



# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

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## Heritage News Now

### Heritage Ottawa Joins the Heritage Matters Task Force



The recent request to partially demolish Somerset House (352 Somerset Street West) due to its ongoing neglect – despite the City’s enhanced property standards for heritage-designated buildings – has resulted in the Mayor’s creation of a Heritage Matters Task Force.

The Task Force met for the first time on August 24. In addition to the Mayor and chairs of the Planning Committee and Built Heritage Sub-Committee, the task force includes the senior heritage planner, the Chief Building Official, the Chief By-law Officer, staff from the Planning Department and representatives from Heritage Ottawa and the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa.

Identifying the gaps in the city’s enforcement of property standards related to designated buildings’ heritage attributes and finding solutions to prevent a repeat of Somerset House is a priority for the Task Force. And Heritage Ottawa is pleased to be playing an active role in this important undertaking.

Photo: Danielle Jones

## Still a community hub – the transformation of All Saints to *allsaints*

By Caroline Ross

### Heritage Church For Sale

In August 2014, more than a century after its first service, All Saints Anglican Church in Sandy Hill closed its doors, and put its building up for sale. The congregation moved to other Anglican parishes in Ottawa, including St. Margaret’s in Vanier and St. Alban’s in Sandy Hill, and the neighbourhood braced itself for the residential development that was sure to follow. Sandy Hill, one of Ottawa’s oldest neighbourhoods, has been plagued by “spot” rezoning and has lost a number of historic buildings to unsympathetic residential redevelopment or demolition; community members feared that All Saints would meet the same fate and Sandy Hill would lose another community hub and landmark.



*The Chapel, formerly the home of Bettye Hyde Co-operative Nursery School*

Luckily for Sandy Hill, the story of the sale of All Saints has a happy ending: the church was purchased by a community group steered by Leanne Moussa, a neighbourhood force who in 2012 had also championed the purchase of the Carriage House a block away from All Saints to house the church’s former tenant, the Bettye Hyde Nursery School.

(see *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, vol 41, no. 2) Moussa reached out to private and community investors, and on December 18, 2015 the Anglican Diocese sold All Saints to All Saints Development Inc. for a reported \$1.52 million. By the time the sale was finalized, All Saints had been on the market for over a year. Luckily for Sandy Hill and what remains of its heritage character, the Anglican Diocese wanted to sell to a buyer who would ensure public space would remain available for

All photos: Caroline Ross

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

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## Still a community hub cont'd.

some of the existing community uses. Moussa's plan for the building aligns with the Diocese's vision nicely, and includes the creation of mixed-use spaces that will respond to community needs. So far, a café has opened, fitness classes are offered, and office space has been made available for different organizations, complementing the organizations that occupy other historic buildings along Laurier Avenue East. Tenants that used space in All Saints before the sale have been able to continue doing so, and *allsaints* eventually hopes to establish itself as a multi-faith worship space and destination for community-oriented events.

### All Saints Heritage

Located in the heart of Sandy Hill on the southeast corner at Laurier Avenue East and Chapel Street, All Saints is a gothic-revival Anglican church designed by Ottawa-based, British-born architect Alfred M. Calderon. Construction began in April 1899, was completed the following year, and the church was formally consecrated in early 1914. However, the heritage value of All Saints lies in more than the fact that



*The Lower Hall, potential future home of a restaurant and wine bar.*

it is a historic building in a historic neighbourhood. All Saints was designated as a heritage building under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 1998 due to both its cultural and architectural significance. Part of the heritage streetscape on Laurier Avenue East, the church is located across the street from Laurier House, home to two former Prime Ministers, Sir Wilfred Laurier and William Lyon Mackenzie King. In 1937, it was the site of a third former Prime Minister's state funeral, that of Sir Robert Borden, who was also a member of the All Saints congregation. All Saints was the site of a royal wedding in 1924, when Lois Booth, granddaughter of Ottawa lumber baron J.R. Booth, married Prince



*Office space soon to be occupied by Know History.*



*The apse and the altar.*

Erik von Rosenberg of Denmark, and it also played a part in Canada's suffrage movement under the leadership of Laura Borden. Because of its connections to Prime Ministers past, All Saints is considered part of Prime Ministers' Row. (see article on page 8 ) The new All Saints (now known as *allsaints*) owners support the Prime Ministers' Row project, and there is potential for an interpretive centre to be built on the property. Such a project would not

only engage Sandy Hill residents, but would also draw in visitors from outside the neighbourhood and city, and would make Sandy Hill, and *allsaints*, a destination.

