



# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

**Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage**

September 2015 Volume 42, No. 3

## Heritage News Now

### Village of Richmond to Celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Richmond was surveyed in 1818, for the soldiers who cut the Richmond Road from Lebreton Flats to Richmond. Richmond today is currently surrounded by farmed fields which will be consumed one day by new subdivisions that are already in the planning stages. New subdivisions beckon city folk to move out to the country, and with them comes shopping centres and other shops built to sustain the influx. Richmond's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018 is approaching and this is the time to celebrate its heritage before all is lost.



There is a committee of volunteers of the Richmond Village Community Association which is making plans for the event. Hopefully the City of Ottawa will assist in the celebrations as well. The next committee meeting will be held at the Goulbourn Museum, 7 pm on October 23, 2015.

For more information on the celebration check out this webpage from time to time, as it will be updated as plans move forward: [http://www.richmondvillage.ca/2018\\_committee/](http://www.richmondvillage.ca/2018_committee/)

*Karen Prytula, Heritage Ottawa board member and Heritage Keeper for Goulbourn Township*

## *Special Issue: Ottawa's Rural and Suburban Heritage*

# Heritage Ottawa and the Pinhey's Point Foundation Welcome You to South March

*By Bruce S. Elliott*

Heritage Ottawa's 2015 Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Heritage Forum, the first to focus on rural and suburban issues, is hosted by the Pinhey's Point Foundation. This is an all-day event that takes place on Saturday, September 26 at St John's Anglican Church at 325 Sandhill Road in South March. St John's is a heritage designated building with historic cemetery. There will be presentations on a variety of subjects, lunch-time tours, exhibits, and an optional bus tour of Beaverbrook at the end of the day. This day of events in and around South March is intended as a mutual learning exercise, an opportunity to raise issues and discuss problems, and explore examples and best practices.

As a crossroads hamlet now flanked by new subdivisions, South March exemplifies many of the challenges facing our rural communities. It has some brilliant public and private sector examples of the adaptive reuse of heritage structures. It also has experienced regrettable losses.

But the failures are as instructive as the successes. It is home to a community-conscious architectural partnership, Vandenberg & Wildeboer, who will speak about their village and rural infill work. And South March is only seven minutes north of renowned developer William Teron's landmark Beaverbrook subdivision (the first neighbourhood of his early 1960s Kanata new town), currently seeking heritage conservation district status as a way of preserving its distinctive character and closeness to nature.

While our rural communities are facing development pressures as suburban growth proceeds apace, existing suburbs struggle to preserve streetscapes and low-rise buildings of heritage character in the face of intensification pressures that all too often conflict with the ideals of the National Trust for Canada's traditional main street program. The demolition last year of the remains of the 1863 McMurtry tannery building reminded us that key elements of the provincial

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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*

## South March cont'd.

heritage toolkit, such as the City's heritage reference list, have not caught up with the expanded boundaries of 2001.

The event runs from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Parking at St. John's Anglican is free. The church can also be reached by public transit on OC Transpo Route # 93. Event space is limited so pre-registration is required. The registration fee is \$20.00 per person, which includes a catered lunch and refreshments during the day. You can pre-register for the Heritage Forum online using Heritage Ottawa's website donation page to make a \$20 payment to Heritage Ottawa via Paypal. Please enter "Heritage Forum" in the donation details area. (Please note that charitable receipts will not be issued for the \$20 Heritage Forum

Registration fee). You can also mail a cheque with "Heritage Forum" in the subject line, along with your name, address, email and/or telephone number: Heritage Ottawa, 2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1N 6E2. For more information, please contact [info@heritageottawa.org](mailto:info@heritageottawa.org), or call 613-230-8841. We look forward to seeing you on September 26!

After the Beaverbrook tour, we suggest you dine in one of the local restaurants. Or you may choose to visit the Carp Fair, where country performers George Canyon and opening act Blackwell are on stage at 8:00 pm.

