

FOCUS on:
L.A.C.A.C.
Identifying Designated Buildings

The evening of September 9, 1986 was another date to be recorded in the history of Bastard and South Burgess township. The lovely old stone Delta mill with its welcome ambience was the perfect setting for the presentation of heritage plaques. The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) had chosen this most appropriate structure as the site for its unveiling of the plaques which will soon be on view outside various buildings around the township.

Within the six years since its inception, the LACAC has consistently worked towards preserving and publicizing the rich architectural, historical and natural heritage of the township.

This September evening represented one more event in this ongoing endeavour.

The designation of heritage buildings began in 1977 with the Delta Anglican Church and has continued since that time. With the formation of the LACAC a program was instituted to encourage further designations, and, hence, protection of our heritage. Since then numerous requests have been received from individual owners to consider the designation of their properties. This has been a most successful project with 16 structures at present preserved, and, in some instances, restored so that future generations will continue to enjoy these treasures.

The LACAC with the support of the township council chose to commemorate those buildings which have previously been designated as heritage structures. The decision was made to order special plaques and to place these on the selected structures. The chairman, Douglas Bond, with these most appropriate words stated that "this should not only mark the significance of these buildings as remarkable structures, but even more as homes of worship and family, as walls that have shared the joys, sorrows, aspirations and inspiration of families and communities.... We sincerely hope that these plaques will mark the home that you and your forefathers worked so hard to build and to preserve over the past century or more. We hope that this plaque will implore you to maintain and pass on your particular landmark of the township and that it will initiate many joyous conversations about the heritage manifest in "My Own Four Walls".

The plaques were then presented to the following owners, representatives of owners or trustees of the various buildings:

- the Delta Anglican Church, one of the oldest continually operating churches in Ontario, and one which reveals an unusual history with its beginnings as a Baptist Church, later to be shared with the Anglicans and eventually becoming an Anglican Church.
- The Delta Mill, an excellent example of early industrial architecture.
- The Philo Hicock house, Delta, owned by Dr. Robert Dent, at one time a particularly handsome home which Dr. Dent is gradually restoring to its former elegance.
- The Denaut Mansion, Delta, owned by Gwen Derouin, home of Walter Denaut, who was closely associated with the development of the village of Delta.
- Delta United Church, the most recent edifice, 1888, erected by the Delta Methodists.
- the Omer Brown home, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Winegarden, a superb example of fanciful early 20th century architecture.
- the Dan Davis house, owned by Mr. R. Leeder, a fine well-built home constructed by one of Delta's noted craftsmen, D. Davison.
- the Philipsville Baptist church with its simple and functionally beautiful lines.
- the Isaac Whalley house, Philipsville, owned by Anna Greenhorn, a lovely early wooden frame home with an attached carriage-house.
- the John Green house, Harlem, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Fry owners, an example of the Georgian style built by an Irish immigrant. At present exciting changes are occurring here with the original-style porch along the front and sides of the house to be restored and the entire house reroofed with cedar shingles.
- Portland Anglican church, another excellent example of neo-gothic rural church architecture.
- The Horace Sheldon house, Portland, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Garfield Sheldon, a one and a half storey sandstone Ontario cottage still inhabited by descendants of the original builders.
- The Thomas Graham house, Portland, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jules Schmid, representing an early structure with later additions, including a spacious verandah completed in 1910.
- The Harmon Toffey house, Portland, owned by Jill McCalla Vickers, an imposing two storey wooden house, in Italianate style, featuring an unusual front porch.


The LACAC and township council of Bastard and South Burgess hope that this program of preserving the best of our local architectural heritage will continue in the future and that this evening of presentations will be the first of many.

photos by Earl Mattice

[The Lantern thanks the LACAC of Bastard and South Burgess for their continued work in this field and also for their most welcome submissions to the newspaper]





Mrs. Myrla Murphy, President of Delta Mill Society with Reeve Arch Ostrum



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