

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0808-0506

SEPTEMBER 1986 Vol. 14 No. 3

President: Marc Denhez
Editor: Judy Deegan (990-6000)



HERITAGE OTTAWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1986-87

Heritage Ottawa's new Board of Directors, elected at the annual general meeting at the Billings Estate May 27, is as follows:

Eve Adams	Toni Ingman
Lin Baxter	Irene Lackner
Mike Berns	Rolf Latté
Richard Cannings	Rhéal Leroux
Judy Deegan	Elizabeth May
Marc Denhez	Cathy Raven
Richard Gervais	Helmut Schadë
Fern Graham	Tina Thambimuthu
Sandy Graham	Des Underhill

Executive Secretary: Stella Kirk

The slate of officers elected by the Board for the organization's 1986-87 year is

President	Marc Denhez
1st Vice-President	Cathy Raven
2nd Vice-President	Judy Deegan
Treasurer	Rolf Latte

Jennifer Roddick

A special thanks is due to Jennifer Roddick, who stepped down in May after four years as President (1982-86). During her presidency and under her close supervision, a manual on heritage in Ottawa for use in area schools, and a videotape describing the origins of Heritage Ottawa, were put together by our summer students. Jennifer spoke out on numerous occasions at City Hall and other levels of government when buildings were threatened (the Panet House, the Zeller's Building, the Daly Building, the Teachers College). She lobbied vigorously to ensure that the Rideau Street Convent ceiling was indeed installed in the new National Gallery.

Jennifer moved up from Vice-President to take over the presidency in mid-1982, when Diane Holmes stepped down to run for public office. She was editor of the Newsletter at the time and continued to do both jobs, but was forced to delegate this task in spring 1983 because of the heavy demands of the presidency. She has put in countless hours fighting heritage battles (she recalled especially picketing in the rain to save the Clegg House and washing the windows of the Daly Building). And she has done more than her share of telephoning, stuffing envelopes and licking stamps.

Many thanks, Jennifer, for all your work on behalf of Heritage Ottawa.



The Billings Estate
2100 Cabot Avenue

Photo: John Roaf
EXPLORING OTTAWA

At the annual general meeting, held at The Billings Estate, Ann Falkner, Executive Director of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT), spoke on the difficulties the city and the Local Advisory Committee on Architectural Conservation (LACAC) faced in deciding whether to acquire The Billings Estate, the City's first heritage property.

A member of LACAC during negotiations, Ann gave an insider's view of the complicated dealings any municipality might face in acquiring a heritage property for use as a public museum. Acquisition and restoration costs come immediately to mind. But whether to retain later additions, whether to keep other buildings on the property, to which period to restore a 145-year-old building used by five generations of the same family—and how much weight to give the legitimate complaints of neighbours afraid their quiet community will be invaded by tour buses full of rowdy schoolkids—are less obvious but more difficult questions which had to be addressed.

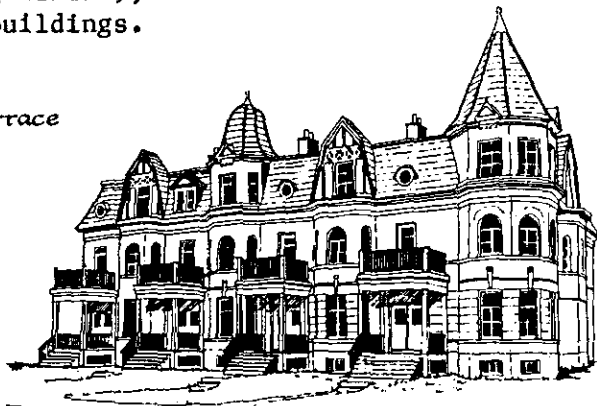
It was a lively and thought-provoking talk particularly relevant to the setting and the audience.

