



# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

*Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage*

Fall 2007 Volume 34, No. 3

## City Council Approves University's Plan for King Edward

By Ken Clavette

**K**ing Edward Avenue, once one of the grandest streets in Ottawa, has been under assault for the past 50 years. Changes made in March to the City's Official Plan and zoning laws by council have put the heritage character of the street under further threat. Ultimately council's decision will result in the demolition of most of the century-old homes in the three blocks south of Laurier Ave. to Mann Ave., an area called the King Edward Precinct by the University of Ottawa (U of O). The University owns 80% of this land. In addition, the current residential and institutional zoning will now include commercial usage.



*University houses on the west side of King Edward Avenue.*

From the 1960s, so-called "urban progress" has decimated the Lowertown portion of King Edward by

transforming the former city street into a highway connecting Ontario route 417 to Quebec, effectively cutting the community in two. At the same time, the U of O has acquired many of the last remnants of the residential dwellings in the Sandy Hill portion of the street. These buildings have largely been converted into offices or leased to housing co-ops.

Under the plan, the U of O also received an increase in building heights, up to 8 stories at the highest location. Applications for the demolition of a number of homes on Henderson Ave. owned by the university have been approved over the opposition of Heritage Ottawa. As a tradeoff for the demolition of these homes, and the changes to King Edward, the university has offered a heritage overlay to be applied to the two remaining blocks of Henderson thus returning residential zoning to the area.

During the council meeting, Ward Councillor Georges Bédard stated that the homes in the King Edward Precinct were "...not heritage but just old buildings." If we put aside the obvious that only old buildings are designated heritage, his statement pointed out a shortcoming of our designation process. What Councillor Bédard was saying is that



*Photo: Jan Soetermans*

## Approval for King Edward...

we “cherry pick” our heritage buildings, saving only selected examples of our past. Some heritage experts both within the city and those hired by the U of O see a heritage value in only a handful of the houses within the precinct. They see no value in King Edward Avenue as a historic streetscape in the city.

Across Ontario we find many buildings that have been “cherry picked” as heritage. Many of them, surrounded by parking lots and high-rise buildings, are totally out of their original context. They become isolated examples of what once was. An Ottawa example is Negal House at 77 Gloucester St. (See photo to right) Built in 1872, it is the oldest and sole remaining building of its period in Centretown.

Ottawa recognized this problem of isolated buildings some three decades ago and developed an innovative policy known as a “heritage overlay” that has had some success in preserving Ottawa’s historic communities and streetscapes. But this policy has also been weakened time and time again by the lack of political will and community support. Heritage Ottawa has to continually fight to have this policy enforced. Much like zoning, city council often makes exceptions to the rules at the request of developers thereby rendering the policy meaningless.

In the case of King Edward the zoning changes will bring the final blow to this once grand residential street leaving only one block – that between Wilbrod and Laurier – to retain the original look of the street.



Photo: Ken Clavette

The oldest home in Centretown is Negal House at 77 Gloucester Street.

The U of O has been pushing its way into the Sandy Hill community for 100 years and continues to do so. In the past few years it has bought up homes on Templeton and more recently on Stewart St. which is in a heritage district.

## Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

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*Heritage Ottawa is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage.*

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*A fine residential row between Wilbrod and Laurier will remain.*

The homes are purchased for future land use and are not valued for the buildings on them. The university rents the homes to students but has no budget to maintain them so in the coming years we may well face more demolition requests such as those just approved. This action by the U of O has the effect of driving down the property standards of nearby homes, forcing families out and creating run-down student ghettos. But most importantly it puts more historic Sandy Hill homes into the hands of landlords who do not care to preserve them.



*94 Henderson is an example of neglect by the U of O.*

While the university has agreed to a heritage overlay on Henderson Ave. its past actions of property ownership of historic residential dwellings has not been very positive. 94 Henderson (left) is an example of a home owned by the U of O. Two years ago the tenants, one of its sports teams, wrecked it. As a result it has remained boarded up to this day.

Over the years, other properties have been abandoned, boarded up and often demolished, or in one case burned down by a group of homeless men who had taken up residence. The result is vacant lots throughout the precinct.

Heritage groups across our country have seen landlords who have no interest in preserving properties and who allow their buildings to deteriorate to the point that they are condemned by the fire marshal. They then use that order to obtain demolition permits.

