



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

August 2023 Volume 50, No. 3

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Ottawa River Boathouse: A Treasured Heritage Building

By Sheila Young



The Ottawa River Boathouse today

Ottawa River Boathouse, now known as the NCC River House, (formerly known as the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club Boathouse then the National Capital River Pavilion), sits proudly overlooking the majestic Ottawa River. After a five-year rehabilitation by the National Capital Commission, the boathouse reopened on July 25 with a new public dock and enclosed swimming area and universally accessible shore access.

The River House is now home to Ottawa Riverkeeper (a charitable organization dedicated to promoting and improving the health of the river) as well as the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club. This article explores the fascinating history of the Ottawa River Boathouse, its architectural significance, cultural heritage values, and its enduring place within the community.

Photo: Matthew Brocklehurst, Ottawa Riverkeeper

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

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Ottawa River Boathouse Continued...



Open Roofed Gallery

History and Architectural Significance:

The Ottawa River Boathouse represents an era of grand waterfront structures that once adorned the Ottawa River, serving as a reminder of the city's rich recreational past.

By the early 19th century, while the lumber industry was in decline, enthusiasm for recreational and competitive canoeing was on the rise. By the 1880s, canoe races had become immensely popular across North America. In 1883, the Ottawa Canoe Club, now the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC), became the first canoe club in Canada's capital to compete in North American regattas. (Allan B. McCullough, *The Ottawa Canoe Club*. Historical Society of Ottawa. Bytown Pamphlet Series No. 110. (June 2021) is an excellent source for the early history of canoeing, the canoe club and boathouse.)

Floating boathouses of the era populated the river shoreline from Parliament Hill to the Governor General's residence. ONEC's first floating boathouse was moored on the Ottawa River at the base of the Rideau Canal locks, downstream from the Chaudière Falls' mills. This environment proved to be unfavourable for boating and swimming. In 1894, the boathouse relocated further east near the Governor General's grounds. The Club operated at this site for a generation until 1922, as membership continued to grow. The 1920s were to be the "Golden Years of Canoeing" according to the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club website.

Over the next fifty years, aquatic sports and social activities gained immense popularity across Canada. The Club hosted races, regattas, and steamboat landings for royal visits. These significant sporting and social events attracted Ottawa's elite

Photos: Matthew Brocklehurst, Ottawa Riverkeeper



The Ottawa River Boathouse today

including various governors-general, prime ministers, cabinet members, and influential business families. In 1901, the Club's popularity peaked when it hosted a royal regatta for the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, future King George and Queen Mary, during their royal steamboat tour. Soon a larger modern boathouse was required.

Before the outbreak of the Great War, a water lot was acquired adjacent to land suitable for a tennis court at the end of the Rockcliffe streetcar line. In 1914, steel pilings were sunk thirty feet into the riverbed in cement. But construction was interrupted by the Great War as steel and labour were in short supply. Construction resumed after the war and the boathouse was completed in 1923.

The three-storey clubhouse was designed by renowned Ottawa architect C.P. Meredith. His plan used a plain architectural style where each element served a purpose, much less embellished than the earlier Beaux-Arts styled boathouses of the 19th century.

The steel-framed building stood above the waterline attached to the shoreline by a wooden walkway. The lower level was used for boat storage, locker rooms for members, and men's showers. From there, stairs lead down to the swimming platform below. The second storey featured a ballroom of magnificent proportions

befitting the "roaring twenties" with a two-level deck and large windows offering panoramic views of the Ottawa River.

Distinctive character-defining elements include central truncated gabled roofs facing the river, adorning the otherwise plain front entrance. Dormer windows with shed roofs, spaced at regular intervals, line the north and south facing sloped roofs. The large open second storey deck facing the river with covered balconies on either side was well-suited for warm weather use. These design features were intended to create a harmonious connection between the building and its natural surroundings, enhancing the overall recreational experience, according to the City of Ottawa research leading to heritage designation.

