



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





*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, Erin Brophy, Ian Ferguson, Johanne Fortier, Thomas Goncalvez, Emily Guy, Linda Hoad, Paoli Jani, David Jeanes, Arto Keklikian, Kate MacFarlane, Hunter McGill, Robert Pajot, Carolyn Quinn, Martin Rice, Christine Rozak, Katherine Spencer-Ross, Gilles Séguin, Allison Margot Smith, John Zvonar.

## A word from the president

As I write this message for the 2024-2025 Annual Report, Canada has just emerged from a national election focused on tariffs, security, housing and affordability. In this context there seems little room for heritage. However, the current climate does not mean that Heritage Ottawa has been inactive. On the contrary, we have had a very busy and productive year.

This year we continued to be guided by our strategic plan and delivered on all four areas of focus – Saving Places, Staying Connected, Raising Awareness, and Organizational Sustainability.



Saving Places was again a significant area of concentration yet regrettably we faced a change of leadership of our Advocacy Committee. Earlier in 2025, our two Advocacy co-chairs, David Flemming and Leslie Maitland, resigned from their positions. I am deeply appreciative of their many years of dedicated service and am grateful for the extensive knowledge and insights they brought to Heritage Ottawa's efforts to protect our built heritage. I am deeply saddened to add that David died on April 25, 2025.

We continued to stay connected with members and a broader range of people by sharing heritage-related information via our robust communications program which employs a variety of tools and platforms.

Our awareness-raising activities included walking tours and free lectures. New tours were added, and many walks were sold out. We hosted a successful workshop and ran our annual day-long bus tour to great acclaim.

Our organizational sustainability was enhanced thanks to generous donors who helped us exceed our fundraising goal. While we saw a modest decline in our overall membership, we were delighted to welcome returning and new sponsors. We added opportunities to engage with students and welcomed new volunteers. To make Heritage Ottawa a more desirable place to work, we were pleased to offer paid health benefits for our Operations Officer position.

I want to thank our volunteer board members and other dedicated volunteers for their engagement, and our members, donors, sponsors and partners for their outstanding support. I am thankful for the hard work of our Operations Officer, Jennifer Lane, upon whom we rely so much. Together we continue to work to save and highlight our wonderful heritage places.

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 **1,000 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).
- Participated in process of updating **Heritage Conservation District Plans** for both the Byward Market and Lowertown West, and feasibility assessments for four future HCDs.
- Over **87** 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 and the removal of hundreds of properties from the Heritage Register resulted in a significant increase in the number of heritage designations, often batched by theme or geography.
- Responded to **52 requests for media interviews** relating to the preservation of 24 Sussex Drive, the Alexandra Bridge Coalition, Aberdeen Pavilion, 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, NCC Core Area Plan, NCC Parkway Planning & Design Guidelines, 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.
- 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**).
- Participated in the City's assessment strategy for the **Old Rideau Railway Bridge** and the **Problematic Properties Pilot Project**, and consulted with Heritage Planning staff in the preparation of the **At-Risk Heritage Building Workshop** and cooperated with the Lowertown Community Association on a follow-up meeting for communities with Heritage Conservation Districts.

## 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.
- Visit [heritageottawa.org](http://heritageottawa.org) | [patrimoineottawa.org](http://patrimoineottawa.org)

### E-COMMUNICATIONS

- 48 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, X/Twitter, LinkedIn: 9,959 followers with an organic post reach of **108,738**
- YouTube: Lectures, CEF video, and more, uploaded for a total of 1,971 views.





[www.heritageottawa.org](http://www.heritageottawa.org)

Our Lecture  
Season Begins  
September 18!

# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

August 2024 Volume 51, No. 3

## Britannia Village: New Heritage Designations

By Carolyn Quinn

### QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

- 4 issues of the full-colour, 12-page Newsletter were produced and made available to members in hard copy and online.
- Topics ranged from recently designated heritage places, heritage and the housing crisis, Ottawa/Gatineau's industrial heritage, Mid-Century Modern housing, heritage values of the Central Experimental Farm, future of the Alexandra Bridge, and more.
- An extensive archive of back issues dating to 1974 is available to the public at [heritageottawa.org/publications](http://heritageottawa.org/publications).
- Two sponsors support the publication: **Flora Hall Brewing** and **Perfect Books**.

