

# NEWSLETTER

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Jennifer Roddick, President  
Judy Deegan, Editor

## WELCOME TO FALL!

### 1983-84 BOARD OF HERITAGE OTTAWA

Five new members were added to Heritage Ottawa's board for 1983-84. We unfortunately lost the services of valued board member Larry Herman, who had to step down because of pressures of work at his own law practice. He will be very much missed, both for his excellent advice and for his hard work on behalf of heritage conservation in Ottawa.

The new slate of officers is as follows:

President: Jennifer Roddick  
Vice-President: \* Georges Bédard  
Treasurer: William Keenan  
Recording Secretary: Lois Johnston

### Committee Chairmen

Archives: \* Cathie Raven  
Awards: Hellmut Schade  
Docents: Irene Lackner  
Legal: \* Jamie Robertson  
Newsletter: Judy Deegan  
Premises: Peter Dobbing  
Rolf Latte  
Programme: \* Joy Kardish  
Publicity: Judy Deegan  
Jennifer Roddick

\*New board members; also new to the board is Stan Loten.

### NEW DISPLAY AT 62 JOHN STREET

Members are invited to visit a new display, "TOYS", which opened at the Schoolhouse on September 9. From 19th century china dolls to a 1906 child's "Simplex" typewriter to cast-iron fire fighting equipment to 1920s jigsaw puzzles, this delightful exhibit shows that--with the exception of Pacman and friends--things haven't changed all that much in 100 years.

### HATS OFF TO MARTIN WEIL FOR SAVING THE BROWN DERBY IN LOS ANGELES

Martin Weil, president of Heritage Ottawa from 1975 to 1977, was in Ottawa in July, and told us he is still very much involved with heritage in Los Angeles. One of his more exciting exploits was the saving of the venerable Brown Derby Restaurant (which is actually built in the shape of a derby hat). He mobilized a heritage SWAT team, enlisted the aid of the local police, and stopped the bulldozers--literally at the door. Congratulations, Martin!

### PORT HOPE TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES

The Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario will hold its annual tour of historic homes on Saturday, October 1.

The daytime tour includes seven houses and four buildings in and around Port Hope, as well as Perrytown Church and the Port Hope Town Hall. In the evening, a candlelight tour of four houses will show Port Hope at night, and will finish with a wine and cheese reception at Penryn Park.

Tour tickets (covering both afternoon and evening) are \$8.00 and include a lucky draw ticket on a painting of the Port Hope Town Hall by noted artist Kathryn McHolm.

Lunch at Batterwood costs an additional \$6.50, a snack lunch is available for \$4.00 at the Perrytown Church, and afternoon tea in historic St. Lawrence Hall costs \$1.75.

For tickets and reservations for lunch, please contact

Mrs. Sally Rogers  
Port Hope Branch, The Architectural  
Conservancy of Ontario  
(416) 885-5809

### WALKING TOURS OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

As of this summer, visitors to this charming town have a chance to learn about the town's history, in between plays.

Five separate tours, written by a local historian, have been made into cassette tapes. For \$4 for each tour, a visitor can don headphones and go on any one of the five 60-minute excursions which describe the historical and architectural points of interest of the town.



## DEMOLITION'S OUT! RENOVATION'S IN!

Hot on the heels of LACAC's excellent conference in June, which had as its theme "Preservation for Profit", DECORMAG, a Canadian interior design magazine devoted its July/August issue to renovation and restoration.

