



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage Winter 2006 Volume 33, No. 1

A Centennial for Tabaret Hall, 1905 – 2005

By Michel Prévost

The grand staircase... six magnificent columns... the glassed-in rotunda... these prominent features of Tabaret Hall recall salient moments for generations of students of their years at the University of Ottawa.

Tabaret Hall, without a doubt, is the most recognizable building on campus. It has welcomed thousands of students and many national and international celebrities since its opening. Last year marked its centennial.

Tabaret Hall's early history can be traced back to December 2, 1903, when the main building of the University, constructed between 1856 and 1886, erupted into flames. When the fire was finally out, the situation was grim: three people had died and nothing was left of the building but smoking ruins. Despite the tragedy, the Oblate administration quickly took action and decided to rebuild on the same site.

Wanting a more imposing structure than the original, Rector J.-É. Émery engaged U.S. architect A. O. Von Herbulis of New York to create the design. The architectural documents prepared by Von Herbulis (donated in 1998 by Saint Paul University to the University of Ottawa for its 150th anniversary) are now on display in Tabaret's rotunda. The classical Greek style, monolithic columns and the ornaments of Von Herbulis's design combine to give the building its unique appearance. A glass dome inspired by Washington's Capitol Building was



Photo: University of Ottawa archives

to be the building's crowning glory. Peter Lyall of Montreal was awarded the construction contract, worth \$165,000.

The cornerstone was laid on May 24, 1904. A host of prelates and dignitaries, including almost all of Canada's Catholic bishops and archbishops, the Governor General of Canada (the 4th Earl of Minto) and Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier, attended the ceremony which was presided over by Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore. The distinguished guest list testifies to the unique place that the University already held in Canadian society.

Tabaret Hall was one of the first buildings in Canada to be constructed of reinforced concrete,

A Centennial for Tabaret Hall...

a material noted for its fire resistance. When it opened on May 1, 1905, it did not yet resemble the original design; for financial reasons, only the central portion had been completed. The Laurier Wing, known as the Fathers Wing because the Oblates resided there, was added in 1914, and in 1922, the Marcotte Wing, named in honour of the then rector, was opened. The Wilbrod Wing (today called Séraphin-Marion) was completed in 1931 and included a gymnasium, dormitories and a chapel. The wooden dome installed "temporarily" in 1905 was finally replaced by the current dome in 1970. The following year, the building was named Tabaret in honour of Father Joseph-Henri Tabaret, the driving force behind the University in the 1800s. In 2004, the University of Ottawa unveiled a new logo featuring the profile of Tabaret Hall. While the building is eventually slated for major interior renovations, its facade and character have become the veritable symbol of the University. It will surely endure.

Come discover our rich heritage for yourself. The University of Ottawa Archives organizes historical tours of Tabaret Hall. Simply form a group of five and call 562-5825, or send an e-mail : michel.prevast@uottawa.ca ♦

Michel Prévost is Chief Archivist of the University of Ottawa.

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Heritage Ottawa is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage.

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Centenaire du pavillon Tabaret, le symbole de l'Université d'Ottawa (1905 – 2005)

Par Michel Prévost

L'année 2005 marquait le centième anniversaire du pavillon Tabaret qui symbolise l'Université d'Ottawa. Depuis un siècle, ce bâtiment situé au coeur de la capitale fédérale loge l'administration centrale et accueille des milliers d'étudiants.

Le 2 décembre 1903, un violent incendie détruit complètement l'édifice central de l'Université d'Ottawa construit entre 1856 et 1886. Trois personnes y perdent la vie. Loin de se laisser abattre, l'administration oblate, qui dirige l'institution depuis sa fondation en 1848, décide de reconstruire sur le même site.

Le recteur Joseph-Édouard Émery souhaite la construction d'un édifice plus imposant que le premier et digne d'une grande université canadienne. Il fait appel à l'architecte américain A.O. Von Herbulis, de New York. Ce dernier a déjà réalisé les plans de plusieurs immeubles aux États-Unis. L'architecte soumet les plans d'un édifice grandiose et d'un campus imposant. Ces deux documents architecturaux, donnés en 1998 par l'Université Saint-Paul pour notre 150^e anniversaire, sont maintenant exposés au deuxième étage de la rotonde de Tabaret.