It is time to put tools into the hands of our city that would allow for real enforcement and protection of our heritage buildings.



*Though not on King Edward these U of O buildings will likely disappear as part of the process of its expansion and commercial development in the Precinct.*

The City of Toronto has just adopted a policy that would allow it to step in and take action to preserve a designated heritage building if the owner is unwilling to do so. Ottawa should follow their leadership.

If Ottawa's policy of a heritage overlay is to have a meaningful future our civic leaders, community associations, and citizens will have to be vigilant and insure that the rules are enforced by city council. We may have lost King Edward Avenue. but many other streetscapes can be preserved. It is up to us to take action on behalf of our community's heritage. ♦

*Ken Clavette is a Heritage Ottawa board member. He has lived in Sandy Hill for 26 years.*

# From the President...



On September 16<sup>th</sup>, I attended the final mass celebrated at St. Brigid's Church by Archbishop Terrence Prendergast followed by its deconsecration as a Roman Catholic Church. From my seat in the choir loft I was able to appreciate the magnificent work of Ottawa architect, James R. Bowes, and Montreal designer and artist, Toussaint-Xenophon Renaud.

Although designated by the City of Ottawa as a heritage property under the *Heritage Act* and cited as having provincial significance by the Ontario Heritage Trust, the church and what is equally important, the parish, was selected for closure last year by the former Archbishop, Marcel Gervais. The parishioners, who had already raised a considerable sum of money to undertake much-needed restoration of the building, were continually thwarted by Archbishop Gervais who refused to discuss with them any options to retain the parish. The building was recently sold to a group that has indicated its wish to operate it as an Irish cultural centre. One of the conditions of sale demanded by the Archdiocese was that the building not be used as a Roman Catholic place of worship. The building seems to have been saved but the parish, the very essence of any church, has lost its home of nearly 120 years.

While Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District has lost an operating church, Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District is on the verge of losing one of its most important and historic homes. Located at 456 Lansdowne Road, this elegant, brick house was built in 1897 for Frannie and Etta Wright, great grand-daughters of Hull pioneer Philomen Wright. It was the first permanent year-round house built on McKay Lake and one of the first 20 houses built in the Village of Rockcliffe Park.

Despite being in good condition, the new owner applied to have it demolished and replaced by a building which "evokes the Prairie style houses of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright." The architect for the owner claimed that it was impossible to provide an addition to the current building which would meet his needs. Thus the owner decided to demolish it rather than destroy the architectural integrity of the building. City staff recommended that the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) support the demolition of the house and its replacement as proposed by the property owner.

At the July 26 LACAC meeting, representatives of the Rockcliffe Park community and Heritage Ottawa as well as the author of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation. LACAC unanimously rejected the staff recommendation.

The owner has recently requested that LACAC reconsider the matter based on additional information in the form of a Geotechnical Investigation and Review conducted on August 8, 10 and 28 (less than a month after his demolition proposal was rejected by LACAC). This review concludes that "in a short period,

the building will be rendered unsafe due to excessive movement and should not be occupied." It recommends, conveniently for the owner, that "the existing structure be demolished and replaced with a new structure." It is strange that the building owner, who also owns one of the largest development companies in Ottawa, would have purchased the property last year without having conducted a house inspection which would have uncovered these structural problems. Ah well, better late than never when you're seeking a reason to demolish!

With St. Brigid's Church and 456 Lansdowne Road, we have two heritage buildings which have contrasting value to their respective owners. St. Brigid's is cherished by its parishioners for



*St. Brigid's - a church or Cultural Centre?*



whom the church is more than just a building and who have worked tirelessly but unsuccessfully to keep it as their spiritual home. For the owner of 456 Lansdowne Road, the house, regardless of its historical and architectural importance and its *real* condition, was never meant to be a “home” but merely a property to develop.