(In 1975 the City of Ottawa acquired the Georgian-style house built in 1828 by Braddish Billings and his wife, Lamira Dow, the first non-native settlers in Gloucester Township. The house was restored by the architectural firm of Eriksson-Padolsky and is now a charming museum open to the public from late spring to late fall, and during the winters by appointment. Call 563-3075 for information.)

This year's Heritage Ottawa awards for outstanding work in the preservation of Ottawa's architectural heritage were presented to **Eric Cohen** and **Richard Gervais**.

In 1981, **Richard Gervais** purchased and rehabilitated the end unit of Martin Terrace (525 King Edward), one of Ottawa's most unusual buildings.

Martin Terrace
1894-1902



Sketch by Lyette Fortin,
OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY

As Co-President (1984-85) and President (1985-86) of Action Sandy Hill, he continued a tradition of active participation in heritage matters by the community association. In 1984 his vigil in front of the Panet House (189 Laurier East) virtually single-handedly saved it from demolition by the City to make way for a fire station. The 2,200 signatures he collected convinced the City to locate the station elsewhere, and he and others worked closely with the architects of the station to produce an attractive design sympathetic to the historic district it faces.

Under his direction, Action Sandy Hill successfully fought demolition of 503-507 King Edward (in one of Sandy Hill's designated heritage districts), and helped persuade the City to expropriate the building for resale to a developer who will maintain its heritage character.

Richard put together Action Sandy Hill's guided walking tour, which has been offered with great success for the past three years.

* * * *



35 Armstrong Street

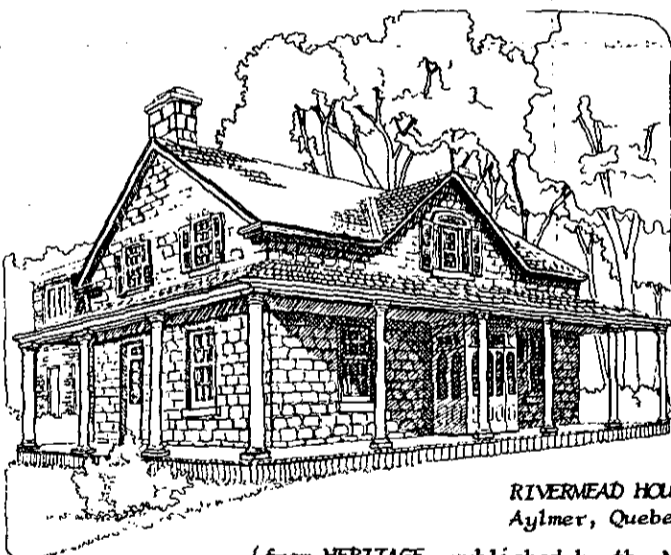
—Pat McGrath, Citizen

In 1984 Eric Cohen purchased the derelict stone house at 35 Armstrong Street, abandoned for 20 years, and returned it to its former splendour. Built about 1860 for Christopher Armstrong, Ottawa's first resident judge, the 3-storey house was later sold to the Catholic Church for use as a convent and residence attached to nearby St. Conrad's separate school at 22 O'Meara. The house was left vacant in 1963 when the school was closed. Eric gutted the interior of the house down to its 3-foot-thick stone walls, carefully restoring its original doors and moulding.

The Armstrong House is now used as the main office and display space for Eric's business and passion, Cohen's Architectural Heritage, offering as "the largest collection of architectural antiques under one roof in North America".

Eric restored his own house at 29 Somerset West to its former elegance. In 1984 the City recognized the importance of the house, built in 1889 for Samuel Jenkins, private secretary to the Minister of Finance in Sir John A. Macdonald's cabinet, and awarded Eric a grant to assist him with exterior renovations. The house was included on the Centretown Citizens' Community Association (CCCA) House Tour in 1985.

Eric has been active in the CCCA for a number of years, and served as Chairman of its Heritage Committee in 1985.



