



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

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Too High and Too Dense – the community questions Ashcroft's plans

By David Jeanes

The Monastery of the Sisters of the Visitation is partly hidden behind a high wall which surrounds its 5-acre site at 114 Richmond Road, just west of Island Park Drive and reaching south to the Byron Avenue linear park. It was founded 100 years ago by nuns from the mother house at Annecy in France, an order which celebrated its 300th anniversary in that same year, 1910. The sisters, who follow the strict seclusion rule of their cloistered, contemplative order, purchased a large stone mansion on Richmond Road, which had been the home successively of four prominent Ottawa businessmen, including Senator James Skead, the founder of Westboro, and entrepreneur George Holland.

The monastery was built to a traditional European monastic plan, incorporating the stone mansion at one corner of a 3-storey U-shaped building, enclosing a courtyard. An imposing Gothic-style chapel with a vaulted ceiling anchored the north-west corner. The original 1864 house, metal-roofed convent building, chapel, and courtyard all survive, little altered on the outside. Few people have seen the interior, except for the chapel,



Monastère de la Visitation Ste. Marie, Ottawa Ouest. The postcard is monotone black, photo-engraved and was postally used 1919.

which served in 1923 as the first home of St. George's Catholic Church.

The few remaining nuns are elderly and have sold the property, intending to retire to another convent in Pembroke. They are progressively removing religious decorations, including statues and crosses from their secluded garden. The City of Ottawa gave notice last year of its intention to



Aerial view from the southwest shows the interior courtyard, the chapel at the top left and the 1864 house at the top right.

Too High...

designate the monastery and the sale was made with this knowledge. The new owner, Ashcroft Homes, plans a mixed use development with retail along Richmond Road where city plans call for intensification as a traditional main street. Ashcroft sees the development together with buildings they are erecting on the north side of Richmond Road, as the eastern gateway to the expanding Westboro Village.

At several meetings between Ashcroft and the community, some with hundreds of participants, concept plans showed a preserved convent building and some green garden space on the east side. However, many neighbours are concerned that the residential density will be very high, perhaps 600 apartments, generating heavy traffic and located very close to the convent. Though the city recommended a 4-storey height, Ashcroft suggests 5 to 11 storeys for different parts of the site, with some increased setbacks and open interior spaces.



Photo: Soeurs de la Visitation

The Monastery of the Sisters of the Visitation is partly hidden behind a high wall which surrounds its 5-acre site at 114 Richmond Road, just west of Island Park Drive.

The Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee (formerly LACAC) considered the staff report on March 18 and recommended that the city designate not just the proposed north half of the site, (the monastery building to Richmond Road), but the entire property, including the walled and tree-lined area where the nuns cultivated fruit and vegetables and took their private recreational walks. Ashcroft proposes a public pathway through this area but

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also a new access driveway crossing the Byron linear park to reach underground parking and service access to buildings that will fill that part of the site.

OBHAC also recommended additions to the recorded history of the site, particularly the role of James Skead, who called it "The Elms" and lived there in his final years until 1884. Skead founded Westboro in the 1870s with the name Skeads Mills as part of his extensive industrial activities in Ottawa and along the upper Ottawa River. He also had prominent roles in politics and agriculture. Other owners of the property were Philip Michael van Koughnet, the first elected member of the Legislative Council of Canada West, businessman James Dyke who probably built the house, first called "Linden House", George W. Eaton, a lumberman from Buckingham, who with his children intermarried with many prominent families along the Richmond Road and George Holland, who with his brother Andrew published the Senate Hansard

and brought many innovations to Ottawa and Canada, including the typewriter and Edison's Kinescope motion pictures.

The city, community, and developer will hopefully all work together in good faith to help conserve the important attributes of the house and convent with an appropriate adaptive re-use, while meeting the city's goal of intensification in a way that will not overwhelm the surrounding residential neighbourhood that has enjoyed this little seen and very quiet neighbour throughout the last century. ♦

David Jeanes is a retired telecommunications engineer with long-standing interests in built heritage, local history and transportation. He is vice-president of Heritage Ottawa and has created numerous heritage walking tours, lectures and articles. He has also contributed to organization and tours for Doors Open Ottawa since its inception. He is Heritage Ottawa's heritage keeper for the area along Richmond Road, where the Sisters of the Visitation convent is located, and he has lived in that district since 1974.

