



# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

*Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage*

Winter 2012 Volume 39, No. 1

## Towards a Proactive Heritage Approach: the 2011 Ottawa Heritage Forum

By Nancy Oakley

**O**n October 15, representatives from over a dozen Ottawa community associations gathered at St. Bartholomew's Church in New Edinburgh to take part in the 2011 Heritage Forum for Ottawa Communities. Organized jointly by Heritage Ottawa and the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA), the event explored how a proactive approach to heritage could be realized through collaboration and dialogue among Ottawa communities. The mix of presentations about heritage issues, including practical information, and wide-ranging discussion fostered both appetite and capacity for such an initiative.

The Forum revealed a dynamic state of affairs within our communities. Just as development and intensification issues are affecting many

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*“Apathy, lack of understanding and even outright disregard for heritage issues at City Hall are primary concerns.”*

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neighbourhoods, so too are many communities actively engaged in researching and promoting their history. The challenge in the coming years will be to increase the sharing of information among communities, to assist communities looking to recognize their heritage resources through designation, as well as to support the efforts of those who are working to protect the character and liveability of their neighbourhoods.

Discussion revealed several factors which negatively affect our current system of heritage conservation. Apathy, lack of understanding and even outright disregard for heritage issues at City Hall are primary concerns. Although several policies, guidelines and legislative direction exist to provide for the responsible management and conservation of our heritage resources, compliance with these mandates is lacking, and communities across Ottawa often find themselves fighting their own City on these concerns. Too often, proponents of heritage are seen as obstructionist and reactionary,



*Forum participants listen to panelists Linda Hoad and Jay Baltz*

Proactive Heritage Approach...

when they are simply fighting for the rules to be followed. Until City Council begins to take heritage issues more seriously – and realize the voting public will hold them accountable for such decisions – we cannot hope to realize an effective heritage conservation system, let alone a proactive approach that might see strategies such as the now-forgotten demolition-by-neglect policy approved and implemented.

City Council attitude is but one part of a larger picture. With almost 3000 designated properties and over 11,000 properties on the Heritage Reference List to manage, our three City Heritage Planners are kept extremely busy. The ability of our City to proactively engage in heritage activities – such as updating the Reference List, developing guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Statements, or extending designation to under-represented areas – is limited. With the attitude of City Council and the overextended resources of City staff, it is evident that the catalyst for a more dynamic and proactive approach to heritage conservation must originate instead from our communities.

Several key points were identified by Forum participants:

- Educating City Councillors on existing heritage policies and legislation to raise awareness and create political will for heritage conservation.
- The need for community associations to work with the City to update the Heritage Reference List.

- Concern was raised regarding the health of Advisory Committees at City Hall, such as the Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee. Recruitment to these committees has been put on hold until the City review of these committees is undertaken. There has been no recruitment for three years, and OBHAC has dwindled from 15 members to 7. *[Editor's note: Council has recently approved the appointment of new members to OBHAC and to the Accessibility Advisory Committee since both are provincially mandated. However, recruitment has not yet begun and OBHAC remains severely understaffed.]*
- We need a diversity of voices, as well as new voices for heritage issues: Councillors are tired of hearing from 'the usual gang', and often pay more attention to messages from their own constituents.

More information and a detailed report of the event are now available on the Heritage Ottawa website ([www.heritageottawa.org](http://www.heritageottawa.org)). As a follow up in the New Year, we will be organizing an information workshop for Ottawa communities interested in designation. A resounding success, the 2011 Heritage Forum for Ottawa Communities was a firm and first step in fostering a productive, City-wide dialogue on heritage issues and adopting a more collaborative and proactive approach to heritage conservation in Ottawa. ♦

*Nancy Oakley is a Board Member and Coordinator of Heritage Ottawa's Heritage Keeper Program. She is also a graduate student in the Heritage Conservation Program at Carleton University.*

From the President....



Welcome to 2012!

