



# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

*Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage*

Winter 2009 Volume 36, No. 1

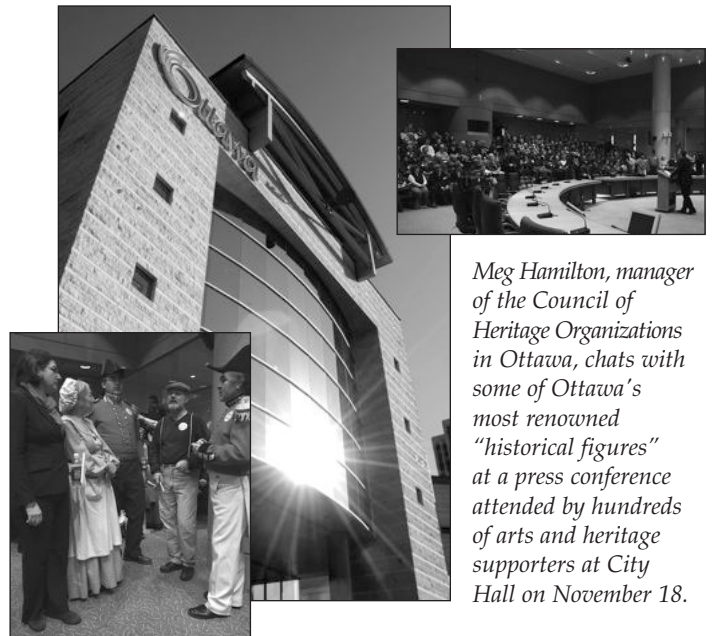
## Our Ottawa *still* Includes Culture!

By David B. Flemming

I recently attended two excellent local theatre productions, one by Vintage Stock Theatre and another, a benefit for the Ottawa International Children's Festival which included young artists from the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama. The one thing these three organizations had in common was that the City of Ottawa's draft 2009 budget recommended cancellation of city funding for two of them and a 42% cut to the third.

Many Heritage Ottawa members will remember the 2004 budget deliberations where similar cuts to arts and heritage funding were proposed. At that time the cultural community mobilized and after a long and acrimonious debate, the proposed cuts were reinstated. With the subsequent approval of the Museum Sustainability Plan, the Arts Investment Strategy and the Festival Sustainability Plan many of us felt that the city had finally recognized the value of investing in local arts and heritage organizations and programs. How wrong we were!

The draft 2009 budget proposed the elimination of municipal funding for historical and heritage organizations (including Heritage Ottawa), numerous arts organizations and festivals, and proposed drastic cuts and deferral in funding for community museums and arts service organizations. This amounted to 54% of the proposed budget cuts even though the entire arts, heritage and festivals funding envelope only amount to one third of one per cent of the total City of Ottawa budget.



*Meg Hamilton, manager of the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa, chats with some of Ottawa's most renowned "historical figures" at a press conference attended by hundreds of arts and heritage supporters at City Hall on November 18.*

*Photo: Barry Parkinson courtesy of Workers' Heritage Centre*

As in 2004, the arts and heritage community responded to the proposal by demonstrations, letter-writing, meetings with councillors, attending budget consultation meetings and making up a large proportion of the 250 public delegations at the Committee of the Whole (see copy of my address on page 2). Again, as in 2004, we were successful in having all the proposed cuts reinstated when council passed the 2009 budget on December 10th.

Thanks to those of you who wrote to your councillor or spoke at public meetings. Your efforts were instrumental in having the proposed cuts reinstated. ♦

*David B. Flemming is past-president of Heritage Ottawa.*

# Arts and Heritage Funding At Risk

*Remarks by David B. Flemming, Past-President of Heritage Ottawa at the meeting of Ottawa City Council's Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 1st, 2008.*

I am here to speak in support of the City of Ottawa's arts, heritage and festivals programs and services and to urge you to table a budget which will reflect a balanced approach to the needs of Ottawa and its citizens.

Heritage Ottawa is a totally volunteer organization which has worked for nearly 35 years to preserve our city's built heritage. We have contributed to the development of the city's *Official Plan* and *Arts and Heritage Plan*. We also participate in numerous consultations dealing with community design, intensification of development and other matters dealing with our built heritage. Over the past year we have contributed nearly 2000 volunteer hours to our community.

