



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

Spring 2012 Volume 39, No. 2

Missing heritage plaque returns home to the "Hollywood Parade"

By William R. Price

Thanks to the sharp eyes of Jean-Marc Moreau, an employee of the Montreal recycling firm Arté, a City of Ottawa heritage plaque missing from the heritage-designated "Hollywood Parade" row houses on James Street, has found its way back where it belongs. Jean-Marc recognized the plaque as not being a normal piece of scrap bronze and retrieved it for further examination. He phoned his friend and Ottawa resident, Mario Larochelle, to help find where in Ottawa the plaque had come from and how it could be returned to its proper location.

Their quick search on the internet turned up Heritage Ottawa's name in an article on the "Hollywood Parade" and they reasonably assumed that the plaque may have been installed by Heritage Ottawa. Mario called Heritage Ottawa and left a message asking if we would take possession of the plaque. Needless to say, we drove right over to meet with Mario and hear the story of its discovery in Montreal and return to Ottawa. It was in fact a City of Ottawa French heritage plaque (in earlier years, a separate English and



City of Ottawa Heritage Planner, Lesley Collins, taking delivery from Heritage Ottawa of the missing heritage plaque.

French plaque were mounted on designated buildings). We expressed our gratitude for their remarkable efforts to return the plaque and we agreed to deliver it to the City of Ottawa Heritage Planners to arrange for its re-installation alongside the English plaque still mounted to the wall of the "Hollywood Parade".

Later that day, we dropped off the plaque to Lesley Collins, Heritage Planner, who gratefully accepted it on behalf of the City and promised that it would be cleaned and re-installed as soon as possible. Later that day Lesley phoned Heritage Ottawa to advise that both Jean-Marc Moreau in Montreal and Mario Larochelle in Ottawa will be receiving a personal letter from City of Ottawa

Mayor Jim Watson praising them for their high standard of citizenship.

Note to owners of heritage-designated buildings – please inform Heritage Services at the City of Ottawa if your plaque is missing so that they can take appropriate action. ♦



"Hollywood Parade", designed and built in 1892 on James Street by James Corry.

William R. Price is a member and Secretary of the Board of Heritage Ottawa.

Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant Awarded to Andrew Elliott

On Heritage Day, February 21 2012, Heritage Ottawa President Leslie Maitland presented the Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant to Glebe resident and heritage advocate Andrew Elliott for his research proposal on built heritage in the Glebe. Andrew Elliott is an archivist and has just completed a secondment at the Canadian Register of Historic Places at Parks Canada. He is a frequent contributor on heritage issues for the *Glebe Report* and the *Peterborough Examiner*.



Janet Irwin, the widow of the late Gordon Cullingham, Leslie Maitland, President of Heritage Ottawa, Andrew Elliott, Lynn Armstrong.

The Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant is named in honour of the late Gordon Cullingham, journalist, broadcaster, editor and heritage activist. The grant program was created by Heritage Ottawa in 2008 and supports work on all aspects of the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage, such as 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.

Andrew Elliott's proposal involves research and house histories for some of the 135 buildings along the former ceremonial route designed by the Ottawa Improvement Commission in the early 20th century which crossed the Glebe along Monkland and Clemow Avenues between the Canal and Bronson Avenue. The work will be undertaken by Andrew Elliott who will be

assisted by members of the Glebe Community Association Heritage Committee including Lynn Armstrong, a specialist in landscape architecture. Lynn Armstrong's research will focus on the creation of the landscaped boulevards of Clemow and Monkland Avenues, the design and building of the Rideau Canal Driveway (now Queen Elizabeth Drive) and the Patterson Creek Parks (including Central Park east and west of Bank Street) by the Ottawa Improvement

Commission in the early 1900s. Heritage Ottawa is confident that the information gathered will be a major contribution to knowledge of the built heritage of this important and unique part of the City.

This research will contribute to a detailed understanding of the homes, their owners and residents, their architects and architectural styles and of the history of property development in this important section of Ottawa. Mr. Elliott hopes to involve owners in the research, and in doing so, will try to build a sense of pride and interest in protecting the Glebe's heritage streetscapes, parks and landscapes for future generations.

