



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

Spring 2006 Volume 33, No. 2

Dickenson Square Threatened

By Gordon Cullingham

Moss Kent Dickinson was to Manotick what Colonel John By was to Bytown: its founder. He built the mill, now called Watson's, in 1860, and a few years later, the grand Georgian clapboard house across the street, called Dickinson's. Both still stand; indeed the mill continues to grind flour, which is on sale for visitors.

Both buildings have been owned for decades, along with three others of note, by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). That body, worthy trustee as it has been, is moving to larger quarters and wants out. The Mill and four adjacent

buildings, three of them used as office space by the RVCA, together compose what has come to be known as Dickinson Square. One of the structures was once a bank, the other two were residences. The fifth was a carriage shed, and continues to serve as an information office and resource centre.

The Mill, Dickinson House and the other house (Weavers), as well as the carriage shed, are designated heritage buildings. The former bank (Ayers Building) is not. This delightful ensemble stands just a block off Manotick's main street on the edge of the Rideau River, a few meters south of the bridge and beside the town cenotaph on the site of the ruins of an earlier bridge. The site is easy to get to and is an inspiration in itself. As you can see in the photograph of Dickinson House, this is not something to be lost. But how to use it?

The RVCA wants to sell all five in order to finance the construction of its new building in Beryl Gaffney Park nearby. In a moment of heritage sensitivity, they engaged Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited of Perth to conduct a Best Use Study. The study is now underway and will be completed in a few weeks. A local group has been organized, called SOS (Save Our Square). It is urgently looking for solutions that will preserve the square and all its buildings intact and keep them publicly-owned. To this end they are preparing a business plan. The City of Ottawa is the obvious white knight in this mission. The campaign is just beginning, and it is unclear what the City's response



Dickinson House (ca. 1860) in Manotick.

Dickenson square threatened...

will be, although they have already lent \$5,000,000 to the RVCA to build their new headquarters. So there may be some leverage.

The Mill itself already operates under a separate arrangement; it has its own Board and fund-raises effectively. The other four structures are vulnerable in spite of the heritage protection for three of them. But it is the whole coherent grouping that is the charmer and begging for protection in its present form.

“The Mill, Dickinson House and the other house (Weavers), as well as the carriage shed, are designated heritage buildings.”

Have a look, then write to the Mayor, your Councillor, the Councillor for the location (Glenn Brooks), even your and Manotick's MP and MPP and plead for the life of Dickinson Square. There is no site quite like it in the area.

Gordon Cullingham is a member of Heritage Ottawa's Board of Directors, a former member of the Central Experimental Farm's Advisory Council and a former President of the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa. He and his wife, Janet Irwin, produced a series of automobile heritage tours of eastern Ontario waterways on audio cassette, one of them being "Talking up the Rideau." ♦

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

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From the President....



As the tulips begin to bloom, so too does the heritage season in Ottawa. The successful Historica Heritage Fair was held in April at the Canadian Museum of Civilization and as usual, it provided us with a wide array of projects reflecting the ingenuity and dedication of Ottawa students in reflecting our heritage.

The City of Ottawa's ten museums will be opening in mid-May offering a wide variety of programs and exhibits relating to Ottawa's "civic" heritage. I urge all Heritage Ottawa members to take time this summer to visit some of these fine museums and experience all aspects of Ottawa's history.

Doors Open Ottawa 2006 will again provide us with a glimpse of our distinctive and exciting built heritage. Why not plan to spend the weekend of June 3 - 4 exploring the city and visit some of the nearly 100 buildings which will be open for public viewing.

As usual, Heritage Ottawa will be offering a series of a dozen

Sunday afternoon walking tours between June 11 and October 15. This year we have three new tours which will provide a look at the Billings Bridge community, Old Ottawa South and Lindenlea.

Often, when we spend so much time and effort advocating on behalf of our built heritage, we forget to enjoy what we are fighting to preserve. We'll still be keeping a watchful eye on the various efforts to replace older buildings with larger, infill structures but perhaps this summer, we'll take some time to "smell the tulips" and appreciate our built heritage and our excellent municipal museums.

