



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

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Heritage News Now

**Heritage Canada
The National Trust
invites Canadians to
Celebrate Heritage
Week!**

This year's theme is:

**Having Fun with Heritage:
Historic Places Made for Play**

Heritage Canada reminds us that "many places designed for play have a long history and treasured place in our hearts and our communities."

**Disappearing rural
heritage – McMurtry
Tannery**

**Built ca 1860, demolished
fall 2013**



1155 2nd Line Road

This building and its history was known in the community, but the tannery was not on the City's Heritage Reference List and a demolition permit was issued in October.

Photo: David B. Flemming

Ice Race Meetings on the Ottawa River – a forgotten tradition?

By Ken Elder

When the Central Canada Trotting Club of Ottawa was organized in 1900, the tradition of holding harness races on an ice track in the depths of winter was already well established in Eastern Canada. In fact Ottawa had been part of a regular circuit of ice race meetings going back to 1875. The circuit included a track on the harbour ice at the foot of Jacques



Enlarged detail of the finish line from the postcard on page 2

Cartier Square in Montreal, the Jockey Club track in Hamilton and the Dufferin Park track in Toronto (frozen for ice racing), an ice track in Orillia laid out on Lake Couchiching,



Postcard. Central Canada Racing Association Ice Track, The Start, on Ottawa River, looking south east towards Point Gatineau, Quebec. c. 1910 (K. Elder Collection)

Postcards: K. Elder Collection

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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
President

David B. Flemming
Past-President

David Jeanes
Vice-President Operations

Katherine Charbonneau
Vice-President Programs

William R. Price
Secretary

(vacant)
Treasurer

(vacant)
Legal Consultant

Andrew Elliott
Webmaster

Directors:
Jay Baltz, Richard Belliveau,
Laurie Brady, Linda Dicaire,
Ken Elder, Ian Ferguson, Louise
Fox, Linda Hoad, Robert Martin,
Katherine Spencer-Ross, Laurie
Smith, Carolyn Quinn.

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Ice Race Meetings on the Ottawa River contd.

plus a straight track on the Napanee River in Napanee and an oval track on Lake Scugog, at Port Perry.

Every winter from 1900 to 1911, the Central Canada Trotting Club laid out a half-mile oval track on the Hull side of the Ottawa River, opposite Queen's wharf (the Ottawa River Navigation Co. dock, below Sussex Street), and constructed a grandstand, club house, and judge's stand. Each year the facilities grew larger and more elaborate. In 1902 the grandstand was designed to seat 4,000 people, the club house, 60 by 100 feet, was open to the public, and a cooling shed, 50 by 90 feet, felt-lined and heated by stoves, was provided for the horses and riders. In 1905 a separate club house and stands were provided for the ladies. By 1909 the club house building for spectators was both heated and lighted.

Before the opening of the Central Canada Ice racing meet in 1906, some concern was expressed about the safety of the ice to bear the weight of the spectators. In the *Ottawa Evening Journal* of February 2, 1906 it was reported:

"There has been considerable talk as to whether the ice will be absolutely safe for spectators, but the public can rest assured that the crystal is as strong as in past seasons. Cuttings were made yesterday in several portions of the enclosure, and the ice ranged in thickness from eighteen to twenty-four inches."

In 1907 the event stretched over seven days (February 2-9), with more than 100 horses from many parts of Canada and the United States, and over \$10,000 in prizes. An estimated crowd of 3,000 spectators attended the opening day.

A road from Queen's wharf took spectators across the river to within a short distance of the facilities. One admission price of 50 cents covered everything. Ladies with escorts were admitted free. Even refreshment privileges were tendered in advance of the race meet.

In 1907, the program on the opening day featured one-mile heats for local trots and paces for a purse of \$300, open to horses owned in the city or within 60 miles of Ottawa, and a free-for-all trot and pace for a purse of \$500.

Every winter from 1900 to 1911, the Central Canada Trotting Club laid out a half-mile oval track on ... the Ottawa River, ... and constructed a grandstand, club house, and judge's stand.