2011 was an extremely busy year for Heritage Ottawa: our walking tour season was the most successful yet, which Rick Belliveau reports on in this issue of the Newsletter. The lecture series for 2011-2012 is well underway. No doubt many of you enjoyed the January lecture, Anthony Leaning's wonderful presentation on the rehabilitation of the Old Ottawa South Fire Station. After that, look out for Heritage Ottawa's Seventh Annual Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture in February. Designer/developer Ian Johns and author Sarah Jennings will be speaking about the restoration of the Jeanne d'Arc Institute on Sussex Drive, as part of Heritage Ottawa's contribution to Heritage Week. Please see full details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We're busy on activities for 2012 right now. Planning is underway for the 2012 walking tour season, and for the 2012-2013 lecture season. Work will continue in 2012 on our publications program. We are looking at two publications, one a walking tour of the Glebe by long-time Glebe resident and former Heritage Ottawa board member, John McLeod; and a profile of the work of Ottawa architect Werner Noffke, by architectural historian Shannon Ricketts, illustrated by Ottawa photographer Brian Glenn. Our big event this year will be the April conference that will mark the 50th anniversary of the expropriations at LeBreton Flats. We'll have more information on that closer to the time.

Advocacy issues continue for Heritage Ottawa. We have spoken out in support of the development of a Heritage Conservation District for Briarcliffe, an enclave of Modernist houses in a Modernist landscape in Rothwell Heights. If this heritage conservation district is created, this will be the most modern of any such designation in the province, a really pioneering effort in heritage conservation. We continue to support the heritage conservation district for the Glebe, although that will be going to the Ontario Municipal Board in 2012. In support of

advocacy efforts, we offered our Heritage Keepers a training session in December of last year; our network of Heritage Keepers continues to grow, and puts us in a much better position to respond to issues that might affect heritage.

Last November, Heritage Ottawa asked the City to identify funds in order to put the Heritage Reference List online and make it searchable and accessible to the citizens of Ottawa. The City, however, was not forthcoming, citing its efforts to keep a rein on expenses. Fair enough. Nevertheless, Heritage Ottawa is considering a pilot project that might make part of the list accessible online. The value of having the List accessible to the citizens of Ottawa, is so that we can better understand what is considered of heritage interest, what has been demolished or utterly altered since the list was developed, or what is indeed missing from the list and should be on it. The idea is to put this significant tool for heritage conservation in the hands of the citizens who need it, so that we can respond to heritage issues in a more proactive way. ♦

*Leslie Maitland, President*

Gatineau Valley Historical Society

Société historique de la Vallée de la Gatineau

Heritage Ottawa congratulates the Gatineau Valley Historical Society/Société historique de la Vallée de la Gatineau as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2012.

The Society has put together an ambitious calendar of events for 2012 which is focused on celebrating the Society's roots by connecting with some of the historic places, contributors, and organizations that have donated their time and expertise to make GVHS a viable and significant local institution since 1962.

For more information on the GVHS and its events: [www.gvhs.ca](http://www.gvhs.ca).

Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

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

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



# Heritage Ottawa's Walking Tours – Another Record Year

By Richard Belliveau

The 2011 walking tour season for Heritage Ottawa finished as another boom year. Over the course of the summer and autumn, we organized and conducted 13 different tours, and attracted a total paying participation of 550 persons, of whom nearly half were non-members. This surpasses last year's record total of 479 walkers for 14 walking tours (there were a couple of weather challenges in 2010) and is a new record.

One of the big draws this year was the new walk conducted by David Jeanes through Lowertown East, and we hope to repeat that tour in the coming year.



Ruisseau de la Brasserie. Hull Water Works.

We also offered a walk conducted in French by Michel Prévost in the Ruisseau de la Brasserie area of Gatineau (Hull sector), in an effort to make Heritage Ottawa more representative of our community.

Traditional favourites such as the walks through the neighbourhoods of Rockcliffe Park, Sandy Hill, Old Ottawa South and Hintonburg were, as usual, popular, fun and well attended.

In addition to the more than \$4,000 in revenue

generated, these walks have proved to be excellent occasions to show non-members what we care about in Ottawa's heritage houses and buildings, and why we care. The enthusiasm of our volunteer tour leaders has been rewarded by dozens of new memberships for Heritage Ottawa. Thank you all for your support of this activity which very concretely demonstrates both the interest in and concern of the people of Ottawa for our unique built heritage. ♦

*Richard Belliveau is a member of the Board of Heritage Ottawa and planner of the Walking Tour program.*



Lowertown East. Macdonald Gardens.

Photo: David Jeanes

Photo: Bruce Elliott



Old Ottawa South. Benjamin Hunt House.