An example of the results of Andrew Elliott's research was recently published in the *Glebe Report*: http://www.glebereport.ca/Issues/2012/APRIL_2012_GR_LOW_RES.pdf page 10 ♦

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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

A New Heritage Ally – IODE Laurentian Chapter

By Janet Uren

On June 8 and 9, when an historic house tour of Sandy Hill opens doors to a fascinating old neighbourhood, heritage in Ottawa will gain a new ally.

It's a marriage made in heaven – heritage and one of Ottawa's oldest charitable organizations. The Laurentian Chapter of the IODE, producer for over half a century of an annual House & Garden Tour, is something of a heritage asset in itself.

This branch of a national women's service group was created 106 years ago and has deep roots in Old Ottawa. Even today, Laurentian's membership includes descendants of such Ottawa luminaries as lumber baron John Rudolphus Booth.

Laurentian is the oldest of five Ottawa chapters of the IODE. In 1910, Laurentian donated \$17,000 to build and furnish a tuberculosis sanatorium (later the Royal Ottawa Hospital). Recently, when the hospital was rebuilt, the chapter contributed the same amount (this time, it was only enough to furnish a single room). The group's mandate is to raise funds that go to education and community service. In 2012, funds from the House & Garden Tour will go mainly to Nelson House, a shelter for abused women.

In 1961, Laurentian organized the city's very first house tour. There are a number of such tours today, but Laurentian's is the oldest at 50 years and counting. As the chapter's central fund-raising event, the tour has allowed Laurentian to provide over half a million dollars in support to various individuals and institutions in the past 30 years alone – everything from wheelchairs for the disabled to books for Aboriginal school children.

In the lead-up to its 50th anniversary of the tour, Laurentian took a long, hard look at its event and sought a relevant theme and a new alliance to help focus the celebratory tour and attract a new audience. One of the members stood up and pointed to the long history of the chapter in Ottawa. Why not build on that strength, she asked, by allying Laurentian with the heritage community in its struggle to build awareness of precious heritage assets in the city. The popularity of heritage-themed

walking tours in Ottawa – focusing on the exterior of houses only – was a sign, surely, that a heritage-themed house tour would find a ready market in Ottawa.

The introduction of heritage as a theme for the

anniversary year in 2011 was accompanied by another significant change – neighbourhood focus. For the 50th tour, Laurentian opted to join forces with the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) and, instead of recruiting properties citywide, to focus the tour on a single old village on the eastern banks of the Rideau River. The chapter presented the houses, as always, while the community provided walking tours and lemonade stands.

The one-day tour was a success. Participation grew by a modest 20 percent, but the response of the ticket-holders to the new format was warmly



Besserer House, the oldest house in Sandy Hill, built by Louis-Théodore Besserer in the mid-19th century, seen here with historic plaques in view.

Photos: Jan Soetermans



Besserer House, from the street front view. Notice the sloping stone wall along King Edward Avenue.

approving. Cars – those useful but intrusive machines that have transformed the streets of Ottawa in the past century – were parked early, and people took to the streets on foot and in rickshaws. All through that long and sunny June day, crowds of people strolled the streets, visibly relaxed and curious.

New Edinburgh contributed to the program, not only by helping Laurentian to secure houses but also by organizing walking tours and setting up old-fashioned lemonade stands. They also took part in a double cake-cutting ceremony where the knife was wielded by Her Excellency Sharon Johnston, wife of the Governor General.

One of the cakes belonged to New Edinburgh, which had a birthday of its own to celebrate in 2011. Just as Laurentian marked the 50th year of its annual House & Garden Tour, the neighbourhood celebrated the 10th anniversary of its designation as a Heritage Conservation District (HCD).

Since 2001, approximately half of the residential part of New Edinburgh has supposedly been protected as an HCD, with guidelines in place to protect the essential character of this largely 19th-century village.

One of the strategies of the community has been to raise awareness of the history and heritage value of this extraordinary survival of a 19th-century village. The Laurentian Chapter tour fell right into place among NECA's educational programs. As a result of this alliance, some 500 people came into the community and spent the best part of a day there, visiting five houses and going home with information and impressions that may well help to shift the political wind in support of heritage.

