



## Heritage News Now Ontario Heritage Conference



Photo: Padolsky-architects

*Exterior view of the Queen's Lantern.*

Where to start!? 2017 is the year when the nation comes to Ottawa, and it seems like every organisation interested in heritage will have their annual conference here. Watch our website for information on the conferences of the National Trust, Association for Preservation Technology, and the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals.

First up: Circle your calendars for the Ontario Heritage Conference, to be held here in Ottawa, June 8-10<sup>th</sup>. The theme is Canada 150: Past, Present and Future of Heritage Conservation. Planning is well advanced, and will include walking and bike tours, and a Gala dinner at the Canadian Museum of Nature. For more information, check out [www.ontarioheritageconference.ca](http://www.ontarioheritageconference.ca).

# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

April 2017 Volume 44, No. 1

## Celebrating 50 years of Heritage Ottawa

By *Leslie Maitland, Guest Editor*

In 2017, Canada celebrates 150 years since Confederation. As the Nation's Capital, this year has particular significance for Ottawa, as we look forward to hosting the country to year-long celebrations.

In 2017 also, Heritage Ottawa celebrates 50 years of contributions to Ottawa's built heritage and special

places. This issue of the *Newsletter* is part of our year of special events: our Walking Tour season will feature several favourites as well as new – and more – tours. The Lecture Series focuses on special milestones. Our website project entitled 50 Years 50 Stories, celebrates Heritage Ottawa's achievements in heritage conservation since 1967. Check it out on our



Photo: Heritage Ottawa

*Heritage Ottawa kicks off a full year of celebrating 50 years, during Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>. Here members of the board pose at the Ottawa Heritage Conservation Awards held in February, 2016. Left to right: Anne Maheux, Rick Belliveau, Bill Price, Louise Fox, Martin Rice, Amber Polywkan (intern), Nicole Sammut, David Jeanes (President), Hunter McGill, Carolyn Quinn (Past President), Doug Beaton, Linda Hoad, Ken Elder, Danielle Jones, David Flemming (Past President), Linda Dicaire, Tobi Nussbaum (Ottawa City Councillor and Chair of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee), Jay Baltz, Mark Brandt (Past President), Robert Martin. Current board members missing from photo: Leslie Maitland, Stephanie Kveton, Ian Ferguson, Glen Gower, Heather McArthur, Katherine Spencer Ross.*

# 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*

website at: <https://heritageottawa.org/50-years-50-stories>. Upcoming later in the year will be a publication on Ottawa's modernist apartment buildings.

To kick off Heritage Ottawa's 2017 celebrations we began with a special lecture evening in January, featuring Ottawa City Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, Chair of the Built Heritage

Sub-Committee, followed by past presidents Carolyn Quinn's and David Flemming's engaging reminiscences of Heritage Ottawa's growth, achievements, losses, and some thoughts on where we are headed.

In 2017 join us for a year of celebration and good fun, and here's to the next 50 (and 150) years!

## Heritage in the Service of City Building

*By Tobi Nussbaum, City of Ottawa Councillor, Ward 13, Rideau-Rockcliffe and Chair of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee*

*(This is an extract of Councillor Nussbaum's presentation. For the full presentation, see: <http://www.tobinussbaum.ca/news-events-actualites-evenements/updates-mises-a-jour/heritage-ottawa-celebrates-50-years>).*

The year Heritage Ottawa was founded also marked the centennial celebrations of the confederation of Canada. But I want to imagine what success will look like for those marking Heritage Ottawa's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2067.

Heritage will be able to make an even greater contribution to Ottawa if we can scale up and implement the invaluable lessons that Heritage Ottawa and other heritage promoters have offered over the last 50 years and apply them more broadly to our City in the next fifty.

Heritage management is as much about fashioning the future and civic identity as it is about memorializing the past. Heritage can achieve this by engendering better urbanism, design and architecture; by encouraging more proactive civic engagement and by supporting stronger planning outcomes, through three strategies.

### **Better design, architecture and urbanism.**

If every new building had the same commitment to craftsmanship, design and beauty as many of the older buildings we aim to preserve there might be greater scope for creativity and flexibility in the approach to heritage protection. This argument starts with the premise that promoting beauty in our built environment is something from which all citizens should benefit.