Photo: David Jeanes

# Remembering LeBreton Flats – 50 Years Later

By Natascha Morrison

On April 19, 1962, residents of LeBreton Flats received a letter notifying them that the National Capital Commission (NCC) had expropriated their property. Impetus for the project came from the Greber Plan. As part of commemorative efforts to honour Second World War veterans, Greber was tasked with turning Ottawa into a national capital fitting for all Canadians. As one of Ottawa's largest urban renewal projects, by the end of 1965 the area known as "The Flats" had been completely razed. The 1962 expropriation and subsequent demolition and dereliction changed the cultural and physical landscape of LeBreton Flats.

As 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the expropriation of LeBreton Flats, and in response to recent developments in the area, a volunteer steering committee comprised of Nancy Oakley, MacKenzie Kimm, Kaitlin Wainwright, Natascha Morrison and Maureen Mahoney, with the help of student volunteers from Carleton University, are developing a series of projects to recognize and commemorate the built and social heritage of the LeBreton Flats landscape.

The projects include:

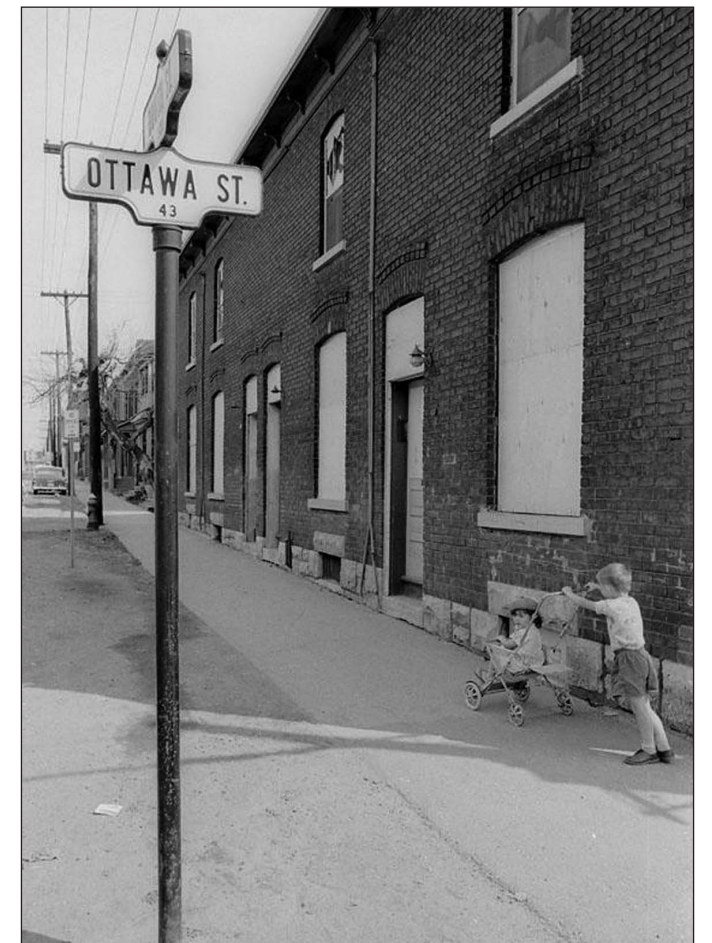
- A commemorative public event on April 19, 2012
- A virtual exhibit
- A special series of Walking Tours to be hosted during the spring and summer of 2012

Our goals include raising awareness of the impact of past, present and future planning and development decisions in Ottawa, engaging Ottawa's youth with their local heritage, and helping communities explore the history of their neighbourhoods and heritage resources.

For more information, including our contact information and bios, please visit: [http://heritageottawa.org/en/heritage\\_lebreton\\_flats\\_commemorating\\_1962\\_expropriation](http://heritageottawa.org/en/heritage_lebreton_flats_commemorating_1962_expropriation). ♦

*Natascha Morrison is a graduate of Carleton University's Public History Masters Program and a member of the LeBreton Flats Steering Committee.*

*At this time, the Research Team, lead by Maureen Mahoney and MacKenzie Kimm, are looking for individuals with a personal connection to LeBreton Flats who would like to tell their story. If you are interested please contact us at: [heritageontheflats@gmail.com](mailto:heritageontheflats@gmail.com)*



Child pushing a stroller down the street near LeBreton Flats.

