



# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

**Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage**

February 2016 Volume 43, No. 1

## Heritage News Now

**All Saints Anglican Church in Sandy Hill Sold**



Photo: Linda Hoard

A community group, Save the Saints, has purchased this historic church and adjoining Bate Hall. All Saints Church has served as worship space for many influential Canadians, hosted a Royal wedding, boasts a rare set of bells, and houses a number of heritage-designated stained glass windows, one of which is dedicated to Sir Robert Borden.

All Saints Church will soon serve as the home for Prime Ministers' Row Interpretive centre, TAN Coffee Shop as well as offering space for multi-faith worship, a full-service wedding destination, and a conference centre with on-site catering.

The adjacent church hall – commonly referred to as Bate Hall after the family who built the Church - will for the time being continue to serve as a community resource space. Mixed-use development that responds to community needs is planned for the site.

For more information: [http://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/News\\_Release.html](http://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/News_Release.html)

See page 10 for more News Now.

## Completing the Circle - St. Matthias Anglican Church, 1888-2015

*By Andrew Billingsley, UE*

In June 2015, the congregation of St. Matthias Anglican Church voted to amalgamate with All Saints Anglican Church in Westboro. As a result of the vote, their building is now being offered for sale by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. The church, on Parkdale Avenue at the Queensway, was completed in 1949.

### Early Parish History

Just two years earlier, the congregation had celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in Hintonburg in 1888, in the kitchen of Byers' Hotel. For two years, the original congregation had struggled to raise funds for the construction of a church on Fairmont Avenue.



*Altar windows from the first church designed by Harry Horwood.*

A brick shell lined with rough boards was constructed in 1890. Attendance at the first service, early the following year, was 120. It took another twelve years to retire the mortgages and complete the interior.

The focal point of the interior was a memorial stained glass window above the altar. The three-panel window became the west window

in the present church building. It has been identified as the artistry of British-trained Harry Horwood. Horwood opened a stained glass studio on Bank Street in 1875, having received commissions for the stained glass in the new Parliament buildings, and from area churches.

Photo : Brian Glenn

# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

*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*

## St. Matthias Anglican Church cont'd.

In 1914, *The Ottawa Evening Journal* described the church as “an unpretentious red brick building. The exterior plan has apparently never been completed. [Original plans called for a tower and a spire.] The interior, however, provides for anything in the way of attractiveness that the exterior lacks.” In 1921, a Memorial Hall, designed by architects Richards and Abra, was added. The original church and hall can still be seen behind the Orpheus Musical Theatre Society building and the office building, at 17 and 19 Fairmont Avenue.

### Growing Pains

The recognition that a larger church building was required dates from 1936. The Fairmont church could accommodate just 200 people. Holding Sunday services in the Memorial Hall, which could hold 300 at most, was considered, but dismissed. An investigation revealed that there were more than twice that number of Anglican families in the neighbourhood.

As early as 1931, a church committee had noted that the geographical centre of the parish was quickly moving westerly, and in March 1937, it was agreed that a “site at the southwest corner of Parkdale and the C.N.R. tracks be favoured as a suitable site for a new church”. In June of that year, John B. Roper, the son of Anglican Archbishop J.C. Roper, was appointed the architect.

The Building Committee recommended that the church should accommodate 600, with provision for a future gallery, and that the total cost should not exceed \$50,000. In 1939, when tenders were received, \$55,000 was to be the cost. The sketch plans, in Early English Gothic style, called for a brick church with stone trim, or if affordable, Nepean limestone, with an unfinished basement. However, if funds were insufficient, a basement church would be acceptable, as a temporary measure, and that is what was approved. The basement church, built in limestone, was dedicated in 1939.



*St. Matthias Anglican Church, 2012*

*Photo: Alcides Munoz*

Services took place in the basement all through the Second World War years. Once the war ended, tenders were called, and again the quotes were prohibitive, forcing a revision of plans, but no reduction in size. The architect asked to be relieved of further responsibilities, and on his advice, A.J. Hazelgrove was appointed supervising architect. He recommended that the front facade follow the original plan of Nepean limestone, but the remaining walls be constructed of cinder block, faced with roughcast, i.e. coarse plaster mixed with small gravel.

Despite the modified plans, the post-war construction boom had escalated prices. In 1948, the winning tender to complete the building was \$192,847. Construction went ahead, and arrangements were made to hold services in the Elmdale Theatre temporarily. In May 1949, the first service was held 'upstairs' in the newly-finished church, with 696 people in attendance.



