

MAINSTREETER

OLD OTTAWA EAST'S COMMUNITY VOICE | LA VOIX COMMUNAUTAIRE DU VIEUX OTTAWA-EST

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A NEW DAY DAWNING FOR DESCHÂTELETS



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Ottawa City Council has approved rezoning of the main Deschâtelets Building for a new French-language elementary school within its walls.

City okays chapel demolition, new school

JOHN DANCE

After about four hours of vigorous debate at the City's heritage and planning committees in mid-September, the proposals for a new elementary school in the heritage-designated Deschâtelets Building and for the demolition of the building's chapel

wing were recommended by the planning committee and subsequently approved by City Council on September 23. The decisions come with conditions that, among other things, would provide some commemoration of the to-be demolished chapel wing and the history of the Oblates who built the Deschâtelets building in 1885 and modified it extensively over the years.

Assuming the conditions are met and the sale of the building from Regional Group to the French Catholic school board (Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est

(CECCE)) proceeds, the new location of the Au Coeur d'Ottawa school would open as early as next September with a maximum enrollment of 351 students.

But it's an ambitious schedule and, as pointed out by Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard, "there are a lot of moving parts." One of the other "moving parts" is a much-needed new community centre that would occupy half of the ground floor of the re-purposed building, along with a new gymnasium / multi-purpose structure to be built just to the north of the building and to

be shared with the school.

The new school is designed to occupy the other half of the ground floor and the second and third floors. The third "moving part," would be affordable seniors housing on the top two floors of Deschâtelets.

At both the Built Heritage Sub-Committee and Planning Committee, numerous objections to the demolition of the heritage-designated chapel wing were raised by

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Mainstreeter Interview

OOE Race Car Driver Zach Robichon

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Last call, the very last call...

Canal Royal Oak closes – forever

JOHN DANCE

The mighty Oak has fallen. The "Canal" Royal Oak at Pretoria Bridge has permanently closed after 19 years as Old Ottawa East's one and only pub and serving as its unofficial headquarters for all sorts of community events.

In mid-March, the Royal Oak Pub Group took the decision to shut down the refuge of local residents, Canal skaters, passersby and thirsty sports teams, but only in September did it become known that the Oak won't be reopening.

It wasn't COVID-19 that drove the closure but rather "It had to do with the building falling into disrepair," says

Justin Howard, CEO of the Royal Oak Pub Group. And, given the possible expropriation of the property by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO), further investments in the pub and the building were not warranted.

MTO originally proposed expropriation so that, in a few years, it would have space to rebuild the Queensway Bridge that spans Queen Elizabeth Drive, the Rideau Canal and Colonel By Drive. However, in view of opposition to the demolition of the Royal Oak building, "The ministry is still reviewing design options for this location. Until the ministry has a preferred option, discussions with the property owner are

currently on hold," says MTO spokesperson Brandy Duhaime.

Meanwhile the owner is looking for a new tenant so there is a slight glimmer of hope that there could again be some sort of

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THE MAIN EVENT 2020



Musician Fana Soros and Stilt Walker Laura Astwood perform their sidewalk antics for captivated local residents young and old.

Old Ottawa East youngsters join in the fun with the Main Event Roving Entertainers.



Above: A young member of the community makes his own brand of music for the Junkyard Symphony; Below: The Roving Musicians event featured Junkyard Symphony performers Jonny and Jimmy.





JAMIE BROUGHAM PHOTOS

TOP LEFT: A local family beats the heat this summer by cooling off in one of several choice neighbourhood swimming spots along the Rideau River. TOP RIGHT: A lone wader ventures into the swimming hole at the edge of Brewer Park in Old Ottawa South. BOTTOM LEFT: Ella with mom Maureen Ward and dad Andrew Crawford display a little print handiwork on a Kisbee Ring that will be posted by the dock next spring at Brantwood Park.

One of the best summers ever for swimming in the Rideau Taking the plunge in Old Ottawa East's local swimming holes

JAMIE BROUGHAM

Maybe not so across the board, but for some things that add to the value of our local community, this summer has been absolutely the best! Where to start? How about swimming...

Finding three or four spots on the Rideau River in and around Old Ottawa East that are prime for swimming has been a profoundly excellent experience, and one that for me has transformed our central municipal neighbourhood into cottage country! Having done the research this summer, here's my list of the top three places to swim along the Rideau River in our community:

1: At **Brewer Park**, by the pond, just down from the dock. I found this great spot that was mostly man-made close to where the pond drains. There is a bit of a current there, and it is sloped wading in without a lot of yuck underfoot. The current keeps



the top of the water clear - which is a big issue closer to shore on many spots along the river. People walk by and look with curious wonder and some ask if it's 'safe to swim' when I'm already wet-haired and in the water... Yes, it most certainly is!

2: At the **Windsor Park** dock. The truth is that I only tried this spot once because I wasn't keen to swim with a bunch of teenagers (who could be my kids!) - and they or their families were swimming just about every time I biked or paddled by. The one time I did find the dock used by a couple of adults around my age, I did running dives into the river - and it was special. I was reminded that it is never too late for a happy (second) childhood! The only drawback is the totally natural shoreline that can be mucky getting out. I just paddled to the side of the dock and pulled myself out, but if you do have to walk out, hmmm.

My recommendation to the City or the community - install a ladder!

3. At the foot of **Centennial Avenue** in OOE. There's a little path that leads to the water as well as some stones put in place from yesteryear that ease getting in and out considering how mucky it is. Once past the submerged (imperfect, but functional) walkway, it's a couple of strokes out to the open water and - bliss! There's an abundance of clean water that takes the summer heat and stands it on its head.

Interestingly enough, the big swimming disappointment for me this summer has been the **Brantwood Beach** and dock. The dock, while functional, is at the end of a road leading down to the river from the parking lot and it is not well-placed for swimming. The shoreline is mucky, and there is a significant hazard just off the dock - a big old piece of sewer pipe - not nice. A better spot for a dock at Brantwood would be in front of the field house, since the water there is deeper, and the swimming would be closer to the heart of the park where people are enjoying themselves! As to the beach itself, the dog walkers have been helping to keep

the geese away, but when the geese get too plentiful, the beach becomes a big mess.

The Rideau River is a magic resource! One of the greatest features of the river is that most of the shorelines are natural. And as for water quality, this summer was one of the cleaner ones on record, according to the City's water checks at Mooney's Bay.

The health and cleanliness of the river has also benefitted greatly from the work of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. So, since it's all clear in the Rideau River, what's stopping you from taking the plunge?



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SHARING LUNCH WITH...

"I am nowhere near ready to stop pushing to reach my goals"

In this installment of our Sharing Lunch With interview, we talk with one of the most famous race car drivers in Canada that you have almost certainly never heard of! Unlike well-known Formula 1 race drivers like Lewis Hamilton or Canadian Lance Stroll, 28-year-old Zacharie Robichon, a native of Old Ottawa East (OOE) who grew up on Brown Street, does his racing on the Endurance Sports Car racing circuit which was portrayed recently in the film "Ford vs Ferrari". A member of Pfaff Motorsports Team Porsche, Robichon has already garnered 38 victories and 55 podium finishes and has taken the prestigious pole position at the recent 24 Hours of Daytona race at the famed Daytona Speedway.

With university business degrees in economics and finance, Robichon has used his academic background to diversify his racing career through his association with Porsche Canada. However, his childhood dream of racing fast cars continues to push him forward to the global pinnacle of endurance racing, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, France, arguably the most famous car race in the world. We asked Zacharie about his childhood in Old Ottawa East, his experiences climbing the ranks of professional racing and whether the COVID-19 pandemic has changed his fast-paced lifestyle.

THE MAINSTREETER: Zach, I understand that your father raced during your early childhood. Can you explain how and when your passion for car racing developed?

ROBICHON: Without a doubt, I can say with 100% certainty that my passion for car racing growing up came from my dad. One of my earliest memories, and probably the earliest memory of anything car-related, would have been in 1997 when Jacques

Villeneuve, a Canadian race driver, won the Formula 1 World Championship. I was five years old at the time, and I can recall waking up early on Sunday morning with my dad to watch those Formula 1 races.

My dad got back into racing, having previously taken a step back when my sister was born, when I was 4 or 5. I watched him racing, and that extended my interest. You know, everybody wants to be like their dad in a way, and when I saw my dad racing, it



LENSEN PHOTO

Zacharie Robichon (center right) and his teammate Dennis Olsen (centre left) of Norway celebrate a victory at the IMSA WeatherTech GTD championship at Lime Rock Park in Connecticut July 2019.

definitely inspired me about the sport. I started racing when I was 13. That passion has never disappeared.

My mom always tells the story of me as a young kid. I was three years old, and we'd go to a coffee shop and I would watch all the cars going past the shop and I could name what kind of car they were. I could barely talk, but I knew what kind of car all of our neighbours drove. It's always been something that I'm passionate about, and I'm lucky enough now to make a living from doing what I love.

THE MAINSTREETER: What kind of racing did your father do?

ROBICHON: He started racing before I was born. He raced small Formula cars in the 70s and 80s, and actually, in 1989, he was driving in a race and my mom was working in the pit crew. After the race, she told my dad and the rest of the pit crew: "Hey by the way, I'm pregnant", and that was with my sister. He stopped racing at that time and then, on his 40th birthday, for his midlife crisis, let's call it, instead of buying a sports car, he bought himself a go kart and went racing near Montreal.

THE MAINSTREETER: And I believe you also began with go karts. Can you describe kart racing for our readers?

ROBICHON: Sure, just think of a go kart you can rent, one that you go drive with your kids, where the karts travel at 30 kms/hr. The karts we race look similar to that, but instead of going 30 kms/hr they go 130 kms/hr. The ones the public rents have all kinds of plastic body work around them, but our race karts are much lighter. A good modified racing kart has a powerful two stroke engine - 125 cc -

and it goes from zero to 100 kms/hr in about four seconds. So, they're fast.

THE MAINSTREETER: What was the next level of racing for you after you graduated from go karts?

ROBICHON: After kart racing, I started driving in what's called the Formula 1600 or Junior Formula class. It's actually the same class that my dad raced in the 1980s. It's the natural stepping stone to entry level car racing, since you go from a modified go kart into a full car.

When the time was right, by 2013, my dad said we could try Junior Formula for one year, because it's more expensive. After that, we agreed that I was on my own to figure out how to continue racing, and how I was going to get sponsors. I ended up racing in that series for three years. Luckily, for the second year, I was able to find a few sponsors and by the third year, I ended up actually working for the team. I was racing, but also working as an engineer and as a mechanic. On race weekends, when I wasn't racing, I would help the other drivers, because I'd already been there for three years and I had won a lot of races. So, that's how I got my career going.

THE MAINSTREETER: Was it very challenging for you to go from kart racing to Junior Formula or was it sort of a natural step?

ROBICHON: It's kind of a natural progression. The biggest challenge when you go from the go kart to the car racing is dealing with the weight of the car. When you're driving a go kart, with me in it, it weighed less than 400 pounds. Now all of a sudden, you're dealing with a car and while it's still light,



Robichon drives the Mark Motors Porsche GT3 Canada Cup in Montreal in 2017.

OOE RACE CAR DRIVER ZACH ROBICHON

about 1500 pounds, it is four times the weight of what you're used to.

Although the speed is physically much higher, with possibilities of upwards of 230 kms/hr, everything actually happens slower than in a kart because the car is so much heavier. That's the biggest challenge when you go from a nimble little go kart to heavier race cars. Everything happens more slowly than what you're expecting, even though you are going 100 kms/hr faster. You actually have to think slower, relax more and let the car move around.

THE MAINSTREETER: When you were young, did you ever have any doubts that this was what you really wanted to do as a career, or has it always been clear to you?

ROBICHON: Honestly, I think the reason why I have been successful is because I never actually thought I would make it a career. When I was a kid, I loved it, and obviously I wanted to race. I wanted to become a professional. But there's also a big financial hurdle involved with it, and I knew that as soon as I started. So, for me, it was just something that I enjoyed doing, so I never actually put all that much career pressure on myself.

At the time, I was also still ski racing and that was very much my main focus at that age. The karting was fun, and it was my release from the ski racing. I think it actually helped my development because I didn't put that extra pressure on myself. And even now that I have made a career out of car racing, I still have that same mentality. I always strive to think that I'm here because I'm having fun, and not necessarily because I have to be here to make a living.

THE MAINSTREETER: You said that there are a couple of things that make it too real. Are you by chance thinking of crashes and possible injuries?

ROBICHON: I think to be to be successful you can't think of those things - obviously sometimes things happen. I've had a couple of relatively big accidents, but luckily I was unhurt. You can't think of that as a deterrent to driving. At the end of the day, you are not the only person who's deciding whether or not you're going to be able to succeed. It's much like a hockey player - if they get hurt, it's out of their control and it might derail their career.