We make regular presentations to the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, Planning & Environment Committee, City Council and the National Capital Commission on a wide range of subjects. A year ago I wrote to council urging the establishment of an emergency heritage preservation protocol to prevent "demolition by neglect," an all-too-frequent occurrence in our city. I am pleased to note that Councillor Bédard with the participation of city staff, have developed our proposal into a report that will go to council in 2009.

We also work with neighbourhood and community groups to advise and assist them in

undertaking much-needed research to identify buildings and landscapes with potential for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, research that the city does not have the funds to undertake.

Our efforts complement the important work done by Ottawa's under-resourced but dedicated Heritage Planning Section whose two employees are hard-pressed to meet the demands arising from Ottawa's policy of intensification of development. (The City of Toronto has 13 employees in its Heritage Preservation Services section.)

We also support the work of the city's hard-working Heritage Development Section that has seen a recent major management staff loss with threats of still future cuts as part of the mayor's effort to find "efficiencies" in the city's operation.

Through our yearly series of eight lectures, 12 walking tours and our quarterly *Newsletter* we educate and inform the public of the importance of our built heritage as an integral part of Ottawa's civic history. The city does not have the staff or resources to deliver these services.

Heritage Ottawa is also a founding member of Doors Open Ottawa and was the lead organization in a collaboration which successfully obtained a \$33,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant to develop a sponsorship and educational plan for this important popular event. Without our participation in this application, the city would not have been eligible to receive such funding.

## 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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*Heritage Ottawa acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Ministry of Culture*

Currently, in partnership with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and the University of Waterloo's Heritage Resources Centre, Heritage Ottawa volunteers are conducting door-to-door surveys as part of a province-wide Heritage Conservation District Study supported by an \$80,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The result of this study will support the work of the city's Heritage Planning Section which does not have the resources to undertake such a study.

We work closely with the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa in its promotional activities

and with the Ottawa Museum Network. We are currently working with the Bytown Museum in the development of its new *Capital Neighbourhoods website*.

Ours is just one example of how funding for arts, heritage and festivals supplements the work of a small core of city arts and heritage staff. This "investment" has a multiplier effect by enabling these organizations to raise even more funds from other levels of government and private sector sources, all for the benefit of the citizens of Ottawa. ♦

## From the Past President....



This is my first report to the membership as Heritage Ottawa's past-president. Despite efforts of the search committee to find a new president, the position remains vacant.

Although much time was spent over the past six weeks dealing with the proposed municipal budget, Heritage Ottawa volunteers have been engaged in matters other than "fighting City Hall" over the proposed budget.

I received no reply to my request to the mayor and councillors for an explanation of the vote to reconsider the proposal by Ashbury College to demolish 204 & 212 Springfield Road, two of the oldest buildings in the Village of Rockcliffe Park. ("What Happened?" *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter* Spring/Summer 2008, pp.1-3)

Because of the February 27<sup>th</sup> vote for reconsideration, council's motion to order Ashbury *not to demolish* 204 Springfield was not deemed to have been passed within the time period allowed under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and thus had no legal standing. Mayor O'Brien encouraged the reconsideration which resulted in the lapse of the order to save the buildings during which he openly admitted to council that he had served as a member of the Ashbury board when the two buildings had been purchased. He assured councillors, however, that Ashbury was aware of council's vote to retain 204 Springfield and assured them that the school "...would never do anything that is not in the best interest" of the community. Despite the mayor's assurance, Ashbury demolished both buildings in early October.

The on-again/off-again status of 456 Lansdowne Road North is now in the hands of the Ontario Municipal Board who will consider the owner's appeal of city council's decision opposing the demolition of the building (see *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter* Winter 2008, p.6 & Spring/Summer 2008, p.9).

