



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026





Heritage Ottawa is the foremost non-governmental voice for conserving building heritage and landscapes in the nation's capital.

VISION

Heritage Ottawa envisions a city that values its heritage resources, integrates them into all planning decisions and ensures their contribution to Ottawa's liveability. We see a future where investment in the conservation of heritage buildings, historic neighbourhoods, cultural landscapes and other places that matter to communities is embraced as the smart cultural and sustainable choice for the city.

MISSION

Heritage Ottawa is an award-winning, volunteer driven, not-for-profit organization that champions the protection and stewardship of Ottawa's built heritage and cultural places, celebrating their value in enriching our shared environment.

Heritage Ottawa is a Registered Charity and the largest organization in Ottawa devoted exclusively to this cause.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Bennett, Barbara Bottriell, Thomas Gonçalves, Linda Hoad, David Jeanes, Kate MacFarlane, Hunter McGill, Mary Catherine Moran, Krista Nicholds, Robert Pajot, Carolyn Quinn, Martin Rice, Christine Rozak, Alan Saunders, Gilles Séguin, Katherine Spencer-Ross, John Zvonar.

A word from the president

In my remarks last year, I noted there seemed to be little time for heritage in a world of tariffs, security, housing, and affordability. Unfortunately, all these issues still persist, and worsening geopolitical instability has increased their impact. Although operating a not-for-profit organization in this challenging economic and social climate is daunting, Heritage Ottawa has worked hard to remain relevant, and to focus on things we can control, rather than those we can't.



To that end, in 2025-2026 we continued to advocate at the municipal and federal levels for the preservation of our valued heritage resources and the tools required to make that happen. We increased the number of walking tours and lectures presented. We supported two major conferences with tours and conducted our annual coach tour. Our youth element developed strategies to bring younger members into the organization. To keep in touch with our members we published newsletters, circulated monthly e-bulletins, and posted information to our website and various social media platforms. We conducted media interviews, awarded the Cullingham Grant, and held our second fundraising auction.

Operationally, we wanted to check in with you, our members, so we conducted a new survey. Thank-you to all who took the time to complete it. The results held no surprises but presented useful suggestions and offers to volunteer. Thanks to our generous members and donors, our fundraising campaigns took us beyond our goal and contributed to our aim of organizational sustainability. We benefited greatly both financially and professionally from sponsorships and partnerships.

The year 2026 marks the start of a few years of celebrating Ottawa, the ByWard Market, and the Rideau Canal. We began our commemorations with the launch of our weekly Bytown Bytes, and a pair of special lectures in March. I encourage you to watch our website for more celebratory activities to come.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without our wonderful volunteer board members who contributed in excess of 5,240 hours to Heritage Ottawa over the past year. I am also very grateful for our other dedicated volunteers for their engagement, and our members, donors, sponsors and partners for their outstanding support. I remain thankful for the hard work of our Operations Officer, Jennifer Lane, to support the board and our members. All of you make Heritage Ottawa a strong, effective and respected organization.

With pride and deep appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine Spencer-Ross'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Katherine Spencer-Ross
President

SAVING PLACES

Advocacy is one of our most important activities. We regularly provide comment on municipal, provincial and federal legislation, and policies and plans related to the protection and preservation of built heritage in the City of Ottawa.

Advocacy Committee members make up a committed group who have contributed over **900 volunteer hours** during this reporting year researching and responding to the many issues that arise in our work to save our heritage places.

- Commented on **37 development applications** relating to the rezoning, alteration and intensification of properties and areas protected by Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA).
- Participated in and supported process of launching feasibility assessments for future **Heritage Conservation Districts** including the Golden Triangle, Island Park Drive, Hintonburg, and Beaverbrook and contributed to the City's assessment strategy for the **Urban Design Guidelines for Buildings—Mid-Rise**.
- Hosted, in cooperation with the Lowertown Community Association, **Heritage Community Gathering: Protecting Ottawa's Heritage Buildings** for community association representatives and others, with discussions on **Current Work and Challenges; Addressing Demolition-by-Neglect; Identifying Issues of Common Interest; and Coordinating Communication**.



