



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

Summer 2011 Volume 38, No. 2

Chaudière Revitalization *Next Chapter of our Watery Heritage*

By Mark Thompson Brandt

Water has led to the development and generation of significant material culture in the form of... technology and places.... It has also been the catalyst for the development of significant cultural practices which have generated... cultural heritage...¹

This year's theme for UNESCO World Heritage Day, "The Cultural Heritage of Water", has a timely connection to our Canadian Heritage Ottawa River and its Chaudière Falls Historic Place, in Canada's Capital. Moving back into public consciousness, the "Chaudière is bubbling again..." and a surge in public opinion for healthier, more vibrant waterfronts in the National Capital is aligning with calls for the preservation of our waterfront history. This heritage comprises millennia of cultural change from an aboriginal spiritual place to the

"post-industrial brownfield on Confederation Boulevard".

There are many

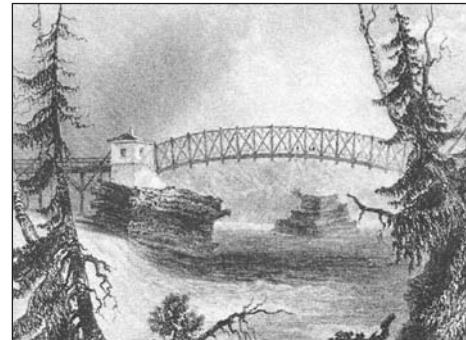
synchronicities, inter-influences, and connections between the brilliant past, the ironic present and the exciting sustainable future envisioned for the Chaudière Heritage District below Parliament Hill.

Building upon the MTBA Islands Master Plan commissioned by the NCC in 1990, this hidden gem can really become a national treasure and the key component of the renaissance of Ottawa's waterfronts. MTBA & Associates is currently involved with three initiatives : 1) a sustainability plan for the site that would result in a leadership demonstration of both cultural and natural conservation; 2) a re-thinking of historic urban landscapes, their values and evolution; 3) Vision: Chaudière, a major art project involving local and international artists and community leaders that will draw attention to, and fascination for, the remarkable Chaudière District through a series of multi-modal, multi-cultural events.

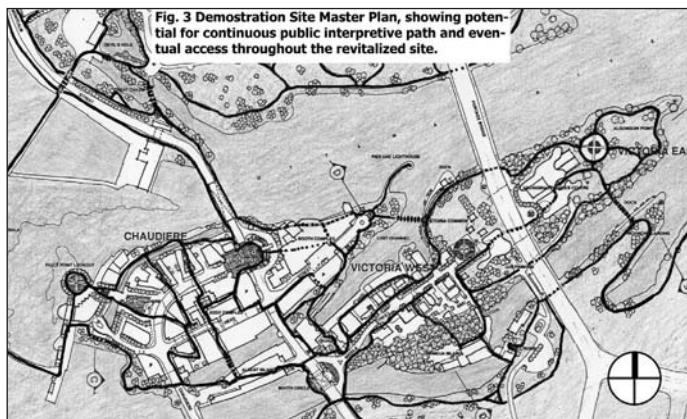
Master Plan Elements

New directions for the site can build upon key urban design elements of the MTBA 1990 Master Plan (which remains NCC policy on this site today):

Palimpsest: Working layer upon layer over time, with responsive additive urban infill "tissue"



Print of an early timber bridge at the falls.



Proposed plan for the Chaudière District.

From the President....



June is always an exciting month for heritage enthusiasts with the start of our annual heritage walking tours and the two-day public event, Doors Open Ottawa.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Doors Open Ottawa and in my remarks at the launch, held this year at Rideau Hall, I recalled the initiative of Linda Russell, Miriam Fry, Carolyn Quinn and others who first approached Heritage Ottawa in 2001 to seek our support for this unique venture. The rest, as they say, is history! We have been pleased to promote this worthy venture over the years with volunteers, fundraising aid and financial assistance. This year's anniversary event drew over 50,000 participants to the more than 100 buildings which opened their doors.

