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City of  
Ville d' **Ottawa**

April 27, 1999

ACS1999-PW-PLN-0023

**REGISTERED**

Ms. Lesley Lewis  
Executive Director  
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1J3

Dear: Ms. Lewis

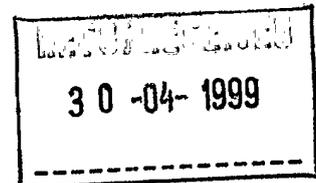
The Council of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 1999, established intention to Designate the property known municipally as 501 Rockcliffe Driveway, in the City of Ottawa, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990. C. 0.18.

Enclosed herewith is the Notice of Intention to Designate served according to the Act.

Yours truly,

Pierre Pagé  
Director of Council and Statutory Services & City Clerk

SW:sw



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## IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT.

The Corporation of the City of Ottawa on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 1999, established its intention to designate the following heritage property for its architectural and historical value.

501 Rockcliffe Driveway

### STATEMENT OF REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because it is a rare example of boathouse architecture and has played an important role in the history of aquatic sports in Ottawa. The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club is one of four remaining boathouses of this type in Canada from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Canoeing was a popular sport in 19<sup>th</sup> century Canada and The Ottawa Canoe Club, founded in 1883, was the first canoe club in the nation's capital. It soon developed a distinguished reputation, winning many trophies and attracting prominent patrons and members, such as the Marquis of Lorne, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and Thomas Ahearn. Clubs of this kind were popular in the years before widespread car ownership as they allowed their members to pursue healthy outdoor activities with like-minded individuals without leaving the city.

The Club's original Boathouse was located near the foot of the Rideau Canal. In 1894, the club moved several kilometres downstream into a newly-built facility. In 1914, the Club merged with the New Edinburgh Club, becoming the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club and decided to move to the present location because it included land suitable for tennis courts. Financial setbacks and the outbreak of the First World War prevented completion of a new building and construction of the tennis courts until 1923.

Local architect C.P. Meredith designed the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club. It sits above the water upon a steel frame sunk into the riverbed and is joined to the shore by a foot bridge. The building itself is a two-and-a-half storey, rectangular wood frame structure with a truncated gable roof, punctuated by shed-roofed dormer windows. The main entrance is in a centrally placed pavilion facing the shore. A large verandah, originally open but now covered by a shed roof on three sides and open on its long facade facing the Ottawa River, encircles the second floor. Regularly spaced, multi-paned French doors open onto the verandah. A central gable, bisected by a chimney, pierces the roof of the Boathouse's principal Ottawa River facade. Below the verandah there is a long gallery with regularly spaced doors that allow access to the indoor boat storage area.

Stylistically, the Boathouse is reminiscent of the simple, unembellished architecture prevalent at the time for summer cottages, clubs and resorts, with certain specialized features associated with boat clubs such as the steel pilings and the walkway connecting the building to the shore. Buildings of this type are always constructed of wood and feature wide verandahs, plentiful windows and simple, undecorated facades, well-suited to their recreational function.

The interior of the building is not included in this designation.

#### OBJECTIONS

Any person wishing to object to this designation may do so by letter, outlining reasons for the objections and other relevant information. These must be received by the Clerk of the City of Ottawa either by registered mail or personally delivered by the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1999.

DATED at Ottawa this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1999.

P.G. Pagé  
City Clerk