



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

Fall 2006 Volume 33, No. 3

Municipal election 2006 – time for political action to protect our cultural heritage

By Andrew Jeanes

As members of Heritage Ottawa, we have a great opportunity to be pro-active in the upcoming municipal elections by getting heritage concerns before the greater public and asking candidates for city council to tell us where they stand when it comes to heritage conservation. Let's make our politicians feel that delivering a pro-heritage platform is going to help them get elected on November 13th.

Ottawa could be – should be – doing so much more to protect its cultural heritage. In many cases direct action by city council is needed to ameliorate problems that can be dealt with only at the level of municipal government. There will be candidates who will argue that the city should focus principally on delivering so-called core services such as policing, firefighting, roads, sewers and the like, and there will be voters who will be swayed by such arguments. Heritage Ottawa members know better and we should make sure the word gets out at the all-candidates meetings, as well as in the local media and to our neighbours on the street. Heritage conservation is a municipal responsibility under the law and our municipal government must act accordingly.

The amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act in 2005, along with supplementary provincial legislation and policies, give municipalities important new powers to protect heritage properties from demolition, to designate properties for their heritage value and to designate heritage conservation districts and manage their heritage values. Ottawa is doing well



Photo: Jan Soeternans

Ottawa City Hall as seen from Laurier St.

in some respects, with a number of new heritage conservation districts under study, but in other ways our city has fallen behind other much smaller Ontario municipalities. The powers given the city by the Ontario Heritage Act are meaningless if the city doesn't exercise them properly.

To begin with, most of the heritage conservation provisions of the Ottawa 20/20 Official Plan have been largely ignored by city council since it was adopted in 2003. Ottawa needs a proper inventory of its heritage properties, both those with designations

Municipal election 2006...

and those merely listed as potentially worthy of designation in the future. This list should be updated to include properties in all parts of the amalgamated city and should be easily available to the public. Creating an inventory was part of the Official Plan, but there has been no progress on this. Council must find the means to enable staff or volunteers to complete the inventory and put it on the city website. Where is the Heritage Impact Assessment Tool described in the Official Plan? How well is the city looking after heritage properties it owns, as it said it

“Let’s make our politicians feel that delivering a pro-heritage platform is going to help them get elected on November 13th.”

would in Ottawa 20/20? We have only to look at the maintenance problems at the Registry Office as an example of how bad things have become. Ask your candidates for council whether they will take action on these parts of the Official Plan, and if not, why?

Heritage advisory committees need proper funding to do their jobs, and they aren’t getting it. Both the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory

Committee, and the Arts, Heritage and Culture Advisory Committee formerly had modest annual budgets, but council removed them along with the budgets of every other city advisory committee, in a particularly small-minded bit of cost-cutting. Demand that your candidates make a commitment to restore this funding if they are elected. Get candidates to explain how these committees can do their jobs properly without any money for research or communication with other local, provincial and national heritage organizations.

Let’s stop the movement towards consolidating heritage resources at sites away from the people who want to use them. Forcing former township archives to move their materials to a single central facility reduces the accessibility of archival materials in local communities, further overburdens city archival staff, alienates local heritage advocates, and increases the risk of disastrous loss of irreplaceable historical documents due to events like this past spring’s fire at the city’s Iron Mountain central storage facility. Heritage Ottawa members living in the former rural townships of the city should be demanding that their candidates fight to keep local archives in place if elected.

Of course, there are many more things the city can and should be doing to look after its heritage, but, above all, candidates for council need to approach questions of heritage conservation with the right general attitude. Candidates who think heritage is not the city’s responsibility need to be told that yes, it is, and no, it will not look after itself. Candidates who support the city’s involvement in heritage matters need our support, but they also need encouragement to remember their commitment to heritage conservation after the election is over. As Heritage Ottawa members, we need to do whatever we can to keep these questions on the minds of candidates and voters as the election draws nearer. ♦

Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

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

Editor: Veronica Vaillancourt

Graphic Designer: Jan Soetermans

Printing: Tina & Company

Visit Heritage Ottawa on line – www.heritageottawa.org

Heritage Ottawa acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

Andrew Jeanes is an M.A. candidate in heritage conservation at Carleton University’s School of Canadian Studies. He has taught conservation to students of interior design at Algonquin College and recently completed a four-month contract for the Ontario Ministry of Culture, developing Historic Places Initiative activity along the Rideau Canal corridor.