In 1999 the City of Ottawa designated the property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as a rare example of boathouse architecture of its kind, (one of four such boathouses in Canada) which exemplifies the history of aquatic



Front Covered Balcony



Ottawa New Edinburgh Club Boathouse, 1923

sports in Canada and the popularity of canoeing in the previous century as well as its situation in a spectacular river setting.

In 2010, the boathouse was also designated as a Recognized Federal Heritage Building.

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club continues to provide club members and visitors access to the river's abundant recreational opportunities. Ottawa Riverkeeper aims to raise awareness about guardianship of our Ottawa River watershed, a Canadian Heritage River, by providing accessible educational programs on wildlife protection, biodiversity, and climate change.

The Ottawa River Boathouse, with its captivating history, architecture, and cultural heritage, is a testament to Ottawa's historical and enduring connection to the river and its vibrant recreational past. Its unique architectural style complements its scenic waterfront location, making it a landmark well-connected to and cherished by the community.

This is the fascinating story of River House, set in a magnificent water lot setting, reminiscent of century old cottages, resorts and athletic clubs. The story continues into the 21st century, led by Ottawa Riverkeeper's renewed commitment to communities in our region and the watershed we depend on.

Sheila G. Young is a historical researcher who grew up in Ottawa, and has lived in Hintonburg for the past forty years. She shares Heritage Ottawa's goal to celebrate the cultural and architectural heritage of our National Capital Region.

Further Reading

McCullough, Alan B. *The Ottawa Canoe Club*. Historical Society of Ottawa. Bytown Pamphlet Series No. 110. (June 2021).

<https://www.onec.ca/our-history>

Parks Canada/Directory of Federal Heritage Building Designations/Federal Heritage Buildings/Boathouse; NCC River House.

<https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/projects/ncc-river-house>

Congratulations to Jean Palmer on her 100th birthday

By **Louisa Coates**

On April 17, 2023 Jean Palmer, a longstanding volunteer with Heritage Ottawa, turned 100 years old. Her family organized a party to celebrate the exciting milestone. A few friends from diverse areas of her life were invited to make remarks. I was asked to speak about her work as a volunteer with Heritage Ottawa:

Jean Palmer joined Heritage Ottawa over 30 years ago, when I was president. Through the years she has proved to be a steady presence and a wise strategist in the heritage field, as a board member and as a friend to many. Jean seems ageless because she remains interested and involved in projects over many years and into the present. She is supportive, to her contemporaries and to younger people. She is persistent and does not give up.

As an example of her persistence, Jean became interested in the frescoes at the St. Francis Monastery on Stanley Ave in New Edinburgh and in her 1998 Heritage Ottawa article wrote: "A petition is being circulated asking Ottawa city councillors to save and recognize the frescoes on Stanley Avenue". In the ensuing years, Jean helped connect experts on the topic of the frescoes. In a 2019 Heritage Ottawa newsletter, Jean said: "Heritage Ottawa has a combative history, but sometimes, between battles, there is an opportunity for self-congratulation. Such an occasion came in May 2019 when Ugo Chyurlia's fresco was displayed at Notre Dame Cathedral. After initial reluctance, the board of Heritage Ottawa had joined the fight to save the artworks". I am only guessing here, but I would suggest it was

Jean who prodded a 'reluctant' Heritage Ottawa to get involved!

Over the years Jean employed the power of the pen, writing to officials at all levels about architecture, landscapes and historic objects that deserved protection. In 2022 the *Ottawa Citizen* published her letter denouncing the National Capital Commission's plan to remove hundreds of trees at the Central Experimental Farm. The Farm was designated a national historic site in 1998, thanks in part to Jean and other Heritage Ottawa volunteers' efforts.

Due to her keen intellect and warm manner, Jean has helped save and motivate others to preserve many of the buildings that tell Ottawa and Canada's history. We attended 'Hands Around the Aberdeen' on a cool and

rainy day in 1991. To the joy of the many Heritage Ottawa and other community volunteers, the Aberdeen Pavilion was saved from demolition in 1992 and restored to its current glory.

