



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024





Heritage Ottawa is the foremost non-governmental voice for conserving built 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, Maya Burgorski, Ian Ferguson, Johanne Fortier, Thomas Goncalvez, Emily Guy, Linda Hoad, David Jeanes, Kate MacFarlane, Hunter McGill, Robert Pajot, Carolyn Quinn, Martin Rice, Katherine Spencer-Ross, Gilles Séguin, John Zvonar.

A word from the president

It is with great pleasure that I present the Heritage Ottawa Annual Report for 2023-2024. In it you will see that we have had quite a year!

If last year's report reflected changes adopted from our pandemic experiences, this year we highlight increased and new activities and programming.

A big part of our mandate is advocacy, and we are busy. We wrote to the Prime Minister and other ministers and did countless interviews about our local national treasures at risk. We worked with our municipal partners on the implications of Ontario's Bill-23, advocated for Federal Bill C-23, and regularly reviewed local heritage issues and made presentations to the City's Built Heritage Committee.

Our outreach activities included walking tours, free lectures and more. We added evening walks, and our Phillips Memorial Lecture was our biggest gathering ever. We brought back our annual bus tour, and, thanks to a generous bequest, launched the first in a series of workshops. We supported the National Trust for Canada's Conference and a lecture series hosted by York University. Key to our activities has been our robust communications which employ a variety of tools and platforms.

As I look over our 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, I note we delivered in the areas of focus identified in the document. Organizational Sustainability is the most difficult to address. That said, in 2023-2024 we launched a youth committee, developed by youth for youth who are bringing fresh ideas to the organization. We raised funds through donations, bequests, sponsorships, and our first Heritage Ottawa auction. We are so grateful for this generous support that will sustain us in the short-term while we continue to seek stable funding into the future.

I want to thank our volunteer board members and other dedicated volunteers for their hard work. I am most grateful for the outstanding support received from our members, donors, sponsors, and partners. Together we continue to work to save and highlight our wonderful heritage places.

With pride and deep appreciation,



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 **1,480 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 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).
- Over 25 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 five-fold increase of recommendations under the OHA and removal of hundreds of properties from the Heritage Register resulted in closer liaison with community representatives.
- Responded to **50 requests for media interviews** relating to the preservation of 24 Sussex Drive, the Alexandra Bridge Coalition, Lansdowne 2.0, the Saint Brigid's Leadership Committee, Somerset House (352 Somerset Street West) 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, Rideau Canal UNESCO World Heritage Site Landscape Study, NCC Core Area Plan, 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 continues to languish at second reading in the House of Commons.



- Regularly participated in public consultations relating to the 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 continued 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, which is promoted via E-Bulletins and social media.
- Continued use of online registration/payment function that improved efficiencies.
- Visit heritageottawa.org | patrimoineottawa.org

E-COMMUNICATIONS

- 54 E-Bulletins, E-Messages and Media Releases (via MailChimp) covering heritage-related news and activities were sent out that received over **50 requests for media interviews**.
- Facebook & Twitter: 9,864 followers with an organic post reach of **415,607**
- YouTube: Lectures, CEF video, and more, uploaded for a total of 920 views.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

- 4 issues of the full-colour, 12-page Newsletter were produced and made available to members in hard copy and online.
- An extensive archive of back issues dating to 1974 is available to the public at heritageottawa.org/publications.
- Two sponsors were recruited to support the publication, **Perfect Books and Flora Hall Brewing**.



MEDIA RELEASE

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM: TOWERS WILL THREATEN CLIMATE RESEARCH



RAISING AWARENESS

WALKING TOURS

- Heritage Ottawa delivered another successful season of 14 walking tours of which three were in French, three took place Thursday evenings, and seven were sold out.
- Along with old favourites and refreshed tours, five new tours were offered: *Lowertown's International Precinct*, *Religious Heritage of Vanier*, *Centretown West: An Urban Neighbourhood in Flux*, *Ruskin Place: "Homes for People of Good Taste and Modest Means"*, and *Heritage of the Promenade du Portage*.
- 408 people registered for the tours.
- **Janny, Jeff and Shan Royal Lepage Performance Realty** continued as valued sponsors