On the final day of the meet, drama ensued. After the running of the final heat of the free-for-all event, the judges, fearing a "fixed" race, called off all bets, and expelled one horse, its driver and owner for one year. This created an uproar in the crowd, particularly among those who had placed large bets on the outcome of this race, and punters swarmed onto the track in hundreds, hurled abuse at the judges' stand and blocked all further racing. They continued to block the track for more than an hour. A driver in a sulky, trying to force his way through the crowd, ran down and injured one man in the crowd, identified as a "Mr. Mulligan". Several hundred enraged people took off after the driver, but he jumped from his sulky and disappeared. Serious trouble



Postcard. Central Canada Racing Association Ice Track, The Finish, on Ottawa River, looking north-west towards Alexandra Bridge and Parliament Hill. c. 1910 (K. Elder Collection)

was averted only by the prompt efforts of officers of the association and a number of horsemen who undertook to straighten out the tangle. It was some time before the crowd could be sorted out. When the horses faced the starter, Sailor Boy, the animal which ran down Mr. Mulligan did not appear as her driver could not be found.

Fortunately for the 5,000 in attendance, the remaining races were run without incident. According to the *Ottawa Evening Journal* on Monday, February 4, 1907, "the bookies did a good business during the afternoon (Saturday), but the rush won't start until today (Monday)."

Betting at these events, however, had attracted the attention of the federal government, and in 1909-1910 a select committee of the House of Commons was convened to inquire into horse-race betting.

In 1910, the House of Commons, by one vote, limited betting to established horse-race tracks and banned bookmakers. During this time, pari-mutuel betting was being

gradually introduced at most race tracks throughout Canada. The ban on bookmakers and introduction of pari-mutuel betting probably explains the wind up of racing on the Ottawa River in 1911.

In 1912, the Ottawa ice-racing meeting (Ottawa Valley Driving Club) was held at Lansdowne Park on a frozen track, but none was held on the Ottawa River

In 1979 National Capital Commission organized their first "Winterlude" celebration on the Rideau Canal. One of the attractions devised for this winter festival was a demonstration of harness racing. Francis McIsaac of Prince Edward Island, a famed harness race driver, was one of those asked to participate. It was billed as the first international ice racing competition on the Rideau Canal, which it probably was. One wonders if the organizers were aware of the long tradition of ice racing in Ottawa - and the excitement years earlier on the Ottawa River.

Ken Elder is a heritage architect and a Heritage Ottawa Board member.

Upcoming Events

February 18 2014

Heritage Day Celebrations at City Hall

Join Heritage Ottawa and other heritage organizations as we celebrate Ottawa's rich cultural and built heritage.

February 19 2014

Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture

Eyes on the Street: The Heritage of Old Ottawa South

Ottawa Public Library
Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe
Street (corner of Laurier
Avenue W)

7:00 PM

Our lecturer is Julie Harris of Contentworks Inc. She is a long-time resident of Old Ottawa South, as well as a public historian and heritage consultant with over 30 years of experience on heritage projects across Canada.

The publication *Exploring the Built Heritage of Old Ottawa South* will be launched at this lecture, and will be available for sale for \$15.

Following the presentation, a panel representing the Ottawa South History Project will respond to questions.

Heritage designation for Old St. Mary's Church Ruins and Cemetery

By *Vina Waddell and Brian Dickson*

On February 13 2013, City Council approved the application to designate Old St. Mary's church ruins and cemetery previously approved by the Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee on January 17, then by the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on February 7. At all three stages, the application was dealt with on consent; in other words, approval was unanimous.

This is the good news story of how this heritage designation of a cultural landscape adjacent to Pinhey's Point Historic Site in the Township of March was achieved. Although every heritage property is unique, there is much to be learned from the successful pursuit of this designation.

Background

The walled burial ground and ruins of the stone church overlooking the Ottawa River combine to make Old St. Mary's one of the most historic and picturesque spots in the Ottawa Valley. The church ruins and cemetery are the property of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and are administered by the Cemetery Board of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Sixth Line Road Dunrobin. The property is located on Pinhey Point Road off Sixth Line Road.

Built in 1825-27 in rural March Township, Old St. Mary's is now the oldest ecclesiastical structure in Ottawa. Intentionally evoking an English parish church and churchyard, the church and cemetery were part of a project by immigrant officers and gentlemen to transpose an English squire and parson landscape and social model

to the Upper Canadian frontier. The land was given and the church largely financed by Hamnett Kirkes Pinhey (1784-1857), a London merchant who retired from business at 35 and redeployed his capital to reinvent himself as a landed gentleman. Although there were no manors in Upper Canada, like the feudal seigneuries of Quebec, the English manor was nonetheless Pinhey's model. The juxtaposition of the established church with the great house of the powerful landowner (Pinhey's Horaceville, constructed 1820-48), symbolized the interdependence of church and state under the colonial regime.