In 1999 Jean deservedly received the Ontario Heritage Foundation Award for her work in preserving heritage architecture. In 2002 she was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for her work with Built Heritage committees in Ottawa.

Many care about heritage architecture in Ottawa and in Jean we have found a kindred spirit. I feel lucky for the gift of her friendship and wise counsel over the years. Thank you, Jean. Happy Birthday!

Louisa Coates is a former president of Heritage Ottawa.



Jean Palmer turns 100 May 2023

Historic Agricultural Fairs: Innovation, Economics, Competition and Thrills

By Allison Margot Smith



Carp Fair Agricultural Hall – 2023

In the late 1700s, agriculture was critical to the economy and development of Upper Canada. To support this vast, growing, and largely-disconnected sector, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe undertook, in 1792, to organize the Agricultural Society of Upper Canada. Soon, several regional agricultural societies emerged to represent geographic districts in Upper Canada. In 1851, an *Act of Parliament* mandated that there be an agricultural society in each County. The Act also provided for additional smaller agricultural societies within a county, at the Township level.

Agricultural societies and their fairs initially focused on agricultural improvements. But over time, fairs evolved from events where people gathered to share innovations, and to buy and sell goods, to events dedicated equally to competitions and entertainment.

Early agricultural fairs took place in fields, on streets and inside tents. Animals were tied to fences or had rope enclosures. Exhibits were set up in sheds, churches, town halls, and other structures that were not purpose-built for a fair. While organizers largely sought a “Victorian” style of organization and classification of displays, this approach was often difficult inside a single building, where fairs needed to accommodate everything from farming equipment to fancy needlework to cakes and pies. So, in the latter part of the 19th century, larger agricultural societies began to acquire and restore buildings, or to construct buildings, for permanent use as exhibition halls.

Carp Fair

One of the earliest agricultural fairs, in what is now Ottawa, was the Carp Fair, first held in 1855. Carp Fair was

organized by the Huntley Branch Agricultural Society. But after its initial year, there was not another fair in Carp until 1865. There was another pause from 1870-1880, after the massive fire in 1870 destroyed hundreds of farms. To expedite an annual fair, the Township financially supported a land purchase, and in 1897, an octagonal agricultural hall was built. Once a popular style of agricultural building in 19th-century Ontario, this two-storey, red-and-white, octagonal, wood-frame structure is one of the few remaining of its type. It was designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 2000, and remains an iconic feature of the Carp Farmers’ Market today.

Metcalfe Fair

The County of Russell Agricultural Society’s first fair was held in 1856, and its location rotated among a number of communities southeast of Ottawa, including Metcalfe. But in 1861, Metcalfe decided to hold its own annual fair. The Metcalfe Agricultural Society was established in 1912. Over the years, fair events were held in temporary buildings, as well as the Metcalfe Hotel and the Drill Hall. In 1875, the Metcalfe Agricultural Society built a large hall, with four gable-ended wings, and a grandstand. Sadly, it burned down in 1890, and was replaced a year later by the round-arched hall that still stands today, along with an 800-seat grandstand.

Aberdeen Pavilion

Ottawa’s first agricultural fair was not held until 1869. In 1879 the Ottawa fair was named The Great Dominion Exhibition. In 1888,



Metcalfe Fairground ca 1890

it opened as the Central Canada Exhibition, to great acclaim – and a deadly ballooning accident.