Because car racing is such an expensive sport, you've got all these sponsors and you get reminded every now and then that you don't have the final decision on whether or not you're going racing that day. Sometimes that can become a little confusing and frustrating, but it's also the nature of the sport. The drivers are often the last people to know what's going on and sometimes it's a little overwhelming.

THE MAINSTREETER: From the Junior Formula circuit, what was the next step up the ladder for you?

ROBICHON: So, after three seasons of Junior Formula car racing, I needed to find

something else. Sports car racing seemed like the obvious way to go. I made the switch to sports car racing because there's a lot more manufacturer involvement, so it's much easier to get sponsorship. If I drive a Porsche, and although it's not the street car, it still looks like the street car. You can go to a sponsor and say: Hey, I'll have your name on a Porsche, and they know what that is, and they think that's cool.

There was a race series in Canada called the Porsche GT 3 Canada Cup, and all the Porsche dealerships across the country were fielding teams in this series. I was very fortunate to meet with Mark Motors on Montreal Road in Ottawa. It was pure luck. I was coaching at the racetrack, and they asked if I wanted to drive a car. I was, like, "who doesn't want to drive a Porsche?" I'd never even been in a Porsche in my whole life, and here I was about to get into a Porsche race car. I jumped in, did 10 laps and it all kind of started there.

After that, I was introduced to Michael and Liza Mrak, the owners of Mark Motors, and they very kindly gave me my opportunity to race Porsches. I spent three great seasons, 2016 to 2018, racing with Mark Motors in Canada in the Porsche GT3 series.

THE MAINSTREETER: How successful were you with that team?

ROBICHON: There were 12 races a year. We finished third in 2016, second in 2017, and we won the championship in 2018. We had a very good three years together. In total, I believe we won 15 races, and I think we had 35 podiums.

THE MAINSTREETER: That takes us to 2018, and you move from Mark Motors to another team, and a different class of racing, correct?

ROBICHON: When I raced with Mark Motors, everybody I raced against drove the same Porsche car. After I won that, I moved up to the pinnacle of sports car racing - endurance racing - which is 24 hour, 12 hour or six hour races, and you race with a team against other manufacturers' cars - Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Audis, Mercedes, and others. I had the opportunity to join Pfaff Motorsports, a team based in Toronto associated with Porsche.

THE MAINSTREETER: Let's pivot to the present day. Tell me about COVID-19 and how life has changed for you and your family?

ROBICHON: I've been lucky. Myself, my family, my girlfriend and all of her family, we've all been very healthy. My girlfriend and I have been living at my parents' cottage at Mont Tremblant since March. We have a condo in Montreal, but we figured the best and safest place to be was at the cottage away from the cities.

I started working again in June. On top of the racing, I also own an event management company that runs all the events for Porsche in Canada. So, for any event that involves the



LENSSSEN PHOTO

Pictured here at Daytona Speedway, Robichon and his Pfaff Motorsports team took the pole position at the famed 24 hour endurance race.

Porsche car that's owned by Porsche Canada, my team of 30 staff is involved - we do driving experiences for Porsche owners, we teach people how to drive on the racetrack, and we teach people how to safely drive on ice. And, since June, we've spent a lot of time putting together new protocols to be able to run our events in COVID-19 times.

THE MAINSTREETER: Still on the COVID crisis, when things stabilize, do you think you still have the drive to get behind the wheel and continue your racing career?

ROBICHON: I think if this forced break has taught me anything, it showed me how much I still love racing, and that I am nowhere near ready to give up pushing to reach my goals and continue my life as a race car driver.

My first big life goal as a driver was accomplished in 2019 and 2020 when I raced in the 24 Hours of Daytona at the Daytona International Speedway, which is America's toughest endurance race and arguably the second biggest endurance race in the world, next to the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France.

Le Mans has always been regarded as the biggest sports car race in the world. Anyone who has seen the Ford vs Ferrari movie will know the big race there is based on the Le Mans endurance race, so that remains my biggest career goal, and the next step that I'd like to take. And if you watch that movie, every other race they feature when they show the build up to the finale, well, I've actually done all those races, so it's just that one big one that our Pfaff Motorsports team hasn't done yet.

THE MAINSTREETER: We started off

talking a little about your folks and the kind of support they've given you. Let's conclude with your mom and dad.

ROBICHON: Really, none of what I have done could have been done without them. Financial support is one thing, but it takes so much more support to enable this kind of success. My mom, she's about to throw up every time I'm on the track, but that doesn't stop her from coming to a lot of races and supporting me.

My dad obviously loves racing. I spend three or four hours with him after races he attends just talking about the race. He will re-watch it five times and tell me things about what happened that I don't know, because when I'm driving I'm focused on myself. And with my mom, it's just very special - no matter what I do, I know that, whether she likes it or not, she'll be there to support me.

In our next issue, we interview Canadian international cyclist, Michael Woods, who took the sport's bronze medal at the 2018 World Championships. Woods, who grew up in Old Ottawa East, is considered to be one of the foremost hill climbers in all of cycling. He is currently under contract to team up with four time winner Chris Froome in next year's Tour du France.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RESIDENTS DESERVE BETTER PLANNING AND DESIGN

As our community sings the praises of the Flora Footbridge which has indeed fulfilled the timely purposes of access and healthy walking, we are saddened by its bulkiness in the Clegg area and the utter disregard for the residents of that neighbourhood. It is also sad to see oversized houses being constructed around our beautiful historic Rideau Canal which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and deserves better urban planning and respect for design.

*Ed & Sylvia Cuhaci,
Mason Terrace*



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE SON

Since we saw the picture of the large mother snapping turtle in the August edition of *The Mainstreeter*, we thought we would share with you a follow-up picture of the little fellow we met.

*Michael & Sally FitzPatrick,
Corners on Main*



FISH OF THE RIDEAU RIVER

Your August 2020 article on fish by Sean Landsman caught my attention. Despite being a resident in Old Ottawa East for over 25 years, my family has never fished in the Rideau.

We did enthusiastically share the article with friends, and to our great surprise, the very next weekend our friend Andrew Gelok got straight to Brantwood Park and very quickly caught this heavy Muskie who had a big bite out of his tail, probably by another Muskie. He estimates the weight at near 7 lbs. and the length around 32 inches.

Here is a picture of Andrew taken on Saturday, August 22nd, after his catch and just before he returned the great one back to the Rideau. I have Andrew's permission for you to publish this photo should you choose as this fishing expedition was a direct result of your article.

Thanks for a super neighbourhood paper!

*Erica Claus,
Marlowe Avenue*



VIEWPOINTS ON THE RIVER FOOTBRIDGE

In her letter to the editor (June 2020), Linda Burr raises key questions about the proposed footbridge across the Rideau River at the foot of Clegg Street, specifically, is it needed and would it adversely affect the integrity and beauty of the river. These questions and many others would have to be examined in an environmental assessment before any decision could be taken to proceed with a footbridge.

That said, I'd argue that a new river footbridge has the potential to make walking and cycling safer and more convenient. Does anybody really feel that biking along Smyth Road is safe? If well designed, a new footbridge would have minimal impact on the river and its banks. For many of us, the Adawe footbridge across the river in Sandy Hill - Vanier does not detract from the beauty of the river but rather gives everybody a glorious new vantage point to enjoy the river.

*John Dance,
McNaughton Avenue*

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

On Sunday, September 20th, several households in King's Landing helped to clean the public lands adjacent to our enclave (Greenfield Avenue, Concord Street, the forest by the Nicholas Street overpass, and the footpath along Colonel By Drive toward uOttawa) as part of the Glad "Clean the Capital" initiative promoted by our Councillor Shawn Menard. Approximately 15 bags of garbage and several large items were collected for the City's garbage pick up. We thank *The Mainstreeter* for the environmental focus that you take to keep the City's core green and beautiful.

*Virginia Harrison,
Kings Landing Private*

THE MAINSTREETER

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Community Police (for non-emergency concerns):

613-236-1222 x5287 or huntmr@ottawapolice.ca

Old Town Hall: 613.627.0062

Opinion

Former Mainstreeter editor appeals for OOE support

The time is now for a Community Benefits Agreement for LeBreton Flats

MARTIN ADELAAR

The COVID pandemic has been a roller coaster ride with too many tragic outcomes. It's tough under the circumstances to think about the bigger picture. But let's, for a moment, think about the notion of "building back better".

Simply put, building back better is a concept that says we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to implement policies and programs that fundamentally begin to address myriad socio-economic and environmental problems. It's a concept that says a return to "normal" isn't good enough because normal wasn't working for a whole lot of people.

As a former long-time resident of Old Ottawa East, I had the privilege of working with smart, dedicated fellow residents on the Old Ottawa East Community Design Plan. But looking back I feel we came up short. Critical pieces of the puzzle, such as affordable housing, have not been realized. Maybe we can make it work in the case of the LeBreton Flats development.

Amazingly, the LeBreton Flats development provides us with an opportunity to build back better right in our back yard. LeBreton Flats was once a thriving working-class community. In 1962, the federal government evicted over 3000 residents from their homes and transferred ownership of the site to the National Capital Commission (NCC). Sixty years later, most of the land remains vacant and this historic injustice is largely forgotten. Now the NCC is poised to redevelop the property.

The LeBreton Flats Community Benefits Coalition believes that LeBreton can be a showcase of community building to realize a more inclusive, diverse and equitable community right in the heart of the city. The Coalition comprises 28 organizations involved in affordable housing, healthcare, education, labour, services to our indigenous citizens, social procurement, childcare and other sectors. We've advocated to the National Capital Commission (NCC) for a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) to achieve a wide range of socio-economic and sustainability outcomes during the lifetime of the project.

A CBA is a legally enforceable agreement involving communities, developers, and government, intended to achieve a broad range of socio-economic outcomes from large infrastructure and building projects.



Community advocates in LeBreton Flats are seeking support from Old Ottawa East residents in their efforts to lobby the National Capital Commission (NCC) to sign a Community Benefits Agreement governing development of the lands.

Evidence across North America and internationally shows that this progressive, modern mechanism ensures accountability; enables community driven, collaborative processes and outcomes; and generates net economic benefits (i.e., each dollar spent on the development is further stretched). The federal government is already innovating with a CBA for the Windsor-Detroit Gordie Howe Bridge project. CBAs in Toronto are enabling under-represented groups to get apprenticeships and jobs; support for locally owned businesses and social enterprises; local procurement and \$5 million for a new child-care centre. A CBA is being negotiated in the Ottawa Herongate community.

Slowly the pieces of the puzzle are coming together. The NCC intends to utilize social procurement in its tendering process and has established a Public Advisory Group to advise the LeBreton process on desired outcomes and accountability. Ottawa City Council recently passed a motion that, among other things, instructs the head of planning to prioritize community benefits the City would require from the development and also requests the Mayor to advise the NCC to consider outcomes that may be best covered by a CBA. This is important because the City has jurisdiction on review of the NCC's proposed revisions to the Secondary Plans governing the LeBreton site.

But we're not quite there yet. The NCC has so far ruled out a CBA for LeBreton based on a flawed and

outdated analysis. Their position is that a Master Concept Plan for the development will be an acceptable platform for accountability. There seems to be no evidence that such plans have the teeth to enforce community outcomes. No CBA means no accountability. It's dinner without the main course.

I'm urging all of you in Old Ottawa East to support the Coalition's CBA goal for LeBreton Flats by signing our online petition and supporting our campaign (cbaforlebreton.ca).

I'm hoping this appeal will resonate with OOE residents as you know well the challenges posed by how various developments play out in a community.

Next issue of
The Mainstreeter

Content and
advertising
deadline is:
**November
6th**



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

A wave of new traffic calming measures are introduced in Old Ottawa East

Centre line signage, gateway speed limit zones aimed at slowing traffic speed and reducing drivers' inattentiveness while traveling our community's streets

JOHN DANCE

Slow down!" A variety of measures taken by the City of Ottawa are clearly sending this message to motorists in Old Ottawa East. And the general reaction is, "OK, but now do it on my street, too!" The first of these measures was the installation of "flexible centre line signage," as the City describes it, on Marlowe Crescent and on Clegg, Toronto and Hazel streets to slow down traffic and make drivers pay more attention.

"The signs are 1.2 metres high by 32.4 centimetres wide," according to a CTV report. "They are flexible and are mounted on a spring base so they can be run over by wider vehicles, or inattentive drivers." The signs, like the flex-posts on the Smyth Road bridge bike lanes, will be removed for winter snow clearing and then reinstalled in the spring.

And there seem to be a number of inattentive drivers, given that a few of the new signs show the marks of being run over numerous times. The signs are funded as part of Councillor Shawn Menard's \$50,000 budget for traffic calming in Capital Ward.

A second program funded through Menard's budget is the creation of "gateway speed limit signs," that, according to the City website, identify the beginning and end of a legal speed limit that applies to all roadways within

an area.

