



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

February 2018 Volume 45, No. 1

Heritage News Now

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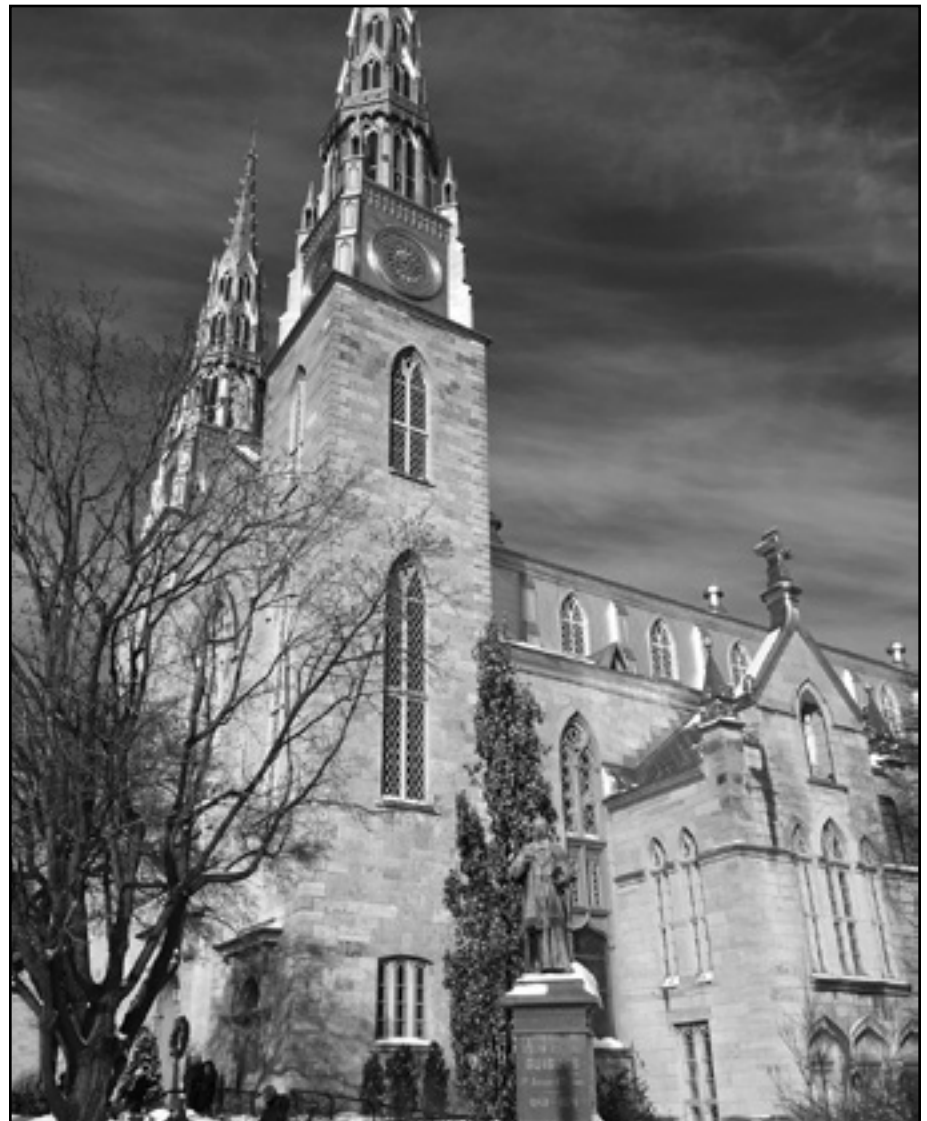
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Notre Dame Cathedral Historic Sites and Monuments Board Plaque Unveiled

By Richard Belliveau



Photos Credit all: Richard Belliveau

Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

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

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Plaque Unveiled cont'd.



In advance of a joyous Christmas concert, a plaque from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada was unveiled at Notre Dame cathedral basilica by federal MP Mona Fortier, and the Archbishop of Ottawa, Rev. Terrence Prendergast, on December 13. The plaque recognizes the significance of this basilica in the life and history of Ottawa.

Its historic importance to Ottawa has long been recognized – the City designated it as a heritage property in 1978, and the federal government in 1990. This plaque confirms the designation as a national historic site.

