



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

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Heritage News Now

**Bradley/Craig Barn
590 Hazeldean Road**



Bradley/Craig Barn in 2009. Present condition shows more deterioration due to lack of maintenance.

The Built Heritage Subcommittee and Planning Committee must deal with a request to demolish this barn designated under Part IV of the **Ontario Heritage Act** in 2010.

Heritage Ottawa supported the original designation of the house and barn and opposes the demolition, in part because "The designation of these two structures was an integral part of granting the zoning for redevelopment of the surrounding land in 2010. A requirement to preserve some of the heritage and history of the area that is undergoing such substantial new development was far from unreasonable."

Heritageottawa.org

Have you checked our website recently?

It's the best place to find out what Heritage Ottawa is up to. We link to articles of heritage interest, especially when one of our members is quoted, or we have taken a public position.

Recent examples include the status of 24 Sussex Drive, the on-going saga of Somerset House, the appropriation of the Central Experimental Farm and regular reports on the Built Heritage Subcommittee meetings.

Heritage District Status for Beaverbrook?

By Beata Myhill

At the end of the September 26 Heritage Ottawa Forum (see page 6), the Kanata Beaverbrook Community Association (KBCA) led interested participants on a bus tour, to gain a deeper understanding of the heritage value of this unique suburban community. We gained an appreciation of the term "Nature is the architect" of the community. We walked along a section of the pathways and saw how they are a key element ensuring connections between distinct clusters and the numerous small parks. We saw outstanding examples of mid-century architecture, and understood how they were situated to be a part of the landscape, rather than dominating it. We saw the difference between tract housing and the ideal of a complete community. It was an hour well-spent.

"The widest range of diversity possible within the mobility of a tricycle" – the original concepts for Beaverbrook Kanata

Beaverbrook represents one of the first and the most complete examples



in Canada of a fully planned community based on 20th century urban planning concepts. Its genesis was Greber's plan for the city of Ottawa.

This led to Bill Teron's personal study (1957-1960) of the deficits of post-war Canadian bedroom suburbs. His research culminated in an extensive world tour in 1960 that included the World Design Conference in Tokyo. He also toured new garden cities in Scotland, Finland, Sweden, and the USA. As a result, Teron created a business plan that aroused the interest of four great Canadian architects and planners: Irving Grossman, Arthur Erickson, Dimitri Dimikopoulos and Norbert Schoenauer, who met with him and offered their expertise. He was ready to "stand on the shoulders of giants"; to lead by example and to offer a garden city community up front. Beaverbrook would become the first community in this future city.

In the 1960's Bill Teron was a pioneer. He designed his original City of Kanata applying concepts that have

Photos: Beata Myhill

Photo: David B. Flemming

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Heritage District Status cont'd.

now become the expected norm of good urban planning at universities around the world. Beaverbrook, with its adjacent technology park, was built as the first community in his city. It represents the living proof that these concepts work, and that they provide direction to the future ideal of a livable city.

Social and economic diversity in housing options were a cornerstone, to create a multi-generational community with stability and continuity. Beaverbrook included rental and owned townhouses, apartment buildings, semi-detached houses, co-op housing, seniors units as well as single homes. Each neighbourhood created a sense of arrival and of belonging through the use of distinctive and unifying building materials, finishes, and colour palettes.

Human connections were promoted. Each neighbourhood was centered on a school. Land was dedicated for



Former Post Office, an excellent example of mid-century municipal design almost lost to development.

a network of pathways and parks, to provide safe play areas and walking/biking options. Thus, children travelled to their schools safely and social connections between neighbourhoods were promoted. Through traffic was directed away from houses, creating quiet, safe zones. The Beaverbrook Covenants provided guidelines for commonality of vision and a reduction of potential social conflict.

Pathways also connected neighbourhoods to "institutions for association" to achieve inclusion and engagement. A shopping centre was combined with a community centre for recreational and cultural activities—swimming, tennis, a teen club, and meeting rooms. A library was founded, and a professional services building included doctors, lawyers, and consultants. Undeveloped land was opened to the public for community access to nature.

Teron focused on providing economic stability by setting aside land for the Kanata North Business Park. Incentives encouraged new high-tech industries to establish here, offering a wide range of employment opportunities for citizens.



Townhouses, condos, and apartment buildings were also designed to have greenspace.





