

*Established in 1967
Celebrating our 30th year*



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Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

Search on for a New President!

After two years of a great challenge and unending interest in heading up Heritage Ottawa, our President, Jennifer Rosebrough will be taking on a new assignment in Moscow, of all places, in the coming summer. The search is on for her successor!

If you feel that this challenge is for you, or you can suggest someone who could be a good advocate for the cause of heritage conservation in the National Capital, please phone or forward your suggestion to the Nominating Committee, c/o our office. Note that though the position is unremunerated, it offers many rewards and attractions, such as entering fascinating buildings, meeting with local, provincial and federal "movers and shakers". And above all it provides an opportunity to serve the community in a manner that will leave an imprint for many generations to come.

The editors note with interest that at least three former Presidents of Heritage Ottawa have found their experience a good springboard to achieve successful political careers.

(Jennifer adds: It's also an awful lot of fun!) ■

The Fight for the Farm Goes On

by Jean Palmer

This loveliest of spaces, the Central Experimental Farm, now 110 years old will be going through some ruthless paring, if Agriculture Canada has its way. Conceived as a research station with a mandate to inform Canada's farmers, the Experimental Farm has always reached out to the community, encouraged visitors, and provided educational programs. Now suddenly, Agriculture Canada sees itself as sole owner of disposable assets. That those fields and barns, houses and trees have become part of the civic consciousness of Ottawans is deemed irrelevant. Without consultation, decisions have been made to demolish 50 of the Farm's 82 buildings.

The Federal Government has its own heritage review process, evaluations done by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office (FHBRO). In their survey only a dozen of the 82 buildings were considered of heritage value.

The Booth Barn, the oldest building on the Farm, of solid post-and-beam construction, sold to the government by JR Booth, the lumber barron before the Experimental Farm was founded did not make FHBRO's heritage list. However the City of Ottawa gave heritage designation to the Booth Barn and its surrounding cluster of farm buildings in April of this year.

Meanwhile HO President, Jennifer Rosebrough, asked for a meeting with Farm management and was assured at that meeting that there would be consultation before any demolitions were ordered.

An initiative on the part of the Local Architectural Conservation

Advisory Committee (LACAC) resulted in the City of Ottawa requesting the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to consider the entire Experimental Farm for designation as a cultural heritage site of national historic importance. It was indeed the first Experimental Farm in Canada, and its research programs developed among other things, the renowned drought resistant Marquis Wheat which saved the western wheat farmers in the dry years. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board will make a decision on designation at their next meeting in the spring of 1997.

However, in November, HO President Jennifer Rosebrough received a letter from the Central Experimental Farm announcing an immediate demolition of Number 26, Winding Way and several "sheds". A passer-by noted a dumpster being hauled onto the lawn of the small Arts and Crafts

house at #26 Winding Way, and a crew removing radiators and fittings. The passer-by, Gerry Thompson, notified Heritage Ottawa and LACAC. HO alerted CTV and began a barrage of letters to the Farm Administration, to Agriculture Canada, to Regional politicians, City of Ottawa Council, to the Ontario Heritage Board. Heritage Canada joined the fight, asking for a meeting with Farm officials and a halt to the demolition.

Bowing to pressure, the Farm Administration agreed to delay demolition on 26 Winding Way while proposals are considered for its use.

The issue is not over. The consultation promised to HO President never happened. There seems to be a fundamental double-think here.

Agriculture Canada considers the Farm a federal jurisdiction and is making unilateral decisions, yet at the same time asking the Ottawa community to support its fund-raising for restoration of the Beef Showcase Barn, which was badly damaged in a recent fire.

The Farm object to the City of

Ottawa Heritage Designation given to the Booth Barn complex last April, but did not attend the Ontario Municipal Hearing on its objection. The Heritage Designation stands, but is being ignored. Permission has been given to dismantle the Booth Barn, and re-erect it in Perth; removing it from its context, its historical relevance – a practice deplored by heritage groups internationally.