*The basement church in the 1940s.*

### **The present St. Matthias building**

In 1957, a three-panel stained glass window was installed above the altar. The window describes Christ's annunciation, atonement and resurrection. It was commissioned from Leonard Pike, a prominent Ottawa stained-glass maker and designer who had trained in studios in England. He and his wife were good friends of the "Group of Seven" artist, Frederick Varley.

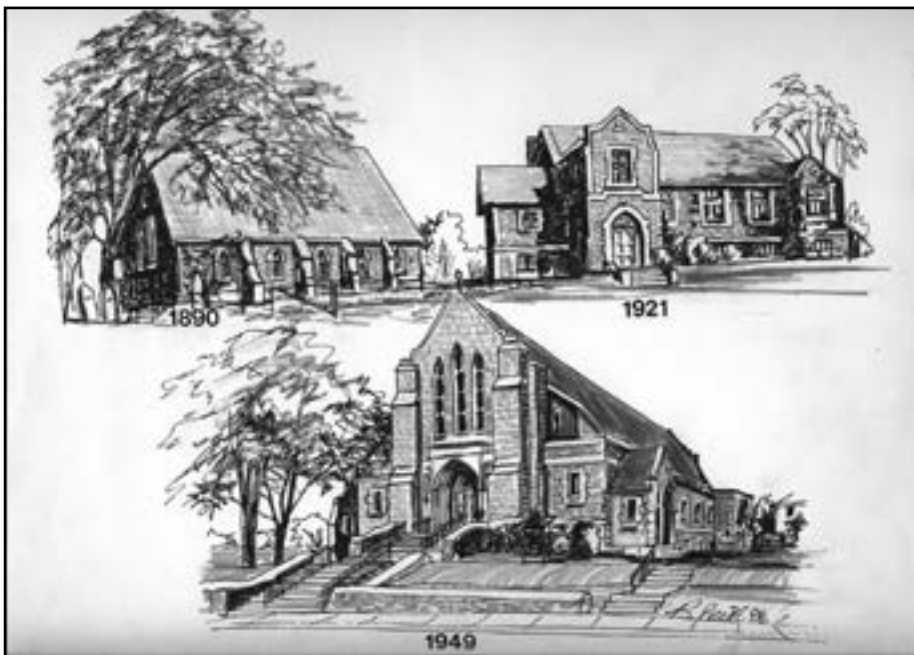
Also that year, a three-manual organ made by Casavant Frères was added. It was valued at more than \$600,000 in 2011. Over the years, St. Matthias

has been the beneficiary of the talents of a succession of Music Directors. Two prominent Canadian composers are among them, Gerald Bales, later made a Member of the Order of Canada, and Robert Fleming. The Canada Council awards the Robert Fleming Prize annually in his memory.

By 1964, only three other Ottawa Anglican churches had a larger membership than St. Matthias. For at least ten years beginning in 2002, St. Matthias had experienced a small annual operating deficit, like most churches. Deficits were often eliminated by bequests. However, in 2012, the deficit had grown to \$44,000, and showed no signs of declining. Finding a revenue-generating tenant for the church basement proved difficult. Redeveloping the property, and incorporating a new smaller church in the new residential building was also pursued. Reluctantly, the congregation decided that it could not continue.

When St. Matthias was founded in 1888, it was a "mission" of All Saints in Westboro, built in 1865. As a mission, St. Matthias shared its rector with All Saints. How fitting, therefore, that the congregation of St. Matthias have chosen to amalgamate with All Saints, its mother church. Time will tell what becomes of the current St. Matthias building, but the original church on Fairmont lives on as rehearsal space for Orpheus. Again, history repeats itself, with St. Matthias planning to establish a "mission" in Hintonburg.

*Andrew Billingsley began attending St. Matthias in 1971. He is the Chair, History and Heritage Committee, of the Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association, and a Heritage Ottawa member*



*The first sixty years (the first St. Matthias Church, Memorial Hall and the present church).*

*Photo: May Coughtrey*

*Photo: Artist Rhonda Price, Knowlton, Quebec. Courtesy of Andy Billingsley.*

# Macdonald Gardens: A Neighbourhood in Lowertown East

By Victoria Ellis and Susan Ross

Macdonald Gardens, the 8-acre park in Lowertown East, and surrounding neighbourhood is perhaps best known from the unresolved question of whether human remains are buried in a mound underneath the park's hill. When the 2014 heritage conservation MA class at Carleton University started learning about the neighbourhood as a study in community heritage, it was initially the park's history as the former site of four adjoining cemeteries that piqued our interest.