RIVERMEAD HOUSE
Aylmer, Quebec

(from HERITAGE, published by the NCC)

The Aylmer Heritage Association
12th Annual Antique Fair, October 3 and 4

The Aylmer Heritage Association always puts on an excellent antique fair, and this year's promises to continue that tradition. Twenty-five dealers from Ontario and Quebec will offer a wide selection of antique furniture, jewellery, silver, china and glass, prints, tools, oriental carpets, linens, clothing and knickknacks. The Fair has a strong Canadian flavour, but offers antiques from many different eras and countries.

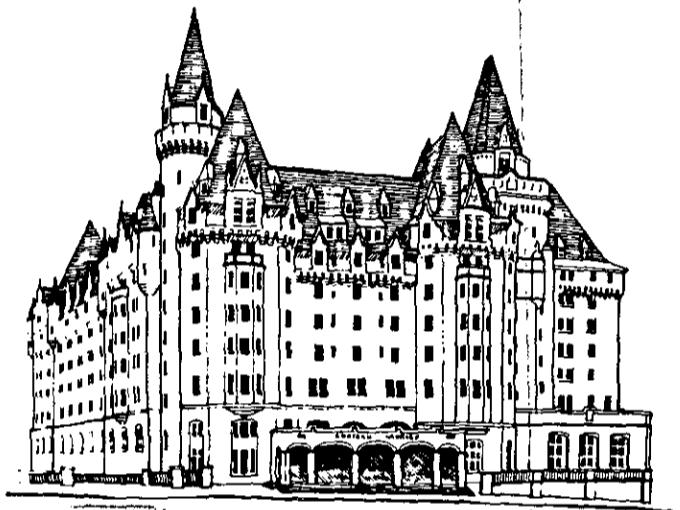
Homemade soup, sandwiches and baked goods provided by Association members will be available throughout the day.

The Aylmer Heritage Association is a non-profit organization devoted to the protection and preservation of Aylmer's historic buildings. The Antique Fair, its principal fundraising event each year, enables the Association to carry out a variety of educational, research and publishing projects pertaining to the area's history and heritage.

The Fair takes place in the historic "Barn" at 95 Albert Street (behind the Town Hall) in Aylmer, Quebec. Entrance: \$2 per person. Hours:

Fri. October 3: 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sat. October 4: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For further information, call Diane Aldred at 770-4204 or Hazel Farnham at 684-3723.



CHATEAU LAURIER 1908-1912

(from OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY,
John Leaning and Lyette Fortin)

HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION CONFERENCE
CHATEAU LAURIER, SEPTEMBER 25-28

This year, Heritage Canada's conference and annual general meeting will take place in Ottawa September 25 to 28, at the Chateau Laurier. The conference theme is "The Role of Volunteers in Heritage Preservation", with Heritage Ottawa president Marc Denhez as featured speaker at the plenary session Friday morning, September 26.

Heritage Ottawa members and others interested in preservation are urged to attend either the entire conference or selected sessions. Complete information is given in the enclosed brochure, but the following is a summary of costs and a description of some of the sessions.

Registration for the entire conference \$55
(includes all sessions, Friday and Saturday lunches, Friday tour of Sussex Drive and the Market, or of work in progress on the Rideau Convent Chapel to be reconstructed in the new National Gallery)

For individuals who wish to attend selected sessions only, the following single-session price structure is offered:

Friday morning:	Plenary Session	\$15
Friday lunch:	"Conversations at Lunch"	\$12
Friday afternoon:	Workshops	\$15
Saturday morning:	Report on findings of workshops	\$5
Saturday noon:	Lunch and "Poster Session"	\$10

"Conversations at Lunch" (\$12) allows participants to join fellow delegates and a resource person (maximum 8 per table) in a discussion of selected heritage concerns/activities over lunch.

"Dinners in Historic Homes" (\$20): Owners of some of Ottawa's most important heritage houses host dinners for small groups of delegates. (Open to registered conference delegates only)

"Poster Session" (\$10): Heritage groups from across Canada will sell their publications and set up displays describing their activities. This is a gold mine for collectors of hard-to-find written material on local Canadian history and architecture. Heritage Ottawa will have a table selling assorted publications, "Hug an Old Building" T-shirts, and "Save the Market" buttons (the 99 Rideau campaign is still a few thousand dollars in debt, even though the battle has been won).