Our walking tours began on June 12th, the first of 13 offerings for 2011. Put on your walking shoes and join us for a Sunday stroll. Remember, as Heritage Ottawa members you are eligible for a 50% discount on the \$10 fee.

On May 24th the Ontario Conservation Review Board (CRB) rendered their decision supporting our objection and that of Jean-Claude Dubé to the city's decision to repeal the heritage designation by-law for the Horticulture Building at Lansdowne Park. We all owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to our CRB hearing team consisting of Linda Hoad, Leslie Maitland and Ken Elder who represented us proudly at the April hearing and the many other board members who contributed to the development, presentation and support of our case. I especially wish to thank our legal counsel, Barbara J. Sinclair, of the law firm McMillan LLP for her advice and assistance.

It was encouraging to see many of our remarks both from our written presentation and from the testimony of our witnesses at the hearing, included in CRB report. While we await the city's formal response to the decision in July, we are already investigating a further course of action should the city not comply with the board's recommendation. In the meantime, I urge you to write to the mayor

“And now for the big news! Effective May 31st, Heritage Ottawa has a new president, Leslie Maitland.”

and your councillor to ask them to abide by the CRB recommendation not to repeal the heritage designation by-law and to incorporate the cultural heritage values which Heritage Ottawa entered in evidence, as part of a revised statement of designation for the building.

And now for the big news! Effective May 31st, Heritage Ottawa has a new president, Leslie Maitland. Leslie is a heritage professional with 35 years of experience as an architectural historian, museologist and consultant who brings a wide range and depth of experience, talent and enthusiasm to the position. She was employed by Parks Canada for over 30 years where she contributed to varied projects relating to policy and programming activities affecting our built heritage. She is the co-author of *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles* (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1992; 2nd edition 2003) and has served on the boards of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada, ICOMOS Canada, and the Association of Preservation Technology. Since 2009 Leslie has been a member of the Board of Heritage Ottawa serving as our Heritage Policy Advisor and Lecture Series Coordinator. I welcome Leslie to her new position on your behalf and look forward to working with her and our other board colleagues in my new capacity as past-president.

Finally, I wish to thank you, our members, for the support and encouragement that you have given me over the past nine years and offer a special thank-you to board members, current and past, who have worked so hard on your behalf.

Au revoir!

David B. Flemming, President

CRB Rejects De-designation of Horticulture Building

By Leslie Maitland

As many of you know, Heritage Ottawa has been following events at Lansdowne Park over the last few years closely, concerned for the site's heritage resources. While Heritage Ottawa has consistently supported plans to revitalize this long-neglected site, the plans to date impinge negatively upon the Horticulture Building (municipally designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*) and the Aberdeen Pavilion (also municipally designated and a National Historic Site of Canada). Various plans put forward by the city and its private sector partner (the Ottawa Sport and Entertainment Group, OSEG), have shown the Horticulture Building removed completely, reduced to a façade, or placed at an odd angle in the lands intended for the public park bordering the Rideau Canal. The latest plan is to move the Horticulture Building – a brick structure over 80 feet wide by 200 feet in length! – to the east of the Aberdeen Pavilion, divorced from its original and appropriate location at the heart of Lansdowne Park.

In November, 2010, council voted to rescind the heritage designation of the Horticulture Building in order to move it. This was despite a unanimous vote by the Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee against de-designation, and in spite of consistent advice and representations by the Ontario Heritage Trust and by Heritage Ottawa to retain the building in situ and in toto and integrate it into the revitalized Lansdowne Park. This is also in spite of the support of the winners of the public park aspect of the site proposal, Philips Farevaag Smallenberg, who advocated for retention in situ in their initial bid. For Heritage Ottawa there was no recourse left but to launch an objection to the city's proposal to the Conservation Review Board (CRB).