Pinhey selected the English Gothic style at a time when neoclassical churches were more common, to brand his estate as English, in contradistinction to Philemon Wright's American settlement downriver. St. Mary's is early Gothic Revival, the proportions symmetrical and neoclassical in form, and the building is oriented toward the river rather than toward the east as in fully evolved ecclesiological theory. The



Old St Mary's early 1890s

"S" curves of the ogee arches of the window and door opening, however, are fairly sophisticated. The walled churchyard containing the ledger and box tombs of the colonial gentry and the graves of humbler members of the community, and the separate plot of the Pinhey family, replicate in death the hierarchical social structure of the pre-1848 community. Large family plots laid out in an addition incorporated into the churchyard in 1882, with a common ground distant from the church for "strangers and the poor", reflect later High Victorian sensibilities and values. Given the age of the churchyard, which is still in use by members of the Sixth Line congregation, the range of monuments is representative of most types used in the Ottawa area since the 1830's, and demonstrates the local continuity of many early families through to the present.

Though deeded to the church in 1830, St. Mary's was an integral part of Hamnett Kirkes Pinhey's riverfront estate, now Pinhey's Point Historic Site, a City of Ottawa historic property and museum



Photo: St. Mary's Cemetery Board

Old St. Mary's Cemetery

with a heritage easement under the Ontario Heritage Trust. An agreement with the City of Ottawa facilitates tours of the churchyard by visitors to Pinhey's Point Historic Site under the supervision of City staff. In the City of Ottawa's "Greater Ottawa Story", the Pinhey site amongst area museums represents the collective and hierarchical ethos of the colonial period, before the coming of responsible government in 1848 gave official endorsement to the individualist and capitalist assumptions of political reform, and shifted the Canadian political system from a culture of deference to a culture of democracy. Together exemplifying the partnership of church and state under the old regime, Old St. Mary's and Horaceville, tell complementary parts of the same story.

Despite repairs in 1891, the church became unsafe. In the early twentieth century the roof and side wall facing Horaceville collapsed but the remainder of the church has proved durable. The cemetery is still used as a burial ground for members of the congregation.

Process

The heritage application originated with St. Mary's Cemetery Board with support from the congregation (through Vestry) and the incumbents in the Anglican Parish of March. In addition the application was supported by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, the owner of the property.

In preparation for the application, the Board researched the historical, design, physical and contextual values of the site as required by the Ontario Heritage Act. In this connection, we were fortunate to have the advice and support of Dr. Bruce Elliott, Professor of History at Carleton University.

The Board also consulted widely. In addition to support within the church community, the proposal was endorsed by Michele LeBoldus, President of the Pinhey's Point Foundation, Judy Makin, President of the March Rural Community Association and City Councillor Eli El-Chantiry. Heritage Ottawa wrote to the Built Heritage Advisory Committee as follows:

"We are very pleased to support the proposed designation of Old St. Mary's Anglican Church Ruins and Cemetery. The Ruins and Cemetery mark a significant episode in our history, and their survival is important to our community. ... We congratulate the proponents of this designation for an excellent submission, and note the wide community support that this proposed designation enjoys."

Throughout, we benefited from the wise counsel of Mr. Allan Fowler, Commissioner of Cemeteries for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. Finally, the Board contacted all cemetery plot owners as well as immediate neighbours to inform them of the initiative.

Fundraising and repairs

While research on the designation proceeded, it became apparent that extensive work was required to restore both the church and cemetery wall, in order to preserve and restore the site for visitors and future generations, as well as to pay respect to the early pioneers, family and friends who are buried there. Since 2007 annual repairs have been carried out, financed by various fundraising projects initiated by the St. Mary's Cemetery Board including a special memorial service held outdoors at Old St. Mary's on the third Sunday of August of each year. Donations at the service are earmarked for the use of the cemetery.

Lessons learned

It is fair to say that ours was not a speedy project. Indeed, we worked on it for years. Without enthusiasm and an enduring sense of commitment, we would not have been successful. Preparation is key. It's important to understand the process under the Ontario Heritage Act and, in our case, the workings of the Anglican



Old St. Mary's Church ruins

Church. It is also important to seek out and benefit from expert advice as noted above.

The education of those who are directly affected, and others, is also a major part of a successful initiative, in particular, responding to concerns

or misunderstandings and making people feel comfortable with the process. Building incremental support is also important, both of the like-minded and those skeptical or uncertain about heritage designation.

Finally, in our case, patience was a virtue.

Advocacy

Heritage Ottawa has had a very busy year on the advocacy front!

