

Established in 1967
Celebrating our 27th year



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Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

Friends of Maplelawn Garden: Hands On

by Jean Palmer

Heritage designation has just been given to Maplelawn, a house at 529 Richmond Road, and to its walled garden, perhaps the only remaining garden in Canada to retain its walls, its plan and, some of its original plantings.

Anyone looking over the wall last summer could have observed a zealous, but careful, battalion of grubby gardeners clearing the paths, weeding the flower beds and trimming the shrubbery. These were crews from the newly-formed *Friends of Maplelawn Garden*, a volunteer group, led by Ann Falkner and Nancy Smith, who are bringing back the glory days of this wonderful formal garden.

The stone house, Maplelawn, was built around 1831 and the walled garden kept out the farm livestock: cattle, sheep and horses. The *Bytown Gazette* of 1841 referred to the substantial stone fences dividing the fields and to "a handsome garden surrounded by a stone and lime wall." The garden was probably more practical than ornamental at that period and would have produced mostly vegetables and fruit.

In 1878 the property was sold by William Thomson, the original owner, to Thomas Cole, who named the property the Highland Park Dairy Farm and lived there until his death in 1904. One of his nine children married a Rochester, and their son Lloyd and his wife were the last

occupants of the house, selling it in 1952 to the NCC (National Capital Commission), by which time it had been renamed Maplelawn.

The terms of the sale allowed the Rochesters to stay on in the house for as long as they wanted, and the last Rochester, Frances, moved out in 1989.

The rectangular garden had been re-designed in 1940 by Warren Oliver, senior horticulturalist at the Central Experimental Farm, and though wartime restrictions prevented his entire plan from being carried out, the basic geometry of a cross with a central circular pond and radiating paths was established.

In 1989 the NCC commissioned an "as found" survey under noted Canadian landscape architect John Stewart, whom some of you will have heard in Heritage Ottawa's 1993 lecture series. The survey discovered that much of the 1940's Oliver plantings had survived more or less in the original place, and it was decided that the garden should be restored to the 1940 plan.

Delay and neglect followed for another few years, but with the *Friends* on site last summer, the old perennials, freed of their choking weeds began to come into bloom. There were remarkable surprises as the summer wore on and yet another gorgeous clump revealed its colour.

The *Friends of Maplelawn* are organizing for summer and welcome new members. It's one of those rewarding "hands-on" contributions. While we can't actually reset a brick in a heritage house, we can personally ensure the survival of this historic walled garden by weeding and cultivating.

Call Ann Falkner 722-3226 or Nancy Smith 728-5451 to join the *Friends of Maplelawn*.



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President's Message

by Louise Coates

This year has already held a number of challenges and rewards for members as we see our efforts at preservation find success. Our real success stories are the saving of Wallis House and the Aberdeen Pavilion! Thanks to our members for their support.

A G M

In January, we held our 1993 annual general meeting in the beautiful Banking Room on Parliament Hill. Citizen reporter Chris Cobb fielded questions from our membership on heritage reporting: Why do reporters care so much more about what government versus heritage proponents have to say? Why are stories dealing with the value of heritage superficial at best?

Richard Cannings dubbed the Citizen's article on 171 Bolton Street—it said the house would cost a fortune to restore and was sitting on valuable land—a 'how-to' for demolition. Another article dealt with heritage buildings that are 'firetraps', but neglected to explain that the fire marshal often condemns a building on the prompting of a frustrated heritage owner.

Cobb said the media was an excellent tool for Heritage Ottawa and that garnering exposure, from extreme public antics to informative meetings, was worth the effort.

Heritage Day

February 21st was Heritage Day in the province and Heritage Ottawa set up a booth, complete with our publications and photos of old Ottawa (the photo of pigs wandering freely on Sparks Street in 1860 is always a favourite), at this year's Heritage Day location, the Glebe Community Centre. You are always welcome to volunteer at our public information booths.

Heritage Ottawa Essay Prize

by Jean Palmer

Last year saw the destruction of Connaught School, a solid building with a handsome sandstone entrance that should have been renovated and preserved.

At the same time, Lisgar Collegiate was celebrating its 150th birthday. That school too was threatened with demolition in 1973 when the zealous heads of the Ottawa Board of Education found it too small, too dark, and too old-fashioned. An articulate student body and an aggressive parents' organization defended the tradition and historic framework of the institution and creative minds found ways to extend space while preserving the heritage building.

To celebrate Lisgar's preservation and birthday, Heritage Ottawa offered a prize of \$150 to the Lisgar student who wrote the best 2000-word essay on an aspect of Ottawa's built heritage. Louise

Coates presented the winning awards at the end-of-the-year school assembly on June 10th.

Four judges read essay entries: Stuart Lazear, Senior Heritage Planner with the City of Ottawa, and Heritage Ottawa Board members Louise Coates, Jean Palmer and Rhys Phillips.

After two lengthy sessions they came up with first prize winner, Michael Ang, who won \$150 for his essay, *Cartier Square Drill Hall*.

Second prize, a book, went to Megan Reekie for her essay, *Baynes House*.

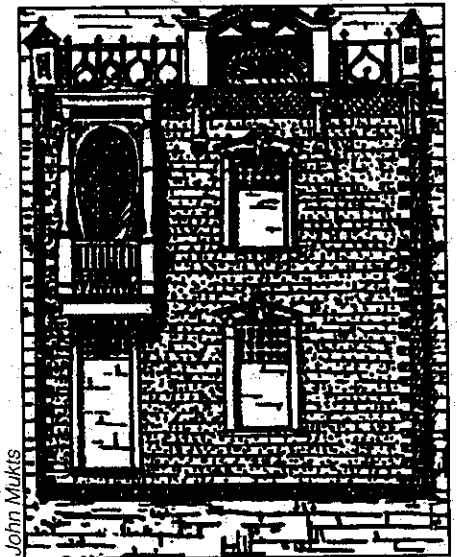
Jennifer Scrimger's essay called "195 Elgin - Not Your Normal School", earned her third prize.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to Dr. Janet Morchain of Lisgar Collegiate who assigned the essay as an option in her Social History class.