As our research evolved, though, our focus shifted. Macdonald Gardens has a long history as an evolving historic landscape where, for over a century, people have lived and died. Under the guidance of professor Susan Ross and community leader Nancy Miller-Chenier, we set out to explore the many different facets of that heritage.

The text that follows is based on of a Draft Statement of Significance (SOS) composed by Victoria Ellis and Susan Ross as part of a report and accompanying website. This draft summarizes some of the key ways in which we believe this neighbourhood has heritage value, with the hope that further community involvement will help this SOS change and reflect the community's heritage more accurately.

## Early History/Context

Macdonald Gardens is an urban neighbourhood that takes its name and central focus from the rectangle-shaped urban park at its centre. This park, designed in 1914 by landscape architect Frederick Todd, was built on the site of four former cemeteries established ca. 1843. Located within Lowertown East, this neighbourhood



Photo: Susan Ross, 2014

*View of the Macdonald Gardens summer house from Tormey Street.*

takes as its approximate boundaries the Rideau River to the north and east, Rideau Street to the south, and Cobourg Street to the west. Cobourg Street acts as a spine for the neighbourhood, as it is a main access road to and from the neighbourhood and most smaller streets within Macdonald Gardens connect to it.

Macdonald Gardens as an evolving urban historic landscape shows intact physical and social layers of Ottawa's urban planning history. Along Cobourg Street there is a mix of low-rise apartment structures, public housing and cooperatives. The blocks to the north of the park are generally low-rise, older residential housing, while to the east along Würtemberg Street there is a shift

to high-rise apartment towers and institutions. To the south of the park there is a mix of housing, towers, institutional and limited commercial use along Rideau Street. As early as 1851 the neighbourhood was home to a series of important Ottawa health and community institutions, including the Protestant Hospital, the Children's Hospital, and the Lady Stanley Institute for Trained Nurses. Two buildings in the neighbourhood are municipally designated heritage properties: Wallis House and the Turkish Embassy.

The series of built structures from various periods of the last two centuries shows a variety of housing that is rarely found elsewhere in such a combination. It is therefore possible

to see Macdonald Gardens as a microcosm of Ottawa’s housing and planning history. Built between the late 1800s and 2001, the buildings showcase a large range of residential styles including gable-ended, hipped and flat-roofed brick and stucco-clad houses, mostly brick-clad 3-4 storey apartment blocks and ensembles, high-rise apartment slabs and towers, private and public housing and housing cooperatives, as well as a stone summer house in the public park.

Relative to other neighbourhoods in Lowertown East, Macdonald Gardens had less of its built heritage destroyed by urban renewal in the 1960s and 1970s because its housing stock was in relatively good shape. Thus the layers of building typologies present before 1969 are still preserved.



*The central path in the park (seen here looking north to Heney Street) runs along the route Charlotte Street took before it was closed in 1974.*

### Macdonald Gardens Park

The Macdonald Gardens park is a central element of the neighbourhood both geographically and socially.

The hill on the western side of the park with the iconic stone summer house at its peak was built with a view of the Parliament buildings. A tree-lined pathway down the central width of the park provides a walkway through the neighbourhood, with connected paths winding to each side of the park.

The eastern side is mostly flat, and in the north-west corner low curved walls stand where a public wading pool once was.