LECTURE SERIES

- Heritage Ottawa presented 10 free lectures on a variety of topics, including one as part of the Annual General Meeting in May 2023, and a special event in June 2023 to celebrate our members, donors, and sponsors.
- Lectures were presented online (8) or in-person (2)
- This year, the Phillips Memorial Lecture, **24 Sussex Drive: From Residence to Reticence**, was presented in partnership with Carleton University and H.O.D.I (Historic Ottawa Development Inc.) as a hybrid event attended by over 400 people. A panel discussion format brought together experts in the fields of conservation, architecture, law, and politics. A video recording by CPAC is available on our website.
- Two lectures were presented in French, and a third was presented as part of our commitment to showcase the work of **'Emerging Scholars'**.
- The combined in-person and online number of participants for 2023-24 was 1,138 with 920 YouTube views.
- **Andrex Holdings Inc.** continued as our valued sponsor.

FIELD TRIP

- **"Thank you for the history lesson along the way that gave greater insight into the land and people that are the bedrock of what we have today. Very insightful."** Field Trip participant.
- Postponed since 2019 due to COVID, we were pleased to offer a day-long coach tour to historic **Brockville and Prescott** in September that featured tours of Fort Wellington National Historic Site, the 1860 Brockville Railway Tunnel, and Fulford Place Museum National Historic Site.
- The trip was 86% subscribed and very well received.



WORKSHOP

- The new ***Who Can Help Me With This Old House*** introductory workshop was developed as a hybrid event comprised of six sessions with dedicated presenters. It attracted financial support from the **John Arnold Bequest, H.O.D.I (Historic Ottawa Development Inc.)** and a **Young Canada Works** Internship grant, and caught CBC media attention.
- Participants benefited from a full day of presentations on best practices for the maintenance of older homes and a comprehensive resource package of materials.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Heritage Ottawa supported and participated in Heritage Day, Doors Open Ottawa, Jane's Walks, the Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair, and the Governor General's Leaders Conference.
- We partnered with Carleton University's School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies and H.O.D.I. in presenting the Phillips Memorial Lecture in February.
- We sponsored and participated in the Climate Change Emergencies and Cultural Heritage Speaker Series presented by York University.
- Heritage Ottawa was a sponsor for the National Trust for Canada conference by participating in conference organization and developing and presenting bus and walking tours: *Town & Crown: Château Laurier, Lansdowne Park, Central Experimental Farm and Parliament, and 50 Years of Heritage Challenges: Ottawa's Byward Market, Arts District and Rideau Street.*
- Heritage Ottawa representatives participated in a range of outreach initiatives: Ottawa Cultural Alliance, Lansdowne Park 2.0 Consultation, Byward Market Heritage Conservation District Plan, Alexandra Bridge Coalition, Rideau Canal Landscape Study, Bill C-23 *Historic Places Act* Working Group, Central Experimental Farm Advisory Council, National Capital Core Area Plan, the university-led research partnership *Quality in Canada's Built Environment: Roadmaps to Equity, Social Value and Sustainability*, and more.



ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Our 18-member board is evenly split between men and women and includes representation from equity seeking communities, namely francophone, rural and youth with two young professionals.
- General operations were overseen by an active Executive Committee with programs operated by established chaired committees. Operations Officer Jennifer Lane provided a range of services in support of the organization.
- New Outreach & Youth Engagement Committee and Online Auction Committee were created, and the Nominations Committee mandate expanded to year-round status.
- In addition to the Board of Directors, we had 81 volunteers supporting the organization for a total of approximately 1,300 hours of volunteer time.
- Board ensured work and new initiatives of the organization continue to meet the goals and objectives of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.
- 2023 online Annual General Meeting attracted 73 member participants.

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Our efforts to advocate for and raise awareness about our heritage is undertaken by many committees and working groups made up of Board members and other dedicated volunteers. Here are the committees that get the work done:

Advocacy, Auction, By-law, Communications, Executive, Field Trip, Lecture Series, Membership, Fundraising & Volunteers, Newsletter, Operations, Publications, Rural Initiative, Walking Tours, Workshops, Youth Engagement.