Photo Credit: Ted Grant/Library and Archives Canada/e002713096



# Marian Heringer – Loss of a Heritage Ottawa Founder

With the death of Marian Heringer in December 2011, Heritage Ottawa has lost a long-time member and supporter. Marian Heringer and her husband were charter members of Heritage Ottawa in 1975, and were also involved in its precursor, the Heritage Committee. As well as serving as a member of the Board for many years, Marian was also a regular contributor to the Newsletter in the late 1990's.

Louisa Coates, President of Heritage Ottawa from 1991 to 1997 remembers:

“I met Marian in 1992 at a Heritage Ottawa Board meeting and was drawn to her warm personality and generosity. I can remember both Marian and Dick attending each meeting, both when I was a member and later president. Dick once quietly confessed that heritage buildings were not his first passion but that he wanted to get involved, because

of Marian. Marian was a tireless and enthusiastic volunteer who just seemed to make things a lot more fun. She took part in an all-day H.O. visioning exercise we held in 1994, and her energy and ideas contributed to the final strategic plan. She and Dick helped with fundraising and awareness-raising events including an auction of architectural drawings at the Jeanne d'Arc building on Sussex, at the AGM's, and at media rallies. A generous, gracious person, she will be sorely missed.”

Several Heritage Ottawa Board members who served with Marian recall fondly the home-made cookies she brought to meetings.

Heritage Ottawa acknowledges the many contributions of Marian Heringer, including her request that friends donate to Heritage Ottawa in her memory. ♦

## Jane’s Walk Ottawa 2012

By Leigh Thorpe

Saturday and Sunday May 5 and 6 2012 mark the fifth anniversary of Jane’s Walk in Ottawa. Jane’s Walk is a festival of walking tours that celebrates the ideas of Jane Jacobs on the livability and “usability” of cities. A pedestrian-focused event, Jane’s Walk improves urban literacy by offering insights into local history, planning, design, and civic engagement through the simple acts of walking, observing, and discussing. By offering participants a closer look at the city, Jane’s Walk stimulates fresh thinking about our urban environment and helps us identify and understand our common interests and the common good.

Jane’s Walk takes place simultaneously in more than eighty cities, making it a shared experience for people from across Canada and around the world. Last year, Jane’s Walk took place in forty cities

across Canada, more than 25 cities across the US, and at least fifteen cities across Europe, Asia, and Latin America, including Sao Paulo (Brazil), Wuhan (China), Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, and Guadalajara (Mexico).

Last year Jane’s Walk Ottawa offered 45 walking tours, with a total of nearly 2000 participants. Topics ranged from Urban Foraging and Edible Weeds to light rail transit in Ottawa, from the realities of getting around Ottawa in a wheelchair to the discoveries awaiting pedestrians along Bronson Ave. A typical Jane’s Walk Ottawa tour is given once during the weekend, takes about 1–1 1/2 hours, and covers 1–2 km. The walking tours are given by local volunteers who are eager to share their experience of our city. All the tours are free.



Barry Padolsky tour of architectural restorations in the Byward Market.

Jane’s Walk Ottawa is organized by a small group of enthusiastic volunteers, along with many individuals from the community and several sponsoring organizations, such as Heritage Ottawa, Museoparc Vanier, Tides Canada, Ottawa Kiosk, and our media sponsor, CBC Radio One. Jane’s Walk Ottawa is particularly grateful to Heritage Ottawa, which has been a sponsor since Jane’s Walk began in Ottawa in 2008.

Information on Jane's Walk Ottawa 2012 will be available on our website beginning in late March. You can access our site at [www.janeswalkottawa.ca](http://www.janeswalkottawa.ca) or through the links to Ottawa at the national Jane’s Walk site at [www.janeswalk.net](http://www.janeswalk.net). ♦

Leigh Thorpe is a member of the Ottawa Jane’s Walk Organizing Committee.

*We’ll be looking for volunteers to lead walks for the 2012 edition of Jane’s Walk Ottawa. If you would like to lead a walking tour, or if you would like more information about developing and leading a walk for Jane’s Walk, please contact the organizers to find out more. We usually start registration of walks the first week in April. You can reach us by email at [jane@janeswalkottawa.ca](mailto:jane@janeswalkottawa.ca) or by phone at 613-563-4922.*

# Ottawa's Heritage Hero: Sandy Smallwood, Andrex Inc.

By Leslie Maitland

A leader in heritage conservation for nearly 40 years, Sandy Smallwood has pioneered the purchase and restoration of many heritage properties in Ottawa. Sandy started to work on an older property while still at university in 1973. He had been shocked by the demolitions of heritage structures in the city. And literature inspired him as well: Mordecai Richler's Duddy Kravatz, who was seized by the idea of owning land, focussed Sandy's thinking on his own interests and priorities. He was struck by the gulf between the world of academe, and the "real" world. The restoration bug got hold of him, and as he says, you do it because you love it.