Save This Date



It's almost time for Heritage Ottawa's Annual General Meeting! Pencil in **Tuesday, May 25, 2010** at 7:00 pm on your calendars because we are planning an

exciting evening at the Grange, a magnificent 180-year-old log building on a gorgeous site just fifteen minutes from downtown Ottawa in Cantley, Quebec. It was formerly the home of Bob and Mary Anne Phillips.

Heather Thomson, Heritage Planner, Parks Canada, will speak on the topic: *Unlocking the Rideau Canal: Developing a Landscape Strategy for the Rideau Corridor.*

Once we have finalized the details of the Annual General Meeting, each member will receive a personal invitation in the mail. Information will also be posted on www.heritageottawa.com as soon as the schedule is set. Please visit www.grange.ca for further information regarding the venue.

Charitable Tax Receipts for Heritage Ottawa Members

Heritage Ottawa is a registered charity, (registration number 893096776 RR0001). The board will issue official tax receipts for donations and for memberships at the Patron level (\$50) and above.

There is a new receipt format for 2009. Most receipts were issued by 28 February 2010.

Heritage Ottawa is required by Canada Revenue Agency to deduct any advantage of membership in excess of 10% of the total paid. There are certain exceptions, such as our newsletter, annual general meeting and lectures. The average walking tour discount of \$5 per member or \$10 per family may be deducted.

If you do not require a tax receipt, please let us know, as it reduces our administrative costs and gives us more flexibility for our expenditures.

For information on all registered charities in Canada under the Income Tax Act, visit the Canada Revenue Agency website www.cra.gc.ca/charities

Heritage Ottawa Argues for Preservation of Heritage Buildings at Lansdowne

Heritage Ottawa's Past-president, David Flemming, made the following presentation to the City of Ottawa's Lansdowne Park Design Symposium in mid-February.

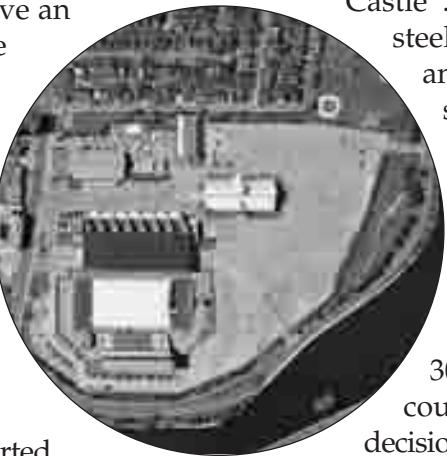
Heritage Ottawa is pleased to have an opportunity to comment on the proposed development of Lansdowne Park and to make suggestions to the five finalists in the design competition. It is unfortunate that you cannot apply your design talents to the entire Park however we in Ottawa did not seem to have the foresight to develop a rational design process for this most important heritage site.

Heritage Ottawa consistently supported a transparent procurement process and open international competition for the design of the entire Park however in the interest of trying to achieve the best development proposal, we offer these suggestions.

Heritage Ottawa's focus is on the impact of any proposed development on the heritage buildings located on the site – the Aberdeen Pavilion and the Horticulture Building – and how they can be best used as a centre-piece for development.

The area bounded by Bank Street, the Glebe and the Rideau Canal was purchased in 1868 to hold agricultural exhibitions. In 1888 the City purchased the land to become the home of the Central Canada Exhibition. Its 140-year history as a centre for agricultural shows, fairs, sporting, political, military and patriotic events, public recreation, entertainment and a farmers' market, should guide any development plans for the Park. The adjacent Rideau Canal is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a designation that can be removed if the site and its value and character are diminished by any unsuitable adjacent developments.

