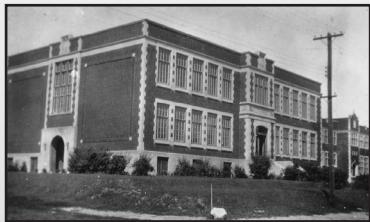




Collection of Bruce Elliott

## Heritage News Now

### Broadview School Designated



Designation of the oldest part of Broadview Public School was approved by City Council on March 25. Heritage Ottawa supported the designation of this early Nepean Township school, built in 1927 in the collegiate Gothic style. "Elements of the style found on Broadview Public School include the use of red brick with stone details, the symmetrical facades and the decorative stone panels." (Planning Staff Report to the Built Heritage Sub-Committee) Broadview is the only one of three early twentieth century schools built in this area still standing.

### 7 Bayview Road (City of Ottawa Workshops) Recommended for Designation



In late 2013, Council approved the adaptive reuse of this building as an Innovation Centre, which will house... See page 7 for more News Now.

Photo: City of Ottawa

# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

April 2015 Volume 42, No. 2

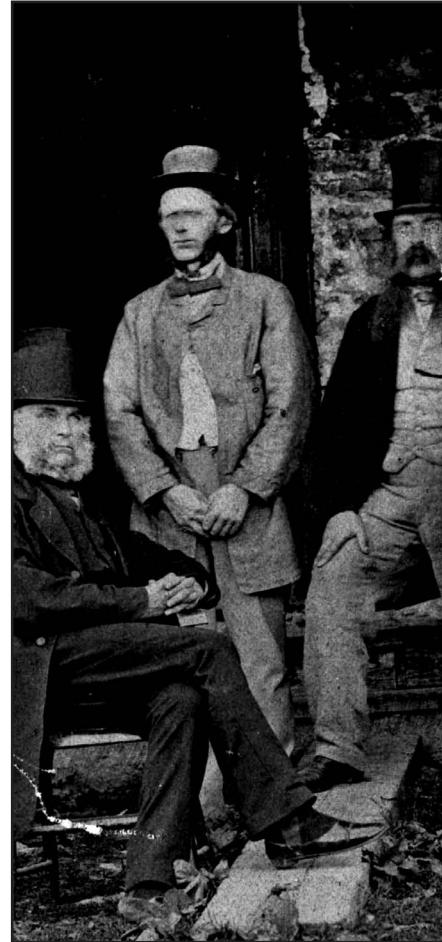
## John Bowes (1821-1894) – Public Works Architect

By Elisabeth V. Krug

### Career

Ottawa had been chosen by Queen Victoria to be the capital of the Province of Canada in 1857, to bring an end to the Quebec and Toronto quadrennial alternations. A competition to design and build the new Parliament buildings was launched by the Board of Public Works in 1859. The Board had both architectural and engineering tasks, including drafting of plans, cost estimates, supervision of construction, and maintenance of public buildings.

John Bowes, an architect from Kingston, who had been working for the Board of Works on the Kingston Custom House in 1859, came to Ottawa in the summer of 1861 to work as Measurer for the Parliament buildings, reporting to F.P. Rubidge, Assistant Engineer of Public Works and Samuel Keefer, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works. Unlike many of those involved in creating the official buildings for a growing country, Bowes was a Canadian-trained architect who made a solid career with the Department of Public Works.



*Detail of photo of the Public Works Staff on the Parliament Buildings Construction Site, c. 1863. L – R: F.P. Rubidge, Assistant Chief Engineer, John Bowes, J. H. Pattison.*