- Over **50 written and in-person submissions** to the City of **Ottawa's Built Heritage, Planning and Housing, and Finance and Corporate Services committees** developed in consultation with our community heritage partners. The City's response to changes to the OHA continued to increase the number of heritage designations, often batched by theme or geography.
- Supported the City of Ottawa's nomination of the **ByWard Market as a National Historic Site**.
- Supported the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's **Heritage Helping Housing** proposal for a provincial grant to facilitate the adaptive reuse of heritage properties for housing.
- Responded to **50 requests for media interviews** relating to the preservation of 24 Sussex Drive, the Alexandra Bridge Coalition, Aberdeen Pavilion and the Lansdowne Park redevelopment, heritage designations under the OHA, Tunney's Pasture, and the ongoing challenge of dealing with the pervasive heritage demolition-by-neglect in our neighbourhoods.
- Responded to and commented on federal plans and studies as they related to federal heritage properties in the National Capital Region: **Alexandra Bridge, Central Experimental Farm, Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy**, and others.
- Continued to take a leadership role in response to Canada's **Bill C-23**, the long-awaited *Historic Places of Canada Act*, which died when Parliament was prorogued in February, 2025 and worked with the National Trust for Canada on a campaign to save the **Canadian Register of Historic Places**.
- Participated in public consultations relating to disposal of federal properties under the auspices of the Canada Land Company (e.g. former **Federal Study Centre, Confederation Heights and Tunney's Pasture**).

STAYING CONNECTED

WEBSITE

- Heritage Ottawa continues to maintain an engaging bilingual website essential to our outreach activities. Sections with heritage news, activities, programs, events and resources are regularly updated with new content and promoted via E-Bulletins and social media.
- This year, we invested in upgrading to a Drupal 10 Content Management System, making the website responsive on all devices, enhancing functionality, and improving the user experience. At the same time, we moved to a new financial infrastructure platform, Stripe, for all commercial transactions.
- Visit heritageottawa.org

E-COMMUNICATIONS

- 59 E-Bulletins, E-Messages and Media Releases (via MailChimp) covering heritage-related news and activities were sent out that received **50 requests for media interviews**.
- In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Bytown, we launched a weekly series of **Bicentennial Bytes**, a series of social media posts about some of the key places — buildings, landscapes and structures — that help tell our shared story.
- **Facebook, X (Twitter), LinkedIn:** 10,380 followers with an organic post reach of 188,604.
- **YouTube:** Recorded lectures uploaded for a total of 1,226 views.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

- 4 issues of the full-colour Newsletter were produced and distributed to members in hard copy and online.
- Topics included notable heritage buildings and structures in the city, advocacy issues linked to Heritage Ottawa's mission, built heritage developments related to municipal, provincial and federal levels of government, and City incentives available to maintain and restore privately owned heritage buildings.
- An extensive archive of back issues of the newsletter dating back to 1974 is available to the public at heritageottawa.org/publications.
- We are fortunate to have the support of the following sponsors: **Perfect Books, Flora Hall Brewing, Everest Restoration** and **Andrex Holdings**.



SCAN ME!



WE'RE CELEBRATING BYTOWN'S 200th ANNIVERSARY WITH A SERIES OF

BICENTENNIAL BYTES

NOUS CÉLÉBRONS LE 200^e ANNIVERSAIRE DE BYTOWN AVEC UNE SÉRIE DE

CAPSULES DU BICENTENAIRE



PUBLICATIONS

- In response to popular demand, we undertook a fourth printing of 300 copies of our publication ***From Walk-Up to High-Rise: Ottawa's Historic Apartment Buildings***. The book is available to purchase online on Heritage Ottawa's website or at Perfect Books on Elgin Street and the Ottawa Art Gallery Shop.

RAISING AWARENESS

WALKING TOURS

- Heritage Ottawa delivered a total of **16 walking tours**, three more than last year, with one in French. More than half sold out with a total of over 450 participants, representing an increase over our 2024 season.
- Along with old favourites, seven new tours were offered: *University of Ottawa's Historic Quadrangle*, *Golden Triangle Communities*, *A Journey Through Ottawa's Herstory*, *Ashton Village*, *Basketball History and Heritage*, *Hog's Back – Beyond the Falls*, *The Glebe: Eclecticism, Asymmetry and Irregularity* as well as renewed walks in New Edinburgh and Sandy Hill.
- We gratefully acknowledge our program sponsors, **Janny, Jeff and Shan Royal Lepage Performance Realty**, the **Ontario Association of Architects**, and **Andrex Holdings**.