David B. Flemming,
President

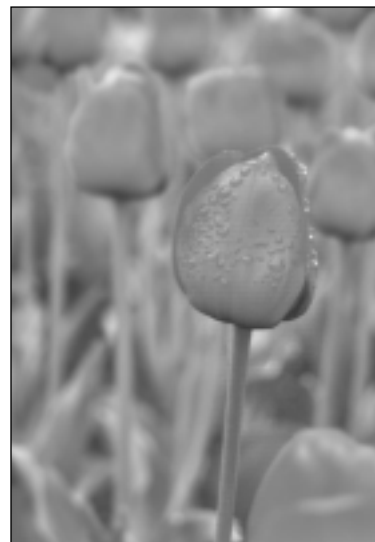


Photo: Jan Soetermans

Brandt Delivers Inaugural Phillips Memorial Lecture



On February 22, 2006, nearly 70 Heritage Ottawa members and guests and members of the Phillips family gathered at the Laurentian Leadership Centre on Metcalfe Street for the inaugural Bob

and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture given by architect, Mark Brandt.

Mark's talk on the industrial heritage of the Chaudière District, the river and islands between Ottawa and Gatineau, honoured these founders of Heritage Ottawa and two of Canada's most passionate advocates for the preservation of our built heritage.



Given the subject matter, it was appropriate that the lecture was held in the building which was once the home of lumber baron, J.R. Booth. This building is one of the few in Ottawa to have both its exterior and interior designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Architect Mark Brandt spoke on the history and industrial heritage of the Chaudière District at an event given by Heritage Ottawa in honour of Bob and Mary Anne Phillips.

Photo: Stuart Lazear

National Treasure: The Chaudière District in Canada's Capital

By Mark Brandt

This article is excerpted from Mr. Brandt's presentation given at Heritage Ottawa's inaugural Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture on February 22, 2006 at the Laurentian Leadership Centre, formerly the Booth Mansion .

The Victoria-Chaudière Islands area embodies a veritable history book of Canada. Next to the Parliament Buildings, no other place in the Capital is as charged with symbolic meaning for Canadians and yet so little known by residents and visitors alike.

Its story begins with the Ottawa or the Great River, la Grande Rivière du Nord. Seven hundred miles long with a drop of 1,100 feet, the Ottawa River's watershed drainage area of 57,000 square miles is considerably larger than all of England and

Wales combined. Viewed from Parliament Hill, the river with its setting of islands, surrounding bluffs and the great Chaudière Falls is breathtaking to behold. As the cradle of the region's birth, the river and adjacent lands played a prominent role in our country's growth, from prehistory through First Nations eras, to voyageur times and through the nation's early industrial development of all-important water and forest resources.

Historical background

The earliest evidence of human presence in the Ottawa Valley dates from about 8,500 years ago. From the earliest ice age and the emergence and then disappearance of the Champlain Sea, the Paleo-Indian period was characterized by people who hunted game with stone-pointed javelins. During the



View of the water from the Chaudière bridge looking west below the dam.

Archaic period, as the river gradually dropped to its current level, mixed forests grew over the land and the inhabitants of the Valley began to advance agriculture and cooking. The Algonquin peoples roamed this part of the river and its environs, designing and perfecting the birch bark canoe and snowshoes. Throughout these ages, the Chaudière was a highly significant natural phenomenon to all who passed by.

Samuel de Champlain, one of the first Europeans to traverse the Chaudière and witness this site, wrote passionately and with great awe about the Falls in his journal. He noted its native name, “Asticou” or boiling kettle, which inspired the French term, “Chaudière”. For native peoples, the majestic Chaudière has been and is a sacred place, a natural shrine. In one ceremony described by Champlain in June 1613, tobacco was thrown into the middle of the turbulent water as an offering to the spirit of the Chaudière Falls.



The first two and a half centuries of European contact were characterized both by warring Aboriginal nations and the passage of voyageurs, fur traders and missionaries. The Ottawa route, which included the Chaudière Falls, the little Chaudière and the Deschênes, further west, was recognized as the most strenuous stretch of portages. All the great Canadian explorers – from Champlain’s lead scout Brulé in 1611 to David Thompson and Simon Fraser in the 19th century – portaged the Chaudière. Indeed, in Gatineau at Parc Brébeuf in Val Tetreau, there remain today stone steps on a path laid down by voyageurs and heavily trodden by the first traders.



Economic Development

Over time, the economy of the Chaudière became as important to its heritage as its spiritual significance and natural splendour. From the mid-17th to the mid-19th centuries, the insatiable European demand for Canadian fur spurred development of the fur industry. Thousands of tonnes of highly prized skins were portaged through the Chaudière during this time.