### **The Future of *allsaints***

With 27,000 square feet available, including 200 feet facing Laurier Avenue East, *allsaints* has the opportunity to enliven this part of Sandy Hill's main thoroughfare. Along with the potential of

Prime Ministers' Row, the building extension dating from the 1930s that holds Bate Hall and the Guild Room will be redeveloped according to need. Only the original section of the building, including the main Church, the Chapel, and the Lower Hall, are protected by the heritage designation. Any development on the property would support the maintenance of the designated assets, both architecturally and financially. The long-term plan is eventually to build out to Laurier, over the current playground and garden, but not for at least another three years. The *allsaints* team has already begun holding community consultations to contribute to the site's development plan.

The Guild Room café is a space to draw in community members and encourage networking and community development. *Allsaints* has also designated space for an art gallery, to feature installations from local artists on a monthly rotation; studio space is also available to rent, and already hosts a few artists. The long-term goal for the Lower Hall and the Chapel, directly underneath the main Church space, is to open a restaurant and wine bar, but in the meantime the spaces are available for event rentals. Stone masons have been busy restoring the space's stone and brickwork that was hidden behind drywall until now.

### **Sandy Hill's heritage character under pressure**

The centrally-located neighbourhood of Sandy Hill has five Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs), all of which were designated in 1982. However, the community association, Action Sandy Hill, has had to oppose the City and the University of Ottawa on a number of developments in recent years, and continues to be concerned that Sandy Hill is losing its heritage

character to oversized and often unsympathetic conversions. When All Saints appeared on the market in the summer of 2014, a controversial residential development affecting the heritage streetscape at Laurier and Friel, a corner with historic buildings but ultimately unprotected by an HCD designation, had just been approved. The decision added to the more than 3000 new apartment and condo units being developed in Sandy Hill at the time, many of them by conversion of the neighbourhood's single family homes to multi-unit residential buildings to accommodate the growing number of University of Ottawa students looking for housing close to campus. Since All Saints is a designated heritage building, any construction or development would be limited. However, with a listing price of \$1.7 million, the redevelopment of All Saints as a residential complex was a possible outcome, similar to the development of St. Clement Catholic Church at Russell and Mann Avenues, a mere four blocks away.



*Stained glass window at the back of the nave.*

The sale of All Saints in December 2015 let Sandy Hill residents and heritage aficionados city-wide breathe a sigh of relief, but the very real threat of yet another historic

building in Sandy Hill being rezoned and redeveloped into a residential complex points to a larger problem with city planning policy response to development in heritage neighbourhoods. The failure to ease development pressures in Sandy Hill is due in part to the Built Heritage Sub-Committee's limited mandate and the allowance of "spot" rezonings throughout the neighbourhood. Though it is certainly impossible to save every heritage building in Sandy Hill, community groups and individuals, inspired by the successful purchase and conversion of the Carriage House, took it upon themselves to advocate against the loss of this significant heritage church property and, under the leadership of Leanne Moussa, formed the group Save the Saints, to do just that.

With Moussa and other dedicated community members at the helm of *allsaints*, its future and its position in the community looks equally bright. Places of worship have been the centre of communities for many centuries, and it is fitting that All Saints, a place of historic significance to Sandy Hill, will remain open as a community hub for years to come.

Heritage Ottawa's annual Heritage Forum will take place at *allsaints* Ottawa on October 15, 2016. Details will be available on Heritage Ottawa's website ([www.heritageottawa.org](http://www.heritageottawa.org)) closer to the event. We hope you can join us for a tour of Prime Ministers' Row, and an afternoon of presentations and discussion in this incredible heritage space in downtown Ottawa.