Nature was chosen as the prime architect of Beaverbrook. It was to be more dominant than houses. Forty percent of the community was green space. Nature was used to define small clusters of homes, enhance the sense of community, and provide the buffer between different uses. This created a Zen philosophy of naturalness, peacefulness and connectedness to the environment that further promoted social well-being.

After five years, Bill Teron moved on to become Canada's head of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. The company that took over did not have the same commitment to the vision. Fortunately, because the community was governed by a local municipal council, residents were able to maintain some control and force adherence to some of the core principles. This required a great deal of volunteerism, determination, and commitment by a large section of the population.

Beaverbrook represents an opportunity to preserve a district with a very unique heritage significance. A great part of this community is still

intact. However, no buildings are currently protected. The Post Office, a prime example of mid-century municipal architecture, was nearly lost to a developer given permission to tear it down and to build a 96 unit, 8 storey condo. It has been saved by current economic necessities, not by any heritage considerations or protection, despite concerted effort by the community. KBCA was able to work successfully with another developer who was keen to create a plan for intensification of a property that is in keeping with the philosophy of the community.



Homes in Beaverbrook are nestled in the landscape rather than dominating it.

How can we accommodate the reality of intensification without losing the distinct heritage value of the community? There is limited understanding both in the larger community and at City Hall of the need to protect this excellent example of a fully planned community:

- One leading municipal politician has called the Post Office “An ugly, old, brown box”. – He had not actually seen it.
- The Parks Department plants trees in an evenly spaced line along The Kanata Parkway without understanding the concept of a planned “natural” landscape.
- The City replaces original illuminated street signs with practical generic City of Ottawa street signs.
- Residents make unsympathetic changes such as replacing a hedge with white PVC fencing, changing the exterior of the house to imitate “Tudor style”; or adding decorative features that are the “flavor du jour” because there are no guidelines.

- The location of three future transit stations (where the City expects to see significant intensification) along the March Road bypass puts most of Beaverbrook at risk.

At this time, the Kanata Beaverbrook Community Association is working towards Heritage Conservation District status. We are not satisfied with preserving one or two representative mid-century houses; we have identified the need to protect the essence of an entire community. Our President, Neil Thompson has stated, "It will take a great deal of public education, determination, and lobbying of city councillors. At this time heritage groups and City heritage planners have very limited access to funds, and are desperately



working to save downtown buildings that are in 'clear and present danger'. We need help."

Beaverbrook is a real example of how intensification targets can be met while still creating a livable community. It embraces a philosophy of planned diversity. It is a gold standard exemplar

that should be available to future generations.

Readers interested in learning more about the research that informs this article and the progress of the KBCA's campaign for heritage recognition are invited to consult their website:

<http://www.kanatabeaverbrook.ca/joomla16/>.

If you have questions, comments or are looking for links to additional information, please contact President@kanatabeaverbrook.ca

Beata Myhill, a resident of Beaverbrook since 1971, is First VP of the KBCA. She is a long time advocate for her community and believes in the vision of Heritage Conservation District status for Beaverbrook.

Upcoming Events

Craft, Heritage and Digital Tools

Wednesday,
November 18, 2015

19:00 to 20:00

Auditorium, Ottawa
Public Library

120 Metcalfe Street

Speaker: James Hayes is a PhD candidate and lecturer at Carleton University's Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism.

Digital technologies play an increasingly significant role in large, complex heritage documentation projects such as the one under way for the Parliament Buildings National Historic Site of Canada. Research

at the Carleton Immersive Media Studio is investigating how the data created by these technologies can play a direct role in restoration work.

This lecture will examine a series of projects where digital technologies augmented traditional craft in the repair of stone carvings on the East and West Block.

Landscape Architecture in Canada 1870 – 1920

Wednesday,
December 9, 2015

19:00 to 20:00

Auditorium, Ottawa
Public Library

120 Metcalfe Street

Speaker: Ron Williams, award-winning Landscape Architect, author *Landscape Architecture*

in Canada, and Professor at the Université de Montréal.

The Creation of Canada's Iconic Public Open Spaces

This well illustrated talk explores the outstanding work carried out in the creation of Canada's public open spaces and institutions from about 1870-1920, when the vast majority of our key institutions (primarily governmental / educational / institutional) were established in a new nation. These special public places and institutions were designed by professionals, often landscape architects, and both buildings and landscapes were of very high quality.

The talk will also consider whether we are losing our way in this area today, with a "call to arms" to preserve important landscapes.