With other community groups, we provided detailed comments to the City on the new community design plan for Centretown, the development of a heritage overlay for part of Old Ottawa South, the City's commemorative naming policy, digital signage policy for heritage areas, updates to the *Arts & Heritage Plan* and the Official Plan.

Heritage Ottawa also advocated to the National Capital Commission for appropriate conservation strategies on a number of properties owned by the NCC downtown, in the Greenbelt, and in Gatineau Park.

Heritage Ottawa was very active in providing detailed comments to the

City's Built Heritage Sub-Committee, Planning Committee, and City Council on many heritage properties where changes were proposed or heritage designation was considered during 2013:

Heritage designation

975 Gladstone Street (British American Bank Note Company); St. Mary's Church Ruins and Cemetery; 135 Barrette Street (former St. Charles Church); 187 Billings Avenue; 593 Laurier Avenue West (Andrew Fleck House); 173 Huntmar Drive

Changes to a heritage property or district

10 Rideau Street; 126 Rideau Street (Ogilvy Building); 218 Coltrin Road; 61 Main Street; 6576 Fourth Line Road; 352 Somerset Street West (Somerset House); 306 Metcalfe Street (Hungarian Embassy);

NOTE: At the time of writing, the City Council By-law which will formally implement the designation has not yet been passed. In the interim, we are pleased that the property is protected.

For further information about the designation itself, see the staff report to the Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee: ACS 2013-PAI-PGM-0007.

Vina Waddell is a long-time volunteer in the museum and heritage fields. When invited to help the St. Mary's Cemetery Board with fund raising, she seized the opportunity to promote a municipal heritage designation for Old St. Mary's church ruins and cemetery.

Brian Dickson is a lawyer by training, and a former diplomat. His interest in Old St. Mary's derives from its rich history as well as the fact that his parents were members of the congregation of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Dunrobin. They have been laid to rest in Old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Mutchmor School; Parkette for Central Park East Heritage Conservation District; 106-116 Sparks Street/111-113 Queen Street; 2 Daly Avenue (Arts Court); 52-54 Bolton Street; 325 Dalhousie Street (Union du Canada)

New construction in a Heritage District

132 Stanley Street;
61 Queen Victoria Street

Demolition of a heritage property

23 ½ St Andrew Street; 3 River Street (Hintonburg Pumping Station); 281-283 Cumberland Street (former Our Lady School) and 207-209 Murray Street

We look forward to continuing to push for Ottawa's heritage to be protected and enhanced in 2014.

From the President

By Leslie Maitland



I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and that 2013 was good to you and your loved ones! We are very much looking forward to what 2014 brings. Here are a few highlights of last year, with a peek at what might happen in the next twelve months.

Advocacy

Well last year was a wild ride! The Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee, which existed under the Ontario Heritage Act to advise the city on heritage matters went poof, and not without some controversy. In its place appeared the Built Heritage Sub-Committee, which is a sub-committee of Planning Committee, which makes it a beast of the Planning Act. It is chaired by Councillor Jan Harder, co-chaired by architect and citizen-member Barry Padolsky. The other citizen members are Sandy Smallwood and Carolyn Quinn; all three citizen-members are strong advocates of heritage and we were very pleased with their appointments. Throughout the year, Heritage Ottawa made representations to City committees (see pg. 6), and we will be continuing to do so throughout 2014.

Heritage battles last year included what we hope is a significant victory for all of us: a resolve by the city to enforce the city's own property standards by-laws, and a new property standards by-law that is specifically tailored towards protection of designated properties. Way to go! But it all comes down to enforcement, so vigilance is the word. (more about this in David Flemming's article on pg. 8)

The other big development in 2013 was the announcement that Windmill Developments has purchased the Domtar portion of the Chaudière lands for multi-purpose revitalisation, intended to be respectful of nature, culture, and First Nations' interests. At an open house held in December at the Museum of Civilisation, hundreds were offered an opportunity to peek at the plans (early days) and to offer comments. Elder Commanda's granddaughter offered a very moving blessing, in the spirit of reconciliation. Let's hope this spirit remains a central theme for this significant place in our history. Heritage Ottawa will be following how heritage elements of this site – buildings, landscapes, views and other features – are proposed to be treated, and work collaboratively to ensure that heritage is integrated successfully in the project.

Lecture Series

Katherine Spencer Ross, Linda Dicaire and Katherine Charbonneau have put together a stellar lecture series, with record attendance. Highlights included Ottawa author Shannon Ricketts, an introduction to the Briarcliffe Heritage Conservation District, a June social and a

December social featuring Facebook entrepreneur David McGee. The rest of this winter's program looks terrific: members can look forward to receiving their brochure in the mail.

