



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

Volume 40, No. 4

Heritage News Now

Mellos Restaurant Sign Restored

When Marc Aubin, president of the Lowertown Community Association, heard that Mellos Restaurant on Dalhousie Street was renovating, he gave the owner a heritage grant application form and encouraged her to try to get the retro neon sign restored.



Photo: Marc Aubin

The result – the restoration of one of the last neon signs in the downtown area.

Marc suggests that we drop in to check out the renovations and the new menu items and to thank the owner for restoring the sign.

**More Heritage News Now
on page 8.**

Heritage Designation for Église Saint-Charles: Part of Vanier's Changing Community

By Janik Aubin-Robert

Saint-Charles church was at one time the pillar of Vanier's Francophone community. Now closed for more than 3 years, deconsecrated and still owned by the Ottawa Archdiocese, Saint-Charles is facing the threat of demolition. Some may be asking why this rather ordinary church is on the verge of being designated? Saint-Charles may be a simple parish church, but it represents the fight of Francophones to preserve their culture, their language and their community.

Saint-Charles was founded in 1908 as a result of parishioners need

to have a church which would be closer and more easily accessible than Notre-Dame de Lourdes on Montreal Road. Construction began after T.C. Keefer graciously donated the land in June 1908; the total cost amounted to \$40,000 including the presbytery and the parish hall which were erected some time later in 1913. Monseigneur Duhamel, archbishop of Ottawa, entrusted the administration of Saint-Charles to the Montfortian Fathers of the Company of Mary; Louis-Marie Fillaudeau was appointed as its first priest, succeeded in 1912 by Father François-Xavier Barrette.



Father Barrette with the 39th company of the Zouaves de Vanier in front of the presbytery.

Photo: Musée parc Vanier Muscopark, Guy Tremblay fonds.

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

Linda Hoad
Editor

Jan Soetermans
Graphic Designer

Katari Imaging
Printing

Heritage Ottawa
2 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6E2

Tel: 613-230-8841
Fax: 613-564-4428
Email: info@heritageottawa.org
Web: www.heritageottawa.org

Leslie Maitland
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David B. Flemming
Past-President

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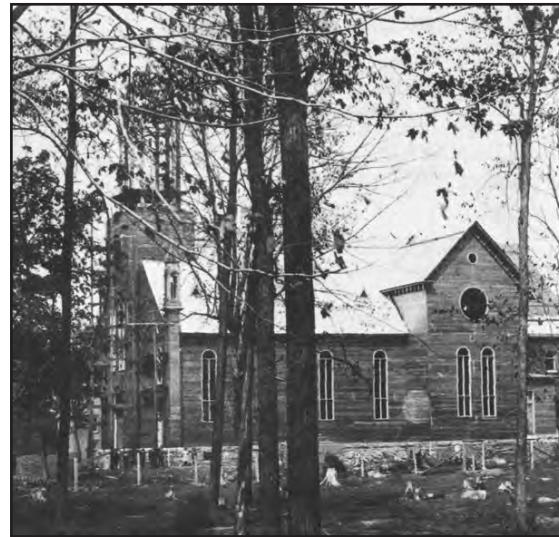
Heritage Ottawa acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Ministry of Culture

Église Saint-Charles contd.

Father Barrette oversaw the completion of the interior of Saint-Charles in 1919, and went on to influence many changes. He bought properties close to the parish and sold them to Francophone families. He created many clubs and social groups such as the *Cercle social Saint-Charles* in 1931, the Scouts in 1932, the *louveteaux* in 1939, the *Ligue du Sacré-Coeur* in 1940, the Saint-Charles library in 1944 and the *Zouaves* in 1955.

However, he is most remembered for being one of the founding members of the *Ordre de Jacques-Cartier*. This secret society was founded in the presbytery in 1926 to defend the Catholic Church and the French language. The society dedicated itself to the defence of the right to education in French and the advancement of Francophones in the public service, which at that point was largely dominated by Anglophones. At its peak the Ordre had 11,000 members and 500 guilds throughout Canada. It was dissolved in February 1965, mainly due to the influence of the Quiet Revolution and its secular ideology. However, its influence enabled the creation of some important organizations such as the *Clubs Richelieu* and the *Fédération des caisses populaires de l'Ontario*.

Vanier, once more than 80% French-Canadian, has changed in many ways. The community has become more multicultural, many new associations have put down roots and church congregations have been amalgamated, thus closing the doors of some churches. Although vacant, Saint-Charles church represents a



Saint-Charles in 1909.

large part of French Canadian history and deserves to be remembered and preserved as a symbol of a people's fight to preserve their language and their culture.