One Capital City Under Three Administrations

By Gouhar Shemdin

Cultural heritage needs better protection, better promotion, and a more active role in the life of the city, according to Andrew Jeanes in his article on the preceding pages. No doubt, and by giving the example of the Rideau Canal Corridor communities, he touches a nerve with heritage conservationists in Ottawa. The Rideau Canal corridor is a National Historic Site built in 1826 as a military transportation waterway by Colonel By, Chief Royal Engineer. The land along the eastern side of the canal and adjacent to Ottawa University survived as public open space for over 170 years until the National Capital Commission (NCC) opened it up for private development. It was hoped that the NCC would turn the property into a spectacular outdoor meeting place for Canadians visiting their capital, as stated in the mandate of the custodian of public lands in the national capital region. Now, however, condo development on this land may affect the status of the Rideau Canal as a possible UNESCO World Heritage Site because the criteria for designation take into consideration changes to the integrity of the heritage environment surrounding the site. So while the city benefits from additional property taxes here and the NCC removes land from its care and jurisdiction, cultural heritage suffers.

Ottawa, unlike other cities, is a Capital City where built and natural heritage are influenced by three powerful administrations. Firstly, the federal government with its vast number of properties administered by Public Works & Government Services Canada, secondly, the National Capital Commission, also federal, with its vast holdings and finally, the City of Ottawa, with its heritage designated properties and districts, all play a role in conservation. These three major parties are not accountable to the same authority; they have separate policies and acts and they go about their work without overall coordination or understanding towards general objectives or timetables. Ottawa, for example, is not represented in the meetings of the Federal Heritage Building Review Office (FHBRO) when it comes to discussing assets in the city. The city's efforts in urban and rural planning, as delineated by its official plan, are not harmonized with the work of the two



Photo: Jan Soetemans

Several construction projects can be seen along the Rideau Canal.

other administrations, both of which influence the role of cultural heritage in the life of the city by the sheer size of their heritage assets. Indeed, the work of the three administrations seems to be independent and parallel with no established link for regular consultation between them. When conflicts do arise, the administrations can resort to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), as happened two years ago in the case of the Moffat Farm on the Rideau River. The city wanted to conserve the waterfront property for public use and the NCC sought to develop the land for private condominiums. It seems obvious that governmental bodies with intertwined master plans should harmonize their way of thinking and coordinate their efforts in protecting heritage.

The above preamble does not absolve the City of Ottawa from its areas of weakness, mostly the political will from city council. We still remember the elimination of heritage conservation from the 2004 budget. Without the fierce lobbying by Heritage Ottawa President David Flemming, conservation work in the city would have suffered. It might be that council members could benefit from increased knowledge of the recognized national and international conservation principles practiced to enhance the life of cities. Municipal councils everywhere often participate in heritage conservation workshops designed for their needs. A more heritage aware council may find the ways and means to initiate a comprehensive inventory of heritage assets,

establish a master plan for archaeological remains, and implement a heritage impact assessment policy as part of the Official Plan. It is further hoped that the city can speed up the designation of Heritage Conservation Districts, work on criteria for the character of adjacent areas, review the role of LACAC, update the websites with the new role of heritage in municipal planning according to the revised Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) and the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement, and raise heritage awareness using community newspapers and newsletters.

Moreover, there is a lot yet to be changed in the procedures of granting permits, approvals and variances by the city. The Municipal Heritage Committee or LACAC, reviews projects only after the Planning and Environment Committee and the Committee of Adjustment have approved the applicable zoning and variances. What teeth does LACAC then have to change design elements, inappropriate heights,

setbacks, and streetscape elements that affect the character of the heritage environment?