In September, City Council approved a gateway speed limit zone of 30 km/h for the streets west of Main Street between Riverdale Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue. The speed reduction will not apply to the major routes of Old Ottawa East (i.e., Main, Hawthorne, Lees Avenue, and Greenfield Avenue), however, Tom Scott, OOECA transportation director, has received the commitment of Menard that the Greenfield speed limit will be reduced to 40 next year. Also, in 2021, Menard will seek approval of a gateway speed limit zone for streets east of Main.

Old Ottawa South (OOS) received Capital Ward's first gateway speed limit zone last year and Sue Neill, Ottawa South Community Association's chair of traffic and safety committee, says, "There hasn't been a night and day change in speed of vehicles in OOS since the new 30 km/h limit was implemented and I suspect that it will take some time. One of the benefits of the gateway speed zone is that all new road construction will include safety measures to reduce speed. This is good!"

Other traffic safety improvements for the community and its neighbours this summer include approval of wide pedestrian-cycling lanes over the Bank Street Canal bridge achieved through the removal of one motorized vehicle lane; a signalized pedestrian crossing of Colonel

By Drive at Seneca Street in Old Ottawa South, accompanied by a reduction in the Colonel By speed limit to 40 km/h in the stretch between Bank and Bronson as well," says John Bennett. "There are a lot of young children on this street and it is great to see them out having fun on scooters and small bikes, playing basketball, and walking dogs. This is part of what makes a great neighbourhood and healthy, happy children. Most drivers are careful and drive slowly but there are some who drive too fast, and there has been the occasional alarming case of someone — impatient or angry or both — driving down the street at high speed. The middle-of-the-road signs would make the street safer for all."

Drummond Street resident Linda Kristal "really likes" the new sign in the middle of Hazel, almost at the corner of Drummond. "Sometimes cars park too close to it to get around, but overall it has made the drive through traffic slow down and made it much safer for the kids who play in the street," she says. "I wish the car parkers would exercise more judgement, but that is a small irritant compared to the much safer speed it forces on drivers."

But there is a different reaction from some residents on Toronto Street. For many years, the primary problem there has been speeding drivers on the adjacent Main Street. Janice Isaac-Rowan says, "...we've watched people drive right over

the yellow/black signs positioned in the middle of the road. They drive so fast off the [Smyth] bridge and turn so fast onto Toronto Street that there's no way they are reading the overly large "Traffic Calming" sign that is posted eight feet from the corner. Maybe parked cars would have slowed traffic better."

Reduced speed limits on Main Street and real police enforcement are concerns of many residents living on the busy street, and residents of Lees, Greenfield and Hawthorne avenues have similar thoughts about their heavily-used streets. "It would be nice to see a speed bump on the Lees Avenue straightaway between the 417 off ramp and Main," says Daniel Wilson.

One other traffic concern, pursued by McGillivray Street's Susan Peddle, is the bizarrely configured and unsafe McGillivray-McNaughton Avenue intersection. But as Tom Scott reported at the September community association meeting, the City's response to the problem is "The intersection of McGillivray at McNaughton has zero reported pedestrian collisions in the latest 5-year collision data (2014-2018). A physical modification of the intersection is therefore not justified at this time."

City spikes Springhurst Park sports facilities to 2021

ALEXANDRA GRUCA-MACAULAY

A highly anticipated beach volleyball court, ping-pong table, exercise equipment and basketball court bench that had been scheduled for August 2020 installation at Springhurst Park have all been deferred by the city until 2021, as has been the replacement of the youth playground. According to Councillor Shawn Menard's office, the funds that had been earmarked for Springhurst Park were delayed because of COVID-19 budgetary constraints. Once again Old Ottawa East (OOE) is left waiting for much needed expansion of its community accessible recreation infrastructure.

As reported in the June 2019 issue of *The Mainstreeter*, (<http://www.mainstreeter.ca/index.php/2019/06/08/bold-vision-for-springhurst-park-community-support-sought/>) Vision Springhurst, headed by OOE resident, Rick Burrowes, had long championed a number of active recreation improvements at Springhurst Park. In the face of growing pressure for community accessible recreation facilities in OOE, and Springhurst Park in particular, the need for these projects was readily recognized.

The park is located near the Lees LRT station, the highest density area of OOE, and one where density will only intensify through anticipated new development. The heavy use of the basketball court by youth and young adults attested to the enthusiasm for new additions that would help the park become a vibrant community recreation hub.

In order to help make the vision a reality, Sandy Hill Community Health Services (SHCHS) stepped up to fund a portion of the project and was awarded a matching minor capital grant from the City, and also, the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) approved a further donation. Initially, the organizations hoped these funds would suffice to build the new



RICK BURROWES PHOTO

Much-needed recreation facility additions and improvements at Springhurst have been "parked" by the City until 2021 owing to COVID-19 budgetary constraints.

infrastructure, however, it became clear that additional monies would be needed when the City pegged the estimated total cost of the projects at \$95K. As a result, OOECA requested cash-in-lieu of parkland (CiLP) funds from the City and, in January 2020, Councillor Menard's office confirmed that CiLP would be allocated toward the Springhurst amenities.

While funding was being finalized, community members, the Councillor's office and the City spent months discussing, and at times debating, the City's choice and placement of equipment. Each component came with its own challenges: the City's initial pick of ping-pong table was not wheelchair accessible and was prone to winter damage; questions were raised as to why the City required an expensive drainage system for a sand-filled volleyball court; and early site designs had the ping-pong table located in a breezy unsheltered section of the park.

During the protracted discussions - and in a surprise move - the City offered to fund the projects in their entirety from its

Strategic Initiative Funds. As a result, the initial funding package that included the SHCHS and OOECA grant monies, and that was sitting at the ready, was unwound. Ultimately, with the City's funding in place, and with helpful liaison support from the Councillor's office that helped to allay community concerns over equipment and their placement, a procurement list and design was given the stamp of approval by all the parties. However, as the summer progressed, messages from the Councillor's office began to raise worries that the City was looking to defer the Springhurst project until 2021 due to budgetary constraints related to COVID-19.

Then, in late August, Councillor Menard advised OOECA that the City had redirected the funds intended for Springhurst - curiously now being represented as unused "splash pad" funds - towards other funding priorities. The Councillor's office has subsequently indicated that financing for the projects will revert to CiLP funding and that these funds will cover the project's total cost.

OOECA and community members expressed dismay at seeing the recreation projects postponed at a time when outdoor facilities are in such high demand. They have asked that the tender package be released in 2020 so that installation could begin at the earliest possible date in 2021. It is noteworthy that CiLP funds are generated by development projects, yet despite OOE's significant growth and rapid development the community has received less than 10% of CiLP funds spent on various ward projects since 2010.

"Our office is working to ensure that the Springhurst Park Playground and the smaller recreation projects are a priority for 2021 after being delayed because of COVID-19 budget challenges. We are committed to funding the recreation projects in full and look forward to these becoming a reality after being proposed by the community. This is an area that needs more recreation options, and we will push the City to get it done," Councillor Menard told *The Mainstreeter*. In the meantime, 'Vision Springhurst' has been sidelined once again and awaits the starter's whistle.

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Novel plastic bag recycling campaign launches as grocery bag stashes pile up during COVID-19

INGRID NIELSEN

Hey folks, we need to have an honest conversation about a difficult subject right now. No, it's not COVID-19, or homeschooling, or off-leash dogs. It's plastics, and specifically all of those plastic bags.

Do you have a not-so-secret growing stash of mashed-up plastic bags in a cupboard or under the sink? Do you sigh every time you bring one home? Do you comfort yourself with the thought that at least you aren't throwing it in the garbage, and that you'll find a good use for it? And yet, that stash keeps growing. We hear you.

Cutting down or eliminating the use of plastic bags has been challenging since March 2020. Let's face it, it can be tough to remember to bring reusable bags to the store at the best of times, but we try. Then COVID-19 hit, and it was suddenly considered rude, dangerous and often not allowed in many stores. So, most of us stopped using reusable bags and we guiltily took store plastic bags home. And our

stashes kept growing.

Recently, a group of residents in Old Ottawa South calling themselves Enviro Crew Old Ottawa South (ECOS) launched a project to help residents get rid of that stash responsibly. ECOS is actively working to protect the local environment and find ways to reduce single-use plastic and waste in the community.

ECOS has started a community collection for all plastic bags, including grocery bags, produce bags, bread bags, cereal bags, and even resealable bags. Under a program run by Metro Inc., plastic bags are collected at participating Metro stores. In cooperation with McKeen Metro in the Glebe, ECOS-collected bags will be added to McKeen's in-store collection depot and sent to Helix for recycling, a division of Novolex Inc. Residents can also bring their bags directly to the McKeen Metro.

"But wait, you can't recycle plastic bags!", you may be thinking. Actually, you can - it just requires a dedicated recycling stream. According to Novolex,

"our recycling centre washes and processes the used bags into pellets. The recycled pellets are then used to manufacture new plastic bags." The upshot is a reduction in the amount of virgin plastic needed, resulting in less chemicals and processing in the environment, as well as a reduction in plastic bags from the waste stream, including the stash in your house.

Unquestionably, all of us must continue to increase our use of reusable bags and reduce single-use plastics in our lives. However, we also know there is concern out there about reusable bags and COVID-19.

That's why we asked Ottawa Public Health (OPH) specifically about this issue. OPH has clarified their position on their website which reads: "Reusable grocery bags can be used while shopping and do not increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission if individuals follow

recommendations about hand hygiene. Staff should wash or sanitize their hands after handling bags or other products touched by customers. If you choose to use reusable grocery bags, clean your bags frequently to help eliminate bacteria and reduce the risk of food-related illnesses. While some locations may only allow the use of single use plastic bags that are provided by the store, OPH has not recommended that single-use bags are necessary."

You can reach Enviro Crew of Old Ottawa South's Facebook page or email the group at: envirocrewOOS@gmail.com. Drop-off locations are also available on the Facebook group.

[Ingrid Nielsen is an ECOS member and resident of Old Ottawa South. This article first appeared in The OSCAR and is reprinted here with permission.]

Items included in the recycling project:

- plastic retail bags
- produce bags
- newspaper bags
- dry cleaning bags
- cereal box liners
- paper towel and toilet paper over wrap
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- zipper style bags with zippers removed

Note: all bags must be clean.

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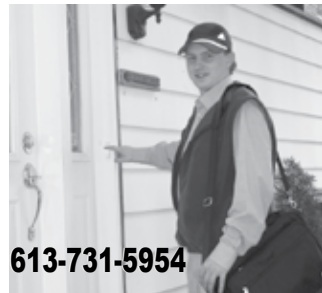
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Last call for the Royal Oak

Continued from Page 1

bar or restaurant at the location, at least until MTO figures out what it is going to do. “[W]e are actively looking for a replacement tenant [but] we have no comment on other issues related to the property,” Gordon Kaylor, the property’s leasing manager told the Mainstreeter.

Given MTO’s plans, the closure may have been inevitable – it just seems sudden and sad for patrons.

The Oak had a perfect location at the eastern end of Pretoria Bridge with great Canal and sunset views from ground and second floor patios. Inside there were lots of nooks and crannies where friends could enjoy a chat, bite and beverage. Every year organizations like The Mainstreeter would host their Christmas parties at the Oak. Throughout the year the Oak ran a series of special events whether for St Patrick’s Day, Octoberfest or whatever. With its central location, the pub was a great spot for teams to relax after an evening game. Every week there’d be trivia and open-mic nights. And for many years the OOECA

planning committee would commandeer one of the front rooms for its monthly meetings.

The Canal Royal Oak opened on May 8, 2001. “I remember that first weekend after it opened,” says Howard, “Completely packed inside and out. We employed approximately 10 people between part- and full-time. It truly had that well-worn yet comfortable feel.”

King’s Landing resident Jim Strang was the pub’s very first customer. “I was on site slightly before the 10:00 a.m. opening, and I proudly took my position at the bar. A very busy but disinterested bartender preoccupied with opening details barely noticed me. I caught his attention long enough to order, and he served me the first beer to ever cross the bar.”

The Royal Oak Group also closed its Laurier Avenue pub in July and, says Howard, the suburban Oak locations are doing better than the central ones because “nobody’s downtown,” during this pandemic. Asked about the possibility of his firm opening a new pub elsewhere in OOE, Howard says, “The development around the university [Saint Paul] is incredible – I



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Neighbourhood patrons Dan Byrne, left, and Jim Strang gave the final toast to the permanently closed-down, boarded-up Royal Oak. Now, even its sign is gone.

wouldn’t be surprised if someone put in a pub,” and he went on to comment that if there wasn’t a pandemic the firm might be interested.

“As they say, it will be sadly missed,” says Strang. “The community needs a pub.”

A Monkey in The Central Kingdom Author witnessed China’s emergence

Springhurst Avenue resident Andreas Aass has recently written a book that recounts his time during 1986 teaching in Nanjing and traveling throughout northern China. In light of the country’s dramatic growth over the past decades, his experiences in China came at an historic turning point – between Mao’s revolution and the economic powerhouse that Deng Xiao Ping unleashed. In this article, he explains how he has translated his memories of the journey into print.