### RAISING AWARENESS

#### WALKING TOURS

- Heritage Ottawa delivered another successful season of **13 walking tours** of which two were in French, one took place on a Thursday evening, and **nine were sold out**.
- Along with old favourites and refreshed tours, seven new tours were offered: *Rockcliffe Park East*, *Island Park Drive*, *Monuments & Memories*, *La rivière des Outaouais*, *Cathedral Hill to Nanny Goat Hill*, *Landscapes of Cornelia Oberlander*, and *Scientific Landscape of the Central Experimental Farm*.
- 378 people registered for the tours, which remain an important fundraiser for Heritage Ottawa.
- We thank our new sponsor the **Ontario Association of Architects**, and our long-standing sponsor **Janny, Jeff and Shan Royal Lepage Performance Realty**.

***"The tour of Beaverbrook yesterday was exceptional. Always an enriching experience to have someone who lives in the area guide us through the streets. Not only did the guide live in the area he was also a very active community member sitting on many of the committees."***

Walking Tour participant.





***"I'd just like to say it was a refreshing in-person event yesterday evening. A mix of people and students, and great presentations. Emily and Patryk were excellent hosts."*** Lecture participant.

## LECTURE SERIES

- Heritage Ottawa presented 10 free lectures on a variety of topics, including one as part of the Annual General Meeting in May 2024. Lectures were presented online (6) and in-person (4).
- Topics covered a variety of themes, including indigenous cultural landscapes; Moshe Sadie's iconic structures; Parliament Hill's Peace Tower Carillon and Carillonneur; the importance of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and personal reminiscences of preserving Ottawa's heritage.
- In partnership with the National Capital Commission and the Global Centre for Pluralism, we hosted **The Right Hon. Adrienne Clarkson** who presented ***From Sussex Street to Sussex Drive: A refugee's journey to Rideau Hall***. Madam Clarkson was joined by NCC CEO Tobi Nussbaum and HO President Katherine Spencer-Ross for a fireside chat on making a great capital city.
- Again, thanks to a partnership with the NCC, we presented ***Beauty and Authenticity in Ottawa's Architecture: Options and Guidance for New Additions***, with speakers Dr. Nir Buras, founder of the Classic Planning Institute, and Alain Miguelez, V-P of Capital Planning and Chief Planner at the NCC.
- Our commitment to showcase the work of 'Emerging Scholars' brought together students from Ottawa and Carleton universities who presented on ***Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives on Conservation and Community***.
- The combined in-person and online number of participants for 2024-2025 was 965 with 1,082 YouTube views.
- This year, in-person lectures were possible due to support of the National Capital Commission, Global Centre for Pluralism, University of Ottawa, and Beechwood Cemetery, as well as our sponsors **Andrex Holdings Inc.** and **Merkley Supply Ltd.**

## FIELD TRIP

- We were pleased to offer a day-long coach tour to historic **Merrickville and Smiths Falls' Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario** in June that featured tours of museums and historic sites, with commentary provided along the route by local historian David Jeanes.
- In September, a Field Trip Committee was formed to plan the June 2025 tour.
- The trip **SOLD OUT** and very well received.

## WORKSHOP

- In April, ***Windows in Your Old Home – Seeing Your Way Clear*** workshop was offered online in partnership with **Algonquin College Heritage Institute, Perth Campus**. The two-hour event was sponsored by **H.O.D.I (Historic Ottawa Development Inc.)** and provided practical guidance on the assessment, maintenance and rehabilitation of windows in older homes.
- The workshop was well received with 25 paying participants.

## OUTREACH AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- In 2024-25, the Outreach and Youth Engagement Committee focused on engaging a more diverse and younger demographic in heritage-related activities.
- A mix of online and in-person events were hosted throughout the year providing platforms to explore the meaning of heritage today and how it intersects with issues of importance to younger and underrepresented communities.

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Heritage Ottawa supported and participated in Heritage Day, Doors Open Ottawa, Jane's Walks, the Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair, and Research Open House at the Central Experimental Farm.
- We partnered with the **National Capital Commission**, the **Global Centre for Pluralism**, and the **Algonquin College Heritage Institute** in delivering our programming.
- We sponsored and participated in the **Climate Change Emergencies and Cultural Heritage Speaker Series** presented by York University and **Carleton University's School for Studies in Art & Culture "Meet & Greet."**
- Heritage Ottawa representatives participated in a range of outreach initiatives: Ottawa Cultural Alliance, Lansdowne Park 2.0 Consultation, Byward Market and Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District Plans, 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 | OPERATIONS

- Our 21-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 Field Trip Committee was created and the Membership & Fundraising Committee developed a more strategic approach to sponsorship recruitment with a dedicated working group, resulting in a significant increase in funds raised.
- In addition to the Board of Directors, we had 50 volunteers supporting the organization for a total of approximately 1,300 hours of volunteer time.
- A day-long Board Retreat held in January ensured work and new initiatives continue to meet the goals and objectives of the *Strategic Plan, 2023-2025*.
- The 2024 online Annual General Meeting attracted 73 member participants.