Heritage Ottawa argued at the hearing – and the Board concurred – that de-designation of the

Horticulture Building was dangerous. The CRB report stated, “Based on the evidence heard, the recommendation of the Review Board is not to repeal all or part of Bylaw 8-94. The cultural heritage values or interests... are still valid and are best protected *in-situ*.” This was the conclusion of Su Murdoch and Stuart Kidd, Chair and Co-Chair respectively of the Conservation Review Board hearing. Once a building loses its heritage designation it no longer, by definition, has any heritage protection. The city can do as it pleases with the structure, including demolish it. The city claims that it is their intention to move the building to the east of the site, a location where it has never been, and at some risk and considerable expense in order to move it out of the way of parking and a multiplex cinema.

The CRB representatives agreed firmly with Heritage Ottawa's exhaustive evidence and found that “it is the in situ location of the Horticulture Building at the traditional hub of exhibition and sports activity within Lansdowne Park that is its authentic environment.”

The proposal to relocate the Horticulture Building is wrong because it is risky, expensive, and unnecessary. If left in its current location, the building can be successfully integrated into the mixed-use area (retail, sports, etc) of the revitalized Lansdowne Park. Examples of heritage buildings integrated into revitalized urban areas are almost too many to mention: the Gooderham and Worts Complex in Toronto; Granville Island in Vancouver; and of course, right here in town, the Byward Market building. How much poorer would all of those places have been without the heritage buildings which defined their character



Photo: Andrew Elliott

and enlivened their public spaces?

The proposed relocation is objectionable on other fronts. Inevitably there would be structural risks and some loss of historic fabric involved in relocating a very large brick building. As for the cost, we have seen no concrete cost estimates for the relocation but the figure has ranged from \$3 million to the \$5 million that was most recently suggested, not including rehabilitation of the building.

It is the city that assumes this cost rather than the developer (which means us taxpayers), but purely for the developer's commercial benefit. The city would be deprived of any federal funding for rehabilitation or restoration because relocation would disqualify the building from a potential designation as a national historic site. The city claims that it will re-designate and rehabilitate the Horticulture Building for new uses in its new location; but this is the second time that the city has de-designated this building and in the last thirty years the building has been allowed to deteriorate. Considering that the city has already commissioned a Demolition Feasibility Study (2008) for the building, credibility is stretched.



The Horticulture Building, a structure of substantial size, may suffer serious damage if moved.

“The latest plan is to move the Horticulture Building – a brick structure over 80 feet wide by 200 feet in length! – to the east of the Aberdeen Pavilion, divorced from its original and appropriate location at the heart of Lansdowne Park.”

Photo: Veronica Vaillancourt

Leslie Maitland is the newly elected president of Heritage Ottawa. She has worked in heritage conservation for Parks Canada, and as a consultant.

The Conservation Review Board is a regulatory tribunal that hears disputes on matters relating to the protection of properties considered to hold cultural heritage value or interest as defined by the Ontario Heritage Act. The CRB issued its ruling on the afternoon of Friday, May 27th, and on Monday, May 30th, Mayor Watson announced that he continues to support

relocation of the building. No public discussion, no waiting for council to consider. And now the Design Review Panel, an independent panel commissioned by the city to oversee plans for Lansdowne, has complained publicly that they haven't seen any revised plans for the site for six months.

This is all such a shame. There are some very smart and very talented people at the City and in OSEG. Heritage Ottawa and others would be pleased to work with them to develop a plan for a revitalized Lansdowne Park. Heritage can work with development. There is no need to infringe upon the easement of the Aberdeen Pavilion, and no need to demolish and remove the Horticulture Building. Both structures can be successfully integrated into a vibrant, revitalized Lansdowne Park, which will be one of the jewels of the city. Now is the time for the city to show leadership and oblige the developers to accommodate the values of the people of this city, rather than allowing insensitive development to make us all poorer.

This is the situation at the time of going to press with this article, and things may move rapidly over the next little while. Stay tuned! ♦

Thank you David Flemming

By Carolyn Quinn

The following tribute to David Flemming was made May 30, 2011 at a meeting of Heritage Ottawa's board of directors.