As for Laurentian, there were lessons learned last year, but the shift in direction was clearly successful enough to encourage a second attempt at a district and heritage focus. In 2012, the chapter has chosen the wonderful old neighbourhood of Sandy Hill as the target community. The tour has expanded to two days – Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9 – and there are 13 featured dwellings or institutions

on the tour, including Besserer House (Sandy Hill's oldest surviving house), Wallis House (the 1873 Protestant Hospital, now renovated as luxury condos) and even an example of modern infill south of Laurier.

When it comes to heritage, content matters. As well as opening doors into old houses, Laurentian has invited a number of expert interpreters to join chapter volunteers in providing information about the properties. The descendants of Louis-Théodore Besserer will be on hand at the Besserer House with

family mementos and photographs, along with historian Michel Prévost, archivist at the University of Ottawa. Sandy Smallwood, heritage-minded renovator of Wallis House, will attend to chat with visitors. Senator Landon Pearson, daughter-in-law of Lester Pearson, will spend some time at the former home of Cairine Wilson – Canada's first female senator in the wake of the famous "Persons Case."

Richard Gervais, former president of Action Sandy Hill, who has led many successful heritage battles in

the neighbourhood, will be at home to visitors in his Edwardian terrace home.

Various local institutions have also weighed in to provide extra value. The Ottawa Little Theatre is poised to launch its hundredth season of community theatre, and its volunteers are standing by to conduct backstage tours of Canada's oldest existing amateur theatre. The audio-visual history of Sandy Hill, prepared by Carleton University history students, will be screened in the lobby of the theatre. Laurier House is offering free tours to Laurentian ticket-holders. The Cordon Bleu, which occupies the former home of railway promoter John Mather, has offered a special lunch deal on Saturday.

Individuals are also making a contribution. Sandy Hill resident Julian Armour – cellist and creator of the Music & Beyond Festival – will join the Chamber Players to present free mini-concerts all day long on both days at All Saints Church.



Wallis House, the one-time Protestant Hospital (1873), now renovated as luxury condos.

David Jeanes, Vice-President of Heritage Ottawa, will be presenting an illustrated talk on architect James Mather at the newly restored St. Alban's.

Judy Deegan, who lives in the venerable Strathcona Apartments, has conducted walking tours of Sandy Hill for 25 years. She is bringing her expertise to bear on the project as a volunteer in many aspects, notably in preparing a self-guided walking tour to enrich the experience of ticket-holders as they walk from featured house to featured house. Far from viewing the IODE House & Garden tour as competition, she is enthusiastic about the interest it will generate in the history and architecture of Sandy Hill – and in Heritage Ottawa's own tour of the neighbourhood on October 21st.

If all goes well in early June, the heritage tour will be repeated in other Ottawa neighbourhoods

in years to come, Heritage Ottawa will find itself with a new ally in the struggle to preserve built heritage, and IODE Laurentian Chapter will gain new supporters for the services it has delivered to the Ottawa community for well over a century.

Tickets for the House & Garden Tour (\$30) are available now by calling 613-613-842-5304, or visit the website for retail outlets: <http://laurentian.iode.ca/house-garden-tour-2012> ♦

Janet Uren is a professional writer, often specializing in historical projects, and she is the author of three books on local institutional history. She lives in a heritage house in New Edinburgh, is co-leader of the annual Heritage Ottawa walking tour and has recently joined the board of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance. She is also a member of IODE Laurentian Chapter.

Volunteers Needed

Doors Open June 2 – 3

Over 100 of the area's most architecturally interesting and historically significant buildings, many not normally open to the public.

Volunteers needed to guide visitors and provide information about buildings.

Orientation and sign-up sessions will be held May 15 or May 16 at City Hall, Honeywell Room, 6:30 pm.

Contact: daniele.hamonic@ottawa.ca

Heritage Conservation District Surveys – June 2012

The Heritage Resources Centre (HRC) at the University of Waterloo will partner with Heritage Ottawa and other local heritage organizations to undertake a province-wide research program to answer these questions:

Have Heritage Conservation Districts achieved the goals set out when they were designated?

Are residents/owners satisfied with the HCD process?

Have property values been affected?

Four Ottawa Heritage Conservation Districts will be surveyed this spring: Rockcliffe Park, New Edinburgh, Lowertown, and Centretown. These

HCDs are in areas under great pressure for intensification, demolition, and infill.