While we may take the presence of Notre Dame cathedral for granted, it is indeed a rather special historic and living piece of monumental architecture in this city. Sited on what has now become one of

the city's most important public squares facing the National Gallery of Canada plaza, and with its silver spires gleaming in the northern sun, reflecting in their elevation the spires of the Parliament Buildings on the hill across the way, this church (though not its spires) predates the Parliament Buildings and the incorporation of the City of Ottawa in 1855.

Notre Dame parish was founded in 1837 and a first parish church was built on this site in 1842 for the mostly French Catholic and Irish population of Bytown. This area was home to hundreds of French Canadians and Irish Catholic navvies who had filled Bytown to work on the construction of the Rideau Canal and locks, later augmented by the arrival of “famine Irish”.

The diocese of Ottawa was created in 1847, and the mother church

of the new bishop, Rev Joseph-Eugène Guigues, thus became a cathedral, the construction of which continued for nearly forty more years. It is built in a Canadian neo-Gothic style, popular in French Canada. The end result, with the two tall spires and bell towers completed only in 1858, was magnificent for its time, but even now is imposing in its setting along Sussex Drive.

The gilded statue of the Madonna and child installed in 1866 at the top of the front façade gable is said to have been donated by Ottawa

River raftsmen. The interior design and finishings, inspired by the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, are considered unique in this country. The great West Window was created in April 1879 by Harry Horwood, one of the first designers and producers of stained glass in Canada. (see “The Ottawa Legacy of Harry Horwood” by Andrew Billingsley, *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter* vol. 43, no. 2 (May 2016)). The sanctuary walls are sculpted entirely of wood, much of it featuring the work of the country’s most notable monumental sculptor,

Louis-Philippe Hébert. The magnificent cycle of stained-glass windows was executed in later years by Guido Nincheri, perhaps Canada’s greatest artist in this medium.

The church was honoured by Pope Leo XIII in 1877 with the designation of basilica, indicating a notable place of worship.

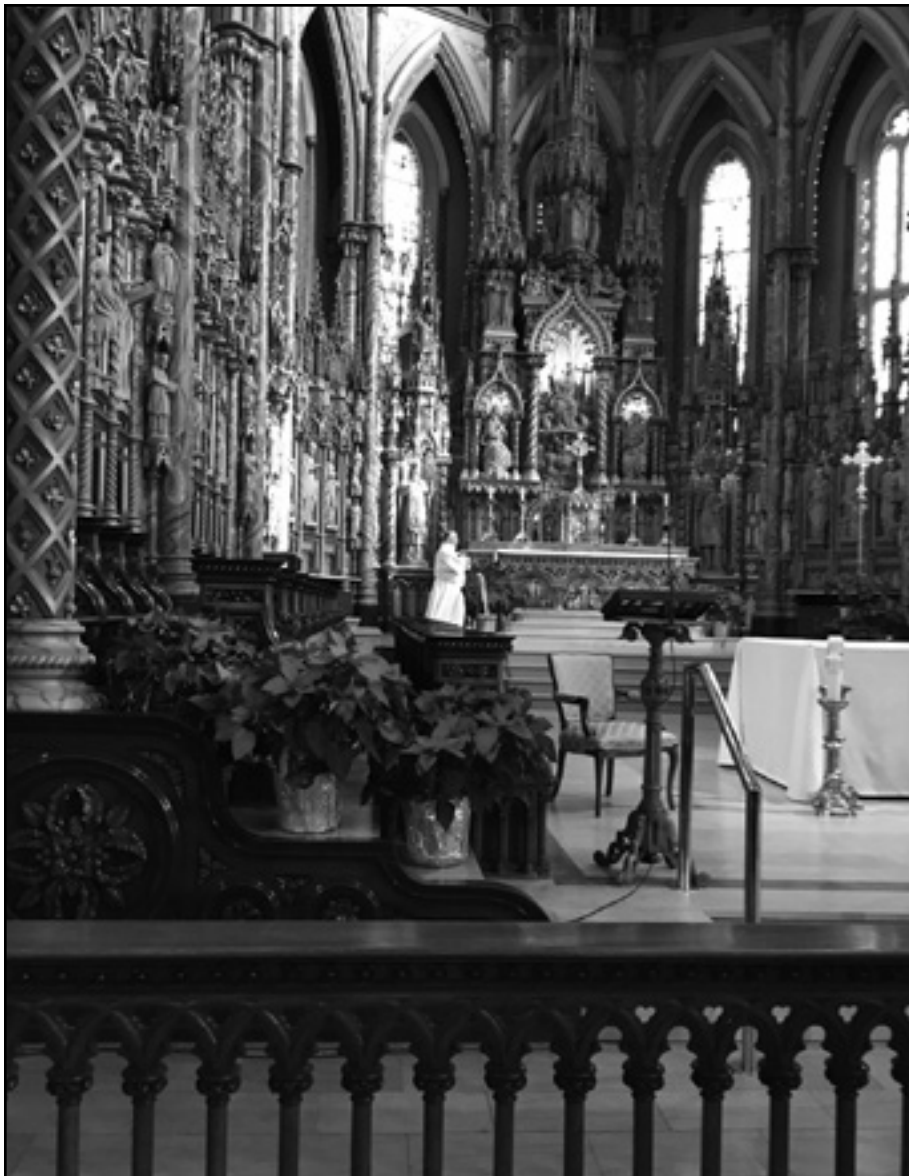
At the ceremony dedicating the historic monuments plaque, speakers Mona Fortier, MP, and University of Ottawa Archivist Michel Prévost both noted the national significance of the cathedral which was the site of the state funeral in 1919 of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada’s first francophone prime minister, and that of the Right Honourable Georges Vanier, Canada’s first francophone governor general, in 1967.