On a more positive note, I am pleased to report progress on Heritage Ottawa's recommendation that the city adopt an emergency protocol to deal with heritage buildings at risk (see *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, Winter 2008, pp.11-12). The intent of the proposal was to develop an emergency heritage preservation protocol, similar to that adopted by the City of Hamilton that involves fast response



Two of the oldest houses in the former Village of Rockcliffe Park, now demolished.

and cooperation between the Building Code Services Branch, By-law and Regulatory Services Branch, Ottawa Fire Services, and Planning Branch for the purpose of preserving and protecting heritage buildings neglected by their owners. This protocol would be triggered under certain circumstances for buildings designated under Parts IV and V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Thanks to the efforts of Councillor Bédard and city staff from the departments noted above, a report dealing with procedures to prevent “demolition by neglect” will be presented to council in early 2009.

Heritage Ottawa volunteers have been conducting door-to-door surveys in Sandy Hill, ByWard Market and Lowertown as part of a province-wide Heritage Conservation District Study jointly sponsored by Heritage Ottawa, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and the University of Waterloo’s Heritage Resources Centre. The purpose of this study is to answer the question: “Have Heritage Conservation Districts in Ontario been successful heritage planning initiatives over a period of time?” This survey is being done thanks

to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. A report will be issued in 2009.

We continue to deal with the challenges of melding the goals of intensification of development with protection afforded buildings in heritage conservation districts. Over the past year, on behalf of Heritage Ottawa, I have supported “good” intensification and challenged inappropriate proposals. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a forum on intensification hosted by the New Edinburgh Community Association. The event drew over 100 participants.

Our successful 2008 walking tour program drew 365 participants and raised nearly \$2400 in much-needed revenue. Our first three lectures for 2008-2009 have been well-attended and we are anticipating a good turnout for the balance of the lecture series. I hope to see many members at our upcoming lectures.

On behalf of myself and other members of the Board of Directors, I wish you all the best for the New Year! ♦

## Mayfair Theatre, a New Lease on Life

By Ken Clavette

With a fresh Heritage Designation and a new lease to continue operations it looks like the Mayfair Theatre will have a future in Ottawa.

On October 8, 2008 city council adopted a recommendation from the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee for a heritage designation of the Mayfair, the oldest surviving



theatre in Ottawa. Located at 1074 Bank Street, this family run business was established in 1932 during the heyday of the new

“talking picture” theatres. This was also a time of strong competition between neighbourhood movie palaces when new independent theatres tried to differentiate themselves stylistically from other cinemas to attract business.

The Mayfair, an atmospheric cinema, was built in what is called a second Spanish-Revival style. It received the heritage designation for such features

as its painted ceiling, ornate plaster façades, faux balconies (which give the appearance of a Mediterranean plaza), wrought ironwork, and ornamental glass windows. The exterior of the building, which was drastically altered with the removal of the marquee, is not designated.

“The designation of the Mayfair Theatre under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act will ensure it cannot be torn down or altered without the permission of city council,” said Capital ward Councillor Clive Doucet. “The Mayfair will remain an important landmark in our community, and hopefully, continue to contribute to Ottawa residents’ love of cinema and film.”



January's line-up featured a James Bond Film Festival.

Poster: From the Mayfair web site



The theatre's interior in 2008... and 1944

John Calvert of the Ottawa South History Project credits the support of the Ottawa South Community Association as an important part of the designation process. His group used e-mail and a Facebook site to connect with people. "It was key," he said, noting that "there were 110 people on an e-mail list and 500 more people who signed up as friends of the 'Friends of the Mayfair Theatre' Face Book page." Their activities increased the pool of volunteers with a number of people coming forward to help because of the Face Book page.

Calvert believes that "...buildings and culture are an important part of a workable community" and he welcomed a new group of Ottawa business

leaders who have negotiated a 10-year lease for the 76-year-old cinema from its Vancouver owner, Stephen Ng. The Mayfair closed in December to refurbish the interior and make technical improvements to the sound system and seating. The theatre reopened with a party and open house on January 2, 2009.

Longtime film critic and Ottawa South resident Jay Stone was quoted in the Citizen, "The theatre may be a bit rough around the edges, but it's still a grand place to take in a film. The Mayfair was a little faded, but



The view...1944. The theatre was showing "The Hour Before Dawn" starring Veronica Lake and "Heat's On" with Mae West.