The image of the Aberdeen Pavilion, a municipal heritage building (1984) and National Historic Site (1983), was adopted by Heritage Ottawa as its logo



Aerial view of Lansdowne park today.

that most of the building's original fabric is intact and that it could easily be restored to its original configuration for an appropriate adaptive use.

The city and the design consultants should consider having Historic Ottawa Development Inc. (HODI) contribute to the preparation of a business plan based on sound economic and heritage conservation models for the Horticulture Building in the same manner that they did in 1994 for the Aberdeen Pavilion.

We feel the preservation of these two buildings in situ must be a fundamental component of any development plan for both the Urban Park and the commercial area and we strongly oppose any proposal which would result in the demolition of all or any original components of either of these buildings or their relocation to other areas in the Park.

Our deepest wish and that of many Ottawa citizens, is that the intrinsic natural and historic value of Lansdowne Park should anchor its future. Its commercial value should be sustained – as in so many wonderful history-based developments in Ontario, across Canada and in tourist magnets of Europe such as Paris, Copenhagen, Rome and London – by the fascination, charm, and capriciousness of its history.



Our "Cattle Castle" or the Aberdeen Pavilion as it proudly stands today.

Although Heritage Ottawa has not taken a position on any particular plan for the development of the commercial/retail component, we believe that its design and development should be compatible with the natural and cultural resources that exist on the site and adjacent to it. The non-commercial component should provide opportunities for the

public to participate in various recreational activities such as: skating and boating on the Rideau Canal, cycling, walking, running, in-line skating, cross-country skiing, formal and informal team sports, picnicking and playground activities. It should provide a venue for the exhibition of public art as well as cultural activities relating to the performing arts and music. It could become the focal point for some of Ottawa's successful festivals.

The Aberdeen Pavilion and the Horticulture Building could house a year-round carnival or farmers' market, in keeping with the Park's traditional use. These would respect the attributes of the historical designation for both buildings by using the open interior spaces to their fullest advantage. Either building could also house exhibits relating to Ottawa's civic history and serve as a venue for a variety of events by local community organizations.

Commercial enterprises should be in keeping with the activities noted above and should reflect the Park's traditional use. Rentals of sporting equipment, specialized shops and food services would provide on-site support for recreational and cultural activities.

Although many features of the original Ottawa Sport and Entertainment Group proposal are in keeping with the values noted above, it appears

that the proponent's original vision for the site is mainly commercial and if allowed to overwhelm the site, we fear that Lansdowne Park's traditional role as a "park" will either be lost entirely or much-diminished. We do not oppose the introduction of a modicum of commercial and residential components as long as it enhances rather than detracts from the intrinsic nature of the Park as a recreational and heritage destination for citizens of Ottawa and for visitors to our city.

We are convinced that the best sustainable use of the site is one that recognizes the aesthetic values of its heritage elements and natural features – the green spaces, buildings and the adjacent canal – and uses them to leverage and attract appropriate commercial opportunities. For these reasons, a proper design for the Urban Park ("Front Lawn") is important in realizing this goal. ♦

A Visit to the Horticulture Building

By Andrew Elliott

On January 22, 2010, Heritage Ottawa board members, the Glebe Community Association Heritage Committee, Carleton University Professor Herb Stovel and his graduate students, and various representatives of the Press (*Glebe Report* and *The Citizen*) had a chance to look at the exterior and interior of the vacant Horticulture Building, a building at risk in the future development plan for Lansdowne Park.

The day chosen turned out to be clear and crisp, one of those few winter days when the sky is so blue you feel as if you might fall into it, and as such, this clarity provided extra definition to a building that went up in the summer of 1914. The Horticulture Building was designed by the architect Francis Conroy Sullivan (1882-1929), and is considered one of Sullivan's great works in the relatively rare Prairie Style of architecture in this country.

The Horticulture Building is made up of two sections. The back section once served the dual purpose of being an exhibition area and a curling rink. Red brick walls surround massive steel supports that rise up from the foundation and then curve inwards to provide a high spacious ceiling; large windows are placed evenly along the length of each side. This would have provided as much natural light to enter the building as was possible. Though now covered up, these windows could easily be uncovered and put to use once again. The unpainted back wall facing Holmwood Avenue shows off the attractive red bricks that make up the rest of the structure, along with the stone corbels



Interior of the upper front level of the building, what would be called the banquet hall. Original prairie style designs embellish some of the windows.