Many significant structures precious to Ottawa's built heritage survive and thrive today because of Sandy. These include: Windsor Arms Apartments, Strathcona Apartments, Panet House, Patterson House, Sir Sandford Fleming's Residence (Winterholme), Wallis House, and more recently, 190 Bronson, which is the new home of Heritage Canada. Sandy's support of heritage extends beyond his own projects, as well. He has been a long time supporter of Heritage Ottawa, and is a member of the Ontario Heritage Trust. Many people in the heritage community in Ottawa rely upon Sandy's advice and experiences, which he shares generously.

*“The restoration bug got hold of him, and as he says, you do it because you love it.”*

Sandy is frank about the significant challenges facing heritage conservation today. We are still struggling with the stigma that heritage buildings



Sandy Smallwood in the stair hall of Andrex House

pose nothing but problems, which drives away those who might be willing to take a risk at a restoration. As for those who do, we in the heritage field do not celebrate their achievements. Government is a problem on several levels. Despite fine words, legislation and policies, municipal, provincial and federal governments do not commit to heritage by inhabiting heritage buildings other than the ones they already own and are obliged to maintain. Furthermore, government subsidies for elements like replacement windows undermine heritage conservation; perfectly good windows end up in land fill sites, replaced by windows that will not last a century: they

Photo: Leslie Maitland, 2012

won't last thirty years! Rather than subsidies, government could support heritage conservation effectively through tax subsidies, as they do in the United States.

Sandy doesn't hesitate to point out the weaknesses of the heritage community. We need a more inclusive definition of heritage, one based on value to community. We need to build effective bridges with the environmental community to spread the message that the greenest building is the one that is already there, restored properly with as much of its original materials as possible. Yes, restoration of heritage buildings can be expensive: but it is an investment in a structure that will last for another hundred years, not something which can be said about modern construction. As well, we need to build bridges with the private sector, and we need to put government on notice that they should live up to their fine words. And as for the heritage community's own track record: "Put your money where your mouth is. Live in a heritage building. Put your business in a heritage building. Dine and shop in heritage buildings. And tell the owners why you shop there."

We should listen to what Sandy says. ♦

Leslie Maitland is the President of Heritage Ottawa.



Andrex House, 190 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa, ON

*(This article will also be published in the Spring edition of ACORN, the journal of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.)*

Photo: Elly Smallwood, 2011

## HERITAGE OTTAWA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT - BECOME A MEMBER

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Please, forward with payment to: **HERITAGE OTTAWA**, 2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6E2  
Tel: (613) 230-8841 Fax: (613) 564-4428 E-mail: [info@heritageottawa.org](mailto:info@heritageottawa.org)



# Reminder!

## Heritage Ottawa Lecture Series Continues

**Heritage Ottawa’s Seventh Annual Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture: Full Circle: Conservation and “Adaptive Use” in Restoring the Jeanne d’Arc Institute on Sussex Drive**

**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2012 – 7pm  
**Location:** Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St., corner of Laurier Ave. W.

Designer/developer Ian Johns and author Sarah Jennings recount their adventures in bringing new life to five historic Sussex Drive buildings through a private, subsidy-free development agreement with the National Capital Commission. This first leasehold project of its kind in Canada’s capital has taken buildings dating from Bytown’s earliest days

and the more recent Jeanne d’Arc Institute, between Clarence and York Streets, to form a commercial/residential development that provides a lively and thriving full city block on Ottawa’s “Mile of History”.

*This lecture will be in English.*

### The West Block Redux

**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 – 7pm  
**Location:** Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St., corner of Laurier Ave. W.

One of the triad of buildings which define Parliament Hill is about to undergo a major restoration and rehabilitation. An important component of the

West Block redesign is the covering of its courtyard with a glass roof, to allow the insertion of an interim House of Commons. Julia Gersovitz, a partner in the joint venture architectural team will discuss, the evolution of the project and describe how The Canadian Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada has influenced its design.