You know David tried to step down as president in 2008.

But it turns out that all he needed was a break. He's an activist at heart and clearly he still had a lot more fight in him, as evidenced by his unshakable commitment over the last two years to preserve the heritage of Lansdowne Park.

The first time I met David Flemming was at a Heritage Day event at City Hall back in 2002. Ottawa historian John Taylor introduced me to him, and suggested that he might be worth pursuing as a Heritage Ottawa board member.

Well, I sensed that from that first meeting and didn't waste any time in following that suggestion up. And the rest is history.

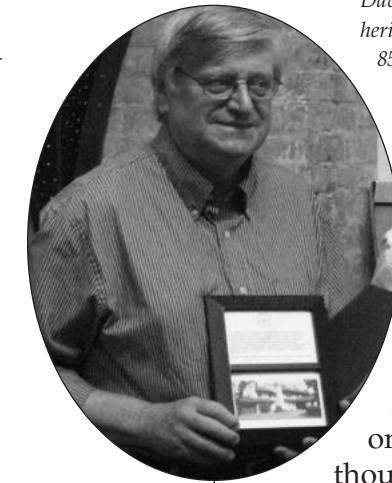
In his time as president, I think it's safe to say that David has been a force to be reckoned with. His name has become synonymous with heritage in this city.

I've known days when I've woken up to David's voice on CBC radio, then read his words in the Ottawa Citizen with my morning coffee; and then found him again later in the evening on TV!

But David has not just been about getting the word out. He has been about solid advocacy action. His efforts have gone beyond pushing for the preservation of one building at a time – although he has done plenty of that – to placing conservation within the context of our city's broader cultural heritage.

Who can forget his electrifying speech at City Hall in 2004 where he shamed the mayor and councillors who were proposing devastating cuts to our arts and heritage programs?

When David talked, people listened. Not because he was loud and boisterous, but because he was reasonable and logical – always professional in his approach. No one could ever dismiss Heritage Ottawa as a fringe group of extremists with David at the helm!



David Flemming holds a used red clay tile from the roof of the heritage-designated, Werner E. Noffke-designed Powell House at 85 Glebe Avenue, now the official residence of the Ambassador of Vietnam. His Excellency Mr. Le Sy Vuong Ha, kindly donated this important architectural artifact to Heritage Ottawa for presentation on May 31, 2011 to David B. Flemming in appreciation of his nine years (2002-2011) as its President.

David reminded me the other day that one of the first battles he faced after taking over as president was preventing the University of Ottawa from demolishing the heritage buildings on the Nicholas Waller Triangle. He

thought the U of O was a tough customer until he hit-up against Groupe Lepine of Montreal and the case of the collapsing building in the dead of night. But he extracted a few ounces of flesh... The city forced payment of a penalty of a few hundred thousand dollars, as I recall.

That was a loss, but they're not always losses. Witness our most recent victory at the CRB! Even on his last day as president, David didn't miss the opportunity of cornering the Mayor at this morning's launch of Doors Open Ottawa to challenge him to read the full CRB report and discover for himself the shameful behaviour of members of staff and council.

But this time, I think David really means to retire as president. And we'll have to let him go. He'll be joining the rank and file around the board room table, rather than at its head, because he has gone far beyond the call of duty in his commitment to this organization and to the people of the City of Ottawa. And frankly, he deserves a rest.

David steps down leaving a strong and vibrant organization with solid programming, a healthy membership, an excellent newsletter and website, and a collection of committed heritage advocates across the city keeping watch over our built heritage. ♦

Carolyn Quinn is past-president and member of the board of directors of Heritage Ottawa. She is also the Director of Communications at the Heritage Canada Foundation.

Photo: Brigid Janssen

Does Designation Work?

