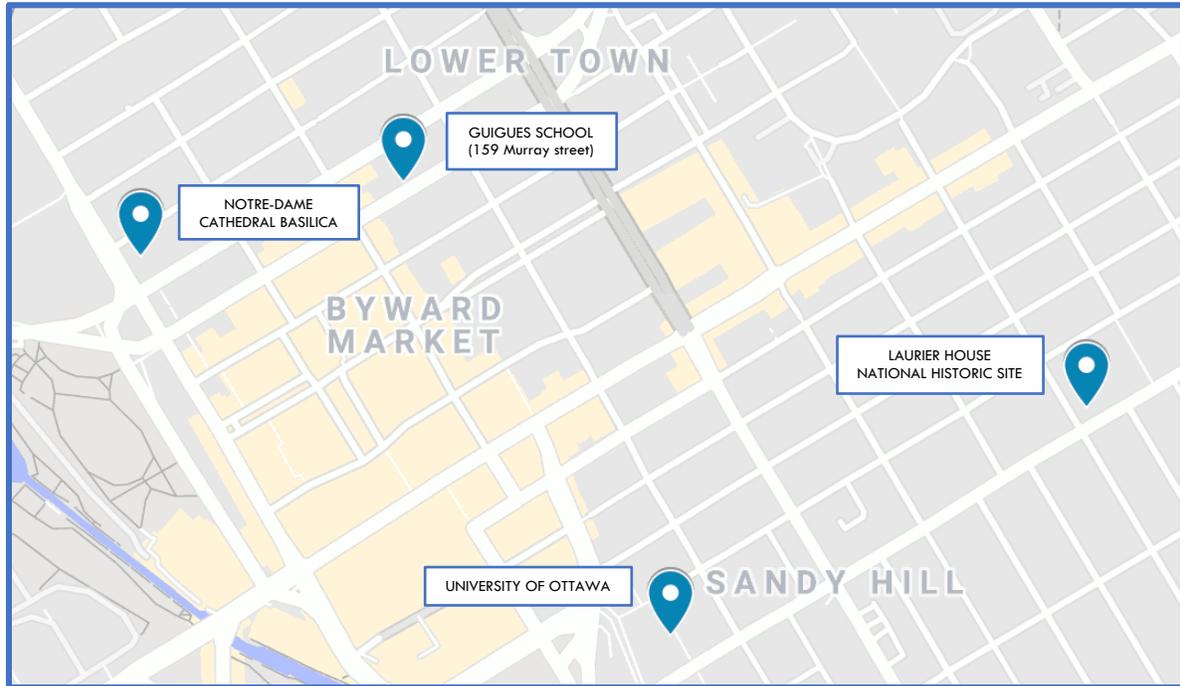


City History Hunt: Francophone Education



Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica

The Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica is a well-known landmark in Ottawa and important to the history of Catholics, French Canadians, and francophone education in the region. The first bishop, Joseph-Bruno Guigues was instrumental in providing francophone education for the citizens of Bytown and Ottawa through the founding of the College of Bytown (now the University of Ottawa), a bilingual institution. To this day, services are held in both English in French. In 1900, the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica was designated a National Historic Site of Canada.





Figure 1: A group of students with their teacher outside the Guigues School in 1905 (City of Ottawa Archives, MG464-CA000198)

Guigues School (159 Murray street)

The Guigues School was built in 1904 to accommodate approximately a hundred boys from another French school located not far from this location. This school plays an important role in Ottawa's French history, especially for francophone education. It became the main site for the Franco-Ontarian fight against Regulation 17, designed to close French schools in the province and forbid the teaching of French past second grade. Many of the women of the region stood their ground in The Battle of the Hatpins on January 7, 1916, during which they fought off police attempting to interfere with the teaching of French at the school. The long fight for Franco-Ontarian recognition and rights continued for decades and led to the abolishment of Regulation 17 in 1944.

Laurier House National Historic Site

Now managed by Parks Canada, this building was home to Prime Ministers Sir Wilfrid Laurier and William Lyon Mackenzie King. The Laurier family left the house to Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King in their will, which he in turn donated to Canada upon his death. Laurier was Canada's first francophone prime minister and played a crucial role in bringing compromise to the needs and wants of both French and English Canadians. One of his first acts as prime minister was to ensure Catholic Manitobans could access French Catholic education by passing the Laurier-Greenway Compromise. Laurier navigated the difficult balance between the desires of English Canada and French Canada, all while advocating for the rights of the French and Catholic groups.



University of Ottawa

The University of Ottawa first opened in 1848 under the name of St. Joseph's College in a small wooden building beside the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica. It was founded by the first bishops of the cathedral, Joseph-Bruno Guigues. A year later it was renamed the College of Bytown, changed to the College of Ottawa in 1861, and finally the University of Ottawa in 1866 upon gaining university status. The university was originally started by the church but is now secular. It was Ottawa's first bilingual university and is now the largest bilingual university in the world with over 40,000 students.



Figure 2: Tabaret Hall at the University of Ottawa.



Tag us in photos of your history hunt!

@bytownmuseum