From the President

By David Jeanes



Programmes

Our fall highlight was an all-day rural and suburban heritage forum at St. John's church in South March, with a full house of 65 registrants from all parts of the city and its rural communities. Leslie Maitland, Linda Hoad and Karen Prytula formed the organizing committee with our partners Bruce Elliott and Michele LeBoldus from Pinhey's Point Foundation. I congratulate and thank them all, together with a host of speakers, tour guides, and volunteers.

Advocacy

On advocacy, we continue to press the government and the Ottawa Hospital with concerns about carving up the Central Experimental Farm for a new hospital. We are also party to an application for an injunction to prevent the government from placing a Victims of Communism Monument next to the Supreme Court in the "judicial triad". This location was assigned to the parliamentary and judicial precincts by the Long Term Vision and Plan, (the subject of our September lecture). Approval of the design by the NCC board and our application were put on hold until

after the election. NCC CEO Mark Kristmanson has publicly stated that the election outcome could affect the monument's location. With the new government there may well be changes.

City heritage issues this fall include new designations of a mid-century modern home in Rothwell Heights, near the Briarcliffe heritage conservation district, and the iconic former Champlain Oil Company service station at Richmond Road and Island Park Drive.

On advocacy, we continue to press the government and the Ottawa Hospital with concerns about carving up the Central Experimental Farm for a new hospital.

Fall is also a busy time for reporting to our various funders and to the government bodies who regulate our affairs. Our 23-member board of directors meets monthly and the 6-member executive is holding additional meetings, while our various committees work via email.

City Budget

Heritage Ottawa is part of the Ottawa Cultural Alliance, a coalition of city cultural organizations concerned about the lack of priority by Ottawa City Council for the city's Arts Heritage and Culture plan. Except for capital funding for Arts Court expansion, few of the plan objectives are funded in the current term of council. Cost of living increases

approved by council are not finding their way to the operating grants of the various organizations. Although the City is expecting culture and heritage organizations to participate in the 2017 celebrations, no funding for these endeavours has been announced. The Alliance is particularly important as the City launches its budget consultation in November. Watch our website for further information on how you can bring heritage concerns to the City budget process.

My thanks to everyone who volunteers time, energy and expertise to make Heritage Ottawa such a successful organization, and particularly Leslie Maitland, who as an active past president still contributes so much.

David Jeanes

*President, Heritage Ottawa /
Patrimoine Ottawa*

Correction:

Keith Hobbs noted an error in the previous *Newsletter* (vol. 42, no. 3, September 2015). On page 3, the article "Celebrating our rural heritage: the Hobbs farm..." should have read:

"In 1897, Joshua **Hobbs** and his wife Maude Caldwell built on the land".

Keith has discussed this slip of the 'finger on keyboard' with the article's author.

For more information, consult www.HobbsFarm1860.ca started by Keith Hobbs, great-great grandson of Joshua's father James Hobbs. Keith is a grandfather and he chairs the board of the Goulbourn Museum.

Ottawa's Rich Rural and Suburban Heritage – the 2015 Heritage Ottawa Forum

By Richard Belliveau

Photo: Michele LeBoldus



Professor Bruce Elliott discussed South March Heritage Successes and Failures

Since the city of Ottawa amalgamated in 2002, Heritage Ottawa has been dealing with the challenge of including suburban areas and rural townships into its area of interest and competence, and identifying heritage structures in the rural community worthy of recognition. On September 26, in partnership with the Pinhey's Point Foundation, Heritage Ottawa organized its first rural/suburban heritage forum to bring together individuals and associations from all parts of the enlarged city who are committed to heritage preservation and appreciation.

The event was billed as the Bob and Mary Anne Phillips Heritage Forum in honour of the founders of Heritage Ottawa, the couple whose work inspired and shaped non-governmental heritage activism in Ottawa.

The forum, held in the modern church hall of the historic St. John's

Anglican Church in South March, brought together about sixty-five participants drawn from various parts of the city.

City Councillor Marianne Wilkinson, former Mayor of Kanata, and herself a legend as a heritage activist in

March township, gave a word of welcome to the forum.

As a member of St. John's parish, she was at the forefront of efforts to restore the church and get it designated a heritage building, which incidentally made the church eligible for renovation funds from the city that covered the cost of repointing its stonework.