ANDREAS AASS

For me, like most westerners, China was shrouded in mystery. Having lived and worked in three languages, my growing fascination with China in the 1980s led me to study Mandarin for three years under a tutor and to achieve a certain level of proficiency in the language – that of a three-year-old Chinese child, but enough to go shopping!

I set my sights on going to China in order to experience firsthand the object of my fascination. It would prove to be a life-changing event.

The year was 1986. China’s astonishing economic growth of the next several decades was incipient, and the country was rapidly opening up to the rest of the world. After millennia of separation, isolation and ignorance, a mutual openness between China and the rest of the world allowed for respect and understanding to develop.

Through contacts, I secured a post as a sessional lecturer at the Nanjing Institute of

Technology – now renamed Southeastern University – and I was able to bring a group of third-year architecture students along with me for a study abroad term. The auspicious timing of my arrival, and my good fortune to observe firsthand China’s initial steps into the 20th century, were just two of several lucky breaks that I experienced.

Indeed, the mere fact that I was accepted as a university professor in China was a stroke of good luck. In the structure of China’s society, teachers are next to parents in a person’s life – the parents give life, the teacher provides the means of earning a living. My exalted status opened many doors for me that would otherwise have been closed. As a teacher, I was able to engage in a freer exchange of thoughts and facts: unlike a diplomat or a businessman, I was seen as a harmless seeker of knowledge, and not one seeking profit or political advantage.

Secondly, the Nanjing Institute of Technology was one of the five leading universities in China. As a result, the faculty boasted of leaders in many fields of study in China’s academic universe. Moreover, their contacts were unparalleled. For instance, in Beijing, I had the opportunity to chat with an architect, Jin Obu. In the years immediately after the 1949 revolution, he helped to nationalize the architectural profession, and in 1984, he was part of the team that privatized it.

On another occasion, I asked a Nanjing colleague about Ming dynasty villages,



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Old Ottawa East resident and first-time author, Andreas Aass, found himself teaching at Nanjing Institute of Technology in 1986 at a pivotal time in the history of modern China.

whereupon I was promptly introduced to the faculty member who had written the definitive text on the subject. Finally, almost on a whim, I had brought a small voice recorder with me, and every night of my time in China, I dictated my experiences and thoughts of the day. This nightly exercise – more than 30 years later – resulted in my book, *A Monkey in the Central Kingdom*.

The book is divided into two parts: first, a tour of China, lasting several weeks, followed by our stay in Nanjing, lasting several months. In writing this book, I have purposefully downplayed almost all analyses and discussions regarding my

personal fields of study: architecture, urban planning, and urban design. The reason for this – every time I wrote on these matters, my style became bureaucratic: dense, wordy, constipated. What I was aiming for was a book that would be informative and fun, not a consultant’s report.



To purchase a copy of *A Monkey in the Central Kingdom*, contact Andreas Aass at carlos888@sympatico.ca.



UNIFORM URBAN DEVELOPMENTS IMAGE

The six-storey “ECHO” at the corner of Main Street and Echo Drive will now be an apartment complex with 59 units rather than a condominium with 42 units as originally planned by the developer.

Original plans have been scrapped

The Echo development will now be apartments, not condos

JOHN DANCE

The Echo, the six-storey boutique development proposed for the prime location on the Rideau Canal at the northeast corner of Echo Drive and Main Street, will be luxury apartment rental units rather than a condominium, Uniform Urban Developments has decided. The six-storey structure will have 59 apartment units compared with the 42 condominium units that were originally proposed.

“Uniform made the decision to pivot to apartment rentals because the market for condominium units was not meeting

our sales expectations,” says Dan Tomka, Uniform’s vice-president of high-rise developments. “The apartment complex will offer a diverse selection of unit sizes to meet the needs of residents.”

The building will have essentially the same “footprint” and appearance as was originally approved, and only “minor approvals” from the City are needed to make the change to a luxury apartment building, says Tomka.

Some additional parking spaces have been added to the development for a total of 74. The ground floor will continue to have three live-work units on the Main Street frontage, but there will be a couple

of added units at the back of the ground floor.

The firm remains committed to retaining the Holy Trinity Church bell which will commemorate the Old Ottawa East’s first church built in 1877, a structure that had been repurposed to serve as the sales office for the condominiums but that will be demolished before the complex’s construction can begin.

Uniform plans to begin construction in late spring next year with occupancy anticipated towards the end of 2022.

OOE news in the making

MAINSTREETER STAFF

As we went to press with this issue of *The Mainstreeter*, our reporters were continuing to gather additional facts related to several news stories in Old Ottawa East that have hit the daily press in Ottawa. In our December issue, we hope to examine some of the following community stories in greater detail.

Gunshots on Springhurst

As reported by Megan Gillis of *The Citizen*, Ottawa police were summoned to investigate damage to a house on Springhurst Avenue nearby to Springhurst Park caused by gunshots fired in the evening of Monday, September 28th. There were no injuries reported and police at the time had no evidence to indicate that the damaged home was targeted.

Anyone with information is asked to call the guns and gangs unit at (613) 236-1222 ext. 5050. Anonymous tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or at crimestoppers.ca.

Retirement Village retrofit?

On October 2nd, Ottawa Hospital president and chief executive, Cameron Love, explained to *The Citizen*’s Elizabeth Payne that the second wave of COVID-19 cases in Ottawa was forcing hospitals to find “every possible bed open,(...) including novel settings “not traditionally used.”

One such setting, Love stated, is the recently built, but as yet unopened Greystone Village Retirement residence behind the Deschatelets Building off of Main Street. According to the article, plans to open 120 beds this month (at the retirement residence) will reduce some of the pressure on The Ottawa Hospital.

When contacted by *The Mainstreeter*, a representative of the Greystone Retirement Village Retirement residence indicated that, at this time, there was no “additional information to share, as we are still in the initial planning process”.

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JAMES RAMSEY/SKYTOGRAPHY PHOTOS

LEFT: Greystone Village has a variety of building forms ranging from detached singles to large condominiums. **RIGHT:** The naturalized shoreline of Greystone Village is a key feature of the development, now at the halfway point.

Developer offers progress report

A tour of Greystone Village at the midway mark

JOHN DANCE

The Regional Group and its EQ Homes are proud of how they have executed their 2015 plan for Greystone Village and, at the end of August, Josh Kardish, Vice President of EQ Homes, invited Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) planning committee members to tour the site with him and review progress.

The tour was taken in the context of Regional's planned presentation to the community this fall on how it proposes to complete the development, particularly what they are proposing to the east of the Deschâtelets Building.

To date, about 233 dwelling units are completed, another 420 are or about to be under construction and 305 are in the planning phase, for a total of 958, not including the 140 units in the Greystone Village Retirement residence and possible units above the recently-approved school in Deschâtelets.

Eight OOECA members and four members of the Regional /EQ team walked along the naturalized shoreline of Greystone Village and then along various streets to review how the village's development compared to what was originally approved.

Kardish highlighted how, according to plan, what's been built compares favorably to what exists in other new developments in Ottawa. Specifically, he cited how all garages - with the exception of those on Clegg Street - are in the back of the houses so that the streetscapes are not dominated by garage doors, driveways and parked cars.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

In late August, OOE community association members reviewed progress on Greystone Village with the Regional Group/EQ Homes team.

Similarly, he showed that Regional was able to plant many more trees - and trees with the potential of being much larger - than what is found in comparable developments in Ottawa.

He explained that they located the hydro wires under the sidewalk "which allows more elements to fit within the streetscape. This may sound simple, but there are significant barriers that keep this from being

common practice. The entire boulevard and planting beds have a continuous soil depth of 0.6 meters. A minimum 10 cubic metres of topsoil is provided for each tree to improve their long-term health."

Another key point of differentiation from a "standard" development is Greystone's varying the forms and design of housing, ranging from detached singles to large condominiums at the top of the nine-storey towers just east of Saint Paul University.

Kardish also stressed the "green" features of what has been built, including a naturalized fence behind the houses that face Springhurst Avenue backyards, various storm-water management initiatives and the naturalized shoreline. In an article in *The Mainstreeter* last year, Rebecca Aird, past-chair of Sustainable Living Old Ottawa East, thoroughly analysed the development's environmental and community impacts versus what was originally proposed through SLOE's "Deep Green" initiative.

The future of the naturalized shoreline is not clear. Currently, Regional owns the 30-metre strip, although both public walking and cycling routes go through it as well as a massive City sewer underneath. Regional pays annual taxes of about \$15,000 on the strip and would like to donate it to the City, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority or some other non-profit to ensure the ongoing stewardship of this land. Thus far, no party has shown an interest in assuming ownership or stewardship.

New day dawning for Deschâtelets

Continued from Page 1

residents and other interested parties, most notably by David Flemming, chair of the Heritage Ottawa Advocacy Committee.

“We are not convinced that either the applicant or the City have made a persuasive argument to justify the demolition of the chapel,” said Flemming. “If the school has no requirement for the chapel wing at this time, why not stabilize it while the City further considers its options, or the current owner tries to find another partner to enable them to live up to their commitment to preserve the building made over five years ago?” Flemming asked.

Paul Goodkey, former chair of OOECA’s planning committee, presented strong arguments against Regional Group’s case that structural deficiencies of the chapel wing made it too costly to restore. Goodkey and others also strenuously objected to what they regarded as a rushed and questionable approval process and were of the view that the chapel wing had considerable potential for important community uses. Many related questions were raised by the heritage expert members of the heritage committee and when the vote was taken on the demolition, all four of them voted against. However, the four Councillors on the committee supported the proposed demolition.

When two days later the matter was brought to the planning committee, the demolition was unanimously approved. Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard successfully introduced several amendments



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

City Council approved the demolition of the chapel wing of the Deschâtelets Building to facilitate sale of the building to the French Catholic school board.

to the approval decision to mitigate the loss of the chapel wing.

Speaking on behalf of the Old Ottawa East Community Association, Ron Rose noted: “The issue has been a divisive one within the community, with strong feelings on both sides, but the community decided, on balance, that the value of proposed benefits outweighed the cost of the loss of the Chapel wing.”

Several parents of children of the Au Coeur school, now in temporary quarters in De Mazenod, an old school at the corner of Graham Avenue and Main Street, stressed how good it will be to have a permanent

francophone school in the Deschâtelets Building. The school’s catchment area covers Centretown, Glebe, Old Ottawa East and South.

Concerns about whether there really will be affordable housing in the upper floors of the re-purposed Deschâtelets Building were raised by Councillors Menard and Catherine McKenney and others, some of whom questioned whether the school board would be allowed to have housing above a school. Board superintendent Marc Bertrand responded that this use would be acceptable to the Ministry of Education.

Many other questions and concerns

abound, including adequacy of proposed parking, impact of the school on the city park in front of Deschâtelets, and school bus routes. Meanwhile, the school board plans to launch the project in the near future with the removal of contaminated material within the old building.

After the lengthy committee debates, Menard concluded, “It will be a ground-breaking project we can be proud of in the future”. Planning Committee chair Jan Harder, always with the last word, said, “I think this is the perfect fit for this property, for its history and for the community. I think it’s just wonderful.”



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Peter
Fowler's
OOE
Focus

THE YELLOW DOOR

Mention Main Street and Old Ottawa East to a non-resident and sooner or later the Green Door comes up in the conversation! While the renowned restaurant is one of our community's main landmarks, not all of our front doors are green.

In this whimsical feature, our photo editor Peter Fowler finds some of the community's quirkiest home entrances and explains why more and more of the eye-pleasing yellow doors are finding their way into Old Ottawa East!

Peter Fowler: The human retina has a spectral sensitivity curve. In plain English, this means that our eyes see some colours brighter than others. At the low end of perceived brightness on the visual spectrum (i.e. the rainbow) we have blue (ultra violet) and red (infrared).

Right in the centre of the rainbow, the eye has its greatest sensitivity - and this is YELLOW. A few OOE residents have acknowledged this fact by painting their front doors yellow, which is definitely eye catching. So, the next time you want to appeal to someone's retinas - put on something yellow, or outfit your home with a yellow front door!



BE THE CHANGE

On COVID -19 and the environment... Catching up with David Chernushenko

TANIS BROWNING-SHELP

real life.

One year ago, *The Mainstreeter* interviewed former Capital Ward City Councillor David Chernushenko during the final leg of his electric car cross-Canada book tour, his hatchback emptied of his climate change thriller, *Burning Souls*. To date, he has sold 1,000 copies of the book and signed an option with a Quebec production company to turn it into a TV mini-series. On the anniversary of the tour, and with us now in the midst of a global pandemic, we contacted Chernushenko to get his perspective for *Be the Change*.

THE MAINSTREETER: David, you turned to fiction as a way of reaching people about the need for environmental change. Do you have examples of how you made an impact with *Burning Souls*?