A massive refurbishment of the interior of the basilica was undertaken in 1999 with support from the Canadian Millenium Partnership Program, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and by anonymous donations.

Monsignor Daniel Berniquez, the Rector of the cathedral parish, noted that services had always been conducted in both English and French, and that it was and is a place belonging to all Canadians of all faiths.

The basilica is open to the sightseeing public most days, when liturgical services are not underway.

Richard Belliveau is a member of the Board of Heritage Ottawa.



From Walk-Up to High-Rise: *Ottawa's Historic Apartment Buildings* *is Flying Off Book Shelves*

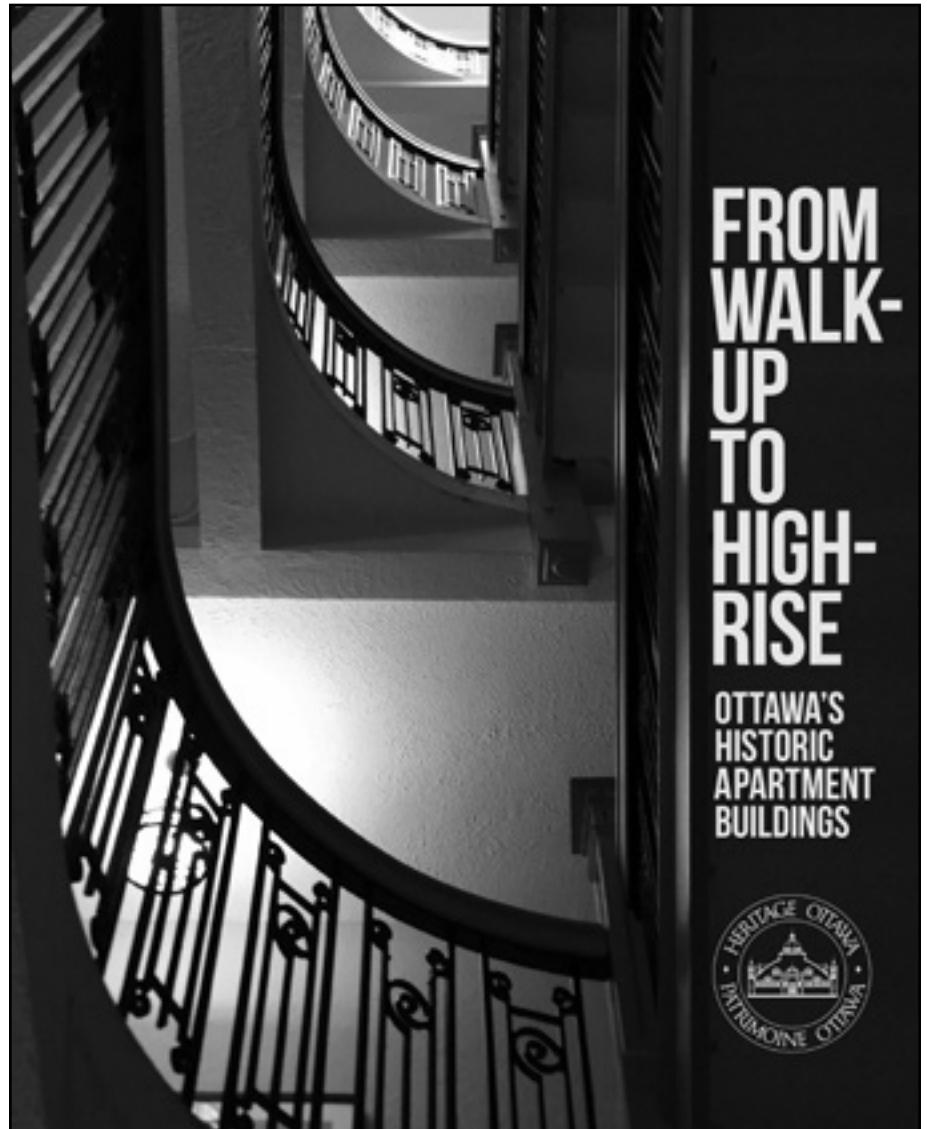
By Richard Belliveau

The successful launch of Heritage Ottawa's new book, *From Walk-Up to High-Rise*, on December 13 was beyond our expectations, and its reception by the public since then has been equally gratifying.

More than 150 patrons turned out for the launch to hear the evening's lecturers Shannon Ricketts and Susan Ross, both principal contributors to the book, provide intriguing background on historic apartment buildings in Ottawa, and the type of research that went into the book.

We sold more than ninety copies at the launch, and since then the book has been on sale through selected bookstores in the city, and online through Heritage Ottawa. In fact, in only six weeks, the entire first print run has almost sold out! The book proved to be a very popular holiday season selection – one bookstore told us of customers who bought one copy and immediately returned to purchase more as gifts.

To all the contributors who wrote, shared photos and spent hours in editing, may I express my heartfelt thanks and congratulations. To all Heritage Ottawa members and friends, thank you so much for your encouraging support of this project.



At the time of writing this note, we are expecting to go ahead as quickly as possible with a second printing of the book, so if you have not acquired a copy already, you have not lost the chance.

From Walk-Up to High-Rise can be easily purchased online at www.heritageottawa.org/books. Shipping within Canada to