Keep tuned: Will the Booth Barn go to Perth? Will the entire Central Experimental Farm be declared a heritage site of national historic significance? Will a deal be made to sell off part of the Experimental Farm for housing development? ■

NEWS FLASH

The Conservation Review Board of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation had a hearing on October 4, 1996, on the subject of the Booth Barn Complex at the Central Experimental Farm. Here is an excerpt from the Board's recently published decision: "It is the recommendation of the Board that the Booth Barn complex, Central Experimental Farm (Building #114-118), Ottawa, Ontario be designated by by-law under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act." It is the hope of Heritage Ottawa that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada will not oppose the recommendation of the Board. ■

Dear Heritage Ottawa Member:

The following letter was received in response to our campaign for the preservation of the Central Experimental Farm and its Heritage Buildings. We would like to hear your opinion on this controversial subject. The Editor will print your comments, whether you agree with Heritage Ottawa's stand or you support the views of Victor Holt.

The Editor
Heritage Ottawa Newsletter
2 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, Ont. K1N 6E2

Fax 564-4428

Dear Editor;

After listening to your spokes-person's litany about the Experimental Farm I wanted to write a letter to the radio station. A friend of mine suggested that I should rather write to you. I doubt that you will have the courage to print my letter but anyway here is what I want to say:

Canada should not waste money on preserving some dilapidated and useless old shacks. The Governments should sell the Experimental Farm for housing lots and use the money to reduce the deficit. This would be a practical solution.

There are other research farms in Canada and nobody will miss this one if it would be sold.

Sincerely yours
Victor Holt



Heritage Ottawa is a non-profit organisation dedicated to advocating the preservation, restoration, and adaptive re-use of the National Capital's built and natural heritage.

Membership fees: Individual \$25;
Family \$30; Student/Senior \$15;
Patron \$50; Corporation \$75

Heritage Ottawa, 2 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6E2
230-8841

Newsletter Editor: Paul Stumes
Layout: Heather Freeman

Heritage and the Homeless: A Modern Day Barn Raising??

by Jennifer Rosebrough

It could be one of the most ambitious and innovative projects heritage Ottawa has undertaken in it's quarter century of activism – and if it works, it could open a new chapter in relations between fans of heritage, and the Ottawa community at large!

The numbers of homeless in Ottawa has never been greater. One of the institutions serving those without shelter, The Union Mission for men, received a rude shock shortly before Christmas. City officials, invited in to provide guidance regarding structural problems facing an old house owned by the Mission, caught the charity completely off guard by slapping on major work orders, as a pre-condition for any further use of the building. Faced with the unforeseen necessity of some \$125,000 of repairs, and with their resources taxed to the limit meeting the food and shelter needs of their clientele, the Mission applied for a demolition permit. It looked like 53 Daly Ave. would be reduced to rubble after 124 years of gracing one of Sandy Hill's oldest streets. Our very candid meeting with Mission officials, and a tour of the red brick building in the company of the local Councillor, City Hall staff, and several professionals versed in heritage preservation revealed that demolition was not necessarily the Mission's first choice – especially since they have no immediate prospects of obtaining funds to replace the structure in a way that it would meet their acute shortage of beds. They suggested that if Heritage Ottawa could be of any assistance in finding a way out of their present 'Daly crisis', they would be interested

in learning of it. In the meantime, they intended to proceed with their demolition permit application to City Council.

Weeks since have seen Council agree to a demolition permit, (against the recommendation of both its own heritage planning staff, and officials in demolition control) and then abruptly reverse their position (with the exception of Councillor Brian MacKay) when a re-vote was called at the urging of Councillor Elizabeth Arnold.

It looked like 53 Daly Ave. would be reduced to rubble after 124 years of gracing one of Sandy Hill's oldest streets.

Heritage Ottawa can take credit for persuading Councillors to change their vote. Thanks to all of you who contacted your Councillors to apprise them of the "rescue package" H.O. is endeavouring to put together for 53 Daly, and urge a stay of execution! If it works, it could be the modern day equivalent of a barn raising!