CHERNUSHENKO: Readers have told me that the book shook them up. Some described it as a “grab you by the lapels” or “smack you in the forehead” read and others remarked that they already see the book’s climate and social changes taking place in

One reader said they finally felt the threat of climate change through reading the novel, something they’d been able to avoid until then. Another, who normally prefers reading non-fiction, was impressed with the news and information in the book and my perspective on human behaviour. They’ve since become better informed and more involved in the issues facing our planet, and now engage people in meaningful conversations about them.

A woman from Nelson, BC told me that about a third of the way through the novel she realized she was always thinking about it. And that while *Burning Souls* paints a believable (and grim) picture of the near future, she sees that there is hope, as embodied in the main characters, who represent a kind of idealized global community of shared values.

When I do book events, I often feel like I’m leading ecological grief sessions rather than literary discussions. We’re all going through this together and we can get support



Selfie of David Chernushenko and his family out biking.

from one another.

THE MAINSTREETER: Do you believe that the pandemic has made an impact on people in terms of how they look at climate change?

CHERNUSHENKO: Yes, the pandemic is causing us to question what we did before. Some people want to get back to ‘normal’ as soon as possible. But time has also given us the chance to ask questions like: Did I really enjoy driving all across the city shuttling my kids to soccer etc. and spending so much time in the car?

Some people can’t wait to get back to the office to be surrounded by peers and not family members. But others think it’s great working from home.

Early on, people noticed environmental changes like the improved air quality over China, the Venice canal looking clearer, reduced commuter traffic, and kids playing in the streets. Cities were turning streets over to walkers and bikers and people were saying things like: “I’m never flying again,” or “I’m never going on another business trip.”

But will these changes be long-term, or merely short-term? We’re not making nearly enough changes to get us to the 80 percent CO2 reductions (by 2050) recommended by the Paris Treaty.

The upside is that, wow, if the government can make new rules to protect us from a deadly virus, then why not for climate change? People hated wearing masks, staying at home, etc., but they still did it. And the government found money to make major change happen.

The downside is that all over the world governments are fast-tracking major projects using COVID-19 as an excuse not to do proper environmental assessments. In Ontario, we’ve weakened our environmental laws. This is happening on a global scale with illegal cutting and burning in the Amazon and in Eastern Europe because inspectors aren’t out doing their jobs.

People may be riding their bikes in Paris, and the smog may have lifted for now, but the big picture is not as rosy. We’re doing more in cars because of fear of the disease. And people are scared of public transit. There’s been more speeding and stunt driving.

We’re also seeing connections between COVID-19, air pollution, and both race and poverty. Early results show that susceptibility to the virus is much greater in areas where air pollution is high because of poorer lung and overall health. Since this is more often in regions or neighbourhoods where people of lower income and people of colour live, there is a social and economic connection. Polluting industries tend to be concentrated more in places where those with less of a political voice live. It is grossly unfair and unjust that we in affluent places should be spared the worst of COVID-19 relative to those in places from which we continue to source manufactured products and resources. We need to work to reduce pollution and improve air quality in all places.

And we need to make sure the changes we’ve implemented during the pandemic

Continued on Page 20

FLORA HALL
BREWING

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I love that tree...

My jealous and vain red maple

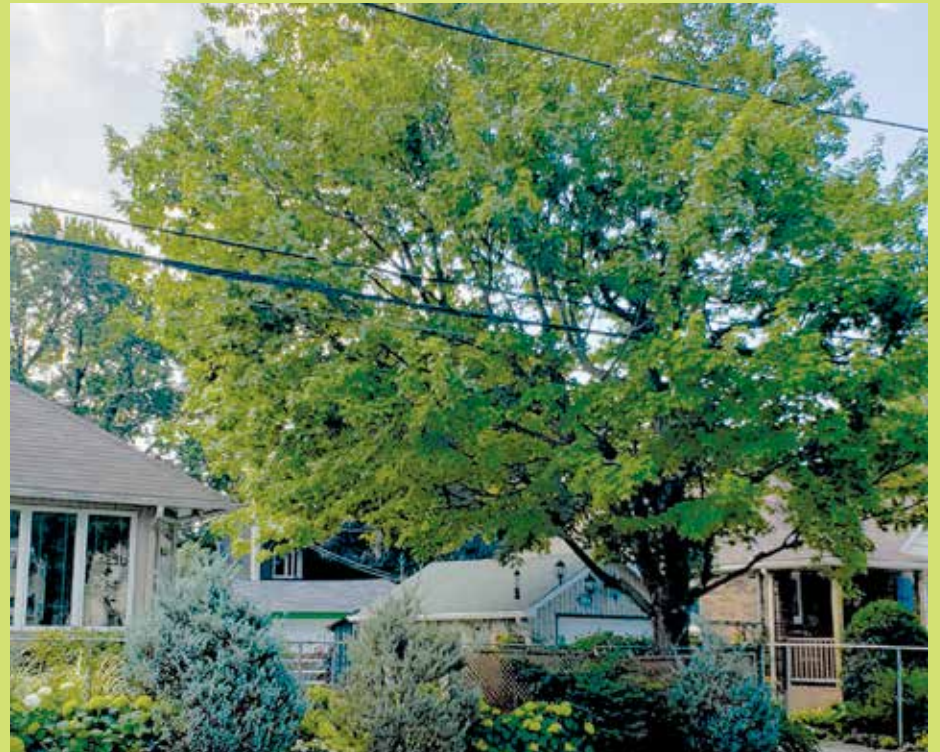
There is a maple tree in the back corner of my lot in Old Ottawa East. I don't know what kind of maple tree it is. Friends have suggested it's a Red Maple, so I'll go with that.

My tree provides shade in the hot summer months, but what tree doesn't provide shade to someone somewhere. What sets my tree apart is that it has a personality. While it does have its good traits, it is basically a jealous and greedy tree, confiscating all the water and nutrients below its ever-expanding canopy. As a result of this greed, no other plant can grow below its branches, not even grass. I tried for years to grow grass or flowers under that tree, but it eventually taught me not to bother, that it was the master of all that was below its canopy. We eventually reached a compromise, and it allowed me to build a deck around its trunk. I believe the tree agreed because it felt the deck would be beneficial by preventing

water evaporation, helping to satisfy its unquenchable thirst.

My maple is also vain. Ottawa Hydro had the temerity to run hydro wires right where my tree should have been allowed to display its symmetrical growth, forming a perfect round ball against the Ottawa sky. However, the hydro company has felt it necessary to trim growing branches away from its wires, resulting in an ugly Y shape, rather than the perfect ball that the tree knew was its birthright. Consequently, every autumn, to compensate for this blemish, and draw attention away from its scar, our maple produces the most vibrant Canadian scarlet foliage on the street. Passersby stop to remark on the beautiful colours and take pictures, which only encourages the tree to produce even more brilliant leaves until the winds of late October finally tear the leaves away (usually onto my lawn, where, once collected, they provide compost and insulation to overwinter other plants) and the tree succumbs to the inevitable cycle of dormancy and rebirth.

But it's not all bad. In the decade that we've cared for this tree, it has rewarded us with coolness on hot summer days; its branches support feeders which attract a stunning and ever-changing array of colourful birds. Its branches also supported a swing that entertained our



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

Living with our tree became easier when we realized it was here first.

grandchildren and, on a rare occasion, grandparents. The space beneath this tree has become like an extra room to our house, an oasis of peace, coolness and calm, where the day's events can be discussed, plans made, books read, friends entertained, and, cooling drinks consumed.

Living with our tree became a lot easier when we realized that it was here

first, long before we showed up with our visions of grass and flowers. Since we reached our compromise, our maple has become a part of our family, and we, as well as Old Ottawa East, have become richer by its presence.

**Ron Rose,
Main Street**



JIM STRANG PHOTO

Cluster of Manitoba Maples on Greenfield Avenue are in danger of removal.

Much loved northern gateway Manitoba Maples

Entering Old Ottawa East at its most northern border and climbing up the Greenfield hill from King Edward towards Main one is greeted by lush greenery on both sides. Approaching Concord North these mature trees form a pleasant canopy as they arch over busy Greenfield. There are several clusters of Manitoba Maples along the avenue. Directly behind our house in Kings Landing there is a cluster of three 40 foot tall, mature, very healthy Manitoba Maples that are part of our local urban forest. For so many years they have provided cooling shade and privacy for homeowners and pedestrians, habitat and food for birds and squirrels, all the time converting the noxious emissions of the many passing vehicles to healthy, breathable oxygen.

During the construction of the Kings Landing development, this cluster of trees was protected from the ravages of construction by surrounding them on three sides with iron fence. Sadly, they are now under threat. Preliminary plans for the Greenfield renewal project scheduled to begin in 2021 indicates that this three-tree cluster is in danger

of removal. These trees are very much a part of our neighbourhood. It is important that their contribution to Old Ottawa East's urban forest be taken into account in the final renewal plan. Let's find a way to save these "Trees I/we Love".

**Jim Strang
Kings Landing**



If you have a favourite tree – and who doesn't! – send a couple of photos and an accompanying submission of up to 250 words on why you love it, adding any particular details you might know about the tree (history, approximate age, species, etc.) to sloe@ottawaeast.ca. All entries will be published on the Old Ottawa East Community Association website and one (or more) entry will be featured in the pages of each of the next few issues of The Mainstreeter.

BE THE CHANGE

Catching up with David Chernushenko

Continued from Page 17

become permanent. Flying for academia, for example. We found out that we don't need to go to London, Rome, and Tokyo. We can save time and money this way. This can lead to policy changes within governments, universities, and businesses.

THE MAINSTREETER: Can we improve our community because of the pandemic to make it more sustainable and healthier?

CHERNUSHENKO: It's been such a treat to have some roads open for cycling. I see thousands of people out on their bikes, scooters, roller blading, walking, and running. We've found out that these outdoor physical activities are the least risky for transmitting COVID-19. With the push to intensification, our inner-city and suburban paths are packed. People are starting to think they have to go out to the country. But intensification still makes sense. We need to provide more space for people to do these things in our communities. Hey, city builders, design for that!

I've also seen a surge in gardening. There's nothing like the threat of death to make you celebrate and encourage life. I've seen more planter boxes filled than ever before.

Also, people have been cooking from scratch, which is healthier, and spending more time with their kids and partners.

People in our communities are starting to see that social and environmental changes do need to be made! We've heard for years that travel, car use, and air conditioner use need to decrease. But nobody wanted to be the first to give stuff up. People think: "If I'm sacrificing, then I want to know that everybody else is sacrificing!" The pandemic, in a way, has been the great equalizer. People in our communities are now embracing environmental change and sacrifice together. We're discovering the fun in stuff like growing and cooking our own food and going on bike rides. We've discovered that, hey, we can do this! Going forward, let's remember we did that.



ANDREW BALFOUR PHOTO

Chernushenko: People in our communities are now embracing environmental change and sacrifice together.



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Introducing "Teacher X"...

On the busy life of an Ottawa Virtual Academy school teacher

For many parents of young or adolescent children, COVID-19 has changed the annual back to school routine into a harrowing dilemma. Prior to Labour Day, the media was awash with information and articles assessing the potential risks of sending youngsters into the classrooms and balancing the pros and cons of in-class learning against virtual online schooling. It was a no-win situation. The attitudes of parents quoted in the news coverage often reflected outright anxiety, either borne of fear for the health and safety of their children or of worries about having to quit their jobs to stay home with their kids.

One stakeholder voice that often went unheard as schools reopened was the voice of a key player in the drama - the actual school teacher, and in particular, the school teacher who, as a consequence of COVID-19, was grappling with massive changes to the manner in which they have always taught their students.

In late September, several weeks into the new school year, *The Mainstreeter* interviewed an elementary school teacher who made the difficult choice to serve as an online teacher, a member of the Ottawa District Catholic School Board's (OCDSB) Virtual Academy. To ensure student and teacher confidentiality and candid responses, we are referring to this veteran of more than 20 years of elementary school teaching in Ottawa as "Teacher X". We will check back with her in subsequent issues of *The Mainstreeter* to report on how virtual or online education is actually working in Ottawa from a teacher's perspective.



MAINSTREETER STAFF

In a school year full of unprecedented challenges, oddly enough, the biggest challenge that Teacher X has faced in the opening weeks of classes in her new role as a Virtual Academy teacher has less to do with her ability to teach than her ability to learn. She says that the opening weeks of school have posed logistical and technology challenges that leave her wondering at times whether she is as much of a student as the youngsters in her Virtual Academy

class.

"Yes, we're following the Board's curriculum the same as the in-class teachers, but the materials have to be delivered in an entirely novel kind of way, and it's very demanding, and frankly quite stressful," says Teacher X. "Every time I plan a lesson, and every time I teach it online, I'm always thinking: 'how am I going to do this, how are they going to receive this, how are they going to read this, and how are they going to submit it back to me?' Those are the questions that I have to

ask myself constantly."

She explains that what would normally require a simple trip to the school office photocopier for 25 copies of a worksheet to hand out in class, has become both a logistical and technological challenge that neither she nor her school board were properly prepared for.