The perception of living in a beautiful city had the strongest correlation with happiness. Happiness, in turn, is associated with positive health outcomes, longer life expectancy and greater civic engagement.

The lesson to be learned by all of us is to incorporate those principles of quality that are so much at the core of heritage into our approach to all buildings, all streetscapes and all neighbourhoods. Heritage advocacy has taught us that while there exists many types of beauty – Victorian and Georgian, symmetrical and varied, stylistically uniform and eclectic – there are objective criteria of form, massing, proportion and context that help

us shape, understand and interpret good design.

Because, ultimately, the new buildings of today become the heritage buildings of tomorrow.

### Proactive Civic Engagement

In my two years in municipal politics, I've been surprised to the extent that civic engagement is often activated in response to a perceived threat. [But] heritage work can be proactive, imagining a future or vision to get excited about. It could be working to create a heritage conservation district, adapting a building for a modern use, developing criteria to determine how a neighbourhood will grow, how a city will change.

What Heritage Ottawa has taught us, and why I am optimistic that Ottawa will see growing civic engagement as we move from a big small city to a small big city, is that when you inspire people to think about civic identity, there are dedicated, interested people who are willing to invest in that work and in that project.

Civic engagement has virtue in both achieving outcomes but also in strengthening bonds between and among citizens. It is not a coincidence that many of the neighbourhoods in our city that have become heritage conservation districts exhibit high civic engagement. HCDs and heritage advocacy have taught us the value of working to define identity in our many varied communities across the city.

### Heritage Advocacy Supports Stronger Planning Outcomes

One of Heritage Ottawa's successes of 2016 was its effective advocacy on the issue of the location of the new Civic Campus of the Ottawa Hospital. Were it not for the efforts of many of the volunteers of this organization, we would be facing a future hospital site that not only sat on important agricultural land but a location that failed on other urban planning fronts such as the fact that it was removed from light rail investment and proposed to include more than 20 acres of parking and roads. That campaign signalled a willingness to view land use as an element of heritage in its own right.

The Provincial Policy Statement, the master planning blueprint which cities need to follow in determining future land use puts a lot of emphasis on intensification. But it leaves open the possibility that cities with greenfields could conceivably continue to encroach on them ad infinitum or until there is no more land to convert. In Ottawa's case, with its vast agricultural lands, that means there are few obstacles to a continued encroachment of rural to urban lands.

So I'd like to posit that an important sign of success in 2067 that we have grown our appreciation of the heritage value of land is that we have contained the urban boundary.

By engendering better urbanism, design and architecture; by encouraging more proactive civic engagement and by supporting stronger planning outcomes; we can honour the work of Heritage Ottawa and the incredible, dedicated people who have been working tirelessly for a half century to build an even better city.

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## Heritage Ottawa at 50: The First 25 Years

*By Carolyn Quinn, Past President and currently Board Member*

It is fitting that Heritage Ottawa is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, Canada's Sesquicentennial. Fifty years ago takes us back to 1967 and those heady days for history and heritage associated with the fervour of Canada's Centennial. In 1966, the Local Council of Women organized a committee to help beautify the capital for the Centennial year. Inspired by that success, heritage stalwarts Bob and Mary Anne Phillips and a band of advocates

spearheaded the formation of A Capital for Canadians (CFC). The most active group within the new organization was its Heritage Committee. Created to conserve historical buildings, guideline No. 7 issued by CFC stated that, "Part of the public interest in the Capital will depend upon the imprint of history which is to be found here. The conservation of buildings and artifacts which display the social, cultural and political evolution of Canada is an important aim."

Much of what was accomplished in those early years was described in the *Heritage Committee's Report of 1972-73* as taking place in "a living room atmosphere fraught with the urgency of the moment, where threats to heritage properties were discussed almost ad infinitum. ... It was fun, it was the start of a movement."