Heritage Ottawa will host a two-hour training session on Monday, June 4, 6 to 10 pm in the Court Room at Arts Court. The survey itself takes a few hours for each team of two, and should be completed by the end of June, since it is hard to find people to answer their doors after that. The final report is due in August.

If you are available in June and interested in this volunteer activity, please register for the training session at info@heritageottawa.org.

For further information: <http://www.env.uwaterloo.ca/research/hrc/projects/documents/HCDStudySUMMARYREPORT.pdf>

Heritage Ottawa Walking Tours June – October

Walk co-ordinators are needed to sell tour passes and memberships and to marshall the walkers.

Volunteers do not pay for the walk.

Contact: info@heritageottawa.org

Rideau Canal Festival August 3, 4, 5

Walking tour co-ordinators needed.

Contact: info@heritageottawa.org

From the President....



Busy Times for Heritage Ottawa!

As summer approaches, we can look back on a busy and successful winter season for Heritage Ottawa. Our lecture series featured wonderful presentations by Anthony Leaning on the rehabilitation of the Old Ottawa South Firehall, and by Ian Johns and Sarah Jennings on the restoration of the Jeanne d'Arc Institute. We ended the season with two back to back events: Robbie Watts entertained us with his stories about life as a stonemason (as well as a former police diver and singer/songwriter); and to cap off our season, the LeBreton Flats event, 'The Flats will Rise Again! / Les Plaines LeBreton Renaîtront'. This commemoration, organised by Nancy Oakley and her ready band of volunteers, was held at the Mill Street Brew Pub to a capacity crowd. Phil Jenkins, Dr. Roger Picton of Trent University, and Lori Thornton of the National Capital Commission gave excellent presentations on the past, present and future of LeBreton Flats: the place to watch in Ottawa for the years to come!

There have been several developments on advocacy as well. Planning issues in the City need resolution: the proposal to demolish 187 Lansdowne in the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District highlights the need to update that conservation district study, and the need to keep up with staffing in the heritage section at the City. The City has pencilled in addressing resourcing for the heritage planning section in the 2013 budget, and we'll want to make sure that the City follows through on that. To understand better how Heritage Conservation Districts are functioning in the province, the Heritage Resources Centre of the University of Waterloo is conducting surveys of four of Ottawa's HCDs this spring: Rockcliffe Park, New Edinburgh, Centretown and Lowertown, all areas under pressure for intensification and infill. Heritage Ottawa is helping with these surveys by finding volunteers and a venue for their orientation, and we will be very interested in the results of these surveys.

The question of demolition by neglect has arisen again, most egregiously by the demolition of the Groundwood Pulp Mill at the Chaudière Falls, a structure owned by Domtar but situated on federal lands. The Demolition by Neglect by-law got as far as a draft during the previous Council's time, but it has not been revived by the current Council.

And what would a Heritage Ottawa Newsletter be without mention of Lansdowne Park? The City is moving forward with the plans to relocate the Horticulture Building. In its new location, it will be used for community programming, serve as the entrance to the site from the underground parking garage, and will provide interpretive space on the history of Lansdowne Park.

Our publications program will be launching John McLeod's walking tour of the Glebe soon, and what a great guide it will be! And hopefully in the fall or over the winter we will be launching a publication on Ottawa architect Werner Noffke, written by Shannon Ricketts and illustrated by photographer Brian Glenn.

Summer is going to be busy, too. Heritage Ottawa is going to participate at Colonel By Day, and in the Rideau Canal Festival. Also by the time this goes to press, Heritage Ottawa members will have received their walking tour brochures, and another season of walks will soon be underway. You will notice some well-established favourites, and some new tours as well. So come on out and join us on Sunday afternoons, getting to know this great city better!

Heritage Ottawa members will also have received their invitations to the Heritage Ottawa Annual General Meeting, to be held at The Studio, Arts Court, Wednesday, May 23rd, at 7 pm. We are delighted to have architect and Heritage Ottawa Director Ken Elder give us a presentation on his collection of historic post cards, an inventory of images of Canada's built heritage for over the past century. Ken's collection is a treasure, and you will enjoy seeing a sample of this truly unique collection.

Looking forward to seeing you over the summer!