In 1800, Philemon Wright and his group became the first white settlers in what is now the National Capital Region, carving out a new home on the north shore of the Ottawa at the Chaudière. The community grew quickly and prospered.

Wright was the first to realize the incredible wealth of forests in the Ottawa Valley and the hydro power generation potential of the Chaudière Falls. He made industrial history in 1806 by building the first raft of squared timbers below the Chaudière,

and successfully navigating it down the perilous waters of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers to Quebec City, where it was disassembled and loaded on ships bound for Europe. Wright had created a new export trade, assuring the stability of the settlement at the Chaudière.

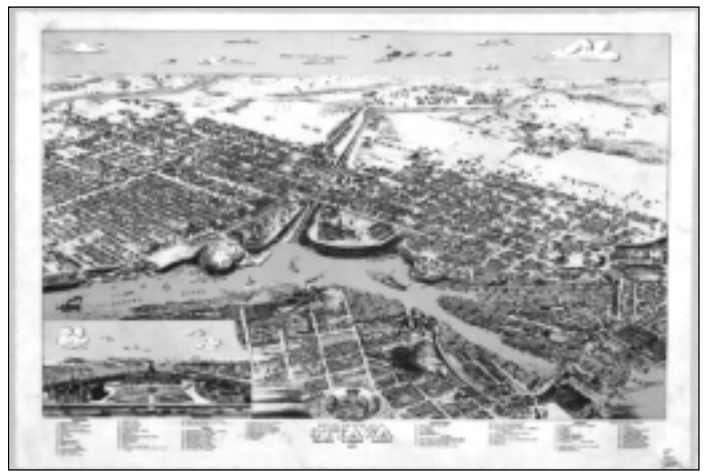
In 1808, Wright built the first gristmill and sawmill completely run by water power. Wright had also opened up the Ottawa Valley to exploitation by the lumber industry. During the War of 1812, Napoleon blockaded the Scandinavian Baltic ports, forcing Britain to turn to Canada for timber for the Royal Navy shipbuilding needs.

In 1829, Wright's son, Ruggles, built the first North American timber raft slide which allowed the safe passage of timber through the treacherous and destructive waters and islands of the Chaudière. Sixteen years later, a second and third slide had been built in the district, further bolstering the industry. The slides became world famous and very popular for rides by visiting dignitaries including the Prince of Wales who was in the Capital in 1860 to lay the cornerstone for the Parliament Buildings.

By mid-19th century the Chaudière had rapidly turned into a major industrial engine in Canada. Massive markets opened up for sawn lumber as development of the country expanded westward. By Confederation in 1867, the Chaudière teemed with mills and power plants; it became the most heavily developed hydraulic site and most important sawmill centre in the nation. By the 1860s, some 350 million board-feet of lumber were cut there each year, enough to be stacked in a cube higher than the Peace Tower!

Hydro Power

Ottawa, by developing most of its heavy industries adjacent to hydro power sources rather than using steam-driven dynamos to generate electricity, surpassed its rivals. Before the advent of transmission lines, even the mighty Niagara could not match the capability of the Chaudière. The residents of the National Capital Region enjoyed the pollution-free benefits of the cheapest electricity rates in the country. It is said that Ottawa became



An 1876 view of Ottawa and Hull. Lithograph: Herman Brosius

the first city in North America to contract for the electrical lighting of all of its streets, in 1885.

Today

After the Great Fire of 1900, the manufacturing operations at the Chaudière suffered hugely and continued to decline over the century. Today, the major industry, Domtar's paper-manufacture, is being downsized. But, all around the Chaudière, there are stirrings of a different type of development. The Eddy site on the north shore, east of the Islands and beside the Canadian Museum of Civilization, has been purchased by the federal government for future use. The new War Museum, just south of the Falls, is quickly becoming a major destination for tourists and residents alike. And nearby the Le Breton Flats will be revitalized with the start of new housing construction later this year. Although the Chaudière district is destined to play a new role in the future of the region, the unusually high number of industrial relics that remain today remind us of its significance as an historic place in Canada. ♦

Mark Brandt is senior conservation architect, urbanist and heritage consultant with Mark T. Brandt, Architect and Associates, Ottawa. His master plan for heritage-sensitive redevelopment of the Victoria and Chaudière Islands District has formed the basis of the National Capital Commission's (NCC) vision plan for this area.

The author thanks the NCC for research opportunities into the subject.

