

# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

## Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

May 2020 Volume 47, No. 2

# A Message from the President

By Richard Belliveau



www.heritageottawa.org/explore

# LOOKING FOR NEW THINGS TO DO WHILE MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCE?

We have assembled a range of virtual options on our website for you to enjoy during this Stay-At-Home period.

Visit our EXPLORE section for Virtual Tours of museums, heritage houses and online collections as well as excellent Lectures & Films to choose from. The list is growing, so check back for updates.



Dickenson House

Tours, lectures and films are all just a click away! Go to:

heritageottawa.org/explore

Greetings to members of Heritage Ottawa, friends and supporters. It is our wish that you are maintaining not only your health but your good spirits throughout the shutdowns and restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm struck by the heightened sense of social and civic responsiveness in Ottawa. Civic pride, after all, drives interest in the city's built heritage.

Our organization has been affected along with everyone else. The Heritage Ottawa office in Arts Court has been closed and we are doing virtually everything from home and on line. In response to the stay-athome message from our public health advisors, we have postponed all remaining public lectures scheduled for March, April and June. Look for them to reappear as part of next year's lecture series.

The summer walking tour program has been redirected to late summer and the autumn season, in the hope that restrictions on public gatherings will have eased by then, and that we can have at least a partial season of heritage walks in the city.

We are rescheduling the Annual General Meeting, usually held in May, for the month of October. If the public health situation in Ottawa permits, we look forward to a reunion with our members, a fascinating lecture and renewal of our commitment and activities.

The field trip to Brockville, Merrickville and Prescott that we heralded for May 30 is also cancelled. If conditions allow, we may be able to reschedule in the late fall, but will otherwise schedule the trip in the spring of 2021.

This does not mean that Heritage Ottawa has gone into hibernation. You will have seen in our E-Bulletins and through social media that we are staying engaged while keeping social distance with virtual tours, online lectures and films, just a click away on our website. Visit heritageottawa. org/explore.

This Spring Newsletter has been produced electronically, as our printer has suspended its operations.

We will print a limited-run paper version of this Newsletter when the printer is back to work.

Best wishes to all of you.

Richard Belliveau President, Heritage Ottawa

# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

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

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# Five Hydro Ottawa Substations Designated Heritage

By Carolyn Quinn



Photo: City of Ottawa

247 Glebe Avenue, Sub-Station No. 2 (1922) reflects its industrial function while displaying a high degree of architectural integrity and artistic merit.

Last February, Ottawa's Built Heritage Sub-Committee voted unanimously to recommend that City Council approve the designation of five Hydro Ottawa sub-stations under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. I was delighted to vote in support of the staff recommendation. The designations formally recognize and protect these special buildings for what they contribute to the history of both Hydro Ottawa and our city neighbourhoods.

The five designated sub-stations were built during the early to mid  $20^{th}$  century when the establishment of new neighbourhoods to the south and west of the city's historic core coincided with the increased demand for electricity (from 1905 to 1922 hydro customers increased

from 1,314 to 12,138.) To meet that demand, in 1916 the Ottawa Hydro Electric Commission (Ottawa Hydro) partnered with its provincial counterpart to gain access to more reliable sources of power. It resulted in a significant drop in electricity rates, a corresponding growth in demand, and an extensive sub-station building program to reduce the voltage coming from transmission lines before electricity was transmitted to homes and businesses.

Although all five sub-stations are industrial buildings, their designs are influenced by a range of architectural styles and display a high level of craftsmanship also popular in residential construction in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



1275 Carling Avenue, Sub-Station No. 3 (1929) is an excellent example of an industrial heritage building influenced by the Modern Classical style. Unique features include an impressive entry with copper canopy suspended by chains and central round-arched window with stone frame.

The decorative styles used reflect the importance of hydro buildings at this time.

Built in 1922 at the northeast corner of Glebe and Bronson avenues, Hydro Sub-Station No. 2 was the first sub-station built by Ottawa Hydro. It was designed by engineer John E. Brown and remains an excellent example of late Edwardian Classicism. With its bold architectural detailing, the two-storey building integrated well into the developing Glebe neighbourhood.