Heritage Ottawa's Film Wins Award

A Heritage Ottawa short film, that aired on Rogers Cable in December of 1993, won second prize in the magazine category at the *Ontario Community Television Producers' Awards*, in March of this year.

The video, which depicts heritage victories in the city, was chosen over more than 190 other entries. The video was co-written by Louise Coates, Mary Lou Doyle and Jean Palmer, and creatively produced by Rogers' Allan Jones. The video features Louise and Julian Smith, the heritage consultant for the project, discussing the history and actual restoration of the Aberdeen Pavilion. The programme also features Heritage Ottawa's work preserving the historic Byward Market.



The Tin House Court, located between Murray and Clarence Streets, is a former stable and service yard and a restful oasis in the Byward Market. It is graced with the façade of Honore Foisy's house, which was covered with hand-shaped pieces of galvanized tin. The house was demolished in 1962, but its façade hangs in the Court for all to enjoy.

Garden of the Provinces: Hands Off!

by Jean Palmer

While we celebrate the heritage designation of Maplelawn Garden, there is disturbing news about another historic garden. Preliminary plans have been drawn up for a building on the site which is now the *Garden of the Provinces* at Wellington and Bay Streets.

With the current extension and renovation of the national Archives nearing completion, still more space is needed to house Canada's growing archival collection and this nearby site is being considered.

Heritage Ottawa has written to David Dingwall, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, to object to the *Garden of the Provinces* being

considered as a possible building site. It is important to preserve what remains of the historic view of Parliament Hill. Though much is blocked by mega development, it is still possible to see from the Western Parkway the neo-Gothic spires of the Parliament Buildings and of Christ Church Cathedral. They complement each other architecturally and have long historical associations. The *Garden of the Provinces* allows and enhances that association, while a new building would obstruct and destroy the view.

Cityscapes are important, but on its own the *Garden of the Provinces* has historic and symbolic signifi-

gance. At the opening ceremony in 1962, Prime Minister Diefenbaker expressed his pleasure, "since gardens are the essence of peace, tranquillity and harmony" and added, "This garden is a symbol of Canada, marking the nation's unity of purpose and ensuring the provinces of their rightful place in the constitution." Thirty years on, the unity shows signs of stress, but removing the provincial and territorial flags flying over the commemorative garden, dismantling the floral emblems and destroying the symbolic site are not the way for a government to restore faith, nor to preserve or enhance the historical view of Parliament Hill.

Ottawa's Waller Street Police Station—Recent Heritage?

by Jean Palmer

The threat to the *Garden of the Provinces* brings up a larger issue. Should LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee), be giving heritage designation to modern buildings and sites, or is that protection to be given only to Old Ottawa?

In May, the wrecker's ball flattened Peter Dickenson's 1952 prize-winning police station on Waller Street, a sound steel-and-glass building that caught the spirit of Mayor Charlotte Whitton's dynamic Ottawa of the fifties.

At the time of completion Whitton applauded the building's "vivid imagination, precision of execution, and sense of vitality."

Dickenson worked for Toronto's Page and Steele as chief designer for eleven years, then on his own for three years, during which time he turned Canadian architecture around. When he died from cancer in 1961, at the age of 36, modern architecture was the order of the day.

The Police Building at 60 Waller Street was one of Dickenson's early efforts. The other Dickenson work in Ottawa is the Sandringham Apartments on Range Road.

Despite proposals for re-use, Ottawa City Council voted for demolition of the Police Building in March of this year. In the same week, Charlottetown P.E.I. announced the establishment of a new Arts Centre in a 1950s steel-and-glass structure that was formerly a Royal Bank. There will be artists' studios, space for the performing arts, an exhibition area and a sound-proof recording studio in the former bank vault.

The Royal Bank made a gift of the building to Charlottetown for an Arts Centre. Ottawa City Council's vision could go no further than the wrecker's ball. What a waste!

For those interested in electing councillors that are more heritage sensitive, please note that the following voted **to demolish** this building:

George Brown (*Riverside*),
Jill Brown (*Britannia*),
Peter Harris (*Dalhousie*),
Peter Hume (*Alta Vista*),
Jack MacKinnon (*Canterbury*),
Mark Maloney (*Carlington-Westboro*),
Joan O'Neill (*Billings*),
Joan Wong (*Elmdale*),
Jim Watson (*Capital*).

Accolades to those councillors with some vision. The following voted **to save** 60 Waller:

Richard Cannings (*By-Rideau*),
Alex Cullen (*Richmond*),
Diane Holmes (*Wellington*),
Mayor Jacquelin Holzman,
Tim Kehoe (*Carleton*),
Jacques Legendre (*Overbrook-Forbes*),
Nancy Mitchell (*St. George's*).

Not all those councillors who voted to save 60 Waller have a clean track record on heritage issues. For example, Kehoe, Holzman and Cullen recently voted in favour of demolishing the McCord apartments on Somerset Street. A letter or call from a constituent can make a difference!

Heritage Updates; Wallis & Aberdeen Success Stories

by Louise Coates

By February 1, 1994, bids had been submitted to the department of Public Works to restore **Wallis House**, the 121 year-old former hospital at the corner of Rideau and Charlotte Streets. After a month's deliberation, Minister David Dingwall's office refused an offer that would have converted the building into market-value apartments, with town-houses to the north, and non-profit housing to the east.