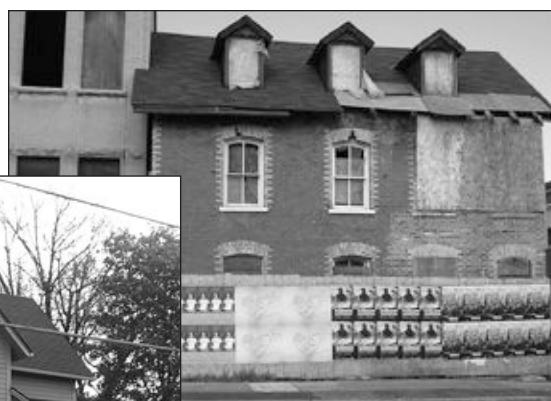
If ever I needed any reinforcement for my dedication to heritage preservation, these two cases help clarify my commitment. ♦

*David B. Flemming,*  
President

## Buildings in Heritage Conservation Districts that their owners want demolished



78 - 80 Bolton Street



207-209 Murray Street



204 Springfield Road



281-283 Cumberland St.



456 Lansdowne Road



212 Springfield Road

# The Ottawa Hull Fire, April 26, 1900

By Ken Elder

If there was ever an Ottawa postcard I did not expect to see, it was one with a view of the Ottawa Hull Fire of April 26, 1900. A picture postcard of this early date is relatively scarce. Private postcards were not legalized in Canada until 1895, and even then a lot of restrictions were placed on their design. The large blank area on the right hand side of this postcard is a consequence of these regulations. Because the reverse of the postcard had to be reserved for the address and stamp, publishers had to provide space on the front for writing a message. The small images did nothing to popularize the practice of sending picture postcards, and thus few were printed. The other reason I never expected to see this card was the unusual subject. Mailing a wish-you-were-here message on hotel stationery with a scene of a disaster is hard to imagine.

building was purchased by George Acres and renovated as The Royal Exchange Hotel. Alderman James Davidson, in turn, bought the building in 1897 and added three floors. He gave it the name Hotel Cecil.

The Hull-Ottawa Fire, which had its origins in a small chimney fire in Hull, broke out about 10.00 A.M. on April 26, 1900. The fire blazed out of control and by noon had consumed about two thirds of downtown Hull. Embers borne by strong northerly winds ignited lumber yards on the Ontario shore. The fire swept through the industrial area in LeBreton flats and advanced through Rochesterville as far as Dow's Lake on the south. A fire break created by the railway cut of the Canadian Pacific Railway saved the village of Hintonburg on the west. The eastward advance of the fire was partially stayed by

three companies of militia requested by Police Chief Powell to act as a "bucket brigade." These men came from the Governor General's Foot Guards and the 43<sup>rd</sup> Rifles and their job was to wet down the buildings on the east side of Division Street (now Booth Street). The Ottawa Fire Department, which had to retreat from the flats, concentrated its efforts on the city's pumping station near Pooley's Bridge and protected the source of water supply.



*This postcard c. 1900 features a photograph of the great fire – an unusual choice of subject.*

The Hotel Cecil, from which this photograph was taken, was on the south side of Wellington Street. The original 2 1/2 – storey hipped roof stone structure on the site was purchased by the Bank of Montreal in 1844. The bank occupied one half of the building and leased the other half to James Doran who operated it as Doran's Hotel. In 1875 the

In spite of everything, the principal reasons that the conflagration did not reach the central portion of the city and the Hotel Cecil were the abatement of the wind around sundown and the protection the high cliffs provided to the approaches to Upper Town.



Postcard c. 1907 with a view of the Fleet Street Pumping Station 1874-75. The original Mansard roof had been replaced by a second storey in 1899.

The photograph clearly shows the strong drift of the smoke southwards, and would have been taken in early afternoon when McKay's Mills on Chaudière Island, Bronson's Mill on Victoria Island and the piling yards of Bronson & Weston in LeBreton flats began to burn.

Ironically the Hotel Cecil which had survived the great fire of 1900, succumbed to its own fire just two years later. Shortly after 5 A.M. on January 25, 1902, Raymond Jackson, the night watchman at the hotel, discovered burning wires in the steward's room. While attempting to cut the wires he was knocked out cold. The building was then set ablaze and the fire had made great headway before the watchman revived sufficiently to give the

alarm. By the time the fire brigade arrived on the scene the fire "... had a hold on the building that could not be shaken off, and several of the guests barely escaped with their lives." The building was under renovation at the time and not completely occupied, thus averting a potential tragedy.

Surprisingly, the only photograph of the Hotel Cecil I have been able to locate shows the burned-out shell of the building in April, 1902. (See photo below.)