*Bruce S. Elliott is a professor at Carleton University and author of many studies on Ottawa and area history.*

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## The Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site of Canada

*By Leslie Maitland*

No discussion of Ottawa's rural heritage would be complete without a few words about the city's – and the nation's – most significant rural property, the Central Experimental Farm (CEF). Established in 1886 under the government of Sir John A. Macdonald, the CEF has been and remains an internationally significant agricultural research institution, whose many discoveries have significantly advanced food security for Canadians, and underpinned our role as an agricultural powerhouse in the world. The farm was once on the outskirts of tiny, nineteenth century Ottawa, but now the city has grown out to surround it. Which in some respects, has bolstered the Farm's scientific usefulness: being isolated from any other farmland, experiments can be conducted there without fear of

cross-contamination with other farms. This piece of land is the best-known and best-studied agricultural land in Canada (and possibly the world).

So what is Ottawa going to do with this legacy? There is a proposal to carve off sixty acres (fully 10 percent of the lands available for research) and pave it over with a hospital. Hospitals are good things, but other sites are available.

Heritage Ottawa has joined with others to oppose this damage to a national historic site and internationally significant research institution.

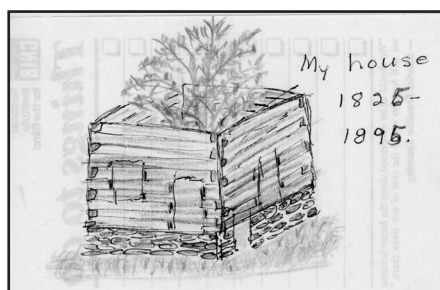
For more on the CEF, see the News Section of Heritage Ottawa's website.

*Leslie Maitland  
Past-President, Heritage Ottawa*

# Celebrating Our Rural Heritage: the Hobbs Farm and the Anderson Farm

By Karen Prytula

Rural settlement in Goulbourn Township, now part of Ottawa began around 1818 when the soldiers who had fought in the War of 1812 were disbanded. The British government offered the soldiers free grants of land if they agreed to settle in Upper-Canada, including Goulbourn Township. The soldiers settled on their land, first building fairly primitive huts to protect themselves from the elements while they cleared land and planted crops. A more substantial structure, such as a log home, followed later.



*The future home of Maude Caldwell Hobbs' house, drawn on the backside of a piece of used paper.*

New waves of settlers followed: Irish, Scottish, British, and a few French. Through various plans (societies, British proclamation, Peter Robinson) or on their own, they too received free land. The soldiers and the pioneers settled all up and down the concessions of land in the township.

Barns and other out buildings followed, animals acquired, and families grew. Successful farms managed well, stayed in the family for generations. This is evident today as several farms have celebrated milestone anniversaries already,



*Photos: Keith Hobbs*

*The Hobbs Farm; a piece of our Ottawa Valley heritage snuggled into a piece of Ottawa's countryside.*

and the village of Richmond will be celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Settlement in 2018. This article will examine two of the area's oldest farmsteads, the Hobbs Farm, and the Anderson Farm, which are both representative of the processes of homesteading in what is now rural Ottawa and area.

## Hobbs Farm

The Hobbs farm, located at 7542 Mansfield Road (formerly known as Concession IV, lot 12 east, Goulbourn Township, is in rural Ottawa between Richmond and Stittsville, and close to Munster Hamlet). It celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. The original owner in 1825 was James Cullen but he left his land before finishing his rough-hewn log house; James Hobbs obtained legal title to the property in 1860. The land was farmed for 37 more years before anyone ever actually lived on the property. In 1897 a Joshua Bradley and his wife Maude

Caldwell built on the land. The original log building of 1825 was in poor shape, given that it was roofless, and by now had a large tree growing up through the middle of it. This was not a deterrent for them, and Joshua removed the tree, roofed the structure and stuccoed the interior walls. The farm prospered, their Guernsey dairy herd were prize winners at local fall fairs, and their cereal crops and swine won competitions as well. Those old log walls are now about 190 years old, and they still exist under newer siding. Modern additions were added over the years to support a growing family, and outbuildings changed, such as the addition of a garage for the automobile of the twentieth century. Descendants of Joshua and Maude still maintain the farmstead. For the 2010 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, guests were invited to tour the Restorable Relics Workshop, the Barn Floor Gallery, and the Lean-to Theatre, and live entertainment was provided.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Information provided for this article came from one of our own Heritage Ottawa members Mr. Keith Hobbs.