It is said that democracy does not begin and end with city council. Citizens who are interested in playing a role in the conservation of cultural heritage may contribute to municipal affairs by attending candidates' meetings before November to find out where candidates stand on heritage issues, or apply for membership on city committees like the Committee of Adjustment with its three panels, or LACAC in January. Simply call Robbie Tremblay at 613-580-2424-Ext.28135. These activities can also be followed up by consulting the city's website and its links to the various city committees: <http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/a-lacac/2006/08-24/ACS2006-PGM-APR-0178.htm> ♦

Gouhar Shemdin is a member of Heritage Ottawa's Board of Directors.

From the President....



This edition of our *Newsletter* provides you with important information about two important matters which have kept heritage advocates busy over the summer.

An update on the struggle of the parishioners of St. Brigid's to save their parish and church and an account of the City's proposal to build a LRT terminal in the Sandy Hill West Conservation District reflect the challenges facing heritage preservationists in 21st century Ottawa.

The final tour of a very successful walking tour season ended on October 15 and ten days later we begin our 2006-2007 lecture series with a panel discussion on the new Ontario Heritage Act. Five additional lectures will focus on the efforts to save our religious heritage, the conservation of the Library of Parliament, the restoration of Dominion – Chalmers United Church hall, the craft of architectural photography and the archaeology of the Le Breton Flats.

The upcoming municipal election provides an opportunity to challenge candidates on their commitment to heritage preservation. I have been representing Heritage Ottawa on a CHOO/COPO committee which has sent out a questionnaire on all

aspects of Ottawa's heritage to each candidate for mayor and council. Many candidates have already responded and their replies can be found on the CHOO/COPOP website: <http://www.choocopo.ca/english/questionnaire.html>

The committee is working with representatives of the arts community to schedule a meeting of all Mayoralty candidates dealing solely with arts and heritage matters. Check the Heritage Ottawa and CHOO/COPO websites for the time and location of the meeting. Also, make it a point to question the candidates for mayor and the candidates for council in your ward about their commitment to heritage and plan to participate in all-candidates' meetings in your neighbourhood. The Council which will be elected on November 13 will determine how our City is governed for the next four years. You have a chance to make a difference by participating in the campaign and by voting on election day.

Finally, your Board is working on ways to improve our website and to provide members with up-to-date information about heritage issues between editions of our *Newsletter*. We hope to implement these changes early in 2007.

David B. Flemming,
President

LRT Station in Sandy Hill – Unanswered Questions

By Veronica Vaillancourt

An Open House held at City Hall on September 6 on the proposed extension of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) line to the University of Ottawa was surprisingly well attended. Surprisingly, because so few Sandy Hill residents knew about it. The City sent information flyers only to residents living in the streets immediately surrounding the site and forgot the rest of the community, ostensibly because it would have been too costly. This, despite the launch of a \$165,000 advertising campaign a few days later to convince the public of the city's effectiveness in dealing with our transportation problems. Mayor and council vigorously deny that the campaign is related to upcoming municipal elections. The public remains skeptical.

The City's Program Manager, Peter Steacy, gave a power point presentation to set forth preliminary findings and to obtain feedback for the Environmental Assessment Addendum of an extension of the LRT line to the University. Originally the station was to have been located on the Mackenzie King bridge, but merchants on Slater and Albert streets opposed this plan because it would have closed the bridge to car traffic and possibly hurt their businesses. Well known restoration architect, Barry Padolsky, joined Mr. Steacy in answering questions from the audience – and there were many.

The site for the proposed LRT station is currently a university parking lot and lies within one of Sandy Hill's Heritage Conservation Districts. If the

University cedes this land to the City, in exchange, they will be able to construct a 390-space underground garage at the site. The garage will be used primarily by the University but some spaces will be allocated to the city for Arts Court. The construction of the garage necessitates the demolition of rear extensions of buildings on Stewart and Séraphin Marion streets and temporary relocation of several heritage structures on Stewart street. Cars entering or leaving the garage will spill onto Cumberland street, which is largely residential. Future construction of a multi-storied building over the station and another at the corner of Cumberland and Stewart is being considered.

Mr. Steacy said that approximately 70% of the buses currently crossing the Mackenzie King bridge will continue to occupy the side lane while cars will share the same center lane as the train.