Mortimer Co. Ltd., printers and lithographers, who themselves were burned out on Sparks Street on June 4, 1903, erected a new building on the former Hotel Cecil site and occupied it in 1905. It was this building which was demolished in 1937 to make way for the Bank of Canada. ♦



The 1902 view of the burned-out shell of the Hotel Cecil is left of the British American Note Co. located at the corner of Wellington and Kent Streets.

Ken Elder is on the board of Heritage Ottawa and a long time deltiologist (collector of postcards). The idea for the Ottawa-Hull fire story came from a recently acquired postcard published by the Hotel Cecil.



# Annual Report of Heritage Ottawa 2006-07

*The following report by David B. Flemming, president of Heritage Ottawa, was delivered to the Annual General meeting held at Rockcliffe Park Recreation Centre Hall, 380 Springfield Road, Wednesday, May 23, 2007*

A warm welcome to our members and their guests and those of you who are yet to become members. Two years ago, we marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Heritage Ottawa. In our 33<sup>rd</sup> year the challenges to preserve our city's built heritage are even more important than during the 1970s.

This marks my fifth president's report to a Heritage Ottawa annual general meeting. It has been an honour to serve for a fifth year as your president. Before reporting on the past year I would like to ask our current board members and active volunteers to stand and for you to join me in thanking them for their hard work over the past year.

I would like to give a special thanks to David Jeanes, our vice-president, for his efforts over the past year. Despite his numerous other duties and responsibilities he continues to be an articulate, eloquent and enthusiastic advocate for our built heritage. David Ivison continues to look after our finances and provide us with sound financial advice

Our net membership has increased by nearly 10% over the past year thanks to the recruitment efforts undertaken during our 2006 walking tours, our very successful 2006-2007 lecture series and to the hard work of membership secretary Jane Reid.

In 2006-2007, we produced three editions of the *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter* under the direction of our able editor, Veronica Vaillancourt. The newsletter provides the membership with important information on our activities and on our built heritage.

Our webmaster, Peter O'Malley, continues to manage our website which attracts an average of 900 visits per month. I have received numerous compliments about our website over the years, especially for our archive of past issues of our *Newsletter*. Peter and our treasurer David Ivison are developing a system whereby memberships can be purchased or renewed on-line through our secure website. We hope that this will accelerate the increase in our membership. A committee to further develop our web capabilities will be presenting its recommendations to the board in the fall.

Heritage Ottawa continues to provide education and outreach programs in support of our built heritage. Last year's 12 walking tours attracted

404 participants and generated over \$3000 in revenue. I would like to thank our tour coordinator, David Jeanes, and the guides, many of whom volunteer every year to participate in this important fundraising and educational activity. Last year's tour guides were David Jeanes, Katharine Fletcher, Gouhar Shemdin, Jennifer Rosebrugh, Judy Deegan, Carolyn Quinn, Michel Prévost, Hagit Hadaya, Linda Hoad, Denise Jacques, Martha Edmond and Leo Doyle. Thanks also to those members who helped co-ordinate these tours and to Sussex Capital Inc., for their ninth year of sponsoring our tour program and to our second sponsor Royal LePage Performance Realty's Jeff Rosebrugh, Janny Mills, and Bob McCulloch.

Both sponsors are onside again this year as we offer a series of 12 tours including three new ones. The schedule was posted on our website in early May and copies of the brochure are available at this evening's meeting. This year's program begins on June 10<sup>th</sup> with Katharine Fletcher's popular tour of the Central Experimental Farm.

Our ten free public lectures held between April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 drew 730 participants. Our program committee consisting of Susan Ross, David Jeanes, Carolyn Quinn and Gordon Cullingham have already started planning the 2007-2008 lecture series which will begin in September. Thanks to Andrex Holdings and its president Sandy Smallwood for sponsoring our 2006-2007 lecture series, enabling us to produce a colour promotional brochure for the event. Andrex will also sponsor the 2007-2008 series.

Besides these two major outreach and educational programs, Heritage Ottawa also participated in local events and festivals including Heritage Day and International Museums' Day and we also had a display at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Heritage Canada Foundation. We also organized and conducted a series of four walking tours for Heritage Canada Foundation members and delegates to their 2006 Annual Conference.