## Anderson Farm

The Anderson family farm, located at 8435 Franktown Road (formerly Concession IV, lot 5, Goulbourn Township) is about to celebrate a milestone. This land was deeded from the Crown to a Mr. Anderson in 1839 although he had established himself on this land before then, as family lore tells us the old stone home was built about two years earlier. This still-working farm located on the Franktown Rd. (the road from Richmond to Franktown) has been in the Anderson family for 178 years!

Mr. Anderson came to Canada from Scotland in 1819 and settled on the former Dwyer Hill farms (now occupied by the Department of National Defence). Anderson bought this particular 200-acre property for one of his sons who later raised a large family, and for this reason, he donated a half acre for a school to be built. Mabel Anderson a descendant attended that school and eventually taught at that school for upwards of 11 years. Goulbourn S.S. #4 still exists and it is a private residence.

The stone house on this property was the original house. The log barn at the farm gate is a heritage landmark in the community. Most other log buildings on the property have already been lost to Mother Nature from a lightning strike in about 1896. Only two log structures survived the flames; the one at the farm gate, and one barn. Milk from the Anderson Farm was processed at the Munster Road Cheese Factory and then shipped out by rail; this was a fairly typical way to manage dairying at the time. Cheese was typically purchased in 30-pound blocks, packaged in three or four wooden boxes. That



*Anderson Farm, 8435 Franktown Road.*

amount of cheese, while unthinkable to us today, would serve a large family for the winter, and 30 lbs was somewhat on the low side compared to what other families consumed. The Andersons stored their cheese in the attic, which was cold enough in the winter to keep it preserved. Cheese was costly; for the Andersons were paid only .50c for every 100 lbs of milk delivered, but were charged up to .25c for every pound of cheese purchased. A 30 lb order could cost over \$7.

Like other farm families, the Andersons made their own butter, and bread. A winter's supply of butter was stored in three gallon crock pots in the corner of the cellar. The Andersons raised and ate their own pork, beef, chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. Products the farm could not produce, such as tea, coffee, and sugar, were ordered by the pound, in advance, and purchased for the year. The Andersons made many of their own tools, and fixed them themselves when they broke. They sharpened their own knives, axes, and saws, and anything else with a blade.

Occasionally there were parties, and they were active in their church life. Summertime picnics were often, and company dropped by daily. A Mrs. Anderson was a midwife to the neighbour women and even assisted doctors conducting operations.

The latest generation of Andersons has decided to serve the public by opening up a shop where they sell their farm produce, including beef, lamb, chicken, fresh farm eggs, and many sauces and other condiments made by local people.<sup>2</sup> This offers citizens of Ottawa an excellent opportunity to learn about Ottawa's rich rural heritage. (see [Andersonfarm.ca](http://Andersonfarm.ca))

*Karen Prytula is the Heritage Keeper for Goulbourn Township, and Director for Rural Built Heritage. Her interest in built heritage extends from Ottawa, west through Lanark County. She currently sits on the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Township Working Group for Tay Valley Township, Lanark County, to help plan 200th celebrations for that township which will occur next year.*

<sup>2</sup> Both these farms will be featured in upcoming issues of the e-newsletter the Old Walls Society. The newsletter is free. To be on the distribution list send an email to [karenprytula33@gmail.com](mailto:karenprytula33@gmail.com)