Recognizing that only broad based community initiative can save 53 Daly, HO has gotten the ball rolling to determine if there could be mustered sufficient voluntary labour, materials and professional skills to rehabilitate the red brick house into an emergency shelter. We will be making a presentation to the Mission's Board early in February, to present our findings, and determine their level of commitment to work with us. In the meantime a local architect has volunteered to prepare for the an outline of what would be needed to convert the structure; an Ottawa

developer has offered full project management services if the house is rehabilitated; and some suppliers have indicated a willingness to provide some of the required materials. We are also having discussions with Algonquin College and Habitat for Humanity to determine whether providing assistance might be within their scope of work

Needless to say, getting their project off the ground, exploring the variety of sources of support which remain untapped, is a major task. With no office staff, we are hoping for a groundswell of assistance from our members! What can you do? Have you, your family, or friends professional skills which could be useful in a project of this sort? Have you a good relationship with a building materials supplier, member of the media, or City Councillor, that might help when we are looking for material, ongoing publicity, or extra support at the next Council meeting? Could you be a liaison for us with a trade union whose support will be so vital? Are you handy with a hammer, proficient with a pen, or experienced in advocacy? Have you basic keyboard skills that would help us send out letters?

Or have you any good ideas regarding who might be interested in this project? If the answer to any of these are "YES" – or even "no" but if you have a willing spirit, then we need you!! Please call, night or day, our trustworthy answering machine: 230-8841. We, and the homeless, need your support to save 53 Daly!! And please keep in mind, as registered charities, both the Mission and HO are able to issue tax receipts to those contributing to the project. ■

Hungarian Embassy Restored Ottawa Historic Building

There are well over 100 diplomatic missions in Ottawa. Quite a few of them have offices and official residences in designated heritage buildings. To accommodate their space requirement some delegations carry out alterations which can gravely distort the heritage character of the building. Since embassies enjoy extra-territorial privileges, we can do nothing but try moral persuasion to prevent such action. Luckily many embassies, including the Hungarian, handle the heritage buildings in their hands with great respect.

In 1996 Hungary celebrated 1,100 years of statehood. It was in the end of the 9th Century when the Magyar tribes joined under the leadership of Chieftain Arpad and settled in the basin of the Carpathian Mountains. Hungary survived united, as one nation, during eleven centuries of turbulent European history.

The Embassy of the Republic of Hungary have organized various cultural events to celebrate this anniversary. At the same time they created a more enduring memorial as well. The Embassy occupies two adjoining buildings. One is a non-descriptive structure at 299 Waverly Street. The other one at 306 Metcalfe Street is the "Birkett Castle", a designated Ottawa Heritage Building.

The "Birkett Castle" was built in

1896 for Thomas Birkett, an Ottawa hardware merchant. He became Mayor of Ottawa in 1891 and later was elected a Member of Parliament. The three story high brick structure with its turret and cranelled roofline is a rare example of the so called "baronial gothic" style.

At the initiative of Ambassador and Mme Gedai, the Embassy restored this heritage building, both outside and inside. The restoration of the 100 year old Birkett Castle is so complete that if by some miracle the original owner, Thomas Birkett, would haunt the rooms he would think that nothing has changed in the past century.

The restoration was carried out according to the plans of Mr. Laszlo Csepeli, chief Architect of the Hungarian Ministry of External Affairs. Local input and supervision was provided by Mr. Leonard Koffman, the well known Ottawa architect. The contractor for the project was B.B.S. Construction Ltd. In recognition of the impeccable work the Embassy and the participants of the project received Certificates of Merit at the Heritage Day celebration in the Ottawa City Hall on February 17, 1997.

Ambassador Karoly Gedai, who provided inspiration for the project will be honoured at the Annual Conference of Heritage Ottawa. ■

The Plant Bath

During the 1920s, at the instigation of the so-called "social-reform" movement, the City of Ottawa built two public baths in districts where many houses lacked plumbing facilities. These baths were the predecessors of today's Community Centres by including swimming pools and libraries in the complex.

