



MEDIA RELEASE

Heritage Day 2016 – a ‘Must Visit’!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, February 12, 2016 - The Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO|COPO) and the City of Ottawa are proud to co-host **Heritage Day on Tuesday, February 16th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm in Jean Pigott Place, at Ottawa City Hall.** And, to embrace the **Heritage Canada National Trust theme *Distinctive Destinations: Experience Historic Places.***

“This ‘Heritage Tourism’ theme is most fitting for Ottawa residents and visitors alike, especially as we look ahead to welcoming more visitors in 2017,” said **CHOO|COPO Executive Director Catherine Lindquist.** “We offer many distinctive destinations -like the Diefenbunker: Canada’s Cold War Museum and the Central Experimental Farm; historic sites and homesteads –such as Pinhey’s Point and Billings Estate; as well as ‘edu-taining’ cultural interpreters -like the Haunted Walk of Ottawa, that animate the visitor experience,” she said.

"Heritage Day at City Hall is a virtual tour in itself," says Ms. Lindquist. "It's an annual showcase of the impressive heritage offerings of our members across Ottawa and a celebration of shared heritage across Canada. A place for our members to meet and greet Ottawa residents and our elected representatives, and invite them to discover more about our history - past, and in the making."

The FREE Heritage Day event will showcase a wide variety of heritage groups and interests, including: museums, archives and historical societies, Franco-Ontarian and Indigenous heritage, genealogical research, built heritage, archaeology, museum educators and natural heritage groups.

And, apropos of the theme, during this year's Heritage Day proclamation, **Mayor Jim Watson** will recognize the **Beechwood Cemetery Foundation** for its exemplary stewardship of the cemetery – which is both distinctive and historic. It is designated as a National Historic Site, the National Cemetery of Canada and is the home of the National Military Cemetery, RCMP National Memorial Cemetery and Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery. With 160 acres of inspirational and scenic grounds, it is a unique pastoral place in our urban fabric. Visitors may discover the graves of such important Canadians as our eighth Prime Minister Sir Robert Laird Borden, scientist/engineer/inventor Sir Sandford Flemming, and Faith Fyles, botanist and artist at Ottawas’s Experimental Farm; as well as the cemetery’s own botanical and cultural offerings, including: 35,000 tulips, the Macoun Marsh and Poet’s Hill.

Accepting a framed copy of the proclamation on behalf of the foundation will be its **Board Chair General (ret’d) Maurice Baril, Chair Emeritus Grete Hale** and **President and Executive Director Roger Boulton.**

Other Photo/Film Opps:

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation Elder Shirley Kohoko will offer a traditional welcoming ceremony and **City Councillors** will be in attendance. **Master Town Crier Daniel Richer** will be resplendent in traditional First Nation regalia; **costumed characters** and a variety of engaging displays will be on site, including a **City of Ottawa Archives heritage hockey selfie booth!** Entertaining all with folklore music and dance, will be **Gabrielle Malis.**

And Extra! Extra! the annual Heritage Day Quiz will run in the Monday, February 15th editions of the Ottawa Citizen and le Droit as a Family Day and Heritage Day activity. Hone up on your Ottawa heritage facts, then come to City Hall and complete **CHOO|COPO’s ‘Distinctive Destinations and Historic Places’ Quiz** for a chance to win door prizes!

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Images:



from Beechwood Cemetery Foundation

CHOO | COPO Background:

Founded in 1992, The Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO|COPO) is a non-profit charitable organization focusing on the preservation and promotion of Ottawa-based heritage resources, organizations, and activities. CHOO|COPO also presents Heritage Day, the Gathering of Council and Bytown Days/Colonel By Day; and gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.