yourself or a gift recipient is free of charge. If shopping online is not your thing, our website lists the Ottawa bookstores that are stocking this delightful new publication.

Richard Belliveau is chair of the Heritage Ottawa Publications Committee.

Ottawa's Heritage Register: Let's Make Informed Decisions!

By Leslie Maitland

For years now, the City of Ottawa has relied upon an outdated Heritage Reference List as its basic document for identifying buildings of potential heritage value. This Reference List was a hodge-podge of windshield surveys and regional surveys (some very good, some less reliable) that pre-date the revised Ontario Heritage Act of 2005. Reliance upon this outdated list has often led to unfortunate results when making decisions about saving heritage properties: chaos and acrimony.

The List gave no legal protection to buildings of heritage interest. We have all witnessed over the past several years the frustrations that have ensued because of this out-of-date and incomplete tool.

An up-to-date Register is a requirement of the Ontario Heritage Act, which Council is required to administer and this register is necessary to provide clarity for property owners, developers, the real estate industry and neighbourhoods. Updating the Register does not mean that properties will be designated; only that the owner is required to give 60 days notice if demolition is proposed. It is good planning.

The new register entries represent significant research, public consultation and council consideration. The Register will



Ossington Avenue, Old Ottawa South

Photos City of Ottawa

be available to the public, which is a significant improvement over the informal entries in the old Heritage Reference List which is available only to City staff.

With Heritage Ottawa's support and encouragement, Council identified updating the Heritage Register as a priority and provided the planning section with the tools to undertake this challenging project, (remembering that the City of Ottawa had – until the project was undertaken – exactly the

same number of planners that it had before amalgamation, before it became the geographically largest city in Canada).