### Early Advocacy Challenges

Some of the threats tackled during those pre-*Ontario Heritage Act* years were big ones. 1972 was long

remembered as the year of the Rideau Street Convent. A hard-fought battle to prevent its demolition roped in the City, the Province, the NCC, Action Sandy Hill, the Friends of the Convent (chaired by Barry Padolsky) and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, who on the last possible day declared the Convent's Chapel to be of national historic significance. But it was not enough to save the building. Like Montreal's Van Horne Mansion, the loss of the Rideau Street Convent changed the way people thought about the city's heritage. A mantra of "never again" arose in many quarters, establishing strong support for the work of the Heritage Committee and of the need for protective legislation.

The Committee next turned its attention to the East Block of the Parliament Buildings when it learned of plans for its total gutting, similar to the West Block's. In 1972, with permission from the Privy Council and the support of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, the Heritage Committee organized and administered East Block tours from May to September. They represented only the second occasion that this enduring symbol of Canadian identity was opened to the public. Interest was so great that tours were repeated the following summer. The East Block was



East Block Tour, 1972.

fully restored a few years later and the offices of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir George Étienne Cartier, the Governor General and the Privy Council Chamber were preserved.

The CFC folded in 1974, but its active Heritage Committee carried on as a separate organization renamed Heritage Ottawa, and a year later it was formally incorporated.

Among the many causes of the 1970s where Heritage Ottawa merits credit for saving now designated heritage

buildings are the Byward Market, Billings Estate, Carleton County Court House and Gaol and Ottawa Teacher's College – today our City Hall's wonderful Heritage Building.

A neighbourhood gem facing demolition was the Werner Noffke designed Fire Hall No.10 on Sunnyside Avenue, now a well-loved community centre and excellent example of adaptive reuse. It is unlikely that Heritage Ottawa's dogged efforts to prevent its loss would have succeeded without the commitment of Mayor Lorry Greenburg. The new *Ontario Heritage Act* of 1975 was in its infancy and his support saw the creation of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and the Heritage Grant program providing up to \$5,000 for restoration work to owners of heritage-designated buildings.

Around this time, Heritage Ottawa moved into its first real home. The NCC was looking for a use for the Fraser Schoolhouse (1837) on John Street in New Edinburgh, so Heritage Ottawa submitted a proposal that saw the exterior restored, the ground floor recreated as a schoolroom



Billings House, 1925.

for community exhibit space, and the upper floor retained for office use. For a reasonable rent Heritage Ottawa occupied the building until 1990, when it moved to Arts Court. Ongoing exhibits organized by Helmut Shade and others covered such varied topics as 19<sup>th</sup>-century building technology, winter sports in the city, and the evolution of Bank Street.

The 1970s saw other important heritage challenges. President Martin Weil spearheaded the conservation of 12 murals inside the Murray Street Synagogue, built in 1926 and slated for demolition as part of the widening of St. Patrick Street. Working closely with the Jewish Historical Society, they were saved and installed in the Jewish Community Centre on Chapel Street.

It was a less successful outcome for the Clegg House on Bay Street owned by St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Built circa 1860 for Captain William Clegg, a Royal Engineer of the Rideau Canal, the house was slated for demolition for parking. In response to public pressure, the City designated it, then passed a follow-up bylaw denying the demolition application and initiating expropriation proceedings. But local architect and Heritage Ottawa member Wyn Davies came upon a bulldozer clawing into the stone, without a permit. Authorities were alerted and a media frenzy ensued as advocates, neighbours, and prominent Ottawans turned out in force to protest. The City announced it would take the owner to court. But as often happens, a final decision was continually deferred and the half demolished house sat forlorn on the site for several years. Although Heritage Ottawa lobbied Mayor Marion Dewar to see the lawsuit through to demonstrate the City's commitment to heritage legislation,

the new Council decided against it and the remains of the Clegg House were eventually removed.

The 1980s were challenging years for heritage in the city. Demolition applications for local landmarks were rolling in. News of an application to tear down the Zellers Building, a fixture on the corner of Sparks and O'Connor since 1871, left advocates scrambling to ensure a last minute designation. Heritage Ottawa's work with the Centretown citizens group and local councillor saw at least part of the building preserved. An early case of "façadism" it was criticized by

including moving it across the street to Lansdowne Park. In the end, the 1895 and 1928 additions were removed to allow a large two-storey extension, but a heritage easement was registered on the property, ensuring its future protection.