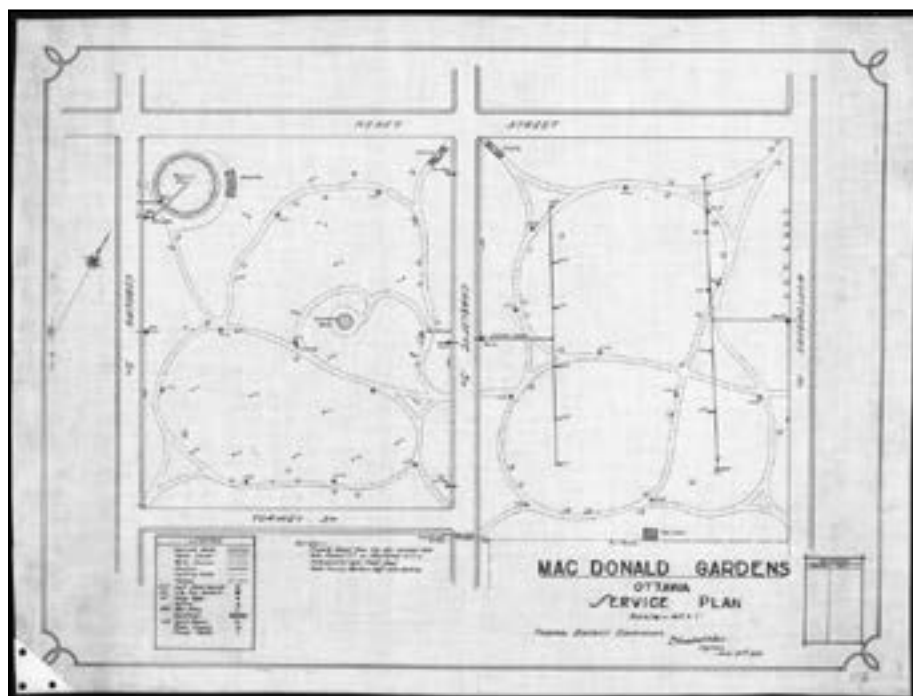
This historic landscape was part of Ottawa’s “Capital Landscape” ca. 1915-1946. Designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick G. Todd, the park is Todd’s only executed design in Ottawa. The design was commissioned by the Ottawa Improvement Commission (OIC) in 1912 to add to a capital parkways system intended to serve as a picturesque driving route showcasing Ottawa’s best landscapes for Ottawa’s citizens and visitors.

As the site of four of Ottawa’s oldest cemeteries serving early Ottawa Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Methodist communities, Macdonald Gardens park holds high potential for archaeological value as well as cultural and spiritual value for these congregations. Given the methods of removing the graves once the site was planned as a park and anecdotal evidence from the next few decades, it is likely there are still human remains underground.

### Urban Renewal

The post-war urban renewal planning scheme in Ottawa left much of Lowertown East devastated, with large swaths of historic buildings destroyed and communities ripped apart.

Photo: Susan Ross, 2014



*The earliest plan of the park located to date, from 1932 - 18 years after the Todd plan was completed. “MacDonald Gardens Service Plan” (c) Government of Canada. Reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada (2014).*

Credit: Library and Archives Canada/National Capital Commission  
fonds/item 170/NNC 190209.



*Charlotte Street from St Patrick, with a series of duplexes.*

Macdonald Gardens escaped much of the damage, but the effects of this phase of Ottawa's history are still apparent. One of the major changes influenced by urban renewal was the closure of Charlotte Street ca. 1974-1976 in order to unify the two sides of the Macdonald Gardens park, providing the community with uninterrupted green space. This part of Lowertown East is therefore in the unique position of living through both the destruction and positive change that urban renewal brought. The built heritage left unaltered by this scheme also has value in showing what was left behind and what was considered valuable at this time of systematic rebuilding. As a result of urban renewal, this neighbourhood also includes Macdonald Manor, Ottawa's first and only public housing initiative run by the city.

Overall, the diversity of Macdonald Gardens' housing and social demography has led to an urban historic landscape whose value lies in its evolution. Here, the alterations to the built fabric and design of the landscape are equally

as important as the historic fabric that is left unaltered. The diverse urban population, coexisting with an urban green space at its centre, has led to a resilient community, able to evolve and accommodate change while maintaining a strong historic landscape.

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*The post-war urban renewal planning scheme in Ottawa left much of Lowertown East devastated, with large swaths of historic buildings destroyed and communities ripped apart.*

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For further information on this project please see the website: [www.macdonalddgardens.wordpress.com](http://www.macdonalddgardens.wordpress.com)

*Victoria Ellis is a recent graduate of the MA in Canadian Studies program at Carleton University, where she focused in heritage conservation. Currently she splits her time between pouring coffee as a barista and giving historical and haunted tours of the city with the Haunted Walk of Ottawa.*

*Susan Ross, OAQ, MRAIC, FAPT, is assistant professor in the Heritage Conservation programme of the School of Canadian Studies at Carleton University.*



*Heney Street looking west. The park's northern gates are visible on the left side of this photo.*

# Back from the brink – 31 Sweetland transformed

By Linda Hoad

On February 17 2015, the Simard House at 31 Sweetland Avenue in Sandy Hill received a City of Ottawa Award of Excellence, Residential/ Commercial in the Restoration category. Although the building had been designated under Part IV the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 1979, and was an important feature of the Sweetland Avenue Heritage Conservation District, neglect had taken its toll. As the jury noted “This restoration project proves that heritage structures can be brought back from the brink, and should be.”