### MEMBER | FUNDING SUPPORT

- Heritage Ottawa ended the fiscal year with 561 members.
- Three fundraising campaigns were undertaken, including Giving Tuesday with a \$5,000 Board commitment and generous **\$10,000 private donation** to match the first \$15,000 raised. Our efforts generated **230 donations** from **148 donors** that raised **\$38,788**, surpassing our \$35,000 fundraising target. **We gratefully acknowledge this support!**
- A new 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 **\$13,100**:
  - **Leadership**: Andrex Holdings Inc. and Ontario Association of Architects
  - **Enhanced**: Merkley Supply Ltd.
  - **Sustaining**: Flora Hall Brewing, Janny, Jeff & Shan Royal Lepage Performance Realty, and Perfect Books.
- Work to grow and diversify funding sources continues; 54% of revenues were from non-governmental sources.
- We gratefully acknowledge funding support from the **City of Ottawa** and **Province of Ontario**.

# 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 Sponsors:



Ontario Association  
of Architects

Ordre des architectes  
de l'Ontario

### Enhanced Sponsors:



Celebrating Over 60 Years of Expert Service

### Sustaining Sponsors:



# 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!**



## **Board of Directors (all Board Members are active on various committees)**

Paul Bennett, Barbara Bottriell, Erin Brophy, Ian Ferguson, Johanne Fortier, Thomas Gonçalves, Emily Guy, Linda Hoad, Paola Jani, David Jeanes, Arto Keklikian, Kate MacFarlane, Hunter McGill, Robert Pajot, Carolyn Quinn, Martin Rice, Christine Rozak, Katherine Spencer-Ross, Gilles Séguin, Allison Margot Smith, John Zvonar.

## **Committee and Working Group – Non-board Member Volunteers**

**Advocacy:** Jay Baltz, David Flemming, Danielle Jones, Leslie Maitland, Robert Martin

**Development (membership, fundraising, volunteers):** Jessica Maestre

**Finance and Audit:** Nok Bennett and Sheila Young

**Lecture Series:** Jonathan Hinkins, Anne Maheux, Leslie Maitland, David Ross

**Operations:** Helga Jeanes

**Outreach and Youth Engagement:** Dylan Dixon and Anya Phomarenko

**Walking Tours:** Richard Belliveau, Julie Harris, Peter Holdsworth

## **Walking Tour Guides, Coordinators and Assistants**

**Guides:** Brittney Anne Bos, Hugh Daechsel, Bruce Elliott, Ian Ferguson, Jennifer Hornby Gillespie, Elizabeth Heatherington, David Jeanes, Dr. Malcolm Morrison, Jean Yves Pelletier, Michel Prévost, and Andrew Waldron. **Coordinators and Assistants:** Richard Belliveau, Miriam Czarski, Elaine DeCoursey, Johanne Fortier, Ulises Gonzalez, Emily Guy, Julie Harris, Linda Hoad, Peter Holdsworth, David Jeanes, Jemma Johnson, Vanessa King, Ellen Lesiuk, Édouard Martin, James Obi, Nicholas Oswald, Aswathy Prasad, Purva Patel, Bibiane Séguin and Gilles Séguin.

## **Lecture Speakers**

Victoria Angel, Dr. Peter Coffman, Hagit Hadaya, Dr. Marcus Letourneau; The Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Dr. Andrea McCrady, Alain Miguelez, Tobi Nussbaum, Barry Padolsky, Robert Pajot, Dr. Jean-Luc Pilon, Maria Somjen; and students Ben Merritt, Sophie Soulières, Caleb Stevenson, Lilly Zegerius with Dr. Patryk Polec, moderator.

## **Newsletter Contributors**

Richard Belliveau, Dr. Elroy Cober, Michel Desloges, Allison Margot Smith, David Flemming, Dr. Ed Gregorich, Julie Harris, David Jeanes, Patricia Kell, Leslie Maitland, Carolyn Quinn, Robert Pajot, Claude Royer, David Seaborn, Maria Tustonic, Chris Wiebe, Curtis Wolfe, John Zvonar.