A Report on the 2011 Carleton University Heritage Symposium

By Nancy Oakley

This year's symposium was held on March 26th at St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts. Organized by students in the Heritage Conservation program at Carleton University, this one-day event attracted over 115 people, with attendees coming from as far away as Montreal, Waterloo and Cornwall. The theme, "Does Designation Work?", explored connections between designation and heritage conservation. The topic clearly resonated with many, as those present included community and heritage associations, professionals from all levels of government, consultants, students and professors from several universities, and members of the public. The Carleton University Heritage Symposium serves to engage people in the heritage field in a neutral forum and to forward new ideas and perspectives on heritage issues.

Inspiration for the theme came from several controversial events such as the fight for Port Dalhousie's Heritage Conservation District (HCD), the mass demolition of Brantford's un-designated historic buildings and the plight of the designated Horticulture Building in Ottawa's Lansdowne Park, to cite only a few examples. As emerging young professionals in the field, we found the frequency and implications of these events alarming, and as all good young people are wont to do, we questioned the system. Does designation achieve the goals of heritage conservation? How is it failing heritage? Are there alternatives? It was our hope that the symposium would help participants identify issues, share experiences and propose solutions.



Attendees enjoyed discussion during breaks

Photo: Kelly Black

Our keynote speaker, Julian Smith, observed that we are undergoing a paradigm shift. Formerly, heritage activists stood in front of bulldozers and 'sand-bagged' a few precious objects against a flood of modern design and development. Today, heritage conservation has been institutionalized and legislated, creating new challenges. The cultural landscape approach has broadened the scope of what is defined and conserved as heritage. In our contemporary context, zoning and land-use planning, rather than designation, are driving heritage conservation. Our focus on environmental sustainability has created new opportunities and also new problems.

We heard about the challenges of making designation work at the local level. Like other groups, the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) struggles to maintain the character of its pre-2005 designated HCD against development pressure and the city's selective interpretation of its

planning and heritage legislation. The Rideau Canal is recognized as a World Heritage Site, yet many rural municipalities between Ottawa and Kingston lack the resources and/or the will to implement local protection policies. Heritage Ottawa's past president, David Flemming, noted how the integrity of the designation system is being threatened by the actions of our city council, which is exploiting its position as both owner of the designated Horticulture Building and regulator of the Lansdowne redevelopment process, disregarding its responsibilities to either conserve heritage or uphold public trust. Contrastingly, Diefenbunker volunteers showed how National Historic Site designation has been used to increase support for the museum and has provided guidance to the volunteers on often challenging conservation issues.

Others added to the idea of conservation-through-designation. Ideally our cities and the province work together to manage the system and enforce legislation, yet often lack the necessary resources and political will to do so sufficiently. Consultants play a role in ensuring effective planning and management of heritage resources, but are often a service that communities can't afford, or worse- they end up as 'opinions for hire'. It is clear that a lack of resources, cooperation, and poor enforcement of the rules are all contributing to a situation where there are no winners, except perhaps Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) lawyers.

Regarding designation, some speakers stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to both identification of heritage resources and their conservation. Interiors can hold significant heritage value, yet are often ignored in the designation process. Designation doesn't work well for all heritage, being selective by its nature and implemented mainly in urban areas. Chris Andreae stated that many rural resources will remain undesignated because of a lack of research; that industrial resources are often difficult to designate; and that the idea that we designate that which we value means we must also designate 'negative' sites (like the Love Canal for its role after the disaster in establishing the EPA's Superfund) so that the system may maintain its legitimacy.

Lisa Prosper noted how Aboriginal concepts of heritage differ from mainstream perceptions.

Aborigines emphasize the knowledge behind an object, rather than the object itself which, in turn, is valued not for its materials but rather for its use within the community. Our current designation system can be interpreted as Euro-centric, overlooking interrelationships of cultural expression, and creating a conflict between 'historical' and 'living' heritage. Cultural authority also becomes an issue – who decides what is important and how it is to be protected?

By days' end, it was clear there is no easy solution. Instead, our ability to make designation work is linked to larger societal functions like having responsible, responsive governments, quality public input in our civic processes and active community engagement with heritage. We need a general recognition that designation is not simply an end, but is rather one step in the ongoing cycle of conservation and part of a dynamic process between government and society. We were reminded that designation is a tool that can be used to better protect, maintain and interpret our heritage, but it is nothing without community and political support, and a clear understanding of the goals to be accomplished.