Un cachet bien particulier

Le style architectural classique grec, les colonnes monolithes et les ornements donnent à l'édifice conçu par Von Herbulis un cachet bien particulier. Un magnifique dôme inspiré du Capitole de Washington doit coiffer le pavillon. On confie les travaux au coût de 165 000 \$ à Peter Lyall, entrepreneur de Montréal.



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L'Université canadienne
Canada's university



La pose de la pierre angulaire se déroule le 24 mai 1904. De nombreux prélats et dignitaires, dont la majorité des évêques et archevêques catholiques du Canada, le gouverneur général du Canada, le comte de Minto, et le premier ministre, sir Wilfrid Laurier, assistent à la cérémonie présidée par le cardinal Gibbons, de Baltimore. La présence de toutes ces personnes démontrent déjà la place unique qu'occupe notre université au sein de la société canadienne.

L'immeuble, inauguré le 1^{er} mai 1905, s'avère être l'un des premiers construits au Canada en béton armé, un matériau reconnu pour sa résistance au feu. L'oeuvre ne ressemble cependant pas encore aux plans originaux, puisque pour des raisons financières, seule la partie centrale est terminée. De plus, à la place du dôme qui devait dominer la Côte-de-Sable, on ne trouve qu'une modeste coupole provisoire en bois.

Plusieurs agrendissements

En 1914, on construit l'aile Laurier, dite l'aile des Pères, puisque les Oblats y résident, et en 1922, l'aile Marcotte en l'honneur du recteur de l'époque. Enfin, on inaugure en 1931 l'aile Wilbrod, (aujourd'hui Séraphin-Marion) où se trouve un gymnase, les dortoirs et une splendide chapelle. Pour souligner l'événement, l'Université confère un doctorat honorifique au gouverneur général, le comte de Bessborough.

Avec l'ajout de l'aile nord, le pavillon Tabaret acquiert la symétrie prévue dans les plans de Von Herbulis en 1904. En fait, à l'exception des fioritures, des colonnes et des statues, il ne manque que le dôme que les autorités espèrent réaliser un jour. Dans les faits toutefois le rêve ne deviendra jamais réalité et le pavillon Tabaret ne connaîtra plus d'agrandissements majeurs. Bien sûr, au fil des ans, on y effectue d'importantes transformations intérieures, mais l'aspect extérieur demeure essentiellement le même.

En 1970, un nouveau dôme remplace celui installé temporairement ... en 1905. Depuis 1971, le pavillon de l'administration centrale porte le nom de Tabaret en l'honneur du bâtisseur de l'institution au XIX^e siècle, le père Joseph-Henri Tabaret. L'an dernier, l'administration a adopté un nouveau logo qui s'inspire du pavillon Tabaret.

L'avenir

Avec le départ prévu de la Faculté des sciences sociales, le pavillon Tabaret devrait connaître des transformations intérieures majeures au cours des prochaines années. En fait, l'architecte de l'Université, Claudio Brun del Re, travaille avec son équipe à l'élaboration d'un plan quinquennal (2005-2010) afin de rendre l'édifice plus attrayant, sécuritaire, accessible et mieux ventilé. En fait, l'étage inférieur et le premier devraient être réservés aux services publics alors que les deux autres logeraient les bureaux de divers services, notamment des Finances, du Registraire et des Ressources humaines. Bref, ces travaux permettront au pavillon Tabaret de demeurer encore pour longtemps, un symbole de fierté pour l'université canadienne.

Visite commentée du pavillon Tabaret

Nous organisons dans les deux langues officielles des visites historiques commentées du pavillon Tabaret pour les groupes de cinq personnes et plus. Veuillez communiquer avec nous au (613) 562-5750 ou par courriel à michel.prevost@uottawa.ca. Ces visites sont offertes gratuitement. ♦

Michel Prévost est l'archiviste en chef de l'Université d'Ottawa.

From the President....



By the time you receive our Winter 2006 Newsletter we will have completed three of our eight 2005-2006 lectures. You will note that the series will be held at eight different venues (see schedule on page 11). Where possible, we have tried to match the venue with the topic to provide added interest for those attending. In February, Mark Brandt will deliver the first annual *Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture*, our way of honouring two people who were instrumental not only in the establishment of Heritage Ottawa but who were also pioneers in the heritage conservation movement in Ottawa.