The government decided to re-tender development proposals until April 18, 1994, after which it said it would demolish if no one offered the \$750,000 asking price. Three bids were submitted, with one offering \$500,000. Would the federal government compromise and give up \$250,000 to save a building erected six years after Canada's confederation? After weeks of lobbying by Heritage Ottawa and several city councillors, the federal government delighted us all: it accepted Sandy Smallwood, of Andrex Holding's, offer to restore the building and Wallis has been saved!

The building of Wallis symbolized the new faith in public medicine that was emerging as Canada matured in the late 1800s. After British nurse Florence Nightingale introduced improvements to health care, public hospitals began to emerge in Canada, built by churches and other charitable groups and later, by the province as it assumed responsibility for the sick (the Civic Hospital opened in 1923).

Wallis House, a federally designated heritage building and an extremely rare landmark in our collective history, would have been an enormous loss to this city! We are absolutely delighted that the hospital, built in 1873, will be with us into the future!

Heritage Ottawa had been trying to preserve the **Aberdeen Pavilion**, along with its neighbour the Horticulture Building, since the buildings were closed to the public in October, 1987. In the spring of 1991, the Aberdeen's demolition was approved by Ottawa City Council.

Architectural historian and Heritage Ottawa member, Fern Graham, warned that City council "didn't know just what kind of fight it would face", if it proceeded with the demolition.

In February 1992, our members organized a large and successful rally inside the Horticulture Building to generate support for the two buildings. That spring, Board Member, Gérard Robard gave site lectures and tours. In June, after board member Jean Palmer took the message to local schools, two Glebe Collegiate students made a plea, complete with a petition, to City councillors to save the site for future generations. Finally that fall, newly elected Ottawa City Councillors, Jim Watson and Peter Hume, came up with a simple plan for restoration that was approved by Council.

Heritage architect Julian Smith was hired to complete the restoration and work began in the summer of 1993. On June 27th of this year, the official re-opening of the Aberdeen, restored to its 19th century glory, took place—at a cost much lower than planned!

The Aberdeen's restoration is a real heritage success story! Drive by the 1890s *Crystal Palace of Ottawa* and see for yourself!

The University of Ottawa has applied to the City of Ottawa to demolish the two large brick houses at **74 and 78 Laurier Avenue East**. A new campus

building is planned. Please call your City councillor to prevent any further plans for demolition.

The **Guigues Street School**, built and run by Franco-Canadiens since the turn of the century, has been bought from the French Language School Board! A French seniors group, *Le Centre du Jour*, will begin renovations to the school soon.

Due to the efforts of Heritage Ottawa, Senior Heritage Planner Stuart Lazear and Councillor Richard Cannings, demolition of the small Lowertown house at **171-173 Bolton Street** seems unlikely after all. According to an agreement Canada has with foreign embassies, it is contrary to protocol to demolish any Canadian buildings with heritage value. We appreciate the Korean Embassy's decision to honour that agreement.

Eric Cohen, one of Ottawa's heritage restorers and dealers in heritage fixtures and ornaments, is leaving town. Heritage Ottawa said goodbye to Eric and Judith Cohen at a small reception held in June. Mr. Cohen was presented with a plaque thanking him for his restoration work in Ottawa. The Cohen family is moving to Vancouver and Heritage Ottawa wishes them well in their future endeavours.

Pooley's Bridge, on the edge of LeBreton Flats, is a relic of the Bytown days when the Chaudière and LeBreton Flats thrived with industry. The small stone bridge will be stabilized and then it must vie for scarce restoration dollars. At barren LeBreton's Flats, Pooley's Bridge and the Fleet Street Pumping Station are scarce reminders of days gone by.

National Capital Commission's Properties Around Town

The NCC is a major owner of historic properties in the Ottawa region. According to François LeBlanc, chief architect at the NCC, the agency owns about 1500 buildings. The Federal Heritage Building Review Office (FHBRO), is currently assessing all NCC-owned buildings over 40 years old (as they are required to do by federal legislation), to determine whether or not they merit heritage recognition. So far between 50 and 60 of these buildings have been classified or recognized as having historic significance.

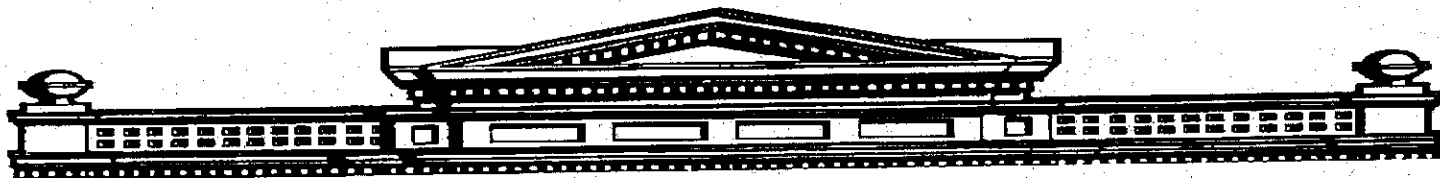
The NCC still owns the buildings along **Sussex Drive**, which it has maintained but has not fully rented. Rented buildings are always better cared for. We encourage the NCC to find tenants as soon as possible.

❖ Good news—The NCC is currently in negotiations with a potential user for **Rochester House**, a stone house located on Richmond Road. The building will be restored and used as a restaurant, if the deal goes through. If the deal doesn't work out, the NCC plans to repair the deteriorating sections of the building before they try to find another user.

❖ Bad news but may get better—The York Street property, that was most recently **Guadaluharry's**, has been vacant for several years and no tenant has been found. But, M. LeBlanc says that the NCC has had numerous proposals, so there is a possibility that the property won't be vacant for too much longer.