In August and September of 2017, Planning Committee reviewed the need for the Register when faced with a few property owners who either had concerns about having their properties potentially designated, loss of property value, or were concerned that the criteria as applied to their individual properties were flawed. Others expressed concerns



Goulbourn Avenue, Sandy Hill

about the 60-day period to review a property before coming to a decision about demolition, designation, or conservation by other means.

At the September 12th Planning Committee meeting, Heritage

Ottawa pointed out that a recent survey undertaken by the University of Waterloo of property values in Heritage Conservation Districts across the province determined that property values inside HCDs were higher than property values

for comparable properties outside the HCDs.

In order to increase public awareness about the Inventory project, city staff outlined their strategies to inform owners about the heritage register including public consultation meetings and door-to-door communications. Heritage Ottawa vowed to do what it can to help with public awareness: articles on our website, in our social media, in this *Newsletter*, and a session at our September 2017 Heritage Forum, which was well-attended. We have also followed up with some feed-back to city staff on the information provided on the city's website, which, I must say, isn't as clear as it could be.

As a result of the Planning Committee meeting of 12 September 2017 planning staff committed to working with Planning Committee to determine if the 60 day notification period can be shortened; property owners who disputed the results of the survey of their individual properties can have the evaluations reviewed; and staff determined to look at their communications tools more closely.

The Heritage Inventory Project is now surveying properties in Centertown, the Glebe, and Kitchissippi ward and will recommend further additions to the Heritage Register.

Leslie Maitland is a member of the Heritage Ottawa Board of Directors.



Lower Charolotte Street, Lower Town

From the President

By David Jeanes



Heritage Ottawa successfully navigated an exceptionally busy 2017. Our contribution to Ottawa's sesquicentennial celebrations included an expanded walking tour program and the bilingual web-based *50 Years | 50 Stories* which wrapped up successfully on New Year's Eve, thanks to some heroic efforts. And we published *From Walk-Up to High-Rise* (see page 4) Now on to another busy year!

We have a new manager, Cassandra (Cass) Scлаuzero, under the Louise Fox Internship.

Memorials

Heritage Ottawa lost two long-time supporters recently: Jennifer Rosebrugh, former Heritage Ottawa president and walking tour guide; and Nan Griffiths, architect, activist and educator, who served as a member of several heritage committees, including the

Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee.

Advocacy

Advocacy is one of the most important aspects of our mandate. In 2018 we are facing a number of major ongoing and new files. Here are just a few.

Demolition by Neglect

The Mayor's Task Force on Vacant Heritage Properties met early in January and members learned that the City Property Standards & By-law & Regulatory Services are taking the owners of Our Lady School (287 Cumberland Street) and the Bradley Craig Barn (590 Hazeldean Road) to court for failure to comply with orders to repair. Late in January the owner of the barn indicated that the building will be retained on site and maintained until a suitable tenant can be found. Stay tuned.

Chateau Laurier

The latest proposal for the addition to the Chateau Laurier was made public on February 8 to mixed early reviews. The consultation process includes a Public Meeting on February 28 at City Hall, leading to the hearing at the Built Heritage Sub-Committee in May, followed by Planning Planning Committee and Council.

We encourage members to review the images and plans, available on the City website: <https://ottawa.ca/en/chateau-laurier-addition>

Central Experimental Farm (CEF)/The Ottawa Hospital

Public consultations continue leading to City approval of rezoning for the new hospital on the site of the Sir John Carling building. The Ottawa Hospital is establishing a Community Engagement Group representing stakeholder interests in the hospital, the CEF, and the Rideau Canal.

Sisters of the Visitation Monastery

A community meeting was held on January 10 to show the proposal for the adaptive re-use of the building. The plans require demolition of a portion of the building to allow the construction of modern leasable office space in order to cover the costs of restoring the remainder of the building. This proposal will be heard at the BHSC on March 8.

2018 Programs

In addition to Advocacy matters, Heritage Ottawa is planning the 2018 walking tour season as well as the 2018-19 lecture series, and looking forward to the Annual General Meeting in May.