Photo: scanned from a microfiche

Photograph of Horticulture Building back in 1914. Taken from a thesis on Francis Conroy Sullivan dated 1964.

near the roofline. There is also the outline of a large window which would add to the overall visual effect if it were uncovered.

In the front section, there is an attention to detail that belies the speed at which the structure was built. This section housed the entrance hall, a banquet room, and administration facilities. Here, the Prairie style of architecture is greatly evident, and at the time was considered very daring. The Prairie style was first developed in the United States by Frank Lloyd Wright, and is generally noted for its sharp square angles, symmetry of window locations and flat rectilinear projecting roofs, and in this, the front section of the Horticulture Building does not disappoint. It is rare to find photos of the building as it once looked, but one photo uncovered dates from 1914 and shows the front of the building in detail. One will note from this photograph how the three casement windows over the dramatic front entrance correspond with the three larger casement windows on either side of the entrance. Though the look is massive, the lively amount of red brick, stucco, stone, and glass patterning lightens its appearance and the exterior is aesthetically pleasing to the viewer. Unfortunately, in recent years this exterior has been painted yellow, which does little justice to the building's composition.

The upper floors of the front section are particularly noteworthy with their hardwood floors as well as spare wood finishing on doors, baseboards, railings and banisters. The banquet room is large, yet it seems even more spacious due to the effect of small rectangular windows on all sides near the roof as

well as larger vertical windows facing south towards the exhibition grounds.

Some of the original windows retain their unusually patterned latticework. This off-centre rectilinear pattern itself mirrors the sharp geometric angles of the building as a whole. Indeed, the effect is truly stunning: for while helping to frame and provide a relationship to the larger Aberdeen Pavilion which stands nearby, the intention, it seems, is to give the viewer a completely new and thought-provoking view of that building and the rest of Lansdowne Park. The upstairs interior space is a reflection of the Horticulture Building's exterior, and could easily be restored and function as a special event space for a variety of different organizations.

All those who visited the structure were impressed with the building's massive interior space, apparent overall structural soundness, the large number of restorable heritage windows (covered and uncovered) and numerous decorative elements. Though the building has been designated by the City of Ottawa as a heritage structure, little has been done to maintain it and even less thought has been given to how its interior space could be re-used. Virtually everyone who visited the building agreed that the building should not be moved from its current location, that it must remain protected, and that it should be restored while being given a new and valued purpose in the redevelopment of Lansdowne Park.

We thank Councillor Clive Doucet and his assistant Catherine Henry who requested permission for the group to gain access to the Horticultural Building. The visit logistics were arranged by city staffers, Richard Haycock and Mark Hennigar. City staff member Eric Desjardins unlocked the building, turned on the lights and was very helpful and accommodating throughout the visit.

On a final note, the Glebe Report will be publishing a longer article on the building and its architect in the March issue. This will be part of an initiative in the next few months to make people aware of the aesthetic, cultural, and heritage value of the structure within the context of Lansdowne Park and its redevelopment. ♦

Andrew Elliott is an archivist, freelance writer, and a member of Heritage Ottawa and the Glebe Community Association Heritage Committee.

Jane's Walk

Saturday & Sunday, May 1-2



Jane's Walk is a festival of walking tours celebrating the legacy of urban activist and writer Jane Jacobs. All tours are given by local individuals eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for their city. *Jane's Walk* improves urban literacy through personal observations on urban planning, architecture, local identity, regional history, and social reality. Interacting through events like *Jane's Walk* helps knit us together into a stronger, more connected, more resourceful community.

Although she had no formal training as a planner, Jane Jacobs developed ground-breaking ideas about how cities function, evolve, and succeed or fail. She described these in her 1961 best-seller *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

The seed for *Jane's Walk* was Jane's observation that the best way to find out about a city is to get out and walk around. *Jane's Walk* began in Toronto in 2007, and came to Ottawa in 2008. Last year, forty-six cities across the US and Canada participated, offering a total of 315 tours. *Jane's Walk Ottawa* offered 32 walks on topics such as the Urban Forest, Petrie Island, and How Centretown Survived the Car, and attracted about a thousand people.