MEMBERS | FUNDING SUPPORT

- Heritage Ottawa ended the fiscal year with 613 members, a 5.3% increase.
- Three fundraising campaigns were undertaken, including Giving Tuesday with a Board commitment to match the first \$5,000 raised. Our efforts generated 184 donations from 144 donors that enabled the **\$35,000** fundraising target to be met.
- We remain profoundly grateful to our local sponsors who contributed a total of **\$7,300**:
 - Leadership Sponsor: H.O.D.I. (Historic Ottawa Development Inc.)
 - Sustaining Sponsor: Andrex Holdings Inc.
 - Supporting Sponsors: Flora Hall Brewing, Perfect Books, and Jenny Jeff & Shan Royal Lepage Realty.
- The delivery of our Workshop was made possible by a generous **\$10,000 bequest** from the late John Arnold.
- We gratefully acknowledge government funding support from the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario, and Government of Canada (Young Canada Works).

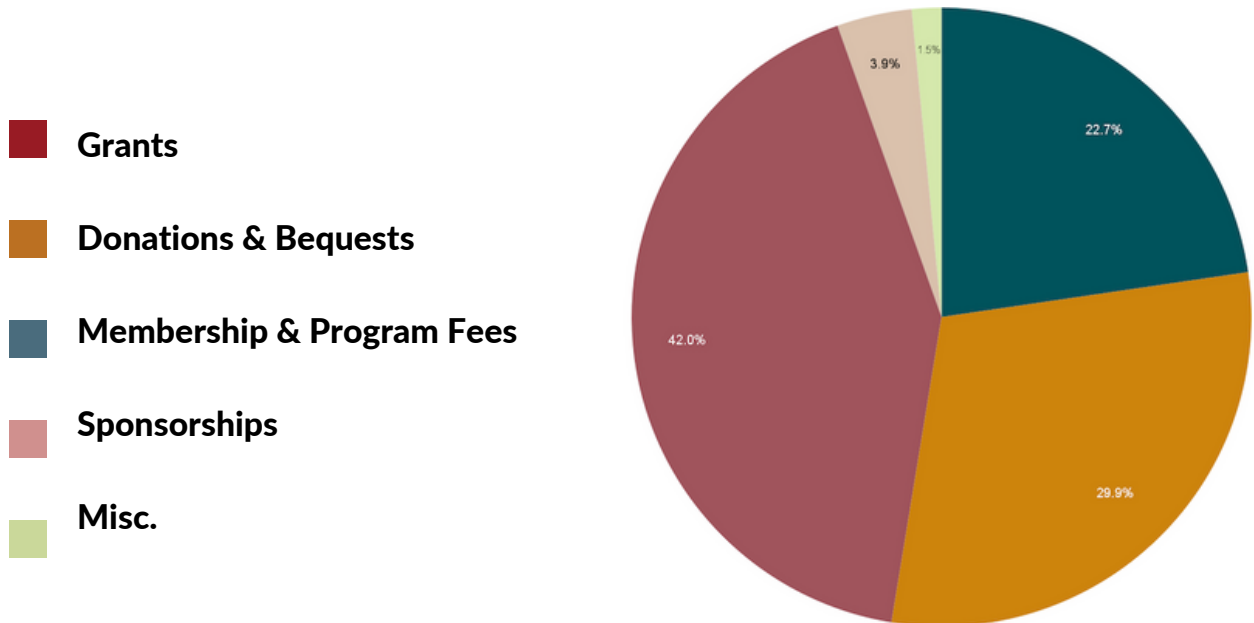
ONLINE AUCTION

- Heritage Ottawa's first-ever Online Auction was a great success thanks to many groups and individuals. An impressive **\$17,111** was raised to assist in continuing to speak out for heritage places at risk and to carry out our myriad activities.
- The auction saw 133 items donated, 198 registered bidders, promotional support at the community level, and a dedicated team of organizers.