## Building Awareness

Outreach has always been an important part of Heritage Ottawa's mandate. Along with its advocacy work, the organization offered an extensive learning program, from neighbourhood walking tours and lectures on topical issues to courses



*Fraser Schoolhouse, 62 John Street.*

many, but at the end of the day, the exterior of an outstanding example of 19<sup>th</sup>-century commercial Italianate architecture was retained along a historic street just one block south of Parliament Hill.

Another unexpected application to demolish came from the Glebe Centre for Abbotsford House, to make room for a new seniors' centre. Built as a private residence for Alexander Mutchmor in 1867, it was converted into a home for the aged as early as 1895. There were a range of proposals to preserve the building,

on heritage home maintenance and renovation.

Heritage Ottawa was led by a succession of active and committed presidents. They included Bob Phillips, Martin Weil, Robert Haig, William Keenan, Jennifer Roddick, John Leaning, Diane Holmes, Marc Denhez and Richard Cannings. But the organization is about more than its presidents. None of its many achievements would have been possible without the contribution of countless dedicated volunteers committed to the city's success.

# Heritage Ottawa: The Second 25 Years

*By David B. Flemming, Heritage Ottawa Past President (2002 to 2011) and Board of Directors member for 14 years.*

Heritage Ottawa's second 25 years was marked by the ongoing fight to prevent the demolition of many heritage buildings throughout the city, but also by an increase in our educational programming, affording many more opportunities to enjoy Ottawa's built heritage and special places.

## Advocacy

The Ogilvy Building at Rideau and Nicholas, a long time candidate for "demolition by neglect", was saved after some concessions to the owner. This allowed the preservation of part of the original façade integrated into the expanded Rideau Centre. Heritage Ottawa also supported community efforts to save Wallis House and Sandy Smallwood's purchase and restoration of the property as part of a combined inventive adaptive use and new build project. We also supported successful efforts for the adaptive use of La Maison Jeanne d'Arc, the Convent of the Sisters of the Visitation, Simard House and Dickenson Square in Manotick.

We were involved in the ongoing battle to save the Booth Barns and many other buildings on the Central Experimental Farm, the Stephen Collins House at Chapman Mills, and Saint Brigid's Church in Lowertown. We continue to support and encourage efforts to save what is left of Somerset House.

Unfortunately, we lost the battles to save the Daly Building, the Caplan building, Saint Patrick's Parish Hall, the former Union Mission on Daly Avenue, two houses on the Ashbury

College campus on Springfield Road and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Rockcliffe home on Lansdowne Road North.

The mysterious midnight "collapse" and the demolition without permit of two buildings by Groupe Lépine at 50 Laurier Avenue West and subsequent threat of criminal prosecution resulted in an out-of-court settlement of \$250,000 which was used by the City to finance research required to expand the number of heritage conservation districts in Sandy Hill.

The amalgamation which created the new City of Ottawa on January 1st, 2001 offered new challenges for heritage advocates with the addition of vast areas of rural and semi-rural heritage. Suddenly, our focus included farmhouses, barns and other agricultural buildings, many of which were falling victim to suburban housing developments and neglect. Heritage Ottawa successfully supported the designation of the Bradley-Craig Farmstead on Hazeldean Road only to have City Council approve the dismantling of its impressive barn so it could be re-erected in a rural theme park 20 kilometres away.

In January 2004, Council proposed a draft budget which would have gutted the Arts and Heritage programs in an effort to meet the promise to cut municipal taxes. Heritage Ottawa and other heritage and cultural organizations formed the Strong Voice for Heritage Coalition, and much of the heritage budget was reinstated.

Heritage Ottawa regularly attends meetings of Built Heritage

Subcommittee, Planning Committee and other Council standing committees. Our countless efforts over the years to save the Aberdeen Pavilion and Horticulture Building at Lansdowne Park culminated in 2011 with our successful challenge to the Ontario Conservation Review Board of the City's decision to repeal the heritage designation of the Horticulture Building so it could be relocated to accommodate an underground parking garage demanded by the developers of *Lansdowne Live!* We won our case against the City but they were not bound by the decision, so that the Horticulture Building was indeed de-designated, relocated, and about one quarter of it demolished. The remaining portion has been renovated for new uses and the City re-designated it.