Our 2005 series of 13 heritage walking tours was our most ambitious effort in many years and its promotion was enhanced by our newly-designed four-color brochure which we distributed far and wide. The tours attracted nearly 400 participants and provided our organization with much-needed revenue. Many thanks to David Jeanes and Ken Elder for organizing the tour program and to John Arnold for overseeing Iridium's design and production of the brochure. Finally, thanks to the guides, co-ordinators and to all our members who participated in the tours.



Veteran Heritage Ottawa members (left to right) Helmut Schade, Stuart Lazear and Paul Stumes cut our 30th birthday cake at the 2005 Annual General Meeting held on May 11.

In late September, Ottawa City Council approved a *Museum Sustainability Plan* which provides additional cumulated funding over a four year period to the ten City-owned

and community museums in Ottawa. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa, Heritage Ottawa and other members of the heritage community, the *Plan* was passed without debate or opposition by Health, Recreation and Social Services committee and by City Council. The proposed funding for this and other heritage programs and services was approved by City Council in the 2006 City Budget.

The new year will offer continued challenges in protecting buildings in our heritage conservation districts and in convincing municipal authorities to allocate additional revenue for the preservation of City-owned heritage buildings. City planners have recently proposed the construction of a north-south Light Rail station on Stewart Street which would require the demolition of four buildings in the Sandy Hill West Conservation District.

Advocating on behalf of our built heritage is occupying more and more time of the small core of active Heritage Ottawa members. We need your help, to attend meetings, write letters and to otherwise help us in the cause. I hope to see many of you at our upcoming lectures and welcome your active support as we embark on our next 30 years. ♦

Best wishes to all for 2006!

David B. Flemming,
President



Saint-François d'Assise was one of the highlights of September's walking tour in the Village of Hintonburg by guide Linda Hoad.

Photo: David B. Flemming

Photo: David B. Flemming

The Portrait Gallery of Canada

Dixon Jones, the designers of the proposed Portrait Gallery of Canada have chosen to adapt the building at 100 Wellington Street for its new use and to erect a “state-of-the-art” addition in the parking lot to the west.

Ken Elder, a member of Heritage Ottawa’s board, recently outlined our organization’s opinion on the proposed plans for presentation to the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC). It reads as follows:

Given the unquestioned heritage value of the former American Embassy by Cass Gilbert, Heritage Ottawa applauds the sensitive manner in which this building has been incorporated into the development, in particular the setback on the west which enables a clear view of the “fine west elevation.”

Concerning the impact on the existing streetscape, in particular the south side of Wellington Street, the new addition respects the scale of its neighbours and presents a harmonious skyline. Floating the cantilevered roof clear of the masonry cornice, helps to define the extra floor as an attic or penthouse.

The adoption of materials found in the American Embassy for the new addition (Ohio limestone and glass), if elegantly detailed, will give it a permanent and distinguished character.

Heritage Ottawa is concerned about the uncompromising modernist design of the north elevation of the addition (a flat masonry slab, cut by a ribbon window, balanced on a thin pilaster and one slender round column) which draws emphasis away from the symmetrical Beaux-Arts Classicism of the older building. Because the addition is so obtrusive, one is more aware that it is out of character with its neighbours on both sides of Wellington Street. In this context it may be well to recall an observation made by well known architect Robert Venturi: ‘Modern architecture has been anything but permissive, Architects have preferred to change the existing environment rather than enhance what is there’.

Heritage Ottawa is not suggesting that we emulate the American Embassy façade but that the contrast be more well mannered. This could be achieved in a number of ways. One could tone down the brightness, look for greater transparency or make the elevation less

streamlined and pick up on the rhythms, proportions and sculptural qualities of neighbouring buildings.

It is a daunting task to successfully infill a site between Cass Gilbert’s neo-Beaux-arts American Embassy of 1931-32 and Frederick J. Alexander’s Romanesque Revival Union Bank Building of 1888, not to mention the building opposite, viz., the Gothic Revival Centre Block of Parliament of 1916-27 by John A. Pearson and Jean-Omer Marchand, the highest scoring building ever considered by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office. But it is not an impossible task. The Parliamentary Offices, Portcullis House in London, dating from 2001, is a particularly successful example of contemporary infill in a similarly sensitive site.

A LACAC motion to accept Heritage Ottawa’s recommendation did not pass.