The owner, Fernando Martins, has restored other properties, mainly in Sandy Hill and Centretown, and the family manages them as rental properties. A self-trained builder, Fernando and his wife emigrated from Portugal. He attributes his interest in older, well-crafted buildings to his European heritage where buildings are restored and adapted to new uses rather than demolished.

Martins purchased the property in 2011 in spite of the condition of the foundation and the deplorable state of the interior. The property had been rented for many years and the owner seemed uninterested in keeping the building in good condition.

Working with Douglas Hardie Architect, the owner has built five apartments by adding a relatively small addition which addresses both heritage conservation concerns in a Heritage Conservation District, and the provincial policy that favours intensification. The plans were approved by the Local Architectural Advisory Committee in 2012 and the restoration, based on available



Credit: City of Ottawa

*Simard House, probably 1970s.*

historical evidence and using historic materials was completed in 2014.

## Why the Simard House?

Olivier Simard was the first owner of 31 Sweetland; he was born about 1843 in Ste-Anne de Beaupré, Québec, the son of a farmer. It is not known when he arrived in Ottawa, but he married Marie Louise Laplante dit Champagne here in 1866. In 1871 Olivier Simard, a clerk, his wife and a young son were living with her parents in her father’s hotel, the Cartier Hotel on Sussex Drive.

In the early 1880s the Simard family lived in Archville (now Ottawa East) and Simard was employed in Lowertown Ottawa as a carpenter, cabinetmaker or joiner. Simard purchased the lot on Sweetland Avenue in May 1884 and by 1885, Olivier Simard, carpenter, is listed as a Sweetland Avenue resident in

the City Directory. His house was identified in the Sweetland Avenue Heritage Conservation District (HCD) study as the oldest house in this HCD. We do not know if he built his own home, but his trade may have influenced its distinctive form and materials. His neighbours in the later 1880s included tradesmen and civil servants. Unfortunately, Simard’s wife died of consumption in September 1887 and a month later Simard sold 31 Sweetland Avenue.

Simard continued to work as a carpenter in Ottawa until his death in 1914 at the age of 71. He remarried in 1893; he and his wife had four daughters and lived in the Lower Town and Sandy Hill neighbourhoods until his death.

## Reasons for designation

The Simard House was recommended for designation because of its architectural interest. The house is

Credit: City of Ottawa



*Simard House – maintenance urgently needed*



Photo: Tina Martins

*Simard House prior to renovation – bathroom*

Photo: Linda Hoad



*Simard House during restoration*



Photo: Linda Hoad

*Award winning restoration of 31 Sweetland*

significant as an example of a modest Second Empire style house, featuring typical elements of the style including the mansard roof, dormers and one storey bay window. The front façade features a two-storey tower with diagonal wooden cladding, a later addition. This Second Empire building is a good example of an attractive, although modest, workman's dwelling.

*Linda Hoad is a member of the Board of Heritage Ottawa, and editor of the Newsletter.*

**Sources:**

Files of the Heritage Planners, Planning and Growth Management Department, City of Ottawa.

Interview with the Martins family.

Photo: Tina Martins



*Simard House prior to renovation – upstairs room*

Heritage Ottawa congratulates all those involved in this successful project.



# From the President

By David Jeanes



As we start 2016, we can look back at a very successful year for Heritage Ottawa and look forward to some interesting challenges.

I previously wrote about our September Heritage Forum and the success of our 2015 walking tours. By the end of 2015 we had staged 25 significant events, including lectures and walks, which must be a record. An important upcoming event will be the presentation of our Gordon Cullingham research and publication grants on Heritage Day, 16 February. We are also contributing to the planning of Doors Open Ottawa in June.

After successfully launching our new website, we still had to address rebuilding the French-language structure and content to fulfill our bilingualism commitments to the City of Ottawa. Danielle Jones continued to project manage this work as well as taking on much of the design work and content management. The Board of Directors is preparing a code of ethics, including a conflict of interest policy, for our officers, board members, and some volunteers.

New heritage designations played an important part in our work in 2015. The designation of the 1927 wing of Broadview Public School in February was one such success on which several Heritage Ottawa members collaborated. We continue to support proposed designations by making presentations at meetings of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee and Planning Committee (when required). Heritage Ottawa provided input to the updates of two Heritage Conservation District Plans, including objectives, statement of cultural heritage value, heritage attributes, guidelines and policies.