The Plant Bath was built between 1922-24 at the corner of Preston and Somerset Streets. This part of the City was originally the village of Rochesterville, named after a prominent pioneer family. Later it was taken into the City of Ottawa and John Rochester even became a Mayor of the City. The Bath was named after another Mayor of Ottawa, Frank H. Plant. It was declared a Heritage Building in 1994. Plant Bath has served the needs of the neighbourhood for many decades, but finally this year it was closed because of life-threatening structural faults.

Reportedly, at the initiative of Councillor Elisabeth Arnold, the City Council decided to expand Plant Bath to a much needed Community Centre complex. A sum of \$200,000 has been earmarked to prepare a business plan and schematic design for the redevelopment.

Councillor Arnold indicated that she will work with Heritage Ottawa to ensure that the project will not be detrimental to the heritage character of the 70-year-old Plant Bath. ■

THE EFFECT OF AIR POLLUTION ON COMPUTERS

It is widely publicized that air pollution is gravely detrimental to humans and other living organisms. On the other hand few people realize how seriously air pollution can effect computers. The case of Heritage Ottawa's computer provides a dramatic example.

One day somebody working in our office could not resist the call of tobacco addiction, even for a few minutes, and therefore lit a cigarette. Since smoking is not permitted in the building this person opened the window, hoping that the air coming from the outside would conceal the scent of tobacco. Unfortunately, the open window let in more than fresh air. It permitted the entry of an intruder who walked away with key components of our computer.

This story might sound funny for some, but its consequences to our ability to run the affairs of Heritage Ottawa is deadly serious. The person who was responsible for the open window has left the country and we are left with the problems of replacing the lost equipment and catching up with the unexpected backlog. ■

School House Square Project

Preserves Historic St. Charles School

by Robert Webster, Architect, O.A.A., R.A.I.C.

In 1996 the St. Charles School on Springfield Road was slated to be demolished by the Separate School Board as a surplus property. However, it was saved when the progressive management of Domicile Developments Inc. of Ottawa engaged the Firm of Katz Webster Clancey Architects Assoc. to design the conversion of the designated heritage building to loft type residential use. Katz Webster Clancey architects were chosen because their experience of working on similar projects for the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the National Capital Commission, among others.

The first St. Charles school, built in 1910, was one of the last two schools designed by Moses Edey and Frances Sullivan. Edey is well known as the architect of the now-gone-but-not-forgotten Daly Building and the recently resurrected Aberdeen Pavilion. Edey and Sullivan were selected by the Separate School Board in 1909, over the competing firm of Keefer and Weekes. Some spicy rumour persists that the work was awarded to Edey and Sullivan because Sullivan was engaged to the daughter of trustee Génest, who later became chairman of the separate School Board.

In 1910 St. Charles was designed as a small two-room school on the so called "extension plan". In 1925 it was enlarged to its present size according to the plans of Brodeur and Polot. Since then the most notable exterior alteration happened in the 1950s when the original red-range brick was replaced on the facade with dark-brown textured brick. Nevertheless, many elements of

the original design remained.

The main significance of the building rests on the historical distinction with its role in protecting the French language education in Ottawa. With the passing in 1912 of Regulation 17, which banned instruction in French, the protest movement of Les Dames Gardiennes de l'école Guigues was formed. This movement spread and the Les Dames Gardiennes de l'école St. Charles was formed. It was the combined efforts of these two movements that the rights of French education was restored and secured in Ontario.

As part of the extensive exterior rehabilitation, the brick of St. Charles will be cleaned and repointed. All windows, sills, fascias and trim will be restored. Interior renovations will retain the original front and rear stairs, railings, wainscot and patterned metal ceiling. The original hardwood floor will be repaired and replaced where required.

The interior of the building will be converted to comfortable loft-type apartments. The high ceilings in the

classrooms enabled the architects to design a sleeping loft over the main floor level. The tall orientation of the large classroom windows are perfectly suited for allowing bright sunlight to both levels of the lofts. As a design strategy, the architects attempted to retain original interior details and finishes wherever practical. New elements will be detailed and finished as contemporary design elements to identify what is historic and what is new.