❖ Good news—Guadaluharry's neighbour closer to Sussex, **465 York Street**, is being rehabilitated with retail stores downstairs and apartments upstairs.

❖ Bad news—The **four brick houses** on the island, surrounded by Nicholas, Laurier East and Waller Streets, are boarded up and falling apart (does this sound like a familiar tactic?). The two houses on Waller are comfortable and attractive dwellings in a turn-of-the-century style. François LeBlanc says that the houses may be moved closer together to make the land more attractive to buyers. Ultimately the NCC plans to sell them. M. LeBlanc says there are no plans to demolish.



1994 Heritage Day Awards

The City of Ottawa announced the recipients of the 13th annual *Architectural Conservation Awards*, recognizing excellence in the preservation of Ottawa's heritage character, in a ceremony held at City Hall in February of this year. Awards were presented in the following categories:

RESTORATION AWARDS

These awards are for returning a heritage resource to its original form, material and integrity:

Award of Excellence

- ❖ The Bank Street Bridge
Barry Padolsky Architect

Certificates of Merit

- ❖ 164 Guigues for restoration by
Gerhard Linse, Designer
- ❖ 185-187 Sparks Street
Leaning and Associates Architects

ADAPTIVE USE AWARDS

These awards are for the modification of a heritage resource to contemporary functional standards while retaining its heritage character, with possible adaptation for new uses:

Award of Excellence

- ❖ The Fleck-Paterson House
Architects Circle

Certificates of Merit

- ❖ The Royal College of Physicians
and Surgeons of Canada
Murray & Murray Associates

INFILL AWARDS

These awards are for an addition to a heritage building or all new construction within an historic context:

Award of Excellence

- ❖ The Somerset West Community
Health Centre
Griffiths Rankin Cook, Architects

Certificates of Merit

- ❖ 420 Lyon Street North
Douglas Hardie, Architect
- ❖ 87 Mackay Street
John Arnold, Designer

If you would like to receive further information regarding Heritage Day Awards, please contact:

Sally Coutts,
City of Ottawa
Heritage Section,
Department of Planning and Development
Tel: 564-3036 Fax: 564-8077

Bridges As Historic Monuments

by Paul Stumes

Sites where people, livestock and merchandise traverse bodies of water have had great significance from prehistoric times to the present. In fact, most nations' capital cities have developed, over time, from ancient fords or ferry stations.

When the technology permitted the construction of permanent bridges, they were built not just as simple structures but as signs of civic pride as well. Elaborately ornamented bridges span rivers all over the world. Certain bridges became unique symbols of cities, for example, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, the Brooklyn Bridge in New York and the Tower Bridge in London.

Here in Canada, we also have bridges which are more than river crossings. One of them is the Lions Gate Bridge in Vancouver. The Albert Memorial Bridge in Regina also deserves special mention.

The latter bridge was built in 1930 as the City's most important thoroughfare. The structure itself is extremely simple because the local conditions do not require arches or other elements which provide the basis for decoration on most other bridges. However, because this bridge is a memorial for those who fought in the First World War, an ingenious way was found to provide appropriate ornamentation. The railings along the sides are composed of hundreds of exquisitely decorated and colourful terracotta balusters, ornate light posts and commemorative plaques.

After more than 50 years of faithful service, the bridge recently

succumbed to the cruel winters of Saskatchewan. Certain "experts" recommended the complete alteration of the bridge. Had their advice been followed, Regina's unique heritage, and one of Canada's most impressive artistic structures, would have been destroyed.

To prevent this, a citizens' committee was formed under the title "*The Albert Memorial Bridge Vigilantes*." Thanks to the *Vigilantes* powerful lobbying, City council gave the job to an engineering firm with great

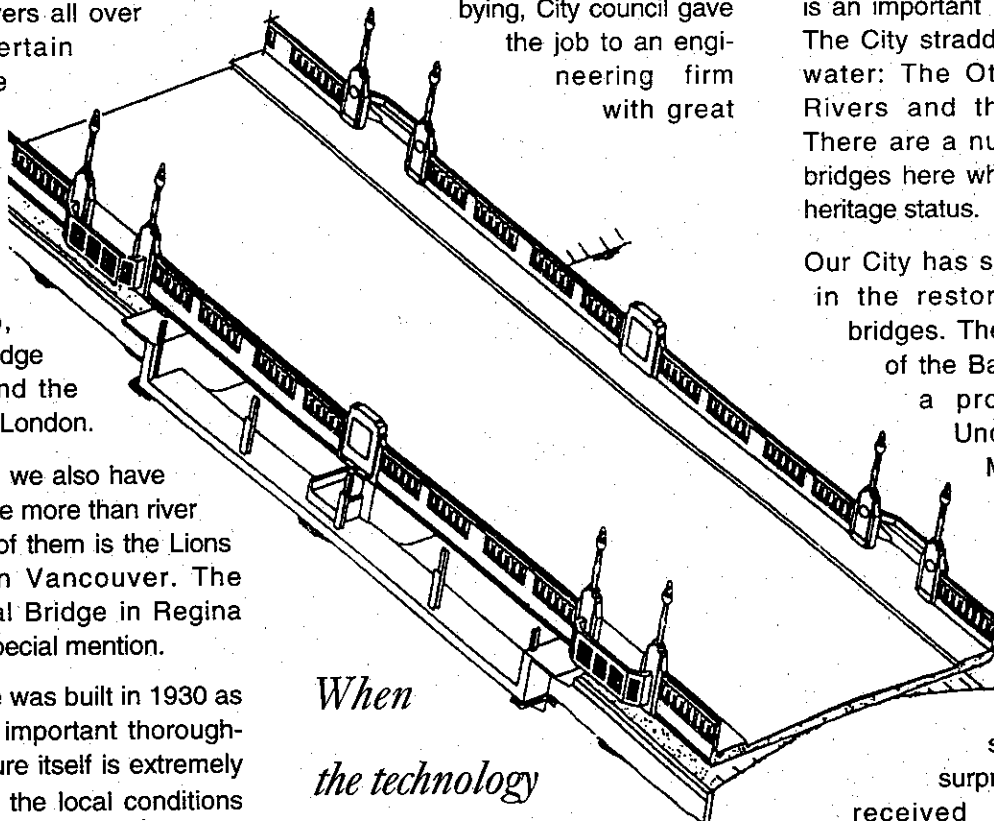
sensitivity toward heritage. Mr. D.L. Harrison, P.Eng, the manager of the Structural Division of Reid Crowther & Partners Ltd., found ways to reinforce the structure, and at the same time, restore the bridge's artistic components to their original splendour. The writer of this article had the privilege of participating in this project as a conservation consultant.