Many early North American exhibition halls were modelled after the 1851 Crystal Palace in London, England, designed by architect, Joseph Paxton. One such example is Ottawa's Aberdeen Pavilion, also called the *Cattle Castle*, at Lansdowne Park. A National Historic Site, it is recognized for the way that it combines:

“...the practical with the fanciful, [capturing] the spirit of the fairground. Its voluminous interior space, well-lit by many windows, is an ideal venue for exhibitions of all kinds, while its over-the-top exterior of sweeping roof, dome, corner towers and classical detail embodies the holiday atmosphere of a fair. ... [W]ith its elaborate pressed metal ornamentation, a whimsical mix of classical and agricultural motifs, the structure evokes both the festive spirit and serious purpose of the 19th-century fair.” (Parks Canada)

Built in 1898 by the Dominion Bridge Company, the Aberdeen Pavilion was designed by architect Moses C. Edey. It is the only remaining 19th-century exhibition hall of its size and scale in Canada.

As well as the Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa also had a winter fair, which began in 1902 as the Eastern Ontario Livestock and Poultry Show. In 1905, the fair moved to Lansdowne Park where it was held in the Coliseum, also called the *Fat Stock Building* and in 1913 it was renamed the *Ottawa Winter Fair*. This structure resembled the Aberdeen Pavilion, with clerestory windows along its roofline, arched windows, and towers at its corners. However, its roof collapsed twice, and in 1914, tragedy struck again when a boiler exploded, killing people and animals, and injuring dozens more. The building was repaired and renamed *Howick Hall*, where it was the site of the RCMP Musical Ride, car shows, political affairs, and sports events.

In 1914, the Prairie Style “Horticultural Building” was built at Lansdowne Park. It was designed by Allan Keefer and Frank Lloyd Wright’s student, Francis C. Sullivan.



Aberdeen Pavilion Central Canada Exhibition 1903

The Central Canada Exhibition continued, adding the midway and numerous big-name musical acts and special exhibits, until it finally closed after the 2010 “SuperEx” season.

Fairs also relied on temporary structures – particularly tents. In 1941, the Central Canada Exhibition was held in 149 tents – the largest tented exhibition ever held in Canada. This arrangement was to accommodate the WWII army training depot that took over the fairground’s buildings throughout the war. But temporary buildings often had problems, such as leaks. The 1912 Cumberland fair was flooded, and competition contributions ruined, in a rain storm.

According to the *Toronto Globe*, in the latter part of the 19th century, fall country fairs were one of the most popular family events of the year. For some it was the opportunity to learn about improvements to the practice of farming. For others it was their

largest annual social gathering. But with increases in urbanization and the growing number of automobiles, fairs also attracted city-dwellers. The fairs of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were places that cut across class divisions, and they could also be places of cultural hegemony. But the source of this dominance came from persuasion and inducements, rather than authoritarianism. Fairs were exciting, they were illuminating, and they were places to see and be seen.

Allison Margot Smith is an historian and historical documentary filmmaker. She is a member of the board of Heritage Ottawa.

Further Reading

Nurse, Jodey. *Cultivating Community: Women and Agricultural Fairs in Ontario*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2022.

Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. *A History of Agricultural*

Societies and Fairs in Ontario, 1792-1992. Peterborough, ON: F.P.Comrie and John Deyell, 1992.

Walden, Keith. *Becoming Modern in Toronto: The Industrial Exhibition and the Shaping of a Late Victorian Culture*. University of Toronto Press, 1997. <https://doi.org/10.3138/9781442671218>.

Navan Fair

August 10 – 13, 2023

Capital Fair (Gloucester)