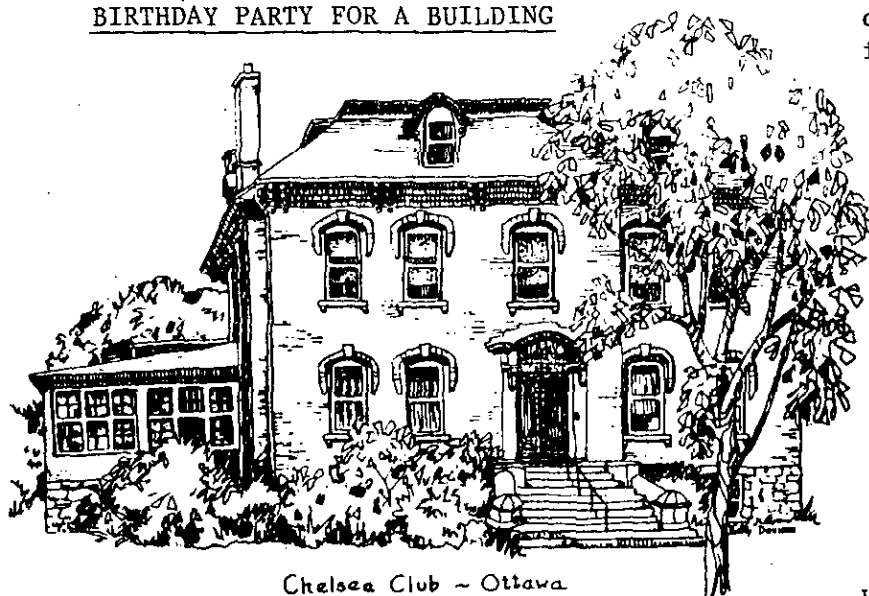
Many of the examples chosen had won awards for best renovation of the year. A Victorian mansion converted into four condominiums, for example, was the winner of Save Montreal's "Orange" award for the best renovation of 1982. (It is interesting to note that Save Montreal also awards a "Lemon" for the worst. I would like to see Heritage Ottawa follow suit.)

The renovations range all the way from the meticulous restoration of original details to the gutting of whole interiors and the building of ultramodern apartments inside Victorian shells. Also included in this issue are renovations of three early 20th century houses by Ottawa architect Barry Hobin, whose work tends to fall into the latter category.

DECORMAG, by the way, is an excellent design magazine, with lots of information on Canadian (finally!) sources for furniture, fabrics and architectural supplies (moldings, medallions, cast-iron staircases). It's \$2.75 a copy, or \$16.99 for 11 issues as an introductory offer.

/NOTE: This is purely unsolicited praise; editor has no financial interest in the magazine!/  
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## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR A BUILDING



Chelsea Club ~ Ottawa

The Chelsea Club very kindly invited Heritage Ottawa's president and the editor of the Newsletter to a reception celebrating the 100th birthday of the house at 236 Metcalfe Street which has been home to the Club since 1926.

Designated a heritage building by the City of Ottawa in 1978, the house was built in Second Empire style in 1883 by Sir Alexander Campbell, one of the fathers of Confederation. It is

considered a very good example of an expensive house built in Ottawa at the end of the 19th century. The interior, typical of houses of that era in Eastern Canada, is little changed from its original decor, although the kitchen is no longer in the basement and not all of its seven fireplaces are still in use.

I thought the following paragraph included in the Club's brochure about the building deserved repeating:

"The members of the Chelsea Club who enjoy the pleasant facilities provided by their Victorian home feel lucky to have it, and wish good luck to others who work to save great mansions for the building-watchers of tomorrow."

## DAVID BECOMES A GOLIATH

One of the 18 recipients of the U. S. National Trust for Historic Preservation's 1983 Honor Awards was Don't Tear It Down, a Washington, D. C., citizen's action group founded in the mid-'70s on the issue of saving the city's Old Post Office (which they did). The group won this year's award mainly for its successful lobbying for a city ordinance that provides D. C. landmarks with the strongest legal protection in the nation.