Photo: City of Ottawa Archives CA-0161

# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

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

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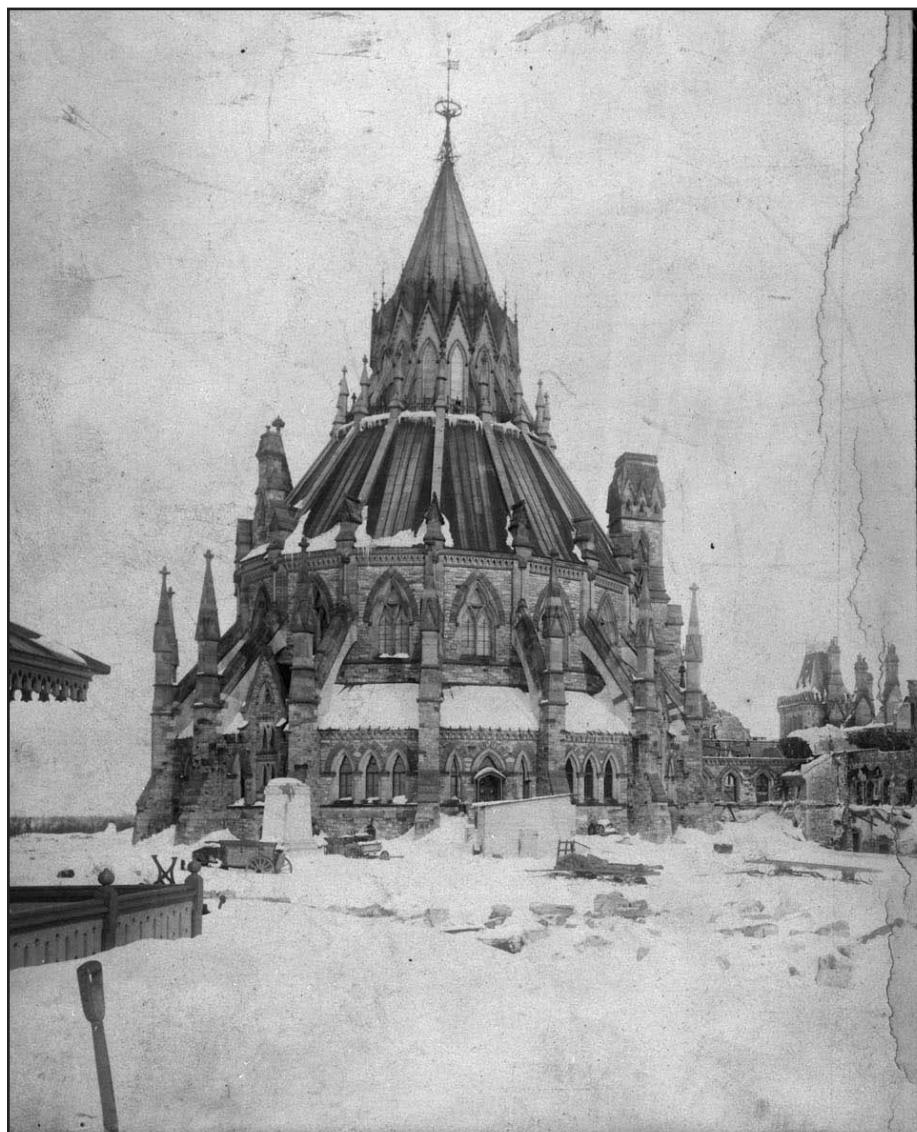
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*Heritage Ottawa acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Ministry of Culture*

## John Bowes (1821-1894) cont'd.



*Library of Parliament*

In the capacity of Measurer for the Parliament buildings, Bowes dealt with contractors such as Robert and Thomas McGreevy about plans, tools and equipment for the buildings. In 1862, he was called upon to testify at the Commission of Inquiry into excessive costs for construction of the Parliament buildings. The work of architects Fuller & Jones (Centre Block and Library) and Stent & Laver (East and West Block) was called into question. It was found that architects in Britain (such as these) did not practice the rigorous

measurements and calculations they considered more the responsibility of engineers, or "lowly" measurers. In addition the Department had not excavated the ground prior to drawing up contracts, and the bedrock proved deeper than estimated, thus labour was more expensive than anticipated.

Bowes testified at the enquiry that he made progress estimates for the architects, measured the foundations, etc. He testified that standards of measurement used in Ottawa



*The Library of Parliament - ceiling*

were different than those used in Toronto, where he had also worked. He noted that the Nepean stone facings differed in cost from Ottawa limestone facings, and described other discrepancies in “style of work or class of material,” adding that labour and materials were needed that were not included in the original plans and specifications.

The Commission of Inquiry recommended that new contracts be drawn up and offered to the original contractors, but that their “duties and allowances be distinctly defined.” Samuel Keefer, engineer and Deputy Commissioner of Public Works, was dismissed. When construction resumed in 1863, Thomas Fuller and Charles Baillargé were the joint



*Frederic Bell Smith. “Kingston, Sketches of the Penitentiary”, Canadian Illustrated News 1875, (Vol. XII no 13), 200-201.*

*In the capacity of Measurer for the Parliament buildings, Bowes dealt with contractors such as Robert and Thomas McGreevy about plans, tools and equipment for the buildings.*

architects for the buildings under the supervision of F.P. Rubidge. Thomas Fuller was laid off in June 1867. He moved to Albany to compete for the design of the New York State Legislative buildings, forming an alliance with former rival Augustus Laver, and remained there for fourteen years. He returned to Ottawa in 1881 to become Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works.