The preservation of historic bridges is an important issue in Ottawa too. The City straddles three bodies of water: The Ottawa and Rideau Rivers and the Rideau Canal. There are a number of important bridges here which have significant heritage status.

Our City has some achievements in the restoration of heritage bridges. The recent restoration of the Bank Street Bridge is a prominent example. Under the direction of Mr. V. Sahni, P.Eng., the bridge was not only reinforced, but also restored to meet the most demanding artistic standards. It is not surprising that the project received the Award of Excellence in Restoration, from the City of Ottawa.

Nevertheless, the Membership of Heritage Ottawa must be vigilant because two of our most important bridges require overhaul in the near future.

One is the Cummings Bridge which connects Ottawa's Rideau Street to Vanier's Montreal Road across the Rideau River. The Cummings Bridge is an early example of reinforced concrete arch bridges and, with its



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Bridge crossing the Rideau Canal. Notice the railroad tracks that once brought its passengers into the heart of the City.

graceful lines, it provides a magnificent view for the multitudes who stroll along the treed shores of the Rideau River.

The bridge has been placed on the protective list of Heritage Structures in Ontario because of its aesthetic significance and because it embodies important examples of technical advances in Canada. Regrettably, the protection is more symbolic than actual. The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) plans to widen the road surface in a manner which may be detrimental to the heritage features of Cummings Bridge.

In any case, we feel that the widening of the road surface would not solve the traffic problems. The number of lanes on the bridge won't increase, which means no increase to the volume of traffic that can cross the river. Furthermore, during peak hours both Rideau Street and Montreal Road are loaded to capacity and can not discharge more cars on to the bridge. The weathered arches may be repaired without diminishing their historic character.

Traffic safety could be improved by widening the approaches at both ends of Cummings Bridge. This solution would not affect the historic ambience and would also save money.

We urge the Members of Heritage Ottawa to telephone or write to the RMOC expressing the necessity of protecting this heritage bridge. The address to contact is:

V. Sahni, P.Eng.
Manager, Structural Branch
(Transportation)
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
111 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 2L7
Tel: 560-2064

Send a copy of your letter to:

Councillor Nancy Mitchell
City of Ottawa
111 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5A1
Fax: 564-8412 Tel: 564-1329

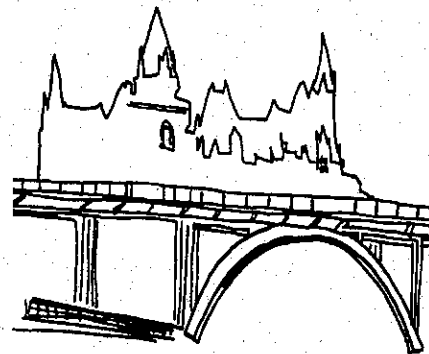
The Laurier Avenue Bridge, which crosses the Rideau Canal at the National Defence Headquarters Building, is also waiting for renovation. The centre section of this bridge is supported by a green, painted steel arch. This structure is probably familiar to everyone in Ottawa. The arch provides the frame for the picturesque view of the Rideau Canal in winter with the skating crowd in the background. Posters and postcards printed with this scene are distributed around the world. The scene has become an international symbol of Ottawa.

At Heritage Ottawa's insistence, the designers who will renovate the Laurier Bridge have engaged an architect to ensure that the work will be carried out with due consideration to historic and artistic concepts. Prior to construction, the drawing will be shown to experts on the board of Heritage Ottawa and LACAC for approval.

As the preparation of plans for the bridge progresses Members of Heritage Ottawa will be kept up-to-date on developments.

Friends of the Rideau

The *Friends of the Rideau* are trying to have the Rideau Canal declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They will be sponsoring an International Symposium on Heritage Canals. The tentative date for this event is September 16th – 19th of this year. This event is in the process of being organized. If you would like additional information, please call 283-5810.



The Loss of the Beaver Barracks: The Destruction of Ottawa's Military Architectural History

by John Kowalski

The wrecker's ball has taken its toll on one of Ottawa's last remaining World War II structures and we mourn the loss of our wartime history. The Beaver Barracks 50-year history will end with the sale of the land.

The Beaver Barracks were one of approximately 20 temporary buildings constructed during World War II. All of them have been torn down, save for the Justice Annex behind the Department of Justice on Wellington Street, and another on Carling Avenue that houses a reserve unit.

The original site was bounded by Catherine, Metcalfe, Argyle and O'Connor Streets. On December 31, 1942 the Department of National Defence (DND), purchased three

vacant lots on Catherine Street and two vacant lots on Metcalfe Street. In January 1943 they purchased a double lot and a house at 152 Argyle. This site was named the Patricia Alice Barracks. The Patricia Alice Barracks were then torn down to make way for the construction of the Beaver Barracks.

