

**By-Town Heritage Club
October 2026 newsletter**



It's officially fall and another summer is in the books. As we prepare for the holiday season—including the chapter's helping with Santa mail again this year—we're hoping everyone gets one thing crossed off your TO DO list before the business of the season takes over... It's time to pay your dues for the 2027 year.

A reminder that everyone's membership in the Heritage Club runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year, regardless of when you joined in the year. Now is the time to pay your dues! Your dues keep the club running — they help us send out newsletters, subsidize activities, buy door prizes for our lunches, and make charitable donations. Your \$25 membership goes a long way, and we're truly grateful for your continued support. Your membership gives you (and your partner/spouse) access to the member price on all our events, front of the line access to the events, voting privileges at the AGM and for our charity support, access to scholarship programs for children or grandchildren from the Heritage Club and belairdirect, and access to discounts from our partners. Learn more about membership benefits and how to pay [here](#).



Lunches and Santa mail...

The November lunch will be held at Hometown Sports Grill (1525 Bank Street) on Thursday, November 5, starting at 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please register via [email \(general@bytownchapter.com\)](mailto:general@bytownchapter.com). A reminder that Bank Street is still under construction, allow yourself a bit more time to get there. Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped toy for our club's Toy Mountain effort (more details below).

There will be no December lunch because we will be helping Santa with his mail (yeah!). More details for Santa's helpers in the November newsletter but, for now, keep these dates open: November 26, December 3, December 10, and December 15.

We were a smaller but mighty crowd for the October lunch. Congratulations to Manon Laberge, the winner of the 50/50 of \$75, and all the door prize winners!



Our very own Heritage moment...

Twenty-six members enjoyed a terrific adventure to see the remarkable musical Come From Away in Gananoque. Set in the beautiful Thousand Islands region, right on the shores of the St. Lawrence River, the theatre provided a quintessentially Canadian backdrop — with views of the islands that made the setting feel extra special. And the play itself? An incredibly inspiring story of kindness, community and compassion that left us all feeling proud and patriotic. After the performance, we enjoyed a terrific dinner, complete with plenty of laughs and stories! The next day, we ventured to Prince Edward County for a couple of wine tastings and lunch before heading home. A short trip, but a fun adventure nonetheless!



Holiday Gala...

It's not too late to get in on the fun, there are still a few spots left for the holiday gala! Join us on Sunday, November 29 as we venture to Saint-Eustache flea market and Cabane à sucre Constantin. Our day will start with a departure from the Riverside United Church at noon. We'll travel to the [Saint-Eustache Flea Market](#), where you will have a couple of hours to explore the Christmas market (and if shopping isn't your thing, there's a bar!). Then we'll move to [Constantin Sugar Shack](#) for a holiday meal and entertainment. Our meal includes bread/buns, appetizers, one glass of wine per person, chef's salad, tourtière, turkey and meatball stew, mashed potatoes, vegetables, fruit cake for dessert, as well as tea, coffee and milk. There will be holiday entertainment during the evening and an opportunity to shop at their retail store where delicious homemade ready-to-serve meals, preserves, baking, etc. are available for purchase. We will leave the sugar shack shortly after nine and make our way back home, arriving at the church for 11:30 p.m.

The actual cost for the evening (including parking at the church, bus ride and driver tip, bus snacks, dinner/entertainment at the sugar shack) would be \$118 per person. Our subsidized **member** (and spouse/partner) cost is \$100 per person. You would be responsible only for drinks bought during the evening.

This sugar shack experience comes highly recommended to us by a few people, and we think it will be a fun event. If you want to join us, please register via [email](mailto:general@bytownchapter.com) (general@bytownchapter.com).

Holiday community support!