HERITAGE OTTAWA - WALKING TOURS
2025
PATRIMOINE OTTAWA - PROMENADES



"Just a short note of appreciation to Heritage Ottawa for organizing our walk yesterday. We enjoyed a much deeper appreciation for the planning by Cornelia Oberlander and her sensitivity to landscapes surrounding the National Gallery."

Walking Tour participant

LECTURE SERIES

- Heritage Ottawa presented **11 free lectures** from April 2025 to March 2026, including one as part of the Annual General Meeting in May 2025.
- Lectures were presented online or in-person with participants numbering 786 with 440 YouTube views for total of views of 1,226 to date.
- Topics covered a variety of themes, including adaptive reuse of heritage structures, Ottawa's bridges, renewed landscape, Ottawa's Brutalist architecture, and highlighting 19th-century Ottawa architect Thomas Seaton Scott. We also stated the case against demolition by neglect with a lively panel discussion. Our commitment to showcase the work of 'Emerging Scholars' brought together students from Carleton University under Professor Peter Coffman to dig deep into the history of buildings in Ottawa's Hintonburg neighbourhood.

"Thanks to Heritage Ottawa and to Peter Coffman for a great webinar. I, too, go by many of Hintonburg's buildings regularly, so it was great to dig into the history of the architecture. I learned a lot. The students had thoughtful and well-designed presentations and fielded questions well."

Lecture participant



EMERGING SCHOLARS CONNECT

THESE WALLS CAN TALK:
STORIES FROM
HINTONBURG'S
BUILT HERITAGE

A HERITAGE OTTAWA
LECTURE PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

- Finally, as part of our celebration of the 200th anniversary of Bytown/Ottawa we presented two lectures in March. The first recounted the twists, turns and connivances that led to Bytown being declared the future capital of Canada. This was our highest viewership for a single online lecture. The second looked at Ottawa’s current architectural landscape and what we need to do in the future to create a built environment worthy of a G-7 country.
- Many of these lectures are available on Heritage Ottawa’s YouTube channel.
- We are grateful for the generous support received from our Leadership sponsor **Sandy Smallwood and Andrex Holdings Inc.**, and **Merkley Supply Ltd** to make our free lectures possible.

FIELD TRIP

- Heritage Ottawa’s day-long coach tour was our sixth field trip since 2017, this time to **Glengarry County** in June that featured tours of local museums, Glengarry Archives, St. Finnan’s Basilica, and Sir John Johnson Manor House National Historic Site.
- There was an optional sit-down lunch in **Alexandria**, a vineyard tour with wine tasting, and en-route commentary.
- The trip was **SOLD OUT** and a post-tour survey provided useful feedback.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONFERENCES

- To help raise awareness about local heritage issues, Heritage Ottawa presented a total of five tours to delegates of two important conferences:
- Two custom bus tours for the **Ontario Association of Architects Annual Conference:** Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District and the Federal Campus at Tunney’s Pasture.
- Three new walking tours for the **Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada’s 50th anniversary conference (SSAC):** Apartment Buildings of Centretown, Uppertown Churches, and Confederation Boulevard.

OUTREACH AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- The Committee made steady progress over the 2025–2026 period in advancing its mandate to connect Heritage Ottawa with younger audiences and foster the next generation of heritage advocates with a focus on identifying effective outreach approaches and strengthening partnerships.
- Supported direct engagement initiatives with educational institutions and partner organizations: **Carleton University’s School for Study in Art and Culture Gala** bringing students and Heritage Ottawa representatives together, and Heritage Ottawa’s **Emerging Scholars Connect** event highlighting how young people are chronicling history and advocating a balance between conservation and contemporary needs and values.
- The Committee extends its thanks to all volunteers and partners who contributed over 160 hours toward this year’s progress.