The presentation brought a flood of reactions from the audience. Many people were concerned about the 390-space garage because of the impact on heritage buildings, increased traffic and the proposed closure of Stewart Street at Waller. Since the City wishes to encourage clean mass transit with the LRT, why, some asked, would the City sponsor the building of a garage in the first place? The figure quoted for the city's lease from the university is \$500,000 annually, a not insubstantial sum. One speaker pointed out that all of the rear extensions of the buildings on the site, except one, are integral parts of these structures. If they are demolished, the community will lose important heritage defining features of the dwellings. Further, moving heritage buildings, as demonstrated by the Lepine project on the Nicholas-Waller triangle, results in the loss of the buildings more often than not and should be avoided. As the demolitions are only necessary for the construction of the garage, one resident suggested, why go ahead with it? Perhaps just move the proposed station which is at the extreme north end of the campus, further south; this would also be far more convenient for students.

Other residents questioned the project's effect on the streetscape, an important component of the



Site of proposed LRT station at Stewart and Waller in Sandy Hill

neighbourhood. Mr. Steacy admitted that no studies had been undertaken on the impact of additional traffic on Cumberland despite the expected increase in the number of cars entering and exiting the garage.

If buses continue to run on the Mackenzie King bridge and cars are to share the same lanes as the trains, how feasible will this be if trains initially operate every five minutes and ultimately every three minutes? Mr. Steacy replied that the LRT is not intended to replace buses, merely to reduce numbers.

It was also astonishing to learn that a study for an extension of the LRT to the East will not be initiated until November. Moreover, it appears that a route through Sandy Hill will be considered. Since Rideau street from Waller to King Edward is already clogged with large, heavy trucks, residents

worried that the line could bisect Sandy Hill. Councillor Georges Bédard asserted that although all routes have to be considered, there was little chance of extending the line through the community. Many residents were not reassured.

After the meeting there was a general feeling that many questions need to be answered, despite the years of planning. Yet, the mayor and council seem bent on committing the City and taxpayers to the current plan before the election in November. Many residents feel that it is only sensible for the City to draw up a more comprehensive plan before awarding further contracts for this project, one that takes into consideration the preservation of heritage buildings, increased traffic, numbers of riders and the extension of the line to the East. Elections come and go but the LRT is for a long time. ♦

Rideau Street Heritage Façade Restoration Program

By Stuart Lazear

On September 27, 2006 Ottawa City Council approved the allocation of \$40,000 to assist with the restoration of designated heritage buildings on Rideau Street. The Downtown Rideau Business Improvement Association will complement this grant program with one of their own to assist with the further enhancement of the façade through signage and lighting as well as heritage restoration.

Heritage Grant Program – Frequently Asked Questions (adapted for Rideau Street per Council approval 27/09/06)

What is eligible for grant funding?

Heritage grants are intended to assist in the restoration of the original heritage character of designated heritage buildings. Grants could fund, for example, the restoration and repointing of exterior brick masonry, the restoration of original windows, the replacement of original architectural features such as secondary cornices and brackets. Grants are not intended to assist with the ongoing maintenance of the building.

What is the level of funding?

The total funding allocation for the Rideau Street Heritage Façade Restoration Program is \$40,000. Funding applications will be accepted until January 1, 2007 or until the total allocation is exhausted. Grants will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis until the allocation is used up.

It is a matching grant.

Who is eligible to apply?

Owners of properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act on the north side of Rideau Street between Sussex and Cumberland.

How do I apply?

Application forms are available online at... http://ottawa.ca/city_services/planningzoning/heritage/grants_en.shtml

Do you recommend restoration contractors?

Due to the specialized nature of heritage restoration work and frequent requests from property owners for this type of advice, a list of contractors who have

carried out restoration work on older properties is available. This list does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation on the part of the City of any of the firms/individuals on the list.

When do I receive the grant payment?

After the grant work has been completed and inspected by heritage staff and proof of payment is presented to show that the contractor has been paid in full, the grant will be paid. It normally takes three to four weeks for the cheque to be generated after all the documentation has been provided. Grant payment is withheld if the work does not meet City standards.

Is retroactive funding available?