Heritage Ottawa continues to play a lead role in Doors Open Ottawa. We oversee the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant awarded in 2004 and our members serve on the Advisory Council and on the Buildings Committee. Last year we interpreted the former Ottawa Registry Office on Nicholas Street during Doors Open and will do the same during this year's event on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Besides the Trillium grant, we also received an operating grant of \$11,500 from the City of Ottawa



and a \$1,100 grant from the Ontario Ministry of Culture for the year 2006. We acknowledge with thanks both levels of government for their ongoing support for our activities on behalf of the people of Ottawa.

The past year has seen much activity in our role as an advocate for our built heritage. We have been working with the parishioners of St. Brigid's parish to prevent the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa from closing that designated heritage building. Now that it is up sale, we have been working with the St. Brigid's Heritage Coalition to assure that a new owner abides by the protection afforded to the building under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and by an easement held by the Ontario Heritage Trust.



Photo: Stuart Lazear

Former Board members Gouhar Shemdin and Jean Palmer share some Heritage Ottawa experiences with newly-elected Board member Bill Price.

Last fall, Heritage Ottawa applied to the city to have the former La Maison Jeanne d'Arc, 360 Kenwood Avenue designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in response to a City Planning staff recommendation to permit its demolition. We also helped mobilize the local community in support of the designation application. Community members produced a 200-name petition to save the building and in January and February, David Jeanes, I and eight community members appeared before Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) and Planning & Environment Committee. In late February city council approved the heritage designation of the building.

The emphasis on intensification of development in older sections of Ottawa, has proved a special challenge for the preservation of our built heritage and the fabric of existing urban communities and neighbourhoods. Although recent amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* provide for better preservation of

designated heritage buildings and for buildings located in heritage conservation districts, the regular amendments to heritage overlays approved by city council threaten the heritage fabric of many older communities. Recently, despite opposition from Heritage Ottawa, the city approved the establishment of the King Edward Precinct which gave the University of Ottawa sweeping powers to control the development of its buildings in Sandy Hill.

Heritage Ottawa representatives regularly attend meetings of the LACAC, Planning and Environment Committee and city council both to support good development and oppose the not-so-good. We continue to monitor the activities of the National Capital Commission and regularly respond to requests for input into their activities.

On a positive note, one only has to look at the many excellent projects which receive Heritage Conservation Awards each year to feel that our efforts over the past 32 years may not be in vain. The city, through its Heritage Designation Program, continues to designate new buildings although not at the rate we would like to see. We welcome the recent establishment of the Sparks Street and Bank Street Heritage Conservation Districts and the work of the Heritage Planning Section of the Department of Planning, Transit and the Environment on studies leading to the designation of an additional heritage conservation district in Sandy Hill.

Heritage Ottawa's main goal for 2007-2008 must be to increase both our membership and non-governmental sponsorships. We must learn to depend less on municipal support and become more self-sufficient. I hope that the new board of directors will make this a priority in the coming year. Despite efforts to renew our organization, we have been unable to recruit sufficient new members on the board or committees to grow and develop at a pace required by the exigencies of the times.

As I have done in my past four presidential reports, I urge those of you who have not been active in Heritage Ottawa's activities to consider doing so today. Many of those who have been actively involved over the past few years are growing tired. I fear that our failure to regenerate leadership will result in the loss of much of what we have gained over the past few years. In these times of zero means zero tax increases, it is more essential than ever that we become more self-sufficient. The demands on preserving our built heritage are great and we must meet the challenge in a more effective manner.

Thank for your attention. ♦

# Heritage Ottawa Lecture Series 2007-2008

This year's Heritage Ottawa lectures presented by well known experts in their respective fields will include talks on historic landmarks, transit, architecture and restoration.

**Location:** Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe Street, at the corner of Laurier, unless otherwise noted. Admission is free.

Please call 613-230-8841 or check the website at [www.heritageottawa.org](http://www.heritageottawa.org) to confirm.

**Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 7:00 P.M.**

## Gatineau National Park History and Heritage

Award-winning author, travel and environment writer **Katharine Fletcher** will provide an illustrated look at the pioneer history, heritage buildings and historic landscapes of one of Canada's most popular parks. Katharine will read tales from two of her books, *Historical Walks: The Gatineau Park Story* and *Capital Rambles: Exploring the National Capital Region*.

**Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 P.M.**

## World Heritage and the Rideau Canal: Opportunities and Challenges

In June, the 175 year old Rideau Canal was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Herb Stovel**, Coordinator of Carleton University's Heritage Conservation Program and a respected expert on World Heritage sites, will review the process of inscribing sites on the List and the implications and expectations for management and promotion once sites are on the World Heritage List. He will also look at the implications of this honour for the understanding and care of the canal.

**Wednesday November 21, 7:00 P.M.**

## Aylmer's Forgotten Painted Ladies

Restoration Architect, **Louise McGugan**, will give an illustrated presentation on the history and architecture of Aylmer's heritage wood frame buildings and contrast the former and present day streetscapes of this historic community.

**Wednesday January 16, 7:00 P.M.**

## The Ottawa Car Company: Building Streetcars in Ottawa

**David C. Knowles**, railway historian, president of the C. Robert Craig Memorial Library (railway books and images), and author of *The Ottawa Car Company*, will give an illustrated lecture on Ottawa's importance as a builder of streetcars for the nation, and the work of local entrepreneurs W.W. Wylie, Thomas Ahearn and Warren Soper.

**Wednesday, February 20, 7:00 P.M.**

## Heritage Ottawa's 3rd Annual Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture

**Location: Lisgar Alumni Auditorium, 29 Lisgar St. Lisgar Collegiate's 1908 Heritage Building at its Centenary**

Lisgar alumni David Jeanes and Stuart Lazear will talk about Lisgar Collegiate's heritage building, constructed in stages from 1874 to 1908, and its five prominent architects: William T. Thomas, Walter Chesterton, James Mather, Edgar L. Horwood, and Lawrence Fennings Taylor, and the campaign by Heritage Ottawa's founding president Bob Phillips and others to save the school from demolition in 1974.

**Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 P.M.**

## Windows in Old Buildings

In highlighting his extensive restoration work on some of Ottawa's oldest and most important heritage buildings, heritage building consultant **Craig Sims** will provide an overview of the wide variety of historic

window designs which have been used in Canada.

**Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 P.M.**

## Architectural Terra Cotta in 19th & 20th Century Central Canada

**Barbara McMullen**, historian and retired urban planner, will give a visual tour and speak about the manufacture and use of architectural terra cotta in central Canada during the late 19th and early 20th

centuries with a special focus on Ottawa. She will also provide links to its use in England and the United States.



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# Heritage Ottawa Recommends the Establishment of a New Heritage Committee to the NCC

*In an effort to deal with long-standing transparency problems, the National Capital Commission's (NCC's) board of directors held a remarkable meeting with the public and special interest groups on October 3 to find ways to improve its openness with the community. Heritage Ottawa's president, David Flemming, made the following remarks at the meeting.*

Heritage Ottawa welcomes the opportunity to share its ideas on heritage matters related to the NCC's mandate for the National Capital Region. For over 30 years, Heritage Ottawa volunteers have been in the forefront of the preservation of the built heritage of Ottawa's civic and capital realm. Heritage Ottawa fought to save the interior of the East Block, to preserve the Aberdeen Pavilion at Lansdowne Park and to save the Rideau Street Convent Chapel. We are also one of the founding partners of Doors Open Ottawa. We have, on occasion, both supported some heritage initiatives of the NCC and challenged others.

Communicating the Capital to Canadians is part of the NCC's mandate to make the capital a source of national pride and unity. This is achieved by interpreting the actual character and history of the capital that developed from a rowdy lumber town and colonial capital to a national capital. Unlike many other world capitals we did not suffer from the devastation of wars to have need for grand boulevards and triumphal arches. Ottawa is and must retain its special identity as a rich cultural and urban centre.

The NCC can play a special role in this process by controlling negative impacts on the heritage character of the city caused by poorly designed contemporary architecture. The promotion of excellence in design for interventions to the existing fabric and for new architectural projects is essential in realizing this goal. The NCC's success in this endeavour was recognized at Monday evening's Ottawa Urban Design Awards Ceremony where the NCC was presented with two Awards of Merit, one for an Urban Infill Mixed-Use Development at 131 Queen Street and another in the Urban

Elements category for Confederation Boulevard Urban Furnishings.