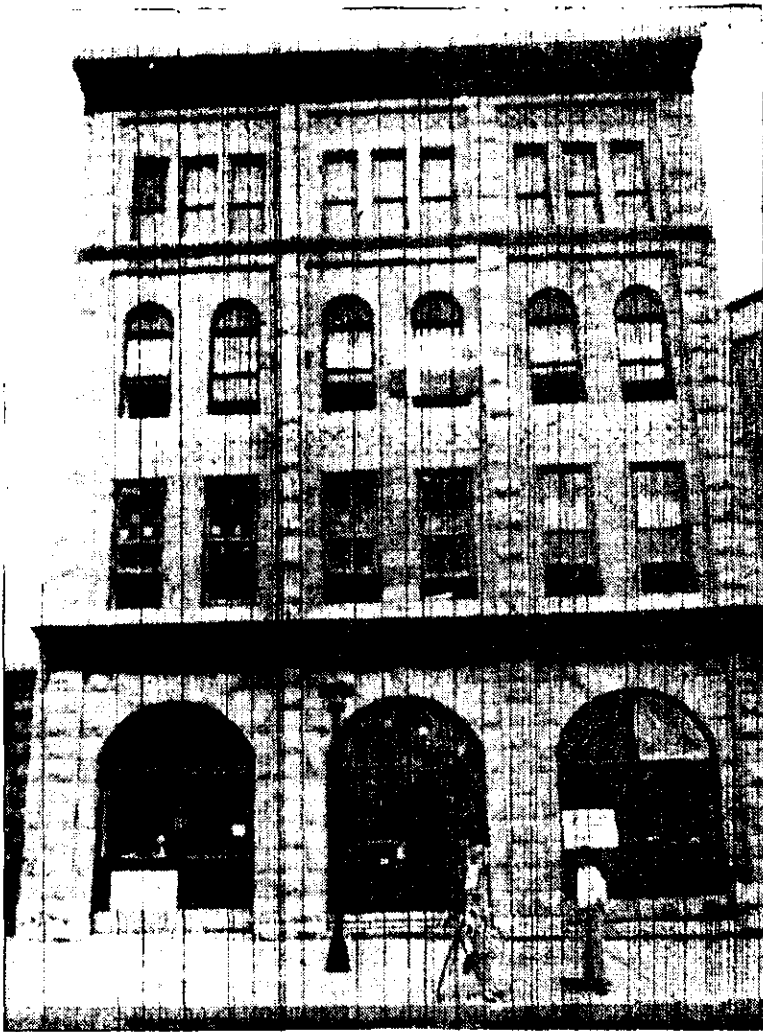
I include this item in the Newsletter to show that oftentimes it's hard work and long hours by committed volunteers which make the difference between success and failure. Don't Tear It Down started as a small but vocal group of concerned citizens, and not an influential professional organization.

Heritage Ottawa and The Friends of the Daly Building need this kind of active support. You don't need specialized training: just a willingness to lend a hand. If you wish to help on some of our committees (Archives, Awards, Docents, Legal, Newsletter, Premises, Programme, Publicity), please leave your name with Stella Kirk, at 745-0551. The more of us there are working for heritage, the more we will accomplish.

## UP THE GATINEAU!

The 1983 edition of Up the Gatineau!, the annual publication of The Historical Society of the Gatineau, is available for a mere \$1.75 from most Ottawa bookstores, or by writing or calling

Miss Sheila Strang, Secretary-Treasurer  
The Historical Society of the Gatineau  
Old Chelsea, Quebec J0X 2N0  
Telephone: 827-0420

PRESS CLIPPINGS

New Home for Ottawa School of Art

Renovations were completed in late August on the 75-year-old former wine warehouse and government building at 35 George St. (behind The Bay), and the Ottawa School of Art has moved in. The building has space for about 1,400 students compared to 700 in the School's former home at 159 Forward Avenue. The new premises also include a gallery to exhibit the students' work. Classes are scheduled to begin Sept. 19.

Cost of renovation of the 4-storey grey stone structure was \$1 million. The government of Ontario contributed \$500,000, the City of Ottawa provided \$250,000, and the School itself came up with \$250,000 from fundraising events. The building is leased to the School by the National Capital Commission.

Zeller's Building in Danger?

Markborough Properties, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company, has filed development proposals with the City of Ottawa to build a 13-storey office tower on the Queen Street side of the building that houses Zeller's on the Sparks St. Mall. Markborough has promised to keep most of the stone and brick heritage building which houses Zeller's intact, and install a roof terrace on its roof.