Heritage Day

This year, people across the country will be celebrating Heritage Day on Monday, February 20. In Ottawa, Mayor Bob Chiarelli, Members of Council and the Cultural Services and Community Funding Branch in partnership with the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa will host a Heritage Day ceremony and reception at City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West at noon. Everyone is invited, so come join in the festivities and celebrate our heritage.

For those seeking further activity, plan a trip to Carp to visit the Diefenbunker, Canada’s Cold War Museum. Past workers of the bunker will be on hand to give personal tours and provide insights on the inner working of the site. The museum is located at 3911 Carp Road, Carp. Tours on Heritage Day will be held at 11 AM, Noon, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3PM. Admission: Adults \$14.00, Seniors and Students \$12.50, Youth (6-17) \$6.00.

For information:

Patricia Lamarche-Champagne,
(613) 839-0007 or tours@Diefenbunker

City Seeks to Move Heritage Buildings

By David B. Flemming

Over the past four months, the City of Ottawa's Real Property Asset Management (RPAM) division has recommended that two City-owned buildings designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be sold or given away.

In June, it was learned that RPAM had been negotiating the sale of March House (also known as March House Restaurant), a 19th century stone building which was the first building designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* by the newly amalgamated City of Ottawa. Less than two years later, the City planned to sell the building to a private owner who would move it to a new location. This would mean that the City would have to formally repeal the designation under the provisions of the Act.

In October, RPAM announced plans to give the 1860's Loyal Orange Lodge (LOL) building in Kars, a structure also designated under the Act, to the Masonic Association of the Eastern District who would pay for moving the building to Upper Canada Village and for restoring it as a 19th century Masonic Hall.

Heritage Ottawa's concern over these two proposals is that the Real Estate Section of the City does not seem to be aware of the process outlined in Section 4.6 of the City's *Official Plan* as it relates to City-owned buildings designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Where a designated structure is to be demolished or moved as a result of a sale, the City must first prepare a cultural heritage impact statement to accompany any recommendation to demolish or move the building. This would first be sent to the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) and then to Planning and Environment Committee and finally City Council.

Despite the strong support of the people of Kars and of local heritage organizations and activists to have the LOL hall moved to Upper Canada Village, Heritage Ottawa is concerned that the City is not setting a good "example of leadership for the



Photo: David B. Flemming

The Masonic Association of the Eastern District proposes to restore the Loyal Orange Lodge as a nineteenth century Masonic Hall when the organization receives permission to relocate the designated building from Kars to Upper Canada Village.

community in the conservation of heritage resources" (Section 2.5.5/16 of the *Official Plan*).

Heritage Ottawa has recommended a transparent process whereby RPAM recommendations to sell designated properties, the consequences of which could lead to relocation or demolition, first be considered by LACAC and Council before any negotiations for sale begin. We shall be recommending this to Council when any proposals to repeal the heritage designations are considered.

I am pleased to report that the concerns raised by Heritage Ottawa and LACAC have resulted in a recent decision by the City to leave March House at its current location but to move it slightly to permit the widening of March Road. This will allow for the retention of *Ontario Heritage Act* designation.

As for the Kars LOL building, it will soon be the subject of cultural heritage impact assessment which will form part of the recommendation to LACAC to permit the building's relocation to Upper Canada Village. ♦

New Director at Helm of Heritage Canada

The Heritage Canada Foundation recently appointed Natalie Bull as Executive Director of the organization. Born in New Brunswick, Natalie completed her studies at the University of Montréal with a Master's degree in Applied Sciences in Architectural Conservation. During the past fourteen years, Ms. Bull worked in a number of progressively senior positions for Public Works and Government Services Canada including Acting Director with the Heritage Conservation Directorate, Real Property Program. She also brings strong non-profit-sector leadership experience to her new position, most recently as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Preservation Technology International.

Natalie Bull has been at the Foundation since October 24, where she welcomes your calls and e-mails.

Ms. Bull can be reached at:
(613) 237-1066 or at:
nbull@heritagecanada.org

*Natalie Bull, newly appointed
Executive Director of the
Heritage Canada Foundation*



Sandy Hill Residents Alarmed by Light Rail Transit (LRT) Proposal

Recommendations made at City Council on November 9, 2005 propose the investigation of constructing an LRT terminal on the south side of Stewart Street east of Waller Street. A surface parking lot currently occupies part of the site but the plan also includes four former residences. These buildings at 30-40 Stewart Street have considerable architectural and heritage character and are located in the Sandy Hill West Heritage Conservation District. If the project is approved, these buildings would be demolished. Most of these structures appear to have undergone a degree of exterior restoration by the University of Ottawa over the past few years with funding contributed by the City's heritage grant program for building restoration.