*Caroline Ross is a life-long resident of Sandy Hill, and has been working and volunteering for heritage organizations since completing a History degree in 2013.*



*AllSaints, corner of Chapel and Laurier.*

# From the President

By David Jeanes



## New office, New faces

After the AGM we welcomed our new board members: Martin Rice, Glen Gower, and Stephanie Elliott. Following an excellent response to our Manager Intern competition and a difficult choice, we hired Amber Polywkan. She immediately faced the challenges of our move to a smaller office on June 16<sup>th</sup>, with a new telephone and internet provider, and the submission of our Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant application on June 30<sup>th</sup>. She will be working four days a week (up from two days) in September.

## Partnerships

Heritage Ottawa offered walking tours in partnership with Jane's Walk weekend, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Nicholas Sparks celebration and Bytown Days along the Rideau Canal. Another collaboration was the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership's "Welcoming Ottawa Week" in June, where we assisted with their grant application and on the planning of the walking tours. More recently we partnered with

the city on Archaeology Month in August by contributing a walking tour and attending the archaeology dig launch on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Again in collaboration with others, we mounted Heritage Ottawa displays at North Grenville Heritage Forum in Kemptonville on April 1 and Colonel By Day at the Bytown Museum on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Heritage Ottawa is a partner with the City in Doors Open Ottawa which includes membership on the Advisory Council, assistance with packing of building kits for the event, and the investigation of potential grants for special initiatives in 2017.

## Advocacy

The work of our Advocacy Committee has resulted in a number of presentations to the City's Built Heritage Subcommittee (BHSC) and Planning Committee. We spoke in support of the community association for the successful designation of Overbrook Public School. We spoke to BHSC and Planning Committee on "demolition by neglect" at Somerset House and were interviewed on CBC Radio. Although a controlled partial demolition was approved, the request created the impetus for the Mayor's Task Force. We have a good working relationship with the City's heritage planners, who brief our Board and invite our comments on reports. BHSC Chair Tobi Nussbaum met with our Board in April to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, Heritage Ottawa director and architectural advisor Ken Elder, member Prof. Bruce Elliott and I toured Broadview Public

School, designated in 2015, with School Board members and staff, MPP Yasir Naqvi, and community members regarding adaptive re-use potential.

At the Federal level, we continue to monitor the NCC Board meetings and activities. As a member of Protect the Farm, we continue to oppose the use of Central Experimental Farm research lands for the Ottawa Hospital and look forward to the upcoming public consultations. The future of the Rideau Canal World Heritage Site is another of our advocacy files. We are also watching a prominent neglected and vacant property, 24 Sussex Drive! We have given several interviews about the heritage value of the building and the positive impact of adaptive re-use.

## Programmes

We have reprinted the popular *Werner Ernst Noffke: Ottawa's Architect* with an improved binding, since the first edition had sold out.

Our application for a 2017 Cultural Grant to publish 'Heritage Ottawa – Centennial to Sesquicentennial – 50 years-50 stories' was not approved in spite of an excellent proposal and presentation by those involved. We will find other ways for this important project, led by Ken Elder, to go forward.

David Jeanes

*President, Heritage Ottawa /  
Patrimoine Ottawa*

# Recent Designations Under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

By *Madeline Marsh*

(Based on reports prepared by City of Ottawa Heritage Planning Staff)



66 Lisgar

## Snowdon House, 66 Lisgar and Magee House, 78 Lisgar

Located in present-day Centretown, this pair of homes serves as a reminder of the lifestyles of Ottawa's elite in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Snowdon house was built in 1891, most likely by Charles Magee for his daughter Caroline and her new husband, Reverend J.M. Snowdon. Snowdon served as the rector of St. George's Anglican Church and the home served as the church's rectory. In 1895, Toronto architect Matthew Sheard designed Magee House for Charles Magee. Magee got his start in the dry goods business before moving on to become the trustee of The Sparks Estate, a prominent holder of real estate, and the founder of the Bank of Ottawa.