# Built Heritage in Ottawa: Has Amalgamation Helped?

By Guy Legault

Following the amalgamation of the 11 municipalities in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa/Carleton in 2000-2001, the current City of Ottawa inherited diverse built heritage conservation systems. In the former RMOC, each municipality had developed means to recognize and preserve aspects of its built heritage. Some had not established a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC). But their various volunteer organizations, including historical societies and/or museums, served to collect and record much of their histories. Rideau Township had established an archive devoted to conserve most aspects of its heritage. But, only the pre-amalgamation City of Ottawa possessed a more complete suite of planning tools to conserve built heritage, including an efficient volunteer LACAC, and professional heritage staff within its Planning Department. Before proclamation of the new City on January 1, 2001, Ottawa had completed the designation of more than 200 sites. This built heritage system became the foundation for that of the new amalgamated city.

## The Gloucester Experience

As eloquently expressed by Bruce Elliott in his history of Nepean, *The City Beyond*, that municipality endured over many decades multiple annexations of its newly urbanized areas to the growing City of Ottawa. The same can be said for Gloucester, which in addition ceded lands to the newly incorporated municipalities of Rockcliffe Park and Eastview (later, Vanier). The repeated separation of Gloucester from its built-up areas left many potential heritage sites as important legacies to the City of Ottawa (e.g. Billings Estate). What remained in Gloucester were, for the most part, successful pioneer homesteads, churches and schools.

Before the City of Gloucester established a LACAC in 1994, it had no register of heritage properties. A new LACAC, without help from Gloucester's own city planners, conducted a survey in 1995, presenting the results to its City Council early the next year. 266 sites were identified; a few were added later to this Heritage Reference List

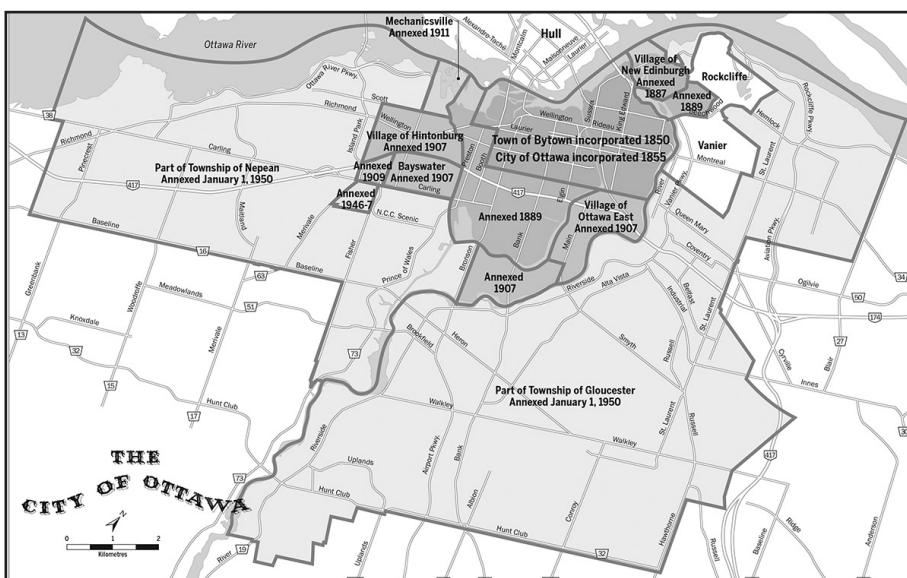
(buildings on a Heritage Reference List are not designated; rather, they are buildings of potential heritage interest. The Heritage Register is the list of designated sites). And finally, three of the sites were designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act before Gloucester's devolution to the Ottawa Transition Board on January 1, 2000.

After Amalgamation, the survey documents were lost for several years. When eventually found, they were turned over to the new City of Ottawa's heritage planning staff, and subsequently added to the Ottawa Heritage Reference List. Further, registration of Gloucester's three heritage sites was not confirmed until 2013, when their records were located in the current City of Ottawa Archives. Although Gloucester staff had completed the designation of these sites, there is no evidence of their records in the Ontario Heritage Properties system (which closed in 2005).