Something to keep an eye on.

Plant Bath Reopens

The 58-year-old Plant Bath swimming pool at Somerset and Preston (shown fuzzily below) opened August 16 after renovations which have provided it with "leisure atmosphere" and solar-heated water.

The \$523,000 project included the refurbishing of change rooms and showers to meet modern safety standards, the addition of solar collectors on the roof to reduce winter heating costs, and the installation of a "Tarzan" rope(!), water slide and lounge. Concrete bleachers were removed to make way for patio tables, chairs and silk flowers.

The Plant Bath and the Clifford Bowie Pool on Kitchener (which opened late August) are the first "leisure" pools in Ottawa, and are designed to appeal to individuals who aren't attracted to the stark surroundings of other municipal pools.



The Plant Bath, built in 1925

89-91 Murray designated Heritage Building

The 107-year-old (now commercial) building at 89-91 Murray in Lowertown has been designated a heritage building by the City of Ottawa, further adding to the protection of the Market area.

The 2½-storey wood-frame building is a good example of 19th century Georgian-style houses built in Lowertown. It was built as a residential duplex in 1876, but now includes offices on the second floor. The building has a brick front and wood siding on the other three walls.

89-91 Murray (cont'd)

City heritage planner Alain Lafrenière said that the owner objected to the proposal to designate the building, but the City won its case at a provincial hearing on the issue. The heritage designation means that the exterior of the building cannot be altered without Council approval. The interior was now, however, included in the designation and can be renovated without reference to Council.

Sandy Hill: Fire Station not Wanted

As predicted, the Ottawa Fire Department has announced plans to build a new fire station on the northwest corner of Laurier at King Edward, instead of on the northeast. After overwhelming opposition from the community to the proposed demolition of the 107-year-old Panet House to make way for a firehall on the NE corner, the fire department has merely moved across the street.

The main concerns local residents expressed at the public meeting held to discuss this issue a few months ago were that a new firehall on the Panet House site would

- destroy an important heritage building
- ruin the heritage streetscape of the entire block

- contribute to further traffic congestion and prove hazardous to the community
- be incompatible with the generally residential nature of the area as a whole.