The sub-station at 340 Holland Avenue, just south of the Queensway, was built in 1924 by the Ottawa Electric Railway Company (formed in 1893 by electric power pioneers Thomas Ahearn and Warren Soper) to support anticipated demand from the extension of the Holland Avenue streetcar line to the new Civic Hospital. It was designed in a Modern Classical style by architect David J. Spence and engineers Herdt and Burr. The City purchased the

streetcar company in 1948 and the sub-station was taken over by Ottawa Hydro at that time.

A landmark at the intersection of Carling Avenue and Merivale Road,

Hydro Sub-Station No. 3 was built to the west of the Central Experimental Farm in 1929 in response to the city's growing westward expansion. A large, symmetrical one-storey brick building with a prominent two-storey tower on



351 King Edward Avenue, Sub-Station No. 4 (1931), taken circa 1945, shows some of the original street-level entryway before it was enlarged by a rolling steel doorway in 1969.

the north side, it was designed in the Modern Classical style by well-known Ottawa architect William C. Beattie.

William Beattie also designed substation No. 4 at 352 King Edward Avenue in a similar style. A different L-shaped plan and irregular massing to No. 3, it featured similar brick cladding, a parapet with stone detailing and decorative metal work. Constructed in 1931, it was the first sub-station east of the Rideau Canal and the last built until after the Second World War.

Increased demand for electricity after the Depression and the growth of Ottawa South after the War, led to the construction in 1946 of sub-station No. 5 at the southwest

The designations formally recognize and protect these special buildings for what they contribute to the history of both Hydro Ottawa and our city neighbourhoods.

corner of Riverdale Avenue and Main Street. It was designed by prominent Ottawa architect J. Albert Ewert in a Streamlined Moderne style. A one-storey, stone clad structure with a three-storey tower, it features bold massing, smooth surfaces, dentilled roofline, and a distinctive entry with double metal doors and curved copper canopy.

The designation of these five local landmarks, which have been in continuous use since their construction, will help protect and preserve an important part of Ottawa's industrial heritage, and help to highlight their impact on the growth of our city's neighbourhoods.

Source: Report to Built Heritage Sub-Committee, February 11, 2020, File No. ACS2020-PIE-RHU-0006.

Carolyn Quinn is a member of Ottawa's Built Heritage Sub-Committee and a Heritage Ottawa board member.



Photo: City of Ottawa

39 Riverdale Avenue, Sub-Station No 5 (1946) was built in response to rapid growth in Ottawa south and east in the post-war era. It was built on Slattery's Field, the site of the first airplane flight in the Ottawa area on September 11, 1911 by pilot Lee Hammond as part of the Central Canada Exhibition.

# Meet our new Administrative Officer

### By Linda Hoad

We welcomed Jennifer Fink, also known as Jen, on March 2, as our part-time bilingual Administrative Officer. This newly created position will provide badly needed operations support to the organization.

Jen's duties are varied and include processing memberships, assisting with planning and implementing our many activities and events, managing volunteers, and providing support to the Heritage Ottawa board.

Jen is from Montreal, where she obtained her undergraduate degree in Classics (civilizations) from Concordia University prior to completing the Applied Museum Studies program at Algonquin College, which brought her to Ottawa six years ago. Most recently

she worked for two years at the Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum where she provided essential programming support and led a number of initiatives.

Jen has extensive paid and volunteer experience organizing and training volunteers for events such as Comiccon and BluesFest. Her work for Paul's Boat Lines included providing information to tourists about the Rideau Canal, sites along the Ottawa River, and surrounding heritage buildings.

Jen plunged enthusiastically into the Admin Officer job and has started to bring order into the computer filing system. She has noted several options for improving our systems and has researched 'cloud storage' options that would give us off-site access to the office computer – which would certainly have been useful in the present situation!

We look forward to introducing Jen to our members in person!

In her own words:

"Through my educational background, I have a keen appreciation for how built heritage provides an important window to the past. I am excited to join a team that is dedicated to helping protect these important landmarks that help to tell Ottawa's story."