Capacity Crowd Turns Out for Vimy Memorial Lecture

By Veronica Vaillancourt

The Vimy monument, dedicated to Canadian soldiers who died in the Great War, stands high on a ridge of the site of a great Canadian victory. Designed by sculptor Walter Allward, it is one of Canada's most revered memorials and an impressive landmark in the war cemeteries near Arras, France. To the hundreds who visit the monument every year, it appears to be in good condition when viewed from afar, but closer inspection reveals an alarming state of decay of both mortar and stones.

Julian Smith, conservation architect and founder of the Masters program in conservation at Carleton University, was appointed by the federal government in 2003 to co-direct restoration of the monument along with Daniel Lefèvre, chief architect of the *Monuments Historiques* in France. It was thus no surprise that a capacity crowd turned out on a warm April night at the Drill Hall to hear Mr. Smith deliver a talk on the restoration of the Vimy Monument, the 6th of 8 lectures in Heritage Ottawa's popular 2005-06 lecture series.

Mr. Smith recounted that before the restoration team began their work, they consulted historians to better understand the historical context of this sacred place. They learned that the site, a key German stronghold, had resisted capture in previous

campaigns by the French and the British. It finally fell when four Canadian divisions under Canadian leadership stormed the ridge on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917 and took it three days later after a fierce battle. The victory, however, came at an appalling cost of lives. More than 3500 Canadian soldiers died and 7000 were wounded.



Vimy Ridge National Historic Site of Canada, France



A large audience gave Julian Smith their full attention during his lecture on the restoration of the Vimy monument.

The bodies of the more than 66,000 Canadian soldiers who died in action during the war are buried in cemeteries established on the battlefields. For the eleven and a half thousand men whose bodies were never recovered, it was proposed that their names be inscribed on the monument to be erected on Vimy ridge.

While many other war memorials were created in the late 19th century tradition, the Vimy monument was an expression of modernism. It consists of two pylons rising from a platform which are embellished with sculptured symbolic figures. Sculptor Walter Allward said at the time that the idea for the design came to him in a dream. It took him three years to



Aerial view of the war memorial at Vimy Ridge National Historic Site of Canada, France

Photographer: Carolyn Quinn



Workers separate stone from its concrete base for repair and restoration. Despite the large size of the blade of the cutting tool, it operates with fine precision.

find the perfect stone. His choice was a pure white limestone called Seget from a quarry in Croatia.

The monument is constructed of reinforced concrete clad with stone. Because of the build up of pressure between the two materials over time and more than half a century of weathering, many of the stones required replacement or repair according to

Mr. Smith. While the pylons were in relatively good shape, the walls had suffered considerably. The team returned to Croatia to find similar stone and were successful in their search. The new stone is tied to the concrete with bronze anchors; a flexible mortar made with a lime base and an addition of butyl was used for all joints. As the platform had been constructed originally with a more durable stone, Mr. Smith said that the team decided to restore it using Seget stone in respect of Allward's original intention. Any names on the monument that have become illegible will be restored in the same elegant typography which Allward originally designed for this purpose.

Fortunately, the team found the sculptural work in relatively good condition and left it in place excepting the statue of Peace which will have a twist in its torso corrected.

While work on the monument is progressing, plans are underway to enhance the surrounding landscape including new gates, a new pathway and a perimeter road. Mr. Smith said that all work will be completed in time for the 90th anniversary celebration of the victory next year. ♦

Cherished Chair Finds a New Home

By Denise Jacques

Some years ago I lost my last close relative, my aunt, dying at age 100. As a graduate student in history I spend much time thinking about the past, including the history of my own family. This particular aunt had been my living link to the 19th century as she had been raised largely by my great-grandmother born in the 1830s. In settling my aunt's estate, I inherited a rather grand chair manufactured in the 1860s by the family firm, Jacques and Hay. In addition to being active producers (and in some cases, exporters) of a variety of wood products, the firm completed the wood interiors of Osgoode Hall, St. James Cathedral and University College in Toronto. The company also supplied many of the furnishings for Rideau Hall and Government House in Toronto. Needless to say, the chair did not fit in with my husband's cool

Brazilian modern furniture, but how could I discard anything with a direct link to my ancestors?