## Ottawa Now

Is there still disparity between the conduct of built heritage services for core-area Ottawa, and for the outlying areas?

Currently, the Canadian Register of Historic Places database reveals multiple records for only the core City of Ottawa, and one former township; 236 sites in all. More than one-half of the entries concern federally registered buildings, the remainder consisting mainly of designated properties in pre-amalgamation Ottawa. Of the other 10 former municipalities, only Rideau Township exhibits a significant number of sites (15). Nepean and Vanier each have one.



And, there is no record for any of the other municipalities of the former RMOC. This situation should not be difficult to fix, provided that all former municipal records are available in the current Ottawa heritage conservation records.

But, this information from the past only hints that disparity continues. If examples of new asymmetries do exist, measures to rebalance the built heritage system will need to be introduced.

**Sources:**

*The City Beyond: A History of Nepean*, 1991.

City of Gloucester, *LACAC Inventory of Heritage Sites*, 1995.

Parks Canada, *Canadian Register of Historic Places*, <http://www.lieuxpatrimoniaux.ca/en/home-accueil.aspx>.

*Ottawa Citizen*, Mohammed Adam, "Goodbye to a Region ..." December 31, 2000. Map by Dennis Leung.

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# From the President

*By David Jeanes*



## David Jeanes says "Hello"

I am now Heritage Ottawa's president, though following Leslie Maitland's remarkable performance in that role for the last four years will be a real challenge. I was recruited to Heritage Ottawa's board of directors in 2002, shortly after I retired, after first joining the buildings committee for the first Doors Open Ottawa, which also took place that year.

In the years since then I have developed and led five different walking tours, given two Heritage Ottawa lectures, and written articles for the newsletter. I have also remained involved with Doors Open, both on the Advisory Committee and as a building guide, mainly at the former Union Station/Government Conference Centre, but also at VIA Rail's Ottawa Station

and at the Nortel Laboratories where I used to work, during a 34-year career in high-tech research and development.

I lived in the National Capital during my teenage and high-school years and attended Lisgar Collegiate, (itself now a designated heritage building). Roaming around downtown Ottawa, particularly the Library, YMCA, and museums, was an important part of my life during these years. I studied Engineering Science and Computer Science at the University of Toronto, (living in heritage buildings), and worked there in computer research for nine years altogether, before returning to Ottawa and a career at Bell-Northern Research and Northern Telecom.

But my interest in architecture goes back to my childhood in England, when I was exposed to classical revival buildings by Sir Christopher Wren and Inigo Jones. Over the years my passion for railways and model railroading also led me to study heritage railway stations and bridges, and thus eventually built heritage at Heritage Ottawa. However, I also joined a number of railway-oriented organizations and served for twelve years as president of the national public transportation advocacy group Transport Action Canada.

My first architectural focus for a Heritage Ottawa walking tour, was the Beaux-Arts architecture of downtown Ottawa. This flowed naturally from my study of railway station architecture and in particular the works of Ross & MacFarlane/Ross & Macdonald, who designed Ottawa Union Station, the Chateau Laurier, Toronto Union Station, and many other important Beaux-Arts buildings across Canada. However, I have also made a close study of and written and verbal evidence about Victorian Gothic mansions in Ottawa. I do not reject mid-century modern either, having grown up in a fine example of such a house, which my parents owned for 50 years.

I have been on the executive as vice-president (operations) since 2004 and as acting treasurer since 2012, so I have had many opportunities to understand the functions of Heritage Ottawa. However, I have also been involved in the battles to get a number of buildings designated and I am looking forward to working closely with our Advocacy Committee on this aspect of Heritage Ottawa's work. We also have strong committees dealing with the other aspects of Heritage Ottawa's programming, lecture series, walking tours, occasional publications, social media and operations and I look forward to an exciting and successful future for the organization.