"This is the real challenge I'm confronting every day in class," she admits. "Normally, I would tell my students: Okay, here's a worksheet for everyone. But now in the virtual world,

I have to take that worksheet and think about how I'm going to push it out to the students in a way that they can work through it, and then send it back to me. And, let's face it, the email system, just doesn't cut it."

In talking about the many challenges that online teachers and the school board are facing this most daunting of all academic years, and the "tweaks, as she calls them, that the board is already

Continued on Page 34



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OOE ARTIST FEATURE: THE OTTAWA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S KATE HOLMES

Five years ago, Kate Holmes joined the board of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra (OSO) to lend a hand and learn more about music. Six months later, she found herself in the role of General Manager.

The 55-year-old orchestra has been evolving on Holmes' watch. The first step in this period of growth and change was to leave the National Arts Centre (NAC) venue, where, according to Holmes, the OSO felt like a shadow orchestra. "Our aim was to become more community based," she says. "We wanted to more closely resemble Ottawa. OSO musicians are high performing professional musicians, and they are also our neighbours." In addition to this, 25 University of Ottawa students perform with the orchestra.

"This gives the students their first opportunity to play alongside professional musicians, and it allows the orchestra to play bigger orchestral works."

Playing bigger works is in keeping with the orchestra's origins. "The group of community players who formed the orchestra in 1965 liked to perform big repertoire—such as the late 19th century romantic symphonies of Mahler and Strauss," Holmes explains. The orchestra, which has been a registered charity since 1967, professionalized over time, and puts on four to six concerts per year.

The relocation was important for the orchestra's new community focus. "At first, we moved to the Shenkman Arts Centre, but we found that the venue wasn't big enough," Holmes says.

"When Carleton University purchased the Dominion-Chalmers Church, now the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre, they invited us to perform our first concert there on January 21, 2019."

This past year, the OSO performed two concerts: one in September, and one at the end of November. But its planned concerts for March and May were cancelled when the global pandemic was declared. "The March concert would have seen 100 musicians on the stage performing Shostakovich's Symphony No.

A finger on the pulse of the arts in OOE

7, the Leningrad Symphony, and would have featured musicians from the U of O Orchestra," Holmes says.

"Historically, the premiere of that symphony was scheduled to take place when Leningrad was under siege. People—including the musicians—were starving and had to be evacuated, so the premiere was cancelled. It represents the struggle of the human spirit, something that would have resonated today with COVID-19."

The OSO is funded by the City of Ottawa, the Ontario Arts Council and Ontario Arts Foundation, Alterna Savings, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Community Foundation of Ottawa, the Crabtree Foundation, and individual donations from the community.

When the pandemic hit and concerts were cancelled, the OSO gave people three options. "They could ask for a refund for their tickets, they could keep them as a credit towards future concerts, or they could donate them," Holmes says. "Our small staff has been working to turn this situation around. The orchestra is surviving right now because we are not performing. We opted to suspend and not spend."

As COVID restrictions lift, the OSO remains suspended. The challenges of staging a concert of any scale due to physical distancing requirements for both a large orchestra and audience members are considerable. "If the answer is 30 musicians, for example, then what will we perform?" Holmes muses. "We're working

on this."

Many OSO musicians have day jobs, such as teaching, and perform with other groups. "But these community musicians love the camaraderie of coming together to make music so much that they will practice for two to three hours in addition to their other responsibilities," Holmes says. "Many of the OSO musicians feel like they are contributing to something bigger than themselves."

Holmes is concerned about keeping the orchestra in the public eye. "The good news is that the OSO has recorded every concert it has performed, for years," Holmes says. "The original idea behind making these recordings was for the conductor to listen to the performances afterwards, and for use making grant applications. With the permission of the Canadian chapter of the American Federation of Musicians, and our member musicians, we've created a series of podcasts called RE-JOYce, in which we feature selections from past concerts. At Easter, we released a 2019 performance of Mahler's Resurrection Symphony and interviewed some of the soloists from that concert."

The OSO is also creating new online content as part of the RE-JOYce series. "For example, in June, we released an episode with our principal harpist, Caroline Léonardelli, in which she welcomes listeners into her home, introduces herself, and shares some of her music."

Holmes says that OSO would love to be



Old Ottawa East resident Kate Holmes, outgoing General Manager of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra.

brave and bring concerts to community members, but for now, they are recording several ensemble performances that will be broadcast on Rogers and as part of the Re-JOYce web series. "Part of being brave is also looking at creating a different model for the orchestra—perhaps one in which we take a more collective approach and get our musicians involved," Holmes says. "COVID has given us a chance to pause and create a working group made up of musicians, staff, and board members to look into this. The strategic plan we developed two years ago focuses on using music for storytelling and performing music on different themes." The working group plans to bring options for new artistic planning models to the table for a vote at OSO's next Annual General Meeting.

Holmes will be leaving her position with the OSO this fall to provide marketing support to the Dementia Society.



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The Ottawa Symphony Orchestra performing at their home venue, the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre.

SHAWN PETERS PHOTOS

Author Tanis Browning-Shelp (www.browning-shelp.com) pens her Maryn O'Brien Young Adult Fiction series, published by Dog-Eared Books, from her home in Old Ottawa East. Contact tanis@browning-shelp.com if you have information about artists or art events that you believe would enrich our community members' lives.

OOE's got talent! Under sunny skies, art lovers flock to the community's inaugural outdoor artist's tour



Steve Fick's mirthful self-portrait was one of the portraits on display.

TANIS BROWNING-SHELP

Saturday, August 22 found Old Ottawa East awash with warmth, sunshine, and artworks during the community's first outdoor distanced art exhibit. Dubbed a "Mini Art Tour" by its organizers, the event brought scores of neighbours out to meet artists Kathleen McCrea, Rosie Cusson, and Steve Fick and view their works.

The artists held their exhibitions in the front yards and driveways of their homes on Clegg, Glenora and Drummond, complete with directional arrows for physical distancing. Cusson's lively paintings "of tea pots and more" demonstrated her unique use of bold pen outlines; Fick's "landscapes and portraits of Old Ottawa East" poignantly

captured familiar faces and haunts; and McCrea's "contemporary icons and ceramic sculpture" included eclectic pieces incorporating everything from gold leaf paper to crayons and more.

The artists were pleased with the turnout. "It was a true pleasure to share our work with friends, neighbours and other artists," says Fick. "We especially enjoyed meeting and welcoming many appreciative new residents of our wonderful neighbourhood."

With *The Mainstreeter's* backing, plans are now underway to expand the event in 2021 and combine our community's visual artists and photographers.

Watch for a call to artists and photographers in an upcoming issue of *The Mainstreeter*.



TANIS BROWNING-SHELP PHOTOS
Under the face mask, artist Rosie Cusson was all smiles at the Art Tour.



ABOVE LEFT / BELOW LEFT: A sandwich board greets art fans outside Rosie Cusson's house decorated by a framed water colour; ABOVE RIGHT / BELOW RIGHT: Clegg Street's Kathleen McCrea exhibited her painted icons and ceramic sculptures and poses with a contemporary work; BELOW CENTRE: Steve Fick's arresting painting, *Dharma Pentecost*, depicts people choosing to keep their hearts open in spite of differences between their minds.



Oh, the things you'll see!

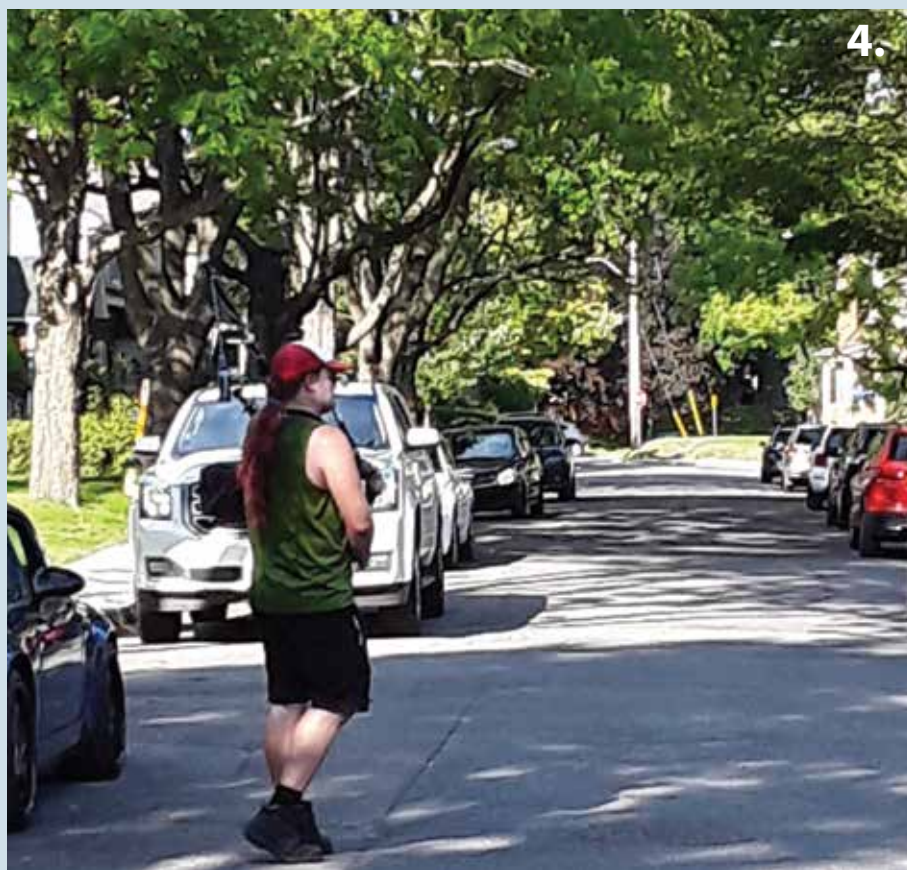
Walking around Old Ottawa East this summer, there were many surprising sights to be seen. Pictured here are a few of summer's most unusual images!

1. Old Ottawa East residents certainly care about nature as this turtle crossing sign at Brantwood Park proves.

2. Mistakes happen, and this mess up at the Beckwith Road mailbox was a case in point, but courtesy of Canada Post, the mail eventually did get through - the slot!

3. They sure don't make Chevrolets like they used to back in 1946!

4. This wandering minstrel played a number of OOE street bagpipe concerts this summer to grateful front porch listeners.



MARY LYNN WOOD PHOTO



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO



PETER CROAL PHOTO



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

THE MAINSTREETER PRESENTS

FOOD SECURITY & COVID-19

Examining the pandemic's impacts on the food
we eat in Ottawa East

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The COVID-19 pandemic has shone the spotlight on the safety, accessibility and security of our food supply. Is the food on our store shelves and in our markets safe and healthy? From where does it originate? Is it affordable and adequate and will it continue to be? What of low income earners in our community who deal with food insecurity? What can we in Old Ottawa East do to achieve food sustainability?

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Old Ottawa East Community Activities Group (CAG)
Group d'activités communautaires du Vieil-Ottawa-Est



OUR NEIGHBOURS:

Bidding farewell to a true community champion



RON ROSE PHOTO

Vicki Davis is pictured here with husband Barry Davis receiving a farewell tribute.

VICKI DAVIS

BONNIE WEPPLER

On October 1st, Vicki Davis' journey went full circle.

Davis grew up in Vancouver and on October 1st, she and her husband, Barry, made the move to Victoria. These two long-time residents of Glengarry Road have left Old Ottawa East after 34 years.

The couple were planning to sell their house next year, but when COVID-19 arrived, they thought it might be a good time to sell.

Their house sold quickly, literally under their eyes: "We sat across the street, on our neighbour's porch, and watched to see who came to see our house" she recalls. "There were 42 visits, and we gave points for those who came by bicycle or electric car! We wanted to make sure that the new buyers would fit in this neighbourhood."

It's not surprising that the Davis's are making their new home in Ravens Crossing Cohousing, a four-storey, 35-unit which is currently being built in Victoria. It is a condominium, but all decisions are by consensus. "Terra Firma in OOE is an example," she says.

Davis has long been a proponent of the cooperative/cohousing movement. She and her husband have gone to BC for the last eight winters, and "on one of our visits we attended a two-day workshop on cohousing."

When talking about their new home, Davis highlights that 33 of the 35 units are already sold. The building includes gardens on the ground and on the roof. It is energy efficient and "there is a lot of concrete in the building because of earthquake considerations!"

As for her career, she went to university in Vancouver and became a Reference Librarian. "There were no Reference Librarian postings in Vancouver at the time, so I moved to Ottawa and got a position at the Sunnyside Library."

She then moved over to the Main Library as there was more work for a Reference Librarian there than at Sunnyside.

Later, she landed a job at the Canadian Conservation Institute in the Library. "It was a good fit. There was a mix of scientists and conservators. I helped to protect the objects that came in for repair. I spent 21 years there."

Davis has made significant contributions to Old Ottawa East. After retiring in 2007, she decided to go to an Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) meeting. One of the items was recruitment for the community environmental group, Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE), and she signed up. It was at this time that SLOE was visioning projects for the community, including the Community Gardens, the Main Farmers Market and the Rideau River Nature Trail.