A friend recommended that one solution to my dilemma would be to consider a donation to the Canadiana Fund. The Canadiana Fund was established in 1990 to enhance the state areas of the official residences of Canada through the public donation of fine furnishings, paintings and objets d'art. Items are chosen to reflect Canada's heritage and artistic traditions, to complement our heritage, and preserve Canadian patrimony. With the help of many generous donors, the seven official residences - Rideau Hall, 24 Sussex Drive, Stornoway, Harrington Lake, 7 Rideau Gate, The Farm at Kingsmere and the Citadel in Quebec City - are being enriched with a unique and treasured collection.



After I had sent a photo of the chair to the Fund and had had my donation approved, a young man from Official Residences Division, National Capital Commission, arrived to pick up my aunt's chair to join the Jacques and Hay furniture collection. Over the years, many of the firm's pieces had

already been placed in the most important of the official residences. As the chair sat on my front porch that day in May, I was struck by a wave of memory as I recalled the countless times my aunt had sat in it, telling stories of my colourful, feckless family. I remarked to a visitor that at least the chair was going to a good home. She replied, "The best!"

Perhaps you have an heirloom or a work of art you would consider donating to the Canadiana Fund. A gift

to the Canadiana Fund is a gift to the Crown and a tax receipt will be issued by the National Capital Commission for all accepted donations for the year in which they are received. Receipts are based on the full fair market value of the gift. When donating an object of outstanding significance or national importance, as certified by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, a donor may also benefit from a capital gains tax exemption. Donors are advised to consult with their own tax advisors as to the implications of any donation.

For information on how to make a donation, write: Canadiana Fund, P.O. Box 682, Station B, Ottawa, Canada, K1P 5P7 or call (613) 599-9600 extension 205. ♦

Denise Jacques is a graduate student in history and is currently researching an academic article on Jacques and Hay furniture in Rideau Hall. Readers who believe they may have examples of the firm's furniture are requested to contact her at: denisejacquesaitken@yahoo.com.

Jacques & Hay, manufacturers of wood furnishings

Jacques & Hay dominated the cabinet-making and interior decoration trade from 1835 to 1885 and was one of the largest employers in Upper Canada. In 1871, the firm employed 430 men and 50 women in a vertically-integrated operation, involving a sawmill, two factories and a showroom. In terms of furniture, the company produced two lines, one of inexpensive "cottage" furniture for pioneering and immigrant families and a second of expensive art furniture for the upper bourgeoisie. A *Globe* article of 1862 refers to the fact that there was almost no house in Upper Canada that did not contain a piece of Jacques & Hay furniture.

Important visitors to Toronto in the 1850s toured the Jacques & Hay Company to see a neat bedstead made "in just two minutes". This was regarded as a marvel and a credit to the city. In 1858, the *Canadian Merchant's Magazine* noted that the future of the Jacques & Hay furniture firm had "...important bearing on the prosperity of the city" (Toronto).

Doors Open – Celebrating Five Years!

The Doors Open weekend of exploring Ottawa's rich heritage through its built landscape is Saturday, June 3rd and Sunday, June 4th. From modern design, to historical significance, to functional rarity, the buildings that are open to visitors free of charge, represent the heartbeat of Ottawa and the timeline of its evolution since it was first settled.

Since its inception in 2002, there have been well over 200,000 visits to Doors Open Ottawa participating buildings. We expect a record year in 2006 with the addition of new sites as well as some returning favourites and much-loved 5-year buildings!



Sr. Patrick's Church

Visit ottawa.ca/doorsopen in early May for the complete list of participating buildings. The Thursday, June 1st editions of *The Citizen* and *LeDroit* will include the comprehensive Doors Open Event Guide.

Find out the inside story!

New Life for Plant Baths

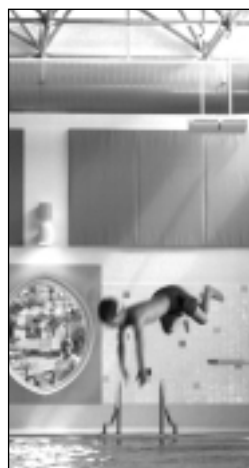
By John Cook

The new Plant Recreation Centre is an adaptive re-use of the historic Plant Baths Building, together with an attached new structure to accommodate a larger contemporary pool, changing rooms, offices, exercise room and offices. A neighbourhood and architectural landmark, the building had been closed for years and was deteriorating badly. Community enthusiasm and vigorous lobbying led to the allocation of funds by the City of Ottawa to renew the Baths. Griffiths Rankin Cook Architects were retained in 2001 to design the new facility, which reopened in 2004, 80 years after the first opening in 1924.