No, retroactive funding is not available.

What if there are disputes with the contractor?

The City does not get involved in any disputes between property owners and contractors. It is important that the nature of the work and the quotations for the work are clear at the outset and that you request references and examples of previous work. In the case of repointing masonry or cleaning

painted masonry, it is even desirable to request "test patches" on inconspicuous parts of the building before undertaking the complete building.

Are there technical notes or guidelines that I can refer to?

The Ontario Ministry of Culture has a technical note series on-line at: www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/culdiv/heritage/connotes.htm

The Ontario Heritage Foundation (now Trust) has produced *Well-Preserved*, the Ontario Heritage Foundation's *Manual of Principles and Practice for Architectural Conservation* by Mark Fram.

Parks Canada has prepared Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, which can be accessed at www.historicplaces.ca

Specifications for the repointing of historic masonry can also be obtained from the City at the address below.

*Contact: Stuart Lazear, Coordinator of Heritage Planning
Heritage Section, Planning & Growth Management
Department Ottawa City Hall, 613-580-2424 ext. 13855
or Downtown Rideau*

Historic St. Brigid's Church Threatened

By Elizabeth Krug

St. Brigid's church on St. Patrick Street in Lowertown has served its parishioners since 1890. Last May the congregation was stunned, understandably, when Archbishop Marcel Gervais announced his decision to close and sell the church. Parishioners would be accommodated at Notre Dame and their parish priest, Father Pedro Arana, would be reassigned to Assumption Parish in Vanier. The reasons for his decision, the Archbishop explained, were changing regional demographics, a general decrease in Sunday attendance, and financial problems seemingly caused by the restoration costs of Notre Dame Cathedral and Saint Patrick's Basilica.

An outcry ensued once the news was made known. Numerous articles and letters to the editor appeared in the press and many wrote to the Archbishop directly. Several preservation organizations

added their views. The Heritage Canada Foundation, for one, issued a press release noting that parishes like St. Brigid's have shaped our communities physically, historically and spiritually. The Foundation urged church leaders to find a solution that protects our historic environment, citing the example of the Québec Religious Heritage Foundation, an inter-faith, non-profit



*St. Brigid's Church in Lowertown
at St. Patrick and Dalhousie*

Photographer: City of Ottawa Archives



The three murals behind the altar were restored by Stanislaw Dusko in 1989

organization created to support conservation of historic places of worship. Heritage Ottawa also wrote to the Archbishop expressing concern about this unique heritage building as well as for the Roman Catholic community and pressed him to reconsider. Shortly after, Heritage Ottawa issued an Advocacy Alert, mentioning that the Ontario Heritage

Trust had recently approved a grant of \$25,000 for the repair of the church's roof. Members were requested to write Archbishop Gervais pointing out the moral responsibility of the Archdiocese to seek "imaginative ways" of preserving the church and to lobby the Province of Ontario's Minister of Culture, the Hon. Caroline di Cocco, to establish a foundation such as the Quebec Religious Heritage Foundation. CHOOPO issued an Advocacy Alert, supporting the cause of saving St. Brigid's church. On July 11, 2006, the City of Ottawa's Planning and Environment Committee received a recommendation from the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) that "Council encourage the Province of Ontario through the Ontario Heritage Trust to establish an endowment fund, similar to that which exists in the Province of Quebec, to provide significant financial assistance for the preservation of religious architecture in Ontario". Council approved the recommendation of LACAC, and sent the appropriate letters to the Province, with a copy to the Ontario Heritage Trust.

St. Brigid's website is now a repository of documentation and opinions on the situation (<http://www.stbrigidottawa.com/index.html>) and also serves as an online petition. After Parish Council Chair Mrs. Marilyn Donoghue was refused an audience with Archbishop Gervais, the council delivered a letter together with a petition and a video of parishioners' statements to the Papal Nuncio, the Most Reverend Luigi Ventura, asking him to intervene with the Archbishop on behalf of

St. Brigid's. The letter referred to the conflict caused in the parish because of the Archbishop's earlier support (verbal) of the restoration of two murals in 2004, and it claimed that the parishioners' right to be consulted on the decision to close and sell the church had been ignored. A letter was also sent to the Archbishop by Mrs. Donoghue, reviewing the troubled financial history of St. Brigid's and stating that the finances were now stable and that the church attendance was not dwindling, but rather flourishing.

