over again.

On Saturdays a gang, of us would go to the movies. The Français Theatre on Dalhousie Street between York and George streets was one of our favourites. Every Saturday the Français had a matinee starting at 10 a.m.. It would feature two full length movies, a serial, and a cartoon, and was repeated in the afternoon and evening. Entry cost a dime, but there was always a couple of us without money, so one of us would collect the available dimes and go to the box office and buy, as many tickets as possible.. We would then quickly enter in a bunch and point to the one in the back with the tickets. He would hand in the tickets, by then most of us were inside the theatre before the clerk could count us. We usually stayed for both the morning and matinee shows; during the short break between shows we would hide, in the washroom or under our seats and wait for the movies to start again.

My grandmother helped me get my dime, all week she would collect her own newspapers and those of her neighbours and roll them up for me. I would show up around 8 A.M. on Saturday morning, pick up my two rolls of paper and head for the market where I sold the rolls for a nickel each to meat merchants for use as wrapping paper.

(to be continued in next issue)

# Heritage Ottawa's 2003 Walking Tour Schedule

For more information call or e-mail **Heritage Ottawa** at 230-8841 and [info@heritageottawa.ca](mailto:info@heritageottawa.ca) or check-out our website: [www.heritageottawa.ca](http://www.heritageottawa.ca)

*Join us for and hour and a half walk highlighting some of Ottawa's finest architecture!*

Tour Prices: \$8.00 Heritage Ottawa members; \$10.00 non-members

## 1. Beaux Arts Ottawa:

(This tour will be given twice this summer.) The architectural style of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris came to the United States and later to Ottawa. Ottawa's Beaux Arts buildings feature classical exteriors on modern steel frames, with symmetrical plans and a progressive arrangement of space. Twelve of the city's most important Beaux-Arts buildings, designed by leading Canadian and American architects in the first half of the 20th century, plus some additional classical facades, will be seen along Sparks and Wellington Streets.

**Guide:** David Jeanes, Railway & Amateur Historian

**Date:** June 8, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** Conference Centre (formerly Union Station)  
Confederation Square entrance

## 2. Centretown:

Walk through the heart of downtown Ottawa. Its mixture of residential, institutional and commercial buildings includes late Victorian red brick homes, Art Deco designs and Modernist high-rise - yours to discover!

**Guide:** Terry de March, Heritage Aficionado

**Date:** June 22, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** City Hall, 111 Lisgar at Cartier

## 3. Glebe:

Come and see the shady streets and lanes of one of Ottawa's most charming neighbourhoods. Discover the story behind the Queen Elizabeth Driveway, Central Park Gardens and everything in between.

**Guide:** Gouhar Shemdin, Conservation Architect

**Date:** July 6, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** Corner of Clemow and O'Connor

## 4. New Edinburgh:

Once a village lying outside the bounds of Bytown, New Edinburgh was established by industrialist Thomas McKay and comprises both architecturally-rich buildings and simpler stone dwellings built to



**Fraser Schoolhouse**  
62-64 John Street 1837  
(Heritage Ottawa's former home)

house 19th century labourers. Walk through one of Ottawa's most historic neighbourhoods.

**Guide:** Jennifer Rosebrugh, Former Heritage Ottawa President

**Date:** July 20, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** 62 John St, near Sussex Dr.

## 5. Sandy Hill:

The beautifully maintained mansions and townhouses of this early Ottawa residential district date from 1870 into the early 20th century. The tour will highlight the positive effect zoning changes in the mid-1970s had on the preservation of buildings in the area.

**Guide:** Judy Deegan, Former LACAC member and Sandy Hill resident

**Date:** August 10, 2:00 PM

*Continued on pages 10 and 11*

## Walking Tour Continued...

**Departure:** Laurier House, 335 Laurier Ave. East (at Chapel)

### 6. Village of Britannia:

Walk through the historic Village of Britannia and discover the story of its emergence as a late-Victorian resort destination. The extension of the city's streetcar tracks westward in 1900 brought Ottawa's leisure seekers, ushering in the golden years before World War I. Much of Britannia retains a village flavour and many former cottages have survived, some still evoking the character of the old summer resort community.

**Guide:** Carolyn Quinn, Former Heritage Ottawa President

**Date:** August 24, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** Parking lot at top of hill off Greenview Ave. (details will be in the schedule included with the Newsletter posting).