The barracks were built during 1943 and 1944 and housed the Women's Division until their disbandment. The Barracks were then turned over to male members of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Military staff occupied the building until 1980, when they were moved out. In 1990 the building was declared surplus. Since then homeless people have sometimes used it as a shelter.

In July 1992, the fire marshall declared the building a firetrap and demanded that DND either fix it or demolish it. While National Defence is not bound by the orders of a municipal official, it chose to comply with the order.

It is regrettable that DND has not made a greater effort to preserve its historic buildings. The Canadian War Museum has preserved many artifacts from Canada's wars while the DND History Directorate has preserved wartime documents. The recent loss of Bareille House at the Rockcliffe Air Base and the battle for Wallis House are examples of the neglect paid to the built aspect of Canadian military history. Hopefully, more will be done in the future to preserve the military's architectural history.

McCord Apartments: Application for Demolition Approved

by Louise Coates

The McCord is an unobtrusive, brown brick building located next to the Somerset Theatre and behind the Independent Grocer on Bank Street. This charming building, built in the 1920's, is an integral part of the Somerset streetscape, providing 22 spacious bachelor and one-bedroom apartments. It is on the brink of oblivion.

Larry Hartman, who owns both the McCord apartments and the Independent Grocer, wants to demolish the building to provide more parking for his grocery store. Right now, the McCord provides affordable, quaint apartments, most of which have skylights, hardwood floors and old-fashioned tiles on the bathroom floors. A parking lot will not only be ugly, it will leave a gaping hole in the Somerset streetscape as well.

Nevertheless, on December 1, 1993 Ottawa City Council voted to allow

the building's demolition. With City elections right around the corner it's a good idea to take note of those councillors who voted for demolition of the McCord: Councillors Mark Maloney (*Carlington-Westboro*), Jill Brown (*Britannia*), Tim Kehoe (*Carleton*), Joan Wong (*Elmdale*), Peter Hume (*Alta Vista*), Jack MacKinnon (*Canterbury*), George Brown (*Riverside*), Jim Watson (*Capital*), Peter Harris (*Dalhousie*), Alex Cullen (*Richmond*) and Mayor Jacquelin Holzman all voted to demolish the building.

Applause to those few councillors who recognized the value of Ottawa's built heritage and voted to save the McCord - Diane Holmes (*Wellington*), Richard Cannings (*By-Rideau*), Jacques Legendre (*Overbrook-Forbes*) and Nancy Mitchell (*St. George's*).

The demolition has a few strings

attached. Hartman cannot demolish until his proposed building at 388 MacLaren Street is complete. Tenants who currently reside in the McCord building will have first chance at space in the new building. The question is whether these new regulations will help prevent the demolition of this and other older buildings.

This story is typical of the treatment heritage buildings often receive. When the building was bought a few years ago, it was already in rough shape. Rather than renovate and maintain it, it was allowed to further deteriorate. The simple solution to heritage stories such as this one is that owners should be encouraged to maintain their buildings so that demolition does not become the most attractive and profitable solution.

We invite your comments.

Public Forum

The individual's voice is the most powerful tool of influence the heritage community has to inform and motivate the officials who hold our public buildings in trust.

The following is a letter from a Heritage Ottawa member to the Honourable David Dingwall, Minister of Public Works. It demonstrates that writing a letter registers your concern for the built heritage of your community and provides a venue for suggestions. These are your tax dollars—get involved!

RE: WALLIS HOUSE

Dear Sir,

This is to request your personal intervention in ensuring that a national landmark such as the Wallis House is not destroyed by lack of vision.

This building can be restored to its original grandeur at a reasonable cost by a company which has in the past done many excellent jobs on old buildings, and in doing so can provide tradespeople in the Ottawa area with work. The restoration would, in addition, provide an anchor for the revitalization of Rideau Street, which has become increasingly tatty over the past few years. If a true cost benefit analysis is carried out, I am confident that the indirect benefits would far outweigh the cost to your department in lowering the price.

Canada is a young country. Let's protect our heritage where there is a chance for it to be a functioning part of our modern life and at the same time maintain the streetscapes of Canada's Capital.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Aldworth

We would like to hear from you, our membership. Write to us in regard to heritage issues that are important to you.

Wallis House Deserves Better

by Richard Cannings

- ♦ This article was written before the Department of Public Works approved the restoration of Wallis House.

It is a sad twist of fate that a building could serve the public for so long and then be abandoned and allowed to deteriorate. In its heyday, the solid Queen Anne style red brick landmark building built in 1872, served as a hospital and armoury. Wallis House was truly a pillar for a growing country and community.

I do not have to tell you that the struggle to save Wallis House has been one hurdle after the other. I have to congratulate all those who demonstrated in the rain or had a hand in efforts to prevent demolition. Unfortunately, I can report to you that the fight is far from over.

As many of you know, a group of private developers approached the City with a plan to restore Wallis House. The proposal called for the construction of 47 apartments in Wallis House, 19 townhouses and an 8-storey non-profit complex made up of 60 units. Aside from providing much needed housing in the area, the project would have injected some \$11 million in the local economy and created 150 jobs. It would have been the largest development project

Ottawa has seen in the last five years. The development of the Wallis House site would have been an explosive catalyst to revitalizing the depressed area along Rideau Street.