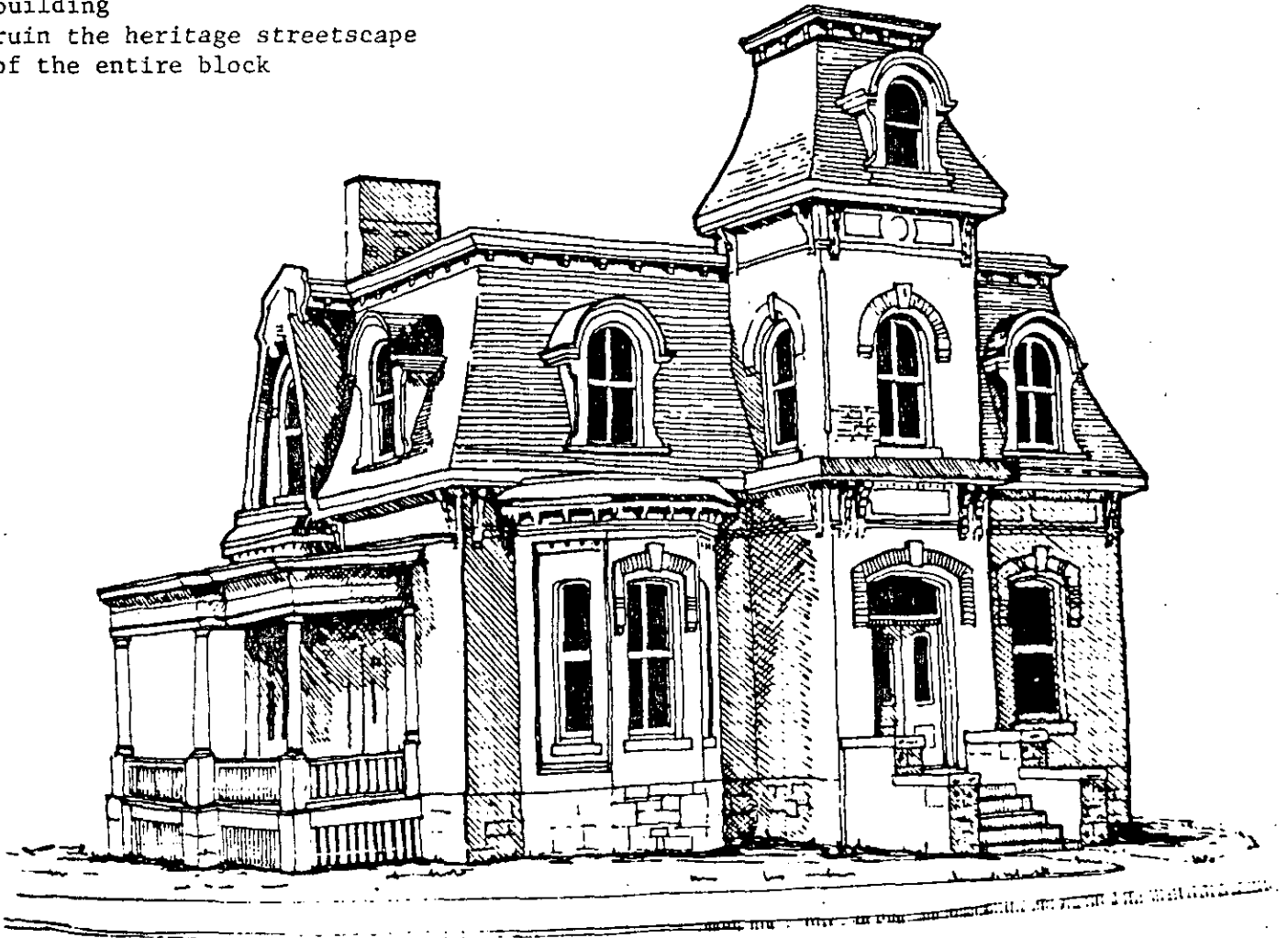
Except that the Panet House will be saved if the firehall is located on the NW corner, the other objections are still valid.

The fight goes on.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Attached to this month's Newsletter is the text of President Jennifer Roddick's address to the membership at the Eighth Annual General Meeting of Heritage Ottawa on May 16, 1983.

In her address, Jennifer summarizes Heritage Ottawa's activities in 1982-83 and outlines its goals for the future under her leadership. If you were not actively involved in our activities last year, please heed Jennifer's plea to help Heritage Ottawa become more visible to the public in 1983-84.



9 195 NICHOLAS, 1883 - 1884

This is but one of the over 70 excellent illustrations in Our Architectural Ancestry, the new book by John Leaning and Lyette Fortin, soon to be released. More about it in the October Newsletter.

Address by President Jennifer Roddick to the  
Eighth Annual General Meeting of Heritage Ottawa  
Monday, May 16, 1983

Welcome to the eighth Annual General Meeting of Heritage Ottawa.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jennifer Roddick. I have been your President since last November when Diane Holmes became the Alderman for Wellington Ward--and, I am happy to say, she is now promoting heritage from her desk at City Hall.

Also last fall, we were pleased to welcome the Ottawa Historical Society to the Fraser Schoolhouse. While renovations are taking place at their Bytown Museum, the Historical Society will be using the Gallery at 62 John Street to exhibit some of their fine collection of historic artefacts. Visitors are invited to view the exhibits every afternoon, Monday to Friday, when Historical Society docents will be on hand to answer your questions.

Heritage Ottawa volunteers still man the Gallery Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30. Our docents find this a very rewarding experience, especially during the summer months when visitors from all over the world drop by while touring the area, which is rich in such attractions as 24 Sussex Drive, the Rideau Falls, Government House--and, of course, historic New Edinburgh.