A few months ago, Mike Steinhauer, a resident of Vanier, requested that Saint-Charles be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. On October 10, the City of Ottawa's Built Heritage Sub-Committee recommended that the exterior of Saint-Charles be designated. During the committee proceedings Mr. Steinhauer stated that "Heritage designation is also a necessary step, an obligation of the new generation of residents, to commemorate and honour the community that built the neighbourhood we now call home". The recommendation of the BHSC is the first step towards saving a part of our heritage, a part of our community.

Janik Aubin-Robert has a background in Anthropology and Museum Studies. She has been the Curator at the Vanier Museopark for the past four years.

Sources

Laporte, Luc. (1983). *Vanier*. Ottawa: Centre franco-ontarien de ressources pédagogiques, 330p. Robillard, Denise. (2009). *L'Ordre de Jacques Cartier, 1926-1965: une société secrète pour les Canadiens-français catholiques*. [Montréal]: Éditions Fides, 541p.

Photo: Muséeparc Vanier Museopark

New Life for a Heritage Church – the Renovation and Reuse of St. Anne Church

By Richard Belliveau

The *Église Ste-Anne*, a Lowertown heritage jewel, has been saved, renovated and re-opened. Since the French Catholic congregation in the neighbourhood is no longer large enough to sustain the former parish, the archdiocese has turned this church on Old St. Patrick Street over to the St. Clement parish, formerly located on Mann Avenue. The decision of the Archdiocese to promote adaptive reuse is likely to save the church for many more generations.

St. Anne church, perhaps miraculously, survived the 1950's urban renewal in Lowertown and the dispersal of much of its congregation. The church was designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 1978. But in 2009, part of the roof collapsed and a major restoration costing more than a million dollars was undertaken over an 18 month period. Still, it was no longer viable as a local parish, and thus the decision was made to offer the church to the community of St. Clement parish. It was re-opened in June 2012.

The original part of the church was designed by Public Works architect Joseph-Pierre Lecourt in 1873. Deliberately modelled on Quebec country churches, in contrast with the neo-gothic style prevailing in the Ottawa diocese, it is a traditional rectangular structure with a flat-fronted symmetrical face, arched windows and central steeple, built of locally quarried grey stone. The apse was extended in 1883 and given a



The façade of St. Anne Church.

semi-circular form and Romanesque arches backing a transept finished in 1893.

The interior of the church has several magnificent features. The stained glass windows in the nave, installed in 1908, are by Theodore Lyon of Toronto, noted for his naturalist style. In 1923 nine windows by the same artist were added in the circular vault surrounding the sanctuary. Because the church is situated on a north-south axis, the sun catches the eastern windows in the morning, the western ones in the afternoon, and circles around the southern sanctuary windows all day, with beautiful effect.

The choir loft is backed by a magnificent pipe organ, built by Casavant Frères of St-Hyacinthe.

It was installed in 1914 and improvements to the pipe work made in 1917, with a complete restoration in 1988.

Three gorgeous chandeliers of Venetian glass featuring clusters of fluted flowers in an art nouveau style hang across the transept. They are from the Murano firm Pauly & Company in Italy and were a gift to the parish in 1938 from parish priest Monsignor Myrand.

The four bells in the St. Anne steeple are another proud feature of the rejuvenated church. These fine bells were cast by the prestigious French firm Paccard in 1910, and they remain unique since their moulds were broken after

casting. Some years ago, the bells were silenced when structural problems prevented their use. The bells started ringing again in April of this year.

St. Clement parish is run by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, and is uniquely authorized in Canada to celebrate the Latin Tridentine mass.

The problems confronting church authorities in possession of heritage properties that are no longer in use can be very challenging both in respect of maintenance as well as appropriate disposal for reuse. The story of St. Anne's is a fine example of how working with communities to find solutions can result in heritage preservation.

Richard Belliveau is a member of the Board and chair of the Publications Committee of Heritage Ottawa.

Photo: Richard Belliveau

From the President

By Leslie Maitland



Walking Tours

Since the last *Newsletter* in June, Heritage Ottawa has had a busy summer and early fall. The report on our walking tour program appears elsewhere in this issue. We are pleased that overall attendance is higher than last year. Several favourites ran alongside some new tours, including Heritage Ottawa's contribution to the Month of Archaeology, a walking tour of LeBreton Flats led by Golder Inc. Senior Archaeologist, Hugh Daechsel, who provided a fascinating overview of the LeBreton Flats from an archaeologist's perspective.