David Jeanes

*President, Heritage Ottawa / Patrimoine Ottawa*

# Northern Electric's Corporate Campus in a Suburban Setting

By Julie Harris

One of Ottawa's most important examples of the International Style and a testimony to 'Silicon Valley North' was born in an unlikely place in 1959 – the NCC Greenbelt – when Northern Electric, the precursor to Nortel Networks, announced that it would build a major research and development facility in Nepean on 28 hectares of land acquired from the NCC at the corner of Moodie Drive and Carling Avenue. The news was a major boost for Prime Minister Diefenbaker, whose decision to support the Greenbelt was deeply unpopular locally. Northern Electric's announcement not only demonstrated the potential for the Greenbelt to lure high-value industry into a suburban setting, it also set the stage for the remarkable growth of Nepean and Kanata.

Northern Electric, an affiliate of Bell Canada, was among the only businesses to build an iconic suburban corporate campus in Canada. It was modeled on the corporate headquarters developed by IBM, Bell Labs and other multinational companies in the United States to attract the best and most talented employees in a very competitive market, while also embodying, through architecture and landscape design, a company's claim that it was prepared to meet and conquer the future.



*Carling Campus, Pavilion (Administration Building), constructed 1960-1.*

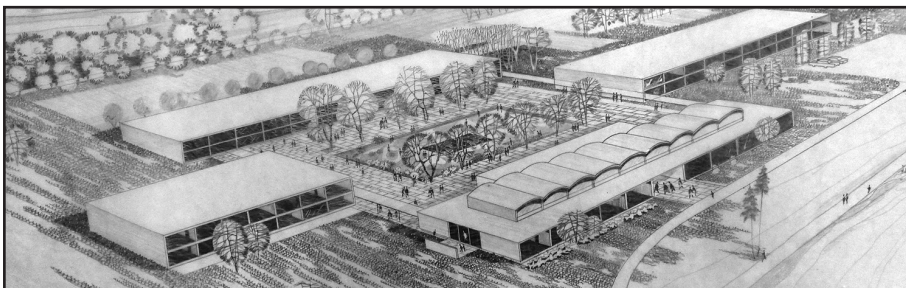
The three original buildings constructed for Northern Electric between 1960 and 1965 on its campus are still extant. They were designed in the International Style by Rother/Bland/Trudeau (later Bland/Lemoyne/Shine). The firm's many credentials included the award-winning Ottawa City Hall completed in 1958. The landscape architect was Macklin L. Hancock, principal of Project Planning Associates Ltd., well known for Don Mills in Toronto, where he laid out a plan and policies that enforced a modern architectural treatment for buildings and landscapes.

The three buildings at the Carling Campus are organized around a central square. The Pavilion (Administration Building) built in 1960-61 contained executive offices, a library, cafeteria, and laboratory space. Building 1 (Lab 1) constructed in 1960-61 and Building 2 (Lab 2) constructed in 1964-65 were designed as labs, offices and electronic device testing and production.

Rother/Bland/Trudeau followed the Miesian International Style for the Administration Building, but made a stronger reference to Structural Expressionism in the laboratory buildings. The Administration Building features delicate and carefully rendered structural details, such as cruciform columns, exposed I-beams, a colonnade treatment and tall, continuous glazing on the main facades. Covered, open-air walkways, now glazed, originally connected the buildings to one another. All of the precast work, including the cladding of the cruciform columns, is finished with a rough aggregate of white quartz and black granite that has grayed over the past 50 years due to an accumulation of dirt, but still displays the intention to use the material and design to link the three buildings into an ensemble.

The property was acquired by the Government of Canada in 2012. Most of the property is being redeveloped for the Department of National Defence. The fate of the three original buildings was not confirmed for this article.

*Julie Harris is a public historian, heritage consultant, member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals and the Principal of Contentworks Inc. She has completed numerous studies of architectural works and cultural landscapes across Canada.*



*Concept drawing for the Northern Electric Campus, March 1959.*

# Rural and Suburban Modern

**By Andrew Waldron**

Ottawa is transforming from a suburban city into a denser and more urban one. Light Rail Transit is coming, densification has brought more condominium towers to the city core and the post-war generation of baby boomers are beginning to downsize their living spaces. But what will become of the vast tracts of once sought-after suburban houses stretching from Carp to Cumberland?