The "atmospheric style" of theatre design is attributed to John Ebersson (1875-1955), an Austrian-born architect, who began designing theatres in the United States in the 1920s. Ebersson's concept was based on the desire to give the theatre-goer the sensation of being transported to another time and place, to distract them from life's problems and provide them with an atmosphere of rest and beauty. Common themes included an Italian garden, Persian court, and Spanish patio.

## LACAC Report

it was beautiful – it had a curtain that rose, giving every screening a sense of occasion, and faux boxes on the side, with coats of arms and draperies that made it look like something the Queen might visit if she wanted to see the second run of some summer action thriller that she missed."

While Ottawa has lost many grand theatres – the Centre (1915-1973), the Regent (1916-1972), and the Capital (1920-1970) – this designation of the Mayfair demonstrates that council has finally taken action to preserve the oldest remaining theatre in Ottawa, having opened in 1932.

For more information on the Mayfair and the many other theatres of our past, Alain Miguelez's *A Theatre Near You: 150 Years of Going to the Show in Ottawa-Gatineau* is an excellent read. Or go to the Mayfair Theatres's web site at [www.mayfairtheatre.ca](http://www.mayfairtheatre.ca) ♦

Ken Clavette is the Executive Director of the Workers' Heritage Centre and is a member of the Heritage Ottawa Board of Directors.

# What's Missing in this Photograph?

By Ken L. Elder

What's missing in this 1920 photograph is the 90 metre (300 foot) high Peace Tower, the great iconic symbol of Ottawa. Were it not for McCarthy Aerial Service Limited, a company formed in 1919 by a number of Canadian pilots who had flown with the RAF during World War I, we would not have this view. Using an ex-RAF



Postcard. Oblique aerial photograph of Parliament Hill from the north. McCarthy Aerial Service Limited, Toronto, 1920

Curtis JN-4 biplane and war surplus British cameras, the company criss-crossed southern Ontario taking these pioneer images for reproduction on postcards. Most of the photographs were taken at altitudes of between 200 and 300 feet. The twenty or so Ottawa postcards published by McCarthy Aerial Service Limited are some of the earliest aerial photographs taken of the city.

After the disastrous fire of February 3, 1916 which destroyed the Centre Block, the government lost little time in engaging architect, John A. Pearson of Darling & Pearson, Toronto and associate architect J. Omer Marchand of Montreal to come up with a replacement. If newspapers are to be believed they were on the job within a week of the fire. On March 21, 1916 draft plans of the remodeled Parliament Building were exhibited to members of Parliament. Unlike the Victoria Tower of the Fuller and Jones design of 1859, the new central tower was treated as a campanile or free-standing bell tower. This enabled the work on the building

proper, which began in 1917, to proceed independent of the tower, which explains the 1920 aerial photograph, showing a building virtually complete but without a tower. The first parliament sat in the new building on February 26, 1920.

The cornerstone for the Peace Tower or Victory Tower as it was frequently called was laid by Edward Prince of Wales on September 1, 1919 as part of a Royal Tour of Canada. It is not difficult to see why writers frequently used the "Victory Tower" designation when one reads the final sentence of the Prince's speech "I today am privileged to lay the corner stone of the Tower of Victory, which will crown and complete the work." or the inscription on the cornerstone "THIS STONE WAS LAID BY/ EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES/ SEPT. 1ST / IN THIS YEAR OF VICTORY/ FINIS CORONAT OPUS."

The laying of the cornerstone was largely symbolic as working drawings for the base of the tower were more than a year away. Once construction started in earnest, progress was fairly swift and by May 1922 had reached the level now occupied by the carillon keyboard room or about half the



Ceremony for the laying of the corner-stone of the Peace Tower, Parliament Building.