GORDON CULLINGHAM RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION GRANT

- Heritage Ottawa was pleased to award the 2025 grant to **SketchWalking Ottawa: A Quiet Cartography of a City Becoming Home**. The project draws on urban sketching and visual storytelling traditions as an alternative way of understanding and appreciating urban heritage.
- The project deliverables will include an illustrated book and public-facing activities such as “walk shops” or informal exhibitions to engage local audiences, which present new opportunities for Heritage Ottawa engagement.
- See: heritageottawa.org/gordon-cullingham-grant

PARTNERSHIPS

- Heritage Ottawa supported and participated in Heritage Day, Doors Open Ottawa, Jane’s Walks and the Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair.
- Heritage Ottawa representatives participated in a range of outreach initiatives: Ottawa Cultural Alliance, ByWard Market and Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District Plans, Alexandra Bridge Coalition, Rideau Canal Landscape Study, Historic Places Act Working Group, Central Experimental Farm Advisory Council, the university-led research partnership Quality in Canada’s Built Environment: Roadmaps to Equity, Social Value and Sustainability, Canadian Register of Historic Places forward planning with the National Trust for Canada, and more.



ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS | COMMITTEES | OPERATIONS

- Our 17-member board is evenly split between men and women and includes representation from equity seeking communities, namely francophone, rural and youth.
- General operations were overseen by an active Executive Committee with programs operated by established chaired committees.
- A new **Bicentennial Committee** was struck to lead Heritage Ottawa activities to mark the 200th anniversaries of Bytown/Ottawa in 2026, the ByWard Market in 2027, and the completion of the Rideau Canal in 2032.
- Operations Officer Jennifer Lane provided a range of services in support of the organization.
- In addition to the Board of Directors, we had 54 volunteers supporting the organization for a total of approximately 5,240 hours of volunteer time.
- An evening meeting was held in March to focus on the important issue of succession planning within the leadership of Heritage Ottawa to ensure continuity now and into the future.
- A comprehensive Membership Survey solicited an impressive response of close to 200 members. Valuable feedback was provided that will help direct adjustments to programming and communications and influence longer-term strategic directions. The survey also garnered very positive words of support, encouragement and appreciation for the work of the organization.
- The 2025 online Annual General Meeting attracted 61 member participants.

MEMBER | FUNDING SUPPORT

- Heritage Ottawa ended the fiscal year with 559 members.
- Two fundraising campaigns were undertaken, including Giving Tuesday with a generous \$20,000 matching fund contribution: a **\$5,000** Board commitment, a private anonymous **\$10,000** donation and a **\$5,000** contribution from Elizabeth and Scott Heatherington in loving memory of Mary Ward Raymont. Our efforts generated 230 donations from 139 donors that raised \$46,945, surpassing our \$40,000 fundraising target. **We gratefully acknowledge this support!**
- Our strategic approach to sponsorship recruitment resulted in an impressive increase in the level of support: We remain profoundly grateful to our local sponsors who contributed a total of \$12,000:

Leadership: Andrex Holdings Inc.

Champion: Ontario Association of Architects

Enhanced: Merkley Supply Ltd.

Sustaining: Flora Hall Brewing, Janny, Jeff & Shan Royal Lepage Performance Realty, Everest Restoration (Ottawa) Ltd., and Perfect Books.

- Identified additional potential sponsors and will be pursuing these possibilities in the coming months.
- Organized a webinar in November **Tax Benefits When Gifting Securities to Charities** with guest speaker from ScotiaMcLeod Wealth Management, which is also available on our YouTube channel.
- We gratefully acknowledge funding support from the **City of Ottawa** and the **Province of Ontario**.

AUCTION

- Heritage Ottawa's second-ever Online Auction was a great success thanks to many groups and individuals.
- An impressive **\$20,000** (net) was raised to assist in continuing to speak out for heritage places at risk and to carry out our myriad activities.
- The auction saw 232 items donated, 191 registered bidders, additional potential partnerships and sponsorships identified and a dedicated team of organizers.

Grand
ONLINE AUCTION
MARCH 8 - 14, 2026

HERITAGE OTTAWA
PATRIMOINE OTTAWA

8 - 14 MARS 2026 (EN LIGNE)

Grande VENTE
AUX ENCHÈRES

The poster features a collage of four vertical panels: a red abstract painting, a white classical sculpture, a colorful abstract fan, and a dark wooden sculpture with a string of pearls.