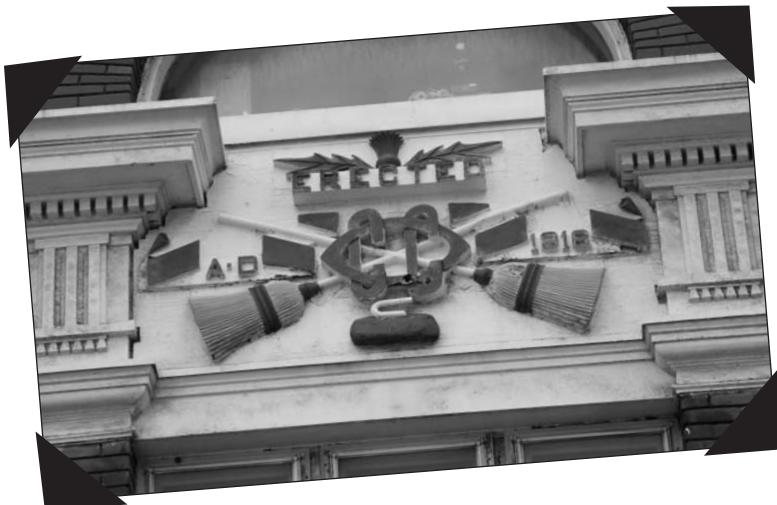
We should re-think designation as a 'nimble concept' that allows for change and multiple narratives, and that recognizes cultural practices and intangible heritage. Echoed through many presentations was the need for collaboration, mediation and negotiation – not confrontation – when dealing with heritage, designation and conservation.

So where do we go from here? We need to continue to explore how easements, tax breaks and other legislation can reinforce heritage conservation. We need to reengage our communities and governments with heritage, and we need to make sure that the rules are applied appropriately and enforced. Heritage Ottawa has seized the initiative and will join the NECA to organize a workshop this fall on how to make designation work in our communities. ♦

Nancy Oakley, a graduate student in Carleton University's Heritage Conservation Program, organized the 2011 Carleton Heritage Symposium. In addition to her studies, she is employed as an historical research assistant at CDCI Research and this year joined Heritage Ottawa's Board of Directors as the Heritage Keeper Program Coordinator.

Heritage Ottawa 2011 Annual General Meeting at the Historic Ottawa Curling Club

Photos by: Jan Soetermans



Heritage Ottawa members were privileged to gather for this year's AGM at the historic Ottawa Curling club.



President David Flemming.



A view of the rinks.



One of the many splendid old photographs that adorn the walls of the Curling Club.



Members were intrigued by the history of the building.



Carolyn Quinn addresses the members.



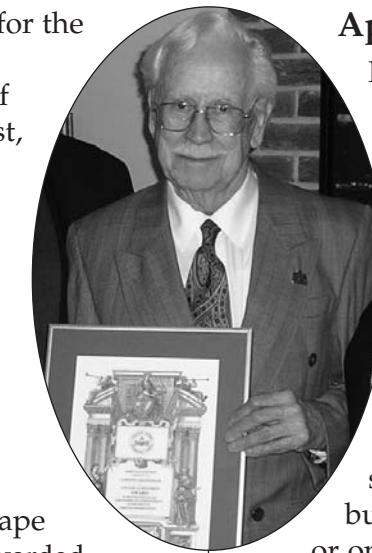
Mark Thompson Brandt spoke passionately about his vision for the Chaudière revitalization.



Mark describes Ottawa's "Watery History" to the members as part of his presentation.

The Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant

Heritage Ottawa invites applications for the Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant named in honour of the late Gordon Cullingham, journalist, broadcaster, editor and heritage activist.