Jane's Walk Ottawa is organized by an enthusiastic, committed team of volunteers, with assistance from many local sponsors, including Heritage Ottawa, Ecology Ottawa, and our media sponsor CBC Radio One. Support from Heritage Ottawa has been particularly important to the early success of *Jane's Walk*, and we are grateful to the many tour leaders associated with Heritage Ottawa who have volunteered to lead tours for *Jane's Walk*.

Jane's Walk offers a shared experience in exploring and appreciating Ottawa. This year's schedule showing times and starting points can be found on our web site at www.janeswalkottawa.ca. All tours are free.

From the Past President...



The past four months have seen an array of advocacy issues relating to the preservation of our built heritage which has included a new designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the loss of a building that we thought had been saved and a decision by parishioners to demolish their church. Throughout it all, the confused and sometimes acrimonious debate over the development of Lansdowne Park lurches toward a resolution.

On February 24th, city council approved the designation of the Bradley/Craig Farmstead on Hazeldean Road under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The designation includes an 1870s brick farmhouse and an 1873 dairy barn with a large hay loft. The barn was built by John Cummings and is the last surviving barn built by this prominent 19th century Goulbourn craftsman.

In November 2007, city council rejected a staff recommendation that the owner of 456 Lansdowne Road North be permitted to demolish one of the oldest homes in the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District (RPHCD). After agreeing to save the house and build an addition, the owner decided to appeal council's decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. The city defended its decision but because council had overturned a staff recommendation, their own heritage planner was called as an expert witness for the owner. The board found in favour of the owner who plans to demolish the house and build a new, larger one in its place.

This decision plus the loss of two more of the oldest homes in Rockcliffe - 204 & 212 Springfield Road - (*Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, Spring/Summer 2008, pp.1-3) are examples of the inadequacy of the RPHCD guidelines as interpreted by city planning staff. Although these guidelines serve to protect the village-like setting and landscape of the district, they are woefully inadequate to prevent the loss of individual buildings of heritage significance. Heritage Ottawa urges the city to review the guidelines to prevent the further loss of the district's late 19th and early 20th century buildings.

Following unsuccessful efforts by the city's Heritage Planning staff, Heritage Ottawa and the

Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee to have St. Isidore Catholic Church designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (*Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, Fall 2009, pp.4-5), the parishioners of St. Isidore Parish voted to demolish this important 1880s church. Demolition is expected to begin later this year although the steeple was removed last June. St. Isidore, built in the French Classical style, is one of the last surviving examples of the work of priest-architect Georges Bouillon. Ironically, the demolition of this church is not prompted by the loss of parishioners as seems to be the norm with many churches. In this case, the current church cannot meet the needs of this fast-growing parish and the parishioners feel that adding an extension or wing to the existing structure is not economically feasible.

As we go to press, the five finalists in the design competition for the urban park component of Lansdowne Park are working to a May deadline to unveil their proposals.

On March 9, a city-initiated *Retail Real Estate Report* prepared by J.C. Williams Group Limited dealing with the retail/commercial portion of the site was made public. The document reads more like a wish list for the Ottawa Sport and Entertainment Group, developers of the non-urban park component. If followed, the recommendations would result in a doubling of the retail mix in the Glebe that would seem to compete rather than complement the existing businesses along Bank Street in the Glebe and Old Ottawa South. Many speculate whether such an increase in retail activities is sustainable. (For Heritage Ottawa's position on the development, see pages 4-5).