Fuller and Jones’ innovative design for the Library of Parliament was not completed until 1876. Although they had initially specified iron girders for the library dome, their recommendations had changed to stone ribs. In 1861 the Department specified that the dome be of iron construction. In 1872 Bowes produced plan drawings for the Library of Parliament’s dome, and he remained actively involved in various aspects of the realization of the construction of the Library until its completion in 1876.

In 1875 Bowes was named Architect in Charge of the penitentiary buildings, working under the Chief Architect Thomas Seaton Scott. He superintended various works at the Kingston and St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiaries where convict labour was considered part of the Christian rehabilitation process, and proper accommodation of the convicts was considered their just due while undergoing their punishment. *The Canadian Illustrated News of*

25 October 1875 featured an illustrated montage by Frederic Bell Smith, "Kingston, Sketches of the Penitentiary", which included an image of a lady and gentleman getting a guided tour of the model premises.

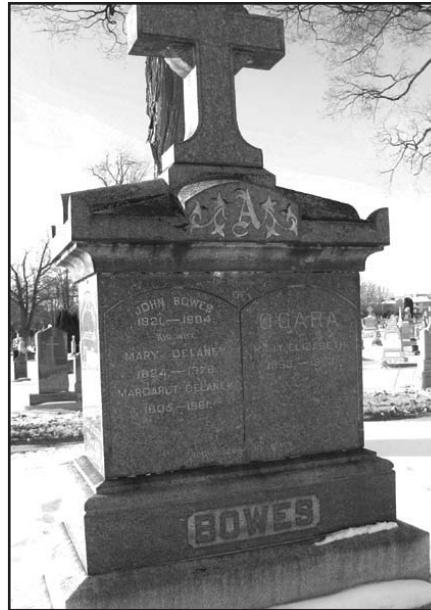
## Home and Family

John Bowes was a devout Irish Catholic, born in Kilkenny County Ireland in 1821, who had immigrated to Kingston Canada West with his parents Richard Bowes and Mary Downy before he was ten. His brother, Patrick, born in Kingston in 1830, became an Oblate brother, entering the novitiate in Bytown in 1851; he eventually served as architect/builder in the Catholic missions in the Canadian Northwest 1856 to 1908.

Like many other civil servants who had moved up from Quebec in anticipation of the new departmental buildings, Bowes chose Sandy Hill as his home. An Ottawa City Directory lists him living at 161 Daly in 1866-67. Bowes remained a resident of Sandy Hill for over 35 years.

John Bowes had married Mary Delaney in Kingston, where their

Photos: Elisabeth Krug



*John and Mary Bowes gravestone, Notre Dame Cemetery, Ottawa: In memory of JOHN BOWES/ 1821-1894/ HIS WIFE/ MARY DELANEY/ 1824-1878/ MARGARET DELANEY/ 1805-1881. Note the carved A for Architect just below the cross.*

eldest children were born. The 1871 Ottawa census records him as living in St. George's Ward (Sandy Hill) with his wife Mary, and 8 children: James, age 19 (later to become an architect, responsible for St. Brigid's church), Mary, 21, Julia, 17, Patrick



235 Wilbrod Street

15, Denis 13, Alexander, 13 (twin), Edward, 11 and Elizabeth 9. Their home was on Daly Street between Nelson and Gloucester (now Friel).

The two eldest daughters had already married - Margaret (1844-1917) to Martin O'Gara (1837-1899), the noted Ottawa Police Magistrate and lawyer, and Alice, born 1847, to Flannigan Rourke, or O'Rourke, of Troy, Michigan.

In addition to his work for the Public Works Department, Bowes undertook private commissions for a variety of residential and other buildings, often in partnership with his architect son James R. Bowes. (see *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, vol. 30, nos. 2 and 3 2003)

Ottawa City directories indicate that Bowes and his family moved to 235 Wilbrod Street prior to 1881. According to the 1891 census, this was a two and a half storey brick residence.

John Bowes died there September 8, 1894; the funeral took place September 10 at St. Joseph's church.

*Elisabeth V. Krug worked for the National Archives of Canada from 1980-2001. Now retired, she occasionally works as a researcher. She is the author of J. Bowes & Son, Architects in Ottawa, The Historical Society of Ottawa Bytown Pamphlet Series No. 73. (March 2008).*

## Sources

Carolyn A. Young. *The Glory of Ottawa, Canada's First Parliament Buildings*. Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1995. pp. 84-90.

Library and Archives Canada (LAC), RG 11 vol. 840, Series B 1 e, *Transcript of Proceedings*, 1862-1863, pp. 351-359.

Obituary of John Bowes, *Ottawa Free Press*, September 10, 1894.