Lecture Series

The Lecture Series for 2012-13 is underway, and I am delighted that so many of you are turning out for our excellent suite of programs. An article on the September lecture by Hagit Hadaya is on page 5. Over 100 people enjoyed the October lecture by Danielle Jones about the creation of Ottawa's newest heritage conservation district – Briarcliffe – and the first Modernist heritage conservation district in Ontario. Pioneering work indeed! Details about the November panel on infill and intensification and our December social can be found in the Upcoming Events column.

Publications

The Publications Committee, chaired by Rick Belliveau, had a stellar year in 2013, with two publications whose distribution was gratifyingly extensive. This committee will be spending the upcoming year considering new publications, and then rolling up their collective sleeves and getting down to work!

Heritage Forum

In September, Heritage Ottawa hosted its annual Heritage Forum, co-hosted with the Hintonburg Community Association, and ably organised by Linda Hoad with a team of wonderful volunteers. If you haven't attended any of our fora yet, look out for next year's forum, as this is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the state of heritage in Ottawa and do some networking. This year we were pleased to hear about several successful strategies for heritage conservation in various parts of the city.

Volunteers

We are excited by the numbers of volunteers keen to help. Our new volunteer coordinator is Caroline Ross, and she will be happy to hear from anyone looking for volunteer opportunities.

Advocacy

You have probably been following the demolition by neglect issue which flared up again this year. Heritage Ottawa has advocated for a demolition by neglect by-law since 2007 to deal with the many heritage buildings which have been allowed to degrade until they prove to be a public safety hazard and have to be demolished. This negligence is a blight on our otherwise lovely city! Finally on 25 September of this year, Council passed a new property

standards by-law which, among other things, identifies specific measures for the protection of heritage buildings. Now comes the challenging part: enforcement, and we heartily support the work of the City's by-law enforcement team. Challenging also is the backlog of buildings which have been neglected, some for decades, for which decisions will now have to be made. Our Lady's School and adjacent houses in Lowertown will be demolished all save two walls – after 30 years of standing empty! We are watching developments at 7 Clarence Street, an NCC property in Lowertown, and 23 ½ St. Andrew's Street, also in Lowertown.

On a more positive note, there have been a number of excellent proposals for designation recently, including the Alexander Fleck House at the corner of Bronson and Laurier Avenue West, and St. Charles Church, Vanier. Some excellent interventions on heritage buildings include the addition to Mutchmor School, the proposed rehabilitation of Somerset House (finally!), and restoration of the sunroom of the Hungarian Embassy on Metcalfe Street. Congratulations to these property owners and their team of architects and designers who will make these projects work.

We are continuing to work on the Chaudière file, and have had meetings with the NCC about the future of the property as part of an informal group of NGOs. It is promising to hear that a local developer is "kicking the tires" on the Domtar lands, which are currently for sale. Heritage Ottawa supports the rehabilitation of the Chaudière area, in a way that respects cultural and natural heritage, and especially the significance of this area to the Algonquin peoples, for whom the entire Ottawa Valley is their traditional, unceded territory.

Leslie Maitland
President, Heritage Ottawa

Synagogue Architecture in Ottawa

By Kirk Kitzul

Six synagogues remain in the city of Ottawa, but the oldest synagogues, located in Lowertown, have almost entirely disappeared, Hagit Hadaya stated in her lecture for Heritage Ottawa on September 18, based on her book *In Search of Sacred Space: Synagogue Architecture in Ottawa*.

Hadaya's lecture was the first of the 2013/14 Heritage Ottawa lecture series. She focused on the synagogues



Photo: Richard Belliveau

Former Adath Jeshurun, 375 King Edward Avenue

in Lowertown where Ottawa's earliest Jewish immigrants settled. Included in her lecture were photographs of the synagogues, as well as a clip from a 1957 National Film Board documentary showing the interior of Agudath Achim Synagogue during a bar mitzvah ceremony.

Ottawa's four oldest synagogues were featured by Hadaya. Adath Jeshurun, constructed in 1904 on King Edward Avenue, was the first purpose-built synagogue in Ottawa. It was designed by architect

John William Hurrell Watts. This building is now home to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A second congregation was formed in the neighbourhood, and Cecil Burgess and Harry Coyles collaborated in 1912 to build the Agudath Achim synagogue on Rideau Street. In 1927 another synagogue joined Adath Jeshurun on King Edward when W.E. Noffke was hired to build Machzikei Hadas. As the Jewish community branched out, a synagogue was needed in the Upper Town area, and B'nai Jacob was built on James Street in 1931. It was designed by Sidney Lithwick and A.J. Hazelgrove.