Both houses stand as well-preserved examples of the Queen Anne Revival style of architecture. Features of this style include a rich palette of materials, such as decorative red brick and wooden detailing, irregular rooflines with fish-scale slate roofing, projecting gables and bays, and elaborate cornices and bargeboards. Both

buildings also feature a variety of windows with decorative glass.

Magee house has served as accommodation for HMCS Bytown Mess since 1943. Snowdon House has housed a teachers' association and a law firm before its current role as headquarters of the Navy League of Canada.



Hartin Hotel

## Hartin Hotel, 1993 Robertson Road

A reminder of Bell's Corners' evolution from a rural farming community to one of Ottawa's suburbs, the Hartin Hotel has served as a local watering hole for much of its life since 1870. The Hotel has earned its designation for preserving the 19<sup>th</sup> century rural, classically-inspired style of hotel and for its place in the history of its community. The building originally located on this plot of land, Malcolmson's Tavern, burned down in the Carleton County Fire of 1870. David Hartin, a wealthy farmer and mill owner, began construction on his hotel within the year. Ideally situated between Richmond and Ottawa, farmers travelling to and from the markets found Hartin's Hotel to be a welcome stop.

The two-storey limestone building features several elements of the classical style, such as a symmetrical façade, chimneys atop a side-gable roof, and decorative voussoirs and quoins. Since its construction, the Hotel has served as a bank and several different types of restaurant. As a result, it has undergone renovations and additions which have not been included in its designation.



Broadview Public School

## Broadview Public School, 590 Broadview Avenue

Broadview Public School has served as the educational heart of its neighbourhood since its construction in 1927. Richards and Abra, a prolific Ottawa architectural firm, designed the building following a 1926 fire that destroyed the school previously located on this property. They built the school in the Collegiate Gothic style, which was very popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The two-storey building with its high basement is an excellent example of this style, featuring red brick with limestone detail and carved stone decorative panels. The symmetrical façades and flat roof are also typical of this style.

Since its construction, the school has been expanded. These additions responded to the development of the area, particularly following WWII and the subsequent baby-boom. Not only is Broadview Public School demonstrative of the

Photos: City of Ottawa

popular architecture at the time of its construction; it defines the character of the neighbourhood and its growth. Only the original Public School is included in this designation.



*St. Anne's Rectory*

## **St. Anne's Rectory, 17 Myrand Avenue**

Currently housing the headquarters for the National House of Prayer, St. Anne's Rectory stands as an imposing example of the Beaux-Arts style. Designed in 1921 by W.E. Noffke, who also designed many buildings in the surrounding Lowertown area, the Rectory forms the southern boundary of an ecclesiastical complex. In addition to serving as a visual landmark, it holds an important place in the history of the growth of the Francophone Roman Catholic community. St. Anne's Parish was established to accommodate the growing population, and its rectory provided a centre for social and cultural life in the community. As such, it holds significant value for understanding the history of Lowertown.

One of the most prominent features of the building is the pedimented main entrance, featuring a double-height portico and giant Corinthian columns. The raised main façade and arcaded balcony on the west façade

are also impressive focal points, typical of this architectural style. To imitate the grey limestone typically used for major Roman Catholic buildings, marbled concrete was used in the construction of the Rectory. Much of the original construction and details, including the interior details of finished woodwork and fireplace, survive today. As a result, the

Rectory of St. Anne's Parish is an excellent example of both Noffke's architectural work and the Beaux-Arts style.



*7 Bayview Road*

## **7 Bayview Road**

Everything about this former City of Ottawa municipal building screams function, staying true to the Industrial-Modern style chosen by the City Design Engineer Joseph Holmes Irvine. The two-storey wings flanking the one-storey centre wing are typical of the style, as are the multi-pane steel windows with inset hopper windows. These windows allow as much natural

light as possible into the building while the loading doors found on all of the building's façades remind us of its function. The sole decorative detail adorning the red-brick veneer is the "City of Ottawa Workshops" engraved on the south elevation. This building, the only one remaining of the City of Ottawa municipal works complex that began in the 1930s, was built between 1941 and 1942 and housed the Engineering Workshops, Stores, Complaints Bureau/Sewer Maintenance, and Waterworks divisions of the City.