### 7. The Ruisseau de la Brasserie in Gatineau (formerly Hull):

Discover the industrial heritage of the former City of Hull, including the E.B. Eddy buildings, the historical plaque of Hull's founder Philemon Wright and the Village d'Argentine where many heritage houses are located. This year, this tour will be given in English.

**Guide:** Michel Prévost, President, Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais

**Date:** September 7, 11:00 AM

**Departure:** The Écomusée de Hull,

170, Montcalm Street, Gatineau (former Hull). The Écomusée is located near the Tour Eiffel bridge which crosses the Ruisseau de la Brasserie at the corner of Papineau Street.

### 8. Lowertown:

Visit the Basilica, churches, courtyards and historic buildings of the ByWard Market and Lowertown area. This area represents the heart of historic Ottawa since it was here that the canal workers lived and the earliest commercial district began.

**Guide:** Hagit Hadaya, Architectural Historian

**Date:** September 7, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** Statue of Col. John By, Major's Hill Park (behind the Château Laurier Hotel)

### 9. Beaux Arts Ottawa:

The architectural style of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris came to the United States and later to Ottawa. Ottawa's Beaux Arts buildings feature classical exteriors on modern steel frames, with symmetrical plans and a progressive arrangement of space. Twelve of the city's most important Beaux-Arts buildings, designed by leading Canadian and American architects in the first half of the 20th century, plus some additional classical façades, will be seen along Sparks and Wellington Streets.

**Guide:** David Jeanes, Railway & Amateur Historian

**Date:** September 14, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** Conference Centre

(formerly Union Station)  
Confederation Square entrance

### 10. Rockcliffe Park:

Join us for a walk through picturesque Rockcliffe Park with its mix of architectural styles from stately stone mansions and interesting contemporary designs to remaining summer cottages. Learn about the history of the village and the role the MacKay and Keefer families had in determining its layout and even the design of many of its homes.

**Guide:** Martha Edmond, Historian & Author

**Date:** October 19, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** corner of Sandridge and Hillsdale



Barbara McMullen

*Close-up of terra cotta figure of "Hope" at 61-63 Sparks St.*

### 11. Terra Cotta in the Downtown Core:

Take a stroll down Sparks and Wellington Streets to see and hear about Ottawa's early 1900's unique glazed terra cotta buildings. Learn about terra cotta's use as a building

material and its important role in the early 20th century development of the Downtown Core.

**Guide:** Barbara McMullen, Urban Planning & Heritage Consultant

**Date:** September 28, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** Southeast corner of Rideau St. and Colonel By Dr., just outside Rideau Centre.

## 12. Terra Cotta in Centretown:

Take a walk through Centretown to view its late 1890's terra cotta-decorated Queen Anne Revival homes and public buildings. Learn about Ontario's late 19th century brick and terra cotta manufacturers, including T.M. Clark of New Edinburgh who produced Ontario's first architectural terra cotta.

**Guide:** Barbara McMullen, Urban Planning & Heritage Consultant

**Date:** October 5, 2:00 PM

**Departure:** St. George's Church, Metcalfe at Gloucester St.

**Heritage Ottawa wishes to thank the Official Sponsor of the 2003 Heritage Walking Tour Season:**



**Sussex Capital Inc.**

Sixty-Two John Street, Ottawa, K1M 1M3 (613) 741-7970

# A Modest Proposal to Solve City of Ottawa Expansion Problems

by Paul Stumes (The author whimsically suggests what might have been.)

**S**ome time ago it was announced that the current Ottawa City Archives was inadequate for storing the expected deluge of archival material for the new City. The problem is intensified by the private owner of the present archive building, who wants vacant possession. The City Administration is now looking for new space for the Archives and other functions.

Heritage Ottawa could recommend that the City Management move the Archives to the old abandoned City Police Headquarters. In that building there would be sufficient space to concentrate several other City branches which are spread all over Ottawa. This building not only has increased space but is equipped with proper heating, plumbing, fire protection and other required facilities. An additional bonus is that the vacated City police headquarters is within walking distance of the new Ottawa City Hall. If all the space in the suggested building is not required by the City the empty portion could be rented, to ease the city taxpayers' burden.

Another bonus perhaps, would be that within a few decades, this magnificent example of 20th Century Modern Architecture would become, one of Ottawa's most cherished heritage buildings.