August 18 – 27, 2023

Richmond Fair

September 14 – 17, 2023

Carp Fair

September 21 – 24, 2023

Metcalfe Fair

September 28 – October 1, 2023

City Registry Office on the Move

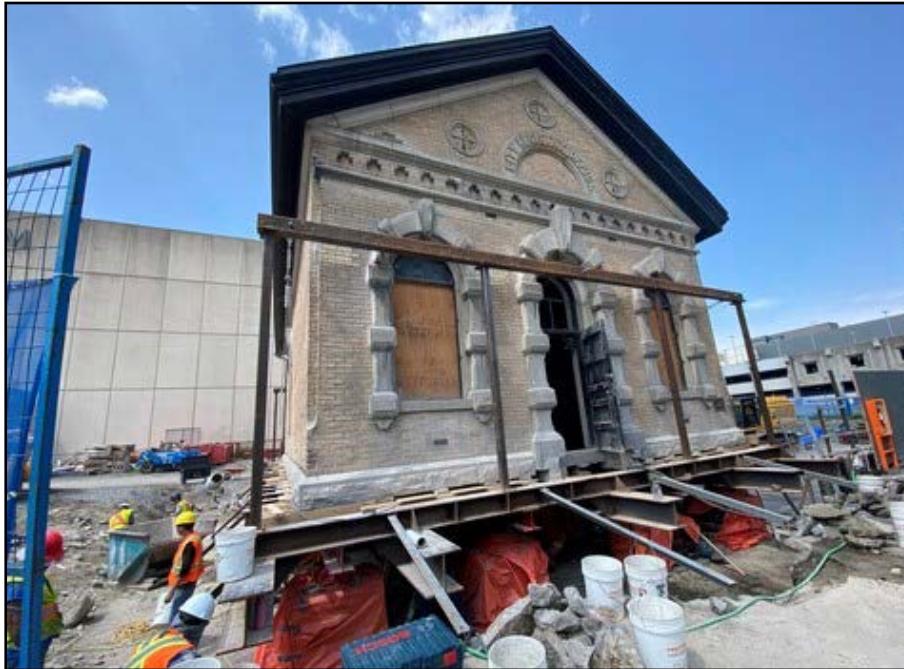


Photo: Barry Padolsky

After 6 months of “pre-op” procedures the Registry Office is fully disengaged from its original foundations and is independently supported by “jacks”. July 11, 2023.

On Saturday July 22, 2023, Ottawa’s historic City Registry Office was successfully moved 18 metres north to its permanent location (on temporary steel piles.)

After many years of neglect and uncertainty, the Registry Office, designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, will be integrated into a new mixed-use high rise apartment development.

Although this has involved relocating the Registry Office on the site, Heritage Ottawa supported the investment in the historic building, which will see it adapted to a new use allowing public access to the building for the first time in over 35 years.

More information about this building and its long history is available on the Heritage Ottawa website: <https://heritageottawa.org/50years/city-registry-office>

Hail and Farewell

On May 10 Heritage Ottawa held its Annual General Meeting, an occasion to renew the Board of Directors and enjoy a presentation from a guest speaker. Our speaker was James Bourdeau, conservation specialist, whose presentation was entitled “Ottawa – New York: Heritage Interiors with Historical Connections.”

We said farewell to three colleagues who stepped down from the Board: Richard Belliveau; Gorana Botic; and Zeynep Ekim. Their service to Heritage Ottawa was noted with thanks, especially Richard Belliveau, who served as President during the period when we challenged the development proposal to build an addition to the Chateau Laurier.

Four new members of the Board were nominated and approved at the meeting: Johanne Fortier; Thomas Gonçalves; Emily Guy; and Robert Pajot. Existing Board members who

stood for re-election are: Paul Bennett; Barbara Botriell; Maya Bugorski; Ian Ferguson; Linda Hoad; David Jeanes; Kate MacFarlane Hunter McGill; Carolyn Quinn; Martin Rice; Katherine Spencer-Ross; Gilles Séguin; Allison Margot Smith and John Zvonar. All Board members serve for a twelve month term, renewable.

Johanne Fortier is a retired public servant with experience at the National Capital Commission, the House of Commons and Long Term Planning for the Parliamentary Precinct. She was responsible for the Standards and *Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

Emily Guy is the Research and Policy Lead at TRACE (formerly MTBA) one of Ottawa's leading heritage conservation architectural firms, with a specialty in heritage and historical research. She is a Project Manager responsible for heritage policy, concerned most recently with the changes to Ontario Heritage Legislation.

Thomas Gonçalves is a young heritage enthusiast who has acted as an “ambassador” for Heritage Montréal, and collaborated in fundraising campaigns. He maintains an Instagram site focusing on heritage buildings in Montreal and nearby cities. Thomas lives in Montreal, but is planning a move to Ottawa in the near future.