Linda Hoad is the Vice-President, of Operations for Heritage Ottawa

## **Book Review**

Building Resilience: Practical Guidelines for the Sustainable Rehabilitation of Buildings in Canada / Accroître la Résilience: lignes directrices pratiques pour la réhabilitation durable des bâtiments au Canada by MTBA Mark Thompson Brandt Architect & Associates Inc (2016)

This keystone work is a companion piece to the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, and similarly, it is a Federal Provincial Territorial Historic Places collaboration. Written by MTBA Mark Thompson Brandt Architect & Associates Inc, a distinguished Ottawa architectural firm with a substantial track record for heritage conservation, the purpose of the book is to make the link between heritage conservation and sustainability. It fills an important gap in the range of resources "for best practices in retrofitting or

rehabilitating our existing building stock, especially historic buildings, in ways that conserve energy and water, provide for healthy indoor air quality, and reduce the impact on materials consumption and the environment."

We hear too often that heritage structures are not energy efficient; that it is not sustainable to rehabilitate them to new uses. But as this study shows, exactly the opposite is true. The greenest building is the one that is already there. This book provides practical, hands-on guidance on how to achieve successful heritage

conservation and address climate change challenges. The authors walk the reader through the steps: First, understanding the building, its context, heritage values, its inherent sustainability, heritage maintenance, and more. Second, component by component analysis and recommendations. These guidelines are supported by supplementary information and resources, as well as case studies.

Available in English or French. Download and use for free. http://buildingresilience.ca/ http://buildingresilience.ca/?lang=fr

# Scouts Canada Totem Pole

By Allison Smith

In 1961, the British Columbia Scouts gifted a totem pole to Scouts Canada in Ottawa to celebrate the official opening of Scouts Canada's national headquarters. To this date, it stands proudly on the front lawn of this building on Baseline Road. The totem pole was designed and created by Kwakiutl Chief and world-renowned northwest coast carver, Mungo Martin, and his grandson, Henry Hunt, in 1960.

Chief Martin, also known as Nakapankam, which means a potlatch chief "ten times over," was born at Tsaxis (Fort Rupert) on Vancouver Island, around 1881. He died in Victoria on August 16, 1962, only two years after completing this pole. Not only a carver, he was also a recognized painter, singer, songwriter, and teacher. He was the stepson of Charlie James, also a noted Kwakwaka'wakw carver. Chief Martin was a tutor of Henry Hunt, and other preeminent Indigenous artists Tony Hunt and Bill Reid.

When he was only about 20 years old, Martin created his first commissioned totem pole, called Raven of the Sea, erected at Alert Bay, BC. Fifty years later he was asked by the University of British Columbia to take a lead role in their totem pole program, teaching, carving, leading restoration work and eventually making replicas of some of the oldest totem poles.

Chief Martin is also remembered for carving the World's Tallest Pole (Beacon Hill Park, Victoria), as well as the Centennial Totem Pole (Hadden Park, Vancouver) and its twin in London, England. He was posthumously awarded a Canada Council Medal for his lifetime of work.



Scouts Canada Totem Pole, 1961

The Scouts Canada totem pole comprises six parts which are, from top to bottom, Raven, Man, Grizzly Bear, Cannibal Woman, Killer Whale and Beaver. These six clan crests represent the Kwakiutl and other nearby tribes. Most of the clan crests represent the founders of these clans, indicating their change in form from animal to human.

In 1960, the cost of commissioning the totem pole was \$8,000. Funding was provided by the Provincial Museum of British Columbia (now the Royal BC Museum), and other commercial and industrial sources. It was transported to Ottawa on two flatbed rail cars and assembled in front of the Scouts Canada headquarters. Its bright colours and 60-foot vertical rise countered the low-lying, pale-coloured building.

Since 1961, the totem pole has become weathered and worn, and has lost much of its original colour. Some of the features near the top have deteriorated and cracks are evident throughout the pole.

Michael Harrington, of JHG Consulting Network Inc. says that at least two conservation proposals have been submitted to Scouts Canada, at their request. The urgency to conserve this remarkable and historic work is growing as the totem pole further deteriorates. However, he says that since Scouts Canada has "limited financial resources, we were able to enter discussions with the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology, the Canadian Conservation Institute, and the Canadian Museum of History." These national institutions recognize the significance of this pole and all wish "to assume some role in this project." He adds that it "is important to them that their staff have first-hand experience in the treatment of these objects, [that there is] collaboration with the indigenous communities that continue to produce this important art form and [that this project raises] the level of awareness of the treasures that are under local stewardship."