This adaptive reuse of St. Charles School by Domicile Developments Inc., according to the design of Katz Webster Clancey Architects represents a preservation success story. Instead of demolishing a designated heritage building and dumping it in a landfill site, it will be put to practical use. Old St. Charles school in its new role will remain a monument to the successful fight for French language rights in Ontario and will remain an integral part of the New Edinburgh street scape to the great joy of the residents of the district. ■

De-Constructing Old Buildings

One of the arguments Heritage Ottawa uses to fight demolition of heritage buildings is the environmental issue. Thirty-five percent of the waste taken to the municipal landfills in Canada is from a construction or demolition site. Now an Ottawa architect, Vince Catalli is about to undertake a pilot project where he will take apart a building (not a heritage-designated building) piece by piece, making sure that everything possible is re-used or recycled.

The project, supported by several sponsors, including the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will provide research for a guide on how to de-construct rather than demolish houses. It will demonstrate how to minimize waste and preserve the environment including all those trees that don't need to be cut when existing lumber is re-used. ■

Designation of 172 and 180 Sparks Street

by Leeann McGovern

A demolition permit was recently requested for the buildings located at 172 and 180 Sparks Street, and the properties were brought to the attention of Heritage Ottawa as a result. The owner of the buildings, the Bank of Nova Scotia, wants to clear the site in favour of a parking lot.

The building at 172 Sparks was constructed in 1941 as an F.W. Woolworth Co. Store, while the structure at 180 Sparks was erected in 1929 as an S.S. Kresge Co. Store. The retail structure of both buildings serves to reinforce the traditional commercial streetscape and the human scale of the Sparks Street Mall. Both Buildings are included in the proposed Central Area West Heritage Study, to commence in late 1996 or early 1997.

The buildings, while not immediately impressive aesthetically, stand as examples of outlets of large retail chains from the first half of the twentieth century. Such stores had a notable impact on the development of sparks Street, and on the economy of Ottawa.

The former Woolworth Co. Store was designed to appear fashionable and modern, yet practical. From Sparks Street, the building serves as an example of the Art Deco style, while the secondary frontage on Queen Street represents the associated Moderns style. The second storey of each street front remains unchanged from the time of construction. On Sparks Street, this includes finely worked limestone cladding ornamented with stylized, low relief sculptural motifs, fluted pilasters and stepped cornice. The building also offers the original steel casement windows and glazing. The Queen Street frontage is notable for the

streamlined banding of the brickwork and fenestration – horizontal on the shop front and vertical on the integrated design of the elevator tower. The former Kresge Store is a two storey, brick clad building designed in the Modern Classical style popular in the 1920s. The flatness of corner piers, pilasters, and the reduced entablature and cornice on the second floor are reminiscent of this style. The use of brick, trimmed with stone for capitals, mouldings, and medallions was also typical of smaller buildings in this style.

Heritage designation was assigned to the buildings at 172 and 180 Sparks Street under the Ontario Heritage Act by the City of Ottawa Council on

October 4, 1996. This designation affords the buildings protection from demolition for a period of 270 days. Heritage Ottawa supported the application to designate these two commercial buildings as having heritage value. It is believed that the loss of these buildings would be detrimental to the character and historical nature of Sparks Street. The Sparks Street Pedestrian mall is a street rich in history, and one whose potential is still to be recognized and harnessed. By designating these two buildings, a step is made toward the goal of understanding and appreciating the commercial heritage of Centretown Ottawa. ■

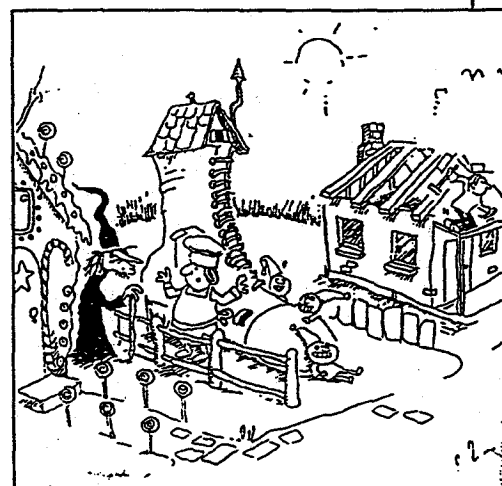
Amalgamation – Pro and Contra

While the bureaucrats and politicians argue about the proposed amalgamation of several municipalities in the Ottawa-Carleton Region, we must examine the possible effects of this issue on the preservation of the Region's built heritage.