To follow the progress of the project leading towards a City Council decision in June, check the City of Ottawa website at: http://www.city.ottawa.on.ca/residents/public_consult/lansdowne_partnership/index_en.html. Members are urged to write to the mayor and their councillor in support of a development which will preserve the heritage and reflect the traditional uses of the park over the past 140 years. We only have one chance to do this right! ♦

David B. Flemming,
Past President

Working Together For Heritage: *Carleton University, the Municipality of North Grenville and the historic hamlet of Burritt's Rapids*

By Kelly Black

When the 2009-2010 academic year ends for Carleton students in the School of Canadian Studies Heritage Conservation program, we may feel as if North Grenville has become our second home. The relationship began last autumn when heritage students joined their colleagues from the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism at Carleton to produce an adaptive re-use study for the Municipality of North Grenville. The project, involving six heritage buildings, proved to be more of a challenge than expected, but the final report resulted in a detailed and unique vision for the heritage resources in this growing municipality.

This semester, Heritage Conservation students have again partnered with North Grenville to develop a plan for a Heritage Conservation District (HCD) study of the hamlet of Burritt's Rapids. After meeting with the municipality's representatives at the beginning of January, the class drove down to the village to see things first hand.

Burritt's Rapids

Much of the built heritage of the town exists on an island wedged between the Rideau River on the north side and the Rideau Canal to the south. Although an island today, this was not the case when Colonel Stephen Burritt and his family, United Empire Loyalists from New England, settled on the north side of the river (Township of Marlborough) in 1793.

The growth of Burritt's Rapids is similar to that of many settlements along the Rideau River. Like most early communities in the area, lumbering became the first informal industry. Once a sufficient



The building now known as the Burritt's Rapids Community Hall has been a landmark on Grenville Street for over 150 years.

amount of land was cleared, farming was instituted. In turn, increased agricultural activity brought a range of merchants and associated industries that helped the community diversify its economy. Before completion of the Rideau Canal, the hamlet was already well established on both the north and south sides of the Rideau. Two significant markers of the its growth were the construction of the first schoolhouse in 1822 and completion of the first church in 1831. When construction of the Rideau Canal began at Burritt's Rapids in 1828, engineers and workers dammed the river (the remains of which can still be seen today) and excavated a natural ravine, known as Oxford Snie, in order to create a bypass of the rapids. Upon completion of the canal in 1832, the Burritt's Rapids lock station had effectively turned the heart of the village into an island.

A visitor traveling to Burritt's Rapids today will be immediately struck by the view of the town rising starkly out of the water and the surrounding landscape. During our first visit to the site, we found ourselves wandering through the village taking pictures and excitedly discussing its potential for an HCD. All along the historic streetscape there are many excellent examples of Rideau Corridor architecture.

Included among the many one-and-a-half storey end-gabled, stone and brick houses are properties which tell the story of the village's social and commercial past. On Centre Street, a former schoolhouse (now a private residence) is identified



Photo: Kelly Black

A fine example of a decorative Gothic Revival verandah in Burritt's Rapids.

by the bell tower still gracing the centre ridge of the roof. On Grenville Street, the community centre, a designated heritage property, was built as a general store in 1855 in the classical revival style. It is an outstanding example of an early nineteenth century vernacular commercial structure and has served the community as a non-profit facility since the 1930s. Located on the north side of the river is Christ Church, one of the earliest churches along the Rideau, erected in 1831. The wooden quoins atop the crenellated tower and the decorative circular window in the front gable make this place of worship one of the most beautiful and enduring along the Rideau Corridor.

Developing a Plan

In compiling our work for North Grenville, the main goal was to create a strong, relevant and forward-thinking plan. We first looked at various Heritage Conservation District studies from across the province and analyzed them, seeking out both the good and bad. We understood early on that it was imperative to be clear and exact in the language used in the proposed plan in order to avoid problems in the future. For example, if the plan states a desire to "encourage" preservation, it



Interior view of Christ Church.

Photo: Kelly Black

can have serious consequences if the intention was to "ensure" preservation. Indeed, in some Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) cases heritage designation was challenged based on the lack of clarity in the language of the plan.