The original building was the outcome of social reform ideas following the First World War. Two swimming pools were commissioned by the City as places for healthy recreation for the working population. In 1919, Council voted \$125,000 for both buildings. W.E. Noffke designed the Champagne Baths on King Edward Avenue, and Millson Burgess Hazelgrove undertook the Plant Baths.

The successful bid for construction was \$77,669.41 on July 3, 1922. As remains familiar today, this was considered over budget and \$10,000 was negotiated off the price before the award of contract two weeks later.

The original building included a small public library, as well as changing facilities for both men and women. It is remarkable how many longer term residents of Ottawa learned to swim in either the



Plant or Champagne Baths. The heritage value of the building articulated by the community resides as much in this shared history as in the charm of the building itself.

For the architects of the recent project, finding a clear use for the original Baths structure within the expanded recreation centre was therefore as important as maintaining its architectural

integrity. It was not preserved as a facade to a large multipurpose facility, but intact as a building housing all the community meeting space. A hall used for large gatherings, weddings, dances, replaces the old pool, and is complemented by three additional meeting rooms and kitchen. These spaces give onto a concourse, which also looks into the pool, providing a lively and informal meeting place for all those who come to the building, whether to swim, watch, attend an event, or collect family.

Repairs to the old building included reconstruction of split structural brick piers, repointing, replacement of crumbling brick, parging and parapets. The one substantial intervention was making a level wheelchair accessible ground floor, replacing many steps and level changes. The new building is of contemporary design, but many features reflect details of the original. For example, a white ceramic tile was found for the new pool which matches the old; the light brick used at new entrances relates to the light stone at doors to the historic building; the almond shaped stone medallions above the original entrances which are carved with a boy and dolphin motif, become a window of similar form which frames views of swimmers.

The new facility quickly regained its community importance, and the project received a City of Ottawa Heritage Conservation Award in 2005. ♦

Architect John Cook is a partner in Griffiths Rankin Cook, and was the lead architect for the revitalization of the Plant Baths. In April, as part of the Heritage Ottawa lecture series, Mr. Cook spoke at the Plant Baths on the challenges faced in adapting the building for new uses



Photo: Adrian Searle

Photo: Adrian Searle

Heritage Ottawa's 2006 Walking Tours

Join Heritage Ottawa's experienced guides for walks highlighting some of Ottawa's finest architecture. The tours last one hour and a half, rain or shine.

Tour Prices: \$5.00 Heritage Ottawa members; \$10.00 non-members

Date and time: June 11, 2:00 PM

Tour: Central Experimental Farm

A two-hour introduction to the built heritage and cultural landscape of the Central Experimental Farm. During the tour the author will spin tales of the farm, its residents, and its history. (Note: bring appropriate footgear in rainy weather as lawns will be wet.)

Guide: Katharine Fletcher, award winning freelance writer, author, and columnist. Her books include *Capital Walks*, *Walking Tours of Ottawa*; *Capital Rambles, exploring the National Capital Region*; and *Historical Walks, the Gatineau Park Story*. (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2004)

Meeting place: Main door of Dominion Observatory, off Carling Avenue

Date and time: June 18, 2:00 PM

Tour: Beaux Arts Ottawa

The architectural style of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris came to the United States and later to Ottawa. The city's Beaux Arts buildings feature classical exteriors on modern steel frames with symmetrical plans and a progressive arrangement of space. Twelve of Ottawa'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 and city historian

Meeting place: Conference Centre (formerly Union Station), Confederation Square entrance

Date and time: June 25, 2:00 PM

Tour: Lindenlea, Canada's First Planned Community

Come for a fascinating stroll through the first planned community in Canada – a marvel of social engineering that was featured on the Governor General's Christmas card. Pocket-sized Lindenlea promised returning World War I vets subsidized housing in a community designed by one of the mega-stars of European urban planning. Learn about the struggles over style, designing to suit liberated women, efforts at ecological soundness, and more than one scandal. Learn also what threats face this historic gem, today.

Guide: Jennifer Rosebrugh, former president, Heritage Ottawa and Lindenlea resident

Meeting place: Lindenlea Community Centre, beside the island on the bend in Rockcliffe Way.