The massive limestone building, designed by James R. Bowes in a style that shows Romanesque influences was designated by the city in 1981 and by the Province of Ontario several years later. In addition, the interior, with its vaulted ceiling and painted murals and decoration executed by T.X. Renaud in 1908, is also designated, a rare occurrence. In 1989, thanks to a cost-sharing agreement between the Archdiocese and the Province of Ontario, much needed restoration work was initiated. This included three of the five murals, which had been over-painted in the 60s with beige latex, the Cassavant organ and the two exterior towers.

Funding for the restoration of the remaining murals in 2004 was provided by parishioners. This year the roof and furnace were to have been restored at a cost of \$140,000. The Ontario Heritage Trust would contribute \$25,000 towards restoration of the roof and parishioners were responsible for the remainder. If the building is sold, new owners would be obliged to preserve both the interior and exterior according to the designation under the Ontario Heritage Act and assume costs for all other repairs.

On July 17, 2006 parishioners of St. Brigid's led by Council Chairwoman Marilyn Donoghue filed an application in Divisional Court to stop Archbishop Gervais from closing the church, arguing that his decision wasn't based on all the facts, and was callous, and didn't follow his own rules of administration. A possible hearing date in October was anticipated. Court action would entail serious costs for parishioners, or at least, those who support the legal action. Whatever the Archbishop's motive may be, the loss of the St. Brigid's church and its congregation cannot be justified. ♦

Elizabeth Krug is a volunteer on the Save St. Brigid's Committee.

Ruthven – A heritage adventure

By Gordon Cullingham

It's fun to discover other people's heritage and to share the thrill someone else had in saving a local treasure. I guess lots of us seek such opportunities when we are travelling in Canada. This past summer I looked up a prime site in Haldimand County north of Lake Erie, a Greek Revival limestone mansion called Ruthven, built in 1845 on the left bank of the Grand River between Cayuga and Caledonia.

We don't see many of these daring follies in Ontario, but the Niagara area is home to a lot of them. As you can see in the photo, this kind of grandeur is not for the faint of heart, although such audacious architectural copying was easier to get away with a couple of centuries ago. The owner, David Thompson, was a local entrepreneur indecently enriched by his association with the building of the first Welland Canal. This venture subsequently allowed him to buy a couple of thousand acres of the surrounding Mohawk land. He set about his monumental construction project with the aid of an American architect named either John Latshaw or Lathrop. Thompson also built several brick outbuildings, including a gatekeeper's lodge, cow barns, a plant to produce gas for the house and a small canal and lock. He was William Hamilton Merritt's partner in the Grand River Navigation Company. In addition to Ruthven, Thompson owned a distillery, a mill, a store, and established a community of workers, calling the whole Indiana, meaning, I suppose, place of Indians, which it was.

This picturesque estate in the wilderness was inhabited by Thompson and his three children. Its charms were many for a family who could afford it. The stern exterior of the manor house must have had a disciplining effect on the rambunctious children, while the grand interior spaces would likely have seemed to be a series of forbidding parlors, enterable only with permission. The entrance hall leads to a spiral staircase rising three floors, topped with an elliptical oculus. There is a splendid picture of the sumptuous double drawing room in *The Ancestral Roof* by MacRae and Adamson

(page 128). Doric columns bracket the archway, dividing two identically designed rooms with ceiling to floor windows and original furniture. Numerous paintings, copies of well-known masterpieces, decorate the walls. They were painted by a later Thompson, an injured war veteran.