The Poster Session is also an ideal gathering place to learn from other heritage enthusiasts from coast to coast about how they solved problems we all face.

All this and a buffet lunch for only \$10.00.

"Banquet and Awards Presentation" (\$25): A sumptuous meal in the Adam Room of the Chateau, followed by an audio-visual presentation of award-winning buildings.

99 RIDEAU

Discovery of a fluke error in City staff's interpretation of the zoning history has saved the Market from the monstrosity planned for 99 Rideau. Grant Hooker, market merchant and key "Save the Market" organizer, discovered that the height restriction in place when the developer bought the property was only 35 feet, and not the unlimited height suggested by City staff--on which Council based its March decision to approve the project.

The error allowed many of Ottawa's new and inexperienced aldermen to retreat gracefully from their vote in favour of this ill-advised 17-storey tower. One of the few authentic markets left in North America, the Byward's low-scale charm has been carefully preserved as a tourist attraction by the NCC and the City of Ottawa itself over the last decade--until the developer came along with a proposal

to put 14 additional storeys atop the three recently renovated 3-storey heritage buildings beside the Bay.

Months of opposition to the project by Heritage Ottawa, the "Save the Market" Committee, Market merchants and the public in general culminated in a demonstration by 150 chanting, placard-carrying activists and a press conference organized by Heritage Ottawa president Marc Denhez at which columnist Charles Lynch declared that putting a skyscraper on the Market was akin to "putting a warehouse on Parliament Hill".

Had it not been for this sustained effort--and the hard work of Aldermen Nancy Smith and Diane Holmes--the zoning misinterpretation would undoubtedly have been treated as a technicality by the City's new "business-oriented" Council (led by Mayor Jim Durrell, who steam-rolled the proposal through in March), and the Market would have been ruined.

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

For the romance of a sea voyage at a fraction the cost, consider a cabin aboard The Alexander Henry, a 3,000-ton ice-breaker docked on the waterfront at historic Kingston, Ontario.



Acquired by the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston in 1985, the ship offers comfortable accommodation at low cost, just a short walk from downtown Kingston's fine old buildings and restaurants.

Cabins are available to members of heritage organizations and affiliated groups at very reasonable rates. For example:

Double with ensuite bathroom	\$35
Single with shared bathroom	\$22
Group rate (min. 10 per group)	\$15

The above prices include a continental breakfast (coffee/tea and rolls). All cabins are on the outside with a view.

Profits from the ship will go to the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes, which like so many museums and galleries these days is finding it hard to obtain funding. Congratulations to the person who thought up this brilliant idea to keep the Museum afloat, so to speak.

For further information, contact:

The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes
55 Ontario Street
Kingston, Ontario K7L 2Y2
(613) 542-2261

(from Heritage Canada's PRESERVATION NEWS)

SAVOURING HISTORY

Another feature we hope to include in the *Newsletter* on a continuing basis is "Savouring History", reviews of restaurants in heritage buildings in the Ottawa area. Please send in or phone in your suggestions of restaurants to be reviewed.

Veteran journalist and restaurant critic Peggy Berkowitz prepared the following review after a visit to **Le Jardin**.

LE JARDIN, 127 York Street

Le Jardin, one of Ottawa's best restaurants, is housed in one of the prettiest restorations of a heritage house. Restaurateur Ferro Fardin's loving remodeling of this 111-year-old Lowertown building earned **Le Jardin** a Heritage Ottawa award in 1978. It's a perfect place for a special dinner, which could easily cost \$80-\$100 for two, including wine and tip.

The restaurant's charm stems from melding the original structure—its crooked chimney, painted wood floor, high beams—with Fardin's "finds", such as street lamps from a Quebec church and a stained glass door from actor Robert Duvall's New York home.