height of the tower. Here, because of a labour dispute and disagreement over the architect's fees, the construction of the tower stalled. Despite the ongoing dispute over fees, in February 1923, Pearson delivered the working drawings for the Memorial Chamber forming the first floor of the tower. The gifts of stone from Belgium (black & St.-Anne marble), France (Chateau Gaillard stone) and Great Britain (Hoptonwood limestone) and the stone gathered on the battlefields of France, for incorporation in the Memorial Chamber, had

arrived by late summer 1923 and construction of the Chamber began. On September 26, 1923 Pearson reluctantly agreed to continue with the project and delivered the plans for the upper part of the tower in January 1924. In March a vote of \$60,000 for completion of the tower was passed by Parliament and construction resumed. This still left unsettled the question of a carillon, leading one Ottawa man to write the *Ottawa Journal*:

During the past years the tower has been uninviting to our own people and also to our many visitors; but what about the carillon. This tower would give a grand opportunity for such a memorial to all our heroes of the war, and I trust the Government will make provision both in the building and in the estimates for such a beautiful peal of bells which would for all the future be an attraction worthy of the Capital of Canada. The city authorities might impress upon the Government the advantages of such a set of bells.

Early in 1925 the government bowed to public pressure and invited tenders for a carillon. This is not surprising given the vogue in North America for carillons; Metropolitan Methodist Church (1922), Norfolk War Memorial, Simcoe (1925), and St George's Anglican Church, Guelph (1926). On April 20, 1925 the Minister of Public Works informed Parliament that Gillett and Johnston of Croyden, England were the successful tenderers. In February 1925 tenders were called for the three stained glass windows of the Memorial Chamber and on November 23, 1925 a contract was entered with Cowan and Hollister of Toronto.

At least one postcard publisher, International Fine Art Co., of Montreal got so impatient with progress on the tower in the mid-1920's that they resorted to doctoring a photograph to show a somewhat fanciful but complete Victory Tower.

There is nothing like a deadline to rush a project to completion. In the case of the Victory Tower it was the elaborate plans being made for a national celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation. For three days in July of 1927 the south façade of Parliament would provide a backdrop for events in Ottawa. In February of 1927, employees of Gillette & Johnson began installation of the 53 bell carillon and Westminster Chimes for



*Doctored photo showing a fanciful design of the Victory Tower before its actual completion.*

the Great Clock. In May, employees of Cowan & Hollister began the installation of the three stained glass windows of the Memorial Chamber. At 4:00 a.m. on July 1, 1927 a test of the carillon was made for the first time and adjustments made. Shortly after 11:45 in the morning, Viscount Willingdon, Governor-General of Canada was handed the electric key-block to signal the carillonneur, Percival Price, who then proceeded to play "O Canada," "The Maple Leaf for Ever" and "God Save the King."



*Postcard. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation, celebrations 1 July, 1927. Unknown photographer.*

After more than 8 years of construction the Victory Tower was essentially complete.

The various names being used by the press during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations to describe the central tower was a concern to architect John A. Pearson. With plans for an unveiling of the Altar of Remembrance by the Prince of Wales scheduled

for August 3rd. he saw an opportunity to clear up this confusion. In a letter to the Prime Minister he stated:

May I suggest that you consider, "The Peace Tower". I think that Memorial Tower is more euphonious than Peace Tower – but – The Book of Remembrance, The Memorial Chamber in the Memorial Tower. This seems to be overdoing Remembrance and Memorial. Would not The Memorial Chamber in The Peace Tower cover your idea.

I think something should be done to settle this point for I have seen illustrations of the Tower designating it – The Memorial Tower – The Victory Tower – The Peace Tower, etc., etc...

I understand it is likely there will be issued a short official programme of the ceremonies and that the frontispiece will be a photograph of the Tower, if so it should be properly titled with whatever designation you decide on so that it will be officially settled...

The suggestion was taken up and the Peace Tower designation formalized. For symbolic reasons, the official opening of the Memorial Chamber was delayed until Armistice Day, November 11, 1928, when Prime Minister Mackenzie King opened the space to the general public. The Book of Remembrance, to be placed on the Altar, was not completed until 1942. ♦

*Ken L. Elder is a member of the Heritage Ottawa Board of Directors and a longtime deltiologist (collector of postcards).*

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## Is Heritage a Thing of the Past?