Clearly there is a good deal of built heritage surviving in the rural landscape of Ottawa, and just as obviously, much of it is threatened by the growth and development of the city. The richness of the history of South March was evoked by Carleton professor, Bruce Elliott, in his keynote address which ranged in some detail over the history of this Ottawa sister community. The survival of many early buildings was due to the availability of good stone for construction, unusual in the building of early Ontario hamlets. Indeed the only Orange Lodge in Canada that was constructed in



St. John's Church

Photos: Bruce Elliott



Forum participants enjoyed food and conversation during breaks.

stone, built in 1883, still stands along Flamborough Way and has been refitted for modern use.

Bringing his account into the modern era, Professor Elliott described the failed efforts of the March Historical Society to get a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) established in Kanata in 1987 to preserve many of these historic buildings. He offered a key lesson for this forum, citing former Kanata alderman Bev Read who cautioned that the time to bring heritage pressure and influence is when the development plan is drawn up, not when a demolition order is issued.

Other speakers offered particular insights into various aspects of heritage in rural and suburban areas.

Ian Badgely, senior archaeologist with the National Capital Commission, spoke of the immense archaeological potential in aboriginal sites in the city, particularly along the ancient trade routes and waterways, and advocated greater public education, including public participation in digs. Dr. Badgely also offered a key piece of advice for all types of heritage conservation efforts; you need to think about winnowing collections and deciding what you need, "you must accept the importance of significance."

Malcolm Wildeboer of Vandenberg & Wildeboer Architects recounted the exciting story of the thoughtful design of a new mixed-use red-brick building in Carp, now home to Alice's Village Café and two residential apartments on the second

Clearly there is a good deal of built heritage surviving in the rural landscape of Ottawa, and just as obviously, much of it is threatened by the growth and development of the city.

floor. This infill project meets the goals of the Carp Community Design Plan and has contributed to the revitalization of an active main street in that town.

Guy Legault of the *Société franco-ontarienne du patrimoine et de l'histoire d'Orléans* painted a somewhat sobering picture of mistakes that were made in respect of heritage preservation when the former city of Gloucester was incorporated into the city of Ottawa. Developers were way ahead of heritage activists, and their development plans, adopted by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton, were simply integrated into the plan for the amalgamated city without review and revision, more or less accepting without question the view of unlimited suburban construction propelled by developers.

The City of Ottawa also provided two discussants. Anne Fitzpatrick, heritage planner with the city, did a masterful review of the city's various instruments and processes for managing heritage planning and responding to preservation



St. John's Church, manse and graveyard

2015 Heritage Ottawa Forum cont'd.

demands. Ashley Stevens, supervisor of collections and exhibitions for the city, spoke of the support of built heritage provided by Ottawa museums.

The primary lesson of the day was that heritage should be part of planning. History is something that is lived every day, and heritage advocates need a good knowledge of their communities, and must be aware of those things that have value in the community. This imperative underscores as well the usefulness of contact and dialogue among heritage associations and historical societies in all parts of the city.

Heritage Ottawa provided information in the participants' kits which we hope they will find useful, including the Property Standards for Heritage Properties By-law, an outline of the role of Heritage Ottawa's Neighbourhood Heritage Keepers and a list of useful websites.

Participants were also invited to take part in guided visits to the St. John's cemetery, to the restored Orange Lodge and the South March Town Hall, as well as a bus tour of Beaverbrook offered by the Kanata Beaverbrook Community Association who are seeking to have Beaverbrook declared a heritage conservation district.

Heritage Ottawa is grateful to the committee planning and organizing this event, Michele LeBoldus, Bruce Elliott, Karen Prytula, Leslie Maitland, and (especially) Linda Hoad who also chaired the day's proceedings. Thanks also to our registration desk volunteers, Krista Gowan and Kira Lise Leung.

Richard Belliveau is a member of the Heritage Ottawa Board and chair of the Publications Committee.

Our Exhibitors

Pinhey's Point Foundation
co-host



**Smith and Barber –
Sculpture Atelier Inc.**
architectural
stone carving
sponsor

**Stephen Jarrett,
Golder Associates**
archaeologist

Ottawa Public Library
*featuring the Ottawa
Room at the Main
branch and the Kanata
Room at the Beaver-
brook branch*



**Rideau Township
Historical Society**

**Goulburn Township
Historical Society**

Goulbourn Museum

**School of Canadian Studies,
Heritage Conservation,
Carleton University;
Association for Preservation Technology;
Society for the Study of Architecture**

**Kanata-Beaverbrook Community
Association**