Downstairs, a small wooden fireplace and the black and white zigzag-painted wood floor are as they were in the original house. A collection of porcelain plates on one wall were retrieved from the "junk" in the basement; so was a pine highchair that doubles as a stand for fresh-cut flowers.

A winding staircase leads to the central decoration—a 180-year-old handpainted canvas ceiling, glued on glass, that Fardin found in a Paris butcher shop. Some of his favourite Rubens-style paintings adorn the upstairs walls of the restaurant, which he refers to as his home.

Much of Fardin's information about the house comes from the 70-year-old son of the original owner, who is also an occasional patron. He told Fardin, for example, that the crooked chimney was the result of misjudgement on the part of the amateur builders.

On a May evening a friend and I dined in one of three small dining rooms that lend an intimate setting to the lower floor. We began a leisurely meal with Chicken Liver Mousse with Port (\$4.50) and large Shrimp in Turmeric

(\$5.95). The mousse, served with toast points, was creamy and delicious. The large shrimp were cooked perfectly and served in a mild-flavoured, bright yellow sauce whose only drawback was a slightly chalky texture.



For main courses we chose Rabbit Fricassee dijonnaise (\$13.95) and Rack of Lamb (\$17.95). The rabbit, although described by the waiter as slices of rabbit, was served on the bone in a tangy mustard sauce. The large portion of rack of lamb came as ordered, medium rare, and was served over a rich gravy. Both main courses were excellent, and were served with side orders of roast potatoes, fiddleheads, broiled tomato and cauliflower-ets. We chose a bottle of Hautes-Côtes de Nuits 1983 (\$32.00) from **Le Jardin's** extensive wine list to accompany our meal.

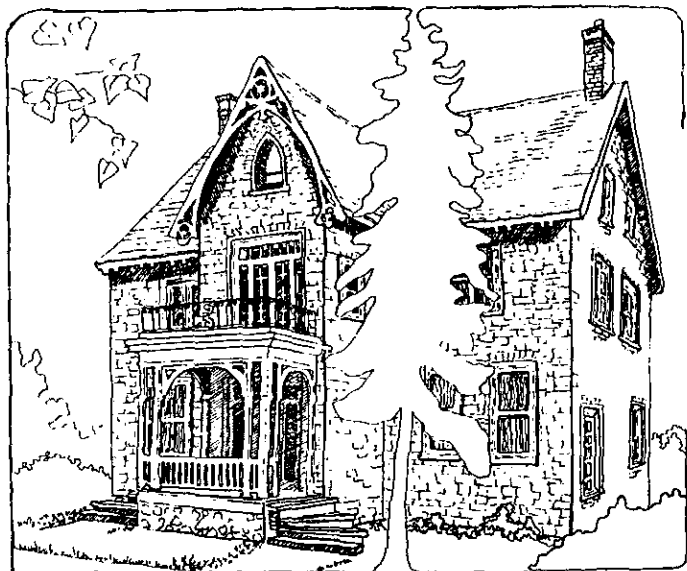
For dessert, we drank coffee and shared a Lemon Mousse (\$2.95)—tangy, fluffy, and served on a thin piecrust with fresh raspberry sauce—a nice, light ending to the meal.

Service that night was slow, but we learned later that we had inadvertently chosen the first night of a new menu, a once-a-year event, and an extremely busy Tuesday night, too.

The restaurant buys produce from the nearby market in the summer, but imports almost everything from France in the winter. Fardin is rightfully proud of his 34-year-old chef, Richard Trahan.

On a return visit at lunchtime to interview the owner, we sat in the much brighter and fancier upstairs dining room. (Lunch, incidentally, was just as good quality as dinner, and very reasonable, with main courses in the \$7-\$10 range.)