According to Andrew Todd of AT Conservators in BC, the conservation process is "a complex treatment developed on the west coast ...[and] is a traditional conservation method

adapted with modern materials and stages of work especially for outdoor works of art in wood."

For its part, Scouts Canada ran a fundraising campaign a few years ago at the neighbouring federal government offices of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada where AAFC's Indigenous Network became interested in the conservation project.

The totem pole remains very significant to Scouts Canada. According to Scouts Canada's donation page, the totem pole acknowledges their "commitment to the stewardship of nature and the conservation of the environment."

Allison Margot Smith is an historian and historical documentary filmmaker. She is a member of Heritage Ottawa.

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Photo: With permission from Andrew King. Ottawa Rewind (blog), April 20, 2020. https://ottawarewind.com/2016/109/30/tale-of-the-totem/.

# Ottawa's bold A-frame churches

By Avery Marshall



**Top:** St. Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church, 1606 Fisher Avenue; Saint Timothy's Presbyterian Church, 2400 Alta Vista Drive; St. Teklehaimanot Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, 915 Merivale Road.

**Bottom:** St. Aidan's Anglican Church, 955 Wingate Drive; Paroisse St-Louis-Marie-de-Montfort, 749 Trojan Avenue. Image © 2020 Google; Rideauview Bible Chapel, 1249 Prince of Wales Drive. Images City of Ottawa unless otherwise noted.

The 1950s and 1960s marked the heyday of American A-frame architecture. These triangular structures were simple, fun and were built within a range of budgets. A-frame designs were used for a variety of buildings including vacation homes, wilderness camps, and places of worship.

Rising to acclaim in California and New York, A-frame buildings typically employ a triangular frame with three equal sides, allowing for a pitched roof that doubles as sidewalls. These simple designs resemble the letter A.

The craze for A-frames reached Ontario and resulted in bold church designs for our rapidly expanding suburbs. A-frame designs for religious buildings often incorporated large expanses of glass, geometric patterns, a virtually wall-less open plan, clean lines, wide over-hangs and ample parking space.

Several local congregations worked with architects, planners and tradespeople to design now iconic A-frame churches in Ottawa's inner suburbs.

## **Carleton Heights**

St. Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church at 1606 Fisher Avenue was built in 1954. James Strutt of the firm Gilleland and Strutt designed this church with prefabricated fir beams from British Columbia and a cedar roof. The steeply pitched roof extends to the ground plane meeting low horizontal forms and mature landscaping.

#### Alta Vista

Constructed in 1959, Saint Timothy's Presbyterian Church at 2400 Alta Vista Drive was designed by Burgess, MacLean & MacPhadyen. With a full wall of glazing and a sleek skeleton-like frame, this A-frame church appears to levitate on narrow steel stilts.

## Carlington

Built as St. Peter's Anglican Church in 1958-59, the St. Teklehaimanot Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church at 915 Merivale Road features a triangular frame and triangular dormers. The roof points surge in this design by James Strutt of Strutt and Associates, built by Canada Gunite and Assaly Construction. Described in the Ottawa Journal in 1959 as an adventure in church architecture, the original building was clad in cedar shakes.

#### **Elmvale**

St. Aidan's Anglican Church at 955 Wingate Drive is a slightly later example, built in Elmvale Acres in 1964-65. Texture dominates this sleek design featuring smooth brick walls and screened glazing. Positioned on a through lot, the building fronts on Hamlet Road, Olympia Crescent and Wingate Drive. This church was designed by architecture firm Burgess, McLean & MacPhadyen.

### Forbes/Cummings

Noted for its exaggerated overhangs, Paroisse St-Louis-Marie-de-Montfort at 749 Trojan Avenue was built in 1965-66. This building features a partially exposed frame, smooth tiled walls, and a column of geometric windows centred above the entrance. Paroisse St-Louis-Marie-de-Montfort is positioned at an angle to neighbouring streets and, like many suburban places of worship, is surrounded on all sides by detached homes.

