



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

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Heritage News Now



www.heritageottawa.org

In celebration of our 50th anniversary this year, we've been sharing the stories of 50 buildings that Heritage Ottawa helped save during 50 years of advocacy work on behalf of the city's historic places.

The stories – with entertaining tidbits and fabulous photos – are unfolding weekly on our website at heritageottawa.org.

Don't miss out, 20 stories have already been posted! And we think you'll want to share some of these with friends.

The stories are also available in French.

Heritageottawa.org/publications



Heritage Ottawa Visits Perth

By Nicole Sammut



Photo credit: Nicole Sammut

Professor Andrew Pamenter, Carpentry & Joinery – Heritage, Algonquin College Heritage Institute

Participants, volunteers and Board Members took part in Heritage Ottawa's field trip to visit Perth, Ontario. The trip marked one of the celebratory events planned by the Canada 150 Heritage Ottawa committee, celebrating Heritage Ottawa's 50th Year.

Our visit started at the Algonquin College, Perth Campus where

participants were introduced to the Heritage Institute programs by Chris Hahn, Dean of Perth Campus and Lindsay Derragh, College Ambassador & Student Recruitment Specialist. Members had the opportunity to visit state of the art laboratories with heritage specialists and faculty members, Darrin MacDonald of heritage stone masonry and

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

Hunter McGill
Guest 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

David Jeanes
President

Leslie Maitland
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(vacant)
Vice-President Operations

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Hunter McGill, Carolyn Quinn,
Martin Rice, Nicole Sammut,
Katherine Spencer-Ross.

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

Visits Perth cont'd.

Andrew Pamerter of heritage carpentry. In these programs students often come into the field from previous post-secondary studies, "Students hold a great appreciation for these types of programs, as it helps them connect theory with practice... some students become exceedingly passionate about their research projects, choosing only original, hand-crafted tools of the trade." Visitors saw technical innovations in tool design, and methods and practices of study within the fields of masonry and carpentry.

Perth Campus students complete both independent and collaborative, on-site projects, learning about materials, construction, as well as ongoing maintenance and care. One of the projects completed by a group of students in the masonry program was an aqueduct composed of brick and mortar. An outstanding project and reminder of Roman innovation and engineering, students integrated a series of rounded arches within the arcade,

decorated by elaborate keystones and supported by buttresses. Additionally visitors had an opportunity to view the raising of a timber roof by students and faculty member, Mark Duffe in-situ, helping students enrolled in a part-time summer continuing education course with one of their summer projects.

In the afternoon, tour participants had the opportunity to complete a walking tour of the town with Perth Town Crier, Brent McLaren. Brent entertained the crowd with animated stories and descriptions of Perth that have become part of the fabric of the town's history and charm. Participants also had a guided tour of Matheson House, a residence established in the 1840s, now the Perth Museum, a National Historic Site located in the historic area of Gore Street, just minutes from the Algonquin campus.

Heritage Ottawa would like to extend thanks to all facilitators who helped make this day a great success.

For upcoming information and notices of additional field trip opportunities, please visit our website <https://heritageottawa.org/>.



*Coordinator Darrin MacDonald, Heritage Masonry, Algonquin College
Heritage Institute*

Photo credit: Nicole Sammut

Exploring the Capital: An Architectural Guide to the Ottawa-Gatineau Region

Reviewed by Heather McArthur

In 1983, architectural historian Harold Kalman published *Exploring Ottawa* as an architectural guidebook to the city. Much has changed since the publication of that volume: many buildings have been added to the urban landscape and some buildings have disappeared; neighbourhoods have evolved; and the concept of the Capital has expanded to fully encompass both sides of the Ottawa River.