Robert Pajot recently retired from the National Trust for Canada, having served as Regeneration Project Leader for the last five years. He had a lengthy career in PWGSC, including as the National Manager of Heritage Programs and Stewardship, and the Heritage Conservation Directorate of the Real Property Branch.

At its first meeting, on May 30, the new Board elected the following as officers of the organization: President, Katherine Spencer-Ross; Vice-President Operations, Linda Hoad; Vice- President Development, Gilles Séguin; Vice-President Communications, Carolyn Quinn; Secretary, Kate MacFarlane; and Treasurer, Martin Rice.

Heritage Ottawa Online Auction

A night at the Lord Elgin Hotel in downtown Ottawa or the Wakefield Mill Hotel and Spa in the rolling Gatineau Hills. A sumptuous meal at Les Fougères or the Mill St. Brew Pub on the Gatineau and Ottawa rivers respectively. Gift certificates to Perfect Books and Books on Beechwood. A round of golf for two at Ottawa's top public course, the Marshes. A watercolour by prominent

20th century Ottawa artist Gerald Trottier. Films at the Bytowne Cinema and Mayfair Theatre. Or a unicycle! These are just some of the many items we have already secured for Heritage Ottawa's inaugural Online Auction.

But we are looking to increase the number and variety of available auction items that you will be able to bid on to help ensure that Heritage Ottawa has

the necessary funds to carry out its many activities over the coming few years. So, if you or a friend own a business and are prepared to contribute or if you are looking to downsize and have no room for the valuable work of art in your study, please get in touch at info@heritageottawa.org

And circle the auction dates: February 11-17, 2024! Stay tuned for further information.

Muséoparc Vanier : (re)Découvrez votre musée!

Par Annick Normand

Depuis le 4 juillet dernier, le Muséoparc Vanier est fier de faire (re)découvrir un musée entièrement rénové à ses visiteurs.

Fermé depuis mars 2020, le Muséoparc a profité de la pandémie de COVID-19 pour entamer son plus gros projet de rénovation depuis sa création en 2004. Le design du musée et de la nouvelle exposition permanente « Vanier. Notre place. » a été confié à Stefan Canuel qui possède plus de 25 ans d'expérience dans l'industrie du design et de la création et qui est présentement designer senior au Musée des beaux-arts du Canada.

Cette rénovation majeure de plus de 500 000 \$ a complètement transformé ce musée communautaire pour en faire un espace muséal digne des grands musées de la capitale fédérale.

« Dès leur arrivée au nouveau musée, les visiteurs seront en mesure d'apprécier l'ampleur des travaux de rénovation qui ont été réalisés



Fauteuil du maire d'Eastview à la table du conseil municipal (1940-1955) et uniforme de policier.

au cours des deux dernières années, souligne Madeleine Meilleur, directrice générale du Muséoparc Vanier. Le conservateur du musée a accompli un travail rigoureux afin de concevoir une exposition qui répond à notre mandat et à la mission

du Muséoparc. Le temps est enfin venu pour la communauté de se réapproprier son musée et de venir le visiter en grand nombre! »

« Vanier. Notre place. » : la nouvelle exposition permanente du Muséoparc

Le Muséoparc Vanier a fait appel à Denis Gratton, journaliste et fier Vaniérois, pour rédiger le texte d'introduction de sa nouvelle exposition permanente. Dès les premiers instants, ses mots transportent les visiteurs dans un voyage au cœur de ce quartier emblématique pour la francophonie ontarienne.

Plus de 150 artefacts, dont quelques nouveautés, sont exposés tout au long du nouveau parcours qui comporte cinq sections sur l'histoire de Vanier, de ses fondations aux transformations actuelles, avec un accent tout particulier sur Vanier comme bastion de la francophonie ottavienne et ontarienne.