### News Flash

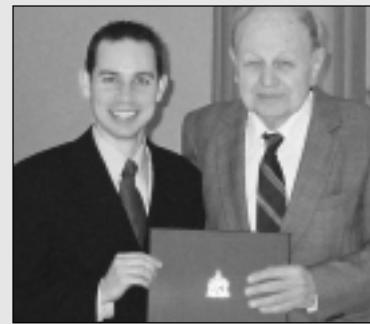
A well informed authority points out to Heritage Ottawa that the City Archives and other City Offices can not now be moved into the City Police Headquarters, it has been razed to make outdoor space available for unspecified public activities on Waller Street in downtown Ottawa.



The former Ottawa Police H.Q. reduced to debris.

### No Cause for Alarm

The building discussed in this article was dismantled several years before the presiding City Council was elected and the present City Administration came into effect. Members of Heritage Ottawa can be assured that the new City of Ottawa will take better care of its assets.



Councillor Alex Munter, Chair of the Health, Recreation and Social Services Committee, presents Heritage Ottawa Board member Paul Stumes with a Heritage Community Recognition Program Certificate of Achievement and an Ontario Heritage Foundation Achievement pin. The presentation of this award, recognizing Paul's long-time contribution to the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage, took place at Ottawa City Hall on Thursday, May 1, 2003. A number of Paul's Heritage Ottawa Board colleagues also attended the presentation ceremony. Congratulations Paul!

## President Continued...

a brief at the National Capital Commission's annual public meeting.

Thanks to the efforts of Board member John Arnold and his committee, we published 5000 copies of a new brochure. Jim Georgiles continues single-handedly to produce the Newsletter and two editions have appeared since our last Annual General Meeting. With the help of a newly established editorial committee, the aim is to publish four issues in 2003.

Jennifer Rosebrugh organised our Walking Tours for 2002. The eight tours drew over 200 participants and raised over \$2000 in much-needed revenue. Sussex Capital Inc. were the official sponsor for our tours and their generosity enabled us to produce a brochure promoting the tours. Thanks to the efforts of this year's tour organizer, Louisa Coates, we shall offer a record 12 tours between June 8 and October 5. Sussex Capital have again agreed to be the official sponsor of these events. The promotional brochure should be available in early June but the complete listing is on our website and will appear in the June issue of the Newsletter.

Barbara McMullen is preparing a terra cotta architecture walking tour

guide to the Downtown which will be published in September thanks to the support of the Trillium Foundation which awarded us a grant of \$9700. The guide will be publically "launched" in September and will be available for sale at a modest price.

Our webmaster and Board member, Peter O'Malley, has enhanced our website over the past year, including the establishment of an archives of the complete run of the *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter* dating back to 1974. These archived issues, contain over 600 pages of important information on the heritage movement in Ottawa over the past three decades. It will serve as an educational tool for those interested in the study of our built heritage and will be of interest to the public as well. We are the first heritage organization in Canada to archive our publications in this manner. A search engine is being developed for the archived information which will further enhance its usefulness.

There is much to be done but Heritage Ottawa needs the active support and involvement of more members. At the registration table there are lists of the various committees with their duties and space for members to sign-up. I urge you to do so. We really need your help.

I want to thank each of the members of the current Board for their help throughout the year, especially our Past-President, Carolyn Quinn for all of her efforts over the past six years and for the help that she has given to me since I assumed the presidency eight months ago. A special thanks to our only "employee" Jennifer Jimmo, for her efforts above and beyond the call of duty. There are few employees with the devotion to stick with a job when the employer can usually only pay her for five or six days of work per month.

We could not continue to operate without the financial assistance of the City of Ottawa's Heritage Department which provides us with an operating grant every year. This year we received \$10,600. If we want to increase this however, we must have a strategic plan developed before the end of the year. The Ontario Ministry of Culture also provided us with a grant of \$1,035.

And finally thanks to you, the members. Your Board appreciates and needs your ongoing support. I hope you many of you will get more involved in the activities of Heritage Ottawa in the upcoming year.

Thank you for your attention.



Please, forward with payment to:

**HERITAGE OTTAWA**  
2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa,  
Ontario K1N 6E2

Tel: 230-8841 Fax: 564-4228  
E-mail: [info@heritageottawa.org](mailto:info@heritageottawa.org)

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**Visit Heritage Ottawa On Line - [www.heritageottawa.org](http://www.heritageottawa.org)**