#### Rideauview

Rideauview Bible Chapel at 1249
Prince of Wales Drive was constructed in 1967. Re-interpreted buttressing, stone cladding and a series of steeply pitched gables give this angular building an original form. Designed by Watson and Weigand Architects based in Belleville, the elements are not equilateral – the frame is scalene and the windows are isosceles.

Valued for their modernist architecture and use of post-war construction technology, these buildings express ideas about suburban life and mid-century ways of worship.

City staff conducted fieldwork in Ottawa's inner suburbs during the spring and summer of 2018. Buildings were documented and evaluated for design and context as part of the Heritage Inventory Project. As a result, the City of Ottawa listed these six A-frame churches on its Heritage Register in 2019.

Avery Marshall Built Heritage Researcher, Heritage Planning for the City of Ottawa

### Further reading:

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## MAGEE HOUSE UP FOR SALE



Magee House (circa 1881) at 1119 Wellington St. West

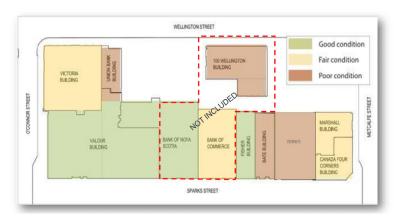
Nearly two years after its partial collapse, one of Ottawa's most infamous heritage properties is up for sale. The Hintonburg landmark is on the market for \$3.2 million.

Last fall, the City undertook necessary stabilization work (the owner did not comply with City-issued work orders) to enable the re-opening of the sidewalk and street lane after more than a year of closure. The collapsed stone was retained and stored.

Magee House was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 1996.

# Parliamentary Precinct — Block 2 Redevelopment Project

By David B. Flemming



Map of Block 2

Since the late 1850's the area known as Barrack Hill has been home to government buildings beginning with the United Province of Canada and later the Dominion of Canada.

The original Parliament Buildings – Centre Block, East Black and West Block – have seen many changes including the reconstruction of Centre Block following a disastrous fire in 1916 and numerous additions and restoration work on the others. The addition of the Langévin Block (Prime Minister Office), Confederation Building, Justice Building, East and West Memorial Buildings and other Federal institutional buildings have resulted in the are being known as the Parliamentary Precinct.

As the requirements of the Federal Government increased throughout the 20th century, three blocks along Wellington Street bounded by Elgin, Sparks and Bank Streets were acquired to meet these demands for office space close to Canada's Parliament.

Recent restoration of the East and West Blocks, the restoration of the former Central Station (Government Conference Centre) for temporary use as The Senate Chamber and the ongoing restoration of the Centre Block seeks to meet increasing demands for parliamentary offices..

Next on the Federal agenda is the development of Block 2 bounded by Wellington, Metcalfe, Sparks and O'Connor. Like the former Central Station these buildings which once comprised a significant segment of Ottawa's "civic" realm as banks, shops, an embassy and other commercial uses will soon become part of the Ottawa's "capital" realm as important components of our national government.

The block will be developed under the auspices of Public Services and Procurement Canada which will soon be issuing a call for design proposals for a substantial portion of Block 2. The Wellington Building (the former United States Embassy) and the former Bank of Commerce building on Sparks Street will be excluded from the design competition as they continue to be developed as an Indigenous Peoples Space, and the former Bank of Nova Scotia (Sparks Street) will continue to be used as an adjunct to the Parliamentary Library.

This development will be guided the *Long -Term Vision Plan for the Parliamentary Precinct (2001)* which has been updated over the years to meet the ever-increasing demands for additional space.

Although we are heartened by the excellent work done by Public Services and Procurement Canada to preserve the Wellington Building (former Metropolitan Life Insurance Company) and the Sir John A. Macdonald Building (former Bank of Montreal building) for Parliamentary use, both of these award-winning architectural conservation projects were based on a detailed heritage character analysis and sound standards and guidelines for the preservation of historic properties.

The approach for Block 2 will not however be considered "a heritage conservation project." Although the standards and guidelines will be adhered to when dealing with the historic fabric identified by a detailed Heritage Character Analysis and a statement of the Character Defining Elements, the primary aim of the development is "to find the best solution for a defined need."