Le nouveau musée offre maintenant aux visiteurs un parcours numérique donnant accès à du contenu exclusif et complémentaire. Lors de votre visite, vous pourrez utiliser différents supports technologiques (codes QR et puces NFC) tout au long du parcours de l'exposition. Des tablettes pourront aussi être manipulées pour parcourir de nombreuses photos. Tout cela nous permet d'offrir une expérience unique et enrichissante à nos visiteurs!

Le Muséoparc Vanier tient à remercier les partenaires financiers suivants, sans qui cette rénovation n'aurait pas été possible : la Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario, Tourisme



Artéfacts de la section « Le développement d'Eastview/Vanier »

Ottawa, Patrimoine canadien, le gouvernement de l'Ontario, la Ville d'Ottawa et la congrégation des Sœurs de l'Institut Jeanne d'Arc.

Le musée, situé au 2e étage du 300, av. des Pères-Blancs à Vanier, est ouvert du mardi au vendredi (10 h à 16 h) et le samedi (10 h à 14 h). Pour planifier votre visite, visitez le www.museoparc.ca.

Saviez-vous que?

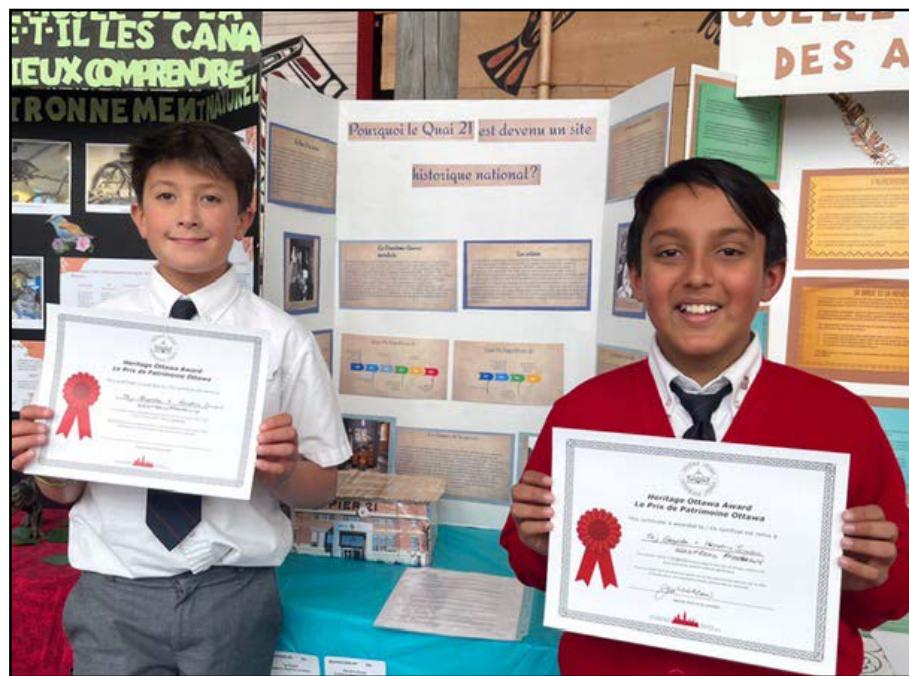
Le Muséoparc Vanier est le seul musée francophone d'Ottawa et l'un des 11 musées communautaires membres du Réseau des musées d'Ottawa!

Annick Normand est la gestionnaire des communications et du marketing du Muséoparc Vanier depuis novembre 2021. Elle détient une maîtrise en communication de l'Université d'Ottawa et 15 ans d'expérience dans le domaine des communications, de la publicité et du marketing.



Artéfacts de la section « La vie en société » (costumes de Zouaves pontificaux et de guides).

Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair 2023



Winners of the Heritage Ottawa award, Hendrix Simon and Tej Gupta, from Académie Westboro Academy.

Photo: Richard Belliveau

Once again, Heritage Ottawa offered an award at the Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair for a research project about a recognized historic place in the national capital region. The Fair was held on April 26 this year in the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau.