# From the President

By *Leslie Maitland*



## Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site

Heritage Ottawa is working in alliance with Heritage Canada National Trust, the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital and others to push back against the proposal to alienate Field Number 1 (60 acres) of the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site of Canada. While the Civic Hospital certainly needs a new campus, the federal government, the largest landowner in the city, can be generous with other acceptable sites, without dismembering a national historic site and a significant agricultural research institution, whose research benefits our health and our economy.

Heritage Ottawa met with Dr. Kitts, the CEO of the Ottawa Hospital to share views and discuss options; the hospital's preference is still for the farm.

Heritage Ottawa asks how the federal government can give away a place that has been identified for its national significance, which belongs to us all, without any kind of consultation? It's your farm, too.

## News on the Built Heritage Sub-Committee

As I reported in the last *Newsletter*, the Built Heritage Sub-Committee (BHSC), chaired by Rockcliffe Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, and co-chaired by citizen-member Barry Padolsky, promised to revisit its mandate. As constituted by the previous City Council, the BHSC was only allowed to look at issues arising from the *Ontario Heritage Act*, whereas heritage issues are woven into many aspects of decision-making. This left our principal voice on heritage at City Hall silenced on situations which cried out for their comment, such as the development proposed at the corner of Laurier Avenue East and Friel Street in Sandy Hill.

On Friday, March 6th, the BHSC kept this commitment and met with Heritage Ottawa, community representatives and city staff to review their mandate. Heritage Ottawa had been campaigning for an expanded mandate, and we were supported in our understanding that the city has the liberty to define the mandate of this committee more globally. Mr. Bertrand Duclos, Heritage Outreach Consultant of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, wrote to the Heritage Canada AGORA-L site that "While MHCs [Municipal Heritage Committees] are established under the *Ontario Heritage Act* – other legislation (such as the *Planning Act*, *Building Code Act*, *Funerals, Burials and Cremation Services Act*, and *Environmental Assessment Act* for example) may have implications for heritage conservation. MHCs can ensure that the *Ontario Heritage Act* is considered within the context of other legislation." So rather than being limited to matters covered by the OHA,

it is expected that the BHSC will bring the perspective of heritage conservation to all applicable city decisions.

## Heritage Week was a success!

Heritage Day in the City of Ottawa was held on Tuesday, February 17th. Many of Ottawa's heritage organizations, including Heritage Ottawa, had displays and activities at Jean Piggott Hall at City Hall, and the event was well attended.

But that wasn't all for Heritage Week: the National Capital Commission and Heritage Ottawa co-hosted two events that week on the theme of future directions for heritage conservation in the national capital region. An evening public event featured presentations by Victoria Angel of ERA Architects, Catherine Naismith, architect and publisher of *Built Heritage News*, and Odile Roy, planner with the City of Quebec, and all gave perspectives on heritage that challenged our conventional approaches. The next day the NCC and HO sponsored an all-day workshop also on future directions. If we concluded anything, it was that the Town versus Crown dialogue on heritage in the national capital region has to be replaced by Town AND Crown. We are working on it!

## Conserving the Modern

Early in May, the National Capital Commission in partnership with others, including Heritage Ottawa, will be sponsoring a symposium on Conserving the Modern. Yes, the Modern of the mid-twentieth century is now historic – and what do we do about that? Speakers and themes are just now being worked out. Tentatively the dates are May 7th and 8th, so save the dates, and watch our website for further news.

Leslie Maitland  
President, Heritage Ottawa /  
Patrimoine Ottawa

*Editor's note: Heritage Ottawa asked the winners of this year's Gordon Cullingham Research Grant to write a brief description of the project to be funded. This is the first of two articles; the second article will appear in a later issue of the Newsletter.*

## **Exploring Ottawa – a new edition**

**By Harold Kalman**

As noted elsewhere in this issue, Heritage Ottawa has awarded a Gordon Cullingham Research Grant to Harold Kalman, Andrew Waldron, and Peter Coffman for *Exploring Ottawa*, an architectural guide to the Ottawa region. The grant will be used to retain a research assistant.

The new *Exploring Ottawa*, co-authored by Kalman and Waldron, will be a completely revised version of the 1983 book of that name (long out-of-print) by Harold Kalman, with photographs by John Roaf. The new edition will retain the original concept of organizing old and new buildings, structures, and landscapes into clear, self-guided tours of neighbourhoods and districts. Each entry will begin with a new colour photograph by Peter Coffman. The

book will comprise twelve chapters (tours), which will capture most of the historic cities of Ottawa and Hull, and the more significant parts of the new, amalgamated cities of Ottawa and Gatineau. The first half-dozen tours will focus on the city core, the remainder on the inner suburbs and more distant suburban and rural areas across the National Capital Region.