By Meryl Oliver

This was the title of a forum hosted by the New Edinburgh Community Association (NECA) on September 10 that examined how historic neighbourhoods like New Edinburgh can survive the relentless pressure of intensification. The purpose of the evening was to focus on practical solutions to help preserve Ottawa's heritage including what neighbourhoods and the heritage community can do to organize against inappropriate development; how best to interact with city council, city advisory committees, and city staff; and how to influence Ottawa's Official Plan and ensure that good policies are written and put into practice.

Because New Edinburgh is not alone in facing challenges from the intensification policy, members of communities and neighbourhoods from across Ottawa were invited to attend. The Forum panellists brought a variety of perspectives to the discussion. Members of the panel included past president of Heritage Ottawa, David Flemming, Jay Baltz (chair of LACAC), Herb Stovel, (heritage expert and professor at Carleton University), and Paul McConnell (co-chair of NECA's Heritage & Development Committee). Richard Kilstrom of the City Planning Department was also on hand to answer questions. The audience actively participated in the dialogue including Councillor Jacques Legendre, and members of community organizations from across the city.

The event followed successful efforts by the New Edinburgh community to stop a development that would have replaced a small 1960s bungalow with three townhouses at 132 Stanley Street. The proposal was turned down by LACAC but approved at council and only defeated when it went to the Committee of Adjustment. The Stanley Street development was not a unique situation in New Edinburgh or the city but simply a "flash-point." The community's victory was significant after a number of very difficult losses in heritage neighbourhoods such as the demolition of two of Rockcliffe Park's oldest houses by Ashbury College and the approval of a residential building in Centretown that is twice the height allowed by the heritage overlay.

The evening involved a lively discussion about development across the city and how the process could work better for everyone. One developer who spoke from the audience was seeking more positive ways to work better within the community.

Although no concrete solutions were agreed upon by the end of the evening, the Forum indicated a real desire throughout the city to transfer lessons re successes and failures from one city neighbourhood to another.

*Meryl Oliver is a member of the Heritage Ottawa Board of Directors.*



# City Seeks Ways to Improve Streetscapes

By John Arnold

On October 6, 2008 Heritage Ottawa received an invitation from Mayor, Larry O'Brien, to participate in Focus Group Sessions October 27 and 28, 2008 to help develop the Integrated Street Furniture Program for Ottawa. John Arnold volunteered to represent Heritage Ottawa at the October 27 session on accessibility. This report briefly explains Heritage Ottawa's interests and vision.

The increase in sidewalk width on Bank Street is a very positive improvement for pedestrians, shoppers and business people alike and will allow more space for street furniture.

Ottawa could take a leaf from the rejuvenation of the Distillery District in Toronto. To take Bank Street as an example, Ottawa is fortunate in having a wealth of heritage stores and businesses that still exist there. It is unfortunate

that buildings erected in the past 50 years or so lack the personality and interest of their forebears. With careful planning, Bank Street could emulate many aspects of the transformation of the Distillery District; it could become a modern, vital, safe and visually exciting streetscape – historic buildings provide a great backdrop for

successful businesses. To improve its street shopping areas, the City of Ottawa might encourage owners of heritage buildings to maintain their buildings to increase appeal and also increase customer enjoyment.

Street lighting should complement the buildings and the atmosphere of the streets. Street furniture should also do the same without, however, blocking pedestrian traffic. Street cleaning and snow clearance cannot be compromised. I recommend that bicycle racks and newspaper boxes be well designed and be placed on side streets to alleviate congestion on the main shopping street. Loaded bicycle racks are not an attractive addition to a prime streetscape.



Photos: Jan Soetemanns

Widening the sidewalks and adding attractive street furniture will be steps in the right direction.

Trees are always a welcome addition to shopping streets. They always add joy to the street.

Signage must get a message across with gaiety, spontaneity, colour and taste. In my opinion the present ads in most of the city's bus kiosks are examples of good design. We should aim for the best and most effective ads possible. They should be easy on the eye.

In regard to city-administered versus private contracts for advertising, it may serve the city better to hire private contractors. Government administered programs tend to cost more and private companies tend to have more imaginative results. Street furniture and advertising requires excellent design. Good design can save money and provide a better product. My advice is to go for the best designers money will buy.