She has, for a long time, participated in the weekly English conversation group, contributed articles for *The Mainstreeter*, canvassed for OOECA, set up an OOE walking group, got a team together to tackle invasive plants along the river and helped with the perennial garden by Centennial Boulevard. She belongs to two book clubs and she enjoys working in her garden.

"I've lived in this community for 34 years. I am going to miss everyone, including the river and the park. This community is a wonderful community," Davis adds. "It's not the weather, especially the humidity, that I will miss, it's the people."

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The OOE Buy Nothing Group

Buy less stuff, and meet more neighbours

THERESA WALLACE

Moose meat is offered. Parking spots are lent out. Baby clothes are passed on. Garden bounty is shared. A gift of two boxes of noodles can inspire as much interest as a matching bedroom set because one of the main purposes of the Old Ottawa East (OOE) Buy Nothing site is to make connections.

“Everyone has something to give, and everyone has something they’d like to receive,” explains administrator Brenda Duke. “The mission of the Buy Nothing Project is to create a hyperlocal gift economy. It offers an online forum to give, receive, share, lend and express gratitude between people who are real-life neighbours.”

When the pandemic struck, some Buy Nothing sites suspended operations, but co-administrators Duke and Kyla Rafuse bet on OOE residents to respect public health protocols and they kept the OOE Buy Nothing Project going. Membership numbers spiked.

In April, Lani Sommers posted an appeal. “My daughter was turning 10. Having a birthday during a pandemic is kind of a bummer, so I asked members to write a message in chalk on our driveway. People stopped by all day long to leave birthday wishes, and several Buy Nothing members left presents for her.”

The Buy Nothing Project originated in 2013 in Bainbridge Island, Washington. In 2015, Duke volunteered to be on the admin team for a group starting in downtown Ottawa. Then a smaller group sprouted for OOE, Old Ottawa South and the Glebe. A year ago, that group split into three and Duke remained the coadmin of the new group, Old Ottawa East. (Rafuse is moving away, so Duke is on her own now.)



THERESA WALLACE PHOTO

Brenda Duke, administrator of the OOE Buy Nothing group, poses with her pick-up box, which sits on her front step at all times.

All giving and requesting must respect 10 simple rules—for example, no advertising or marketing is allowed. And when you post something to give away, if demand is high, please let your post “simmer” for awhile. Brenda Duke poses with her Buy Nothing pick-up box, which sits permanently on her front steps.

The OOE group now has 550 members and roughly 25 posts a day. “Groups start small but grow very fast,” explains Duke, a French immersion teacher by profession whose kids are now two, four and five-and-a-half years old.

Stephan Telka says he joined the

OOE Buy Nothing Project “to find new homes for unloved goods.” After posting a rug to give away, he got a message from a neighbour fitting out an apartment for a Sudanese newcomer. “We quickly bonded, because my partner and I were preparing to welcome an Eritrean newcomer at the same time. Over the following weeks and months, we kept in touch. Facebook and social media in general can get a bad rap but, through seemingly mundane transactions, the Buy Nothing group is building community.”

To sign up, you must have a Facebook account. Ask to join “Buy

Nothing Old Ottawa East group.” Answer the questions, which include naming the closest intersection to your residence. This ensures you’re joining the correct group.

All giving and requesting must respect 10 simple rules—for example, no advertising or marketing is allowed. And when you post something to give away, if demand is high, please let your post “simmer” for awhile. Brenda Duke poses with her Buy Nothing pick-up box, which sits permanently on her front steps

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End of an era for iconic OOE building

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The Canal Royal Oak isn't the only neighbourhood institution that closed its doors forever this COVID-19 summer.

The gas station/office location of Gordon & McGovern Construction at 60 Main Street locked its doors for the final time in late September. The building has been sold to the provincial ministry of transportation (MTO) in conjunction with the planned major reconstruction of the Queensway bridges. The site will be used as a project staging ground.

Owner John Gordon told *The Mainstreeter* that the construction and renovation business will continue to serve the OOE community in future from a satellite office. "We've been on that corner for 30 years!", said Gordon, who will be featured in the December issue of *The Mainstreeter*.

The business will continue to serve the neighbourhood but from a satellite office, according to Gordon.



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTOS

ABOVE: The familiar sign outside Ottawa's oldest (former) gas station on the corner of Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue will soon disappear as the building has been sold to the provincial ministry of transportation.

BELOW RIGHT: Owner John Gordon has worked out of the charming office at 60 Main Street for 30 years.



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Will train with Crystal Palace U-23s

Immaculata grad pursues global soccer dream

JOHN DANCE

During the summer, recent Immaculata High School graduate Givland Mata spent some of his free time leading informal and physically distanced practices of the Mac senior soccer team. Commendable but not quite what the soccer star had in mind.

This was to have been the summer when the 18 year-old would accept an invitation to train in London with a chance to try to make it onto the Crystal Palace U-23 team which feeds the Crystal Palace FC team of the Premier League. But Covid-19 has delayed the London adventure until January.

It's quite a leap from high school soccer to approaching the big leagues of Europe but Mata's life to date has had lots of leaps.

With his mother and three brothers, Mata came as a refugee to Canada in 2014. They had fled the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo and were in a refugee camp in Nigeria when they were accepted by the Canadian government to come to Ottawa.

"There was nothing much to do in the camp, so we played street soccer to keep busy," he says. He started Grade 7 at Immaculata and continued there until graduation this past spring. And along the way he played a lot of soccer, at increasingly difficult levels. The Mac soccer team went to the championship game two times while Mata served as co-captain. He also distinguished himself on the Mac track team and played many other sports.

"Givland is a great competitor and a raw talent, his physical abilities are there, and he had a man-amongst-boys body type when I first met him in grade 9," says Justin Vespa, Immaculata teacher and soccer coach. "He played on the senior team as a grade 9 and scored a majority of the team's goals with the speed and power he possessed. Now, as he matures, it's

about building his mind and vision of the game."

These views are shared by Debbie Tracey, fellow teacher and assistant track and field coach, who says, "Givland is a very talented athlete, he went to Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championship field events in grade 9 and 10 for sprinting, which he did to maintain his speed for soccer. To get to a high level of competition in any sport requires strength of mind and body; Mata has overcome many adversities to get the opportunity to play soccer at an international level and his faith helps him continue to believe in his dreams."

Mata's soccer life has extended far beyond Immaculata. He has played for the St. Anthony football club and various academies including Planet Soccer, Kevin Nelson and X-Uvia and was playing against men when he was just 15.

His breakthrough was last year when in the London (England) Cup he played against pros and, as he puts it, "played really well." This led to his being scouted by six teams, but he couldn't sign because he was only 17. It also led to the opportunity to go to London again.

Mata is very aware that the soccer dream may not work out, but he's committed to working hard and improving on his weaknesses.

"To get to the next level in anything you do, you need to commit, focus, and put in the work," says Justin Vespa. "I hope his dream becomes a reality, but even it doesn't, the work ethic and time he has put into soccer will benefit him with the other avenues he chooses."

If a soccer career doesn't pan out, Mata is considering pursuing Algonquin College's electrical engineering technician program.



JOHN/ROSS DANCE PHOTO

Immaculata grad Givland Mata plans to pursue a soccer career in Europe.



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POLITICAL PAGES

ROB GORDON A/PRESIDENT OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



HOW TO PROCEED?

Fall has always been a busy time for the community association as it regroups from the summer hiatus, gets on with pressing issues, conducts its annual membership drive and holds its annual general meeting.

But this year, as with most of our activities, is very different with the pandemic. Our community with its schools, businesses, churches, and members in varying circumstances all are trying to adapt to the changed world.

Residents' support of the community association is essential to ensuring its legitimacy and financial well-being. But canvassing residents to join or renew the annual membership will be different this year. Canvassers will drop off envelopes so that residents can then pay the \$3 per household fee by simply returning the envelope to the canvasser's mailbox. This will take a bit more effort but it's one more way to minimize the possibility of transmission of the virus.

Membership has remained modest because the goals are to generate some critical funding for the volunteer organization but with an amount that is not a deterrent to those who want to support the community association. Often members give \$5, or more, which is under consideration as becoming the new amount as we consider transitioning to a digital payment process.

While residents do not need a membership to attend and speak at community association meetings, membership allows voting at annual general meetings and the greater the membership size the greater the association's credibility and legitimacy when working with politicians, developers, city staff and others.

The AGM is a joint OOECA-Community Activities Group affair and will be held on-line Tuesday, November 10. It allows these two key community organizations to report on the past year, their financial situations and plans for the coming years as well as providing the opportunity for residents to raise questions and concerns. It's also an opportunity for our elected representatives to speak about what they are doing vis-à-vis Old Ottawa East. Attendance details will be posted on the OOECA website the day of the meeting.

During the summer most of our businesses reopened with the strong support of residents. But it remains difficult for many businesses, given the necessary pandemic restrictions. We need to patronize our shops and restaurants as much as possible to protect this key part of our community fabric.

The summer also showed the inadequacy of our permanent parks and green space. The importance of converting the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor into a permanent enlargement of Springhurst Park became that much more evident.

And the lack of greenspace on the western side of Main became more apparent, highlighted by the City's by-law group harassing basketball net owners on Drummond Street, perhaps one of the lowest traffic streets in Ottawa.

In late August, I joined colleagues and Regional Group staff to tour Greystone Village with a view to assessing progress on the development vs what had originally been approved and sought through the community's "Deep Green" strategy and the community design plan. Soon, Regional will be presenting the community its plans for what they'd like to build behind the Deschâtelets building.

They intend on doing this before seeking necessary City approvals so we will have the opportunity to influence this.

In September, the city planning committee approved the rezoning of the Deschâtelets Building to allow a new school within the repurposed heritage structure. The new school coupled with a proposed new community centre and affordable housing will provide considerable community benefits that, in the view of the OOECA board, offset the proposed demolition of the chapel wing. However, we are adamant that the heritage-designated wing must not be demolished if community benefits are not realized.

SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR-ELECT, CAPITAL WARD

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SHAWNMENARD.CA



RETURNING TO SCHOOL DURING COVID-19, A LOOK BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD TO A BUSY FALL

COVID-19 and the Return to School

It's important that we all take care of our mental health as we continue to experience the pandemic. Perhaps the biggest change for September is the return to school for students. While some parents have chosen to keep their kids home to participate in remote learning, most students will be returning to in-class instruction.

I sit as a member of Ottawa's Board of Health and want to pass on a screening tool parents can use: <https://secureforms.ottawapublichealth.ca/School-Health-Sante-scolaire/COVID-19-Screening-Tool-for-Students>. The purpose of this Screening Tool is to help parents and guardians make decisions about whether or not their child/children can attend school. This tool should be completed daily.

Springhurst Park projects

Both the planned playground replacement and the community recreation infrastructure (beach volleyball court, 3 pieces exercise equipment, table tennis, and a bench) have been deferred due to COVID-19 budget shortfalls. While we pushed to try and have the projects go forward late this year, the recreation department was delaying many capital projects, and would not make an exception for this one. Our plan going forward is to use Cash-in-Lieu funds for the active recreation infrastructure, and make sure that the planned replacement of the playground makes it into the 2021 budget. We want both to be completed under the same tender to minimize costs and disruption to the park.

Busy Summer

Council approved our requests for two more "Gateway Speed Zones" in Capital Ward. Creating a Gateway Speed Zone allows us to lower the speed limit for an entire area. This fall, we will be lowering the speed limits on residential streets in Old Ottawa South east of Bank Street, and Old Ottawa East south of the Queensway and west of Main Street to 30 km/h. We will continue to lower residential speed limits for safety purposes in all parts of the ward as the term progresses.

At the same meeting, council approved implementing safety improvements to the Bank Street Bridge over the canal. Working with staff, the new design will feature wider Multi-Use Paths on each side of the bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists and those who are differently abled. In addition, it will reduce the traffic lanes down to three, two northbound and one southbound. We anticipate this work being completed by the end of 2021. For more details, you can visit our website, www.shawnmenard.ca.

Looking Ahead to Fall

The public library branch in Capital Ward (Sunnyside) is currently closed for in person services, along with several other branches in the city. We are working very hard to see in-person service open again. I want to make it clear that the city is in no way, shape or form looking to close or revamp this branch. We have experienced staffing issues because of COVID-19. Recently I had a discussion with senior library officials, and I'm pleased to say that Sunnyside Branch will be on the next list for re-opening. This maybe part-time to begin with, but I know residents will appreciate the service here.

This summer, consultants hired by the city finished up their work on potential changes to ward boundaries, releasing a final total of six different options for the city to consider. This work was needed to ensure that everyone is represented fairly at City Hall. This can mean expanding some ward boundaries, shifting boundaries, and even adding one or two more wards and councillors.