Date and time: August 13, 2:00 PM

Tour: The Glebe

This tour of the Glebe neighbourhood focuses on the picturesque houses of Werner Ernest Noffke (1878-1964) in the Clemow Avenue development, the urban public schools of Edgar L. Horwood (1868-1957) and the rich collection of early 20th century churches by notable Ottawa architects. Also included is an introduction to the natural topography and public works which shaped development in the Glebe, an examination of some successful modern infill developments and a look at two remarkable exhibition buildings in Lansdowne Park.

Guide: Gouhar Shemdin conservation architect

Meeting place: Corner of Clemow and O'Connor

Date and time: August 20, 2:00 PM

Tour: Billings Bridge Community

Walk an historic tour in a pleasant neighbourhood. Many homes built in the late 1800s and early 1900 in Alta Vista, including one of Ottawa's earliest houses, are featured along with stories of the Billings and other pioneer families. These houses and many

other historic buildings in the Billings Bridge community are described in the booklet “Historic Homes and Buildings of the Billings Bridge Community: a self-guided tour”, which will be available for purchase at a reduced price.

Guide: Joan Rooney, historical researcher and author of “*Historic Homes And Buildings of the Billings Bridge Community: a self-guided tour*” (Association of Friends of Billings Estate Museum) published in 2005.

Meeting place: Billings Estate Museum, 1900 Cabot Street (off Pleasant Park Road). Meet in the parking lot (free parking available).

Date and time: August 27, 2:00 PM

Tour: University of Ottawa Campus

Discover the rich architecture and historic past of the University of Ottawa, North America’s oldest and most important bilingual university, established in 1848.

Guide: Michel Prévost, Chief Archivist, University of Ottawa

Meeting place: Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland Street

Date and time: September 10, 2:00 PM

Tour: Village of Hintonburg

Named for Joseph Hinton, a shopkeeper and civic official, the village of Hintonburg was incorporated in 1893. Lying just beyond the Ottawa city limits at the time, the village extended from about present-day Bayview Road to Island Park Drive and between the two rail lines marked today by Scott Street and the Queensway. The tour will take you through the heart of this interesting, eclectic, heritage rich, and socially varied neighbourhood (copies of the recently published “Hintonburg & Mechanicsville, A Narrative History” will be available at \$20.00 per copy).

Guide: Linda Hoad, Heritage Committee, Hintonburg Community Association

Meeting place: Saint-François-d’Assise Parish Church, Wellington Street at Fairmont Avenue

Date and time: September 17, 2:00 PM

Tour: 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, historian, former president of Heritage Ottawa

Meeting place: Parking lot at top of hill off Greenview Ave.

Date and time: September 24, 2:00 PM

Tour: Sandy Hill East

The beautifully maintained mansions and townhouses of this early Ottawa residential district date from 1870 to 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 long-time resident of Sandy Hill

Meeting place: Laurier House, 335 Laurier Ave. East at the corner of Chapel

Date and time: October 1, 2:00 PM

Tour: 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 house 19th century labourers. Walk through one of Ottawa’s most historic neighbourhoods.

Guide: Denise Jacques, a PhD. candidate in history, is a member of the board of Heritage Ottawa

Meeting place: 62 John St., near Sussex Drive

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Date and time: October 8, 2:00 PM

Tour: 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 the homes. Copies of the book *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village* will be available for purchase.



Guide: Martha Edmond, historian and author. Her most recent book, *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village* (Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation), was published in 2005.

Meeting place: Intersection of Lisgar Rd. and Princess Ave. (parking along Rideau Terrace)

Date and time: October 15, 2:00 PM

Tour: Old Ottawa South

In 1907, Nepean Township villages such as “Ottawa South” consented to annexation to the City of Ottawa. Improved city services soon followed, such as a new “high level” Bank Street Bridge over the Rideau Canal. This structure allowed the privately-owned Ottawa Electric Railway (OER) to extend streetcar services into Ottawa South, stimulating housing and development of one of Ottawa’s first “streetcar suburbs”. Tour highlights include the Precious Blood Convent (Royal College of Physicians) and a detailed discussion of W. E. Noffke’s 1921 Spanish Revival Fire Hall, named after Ottawa’s little known, but visionary Fire Chief John Graham.

Guide: Leo Doyle, Chair Development and Planning Committee of OOS

Meeting place: Trinity Anglican Church, 1230 Bank St.



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Student \$15 ☐

Patron: \$50 ☐

Corporation: \$100 ☐

Senior: \$15 ☐

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