This lecture will be in English. Questions are welcome in either official language.



*This view of West Block shows some scaffolding at it’s centre already in place.*

### Parliament Hill: The Materials, the Methods, the Legends

**Date:** Wednesday, April 18, 2012 – 7pm  
**Location:** Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St., corner of Laurier Ave. W.

Master mason Bobby Watt takes us on a journey through time to explore the innermost workings of

the original building program for Canada’s three foremost Government buildings and the rebuilding of the Centre Block after the fire of 1916. The talk will cover present day renovations to the buildings and the conservation standards used to direct these restorations.

*This lecture will be in English...(and Scottish)*

# Rappel!

## Le Programme de conférences de Patrimoine Ottawa continue

**Patrimoine Ottawa présente sa septième conférence annuelle à la mémoire de Bob et Mary Anne Phillips:**

**Le cercle arrondi: La conservation et «l’adaptation» de l’Institut Jeanne d’Arc à la Promenade Sussex**

**Date :** Le jeudi 16 février 2012 – 19h  
L’Auditorium de la Bibliothèque publique d’Ottawa, 120, rue Metcalfe, à l’angle de l’avenue Laurier Ouest

Le concepteur/développeur Ian Johns et l’auteure Sarah Jennings raconteront leurs aventures quant à la revitalisation de cinq bâtiments historiques de la promenade Sussex, datant du début de l’époque Bytown, abritant désormais l’Académie Jeanne d’Arc. Ce projet a été accompli par un organisme privé, sans subventions, grâce à une entente de développement avec la Commission de la capitale nationale. Aujourd’hui, le développement commercial / résidentiel et particulièrement l’Institut, constitue un élément important de la zone vivante et florissante du « mille historique », situé entre les rues Clarence et York. Il s’agit du premier

contrat de bail à long terme de type « leasehold » dans la capitale nationale.  
*Cette conférence sera présentée en anglais.*

### Réfection de l’Édifice de l’Ouest

**Date :** Le mercredi 21 mars 2012 – 19h  
L’Auditorium de la Bibliothèque publique d’Ottawa, 120, rue Metcalfe, à l’angle de l’avenue Laurier Ouest

Un des bâtiments de la triade qui borde la Colline du Parlement est sur le point de subir des travaux de restauration majeurs. Un des éléments importants de la restructuration de l’Édifice de l’Ouest est l’ajout d’un toit de verre au dessus de la cour intérieure, afin de permettre l’insertion d’une Chambre des communes provisoire. Julia Gersovitz, partenaire de l’équipe d’architecte, discutera de l’influence des Normes et lignes directrices pour la conservation des lieux patrimoniaux au Canada sur le projet et de son évolution.  
Cette conférence sera présentée en anglais; veuillez noter qu’il est également possible de formuler des questions en français.

## Colline du Parlement: Les matériaux, les méthodes, les légendes

**Date :** Le mercredi 18 avril 2012 – 19h

L'Auditorium de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa, 120, rue Metcalfe, à l'angle de l'avenue Laurier Ouest

Le Maître maçon Bobby Watt nous guidera vers un voyage dans le temps, afin de nous faire découvrir

le programme de construction original de la triade architectural du gouvernement canadien, ainsi que le plan de reconstruction de l'Édifice du Centre, suite à l'incendie de 1916. L'entretien portera également sur les activités de réfections en cours actuellement sur la Colline et sur les normes de conservation à suivre lors de l'exécution de ces travaux.

*Cette conférence sera présentée en anglais... (et en écossais).*



Photo: Jan Soetermans

*An interesting perspective: Just some of the attention to detail inside Centre Block. Look at those floors!*

### The 7th Carleton Heritage Conservation Symposium

#### The Many Voices of Heritage

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Bronson Centre

211 Bronson Avenue

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

(registration at 8:30 am )

*\$40 including refreshments, lunch and reception following the symposium*

The Symposium brings together students and professionals within the heritage conservation field in Canada to explore the chosen theme.

Speakers, the event schedule and registration information are available on the Carleton University website at: <http://www2.carleton.ca/heritage-conservation-symposium/>.

### Clemow Estate East Conservation District is now in force!

One appeal was made to the Ontario Municipal Board. This appeal was settled through mediation and the by-law creating the Conservation District is now in effect.