Beth Shalom, the last remaining synagogue in the Lowertown area of Ottawa, was formed in 1957 when the congregations of Adath Jeshurun and Agudath Achim combined. But Beth Shalom has been sold and will soon be demolished, said Hadaya. She noted it wistfully as a sign of the times.

Hadaya said Ottawa's synagogues were the subject of her master's thesis in 1992. The topic is important not only to the author because of this longstanding academic connection, but to all Jewish people in the city. According to Hadaya, the synagogue was a top priority for Jewish families. These synagogues were more than a place of worship, they were the central part of their lives and their community, she said. "People would put money into a synagogue before they built their own home."

Kirk Kitzul is a student at Carleton University pursuing a combined honours degree in Journalism and Law.

Upcoming Events

Community Perspectives on Heritage Sensitive Infill in Mature Heritage Districts

Wednesday November 20, 7:00 pm

Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe Street

This will be a panel discussion. We will encourage audience participation and a lively discussion.

Holiday Lecture and Reception

Thursday December 12, 2013, 7:00 pm

Woodside Hall, Dominion Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper St. (Entrance off Lisgar at O'Connor)

Please join us for our second annual holiday lecture and reception!

David McGee, founder of the popular website Lost Ottawa ([facebook.com/LostOttawa](https://www.facebook.com/LostOttawa)), will share the story of this burgeoning online community where heritage buffs from around the globe can share stories and photos of Ottawa's past.

We look forward to an interesting and entertaining lecture followed by a chance to celebrate the season with festive food and drink. Hope to see you there!

We plan to ask our Heritage Keepers to write about heritage matters in their neighbourhoods from time to time. This article by our newest heritage keeper is the first in the series.

New Heritage Keeper For Goulbourn Township

By Karen Prytula

I don't remember now how I found out about Heritage Ottawa, but it was through Heritage Ottawa's website that I learned they were looking for Heritage Keepers for the rural areas of Ottawa. I am passionate about local history, and love to talk about it, read about it and write about it. So I applied to be a Heritage Keeper, as it seemed a perfect fit for my interests.

Goulbourn Township (now part of Ottawa) is located west and south of Ottawa. It is still a largely rural community with three major villages – Richmond, Stittsville, and Hazeldean. Goulbourn is also home to the hamlets of Ashton and Munster. In the centuries past there were a number of other hamlets but they lie largely forgotten although the landscape still reveals log barns, as well as log, stone, brick, and frame houses.

Goulbourn Township was settled first by soldiers who opted to accept land for their military service when their regiments were disbanded after the War of 1812. One of my own ancestors received land for his military service where the Richmond Fairgrounds and the South Carleton High School are today. The next two decades saw a huge immigration of Scottish, Irish, and British settlers.

Progress is quickly undoing the work of the original pioneers; traces of the past, such as a long laneway leading nowhere or to an ancient farmstead not quite visible from the road, and a few school houses and churches, can still be seen if you know where to look. I grew up in this township, and toured practically the whole of it daily



Goulbourn farmstead

Photo: Karen Prytula

as my school bus coursed up and down the concession roads, taking a jog here or there to avoid an unused portion of the road, or to scoot onto a side road to pick up more kids. Now as an adult, I still drive through Goulbourn a few times a week and remark to myself how lucky we are that time has not changed this township as much as it has many other parts of Ottawa.

As for my personal information, I work full time for Hydro Ottawa as an Administrative Assistant in that lovely old building on Carling Avenue at the corner of Merivale Road. I have been gathering information on Goulbourn Township from the time of its inception to about 1930, with plans on writing a book some day, lot by lot, concession by concession. My interest in local history is not limited to Goulbourn however. I also write a few blogs, historical in

nature and I am working on another book about a soldier who settled in March Township, and later Huntley Township. I sit on a township working group in Lanark County which is planning for the 200th Anniversary of settlement in 2016. My responsibility is to document the stone homes in the area, which is something I plan to do for Goulbourn Township as well.

I also help others with genealogical research in Carleton and Lanark Counties, based on the information I have gathered over the years researching my own family.