In addition, the proposal includes consideration of future (and likely tall) development over the air space of the station as part of a private-public partnership .

A number of residents in the community are dismayed by the scale and nature of the proposed

project. Given the time and effort councillors and staff have given over many years to encourage and maintain a healthy and sane approach to development in Sandy Hill, residents find that the project is regressive and has overwhelming negative implications for the community.

Councillor Georges Bédard has been asked to convene a meeting with all interested parties to discuss the proposal and alternative sites.

In Memoriam 2005

Rolf Latte

Marjorie Loughery

Rosemary Lydon

Valerie Wilson

Sanctuary of Notre Dame: a historic treasure saved

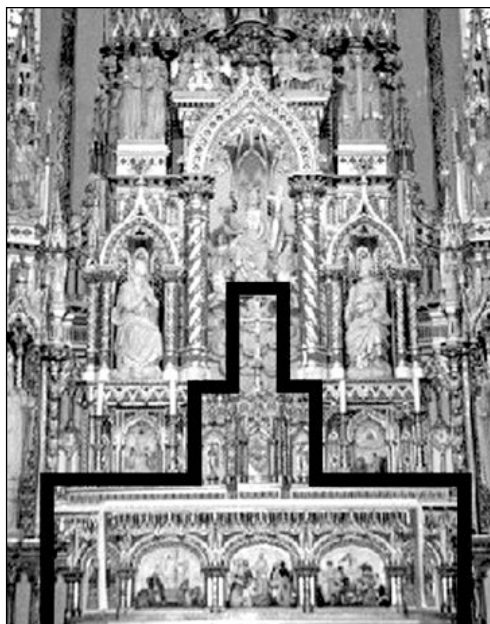
By Michel Prévost

Proposed changes that would have adversely affected the sanctuary of Notre Dame basilica-cathedral have been withdrawn. As reported in the summer issue of the newsletter, Archbishop Marcel Gervais planned to have parts of the main altar cut and removed and new statues of female saints installed in the sanctuary. This work would have irrevocably changed the architectural ensemble designed by Chanoine Georges Bouillon in one of Canada's foremost religious monuments. The plan would have also affected the integrity of the sculptures of celebrated artist Louis-Philippe Hébert.

Notre Dame, built in the 19th century, is the only Catholic church of the period in the Ottawa region to have preserved its architectural integrity. When it was built, the Ottawa diocese comprised the national capital region, eastern Ontario and the Outaouais

Last February, as opposition to the proposed changes mounted, a committee for the preservation of Notre Dame cathedral was formed. Presided by M. Richard Évraine, the committee called upon 100 heritage and arts groups, including Heritage Ottawa and the Heritage Canada Foundation as well as prominent individuals from the field of culture, to sign an open letter to Mgr. Gervais asking him to abandon the project. Moreover, 10,000 postcards pre-addressed to Mgr. Gervais were distributed demanding that the altar and tabernacle not be dismantled. Press conferences, the adoption of resolutions by cultural organizations and other pressure tactics contributed to the campaign.

Given the intensity of the opposition, Mgr. Gervais officially announced on October 2nd that all proposed modifications to the sanctuary had



been canceled. In respect of the heritage character of the cathedral, new sculptures of female saints would be installed somewhere else, presumably in a new chapel. The Archbishop's message is as follows:

On the subject of the proposed changes to the Cathedral sanctuary, since the beginning of September, I have met with some members of the parish councils and with other people who have expressed a strong interest in the future of our Cathedral church. Aware of the division that exists in the parish and in the wider Catholic community

and wanting to be faithful, above all, to my ministry of unity, I have abandoned the sanctuary project. I would like you to be able to see what I had planned.

I do want to advise you, however, that I intend to proceed with an addition to the Guigues Street side of the Cathedral. It is my hope that the new addition will provide a quiet place of prayer in a Blessed Sacrament Chapel and a space where the women important to our salvation history and to the history of our diocese will be honoured. It is also my hope that the new addition will provide a parish reception area, offices, a gift shop, an elevator to facilitate barrier-free access to all facilities. When plans are further developed, I will present them to the parishioners and to the diocesan community for review and comment.