Applications

Research grant applications should include an 800 word research proposal stating the nature of the research being proposed, how it meets the guidelines noted above, a brief resume of the applicant(s), a budget for the project, the names of two references who can attest to the applicant's qualifications, and an indication of the potential for publication arising out of the research.

Publication grant applications should also provide a detailed publishing budget and three draft copies of an article or one draft copy of a book or monograph being considered for publication.

Successful Applicants

The successful applicant will be notified of the award by January 31st, 2012.

Successful research grant applicants will agree to provide Heritage Ottawa with a copy of any written work resulting from the research funded by the Grant and will include the following credit line in any subsequent publication: "Research for this work was financed in part by a Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant awarded by Heritage Ottawa."

Successful publication grant applicants will provide proper credit in the publication consisting of the Heritage Ottawa logo and the credit line: "This publication received financial support from a Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant awarded by Heritage Ottawa." Successful publication grant applicants will also provide Heritage Ottawa with six copies of the final publication.

Previous Grants 2009 – \$2,000 grant towards the publication of: Gall, Quentin A *Walking Guide: Ottawa's Building and Monuments Stones* (Geological Association of Canada Miscellaneous Publication No. 7, 2009)

Guidelines

The grant program was created in 2008 and supports work on all aspects of the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage, such as its architectural history, biography, material and technological history, heritage conservation, cultural landscape and heritage planning. Grants can be awarded to assist research on an appropriate topic or to contribute to the publication of a book or article.

Financial Award

The yearly maximum individual grant will not exceed \$1,000 for research or \$2,000 towards the cost of publication. A three- person jury will review the applications and will make an appropriate recommendation to the Heritage Ottawa Board of Directors. If no application is deemed worthy of support in a given year, no grant will be awarded.

Submissions & Deadline

Three copies (an original and two photocopies) of each application should be submitted to:

Heritage Ottawa Eligibility
Cullingham Grant Committee 2 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1N 6E2

Application forms can be downloaded at www.heritageottawa.org or obtained by calling 613-230-8841. All applications must be received or postmarked no later than November 1st, 2011. Grants may be awarded to an individual, team or not-for-profit historical, heritage or community organization or to a publisher.

Heritage Ottawa Names Leslie Maitland New President

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Leslie Maitland was elected unanimously to serve as president of Heritage Ottawa at the Annual General Meeting in May. Leslie brings a lifetime of dedication to heritage preservation and is widely recognized for her impressive leadership qualities.

She replaces David Flemming, who, after nine years, chose not to stand as president but will continue to serve on the board.

Leslie has been a board member of Heritage Ottawa since 2009, with particular responsibility for organization of the Lecture Series. She has had a distinguished career as an architectural historian and heritage planner. After obtaining a Masters of Museology at the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum she joined the National Historic Sites Directorate of Parks Canada in 1977 and was involved in the designation of nearly 70 national historic sites. Currently she is a consultant in heritage planning.

Leslie is the author of five books, including, as co-author, the Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles, and she is a prolific writer on heritage matters in many articles and reviews. She has lectured on



heritage conservation in Canada and abroad, and she delivered the Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Lecture on the Rideau Convent Chapel in 2010.

In accepting the position, Ms Maitland joined with the board in paying tribute to David Flemming's energy, perseverance and effectiveness in working to save Ottawa's historic infrastructure and to raise public awareness of our built heritage.

"David inspires through his knowledge, sensitivity and dogged determination," she said, "and by the warmth and humour that draw in even detractors. David has been a great motivator, partly because he offers such support and confidence to those he has attracted to the heritage cause."

Leslie said she would continue Heritage Ottawa's active efforts to remind the city of its heritage commitments, especially in the re-design of Lansdowne Park. The Conservation Review Board recently found fully in favour of Heritage Ottawa's position that the City of Ottawa should not de-designate the Horticulture Building and move it to another location in Lansdowne Park – a case that was developed largely by Leslie Maitland.

Photo: Brigid Janssen

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Please add my contribution to the Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant \$ _____

Please, forward with payment to: HERITAGE OTTAWA, 2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6E2

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