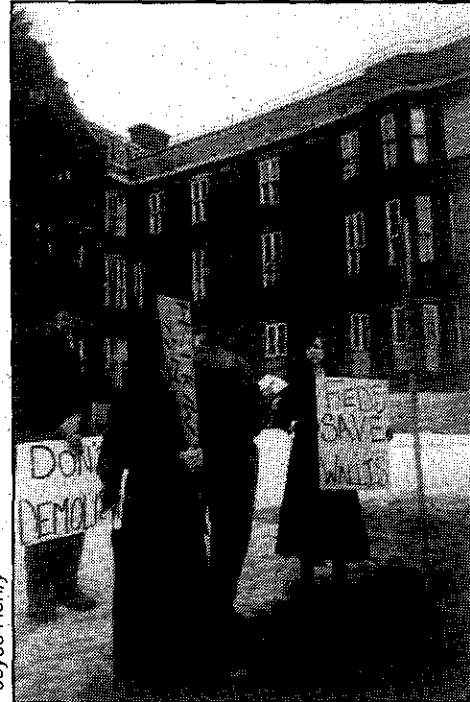
In a rare stroke, City Council approved of this concept unanimously. The idea looked like a page

pulled right out of the Liberal Party's "Red Book". Wallis House seemed destined to serve its community once again.

The Department of Public Works, though, decided to hold out for more money and re-tender the site. If I could compare the process to the Olympics, it would be like asking the athletes to run a race a second time because the

judges knew someone who might beat the winners. I have to say that the federal government is not acting as a good corporate neighbour. It seems they would rather play "big city developer" with our tax dollars at the expense of the best interest of our community.

President's Note: Heritage Ottawa is delighted that the work of Sandy Smallwood, Richard Cannings and other heritage activists succeeded in saving Wallis House. It will once again take its place as an useful building on an improving Rideau streetscape.



Heritage Ottawa President, Louise Coates, helping to alert the media to the plight of Wallis House at the demonstration held on Heritage Day, February 21.

Fixing Up Queale Terrace: The Owner's Guide to Restoration

by Joyce Henry

It had potential. It was a heritage building that had once been beautiful. It could be again with a little money and a lot of time and effort. What was needed was someone willing to take on the task.

Luckily for the handsome heritage building known as *Queale Terrace*, located at 304 – 312 Queen Elizabeth Driveway, it had just such a tenant. Greg Weston, an Ottawa journalist, had lived in the building since 1982. He'd always intended to eventually buy the building and fix it up. But, his various offers were rejected.

The building had fallen into disrepair over the years. By 1991 the facade, porches and balconies were rotting, the building had become dangerous and the owner was thinking of tearing it down. Local heritage activists warned that they would not let the building go without a fight. The owner, not wanting to cover the cost of a restoration, decided to sell.

Weston, and the four other tenants who lived in the building, put in an offer.

"In a moment of madness I went ahead and arranged to buy the place," Weston recalls.

Getting Started

Weston says he didn't know anything about restoring a building when he started the process. He says that he talked to a lot of people and asked for recommendations.

Weston says that the biggest obstacle to restoration was severing the units of the house. Normally, severance is not granted on row houses. This law is actually designed to preserve buildings but, at least in this case, it was backfiring. *Queale Terrace* was being preserved as a rundown rental building.

Weston said the severance was a must if the tenants were to raise

enough money to fix up the property. Equity was key. Finally a legal loophole was found that allowed the property to be severed. This meant that all the sewer and waterworks also had to be severed and replaced by separate connections for each unit. By mid-1992 all the legal mumbo-jumbo was out of the way and the real fun could begin.

The City pitched in with a \$10,000 grant for each unit and a lot of helpful advice. Weston says that although he'd heard some terrible things about heritage bureaucrats at City Hall, everyone was wonderful. After restoration started, City officials were even dropping by on the weekend to see how it was going.

The Restoration

Weston says he put a lot of work into finding good contractors. He recommends shopping around. He says they managed to secure top quality craftsmanship at bargain prices.

"I am every contractor's nightmare," Weston says.

He went to ten contractors that were known for heritage work and had them prepare specific estimates, complete with quotes on how much it would all cost. Then he broke the plans down taking a bit of the best from each contractor's estimate, repackaged it as a detailed set of specifications.

He was ready to restore or at least hire someone to do it for him. The restoration on the building was no small job. The columns in the house were taken out and the rotten parts rebuilt. This added authenticity and was cheaper. The windows caused a bit of a problem. The originals had operated with big weights in the wall and a rope and pulley system. There were large cavities in the wall which resulted in a lot of heat loss. Weston

and company wanted to restore the original windows but they did not want to pay for all that lost heat. The only alternative seemed to be modern thermal pane windows.

But, a compromise was reached. Instead of big weights in the walls a modern track system was put in with springs instead of weights. The contractor took out the old glass, redid the sash and frames and, when possible, put the old glass back in.

The renovation also entailed restoring all the handcrafted tin balusters, posts and turrets on the roof. At first, Weston said he did not even know they were tin. He had assumed that they were wood until someone pointed out that they were dented.

"I said: 'What; what do you mean they're dented. You can't dent wood'."

Weston says the whole restoration cost only a little over \$100,000. That's only \$20,000 a unit and it included the exterior restoration, the columns, the upper and lower porches, the brickwork, the painting and the windows.

Weston says that some people get frightened away by the heritage aspect. But, he says, nothing was done on the house that wouldn't have been done anyway and preserving everything was cheaper than replacing it.

Weston says that people are always stopping by or putting notes in his mailbox expressing how happy they are that the house has been fixed up.

"This just proves that you don't have to know a whole lot about it to get it done and get it done well and at no huge expense," Weston said.

The house received a City of Ottawa heritage designation plaque at the 1993 Heritage Day Awards.

Your Heritage Ottawa Board of Directors

We thought it would be interesting for our membership to know who is running the show! Listed below is a brief biography of each of our 1993-1994 Board members!

President **Louise Coates** has a Masters degree in journalism from Carleton University and works in the communications field. Louise is passionate both about saving heritage buildings in Ottawa and educating the public on the importance of heritage architecture. She joined Heritage Ottawa in 1990.