David Jeanes, President, Heritage Ottawa / Patrimoine Ottawa

Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Memorial Lecture

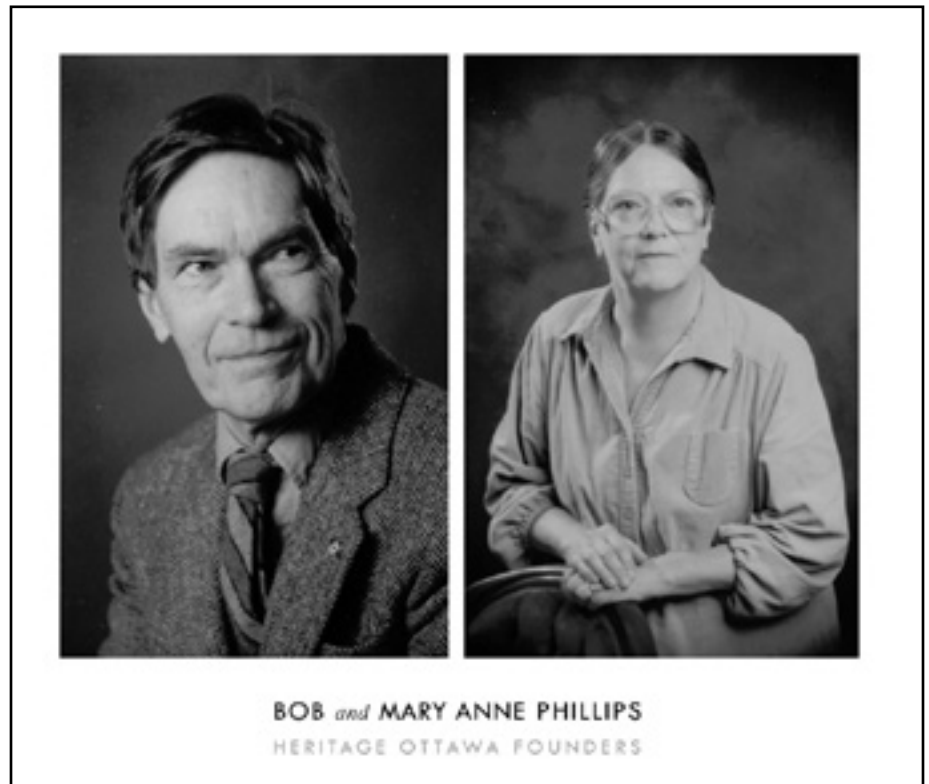
“Pioneers in the heritage conservation movement in Ottawa and among its most passionate advocates.”

These words capture the contributions of Bob and Mary Anne Phillips whom Heritage Ottawa is proud to claim as our founders. Since 2006, the February (Heritage Month) lecture has been dedicated to their memory.

This year Heritage Ottawa was honoured to receive an informative banner honouring the achievements of Bob and Mary Anne from the Phillips family and friends. The banner will be on display at the 13th Annual Memorial Lecture on February 28, 2018 and at all future and at all future memorial lectures.

Heritage Ottawa evolved from A Capital for Canadians, and its Heritage Committee, which set out to beautify the capital for the 1967 Centennial celebrations but quickly turned to advocacy when members heard that Union Station was slated for demolition to provide parking for Centennial festivities.

Bob and Mary Anne were both active participants in these organisations and hosted meetings in their living room. The Heritage Committee was instrumental in preserving many Ottawa buildings (including the East Block, the Fraser School House,



the Archbishop’s Palace and the Rideau Street Convent Chapel) and succeeded in putting heritage on the City of Ottawa agenda.

In 1972, the Mayor’s Committee on Heritage was established, with Bob and Mary Anne on its executive. From these beginnings, Heritage Ottawa was founded in 1974 (incorporated in 1975), with Bob as president and Mary Anne as secretary.

Research for 50 Years | 50 Stories brought to light and reminded us of these early struggles, accomplished in the days before e-mail, websites and social media: <https://heritageottawa.org/50-years-50-stories>

In the words of former Heritage Ottawa President

David Flemming when introducing the 6th Annual Memorial Lecture in 2011:

Bob and Mary Anne comprised a formidable team in helping preserve our built heritage. Bob was founding executive director of the Heritage Canada Foundation and long-time spokesman for heritage preservation through his work, writing and speeches. Mary Anne worked as effectively through her writing and in organizing the public advocacy required to save buildings and to change the minds of narrow-minded politicians, bureaucrats and developers whose lack of vision would have robbed us of many vestiges of our built heritage.