Some years ago, Heritage Canada initiated successful street improvements across the country under their Main Street program. Today they are testaments to success in improving our downtown environment. Ottawa can achieve similar results by implementing our own street furniture program.

*John Arnold, Architectural Design Consultant, is a director on the board of Heritage Ottawa and a member of LACAC. He was the managing art director of Ottawa, A Guide to Heritage Structures and chief designer of the National Museum of Science and Technology.*



An attempt at beautification for the holiday season. A tiny tree is adorned with lights. A more permanent solution would be more desirable.

# Design Lansdowne Right

*The following is an excerpt from the Position Paper submitted to the City of Ottawa by the Ottawa Regional Society of Architects (ORSA)*

An unsolicited offer to redevelop Lansdowne Park has prompted this updated position paper. ORSA believes that this offer should be set aside to allow the original Design Lansdowne process to resume.

ORSA supports the approved Design Lansdowne, council-approved process as having great merit and suggests that with some modification, namely an urban design competition for a Master Plan, the overall process can be improved. This would allow council to maintain transparency of process, control of financial commitments, contents, and architectural and urban design quality for the long-term benefit of its citizens. The following are our detailed recommendations:

1. Recommence the Design Lansdowne process as approved by council.
2. Continue and enhance the public consultation process that was initiated as part of Design Lansdowne. Clearly establish the range of redevelopment scenarios that are of most interest and value to Ottawa's citizens.



Photo: City of Ottawa web site

*Ariel view of 2007 Lansdowne, or as we know it.... Lansdowne Park.*

3. Determine how much money, over what period of time, and from what sources, can be committed to the redevelopment of Lansdowne Park.
4. Conduct an urban design competition to establish a long-term Master Plan. The Master Plan would establish the redevelopment framework for the site.
5. Have a jury of citizens, urban designers, architects and stakeholders judge and identify those Master Plans with the greatest merit. Publicly display and discuss all Master Plans. Select the best Master Plan.
6. Engage the proponent of the best Master Plan to assemble a comprehensive team to refine it. Maintain an ongoing public consultation process.
7. Develop a Business Plan for the implementation of the Master Plan that respects available financial resources and assesses revenue generating opportunities.
8. Develop an Implementation Strategy for the development of the site in accordance with the Master Plan. Maintain flexibility to adapt to opportunities and economic conditions. Give the redevelopment the time it needs to unfold.
9. Utilize a series of Rights to Develop Competitions to select proponents to develop portions of the site in keeping with the Master Plan, Business Plan and Implementation Strategy.

ORSA is committed to the success of the redevelopment of Lansdowne Park. Our members have a wealth of experience and insight and a willingness to share them with the city. We have well-founded concerns that the present process will not yield the results deserved by our fellow citizens. We believe that, with some modifications, the current process can be dramatically improved. The most fundamental aspect to get right is the vision for Lansdowne Park. It requires thought, discussion, and a process to incorporate it. ORSA looks forward to working with the city on this important initiative. ♦

# Cullingham Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Photos: Teresa Doré



Vice-President David Jeanes, Past-President David Flemming and former President Carolyn Quinn present Gordon Cullingham with his Lifetime Achievement Award on December 5.

Heritage Ottawa recently presented long-serving Board member, Gordon Cullingham with a Lifetime Achievement Award "in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the field of heritage Preservation." Gordon served for nearly 25 years on the Heritage Ottawa Board and is a

former president of the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO/ COPO).

The Board of Directors also approved the following motion at its November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

"In recognition of Gordon Cullingham's long and dedicated commitment to the work of Heritage Ottawa and generally to the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage, the Board of Directors of Heritage Ottawa has named its annual research and publishing grant the **Heritage Ottawa Gordon Cullingham Research and Publishing Grant**. This grant is to be awarded annually to a deserving individual or organization by the Heritage Ottawa Board subject to available funds."

Tax deductible donations to the Research and Publishing Grant fund should be made payable to Heritage Ottawa.



## Lecture Series Continues in 2009

Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 7:00 P.M.