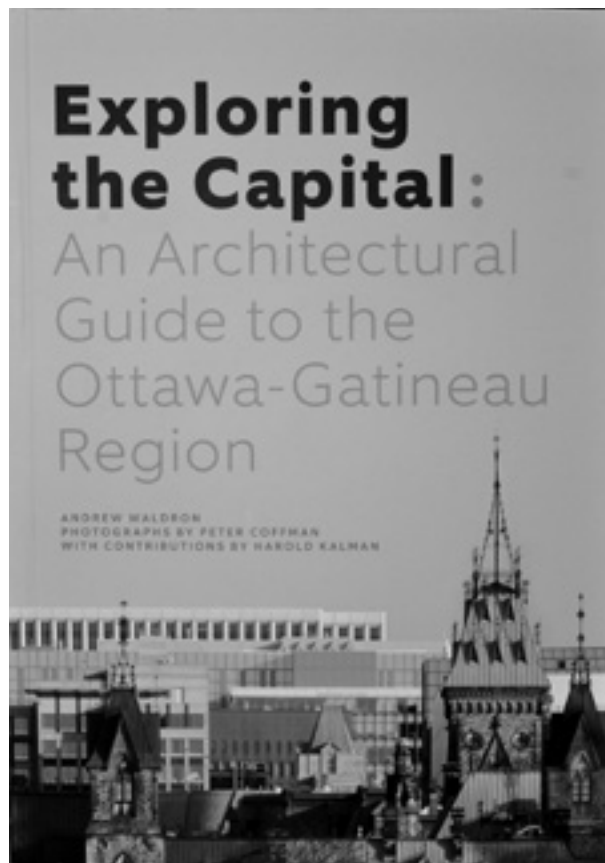
Now we have *Exploring the Capital: An Architectural Guide to the Ottawa-Gatineau Region*, by author and architectural historian Andrew Waldron. This newly published volume takes a more regional view, looking beyond 'official' Ottawa, as it invites readers to discover, understand and appreciate the architectural heritage of various neighbourhoods and areas in both Ottawa and Gatineau.

This up-to-date volume offers readers 11 self-guided tours through a diversity of well-known and lesser known areas including: Parliament Hill, the Byward Market, the Rideau Canal, and Sandy Hill; as well as Alta Vista, Vanier, Hull and the Chaudière, Nepean, the Greenbelt and beyond.

Accompanied by a keyed route map, each tour begins with a snapshot essay providing a brief overview of the area and

the recommended mode of travel — walking, cycling, driving. While these introductions appear truncated at first, it is through reading the ensuing stories of individual buildings and sites that the introduction is rounded out and a more complete picture of each neighbourhood begins to emerge. Featured buildings and sites range from the monumental to the modest; representing periods from early history to the contemporary. Each of the more than 350 buildings and sites is beautifully illustrated with photographs by architectural historian and photographer Peter Coffman.

Any guide book is necessarily rooted in and confined to its time and place of publishing. This book is offered as a catalyst to explore, to learn and to contemplate the richness of the nation's capital region, as it exists 150 years after Confederation. In this way, *Exploring the Capital* is not your typical guidebook. Star ratings and 'must see' descriptions of high style architecture are set aside. Instead, this generous and thoughtful guide



proposes a different kind of Grand Tour — a reflection on our history and identity, and a glimpse of the region as we experience and know it today.

This book will be an asset for the architectural historian, the history scholar, the student, the impassioned resident and visitor alike

Heritage Ottawa is pleased to have sponsored this publication through the Gordon Cullingham Research Grant.

Heather McArthur is a member of the board of directors of Heritage Ottawa.

The Opinicon Lodge and Resort Rescued, Revived and Restored

By Hunter McGill

The Opinicon Lodge has been a fixture in Chaffey's Lock for almost 100 years. Built in 1921, on the site of a private fishing club called Idlwyld, the lodge was owned until 2014 by the Phillips/Cross families and its main lodge, 15 rental cottages, 3 houses and a general store and snack bar covered 6.5 hectares on the shore of Opinicon Lake, part of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Opinicon was a quintessential early-20th century fishing lodge, where families (many from the United States) would come for the summer, spending weeks in residence with daddy going fishing

every day with a local guide while mummy and the kids played, swam, and enjoyed the pleasures of a beautiful setting in the heart of the Rideau Lakes. The Lodge, with its classic wooden main building with dining room and wrap-around veranda looking over lawns running down to the water, was the largest of its type on the Rideau system.

Chaffey's Lock takes its name from Samuel Chaffey who built a grist and carding mill, a sawmill and a distillery on the site around 1820. When Col. John By of the Royal Engineers settled on the design of the lock here, there was quite a prolonged negotiation with Samuel Chaffey's heirs to

acquire the land, the man himself having died of malaria in 1827. Chaffey's Lock, connecting Opinicon Lake and Newboro Lake is Lock 37 of the 49 locks on the Rideau Canal from Ottawa to Kingston; the work was done by John Sheriff & Co., with the chief stonemason being John Haggart of Perth. The Rideau Canal has operated continuously since opening in 1832, longer than any other historic canal in North America.

By 2013 the Opinicon was showing its age and after the death of the then owner, Janice Cross, it closed – for renovations. In mid-2014 the heirs put the property on the market, where it lingered



Photo: Ottawa Citizen

A group portrait at "Idylwild" (later Opinicon) Hotel in Chaffey's Lock.