Irvine's building borders three historic communities: LeBreton Flats, Mechanicsville, and Hintonburg. All of these communities remind us of the industrial character of the Bayview area and the railroad boom of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. 7 Bayview fulfilled its

original intended purpose until it was vacated in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 2013 a partnership of the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario, and the private sector (with a federal government contribution in 2016), initiated a plan to repurpose the building as an Innovation Centre for Invest Ottawa.

The first phase of this adaptive reuse plan is scheduled to open in November of this year. The interior of the building and the addition at the northwest corner of the building are not included in this designation.

*Madeline Marsh is a recent graduate from the Department of History at Middlebury College, where she focused her research on Canadian Military History. Currently she works as a hockey goaltending coach across the City of Ottawa.*

# Walking in the Footsteps of Nation-Builders – the Prime Ministers’ Row

(adapted with permission from the project website and newsletter *News & Views* vol. 1 no. 1, May 2016)

Photos: Linda Hooad



*Stadacona Hall*

Prime Ministers’ Row/L’Allée des Premiers ministres is a community-based not-for-profit initiative co-founded by Sandy Hill residents Suneeta Millington and Leanne Moussa. Inspired by what they learned while researching the history and role of All Saints Anglican Church in the community - when the sale of this heritage building was imminent (see page 1) – the idea of ‘Prime Ministers’ Row’ was born.

Laurier Avenue East from King Edward Avenue to Strathcona Park as well as its surrounding neighbourhood, Sandy Hill, have been home to seven Fathers of Confederation, ten Prime Ministers, and many distinguished Canadians including Tommy Douglas, Sir Sandford Fleming, WWI flying ace Billy Bishop, ‘Confederation Poet’ Archibald Lampman and Canada’s first female Senator Cairine Wilson, as well as lumber barons, Supreme Court justices, Cabinet Ministers, Mayors, Lieutenant Governors, and Clerks of the Privy Council. Today, when Canadians walk along Laurier Avenue, they are quite literally walking in the footsteps of our nation-builders.

A number of their houses remain in modern Sandy Hill, including three on Laurier Avenue itself - Macdonald’s Stadacona Hall, Diefenbaker’s apartment at The Strathcona, and Laurier’s Laurier House, where Mackenzie King also resided and had his principal office (now a National Historic Site). Others within

a few blocks include Tupper’s Daly Street residence, Pearson’s Augusta Street cottage and Trudeau’s suite on Besserer St. Moreover, the former All Saints Church, across the street from Laurier House, was the regular house of worship for Sir Robert Borden, whose State funeral was also held here, and St. Alban the Martyr Church at King Edward Avenue served the same role for Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper. Truly no other avenue in Canada can boast this bounty of historical riches.

The project will leverage the extraordinary built heritage assets of Sandy Hill to tell the story of these nation-builders – both their successes and their failures – while at the same time encouraging Canadians to think about the contemporary issues facing and shaping Canada and its future. The plan is to create an innovative, interactive, multi-block, multi-media outdoor ‘street museum’ that will include, amongst other elements: an infrastructure transformation along Laurier Avenue East, as well as related greenspace improvements to Strathcona Park and Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park; a series of structural additions such as entrance arches,

public art, wayfinding markers, lighting fixtures, seating installations, and a tree canopy; programming and events ranging from interpretive programs to speaker series to pop-up street art; and multimedia platforms such as online games, a content-rich website, social media platforms and a mobile app.

Prime Ministers’ Row – which will launch in 2017 during Canada’s sesquicentennial year - was recently recognized by the National Capital Commission as part of the 17 Milestone Projects which will form part of the new Plan for Canada’s Capital. The project is guided by a group of diverse and distinguished Special Advisors, Directors and Steering Committee Members, who are serving to set the strategic vision, provide expert advice and implement this complex and multi-layered project.

The Heritage Ottawa Forum to be held at *allsaints* on October 15<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with Action Sandy Hill, will offer a pre-conference tour including Prime Ministers Row. More information about this exciting project and how you can help can be found on the website: <https://pmr-apm.ca/>.



*Laurier House*