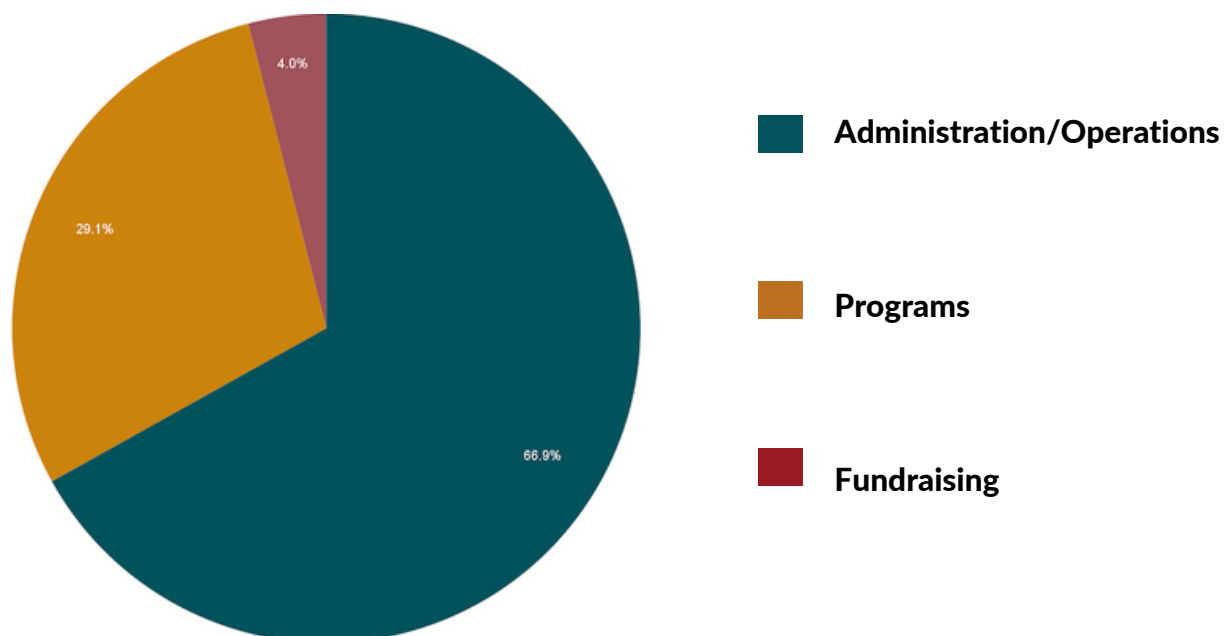
REVENUE SOURCES

Your membership fees, donations and gifts help us continue to speak out for heritage places at risk, provide sought-after advice, and maintain our track record of delivering quality programs and activities.



HOW RESOURCES WERE USED

Here's how your investment in Heritage Ottawa was put to work in 2023-2024.



For more detailed financial statements contact info@heritageottawa.org.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU! 

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



SPONSORS



Supporting Sponsors

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

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

Committee and Working Group Non-board Members

Peter Coffman, Jay Baltz, François Bregha, Peter Coffman, David Flemming, Peter Holdsworth, Helga Jeanes, Danielle Jones, Stuart Lazear, John Leefe, Anne Maheux, Leslie Maitland, Robert Martin, Edouard Martin, Heather McArthur, Nicole Sammut, Sandy Smallwood.

Walking Tour Guides and Coordinators

Guides: Victoria Angel, Richard Belliveau, Nancy Miller-Chenier, Diego Elizondo, Emily Guy, Elizabeth Heatherington, Linda Hoad, David Jeans, Michael Payne, Jean Yves Pelletier, Michel Prévost, Carolyn Quinn and Andrew Waldron. **Coordinators and Assistants:** Édouard Martin, Ann Mcelhone, Jennifer Mohring, Aswathy Prasad, Dr. S. Rachita, Bibiane Séguin and Gilles Séguin.

Lecture Speakers

James Bourdeau, Ray Corrin, Tonya Davidson, David Dean, Kathleen Durocher, Mariana Esponda and students Melissa Lengies and Dana Mastrangelo, Andrew Jeanes, Sharon Odell, Claude Royer and John Zvonar.

Expert panel of : The Rt. Hon. Sheila Copps, Marc Denhez, Mark Thompson Brandt, Patricia Kell and Andrew Cohen.

Newsletter Contributors

Claude Charbonneau, David Clendenning, Susan d'Aquino, Erwin Dreessen, David Flemming, Michela Hayman, Caroline Lavoie, Lauren Luchenski, Leslie Maitland, Annick Normand and Sheila Young.