Of the dozen or more sections to be considered in creating our report, perhaps the one that took the most deliberation was the Boundaries section. That the study should include the historic hamlet was clear, however, to what extent the landscape should be included was less apparent. Much of the heritage character of Burritt's Rapids lies in its pastoral setting; few can deny that the length of the Rideau Canal is a cultural landscape. Unfortunately, Part V (Heritage Conservation Districts) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* does not provide for the protection of cultural heritage landscapes. In spite of this, it was our decision to recommend that landscape be included in the study, as a way to highlight its importance to the integrity and authenticity of Burritt's Rapids.

Working Together

The working relationship established with North Grenville has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved. As emerging heritage professionals, the chance for students to participate in the creation of a pragmatic and viable HCD study plan has been invaluable. For North Grenville, the municipality's desire to participate with students has resulted in thorough, distinctive and forward thinking heritage resource plans. Communities, organizations and universities should continue to actively seek these types of collaborations where students gain professional skills and communities gain quality, innovative work.

Kelly Black is a first year Masters student in the School of Canadian Studies, Heritage Conservation Program. In 2009, he completed his undergraduate degree in History at Vancouver Island University. His research focuses on the idea of wilderness and its influence in the separation of nature and culture.

Memorial Lecture Attracts Big Audience



Heritage Ottawa's Fifth Annual Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture drew a record crowd to the National Gallery's auditorium on February 18th to hear historian Leslie Maitland speak on the Rideau Street Convent Chapel.

Prior to the talk, people were invited to visit the chapel which had been restored and fitted into a specially designed space by architect Moishe Safdie in 1988 when the National Gallery was constructed.

Ms. Maitland showed early photos of the 19th century convent originally located on Rideau Street between Cumberland and Waller, including shots of the chapel. The decorative interior, designed by the accomplished priest-architect Georges Bouillon in 1887, is a fine example of Gothic Revival style.

After the Sisters of Charity sold the convent in 1971, the new owners announced their intention to demolish the building. Ms. Maitland described the dismay of the Ottawa community and how the impending demolition in 1972 galvanized

individuals and groups to band together to save the chapel. The team had very little time to identify and inventory the various components before the interior was cut apart. Cast iron columns, elaborate wooden fan vaulting, three altars, a balcony and pointed arched windows were all marked and stored.

The community hoped that they could find a future home for the chapel but in the meantime, the components languished in storage for over ten years. When plans for a new National Gallery were announced, this seemed an ideal location for the chapel. Ms. Maitland described in detail the difficulties the builders encountered in enclosing the restored chapel in the new building. Surviving elements were restored and assembled and parts that had been lost or destroyed were reproduced. It was decided to retain the blue and gold colour scheme that was in place at the time of the dismantling in 1972.

The restoration of the Rideau Street Convent Chapel, said Ms. Maitland, preserves an impressive interior of architectural and historical significance for all of Canada. Ironically the banal strip mall that replaced the convent was recently demolished to give way for a high-rise development.

Heritage Ottawa Walking Tours for 2010

The program for the 2010 season of Heritage Ottawa Walking Tours is listed below. For the first time, two of these tours will be animated in French – see the asterisks.

All tours begin at 2:00 pm on Sundays unless otherwise indicated.

1. The Glebe	June 27
2. Architecture and Engineering along Rideau Canal	July 4
3. Vanier: the murals along Montreal Road *(in French)	July 18
4. Lowertown West (at 10:00 a.m.)	August 1
5. Brewery Creek (Gatineau/Hull)	August 8

6. University of Ottawa *(in French)	August 29
7. Parliament Hill	September 5
8. Village of Hintonburg	September 12
9. New Edinburgh	September 19
10. Sandy Hill	September 26
11. Village of Rockcliffe Park	October 3
12. Beaux Arts Ottawa	October 10
13. Old Ottawa South	October 17
14. Manotick Village	October 24

The full descriptions of the walking tours will be published on the Heritage Ottawa website in May. Please consult www.heritageottawa.org

Architectural Conservation Awards 2010

The annual Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards recognize excellence in the preservation of the City's architectural heritage. Submissions were received in the following categories: Restoration (returning a heritage resource to its original form, material and integrity); Adaptive Use (modification of a heritage resource to contemporary functional standards while retaining its heritage character); and Infill (an addition to an historic building, or all-new construction within an historic context). Bronze plaques are mounted on Award of Excellence-winning projects, and major contributors to each project receive framed certificates. Certificates of Merit are presented to projects and contributors deserving recognition in the three categories.

