

Brault, Lucien, and Learning, John. *La Salle Academy; New Life for a Heritage Building*. Ottawa: Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, 1976. Pp. 110. Illustrations. Published in French as *Académie de La Salle : un édifice patrimonial reprend vie*

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Kamloops, 1914-1945 is a difficult book to comment on since it has been both major weaknesses and strengths. Written, as it was, under the direction of the Museum's History Committee (many of whom were actual participants in the events described in the book), the volume is sometimes more concerned with surface impressions than with deliberate judgements. The book also suffers from the lack of any formal or unifying organization; it is, rather, a series of often unconnected episodes covered under such headings as "Schools and Scholars", "Sports", "Parades and Pageants", "Representatives of the People", "Fire Fighting", and so on. But these and other problems, common enough in many local histories, are balanced by strengths not usually found in such works. The photographs included in the book are useful and enjoyable. More important, the book does grapple with several themes that are of interest well beyond the borders of Kamloops. Under such headings as "Hub City", "Ethnic Groups", and "The Local Economy", such themes as the role of boosterism, the relationships of a small regional center with its hinterland and its coastal metropolis, and the local reaction to the arrival of West Coast Japanese during World War II are examined. In short, while Kamloops, 1914-1945 could have been better, it is nonetheless an important addition to our growing collection of histories of individual urban centers. In time it, too, will provide the future historian of the Canadian city with valuable information.

Kamloops, Volumes I and II, are available from the Kamloops Museum Association, 207 Seymour Street, Kamloops, B. C. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

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Battles over the heart of the city have most often pitted the restorers against the razers with the latter being the more successful.

They have left little room for the rehabilitators and reinvigorators though these suitors would in theory at least seem to have the better of the argument. Giant outdoor museums of walk-in artifacts seem almost as unattractive as miles of window glass and plastic. Yet the alternatives to mothballs and progress have been painfully few, Gastown in Vancouver and Yorkville in Toronto being perhaps the best known. Rarer still has been the published documentation of such projects. This memoir on the reinvigoration of the La Salle Academy in Ottawa as the working headquarters of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs is as welcome as it is unusual.

This document, even if at times a little self-congratulatory, is nevertheless a competent and professional piece of work by Ottawa's official historian, Lucien Brault, himself a former student at the academy, and John Leaning, the architect who designed and managed the "restoration". Brault, in the first part of the publication, deals with the history of the complex and its historical context, while Leaning, in the second part, outlines the objects of the refurbishing, its problems, the discoveries made en route, and the nature of the refinished product.

Restoration is actually too precise a word to describe the project. The La Salle Academy, located on historic Sussex Street, was actually a complex of four buildings, the oldest dating to 1844, the newest from 1965. And to accommodate the MSUA a new building had to be incorporated into the site. Only the oldest, the so-called "Bishop's Palace", was actually restored to near-original condition. It has become the office of the secretary of state for urban affairs. The remaining buildings received a variety of treatments involving partial restoration, renovation, reinvigoration, and rehabilitation. The important point is that a complex of buildings reincarnated over the last century and more for private, commercial, religious and educational uses has re-issued in yet another, and one might add, very attractive form.

The La Salle Academy project is a convincing demonstration of the virtues of rehabilitation. What is really lacking in the documentation is some detail on cost and clout, since it would be crucial, if the La Salle Academy complex is to be any kind of object

lesson, to know whether anyone apart from the federal government would have both the necessary money and necessary influence to bring such a project to a successful conclusion. [John H. Taylor, Carleton University].

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Toronto Area Archivists Group. Guide to Archives in the Toronto Area. Toronto: Toronto Area Archivists Group, 1975. Pp. 46. Out of Print.

In June 1975 the Toronto Area Archivists Group issued its first publication. The Guide to Archives in the Toronto Area provides details of sixty-five archives and manuscript repositories in the Toronto area, many of which are identified for researchers for the first time. At the date of compilation forty of these were sufficiently well organized and staffed to warrant full page entries. Each entry consists of the name of the repository, date of establishment, address, telephone number and name of the head of the institution, opening hours, restrictions (if any), facilities and a summary of the nature and the extent of the holdings. An appendix lists twenty-five others which were either insufficiently organized or of such recent establishment as to be only able to provide repository name, address, contact person and telephone number.

The Guide has been extremely well received by researchers and institutions across North America (and even as far afield as Italy), selling out the first printing of 500 copies within nine months. Demand, however, has remained constant and TAAG is presently considering reissuing the Guide in a revised and expanded form, taking account of the many changes and developments in the Toronto archival community which have taken place in the two years since the original data were collected.

Founded in 1973, TAAG is an association open to all individuals and institutions interested in archives and related fields. The Group holds 10 general meetings each year, produces a newsletter, maintains an Advisory service on archives-related problems, runs educational courses