The Heritage Ottawa Prize was given to two students from the Académie Westboro Academy, for their project, *Pourquoi le Quai 22 est devenu un site historique national* (Why Pier 22 became a National Historic Site). The prize winners were Tej Gupta and Hendrix Simon.

The award was presented by Richard Belliveau, former president of Heritage Ottawa, who was also a judge in the Fair. Congratulations to our winners, and to all the participants in the Fair.

Advocacy Update – Heritage Register At Risk and Other News of Note

By David Flemming

Heritage Register

As a result of the amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* triggered by Ontario Bill 23 – *More Homes Built Faster Act*, the City of Ottawa is undertaking a thorough review of the 4600 listings on its Heritage Register to determine those that might be eligible for consideration of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (see *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, Vol. 47, No. 4, p. 7). Because of limitations to the length of time a property can remain on the Heritage Register, this work must be undertaken by the end of 2024.

The full report to the June 13 2023 Built Heritage Committee meeting on the proposed strategy to deal with this critical situation, which will leave many potential heritage properties unprotected from demolition, can be found here: <https://pub-ottawa.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=131625>

The Heritage Planning staff welcome the advice of Heritage Ottawa and community heritage committees on properties that they feel are worthy of potential designation. Heritage Ottawa's advocacy committee is beginning a review of the Register and will be advising municipal heritage planners of properties for potential designation. We urge community associations and individual citizens to provide the City's Heritage Planning Section with their recommendations for possible designation at heritage@ottawa.ca.

Somerset House

We are pleased to see that the City is considering an application for an

alteration at 352 Somerset Street West (Somerset House), a property designated under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act* located in the Centretown Heritage Conservation District. The proposed development includes the restoration and stabilization of the historic building and the construction of a three-storey addition at the back (east) of the existing building. The proposed development is a mixed-use building with two commercial units and 14 residential units: <https://devapps.ottawa.ca/en/applications/D09-04-23-0030/details>

Restoration of this property, a notorious example of heritage demolition by neglect, has been the focus of Heritage Ottawa efforts to preserve this property for the past 16 years. We are currently preparing comments on this latest promising proposal. We hope that if approved, the owner will undertake the work proposed based on the current proposal and Conservation Guidelines recently developed by the City.

Lansdowne 2.0

Yet another public consultation session on the proposed "Lansdowne 2.0" is scheduled for September 6: <https://engage.ottawa.ca/lansdowne-2-0> The proposal does not include any additions or renovations to the two heritage buildings (Aberdeen Pavilion and Horticulture Building) and appears to be in concordance with the Ontario Heritage Trust easements for the Aberdeen Pavilion. We are however concerned about the overall effect of having a 40-storey apartment building less than 20 metres from and towering over the Aberdeen Pavilion.

Bill C-23

We hope that the recent Federal cabinet reshuffle and possible changes on Government priorities will not prevent Parliament from consideration of Bill C-23 (*Historic Places of Canada Act*) in September. As we have noted previously, this legislation is essential if we are to protect Canada's Federally-owned National Historic Sites (see *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, Vol.49, No.4, p.3).

We are currently reviewing a seemingly endless number development applications for new construction over 40-storeys which will put an additional strain on the preservation of designated heritage properties and districts. Stay tuned....

Visit heritageottawa.org for more up-to-date information.

David B. Flemming is a former President of Heritage Ottawa and now chairs the organization's Advocacy Committee

Heritage Ottawa Workshops

Do you own an older home or are you thinking of buying one? Are you sometimes lost in contradictory free advice on the web? Heritage Ottawa wants to help. This fall, we will be offering an Introductory Workshop designed for owners and prospective owners of older homes in Ottawa. A series of more in-depth workshops will follow at a later date. We are seeking input from current and prospective owners of older homes, as well as restoration architects, contractors and consultants, through the link found on our website. The survey is short and will not take up much of your time.

<https://heritageottawa.org/workshops>