Award of Excellence – Infill

444 Highcroft Avenue

Ward 15 – Kitchissippi – Councillor Christine Leadman

This project involved an addition to provide a mudroom and another bedroom. The addition was designed to be sympathetic to the existing house by reflecting the form, scale and massing of a two-storey enclosed porch that would have been typical of an early 20th century four-square brick house in the Westboro area. The addition is clearly contemporary in style and distinguishable from the original house. This project illustrates a small-scale project that enhances not only the historic house but also the streetscape as a whole.

Receiving certificates:

Lisa Foss and Rob Vandenberg
Kevin Deevey B. Arch, OAA, LEED, AP
Kevin Deevey Architect Inc.
Vincent DeBeer, Vincent DeBeer General Contracting
Patrick Pelda, Cogo Carpentry

Award of Excellence – Restoration

Foisy House, 184 St. Andrew Street

Ward 12 – Rideau-Vanier – Councillor Georges Bédard

Foisy House, a one and a half storey wood-framed house, is a rare example of the early residential development of Lowertown in the 19th century. Alexander Foisy, a tinsmith noted for the Tin House façade in Tin House Court, built Foisy House in 1860. By 2002, Foisy House had been neglected and abandoned for a number of years. The current owner purchased the property, found historical photographs of the building and undertook a meticulous restoration project. Of particular note is the reproduction of the intricate front porch that has been restored to its 1900 appearance. A number of interior elements have also been restored to their 19th century appearance, including the wooden floors, the staircase and baluster, and the tin ceiling in the foyer of the house.

Receiving certificates:

Geneviève Houle
Gontran Bolduc, Builder
Marc Bolduc

Award of Excellence – Restoration

Woodburn House, 73 MacKay Street

Ward 13 – Rideau-Rockcliffe – Councillor Jacques Legendre

This project involved the rebuilding of the main chimney of one-half of the semi-detached Woodburn House in the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District. Woodburn House is a Gothic Revival style brick house that was built circa 1874 with extensive decorative woodwork and polychromatic brickwork. While exact historical evidence was not available to inform the project, the owner did extensive research on Victorian chimneys and surveyed similar houses in the neighbourhood for inspiration. The result is sympathetic, enhances the house and honours a building element that is very often neglected.

Receiving certificates:

Katherine Arkay
Keystone Traditional Masonry Inc.

Award of Excellence – Infill / Restoration

Strathcona on the Parc, 417 – 421 Laurier Avenue East

Ward 12 – Rideau-Vanier – Councillor Georges Bédard

This project involved the restoration and adaptive reuse of two designated Queen Anne Revival style houses on Laurier Avenue East in the Wilbrod/Laurier Heritage Conservation District. The two houses had been altered over time and were restored using historic photographs to replicate missing elements, such as the front porches. This project also involved new construction of an eight unit, four-storey condominium complex at the rear of the property. The new addition is clearly contemporary in style but sympathetic to the historic houses in materials, massing and setback. This project exemplifies the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, and sets an excellent precedent as the type of infill project that should be encouraged in Heritage Conservation Districts throughout Ottawa.

Receiving certificates:

421 Laurier Avenue Limited
Barry Padolsky Associates Inc. Architects
Paul Daoust Construction Canada Limited
Halsall Associates Limited
Douglas Associates Landscape Architects Limited

Certificate of Merit – Adaptive Use

406 Queen Street

Ward 14 – Somerset – Councillor Diane Holmes

Receiving certificates:

Antonietta Talarico
Ross Talarico, Professional Corporation
Costantino + Associates Architect Incorporated

Certificate of Merit – Infill

224-226 Dalhousie Street, 114-116 Guigues Avenue

Ward 12 – Rideau-Vanier – Councillor Georges Bédard

Receiving certificates:

Regional Group of Companies
Douglas Hardie Architect Inc.
Novatech Engineering Consultants Limited
LA Group Project Management