Last year was a stellar year for our Publications program; check Rick Belliveau's article in this issue.

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Communications

You will have noticed that our presence on social media has increased significantly, and our big project for 2014 will be an update of our website: watch for it! We are very excited about this undertaking. Carleton University Journalism students helped us out with an analysis of our communications, with some recommendations, and we will be following up on that.

Special Events

In 2013, Heritage Ottawa held its annual Heritage Forum in conjunction with the Hintonburg Community Association, and we look forward to holding the Forum again in 2014. We also awarded the Cullingham Grant, and this year's applicants are now under review. We contributed to the Heritage Canada Foundation Annual Conference, including a bus tour of the Modern, charring sessions, and several walking tours. As last year, we will be participating in Heritage Day and we hope to see you there.

Leslie Maitland
President, Heritage Ottawa

Publications Committee Report

By Richard Belliveau

Following the successful publication in 2013 of Shannon Ricketts' *Werner Ernst Noffke: Ottawa's Architect* and John McLeod's *The Glebe: A Walking Tour*, the committee is ready to take on new challenges.

In 2009, Heritage Ottawa supported a heritage survey of the lands and properties in Old Ottawa South. The members of the Ottawa South History Project who undertook the survey have now assembled the results of the research into a report

entitled *Exploring the Built Heritage of Old Ottawa South*, written principally by Julie Harris and John Calvert.

Heritage Ottawa has undertaken to assist with the printing and distribution of this groundbreaking study to be launched at our Phillips Memorial lecture in February. We consider this work to be a remarkable piece of research and writing that could serve as a model for other neighbourhoods to inventory and assess their heritage

treasures. We look forward in eager anticipation to its launching.

Meanwhile, the Publications Committee is exploring other likely projects, both large and small, that we could undertake to preserve and disseminate the accumulated knowledge of Heritage Ottawa's friends and members. Our supporters admire, research and talk about the wonderful buildings, architecture and engineering that have made this city unique and beautiful, and we think this knowledge should not slip from view.

A Modest Beginning for ending 'Demolition by Neglect'

By David B. Flemming

In April 2013, the Mayor and a few members of Council suddenly recognized the growing number of vacant and boarded-up buildings in Ottawa and convinced their Council colleagues to instruct staff to develop a strategy to deal with the problem. Heritage Ottawa welcomed this action.

We first suggested such an approach when we brought this matter to Council's attention in December 2007 (Heritage Ottawa *Newsletter*, Winter 2008, Vol.35, No.1, pp.11-12), especially as it related to buildings in Heritage Conservation Districts. At the time, we highlighted a number of examples of neglected properties. We subsequently worked with former Councillor Georges Bédard and City staff in drafting a 2009 report to Council entitled "Heritage Demolition by Neglect" which was never implemented.

Although the current vacant building strategy deals with vacant properties in general, we are pleased that it includes a heritage component based on the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

Since the summer of 2013, city staff has identified 70 vacant and neglected buildings requiring attention, issuing demolition orders for 14 and various orders under the Property Standards By-law and the Board-Up By-law for the rest. In September, Council formally approved amendments to the Property Standards By-Law to permit the City to require a minimum standard of care and appropriate documentation for vacant buildings covered by Parts IV and V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The first test of this new strategy was a demolition application by the owner of 207-209 Murray Street and 287 Cumberland Street, two of the most egregious examples of demolition by neglect. On the recommendation of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee, Council approved the demolition of 207-209 Murray Street and the partial demolition of 287 Cumberland Street subject to the owner preparing a detailed electronic as-found recording of both buildings and that two walls of the Cumberland Street building be supported by bracing structures and that they

be included in any subsequent new construction on the site.

Heritage Ottawa does not agree with the observation of one of the councillors on the Built Heritage Subcommittee that Council's decision in these cases marked a "great victory for heritage." At best, it is a modest beginning at dealing with the City's long-standing failure to deal effectively with the degradation of our built heritage. We shall be encouraging the City to be more pro-active in trying to save entire buildings, not just portions of them.

Also, we shall continue to encourage the City to request the power to waive the present property tax decrease given to owners of vacant buildings of heritage interest unless they abide by the preservation standards contained in the new strategy, and to support the implementation of property tax reductions to encourage owners of buildings of heritage interest to preserve them for future occupancy.

David B. Flemming is Past President of Heritage Ottawa and has spent many hours over the years bringing the issue of Demolition by Neglect to the attention of City Councillors.