The highly readable text will describe the architecture of the featured places, as well as telling the stories of the people and events associated with them. The book will be an architectural, social, and political history – a balanced account of the development of the region. Buildings and other places will be selected for their design excellence, historical significance, and/or their importance



in representing broad social and architectural trends.

The three collaborators are Harold Kalman, author of *A History of Canadian Architecture*, *Exploring Vancouver* (4 editions), and *Heritage Planning: Principles and Process*; Andrew Waldron, an architectural historian employed by Parks Canada and acting superintendent for Ontario East, and a past-president of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada; and Peter Coffman, a professional architectural photographer, assistant professor in the history and theory of architecture at Carleton University, and president of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada.

*Harold Kalman is an author, architectural historian and a heritage planner.*



*Linda Dicairé's January Lecture on the NCC Parkway System.*

# Heritage Ottawa Awards Research Grants

## (Tuesday, February 17, 2015)

By David B. Flemming

Heritage Ottawa celebrated Heritage Day at Ottawa City Hall on February 17th by awarding two \$1000 Gordon Cullingham Research Grants, one to Stephen Jarrett and another to a group consisting of Harold Kalman, Andrew Waldron and Peter Coffman.

The grants are awarded annually in honor of the late Gordon Cullingham, journalist, broadcaster, editor and heritage activist to encourage research on Ottawa's built heritage. The winners of the two awards were selected from among six applicants for this year's grant.

Mr. Jarrett's research grant will be used to undertake historical and archaeological research on the

*"Heritage Ottawa is pleased to support projects such as these in anticipation of Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations in 2017,"*

former site of the mid-late 19th century W.H. Berry Malt House and Brewery in the west end of Ottawa. The applicant hopes to display the results of the project at Pinhey's Point National Historic Site, one of Ottawa's municipal museums.

The group led by Harold Kalman will use their grant to provide additional research for an expanded

edition of the 1983 book *Exploring Ottawa*. The new edition will contain new architectural tours to cover much of the expanded area of the City as a result of the 2001 amalgamation.

"These two projects will broaden our appreciation of Ottawa's industrial and architectural history," said Heritage Ottawa President, Leslie Maitland. "Heritage Ottawa is pleased to support projects such as these in anticipation of Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations in 2017," she added.

## News Now Cont'd.

### 7 Bayview Road (City of Ottawa Workshops) Recommended for Designation cont'd

...Invest Ottawa and an expanded business acceleration and incubation function. The proposed designation will ensure that the heritage character of this building will be retained.

"The City of Ottawa Workshops is a rare Ottawa example of an industrial building influenced by the Modern style .... [and] serves as an important historical reminder of the former industrial character of the Bayview area." (Planning Staff Report to the Built Heritage Sub-Committee).

### Annual General Meeting Coming Soon

Please note your invitation to Heritage Ottawa's 2015 AGM in this newsletter and mark May 28 in your calendar.

As is our tradition, the AGM features an interesting speaker and light refreshments in a congenial location.



Left to right: Stephen Jarrett, Heritage Ottawa President Leslie Maitland, Janet Irwin, wife of the late Gordon Cullingham, Peter Coffman and Andrew Waldron

# Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Heritage Forum

Plans for this year's heritage forum, jointly sponsored by Heritage Ottawa and the Pinhey's Point Foundation, are well under way. This one day forum on the theme of rural and suburban heritage in Ottawa will be held on Saturday the 26th of September at the church hall of St. John's Anglican Church South March. The church and its manse were constructed in 1839-40, so the venue promises to be inspiring.

We are pleased to announce that Bruce Elliott has agreed to be the keynote speaker and to lead a brief walking tour nearby which will highlight some successful adaptive reuses.

Volunteers are surveying organizations and community groups outside the Greenbelt about the heritage issues they face as well



*Loyal Orange Lodge 338 South March  
Now the office of architect Ralph Vandenberg, 160 Flamborough Way*

as any opportunities and successful strategies they are aware of. The responses to the survey will guide

the final selection of topics and speakers for the forum.

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided for a modest cost. We hope that the participants will share their experiences and perspectives, as well as information about completed or ongoing projects, publications or other material. This forum, a first for Heritage Ottawa outside the 'old' City of Ottawa, will provide a template for future forums in other areas of Ottawa's rural and suburban wards.

Please watch our website for further information about the forum and consider joining us on September 26th for this important heritage event.



*St John's Anglican Church South March 8 June 1925*