In 2007 Heritage Ottawa recommended that the City of Ottawa develop an emergency protocol to protect properties designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* which had been abandoned or allowed to fall into disrepair. These changes would enable the City to prepare emergency studies, undertake work to protect and otherwise stabilize a property and to charge-back the cost of these interventions to the taxes due on the property. The latter would ideally make these interventions revenue neutral for the City's taxpayers.

After a six year battle, the City began to act on our recommendations through the efforts of the newly established Built Heritage Subcommittee. The Mayor's Heritage Matters Task Force, consisting of

City staff and community members, established in 2016, shows promise in dealing more effectively with these matters.

## Awareness-Raising

Political advocacy is just one aspect of Heritage Ottawa's work. Our role in education and research is significant. In 2001, we were one of the founders of Doors Open Ottawa, a yearly event which showcases Ottawa's built heritage. Our program of regular walking tours was re-started in 1998 during Carolyn's term as president and it continues to provide over a dozen tours each summer and fall. In January 2005, we began our current lecture series. The annual Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture, held each year since 2006, not only recognizes the pioneer efforts of two outstanding heritage advocates but also focuses on important issues relating to heritage conservation.

Through the establishment of the juried Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant

program, Heritage Ottawa is able to fund research and publication relating to Ottawa's built heritage. So too our publication program continues to educate the public on all aspects of Ottawa's built heritage. Our Newsletter, enhanced website and social media tools enable us to publicize and advocate more effectively than fifty years ago.

Presidents for the second twenty-five years were: Louisa Coates, Jennifer Rosebrugh, Carolyn Quinn, David B. Flemming, Leslie Maitland, and David Jeanes, our current president.

## Twenty-first century Challenges

There are many challenges going forward. In dealing with proposed additions to heritage properties, how do you balance the need for new additions to heritage properties that respect the heritage character of the original building while at the same time being of its own time? (We only need look to the current proposal for an addition to the Chateau Laurier

to appreciate this difficulty.) How do we insert new buildings into heritage neighbourhoods? How best to work with others to achieve common goals? How do we better integrate heritage conservation with planning generally? How do we honour the fact that Ottawa and surrounding Valley are part of the Algonquin People's unceded traditional territory? How do we respond to Canada's – and Ottawa's – changing demographics, so that we remain relevant to the next generation?

Finally, as we celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, we remember that it was the celebration of our Centennial that laid the ground work for the heritage movement of the past 50 years. Our centennial left a legacy of projects and infrastructure which enabled yours truly and many others to embark on meaningful careers in the heritage movement. Let us hope that 2017 will provide more than just celebratory events but will also "jump start" and enhance the nation building activities of the next fifty years.



## Become a donor and support Ottawa's great built heritage!

Donations over \$10.00 will be issued with a receipt for income tax purposes. Heritage Ottawa is a Registered charity: 893096776RR0001.

## Devenez donneur et soutenez le patrimoine bâti d'Ottawa!

Des reçus pour fin d'impôt sur le revenu seront émis pour les dons de 10.00\$ et plus. Le numéro d'enregistrement en tant qu'organisme de bienfaisance de Patrimoine Ottawa est : 893096776RR0001.

# Taking Stock of Our Built Heritage: Updating the City's Heritage Register

By David Maloney and Ashley Kotarba, Built Heritage Researchers, City of Ottawa)

The City of Ottawa is undertaking a major project identifying buildings, structures and other built resources of cultural heritage value, using a specialized app called ArcGIS Collector. The 'Heritage Inventory Project' is a city-wide project involving the surveying and evaluation of a vast array of Ottawa's built resources, from the modest workers' houses of Mechanicsville, to the fine homes in Clemow Estate, to the century old barns of West Carleton, and even the numerous bridges that span our city's many waterways.

The goal of the Heritage Inventory project is to create certainty around Ottawa's heritage resources. A rigorous update to the City's Heritage Register will be beneficial for property owners, developers, heritage advocates, elected officials, planning staff, community groups, and all concerned residents. The methodology of the project includes photographing, describing architectural characteristics, and evaluating thousands of built resources throughout the city.