Peggy Berkowitz

BOOKS

"Echo Bank", 700 Echo Drive

Heritage/Patrimoine, bilingual, published by the National Capital Commission. \$5 from NCC offices, kiosks and selected bookstores. Paperback, 233 pp., 116 illustrations (B&W and colour photos, line drawings)

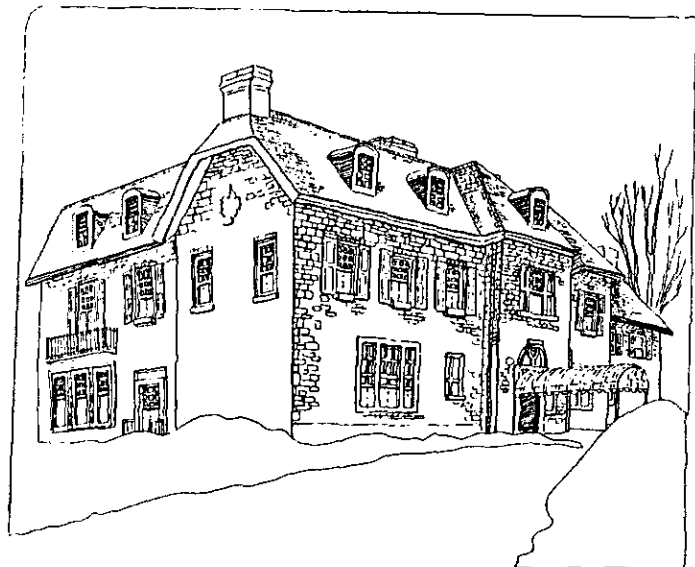
This useful little book has been around for years, but is worth mentioning for those who have not yet come across it. (It betrays its age by including the Rideau Club, but this makes it all the more valuable.) As far as I know, most of the other buildings described are still in existence.

Heritage/Patrimoine covers important heritage structures in the National Capital region, as opposed to just Ottawa, and includes buildings as far afield as Wakefield, Aylmer, Pakenham and Cumberland. Some of the most familiar landmarks described are

Earncliffe, home of Sir John A. Macdonald and now residence of the British High Commissioner (excellent colour photo)

Stadacona Hall, now Belgian Ambassador's residence on Laurier East

The Prime Minister's residence



Prime Minister's Residence
24 Sussex Drive

"The Maples", Maclaren House, and the Wakefield Mill, in Wakefield, Quebec

"Woodlawn" in Lucerne, Quebec

One of the best things about the book is that each building written up is illustrated by a 5" x 7" photo or line drawing. Most of the black and white and all the colour photos are excellent (a few B&W are terrible), and the line drawings are very good (a number are used in this issue). Text is by the legendary Gladys Blair, and is a good balance of history and architectural description. It's an excellent book, easy to carry, and well worth adding to home or car library.

CALENDAR

Ottawa Festival of the Arts
Sept. 18 to Oct. 4

Craftwerk: An adventure in glass, wood, metal and leather by the National Capital region's leading craft artists. A curated exhibit which explores the exciting possibilities of working in different materials. Opening Sunday, September 21. Hours:

Sat. through Wed.	10 am to 6 pm
Thurs. and Fri.	10 am to 9 pm

THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL

Heritage Bank building, Sparks Street Mall between Metcalfe and O'Connor. FREE ADMISSION

Sculpture Tours: CBC personalities host 2-hour Piccadilly double-decker bus tours of contemporary sculptures in the Ottawa-Hull region. Tours leave Confederation Square, Elgin Street, at 2:00 pm every Saturday and Sunday of the Festival. PRICE: \$2

"Spode - the First Hundred Years"
Victoria Memorial Museum
Monday, September 22, 8:00 p.m.

Robert Copeland, great-great grandson of William Copeland, partner with Josiah Spode in the famous English china factory, will lecture on the company's pottery and porcelain at the Victoria Memorial Museum, Metcalfe and McLeod. Free admission and parking. Sponsored by Parks Canada and the Canadian Ceramic Circle.