Because these buildings are more significant to Ottawa's civic history and because guidelines for the design competition may be too open ended, Heritage Ottawa is concerned that many of the significant heritage elements may be lost, leaving only some of the façades.

We are hoping to have an opportunity to review the recently completed *Heritage Character Analysis* project document to be assured that these important examples of Ottawa's history will be preserved as part of Canada's Parliamentary Precinct.

Stay tuned....

David B. Flemming, Chair, Heritage Ottawa Advocacy Committee

# **Lindenlea Centenary**

#### By Seanna Kreager

Lindenlea was designed in 1919 by a Scottish urban planner named Thomas Adams. The area is one of the first planned communities in Canada and was originally intended for returning veterans of WW1 but became, and has remained, a neighbourhood for many civil servants. The picturesque garden city design is still sought after today. The small community has a central park, a tennis court, a vibrant community centre and is surrounded by green space enjoyed by its residents.

In 2019, Lindenlea celebrated its centennial and marked the occasion with a party, a commemorative mural and new street signs. The party took place on June 30<sup>th</sup> and was attended by Mayor Watson, Councillor Rawlson King, MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers and MP Mona Fortier. Attendees had an opportunity to look through historic documents and read community newspapers from the 1930s while enjoying local entertainment, food and drinks.

Our community mural was unveiled at the party. The mural was designed and painted by artist Claudia Salguero with help from the community and local Algonquin artists Dorren Stevens and Charlotte Aki. The mural depicts life in Lindenlea and shows a dream catcher, a soldier returning from war, people playing, walking and skating all under the four types of trees that are native to the area. The mural adds colour to the side of the community centre building and is enjoyed by the neighbourhood.

The Lindenlea Community Association also worked with the City of Ottawa to have new street





The mural was designed and painted by artist Claudia Salguero with help from the community and local Algonquin artists Dorren Stevens and Charlotte Aki.

signs erected to commemorate the occasion. The street signs were installed in the late Fall and display the words "Historic Lindenlea 1919-2019." In total 38 new street signs went up in the community and serve as a reminder of our shared history. Lindenlea is a tight-knit community and many residents volunteered their time to make the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and commemoration possible.

Seanna Kreager, General Manager, Lindenlea Community Centre

## Places to Watch

Residents of Ottawa concerned with the protection and preservation of the city's built heritage have learned that vigilance is required when it comes to monitoring the status of significant buildings, no matter their ownership. The case of the Château Laurier is evidence of this. There are a number of other prominent structures which should be watched closely, among them 24 Sussex, the official residence of the Prime Minister, Magee House on Wellington in Hintonburg, the vacant Syrian Embassy at 46 Cartier, the former public school headquarters building on Gilmour Street, Kilmorie House, and the heritage buildings -Aberdeen Pavillion and the Horticulture Building at Lansdowne Park.

In the case of several of the buildings, they are deteriorating slowly, but inexorably, despite much hand-wringing and calls for action. In other cases, the intentions of the owners seem, well, rather murky at times. Yet these buildings, and others not cited, have municipal if not national significance. Heritage Ottawa, as the foremost nonprofit organization in Ottawa dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of built heritage and special places hopes that the community sharing our concerns will speak up about the need for monitoring and action to protect the city's built heritage.



24 Sussex, the official residence of the Prime Minister should be closely watched.

HERITAGE OTTAWA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR

THE 2020
GORDON CULLINGHAM
RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION
GRANT

APPLY BY JUNE 22, 2020

## SEND US YOUR FUNDING APPLICATION!

We're inviting applications to the Gordon Cullingham Grant in support of research and publication on all aspects of Ottawa's built heritage and cultural landscapes, their interpretation, their promotion and their conservation.

Gordon was a journalist, broadcaster, editor, heritage activist and long-standing member of Heritage Ottawa's Board of Directors who passionately advocated for heritage conservation in and around Ottawa.

Applications must be received no later than June 22, 2020.

Questions? Email us at info@heritageottawa.org or leave a message at 613-230-8841.

Photo: Nationalobserver.com