The evaluation component of the Heritage Inventory Project involves individual analysis to determine whether resources are of heritage value from both a design and context perspective. In order for a resource to be deemed 'Contributing' and subsequently recommended for addition to the Heritage Register, the resource must meet both the design test and be reflective of a particular aspect of the neighbourhood's heritage attributes.

A 'Neighbourhood Heritage Statement' will be prepared for each area of the city, prior to the individual property and resource evaluations. The statements will include a description of the neighbourhood, a discussion of the area's heritage values, and a point form list of specific physical attributes of the area which express its unique cultural heritage. Each statement will also include a list of properties currently designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, or through the equivalent federal designations.

The evaluations of properties in Lowertown and Sandy Hill are largely complete and we are scheduled to make our first recommendations for additions to the Heritage

Register at the Built Heritage Subcommittee meeting on April 13, 2017. The project will expand to other neighbourhoods throughout the year and we look forward to hearing from the readers of Heritage Ottawa's Newsletter. We encourage anyone with specific knowledge about their house, their place of work, the gazebo in the local park, etc. to connect with us and tell us what you know, as the collective knowledge and memories of our city's residents can help make the Heritage Inventory Project a real success.

*David Maloney and Ashley Kotarba, Built Heritage Researchers for the City of Ottawa can be reached at [heritageinventory@ottawa.ca](mailto:heritageinventory@ottawa.ca)*



North side of Glebe Avenue, just west of Bank Street.

# From the President

By David Jeanes



It was exciting to launch Heritage Ottawa's 50<sup>th</sup> year at our January lecture, with a presentation by Councillor Tobi Nussbaum and retrospectives from former presidents David Flemming and Carolyn Quinn. We continued with Heritage Week events in February, including the Bob and Mary Anne Philips Memorial Lecture, speaker Shirley Blumberg, co-hosted with the Global Centre for Pluralism, and our Heritage Day display at City Hall with other heritage groups, museums and historical societies. Most of all, it was very gratifying for Heritage Ottawa to receive the City's special award for heritage conservation and to have most board members join me in accepting the award. I congratulate Heritage Ottawa directors Ken Elder and Robert Martin who also received city heritage awards.

2017 will be a year of challenges as we roll out our "50 Years – 50 Stories" project and an expanded walking tour program. The continuing controversy over an unsympathetic addition proposed for the iconic Chateau Laurier National Historic Site will

come to a head as that application moves through the City's planning and heritage approvals process. Heritage Ottawa directors are participating in the City's special review panel and we have encouraged all our members and friends to respond to the City's online opinion survey.

I would like to say that we are again collaborating with the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership to offer walking tours for newcomers to Ottawa in multicultural neighbourhoods during Welcoming Ottawa Week in late June. This is supported by a grant from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

We could also say that as part of celebrating 2017 we will offer a larger number of Heritage Ottawa walking tours this year. Also we are helping to

plan Doors Open Ottawa, which will have a record number of participating buildings on the first weekend in June. Extra volunteers are needed both on our walks and at Doors Open sites.

We continue to work with partners, including the Ottawa Cultural Alliance regarding the city's cultural funding, Doors Open Ottawa, the Ottawa Local Immigrant Partnership for "Welcoming Ottawa Week" in June, Community Heritage Ontario and the City for the Ontario Heritage Conference in June, and the National Trust and Association for Preservation Technology for their conference in October. I also joined the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario for their annual day at Queen's Park, meeting with MPPs to discuss heritage issues.

I hope that you will all join us for many of the sesquicentennial events, support our advocacy on important heritage issues, and regularly visit our renewed website and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

*David Jeanes, President, Heritage Ottawa / Patrimoine Ottawa*



*Andrew Elliott Receives Heritage Ottawa Award*

*Andrew Elliott, long-time Heritage Ottawa member and volunteer, received an award of appreciation for his work managing Heritage Ottawa's Facebook page. This award was presented at Heritage Day in City Hall, February 2017. Left to right: Bill Price, Heritage Ottawa Volunteer Co-ordinator, Andrew Elliott, David Jeanes, Heritage Ottawa President, Linda Hoad, Heritage Ottawa Vice President.*

# Rising From The Ashes

By Leslie Maitland, Heritage Ottawa



Fréchette House, March 15, 2013, fire crews still at work.