Photo: The Opinicon website, www.opinicon.com

The Opinicon resort, 2017

for some months. In the autumn of the year the Opinicon was put up for auction. An Ottawa couple, Fiona McKean and Tobias Lutke were drawn to the property given Fiona's childhood memories of visits from a nearby cottage, to get ice cream cones from the lodge general store. Her plan from the outset was to restore the Opinicon to a welcoming, family-oriented, heritage hotel.

The work has proven to be rewarding and challenging. The challenges centre around balancing heritage preservation, commercial viability and the many building and safety code requirements now in place for properties of this type. There were many surprises. No two doors on the entire property had the same

dimensions. None of the electrical wiring met modern code standards. There was asbestos here and there, requiring special measures for removal and subsequent restoration of the affected areas. Squirrels had created access to the roof and attic areas of most if not all of the buildings. Many of the majestic trees on the property were in danger of falling on the buildings. And to cap things off, at certain areas on the site there were deposits of hazardous substances, a legacy of an era when attitudes were more casual about coal and petroleum storage. But Fiona and Tobi have persevered, committed to renewing an important part of the heritage of the Rideau Waterway. The alternative could have been a trailer park!

The work to restore the Opinicon has proceeded, despite the complications. The main building, resplendent in fresh paint, houses a popular dining room and visitors again enjoy lounging – pre- and post-meal – on the veranda. The cottages are available to rent and the grocery and snack bar are back in operation. Perhaps most welcome to present day clients, the Opinicon has a liquor license – talk about sign of the times! It is the intention of the owners to make the heritage establishment commercially viable, and they recognize the importance of the Opinicon as a social enterprise in the community, creating as it does up to 100 jobs, depending on the season.

Barbara Humphreys Shaped My Career

By Stuart Lazear

It started on the Rideau...

What started on the Rideau was my first job in heritage and a long career in heritage. In 1967, 50 years ago, Barbara Humphreys hired me to work on a heritage survey of early stone residences along the Rideau waterway between Ottawa and Kingston. It was an Opportunity for Youth (OFY) summer student program, similar to Young Canada Works today. My partner in that adventure was Mike Dawson, a dynamic young man with a convertible MGB sports car. We travelled down many back roads evading barking dogs and enjoying the hospitality of the many people we encountered. Mike felt there was a fortune to be made in making thatched roofs and he planned to go to England to study how they were made. Mike Dawson did become a roofing contractor in Ottawa but thatched roofs are still waiting for their moment in the sun.

It ended on the Rideau...

Perhaps I was inspired by the entrepreneurial zeal of my fellow heritage recorder or perhaps I was simply captivated by the beauty of the corroded flat iron acting as a doorstop on one of the many entrances we visited but I really felt a desire to own that piece of history. I departed from my role as heritage recorder and asked the homeowner if he was willing

We travelled down many back roads evading barking dogs and enjoying the hospitality of the many people we encountered.

to sell the flat iron. He, in turn, asked me to suggest a price and based on my five seconds in the antique business, I suggested ten dollars. There might have been a millisecond from the time I made the offer, the handshake and the exchange of money but we were both happy with the deal. At the end of that summer I started at McGill and was wandering the streets of Old Montreal instead of studying. I looked into the window of an antique store where numerous flat irons in mint condition were on display. The price of each was ten dollars. So ended my short-lived career in antique collecting. I kept the flat iron for many years and used it as a door stop but after tripping over it one too many times I gave it away. I still admire antiques and enjoyed setting up displays for Heritage Ottawa at the annual antique heritage fair at the Nepean Sportsplex. My days as a collector, however, began and ended on the Rideau.

Returning....

I have participated in many heritage inventories across Canada since that initial survey along the Rideau. In fact, I thought I had learned to

be a reasonable architectural photographer until I saw the exquisite images by Peter Coffman in *Exploring the Capital : An Architectural Guide to the Ottawa-Gatineau Region* by Andrew Waldron and so I am now officially retiring my “instamatic” camera.

My return to the Rideau was brought about immediately prior to and following municipal amalgamation in 2001 which consolidated the former Rideau Township and ten other local governments into one. Municipal amalgamation extended my heritage planning role at the City of Ottawa and I considered myself very fortunate to travel around once again to admire the architectural gems and streetscapes of areas such as Manotick, Burritt’s Rapids, North Gower and Pierce’s Corners. I had the opportunity to meet with existing heritage associations and former municipal heritage advisory committees to discuss heritage planning and grant assistance for building restoration. Following a presentation to the Rideau Township Historical Society at the beautiful Rideau Branch Archives in North Gower, a familiar voice came up to me and asked if I remembered her. It was not someone I would or will ever forget...It was Barbara Humphreys.