The preservation of the built heritage of the Nation's Capital is entrusted not only to the NCC but also to other Federal organisations such as Public Works and Government Services Canada and Parks Canada as well as with the municipalities which comprise the National Capital Region.

The City of Ottawa has a network of 12 municipally-funded museums and historic sites that reflect the importance of the "civic realm" to the people of Ottawa. These museums offer a cooperative opportunity for the NCC to tell portions of the of the greater Ottawa story.

Although the NCC has made great strides in public consultation over the past few years, there is still a requirement to have a closer and on-going relationship with these non-Federal bodies. The NCC should take the initiative in creating an advisory committee separate from the current Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty which would deal solely with the various heritage properties and interpretive exhibits under its jurisdiction.

This committee should be comprised of both NCC staff and board members who have some experience in heritage conservation or local history of the National Capital Region. Such a committee should also include professional heritage representatives from the various municipalities. This formal consultative body could assist the NCC in the planning and development of its heritage resources and could also identify areas of cooperation. An excellent example of such cooperation and consultation could be the long-term planning for the development of the industrial buildings and heritage landscapes at Chaudière Falls.

Heritage development and interpretation cannot easily be dissected along political jurisdictional lines. Cooperation between those whose mandate it is to tell the stories of our past is essential. The establishment of such a committee would be a first step in the realization of this goal. ♦



# In Memoriam

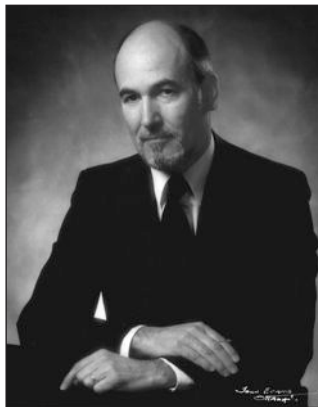
By Gouhar Shemdin

*One of Canada's leading conservationists and the former executive director of the Heritage Canada Foundation, Jacques Dalibard, died last September after a long illness. At a memorial service held at Heritage Canada's headquarters on September 21 many eulogies were given by Jacques' friends and colleagues. Gouhar Shemdin, a former director of Heritage Ottawa and a longtime friend and associate of Jacques, remembered him in a touching tribute. The text follows.*

Jacques Dalibard was a light leading the heritage conservation movement in Canada since I came to know him in 1972. He was the cord that connected Canadian conservationists to the 1960's heritage conservation movement in Europe, the foundation of modern-day conservation practice as we know it in Canada and in the world. That decade witnessed declaring the Venice Charter, establishing formal training in architectural conservation in ICCROM, formulating the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and completing the first international UNESCO campaign in heritage conservation— saving Abu Simbel Temple from the Nile's high dam flooding waters.

Jacques Dalibard transmitted this world heritage euphoria to Canada by establishing in those early years the "Friday School" for Canadian civil servants who were involved in the conservation of cultural heritage in Ottawa, in order for them to be exposed to conservationists from all over the world. Those were the days when reconstruction was the most practiced activity in Parks Canada. I will always remember Jacques' smile watching the reaction on my face in my first visits to those completely reconstructed and heavily animated sites – a very different concept it was from ICCROM teachings.

Jacques Dalibard's visionary mind, avant-garde nature, European origins, and the love for his profession, all helped in bringing Canada to the international scene and becoming a leading participant in creating agreements like the World Heritage Convention. Jacques also invited like-minded professionals in 1972 to establish ICOMOS Canada, which became the effective forum for Canadian professionals to contribute and exchange conservation expertise. These international conservation activities and Jacques' kindness in



Jacques Dalibard

including me as a member of his family and acting as my mentor during the early years in my new country will be in my fond memories all my life.

Jacques Dalibard distinguished himself by being a sophisticated, elegant, and a highly intellectual individual, but he could also be interestingly argumentative

by declaring when accused that he might be extravagant but not excessive, and that since we had to eat and dress up every day of our lives, we might as well eat very well and dress very well. We certainly agreed on that point. However Jacques proved most intelligent when he chose Rina for his life's companion; she remains one of the most dedicated wives I have ever known. To dear Rina and their wonderful son Joel I express my deepest sympathy for their loss. Jacques' death is also a great loss to us all. ♦

Portrait by: John Evans

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## HERITAGE OTTAWA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT - BECOME A MEMBER

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