There have been recent exciting announcements of projects for adaptive re-use of heritage buildings. The purchase of the closed All Saints Anglican church in Sandy Hill by a community group will provide an anchor for the historic Prime Minister's Row and a multipurpose event venue. The renovated basement of the former St. Brigid's church welcomes an Irish pub, known as "Brigid's Well". We were hoping for a reuse opportunity that can save the Bradley-Craig barn in Stittsville.

I attended the Ontario Heritage Conference in Niagara on the Lake, at the end of April. This event was jointly organized by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Community Heritage Ontario, with a strong local organizing committee. Both groups are looking at holding their 2017 conferences in Ottawa and have approached Heritage Ottawa regarding possible co-operation.

After three years as a very hard-working president, Leslie Maitland stepped back to become past-president, vice-chair of the board, and a very active member of the advocacy committee, lecture committee, Cullingham grant committee, and 2017 planning committee. Leslie also continues to spearhead our efforts to conserve the integrity of the Central Experimental Farm. I am very glad to have her looking over my shoulder during my first year as president.

During 2015 we were a member of the Ottawa Cultural Alliance, working to influence the City to meet its commitments to Arts, Culture and Heritage funding. The City budget was a disappointment, but the alliance is still pressing for adequate funding.

While continuing to collaborate closely with the National Capital Commission, we took strong action in two cases where federal initiatives threatened heritage values. We opposed the site selected for the proposed Victims of Communism Monument, on land designated in the government's Long Term Vision and Plan for the parliamentary and judicial precinct. Our participation in a group which applied for an injunction over this location helped to delay the final government decision until after the election, leading to the prospect of a more acceptable location, should the monument project proceed.

Best New Year wishes to all of our members and friends!

David Jeanes

*President, Heritage Ottawa /  
Patrimoine Ottawa*

## Heritage News Now Continued

### Mellos Restaurant Sign



*Mellos Restaurant sign*

The removal of this iconic sign, restored in 2013 with the assistance of a City of Ottawa grant (see *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, vol. 40, no. 4) happened late in the evening of December 21, 2015.

The sign was found the following day in the storage yard of the company who removed it. It seems that the owner of the closed business, and the sign, ordered its removal.

Sally Coutts, Co-ordinator, Heritage Services, stated that since the building is in the ByWard Market Heritage Conservation District, "the building, including its sign, is protected under the Ontario Heritage Act." An application to the Built Heritage Sub-Committee would be required to move it, or change it. She further noted that "No such permission has been given... this is now a police matter."

Watch our website for further developments: <http://www.heritageottawa.org>.

## Upcoming Events

**Heritage Day**  
February 16 2016

**Join Heritage Ottawa in  
celebrating Heritage Day**

**11:30am to 2:00pm at  
Ottawa City Hall**

Special heritage events  
and displays

Presentation of Heritage  
Ottawa's 2015 Gordon  
Cullingham Grant to this  
year's winners.

In addition to Heritage Day, the entire third week of February is Heritage Week. Why not celebrate heritage by visiting a historic site, a heritage property or a museum of by making a donation to Heritage Ottawa to show your support for the preservation of Ottawa's outstanding heritage!

<http://heritageottawa.org/donations>

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**2016 Phillips  
Memorial Lecture**

*Note change of date  
and location*

**Wednesday**  
**February 24 2016**  
**19:00 – 21:00**

**Delegation of the  
Ismaili Imamat**

**199 Sussex Drive - enter by  
the Boteler Street entrance**

Parking is available on Boteler Street, Dalhousie Street, Parent Street, and Bolton Avenue.

**Saving Heritage: Preserving  
History in the Developing  
World**

Speaker: Christophe Bouleau,  
Historic Cities Programme,  
Aga Khan Trust for Culture

Please note that  
**PRE-REGISTRATION IS  
REQUIRED** for this lecture.

<https://www.akfcnetwork.ca/akfc-events/2015/saving-heritage>

The lecture is free and will  
be followed by an informal  
reception.

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**Wednesday March 16 2016**

**7 pm Auditorium Ottawa  
Public Library Main Branch**

Bletchley Park's Outpost:  
A Top-Secret Location in  
Sandy Hill.

Speaker: Diana Pepall, historian  
and librarian.

### **Attention!**

La version française  
de notre site Web est  
maintenant disponible.

<https://heritageottawa.org/fr>

À ce stade du  
développement, certaines  
fonctions ne sont  
disponibles qu'en anglais.

Nous vous invitons à  
explorer notre site Web.