**Heritage Ottawa's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture**

*Chairing World Heritage*

In July 2008, Canada hosted the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in Quebec City, an event that coincided with celebrations of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this World Heritage city. Christina Cameron will recount her experiences as Chairperson of the session, highlighting its success stories, its challenges and the Canadian legacy of a new World Heritage Youth Forum.

Wednesday March 18, 2009, 7:00 P.M.

*A Green Primer for Heritage Conservation*

What do storm windows, shady streets, and local farmers markets have in common? They are green ideas that we can still learn from. Susan Ross (OAQ, RAIC, LEED AP), a conservation architect

dedicated to sustainability, will examine green ideas rooted in historic places, explain basic strategies for green conservation, and suggest other ways to explore these links.

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 P.M.

*Ontario Municipal Board: A tool for heritage conservation*

Marc Denhez (lawyer and member of the OMB) and Herb Stovel (conservation architect, heritage activist, and Carleton University professor) will provide some background into the workings of the OMB, appropriate approaches in efforts to conserve Ontario's heritage and how to make the best use of heritage arguments in front of the Ontario Municipal Board.

*Lectures take place at the Ottawa Public Library auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St. at Laurier Ave. W. Admission is free. For information: 613-230-8841.*

# A Fond Farewell to Gordon Cullingham

By Carolyn Quinn

After more than 20 years of active volunteering to improve Ottawa's culture and heritage Gordon Cullingham has decided to retire from active duty.

Gordon has been a mainstay around Heritage Ottawa's board room table since 1986. His sage advice, creative ideas and sense of humour have kept many of us engaged and willing to keep up the fight, even during some of our city's darkest heritage days.

From his eloquent yet forceful letters, to his countless presentations at public meetings, standing committees, and before the seemingly impenetrable NCC, Gordon's passion and dedication have helped ensure that our city's heritage is never forgotten.

Gordon's influence reached well beyond Heritage Ottawa. He was the founding president of the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa,

a founding member of the newly amalgamated City of Ottawa's Heritage Advisory Committee, a member of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and a long-time member of the board of the Ottawa Historical Society.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> many of us who have known and respected Gordon came together to celebrate his contribution to Ottawa's arts and heritage and to wish him well as he launches into a quieter retirement than his first one after a long and productive career with the CBC. Those who couldn't make it took the time to send best wishes, including MPP Jim Watson who reminisced about the time they worked together to save the Aberdeen Pavilion.

It was a good party. I think Gordon knows how much we're going to miss him.

*Carolyn Quinn is a member of the Board of Directors of Heritage Ottawa.*

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## Lansdowne Park Redevelopment Proposal

*The following is a letter sent to City Council by architect Nan Griffiths, Professor Emerita, Carleton University, in response to a private proposal for the development of Lansdowne Park.*

Dear Members of Ottawa City Council:

One must hope that you are all beginning to understand the shock of the majority of the people of Ottawa resulting from the appalling private proposal of 'Lansdowne Live'. Public participation in the process to proceed with a Design Competition that was initiated by Councillors Clive Doucet and Peter Hume over a year ago, came to a halt in May 2008, and silence reigned over the topic. This led us into a situation highly reminiscent of the 50s and 60s when developers went behind closed doors at City Hall, and came out, *fait accompli*, with whatever changes to zoning, use, transportation they wished. Now this 'Lansdowne Live' proposal for Ottawa's very large and extraordinary site looks to surpass the urban

projects of great cities of the world in mediocrity. You have heard from many people from many quarters of the city, not just the Glebe; a few have been in support of a football stadium, but most are cynical that this would be an appropriate venue for such an activity, and that given the history of football here, that this would be financially successful.

We hope that all members of Council will reject this project and go back to supporting a Design Competition with its framework based on public demands and a viable financial structure. Much of this was provided from the widely attended public meetings and time spent last winter. With a major competition, many amazing ideas would be forthcoming, giving much scope to a selection process based on design vision and quality, acceptable and viable usage of the site, providing a jewel in the urban landscape of Canada's capital. Jewels in other cities [Copenhagen, Paris, Chicago, etc] generally lead to economic upturns.

*Nan Griffiths*