Near midnight on March 14, 2013, flames were spotted shooting from the roof of the Fréchette House, at 87 MacKay Street in New Edinburgh. Owners Tim Plumtree and Barbara Laskin were roused by an alert neighbour, and they escaped unharmed but with few possessions. The fire raged through the upper storey, battled by City of Ottawa firefighters throughout the night. In the morning, a smoking shell remained.

Fortunately, there was no loss of life. Two firefighters injured in the blaze



Reconstruction underway.

sits across MacKay Street from Rideau Hall. The house is a handsome, Gothic Revival villa, built in 1877, and once the home of prominent authors Achille Fréchette and Annie Thomas Howells. More recently, owners Plumtree and Laskin had lovingly restored the interior. The fire completely gutted the restored interior and severely damaged the upper storey and roof.

Heritage Ottawa is delighted to see that the owners have completely restored the Fréchette House to its former beauty. For this work, they and their restoration team were given the Award of Excellence for Small Scale Restoration by the City of Ottawa, at the 2017 Ottawa Heritage Conservation Awards. Heritage Ottawa would like to congratulate the following: Louise McGugan, Barry Padolsky Associates Inc. Architects, Senior Architect; Tim Plumtree and Barbara Laskin, Owners; Marilyn Horrick, The Guarantee Company of North America / National Vice President; Dan Carson/ Stephen Vardy, WSP Inc Canada (Halsall Associates), Structural Engineer.

were thankfully released from hospital soon after.

The fire left a significant Ottawa structure no more than a fire-scarred hulk. The Fréchette House is an important designated heritage structure in the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District, and



The restored Fréchette House.

# Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards – Recognizing the Heritage Community

By Anne Fitzpatrick, Heritage Planner, City of Ottawa



Photo: Heritage Ottawa

*Heritage Ottawa member Ken Elder receiving the Community Heritage Award from Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, Chair of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee.*

On Tuesday, February 21, 2017, the City of Ottawa hosted the Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards at the Innovation Centre at Bayview Yards. The bi-annual awards recognize excellence in the preservation of the City's architectural heritage for projects that were completed from 2014-2016. Awards of Excellence, and Awards of Merit are presented to outstanding projects in the categories of restoration, adaptive re-use, addition, infill, and other.

New this year is the Community Heritage Award, which was awarded to an individual or group that made a positive impact on heritage conservation in Ottawa. This award was created as a way to recognize the important heritage conservation efforts that

take place at the community level across the city.

The inaugural Community Heritage Award was presented to Ken Elder. Ken is a retired Conservation Architect with the Federal Department of Public Works, an Architectural Advisor and an active member on the Heritage Ottawa board of directors. Mr. Elder has provided his support, professional services and expert advice to the community in support of preserving

heritage institutional structures. Ken Elder's architectural history research has contributed to the conservation of several schools in the city of Ottawa including Devonshire Public School, Mutchmor Public School, Broadview Avenue Public School, and the Ottawa Technical High School. This award recognizes his dedication to heritage conservation.

The City also took the opportunity to recognize the outstanding work



*Mutchmor School*

Photo: Ken Elder

## Recognizing the Heritage Community cont'd.

of Heritage Ottawa by presenting the organization with the onetime Heritage 150 Award. The award recognizes the efforts of a group that has gone above and beyond in their effort to conserve and celebrate our local history. Heritage Ottawa is a group of dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers that promotes public awareness of heritage buildings and the conservation of heritage resources. It was instrumental in preserving Ottawa's Union Station, the Fraser Schoolhouse, The Byward Market, the Billings Estate, the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, and the Aberdeen Pavilion, among others. This award celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recognized the importance of their work.