Stuart Lazear served as Head, Heritage Planning Services for the City of Ottawa until 2016.

Mayor's Heritage Matters Task Force – Update

By Linda Hoad

The Built Heritage Sub-Committee (BHSC) received a report on May 11 on the work of the Heritage Matters Task Force. Heritage Ottawa lobbied for the creation of the Task Force and our former president David Flemming represents Heritage Ottawa on this body. Board member Carolyn Quinn represents the BHSC on the Task Force.

Vacant and Boarded Up Heritage Buildings

Over the winter of 2016-2027 a Property Standards Officer surveyed all known vacant



The Boyd house.

designated heritage buildings, identified heritage attributes and issued property standards orders as required. This work resulted in a list of vacant and/or boarded up buildings which includes the address, a photograph, and a list of the heritage attributes to be protected. (A copy of this list is available on the Heritage Ottawa website.)

As a result of this work, about 10 Property Standards Orders have been issued to ensure compliance. In addition, three orders were before the courts, four properties were in the process of being re-developed, and 10 were properly secured.

The buildings on the list will be monitored and updated by staff of Heritage and Urban Design and Property Standards and additional orders will be issued as required.

Unfortunately, there is **no requirement to occupy a building** and it is permissible to leave buildings vacant and boarded up as long as they meet the requirements of the Property Standards By-law.

Heritage Ottawa encourages members to keep a watchful eye on these listed properties and any others, heritage or not, and report any issues to 311 (phone) or on-line at 311@ottawa.ca. The address is required and a photo of the problem may be helpful if you can provide one.

Next steps

The focus of the Task Force will now shift to improving communication with heritage property owners and exploring incentives, programs and ideas from other municipalities that could be implemented here to encourage heritage property owners to keep their properties in good repair or alter them as appropriate.

Linda Hoad is a member of the Board of Heritage Ottawa and serves as Vice President, Programmes.



330 Gilmour Street.

From the President

By David Jeanes



Let me begin by welcoming Krista Gowan, Peter Coffman and Ian Doull as new members of Heritage Ottawa's Board.

Our excellent lecture series concluded on June 21, and our 23 summer-fall walking tours are well underway. Heritage Ottawa's "50 Years-50 Stories" is rolling out on our website. I have attended four of the new tours so far, with good turnouts and strong volunteer support despite heat, rain and traffic disruptions.

The Ontario Heritage Conference was a great success. I attended the sessions and tours, gave a downtown heritage walk and stood in as master of ceremonies at the Museum of Nature banquet, introducing Barry Padolsky, who gave a fascinating talk on the museum renovation.

Doors Open Ottawa on June 3-4 had a record number of buildings and visitors. Carolyn Quinn (our new VP-Communications) and I represent Heritage Ottawa on the Advisory Council. We participated in the launch event, volunteer training, building kit preparation, and inspecting new participant buildings during the weekend.

Colonel By weekend events were scaled back this year and there was no tent for heritage, historic and museum displays at the Bytown Museum. However, I led the Rideau Canal walking tour on Sunday August 6 from the Museum to the Corktown bridge.

Heritage Ottawa's partnerships with other organizations involved many

meetings in May and June. The Ottawa Cultural Alliance is making progress towards a major city-funded Arts-Culture-Heritage study. I also represented Heritage Ottawa at annual general meetings for the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO/COPO), Federation of Citizen's Associations and Historical Society of Ottawa. As a joint activity with the Ottawa Local Immigrant Partnership, supported by a grant to Heritage Ottawa from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, we held 12 walking tours of multicultural neighbourhoods during Welcoming Ottawa Week in late June.

I also took part the successful bus tour to Perth, archives training offered by CHOO/COPO, an NCC environmental strategy workshop, consultation on the Natural Resources Canada Booth Street Complex, presentation of the Victims of Communism monument design, unveiling the new Bank of Canada Museum, and the book launch for Andrew Waldron's "Exploring Ottawa".

David Jeanes, President, Heritage Ottawa / Patrimoine Ottawa

Heritage Ottawa Annual Heritage Forum

Kars, September 30, 2017

Heritage Ottawa will partner with the Rideau Township Historical Society for this year's heritage forum, which will focus on rural issues. Speakers will include representatives from the City Heritage Planning Section and the City Archives, who will provide information on their roles in heritage preservation.

A lunch-time tour of the village of Kars will be offered.

Save the date – more information will be available on the Heritage Ottawa website in the coming weeks.



Trinity United Church, Kars, Ontario

Photo credit: Mudbooks