13th Heritage Canada Foundation Conference and Annual General Meeting
Chateau Laurier, Sept. 25-28, 1986

See article above

CALENDAR (Cont'd)Antiques, Interior Design Workshops:

"Women's World '86", Ottawa Congress Centre
Sept. 26-28 (Admission \$5 for entire weekend)

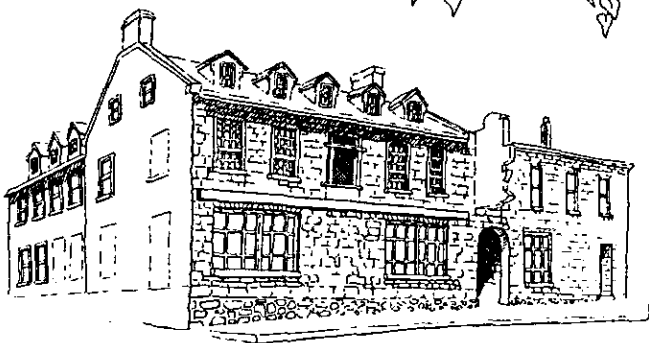
Antique jewellery, silver, prints, and Georgian and Victorian collectibles for sale by Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal dealers during entire conference.

Interior Design and Decorating Workshops:

Bring along swatches, floor plans, photos, and receive individual advice from Linda Nolan Interiors and Anita Kalil Designs, Inc.:

Fri. Sept. 26: 3:00 p.m. (VIP Boardroom)
 Sat. Sept. 27: 2:00 p.m. (" ")
 Sun. Sept. 28: 2:30 p.m. (" ")

British Hotel, Aylmer
 from HERITAGE/PATRIMOINE, NCC

12th Annual Antique Fair

Aylmer Heritage Association
The Barn, 95 Albert St., Aylmer, Quebec
October 3-4

Twenty-five dealers from Quebec and Ontario selling antique furniture, jewellery, silver, china and glassware, prints, tools, oriental carpets, linens, clothing and knick-knacks.

See article above

"D capage et finition de meubles anciens"
("Stripping and finishing old furniture")

Centre communautaire St-Pierre/
St. Pierre Community Centre
 353 Friel, C te de Sable/Sandy Hill

D couvrez des m thodes faciles pour transformer vos meubles anciens. \$8.00
 Mercredi, le 29 octobre - 19h30-21h30

Inscription: Les inscriptions seront les 2, 3 et 4 septembre et continueront sur une base de premier arriv , premier servi, jusqu'  ce que les cours soient remplis. Pour de plus amples renseignements composez le 564-1060.

COURSE IS GIVEN IN FRENCH ONLY

ICOMOS Canada Congress '86

University of Ottawa, Oct. 31-Nov. 2

Theme: "Old Cultures in New Worlds". Info:
 Alain Lafreni re, ICOMOS Canada, 992-3258
 992-3323

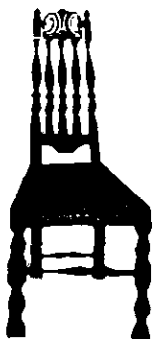
The 33rd Toronto Antique Show

Toronto Convention Centre
255 Front St. West
December 3-6

Over 100 outstanding
 Canadian antique
 dealers:

Wednesday, December 3: 7 pm - 11 pm
 Thursday, Friday, Dec. 4,5: 11 am - 10 pm
 Saturday, December 6: 11 am - 6 pm

Admission: Wed. \$15 incl. one re-entry
 Thur-Sat. \$7(\$5 senior citizens)

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

HERITAGE OTTAWA memberships for 1986-87 are up for renewal as of October 1. Please send your cheque with the form below to

Heritage Ottawa
 Box 510, Station B
 Ottawa K1P 5P6

HERITAGE OTTAWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Standard membership	\$10.00
Senior citizen or student	\$5.00
Patron	\$50.00 or more

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____

Please detach and forward with payment to: HERITAGE OTTAWA
 Box 510, Station "B"
 Ottawa K1P 5P6