



vert them into a forty-shop area to be called the Mews. The chapel would remain a chapel and the rest of the two-story complex would be a splendid shopping mall, the shops connected by a wooden promenade. The *Ottawa Citizen*, with what turned out to be unwarranted optimism, said "modern commerce will meet historic Bytown, oom-pah music from a beer garden will mingle in the courtyard with violin music from an elegant restaurant, students and ordinary people will rub shoulders with professionals and cosmopolitans." Unfortunately the developer miscalculated the cost of renovation — he assumed it would be half a million dollars; he found it would be a million and a half.

A Heritage Committee, the National Capital Commission and Mayor Pierre Benoit entered into long negotiations with the developer with the hope of finding a fiscal arrangement which would satisfy all. They failed, though not totally — the chapel was carefully dismantled and stored away. It will, it is hoped, rise again.

But, as Mr. Phillips suggested, the fight had some remarkable incidental results. When the Christian Brothers moved to have their old school (built in 1840) rezoned, the conservationists prevented it; the school, intact, will become a Federal office building.

The most significant result was no doubt the endowment of the national preservation organization, Heritage Canada. Other forces were also at work, but the public reaction in Ottawa played a major part. This spring the Canadian Parliament authorized a one-time-only \$12 million endowment and Mr. Phillips, the executive director,

opened what appears to be a permanent campaign. Mr. Phillips' family had purchased a number of historical log buildings in the Ottawa area and refurbished them authentically, and he and his wife were conspicuous leaders in the fight to save the Convent. He said Heritage Canada will not, probably, attempt to save buildings by simply buying them. Though it will solicit gifts to add to its endowment income, it does not seem likely that there will ever be enough money to buy up everything worth saving. Instead, the organization will try to persuade other agencies and individuals to buy historic buildings and "natural landscapes" and convert them to practical use which will preserve their characteristics.

It will seek to save buildings and sites of purely local significance as well as those of national value and will work closely with local heritage organizations. "Because of the Canadian spread of population a lot of groups are working in isolation. With no outside support they tend to re-invent the wheel. One of the purposes of Heritage Canada is to make one community of all people concerned with heritage conservation — to serve as a central reference and, frankly, a kind of lobby."

And though Mr. Phillips feels that one war has been won, he is aware that in the heritage business there will be a new skirmish every day. In one city of 400,000, which he prefers not to name, historic buildings are being demolished at the rate of one every two days. "There is no reason to believe," he said, "that the rate is much lower anywhere else."