THANK YOU

To all our valued donors and auction bidders who enabled Heritage Ottawa to reach its fundraising goals for the year.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING PARTNERS



SPONSORS

Leadership:



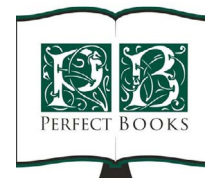
Champion:



Enhanced:



Sustaining:



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The work of Heritage Ottawa would not be possible without the support of our dedicated volunteers.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



Committees and Working Groups

All board members (listed on page 1) are active in one or more committees/working groups. The following list includes Chairs and Non-board Member Volunteers (NBMV):

Advocacy: Co-chairs: Linda Hoad and Hunter McGill; NBMVs: Jay Baltz, Ken Clavette, Danielle Jones, Robert Martin

Auction: Chair: Paul Bennett; NBMVs: Nassim G. Barakat, Tina Bates, Ian Ferguson, Stuart Lazear

Bicentennials of Bytown, ByWard Market & Rideau Canal: Chair: Katherine Spencer Ross; NBMV: Julie Harris

Communications: Chair: Carolyn Quinn

Field Trip: Chair: David Jeanes; NBMV: Johanne Fortier

Finance and Audit: Chair: Martin Rice; NBMVs: Nok Onsuebsai, Sheila Young

Lecture Series: Chair: Katherine Spencer-Ross; NBMVs: Ian Ferguson, Anne Maheux, Leslie Maitland, Louis Marcotte, David Ross

Membership, Fundraising, Volunteers: Chair: Gilles Séguin

Newsletter: Chair: Hunter McGill; NBMVs: Richard Belliveau, Leslie Maitland

Nominations: Chair: Kate MacFarlane

Operations: Chair: Linda Hoad; NBMV: Helga Jeanes

Outreach and Youth Engagement: Chair: Thomas Gonçalves; NBMVs: Dylan J. Dixon, Ulises Gonzalez, Tommy Peacock, Jessica Maestre

Walking Tours: Chair: Julie Harris; NBMVs: Richard Belliveau, Peter Holdsworth

Walking Tour Guides, Coordinators and Assistants

Guides: Brittney Anne Bos, John Bottriell, Leo B. Doyle, Ian Ferguson, Jennifer Hornby Gillespie, Emily Guy, Jack Hanna, Julie Harris, Elizabeth Heatherington, Linda Hoad, David Jeanes, Ben Merritt, Nancy Miller Chenier, Dr. Malcolm Morrison, Michel Prévost, Nicole Sammut, Janet Uren, John Zvonar. **Coordinators and Assistants:** Barbara Bottriell, Richard Belliveau, Elaine DeCoursey, Leo B. Doyle, Renate Fischer, Joyce Goodhand, Julie Harris, Peter Holdsworth, David Jeanes, Helga Jeanes, Édouard Martin, Krista Nicholds, Gwen Prillo, Gilles Séguin, Wijden Souissi, Katherine Spencer-Ross.

Special Bus and Walking Tours for Conferences

Ontario Association of Architects: Rockcliffe Park HCD: Elizabeth Heatherington, and Natalie Anderson and Robert Martin (RMA+SH architects). Federal Campus of Tunney's Pasture: Victoria Angel and Sharon Hong (ERA Architects), Katherine Constantine (Canada Lands Company), Natalie Anderson Rathwell (Matrix Heritage). **Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada:** Confederation Boulevard: Alain Miguelez (National Capital Commission). Apartment Buildings of Centretown: Professor Susan Ross (Carleton University). Uppertown Churches: David Jeanes (Heritage Ottawa Board member).

Lecture Speakers

Isra Abid, Jean-Marc Blais, Professor Peter Coffman, Lesley Collins, Katherine Constantine, Adriana David, Tylor Doyle-Chenard, Toon Dreessen, Dr. Sarah Gelbard, Professor David Gordon, Jack Hanna, Zaid Hashim, Linda Hoad, Mary Jarvis, David Jeanes, Teresa Keuleman, Heather Mitchell, Garry Meus, Stephen Quick, Ana Teoh; non-board member moderator: Andrew Waldron.

Newsletter Contributors

Richard Belliveau, Paul Bennett, Nancy Miller Chenier, Ken Clavette, Leslie Collins, Susan d'Aquino Peterson, Ian Ferguson, Ulises Gonzalez, Julie Harris, Linda Hoad, Leslie Maitland, Gilles Maurice Leclerc, Ruth Mills, Mary Catherine Moran, Barry Padolsky, Carolyn Quinn, Janet Uren, Andrew Waldron, John Zvonar.