The hundreds of people and groups who had worked to preserve the sanctuary were grateful that Mgr. Gervais had responded to their concerns and reversed his original plan. For the future, the committee's campaign served to remind the community that preservation issues are worth fighting for. ♦

Michel Prévost is chief archivist of the University of Ottawa and president of the Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais. He was a member of the Committee for the Preservation of Notre Dame Cathedral.

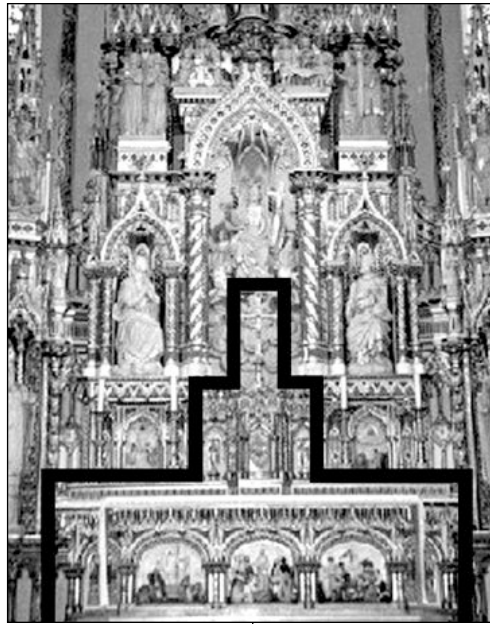
Le sanctuaire de la basilique-cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Ottawa : un joyau du patrimoine national religieux sauvé

par Michel Prévost

La basilique-cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Ottawa, joyau du patrimoine religieux national, était menacée par des travaux dans le sanctuaire. Rappelons que l'archevêque Marcel Gervais voulait démembrer le maître-autel de Louis-Phillippe Hébert, un de nos plus grands sculpteurs, et remiser le tabernacle pour les remplacer par des statues de saintes de l'Église. Ces travaux auraient détruit à jamais l'oeuvre magistrale du chanoine Georges Bouillon.

La cathédrale Notre-Dame demeure la plus ancienne église d'Ottawa. De plus, elle s'avère la seule église catholique qui a conservé son intégrité architecturale du XIX^e siècle. Au moment de sa construction et de sa décoration intérieure, le diocèse d'Ottawa englobait la région de la capitale nationale, l'Est ontarien et l'Outaouais.

Un Comité pour la sauvegarde de la cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Ottawa, présidé par M. Richard Évrard, a été constitué en février dernier. Le Comité a fait appel à 100 organismes du patrimoine et des arts, dont Héritage Ottawa et la Fondation Héritage Canada, ainsi qu'à des personnalités du milieu afin de signer une lettre publique demandant à l'archevêque de renoncer à son projet. De plus, nous avons distribué 10,000 cartes postales pré-adressées à Mgr Gervais lui demandant de ne pas toucher au sanctuaire. Enfin, nous avons utilisé divers moyens pour sensibiliser



l'archevêque, notamment une conférence de presse et des résolutions officielles d'organismes patrimoniaux.

Ce fort mouvement d'opposition a porté ses fruits puisque Mgr Gervais a annoncé officiellement à la cathédrale, le 2 octobre dernier, qu'il renonçait à modifier le sanctuaire. Des statues de saintes de l'Église seront aménagées ailleurs, sans doute dans une chapelle, afin de respecter le patrimoine de la basilique-cathédrale. Voici ce que Mgr Gervais a écrit dans un feuillet inséré dans le bulletin paroissial :

“En ce qui concerne les changements proposés au sanctuaire de la Cathédrale, j'ai rencontré quelques-uns des membres des conseils de la paroisse et d'autres personnes qui ont exprimé un grand intérêt relativement au futur de notre Cathédrale. Je suis conscient de la division qui existe dans la paroisse et dans la vaste communauté catholique. Par conséquent, voulant être fidèle avant tout à mon ministère d'unité, je vous avise que j'ai abandonné le projet du sanctuaire.”