Every municipality and district in the Region has its group of heritage fans who fight for the preservation of whatever was left in their own neighbourhood. This fight is usually a personal affair because all the effected monuments are familiar objects.

In the case of amalgamation, the representatives of each district could create a central organization. This united front could strongly influence the politicians and bureaucrats. On the other hand, there is the danger that each member would see only the interests of their own district. It could result in in-fighting within the group, weakening the preservation movement.

What is the solution? Heritage Ottawa would like to hear the opinion of the membership. Let us know what you think about the effect of amalgamation on the preservation movement. Give us some advise and send us your suggestions to the solution of this problem. ■



"There goes the neighborhood !"

Rookie Garage Sale Season Great Success

by Michael LeBrun

This past spring, Heritage Ottawa was called up to the Major League of Garage Sales. We were offered, on very short notice, an opportunity to participate in Great Glebe Garage Sale. HO members stepped up to the plate and hit a home run on that brisk, sunny spring day. When the dust had cleared, we had over \$600 in sales.

We must express our special thanks to David "X" for allowing us the use of his front yard. Special thanks as well to one member who donated 40 brand new womens' bathing suits to the sale and which subsequently sold for \$10 each.

This season we also participated in the New Edinburgh Garage Sale, where we sponsored a table. We collected signatures on a petition to save the Central Experimental Farm (Booth Barns) and St. Charles School.

We want to express thanks to members and supporters for coming out and helping in this our rookie season and counsel all to look ahead, collect your saleable articles and prepare for the new season in the Great Garage Sale League. ■

Look Who is Fifty

by Jean Palmer

The Federal Heritage Building Review Office considers buildings which are over 40 years old. This year the so called "ranch style bungalow" has turned fifty and so it would probably be eligible for recognition. A great favourite in the post-war housing boom, the bungalow with its easy care, one-level floor plan and low profile was modelled from California Spanish haciendas, built around the 1830s. Thousands of happy families found their dream homes in the modern versions of such houses. Ottawa has

hundreds of them around in the suburbs. Some of these were renovated, enlarged and ornamented in the "post-modern" manner.

Keep your eyes open for a few fine specimens of post-war bungalows with their integrity intact. Please notify Heritage Ottawa and we will refer them to the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, for possible evaluation as a designated heritage building. ■

Video Sensation

Heritage Ottawa will be the subject of a new short film with the title: Speaking up for Old Buildings

This 17 minute film will deal with heritage issues, focusing on the Parliamentary Precinct, Centertown, Britannia and the Central Experimental Farm. It will demonstrate how Heritage Ottawa works to save buildings at risk, emphasizing the ongoing battle between the forces of thoughtless destruction and those who wish to preserve valuable heritage assets.

The film is produced by Alan Jones and Cameron Taylor. Producer Alan Jones' name will be recognized by many members of Heritage Ottawa. He won a prestigious award for his short film about Heritage Ottawa's role in the preservation of the Aberdeen Pavilion.

The script is by Jean Palmer, a much acknowledged writer of scores for educational productions. Narration is given by Louise Coates, Past President of Heritage Ottawa. Her voice and face will be familiar for her frequent appearances on heritage programs on TV and radio.

The production of this film was made possible by a generous grant from the Rogers TV Network.

French and English versions of Speaking up for Old Buildings will be available on video tape early 1997, shortly after its official premiere in a major Cinema in Ottawa and on TV. ■

Heritage Canada Awards

The Heritage Canada Foundation invites nominations for its juried awards in 1997.