Leslie Maitland
President, Heritage Ottawa

The Flats Will Rise Again! Remembering LeBreton Flats

By Nancy Oakley

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the expropriation of LeBreton Flats, Heritage Ottawa hosted a public event on Thursday April 19th, at the newly-opened Mill St. Brewery and Pub. Over 200 members of the Ottawa community joined together to remember and celebrate the once-thriving community. April 19th was chosen as the date for the event, as it was this day fifty years ago that residents received the Notice of Expropriation in their mail.

On behalf of the Mayor, Diane Holmes, the Councillor for Somerset Ward, proclaimed the day LeBreton Flats Day and presented the proclamation to Heritage Ottawa. Our President, Leslie Maitland, then gave some opening remarks and introduced our three speakers.

Phil Jenkins, local Ottawa personality and author of *An Acre in Time* regaled us with some of the history and stories of the Flats. Dr. Roger Picton, an urban geographer at Trent University, discussed the history and imagining of the Flats through National Film Board work and planning documents, while Lori Thornton, senior planner with the National Capital Commission, closed the first part of the evening's events with a discussion of the planning past, present and future for the Flats.

Attendees were then invited to mingle and chat; a display of archaeological artefacts uncovered during recent excavations attracted lots of interest as did the food and drink available. Volunteers encouraged people to share their memories of the Flats, which will be incorporated in an ongoing research project.



Phil Jenkins entertains the capacity audience.

The event is part of a larger series of initiatives designed to share the history and stories of LeBreton Flats. A special tour of LeBreton Flats has been added to this year's line-up of Heritage Ottawa Walking Tours, and other activities have been planned including the creation of an online exhibit, and displays of related art and archaeological collections. ♦

Nancy Oakley is the Coordinator of the Heritage Keeper Program and a graduate student in Carleton University's Heritage Conservation Program.

HERITAGE OTTAWA WALKING TOURS

A full list of the summer and autumn 2012 program, including the names of guides and a short description of each walk, is available on the Heritage Ottawa website: http://heritageottawa.org/en/walking_tour_series



2011 walking tour of Lowertown East. Macdonald Gardens.

Mark Your Calendars!

Heritage Ottawa 2012 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday May 23, 2012, Arts Court Studio, 2nd Floor, 2 Daly Avenue

By the time you see this issue of the *Newsletter*, you should have received your personal invitation to attend the Heritage Ottawa 2012 Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held in the heritage-designated Arts Court building at 2 Daly Avenue in the Studio on the second floor.

Arts Court is the former Carleton County Courthouse designed by architect Robert Surtees in 1870 with later additions built in 1955 and 1964. The building has been important to Ottawa over the years, first as the centre of county government, and since 1985 as the centre of Ottawa's artistic community.

The AGM will commence at 7:00 PM and should conclude by 7:45 PM, to be followed by our special AGM lecture : "Assembling an Ottawa Postcard Collection".

Our special guest speaker for the evening will be Ken Elder, a respected conservation architect and director and architecture advisor for Heritage Ottawa since 2003. Ken graduated from the University of Toronto's School of Architecture in 1968. After four years with architectural firms in Toronto, he began his distinguished career in Ottawa with the Government of Canada in the Restoration Services Division, later the Heritage Conservation Division. Ken worked on many

significant heritage structures across Canada including, notably, as project architect for the reconstruction of the interior of the Rideau Street Convent within the new National Gallery of Canada. He retired in 2002 and continues to work as a consultant conservation architect.

Utilizing more than 100 postcards from his extensive collection, Ken will illustrate the range of Ottawa subjects available in this format. Based on his private research in collaboration with Ron McGuire, former Head of Research with the National Postal Museum, to catalogue all historic postcard images of Ottawa, he will demonstrate what historical information can be gleaned from a close study of the historical images and explain which City streets received coverage. Ken will conclude with information on where Ottawa postcards can be acquired.

We hope that you will be able to join us for a memorable evening. Guests of members are welcome and light refreshments will be served following the lecture.

Parking: Street parking where permitted and

pay parking at Rideau Centre, Congress Centre and at the parking garage across the street from Arts Court on Daly Avenue.

Information and RSVP at 613-230-8841 or info@heritageottawa.org. ♦



Just one of the 100 postcards from Ken Elder's extensive collection.