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*Ken is a retired Conservation Architect with the Federal Department of Public Works, an Architectural Advisor and an active member on the Heritage Ottawa board of directors.*

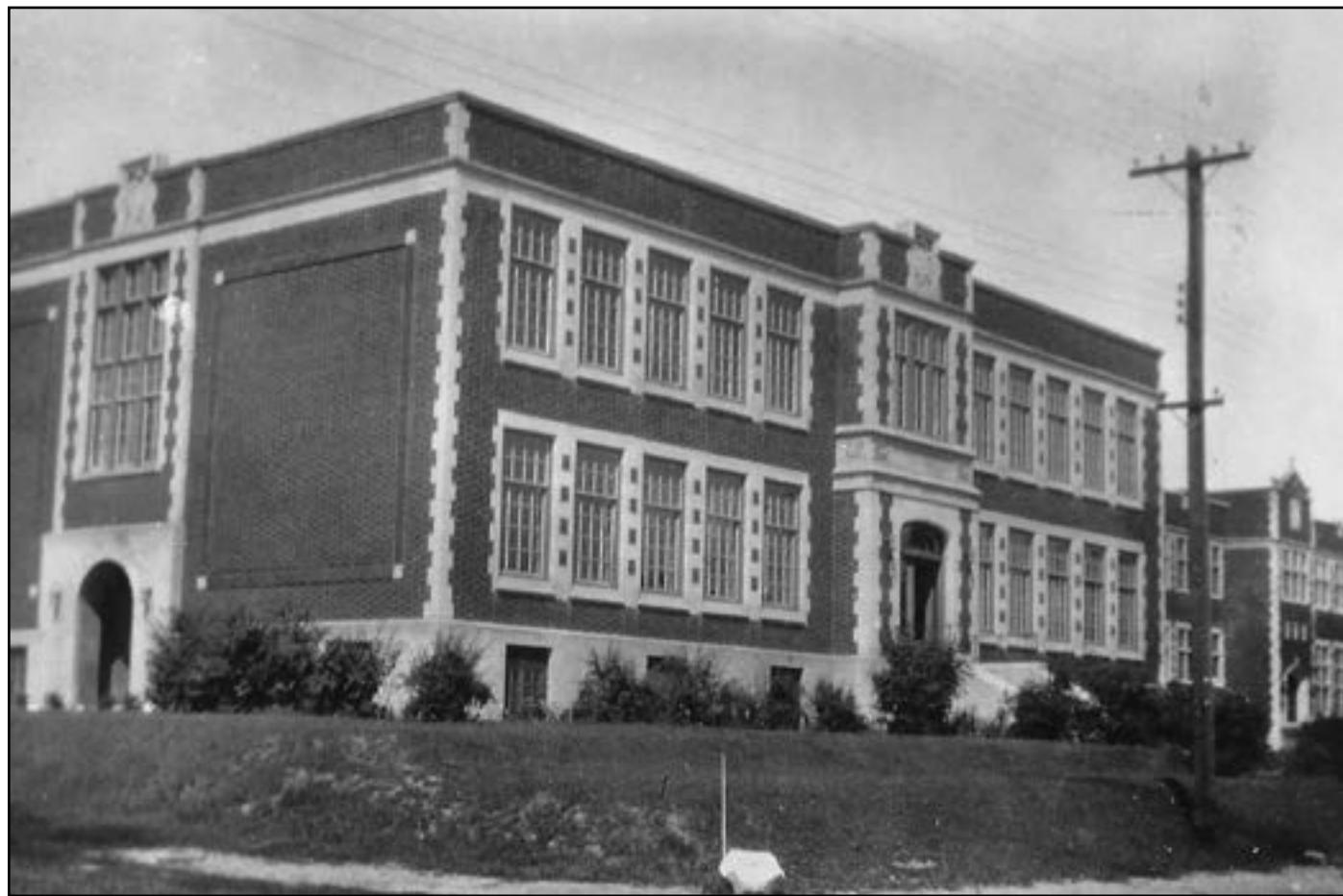
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Congratulations to both Mr. Elder and Heritage Ottawa on your awards and thank you for everything you have done to preserve Ottawa's heritage architecture for future generations.



*Broadview School*

*Photo: Ken Elder*



*Broadview School, historic photo*

*Collection of Bruce Elliott*