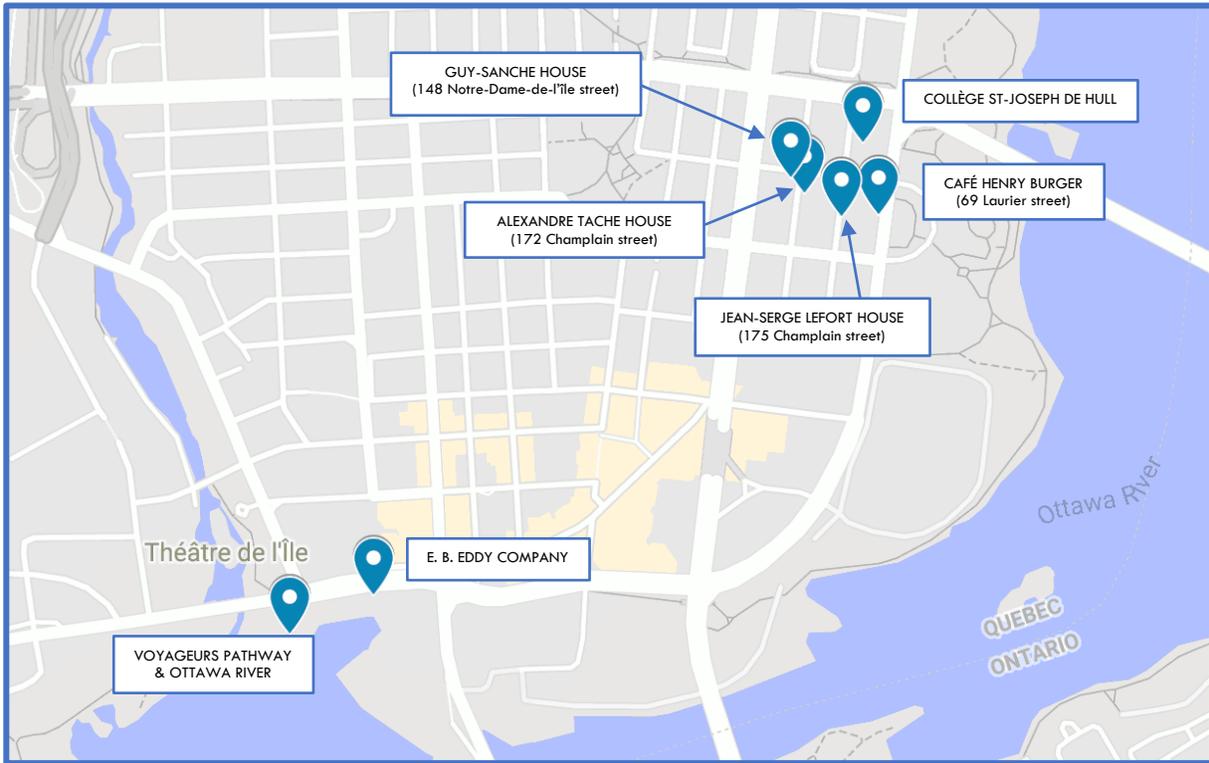


City History Hunt: French Canadians



The Voyageurs Pathway & Ottawa River

Samuel de Champlain was the first European explorer to reach the Ottawa-Gatineau area in the early 17th century. He was searching for trade routes and succeeded in setting up a trade route with the Anishinaabe people of the area. The Ottawa River was vital to the Anishnaabeg people for survival, but also to the explorers and later for the fur trade. However, due to the difficult terrain such as the nearby Chaudière Falls, those passing needed to portage their canoes through the area. The Voyageurs Pathway runs 30km along the Ottawa River in Gatineau and follows the route taken by many of the Odawa people, explorers, coureurs des bois and Jesuit missionaries years ago. This route would have been very important to those who used it for trade, travel, and other purposes





E. B. Eddy Company

The many buildings along the Gatineau banks of the Ottawa River were the first industrial buildings near the Chaudière Falls. These buildings played a large role in developing Gatineau, then Wrightsville and the area's lumber industry. The son of Wrightsville's founder, Ruggles Wright, built a crib slide in 1829 that would minimize the loss of logs travelling down the Ottawa River.



Figure 1: Workers at the E. B. Eddy mill (Bytown Museum, P747)

The area is best known for Ezra Butler (E. B.) Eddy's match factory and paper mill, established in 1854. Eddy also established a box factory and paper mill in the late 1800s which fueled the lumber industry in the area. After Eddy's death in 1906 many owners oversaw the factory, however, the site was eventually sold to be transformed into the Zibi site where the old factory buildings are being incorporated into the design of residential and commercial spaces. Another of Eddy's factories is currently the site of the Canadian Museum of History.

Café Henry-Burger (69 Laurier street)

Henri Burger emigrated to Ottawa from Switzerland to work as a butler at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. Henri and his wife, Marie, opened the Café Henry-Burger in 1932. Marie ran the restaurant after her husband died in 1936. The restaurant was originally located on Laval street, but due to two major fires, Marie Burger decided to move the restaurant to Laurier street.

The restaurant attracted many notable people due to Marie Burger's attention to detail. It was known for its quality French cuisine and fresh ingredients which Marie would hand-pick from the ByWard Market in Ottawa to ensure its freshness. Some notable people who ate at Café Henry-Burger include Yousuf Karsh, Alfred Hitchcock, Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent, and Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.





**Guy-Sanche House
(148 Notre-Dame-de-l'île street)**

This house was inhabited by Guy Sanche, a famous Quebecois comedian best known for the character of Bobino in a kid's program on Radio-Canada which aired from 1957 to 1985. The house was built in the Hull style between 1886-1887.

**Alexandre-Taché House
(172 Champlain street)**

This building was built in 1911 by Joseph Bourque and is famous for its residents. Lawyer, Member of Parliament, speaker of the National Assembly of Quebec, and Superior Court judge Alexandre Taché lived in the house from 1941-1964. Premier of Quebec Maurice Duplessis also stayed at the house with the Taché family occasionally.



**Jean-Serge Lefort House
(175 Champlain street)**

This building was built in 1940, inspired by a neo-Tudor style of residence. It was the residence of Jean-Serge Lefort, an architect involved in many of the buildings developed in the 1900s in Ottawa and Gatineau. Lefort studied at the University of Ottawabetween 1915 and 1922 before beginning his career as an architect that carries his legacy. Many of his designs were for school buildings including the University of Ottawa and extensions of St. Patrick's College (now Immaculata High School). He even submitted a design in the international competition for the National War Memorial in Ottawa in 1925 at only twenty years old.



Saint-Joseph College

This girls' private school has roots as far back as the 1860s when two classrooms were established by the Church, one for boys and another for girls. Through Confederation education became a provincial matter and the Gray Nuns of Montreal, now known as the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa were connected to this institution and two nuns were hired to teach the classes. The school began growing quickly and taught separate classes of English and French students. Many different schools and school buildings including a music school and the Marguerite-d'Youville Classical College, the first classical college for women in Western Quebec. In 1970, Saint-Joseph College was accredited by the Ministry of Education as a private girl's secondary school.



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