A reminder of our Toy Mountain community initiative... Each year, Toy Mountain and the Salvation Army provide toys to over 23,000 children in the Ottawa/Gatineau region, with a goal to leave no child in Ottawa/Gatineau without a gift to open on Christmas morning. We are asking members attending our events between now and December to bring a new, unwrapped toy with them. We'll gather the toys, and then we'll gather a team to deliver them to Toy Mountain and help for the day. Let's, together as the By-Town Heritage Club, really make this a special part of the holiday and help make this Christmas a special one for girls and boys in need across the community. We will be collecting toys at the October and November lunches and at all the Santa Mail days (dates above in lunches section). Please consider bringing a toy when you attend the lunches.

Do you have a favourite charity? Nominate them for club support!!!

Each year, we ask our members to nominate registered charities that are important to them to receive funds from the chapter. The chapter supports two charities annually. In the past we have donated \$500 to each charity but we have decided to continue to make two donations, but of \$250 each. We think this is the best use of membership funds, while keeping our community support.

If you have a favourite charity you'd like us to support, please send a note, sharing a few words why you'd like us to help that group and if you have any involvement with them (not a requirement). Please send an [email](mailto:general@bytownchapter.com) (general@bytownchapter.com) by October 20, nominating your charity and perhaps you can be a Heritage Club hero to them! Members in good standing, for the current and past year, may give organizations for consideration.

Heritage Club Scholarship winners!

Once again, we were delighted by the interest in the program and the quality of the applicants. This year, the program received 24 applications representing 13 chapters across the country. Judges had a very difficult task choosing just three winners with applicants showing a remarkable combination of

community involvement, academic achievement and a genuine desire to continue their education and make a difference. After careful consideration and deliberation, the 2026 Heritage Club Scholarship winners are:

Madison Wong — ON / Simcoe Chapter

Reed Bursey — NL / Terra Nova Chapter

Alexis Mathieu — QC / Laurentides-Lanaudière Chapter

A Special Thank You... This program would not be possible without the dedication of our judging committee. Our judges generously give up valuable summer hours to carefully review and score each application, and their time and expertise are greatly appreciated. A huge thank you to Monique Dumesnil (NL), Christiane TAILLEUR (QC), Kathryn Cunningham (AB), Lloyd Rogowski (AB) and Cindy Daoust (ON) for taking on this important task.

Congratulations to all our applicants, for a remarkable secondary school effort, and especially to our three 2026 scholarship winners! We are proud to support the next generation of learners through the Heritage Club Scholarship Program. Learn more about each deserving candidate [here](#).

A reminder...

Your Executive would like to take a moment to remind everyone of our refund policy for events. Our events are generally priced below cost and often involve non-refundable expenses such as pre-purchased tickets, transportation and confirmed meals. We completely understand that plans can change and cancellations sometimes can't be avoided, and we certainly appreciate members staying home if they're feeling unwell. If you need to cancel, please let us know as soon as possible. We'll do our best to resell your spot—possibly at a reduced price if the event date is approaching—and will refund any amount we're able to recover. Unfortunately, we can't refund costs that have already been committed or paid and cannot be recovered. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. It helps us keep our events affordable for everyone!

That is all for this month, happy fall!

Your By-Town Heritage Club Executive

P.S. A reminder... with the new email/PDF newsletter distribution, the links to emails and websites don't always pop up from the newsletter. As always, to register for lunches, any activity, or for any general correspondence, our email is: general@bytownchapter.com. The email for the treasurer, for payments, is treasurer@bytownchapter.com.

PAYMENT INFORMATION FOR ALL EVENTS AND DUES

NOTE: Dues are \$25.00 per year to renew.

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD – E-transfers

- Please send an email to treasurer@bytowndchapter.com with the following details:
- The reason for the e-transfer (annual membership fee, specific activity)
- The amount of your e-transfer
- Your name and membership number

ALTERNATE PAYMENT METHOD – By Cheque:

- PLEASE NOTE WE DO NOT ACCEPT POST-DATED CHEQUES FOR ANY PAYMENT
- Please send an email to treasurer@bytowndchapter.com noting you would like to attend the event, or are paying your dues, and will be paying by cheque
- Make cheque out to 'BY-TOWN HERITAGE CLUB' and mail to:

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