Half a century ago, Ottawa was a very different city. Ottawa's population grew by 60% after the Second World War as a cadre of public servants supported the transformation of Canada's post-war economy and the building of the welfare state.

Ottawa experienced a feverish pace of construction. Government campuses and suburban developments appeared overnight. Developers could begin as small-town builders one day and become wealthy financiers the next. They built custom homes, tract housing, townhomes – whatever the market dictated as veterans and public servants could now realistically own a piece of private property, albeit in 25 years' time. One could buy a home in "Alta Vista", at "Crystal Beach", or in "Lynwood Village" – all pleasant places on offer to nuclear families. A suburban home was the "key to better living" according to developer Robert Campeau.

Today, interest in suburban history and heritage has lagged behind other areas of heritage protection and management. Tangible elements of 'suburbia' are a challenge to conserve when there has been such a strong social stigma attached to the idea of the suburbs. Even in the 1950s, the 'Organization Man' in the 'grey flannel suit' or the kaffeeklatsch of housewives brought stereotypes to suburban life that remain ingrained in North American

perceptions of suburbia, ironically even by the people who enjoyed the suburban lifestyle.

To high-style architects, and especially to critics who were examining North America's urban blight in the wake of the flight to the suburbs, uniform places were anathema to their ideals of community, and these opinions continue today as the environmental impact of the suburban landscape may be unsustainable into the future.

Our city's version of Frank Lloyd Wright's Broadacre City now causes us to question of what value are these neighbourhoods. Are they important to the identity of the city? Are they spaces that may be transformed yet retain their pastoral landscape qualities?

The trees have matured, the 60-year old split-levels, the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) 1,000-square-foot model homes, and the Victory Houses are now at an age that the history of suburbs is up for discussion as large grassy lots become attractive potential for infill. Aside from Lindenlea and a few Garden City imaginations, Ottawa's post-war suburbs are a touchpoint for discussion on how these places will evolve in the coming decades.

Suburbs emerged beyond towns and cities and their evolution follows different patterns, shaped by modern planning and stricter zoning. Places of worship, schools and plazas were well planned around the mobility of the automobile. Yet Ottawa's suburbs are probably more layered and complex than what is imagined.

A unique feature of Ottawa's suburbs are its federal campuses developed after the 1950 Gréber Plan. Tunney's Pasture, a low-rise semi-secure campus for federal departments

which may soon be transformed into a high-density urban hub, or Confederation Heights, a spread-out campus gradually transforming, or the high-tech campus of the National Research Council were experiments in public-sector pastoralism. Of course these campuses have evolved since the 1950s, yet they remain overlooked monumental modern complexes. Even today similar suburban headquarters continue to be built for well-funded government agencies, such as the \$1.2 billion "spy palace" on Ogilvie Road for the Communications Security Establishment Canada Agency.

Other places are unfortunately neglected. The abandoned former Federal Study Centre on Heron Road – once a religious campus – holds a wealth of modern artistry and planning that could potentially be an adaptively reused signature site for the city's Guildwood Estates neighbourhood.

The first step to envisioning a sustainable future for the suburbs is to recognize their diversity and evolution. The home designs in Qualicum, the evolution of Westgate or Billings Bridge shopping plazas, or the intact veteran homes of Viscount Avenue, each possess potential value that may bridge mid-century modernism with the ecological age that is today.

A rare architect-designed neighbourhood, Briarcliffe, has been protected, but what of the model homes of Manor Park, or the experimental cooperative of Fairhaven Way? As Millennials seek out smaller more affordable homes, the Victory Home may be reinvented as sustainable and restored homes that their great-grandparents enjoyed in 1946.

*Andrew Waldron is an architectural historian and heritage conservation manager working for Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions. He is currently completing a second edition of a guidebook on Ottawa's historic and contemporary places called "Exploring Ottawa".*