The three-storey building with a full basement and a wing for servants, was kept in the Thompson family for five generations. The last two members to live successively at Ruthven Park were unmarried brothers, one of whom made many unfortunate interventions in décor. He did, however, leave the furnishings intact and what we see today is pretty well what was in the original house. After the last of the resident Thompsons died in the 1990s, the estate reverted to a more distant relative, Marion Hartney. Ms. Hartney never lived in the mansion and in 1994 at age 95, she bequeathed the property to The Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc., whose operating staff of professionals and volunteers form a dedicated group of Ruthven Park enthusiasts. The Ontario Heritage Trust has an easement on the site, which comes as close to a permanent guarantee of existence as you can get. The Ruthven estate is also a designated National Historic Site and includes, in



Ruthven, 1885 mansion on the Grand River

Photo: Janet Irwin

addition to the dwelling and outbuildings, a carriage-way, drill hall, piggery, a gazebo, and the grounds themselves. Here you find the remains of the vanished village of Indiana, a family cemetery, many hectares of Carolinian Forest, part of the North Cayuga Slough Forest, as well as archaeologically-sensitive zones and active agricultural land, and a long waterfront along the Grand River.

Ruthven is a long way from Ottawa, but should you be going to the Niagara area, don't miss it.

Gordon Cullingham is a member of Heritage Ottawa's Board of Directors and a former president of the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa. He and his wife, Janet Irwin, have produced a series of automobile heritage tours of eastern Ontario waterways on audio cassette.

Une université bien enracinée : 150^e anniversaire de l'Université d'Ottawa dans la Côte-de-Sable

Par Michel Prévost

Peu d'établissements au Canada et encore moins à Ottawa occupent le même site depuis 150 ans. C'est pourtant le cas pour l'Université d'Ottawa qui a quitté la Basse-Ville pour venir s'établir dans la Côte-de-Sable en 1856. L'Université canadienne a souligné l'événement, les 16 septembre dernier, dans le cadre des Retrouvailles 2006, en organisant pour les anciens et les étudiants un rallye historique dans le quartier et en invitant, le lendemain, les résidents à célébrer dans le parc devant le pavillon Tabaret.

Fondé en 1848 par Mgr Joseph-Bruno Guigues, premier évêque catholique de la ville, le Collège de Bytown loge d'abord dans un modeste bâtiment sur la rue Guigues, puis à partir de 1852, dans un bel édifice de pierre sur la promenade Sussex. Ce bâtiment existe toujours en face du Musée des beaux-arts du Canada.

Bien que le deuxième édifice soit plus imposant que le premier, il est rapidement trop petit et il faut trouver un nouvel emplacement pour le Collège.

Mgr. Guigues choisit les trois lots donnés quelques années plus tôt par le notaire Louis-Théodore Besserer. Sans nier la générosité de Besserer, on peut penser que c'est aussi pour rendre ses lots plus attrayants qu'il en donne aux communautés religieuses. Ce n'est toutefois qu'après sa mort que la Côte-de-Sable deviendra le quartier de l'élite de la nouvelle capitale.

Quoi qu'il en soit, le Collège de Bytown vient s'établir presque à la campagne... sur les terrains



Photo: Archives de l'Université d'Ottawa

Le premier édifice de l'Université d'Ottawa dans la Côte-de-Sable en 1856. University of Ottawa's first building in Sandy Hill

situés sur la rue Wilbrod, aujourd'hui Séraphin-Marion. Ce bâtiment, agrandi à plusieurs reprises et incendié en 1903, se trouvait sur le site du stationnement actuel en face de Tabaret.

Certes, il était impensable en 1856 de prévoir que l'année suivante la reine Victoria changerait le cours de l'histoire en choisissant Ottawa comme capitale du Canada. Par surcroît, qui aurait pu croire que la Côte-de-Sable accueillait alors un collège qui deviendrait 150 ans plus tard l'une des plus importantes universités canadiennes.

Michel Prévost est l'Archiviste en chef de l'Université d'Ottawa, michel.prevost@uottawa.ca

Deep roots in Sandy Hill – University of Ottawa established in the community since 1856

By Michel Prévost

Few institutions in Canada and even fewer in Ottawa have occupied the same location for 150 years. But that is exactly the case of the University of Ottawa which established itself in Sandy Hill in 1856.

Bytown College was founded in 1848 by the first Catholic bishop of the city, Monsignor Joseph-Bruno Guigues and was first situated in a modest building on Guigues Street. In 1852, the College moved to a lovely stone building on Sussex Drive which still stands today across from the National Gallery of Canada. Although the second building was more imposing than the first, the College grew too quickly and a larger location needed to be found.