Nous tenons à exprimer notre vive gratitude à Mgr Gervais pour cette décision et à remercier tous les organismes et les personnes qui ont appuyé notre cause. Notre patrimoine religieux a trop souffert au cours des dernières décennies et il faut maintenant agir lorsqu'il est menacé.

Certes, cette victoire ne relève pas du miracle, mais de la mobilisation d'une communauté qui s'est levée pour transmettre un témoin de unique de notre patrimoine religieux aux générations à venir. ♦

Michel Prévost est l'archiviste en chef de l'Université d'Ottawa et Le président de la Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais. Il siège aussi au Comité de sauvegarde de la cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Ottawa.

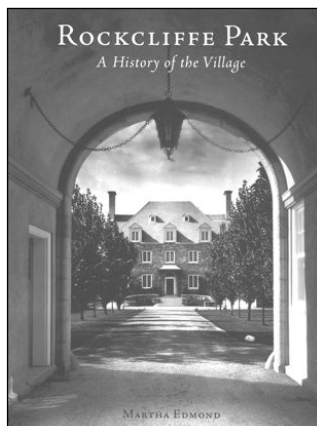


Book Review by Sally Coutts

Rockcliffe Park, A History of the Village

Martha Edmond, with a selection of contemporary photographs by Neville G. Poy 296 pages, including over 270 archival and contemporary images (Ottawa: The Friends of Rockcliffe Park, 2005)

Writing local history is a popular pastime in Canada and hundreds of books chronicling individual communities are published every year across the country. They are purchased by past and present residents and quickly checked to see what was said about so-and-so and whether the events of a certain era were recorded correctly. Beloved teachers are remembered, faithful pets are honoured and the good old days are glorified.



Rockcliffe Park, A History of the Village is good local history. The first part of the book is chronologically arranged, tracing the history of the Village from its earliest days. Edmond does an excellent job of explaining clearly the extremely complicated genealogy of the descendants of Thomas McKay, the houses that they built and the role that they played in the history of the Village. Subsequent chapters look at leading families within the context of the times, and discuss their houses, offspring and careers.

Interspersed among the chronological chapters are what could be termed “theme” chapters that look at, for example, the role of the lumber families in shaping the character of Rockcliffe, public servants, and the “mandarins, politicians and journalists,” the schools and diplomatic residences. These chapters give the reader an idea of the interesting and varied character of Rockcliffe’s residents from the 1930s to the 1950s when many of Canada’s leading policy makers lived in the Village, meeting for walks, drinks or tennis. The quick sketches given on the formation

of the CBC, the early days of the League for Social Reconstruction, the development of the atomic bomb, the role of the “dollar a year men” are very interesting, even if the link back to Rockcliffe is sometimes tenuous. While C.D. Howe chose to live in Rockcliffe, he did not influence its development, nor alter the course of its history by living there. Similarly, the book’s trips outside the Village are sometimes questionable. Architect Stanford White’s murder by a jealous husband did indeed shock turn-of-the-century New York, but what a famous murder in New York is doing in a local history of Rockcliffe Park is another matter.

The sections of *Rockcliffe Park, A History of the Village* that are the most successful are those in which Edmond examines the ways in which the mandarins, military leaders, and journalist did influence Village life. I was charmed by descriptions of the early activities of the Ottawa Field naturalists in the area, the accounts of Village Council meetings and the idea of many of Canada’s leaders sitting on the Rockcliffe Park Public Home and School. The battle to save the Pond from infill during the 1970s gives a fascinating glimpse at how the power, skills and influence of Villagers in business and government affected life in the community.

The book is beautifully illustrated with a vast array of historical photographs that capture every aspect of Village life from its earliest days, including skating on McKay Lake, swimming at the pond and attending community parties. Unfortunately, many of the houses referred to in the text are not illustrated, leaving the reader trying to guess what they looked like based on the descriptions. An extra map or two would have also helped to gain a clearer understanding of the development of the Village. For example I would have liked to have seen a map showing the location of Allan Keefer’s houses and another with the location of the diplomatic residences. But, overall, these are small problems.

Anyone interested in Rockcliffe, its residents and how they shaped the Village will find this an excellent and interesting overview.

Sally Coutts is a Heritage Planner at the City of Ottawa

Heritage Ottawa Lecture Series – February to June 2006

Wednesday, Feb 22 at 7:30 pm

Architect, Mark Brandt will deliver the inaugural Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture on Ottawa's industrial heritage.