Karen Prytula, the new Heritage Keeper for Goulbourn Township, grew up in the township and is passionate about the history of the buildings and people who settled there. She maintains a blog about some of her many activities: stonesunturnd1.blogspot.ca

Memories of a Summer Event by the Canal

By Susan Ross

On Thursday July 11, 2013, Heritage Ottawa and the local chapter of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) hosted a joint social event at the 8 Locks' Flat summertime bistro on the east side of the Rideau Canal. About forty heritage lovers attended, a number of them members of both organizations. It was a perfect evening to sit outdoors and catch up with colleagues and make new connections. Well-attended by 'regulars', there were also a number of students or recent graduates and newly active volunteers in each organization, eager to build new connections.

The mission of the Association for Preservation Technology is to "advance the application of traditional and contemporary technology

appropriate to conservation of the built environment and the cultural resources that contribute to its significance." Although now an international organization, APT has its roots in Canada, including leadership over long periods by

Well-attended by 'regulars', there were also a number of students or recent graduates and newly active volunteers in each organization, eager to build new connections.

key figures from the Ottawa area, including Jacques Dalibard, Ann Falkner, François Leblanc, Herb Stovel and Natalie Bull. Leslie Maitland, currently the

president of Heritage Ottawa, was formerly co-editor of the *APT Bulletin*, now North America's premier professional conservation publication.

With hundreds of members spread over 30 countries, APT's local chapters play an important role between the annual conferences which take place every three years in Canada (the next Canadian one is in 2014 in Quebec City, and there is talk of holding the 2017 one in Ottawa). The Ottawa Valley Outaouais chapter – a fairly informal group of about 50 members – organizes local field trips, lectures and gatherings on both sides of the Ottawa River, and is interested in developing future events with Heritage Ottawa. The co-organizers of this event were Laurie Brady (Heritage Ottawa) and Sanskriti Singh and Susan Ross (APT).

For more information see www.apti.org/chapters/ottawa-valley-outaouais-chapter/.

Susan Ross is an architect and educator with many years experience in private firms, not-for-profit organizations, government and academia. She is now teaching heritage conservation at Carleton University, where she is incoming assistant professor in the School of Canadian Studies. She was recently elected to the College of Fellows of the Association for Preservation Technology, including for her role in helping advance sustainable heritage conservation practices in Canada.



Photo: Susan Ross

Heritage Ottawa and APT members at 8 Locks' Flat on the Rideau Canal.

Looking back on not-so lazy Sunday afternoons

By Laurie Brady

Heritage Ottawa's 2013 walking tour program has just wrapped for another fine season. Rain or shine, thirteen tours took place between June and October, which attracted 38 participants on average. With more than sixty people each, our most popular were a special archaeological tour of LeBreton Flats in conjunction with Archeo-Quebec and the Rideau Centre and National Arts Centre Rooftop Gardens tour. In all, 488 participants attended our tours, half of them members, half non-members. This season's tours raised \$3,730 in total for Heritage Ottawa. A sincere thank you to each volunteer who contributed to our success by leading tours, ushering large groups from stop to stop, or coordinating ticket sales:



Photo: David Jeanes

Lowertown Walking Tour led by Nancy Miller-Chenier – MacDonald Gardens

Tour Leaders

Rick Belliveau
Mark Brandt
Judy Deegan
Leo Doyle
Martha Edmond
Hagit Hadaya
Linda Hoad
David Jeanes
Nancy Miller-Chenier
Michel Prevost
Bill Price
Lori Thornton

Volunteers

Paula Ainley
Lynn Armstrong
Linda Dicaire
Ken Elder
Louise Fox
Julie Harris
Peter Holdsworth
Claude Jobin
Kathy Krywicki
Mina McNamee

Volunteers contd.

Tascha Morrison
Luciano Pradal
Shari Rutherford
Julia Sterparn
Christienne Uchiyama

Coordinators

Marianne Possberg
Katherine Charbonneau
Janik Aubin-Robert
Leslie Maitland

Tour Managers

Ian Ferguson
Martin Rice

Publicity

David Flemming

Laurie Brady is Student/Emerging Professional Director for Heritage Ottawa and Planner for this year's Walking Tours.

Heritage News Now

Fire Damages Another Heritage Building

On September 9 2013, a fire destroyed most of 1518 Stittsville Main Street, building designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Built as a hotel about 1875, the building operated as a general store, a bank, then a post office. More recent uses include a fabric store and a restaurant.



The City has requested an assessment of the condition of the building in order to determine if rehabilitation or demolition is required.

Photo: City of Ottawa