Last summer we welcomed over 3,000 visitors to the Schoolhouse, and we are sure to have more this year with the help of the Historical Society.

I encourage you--and other members--to seriously consider volunteering your services as ambassadors for Heritage Ottawa, greeting visitors at the Schoolhouse on a once-a-month basis. I believe there are still a few afternoons open for volunteers, so if you are interested in becoming involved in this worthwhile experience, please call Stella Kirk at the Schoolhouse.

As you know, last year Ottawa joined in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Rideau Canal--and what a celebration it was. I'm sure everyone in the city was involved in some way, and Heritage Ottawa was no exception.

One of our events was a children's drawing contest. We received literally hundreds of entries from local schoolchildren, depicting activities on the canal in all seasons and done in various mediums. We hosted a party for the winners and their families on the lawn behind the Schoolhouse at which Mayor Marion Dewar presented heritage scrolls to each winner. The winning paintings were exhibited at the Schoolhouse Gallery and attracted quite a large number of visitors as well as media attention.

Also at the gallery during the year we displayed the following works:

- Sketches by Julian Smith, whose work can be seen on our hasti-notes and has, from time to time, appeared in the Newsletter;
- Watercolours by New Zealand artist John Castle;
- Photographs of local heritage structures by members of the Carleton University Photo Club.

We thank Hellmut Schade, our Exhibitions Coordinator, for organizing these displays for us.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Vera Campbell, our Program Coordinator, who arranged tours for members of:

The Billings House; Rideau Hall; and Laurier House; as well as a delightful Sunday afternoon picnic and tour of Bob and Mary Anne Phillips' property at Cantley, Quebec.

Vera also took us to the Coin Museum to see the Eldorado Gold display. And anyone who missed Hellmut Schade's slide show "In Praise of Older Houses" missed seeing some breathtakingly beautiful pictures taken off-the-beaten-track in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

Hellmut Schade is also our Awards Program Coordinator, and arranged our annual Heritage Day Awards presentation in February. Awards were presented to two people who have given much valuable time and inspiration to all of us in the heritage movement:

Mary Anne Phillips and Bob Haig - both founders and past-Presidents of Heritage Ottawa--and incidentally both fascinating writers.

Some of you may have heard Mary Anne's interview on CBC-Radio on Heritage Day, and subsequently Bob Phillips' three noon-hour special Heritage Week commentaries.

Another author and member of the Board is John Leaning, who has co-authored a book entitled Ottawa's Architectural Heritage, which will be published for Heritage Ottawa by Bob Haig. We hope it will be on the market by Christmas.

Here's another original idea by two of our members: Janet Irwin and Gordon Cullingham have prepared a "Tour by Tape of the Rideau Canal". This unique idea will allow you to slip a cassette into a tape player and drive the Canal Tour from Ottawa to Kingston. It's not on the market yet, but they are working on it.

In the past we have learned that we cannot relax our vigil even for a moment, or the walls come tumbling down. Whether it is the Clegg House or the Panet House at 189 Laurier Avenue, the Aberdeen Pavilion, the Martineau Hotel--or the seriously threatened Daly Building.

The Daly Building now has its own group of dedicated "Friends", coordinated by Judy Deegan, who are working to persuade the government to let the building stand. I hope you will all buy--and wear--a "Save the Daly Building" button, which you can buy for a minimum donation of \$1 when you are leaving tonight.

On another government issue, we are still lobbying for changes to the Income Tax Act to prevent demolition of a heritage structure from becoming an income tax deduction.

There you have a brief summary of last year's activities. And now, turning to the future, I believe that our organization must become more visible to the public--and more widely recognized as a credible voice in the preservation of local heritage.

We must aggressively seek financial support from government agencies--and memberships--so that we can continue our fight, in your name, to save all we can of this beautiful and historic capital city for future generations.

I thank you for all your support in the past--and remember, we need you if we are to win each battle as it breaks.

Thank you.