Location: Laurentian Leadership Centre (former Laurentian Club), 252 Metcalfe Street.

NOTE: Seating is limited so advance booking is essential at (613) 230-8841.

Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 pm

Architect John Cook will recount the challenges and achievements of the restoration of the former Plant Bath as the Plant Recreation Centre.

Location: Plant Recreation Centre, 930 Somerset Street West.

Wednesday, April 19 at 7:30 pm

Restoration architect Julian Smith will speak about his work restoring the Vimy Memorial located on the site of the battle of Vimy Ridge

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Location: Cartier Square Drill Hall, 2 Queen Elizabeth Driveway.

Wednesday May 17 at 7:30 pm

Architectural and urban design writer and critic Rhys Phillips will give his sometimes controversial assessment of the state of Ottawa's modern built heritage.

Location: Rockcliffe Park Recreation Centre Hall, 380 Springfield Road.

Tuesday, June 20 at 7:30 pm

Heritage Ottawa / Bytown Railway Society Lecture – Original design architect Gene Kinoshita and project architect Ted Sievenpiper, (formerly of John B. Parkin Associates), will describe the creation of Ottawa's train station in 1966 for Canada's centennial, winner of a Massey gold medal.

Location: Canada Science and Technology Museum auditorium, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd.

For information on lectures please call: (613) 230-8841 or see www.heritageottawa.org

Heritage Ottawa acknowledges the support of Andrex Holdings, the Official Sponsor of the 2005-2006 Lecture Series

Bells Tolling for Belltown Dome

The Belltown Dome, a popular skating arena in Britannia, faces an uncertain future. During the 2004 budget deliberations, the City proposed closing the Dome because it was at the end of its lifecycle with a deteriorating ice plant and roof and a small ice pad. Fortunately for skaters, the rink was given a reprieve by the City and will remain open until the end of the 2006 season. Residents worry, however, about a replacement. St. John Dixon-Warren, for one, despairs at the idea that this geodesic dome built in the '60s may be demolished. It has been a landmark in the community for years and he feels it deserves to be renovated and

restored. He points out that the Ottawa Regional Society of Architects has rated the Belltown Dome



one of the more interesting buildings in Ottawa. It is a good example of a design that encloses a long-span using lightweight material. Mr. Dixon-Warren is hoping for a long-term solution for a building he feels should be designated and preserved.

Calendrier des activités du Mois du patrimoine, en février 2006, à Ottawa-Gatineau

Lundi, 20 février 2006, à 12 h

Cérémonie et réception de la Fête du patrimoine
Hôtel de ville d'Ottawa, Place Jean-Pigott 110, avenue
Laurier Ouest, Ottawa
Renseignements : Mme Cynthia Smith, tél. :
(613) 244-4476

Mercredi, 22 février 2006, 10 h

Retraite en action Visite commentée de Michel Prévost
Archiviste en chef de l'Université d'Ottawa
Découverte de l'intérieur du pavillon Tabaret,
le symbole de l'Université d'Ottawa
Pavillon Tabaret, campus de l'Université d'Ottawa 550,
rue Cumberland, Ottawa
Frais d'entrée : 5 \$
Renseignements : Mme Chantal Richer,
tél. : (613) 860-1099, poste 2

Jeudi, 23 février 2006, à 12 h

Société franco-ontarienne d'histoire et de généalogie
Régionale Samuel-de-Champlain
Dîner-causerie de Michel Prévost Archiviste en chef de
l'Université d'Ottawa "La recherche généalogique aux
Archives de l'Université d'Ottawa"
Restaurant El Meson, 94, Beechwood, secteur Vanier,
Ottawa
Renseignements : M. Léo-Paul Leduc, tél. :
(613) 580-2424, poste 13333

Dimanche, 26 février 2006, à 11 h 30

Association Canada-France, Région de la capitale
nationale
Déjeuner-conférence de Michel Prévost Archiviste en
chef de l'Université d'Ottawa
"Plus de 150 ans de présence francophone à Ottawa"
21, rue George, Ottawa
Frais pour le repas
Réservation : Mme Ghislaine Turcotte, tél. : (613) 733-0596
Pour des renseignements généraux au sujet de toutes ces
activités, n'hésitez pas à joindre Michel Prévost :
(613) 562-5825 ou par courriel à michel.prevast@uottawa.ca.



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