The Gabrielle Léger Award

Heritage Canada's highest award, bestowed on an individual who has made a lifelong contribution to heritage conservation benefiting Canadians. Candidates must be nominated by a voluntary organization. The nomination document should include a statement of approximately 1,000 words describing the achievement of the nominee, together with a biographical sketch, six to ten 35mm slides illustrating the work of the nominee in heritage, and letters of support from government or community agencies.

The Lieutenant Governor's Award

This award is given with the cooperation of heritage organizations in the Province of Ontario, designated as the site of the 1997 annual conference of the Heritage Canada Foundation. Nominees must have made a significant contribution to heritage conservation in the Province of Ontario. The nomination document must include a statement of approximately 1,000 words describing the achievement of the nominee, together with a biographical sketch, six to ten slides illustrating the work of the nominee in heritage, and letters of support from the community.

Nomination documents must be received by the Heritage Canada Foundation no later than April 30, 1997.

For further information, please write to: Awards Coordinator, Heritage Canada Foundation, P.O. Box 1358, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5R4.

■

How Do You Spend the Long Winter in Ottawa?

by Paul Stumes

Thousands of Ottawa residents spend the winter in Florida, basking in the sun. What are the rest of us doing to prevent catching cottage fever? Thousands of folks who stay in the City have fun and exercise their muscles, lungs and heart by playing BADMINTON. Maybe badminton was invented just for us? If it is an import, it would be interesting to learn something about the history of Ottawa's most popular indoor sport.

Badminton was invented, like so many good things, in China, where it was a children's pastime about 2,000 years ago. It slowly spread westward and settled several centuries later in India. There it was called "Poona", probably after the center of its popularity, a place called Poonamalee. By the twelfth century the game reached Europe where a similar sport is mentioned in court records on the continent. Historians assume that it was brought to Europe by Marco Polo, together with other far-Eastern goodies. It was then called "Battledore and Shuttlecock".

From letters written home by the colonists, we may conclude that "Battledore and Shuttlecock" was played by our pioneer ancestors on the American Continent. At that time it was said to be a "vulgarity", by those who considered any kind of pleasurable activity a mortal sin.

It might be worth noting that Colonel By, the founder of Ottawa, was stationed with his troops in India before coming here to build the Canal. Many of his men came from Poonamalee, where the game was widely practiced. As a matter of fact, one of the lock-stations on the Rideau Canal is named after their home: Poonamalee. It is easy to imagine that some of the officers of the Royal Engineers entertained themselves occasionally with the game of Poona.

The game received its presently used name on a rainy day in 1873. In the miserable English weather, the guests of the Duke of Beaufort, being bored, decided to try out the game in one of the great



halls of the Duke's castle, The Badminton House. After they went back to their estates they were telling everybody what a jolly time they had playing that "Game at Badminton".

From the upper classes the game of badminton quickly spread to the middle strata of the population. In the following year, dozens of clubs sprung up in Britain. The rules of the game differed from club to club, until in 1877, when the first "Official Rules of Badminton" was published in Karachi in Pakistan.

Thanks to the wandering Brits, badminton settled solidly in Canada in the 1890s. It was played here and there by gentlemen wearing dark suits and ties, with ladies in long flowing skirts. Legend says that in 1895, a gentleman was blackballed from a club in Montreal when he dared to remove his jacket in the heat of a game.

The heyday of the game in Canada came in the 1930s when some of the world's best players wore the uniform with the maple-leaf. Today, we are still among the top badminton nations. But most importantly, there are tens of thousands of Canadians, young and old, who are enjoying this invigorating and fun game, which was invented 2,000 years ago by the ancestors of our Chinese-Canadian compatriots, just for us, of course.

Maybe it is true that the weather in Ottawa consists of 10 months of winter and 2 months of poor skating, but for the 10,000 badminton players in Ottawa, the weather is 12 months of good games.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual: \$25
Family: \$30
Student/Senior: \$15

Patron: \$50
Corporation: \$75

PLEASE, forward with payment to:

HERITAGE OTTAWA
2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa, ON
K1N 6E2

230-8841, fax 564-4228

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (business) _____

E-mail: _____