Monsignor Guigues chose three lots in Sandy Hill on what is now Séraphin-Marion street. The properties were later donated by the notary Louis-Théodore Besserer. Without taking away from

Besserer's generosity, his donation would increase the value of his remaining lots. However, it was only after his death that the Sandy Hill area would become an elite quarter of the new capital city. Regardless, Bytown College was establishing itself on what would now be considered open field. The building, ravaged by fire in 1903, was expanded several times and was located where the present-day parking lot faces Tabaret Hall.

It was impossible to predict in 1856 that the following year Queen Victoria would change the course of history by choosing Ottawa as Canada's capital. Furthermore, who would have believed that Sandy Hill would be home to a college that 150 years later would be one of Canada's leading universities.

Michel Prévost is Chief Archivist of the University of Ottawa.

Heritage Ottawa's 2006~2007 Lecture Series

This public lecture series provides an exciting look at various topics relating to Ottawa's built heritage. Admission is free. Light refreshments provided.

Location: Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, downstairs at 120 Metcalfe Street, corner of Laurier, unless otherwise noted. Please call 613-230-8841 to confirm.

The New Ontario Heritage Act: A Panel Discussion

Date and Time: October 25, 2006, at 7:00 pm

An expert panel consisting of an invited speaker from the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Sandy Smallwood (Ontario Heritage Trust), Sally Coutts (City of Ottawa Heritage Planner) and David

Flemming (President, Heritage Ottawa, moderator) will discuss the new Ontario Heritage Act and its implications.

Saving Religious Heritage: Quebec Perspectives

Date and Time: November 15, 2006 at 7:00 pm

Dinu Bumbaru, Director of Programs at Heritage Montréal and Secretary General of ICOMOS, and Richard Bégin, President of the Fondation des sociétés d'histoire du Québec and Vice-President of the Aylmer Heritage Association, will speak about some of the major events and issues in the battle to save Quebec's religious heritage. This lecture comes at a time of great concern about the survival of Ottawa's religious heritage such as St. Brigid's church.

New Life for a Landmark: The Conservation of the Library of Parliament

Date and Time: January 17, 2007 at 7:00 pm

Mary Soper, Project Director for the Conservation, Rehabilitation and Upgrade of the Library of Parliament Building for the Parliamentary Precinct Directorate of Public Works and Government Services Canada, will speak about the unique challenges this project entailed - from the weathervane atop the roof to the cramped and crowded basements below ground.

Helmut Schade: Architectural Photography of Ottawa

Date and Time: February 21, 2007 at 7:00 pm

In the second annual Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture, Helmut Schade, photographer and teacher, honoured by the lifetime heritage achievement award from Ontario Heritage Trust in 2004, will take you on a visually stunning architectural tour from his vast collection of sought-after photographs.

Archaeological Overview of the History of Lebreton Flats

Date and Time: March 21, 2007 at 7:00 pm

Hugh Daechsel, archaeologist with Heritage Quest, and Jeff Earl, archaeologist with Past Recovery, will speak about their fascinating findings from the recent archaeological work at Le Breton Flats, and the large number of artefacts that were uncovered.

A Heritage Restoration Project at Dominion-Chalmers United Church

Date and Time: April 18, 2007, at 7:00 pm,
at Dominion-Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper Street, at O'Connor. Use Lisgar Street entrance.

Robert Martin, architect, principal with Robertson Martin Architects, will speak about the architectural importance of Ottawa's magnificent Dominion-Chalmers United Church, and the heritage sensitive expansion that received a City of Ottawa Architectural Conservation Award of Excellence in 2006.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - BECOME A MEMBER

Individual: \$25 ☐

Family: \$30 ☐

Student \$15 ☐

Patron: \$50 ☐

Corporation: \$100 ☐

Senior: \$15 ☐

Please, forward with payment to:

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

Tel: 230-8841 Fax: 564-4428
E-mail: info@heritageottawa.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (business) _____

E-mail: _____

Visit Heritage Ottawa On Line - www.heritageottawa.org