Vice-president **Rhys Phillips** is a household name because of his regular Saturday column on architecture in the Ottawa Citizen. He has a doctorate in political science but, his real interest seems to be supporting the preservation of built heritage. He has restored his own house and reads and writes extensively on the philosophy and value of older buildings. He joined us in 1988.

Treasurer **John Kowalski**, our newest member, is a trained accountant and another fundraiser for the team. He has a B.A. in European History from Carleton University and studied accounting at Sir Wilfred Laurier University.

Mary Lou Doyle is our newsletter producer and a whiz at electronic publishing. Her background is a B.A. in English Literature and extensive experience in the field of publishing and communications. She is off to pursue a masters in heritage restoration this fall in Bratislava, in the Slovak Republic. She has been with us three years.

Peter Irwin is a museum exhibits specialist, with a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario and a

degree in Museum Technology from Algonquin. He works at the Museum of Civilization and is a professional in the framing and mounting of drawings and other exhibit material. He has been with us three years.

Jean Palmer is an art historian, former high school art teacher, and world traveller. Her last place of residence was Nairobi, Kenya, where she was Evening Programmes Coordinator for the National Museum of Kenya and worked with Richard Leaky on the rehanging of the Joy Adamson National Portrait Collection.

Former president of Heritage Ottawa, **Marc Denhez** is a lawyer who works by day for the Canadian Homebuilding Association and the rest of the time as a tireless advocate of heritage conservation and education. He has published many papers and, most recently, a book on the history of the Canadian home. He joined Heritage Ottawa in 1981.

Paul Stumes is a civil engineer who spent many years at Parks Canada developing methods to conserve and restore buildings. Paul has lectured on the restoration and conservation of buildings all over the world. He generates many fundraising ideas for Heritage Ottawa, such as the Christie's-style auction of architectural drawings we held last September. He joined in 1984.

Gérard Robard lives in the Glebe and researched, wrote and delivered tours of the Aberdeen Pavilion and the Horticulture Building. He is an engineer who travels with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), several times a year to run projects in Africa. Gérard is our contact with the south end of the city.

Marian and Dick Heringer have been members of Heritage Ottawa since it was founded over 25 years ago. Marian has a passion for preservation that started in childhood. As a youngster, she recalls summers in Prescott and trips to Aylmer where she was fascinated with the wonderful old houses in these towns. Dick is a retired surgeon and keeps a cool head in crises! The Heringers joined the Board last spring.

Joyce Henry was, until recently, Heritage Ottawa's invaluable office person. She will graduate from Carleton University in June with a Bachelor of Journalism degree, with a combined Honours in Political Science. Blessed with the ability to rapidly carry out 100 tasks at once, Joyce worked at Heritage Ottawa since the fall of 1992.

Although we will sorely miss Joyce, her replacement, **Tracey Spack**, is quickly making herself indispensable in the running of Heritage Ottawa's office. Tracey is a graduate student at Carleton University and is a welcome addition to our dedicated team.

Stuart Lazear, while not actually a Heritage Board member, has attended our Board meetings for many years. Stuart was a Board member in 1974 - 1975 and remembers editing the newsletter and making display panels when Heritage Ottawa was located in the Fraser Schoolhouse. Stuart is the Senior Heritage Planner at the City of Ottawa, providing advice to City council's Planning Committee and to LACAC. Prior to working for the City of Ottawa, he worked on several heritage projects for the Alberta government, and was a Heritage Planner for the City of Regina.

Algonquin College: Architectural Conservation Technology

by David Cavalier

In 1972 Algonquin College began a third year specialization of *Architectural Conservation Technology*, in its regular Architectural Technology program. During the past 21 years, the Conservation option has produced 126 graduates who are currently working in a variety of positions in both government and professional offices across Canada.

In 1994, the program finds itself still receiving a wide range of support from a broad sector of professionals in the Architectural Conservation field. Knowledge of this support comes in the form of results taken from a recent survey conducted by the college. This national survey demonstrated a continuing need for the kind of program that is offered, as well as the graduates it produces. The survey produced an impressive response rate of over 40 percent.

Architectural Conservation Technology is currently a one year program. Throughout the year, extensive focus is placed on establishing a firm understanding of the diversified methods and approaches to conserving our built heritage.

As the only program of its kind in Canada, we are looking forward to a more national level of promotion. On a local level, we hope to sponsor presentations and hands-on workshops on heritage conservation topics for the general public during Heritage Week this coming year.

If you would like to obtain more information about this program, please call:

David Cavalier or Gerry White,
Algonquin College,
Tel: (613)727-4723 ext.3404.

Heritage Ottawa Notes

Heritage Ottawa is seeking **volunteers** for projects such as photo displays, membership drives and office work. Please call us and leave a message!

Heritage Ottawa needs **bookshelves**, especially tall ones. We are rearranging our collections and donated shelves would be appreciated. We will pick up!

We regret to announce that we have had to cancel this September's **Architectural Auction**.

Heritage Ottawa Newsletter

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Contributors: Richard Cannings
David Cavalier
Louise Coates
M.L. Doyle
Joyce Henry
John Kawalski
Jean Palmer
Paul Stumes

Design & Layout: M.L. Doyle
Editing: Louise Coates
M.L. Doyle
Joyce Henry
Jean Palmer



Please forward
with payment to:

Heritage Ottawa
2 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 6E2
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I would like to volunteer. Please contact me. ☐

*Heritage Ottawa memberships are for one year from date of purchase; you will be contacted during the month in which your membership expires. Please renew promptly.
Heritage Ottawa newsletters will be sent to your home address, unless otherwise indicated.*