POLITICAL PAGES

JOEL HARDEN MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE WORTH MORE THAN \$70

During the last week of August, Premier Ford's government spoke of "Ontario's Robust Back-to-School Plan" and gave students with disabilities \$70 to adjust to the COVID19 response in our schools.

That wasn't a typo. The Premier has allocated \$70 per student (\$22.5 million for 340,000) to ensure the needs of students with disabilities are met. Not \$70 per week or per month, just a one-time lump sum of \$70.

David Lepofsky, one of Canada's leading voices for disability rights, insists that far more be done. He has written to the Premier and Education Minister and done extensive interviews to highlight the fact that Ontario has no plan for students with disabilities. He is sounding the alarm, but this government isn't listening.

As Ontario's Critic for People with Disabilities, our MPP office has raised serious concerns. We echoed the call for an immediate, well-resourced plan for students with disabilities.

Of particular concern for us is the way school exclusions might be used against students with disabilities at a time when schools are facing huge challenges. I have already spoken to parents of kids with disabilities who've been told "we aren't going to be able to support your child."

We need smaller class sizes, and more Education Assistants for students with disabilities. We need more help for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, Down syndrome students, blind students, autistic students, dyslexic students, students with social anxiety disorder, and students with a range of other needs.

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, Ontario is obliged to ensure our public services are open to everyone. We cannot continue to pinch pennies and do public education on the cheap.

Real Leaders Support People with Disabilities

Last month, Premier Ford said disabled Ontarians should "get a job", and that some were "a few hundred bucks up" under the federal Canada Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB). So, he ended a temporary \$100/month COVID-19 benefit for people on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). As Ontario's Critic for People with Disabilities, I was sickened. I asked if the Premier knew what living with a disability was like in Ontario.

Less than 8 percent of the roughly 500,000 people on ODSP have paid employment (and therefore qualify for the CERB), and there are good reasons for this. To qualify for the ODSP, you must be physically unable to engage in paid work, or at least substantial amounts of it. 92 percent of ODSP recipients have no paid employment and survive on a meagre income of \$1169 per month.

Yes, that wasn't a typo. Folks on ODSP earn 58 percent of what's available through the CERB.

Think about what that says to people with disabilities. In enacting the CERB, we said a basic standard of living in Canada is \$2000 per month, but somehow, the standard of living for folks with disabilities is roughly half of that.

Are people with disabilities worth half as much? No, but our social assistance programs suggest they are, and we have a Premier who can't appreciate why that is deeply wrong.

This government clawed back 50% of CERB earnings for the small number of ODSP recipients who qualify for these benefits. And they ended a temporary \$100/month benefit, suggesting some were doing too well.

That's why I've insisted that Premier Ford apologize for his comments. To date, I've heard no reply from him.

OPINION

THE DESCHÂTELETS BUILDING AND THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF OLD OTTAWA EAST

SHAWN MENARD

September was a big month for Old Ottawa East. At two consequential meetings, City of Ottawa committees voted to rezone the Deschâtelets Building on the former Oblates property for school use and demolish the chapel wing on the eastern side. There are ambitious plans underway for the site that my office has been involved in since the election in 2018. The plans include securing \$10.5 million for a new community centre through development charges. The Ottawa French Catholic School Board (Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est) is looking to open a 350-student facility in Fall of 2021, while the City hopes to co-locate a community centre in the building and build a gym to the north. The School Board is also working actively with community partners and Ottawa Community Housing to potentially locate affordable housing for seniors on the top floors.

The project is complex. To add to the many layers, the building has been zoned as a heritage site, and contains asbestos which will have to be removed before any future use. It is currently owned by Regional Group, the developer responsible for Greystone Village. The stately Deschâtelets Building is visible from Main Street and will be a central feature of the future forecourt park.

At the Built Heritage Subcommittee meeting on September 8th, some community and committee members spoke out against demolishing the chapel, which is visible from the multi-use river pathway. They recalled the legacy of the Oblates fathers and the striking stained-glass windows. Others raised questions at the Planning Committee meeting on September 10th about traffic circulation, shared open space, and the process, which saw additional documents added to the public record up to a day before the meetings.

I welcome these questions and the greater transparency and accountability that they bring. One huge challenge of this project is the phased timing – a memorandum of understanding between the City and the School Board will go to Council in October, while the decision about the chapel demolition and rezoning was voted on September 23rd. Our office worked with City staff to ensure that the applications were linked to the proposed adaptive reuse by requiring that the zoning by-law amendment be in effect before demolition. Furthermore, we felt it very important to prevent the possibility that the chapel wing might be removed if the sale to the School Board did not go through.

This project has the potential to be a great one. It could meet many of the needs that Old Ottawa East has identified, including affordable housing, recreational space, and essential community services. However, good intentions don't always materialize.

We worked with City staff to put additional teeth on the conditions that they had drafted, by tying the demolition of the chapel wing to the submission of permit application for heritage alterations to the building associated with school or community uses. We also passed a motion directing City staff to work with the building owners to commemorate the chapel's history on site. Along with Councillor McKenney's direction to staff on more details on affordable housing, we feel confident that these components will help achieve the elements of the motion passed previously by the Old Ottawa East Community Association.

Losing the chapel is regrettable, and only in the interest of Old Ottawa East if the adaptive re-use of the heritage building takes place. There are many granular issues, including shared green space, bus access, and ownership structures, that will need to be worked out. However, on the whole, this project presents an extraordinary opportunity to create an intergenerational, active urban hub within Old Ottawa East. It would add needed community services, while respecting a sense of place and history within a densifying development.

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Teacher X: The busy life of a Virtual Academy school teacher

Continued from Page 21

starting to put in place to remedy the problems, Teacher X is quick to point out that there are many positives as well that have emerged in the early days of the return to school.

According to Teacher X, there are 6,500 elementary school students currently enrolled in the OCDSB's Virtual Academy (this does not include high school students who are enrolled in a different component of the Board's Virtual Academy). She is one of about 250 online teachers with the elementary level Virtual Academy, and the Board she says is recruiting actively, especially for French teachers, who are in critical short supply. Former teachers are being courted and cajoled to return to the profession, and even candidates without full teaching credentials are now being sought by some boards.

For Teacher X, her class of Virtual Academy students is a far cry from her norm, as it is comprised of youngsters from several schools in the West End of Ottawa and Barrhaven, as well as from one school in the East End of the city. She conducts her classes from within a familiar setting, the same classroom

in the local school where she has spent many years of her career teaching in class students.

Throughout the rest of the school building are teachers and students she knows from prior years who are attending the regular in class stream, however, she sees them only sporadically on breaks in her normal teaching day or when she is on the duty schedule. Under the OCDSB model, Teacher X can have up to 80 minutes of supervision duties each day during recess or lunch.

"I think that once we get into a routine, I may also be supporting students or classes that need academic support for up to 45 minutes per day," she says. "At this point, a few weeks in, I just feel like I need more time to plan my classes than I currently have available to me during a school day. I definitely enjoy planning for it, it's a real challenge, but it's a two-edged sword because of the amount of time that's required to pull it off."

After the first few weeks of classes, Teacher X can already tell that the two cohorts of teachers within the Board – the regular in class teachers and those teaching online with the Virtual

Academy – are experiencing different challenges in fulfilling their unique responsibilities to their students during the ongoing pandemic.

"The challenges for my colleagues with in class students are very distinct from my challenges," she observes. "For me, it's the whole aspect of planning lessons for synchronous non-stop online delivery and the issues of pushing out the work in formats that both teacher and students can make work. For the regular teachers, their daily challenges are with the actual protocols involved with COVID-19, with following the public health guidelines to make sure that desks are sanitized, that kids are being sufficiently distant with each other. These are very different stresses, even though we are doing exactly the same job."

In our next installment of the life and times of Teacher X during the COVID



pandemic, the focus turns to resources, student reactions and the virtues of virtual teaching.

INTERN with *The Mainstreeter*

CONTACT: LORNE ABUGOV editor@mainstreeter.ca

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Corners on Main

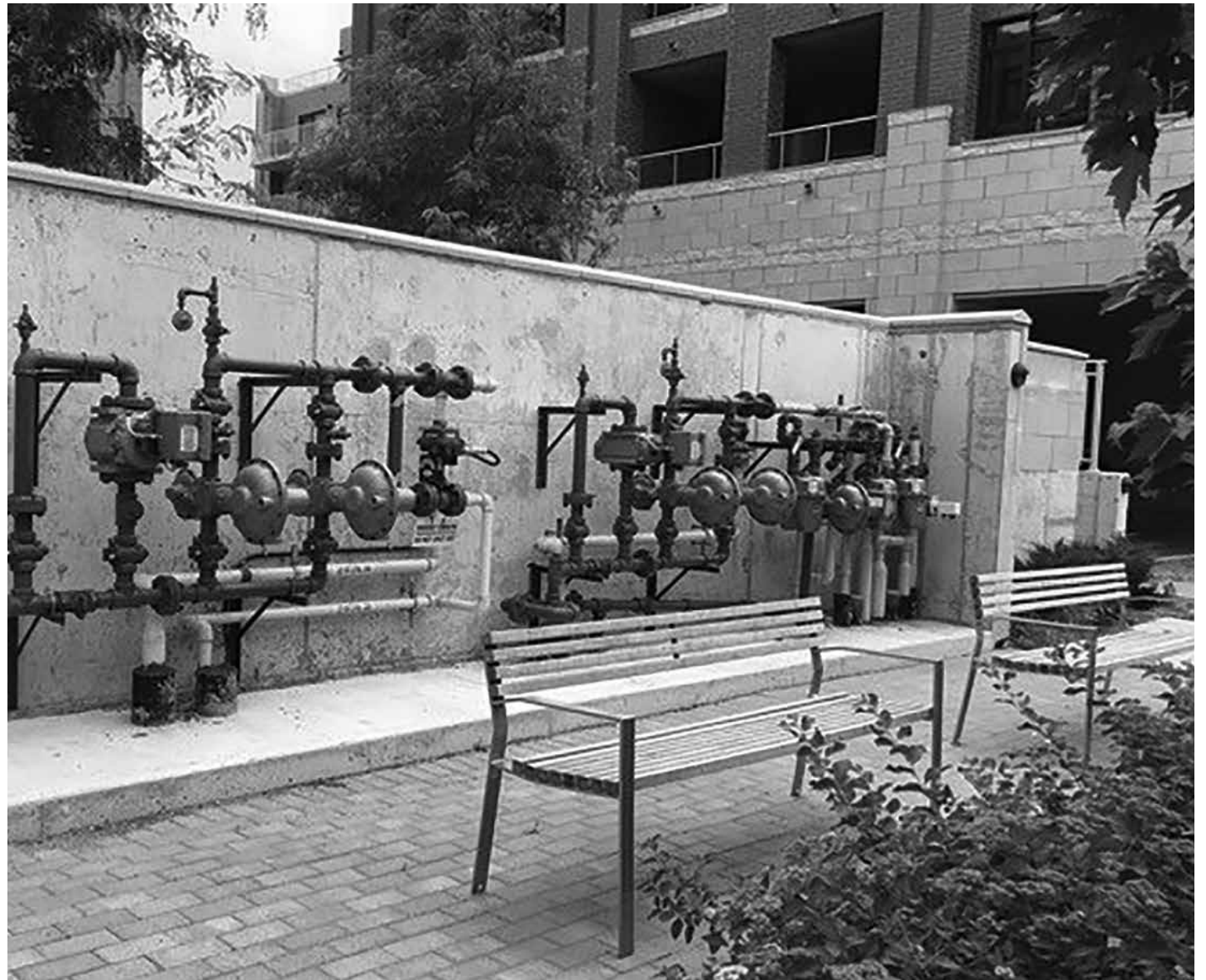
Condo residents stymied in effort to hide unsightly gas meters on Springhurst Avenue

MAINSTREETER STAFF

A solid outdoor wall of mechanical pipes from the Corners on Main (TCOM) development constitute an eyesore for pedestrians and for the residences across the street on Springhurst Avenue, according to the TCOM Condo Board and the building manager. The concerned condo dwellers sought to have TCOM's developer, Domicile, erect a screen to cover the piping, and requested intervention from the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA).

However, a request from the building manager to Domicile to remedy the unsightly gas meters elicited a negative response from the developer, according to recorded minutes of a recent Condo Board meeting which state: "The manager reported that she had followed up with David Chick and was told in no uncertain terms that Domicile has no intention of providing any screening. The Board was deeply disappointed in this response. Regardless, the Board felt that it is important for TCOM to maintain a positive relationship with neighbours and requested that the manager look into options that TCOM could undertake for covering the meters."

The Condo Board is currently reviewing screening options to address the unsightly streetscape.



Unsightly gas meters and piping mar the streetscape on Springhurst Avenue at the rear of the Corners on Main condo. Attempts by the Condo Board and building manager to have the building developer erect a covering screen proved fruitless.

Community Association's 2021 membership drive now in full swing despite COVID-19 canvassing challenges

SUZANNE JOHNSTON

COVID-19 has changed many things in our daily lives and the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) membership drive is no exception.

The fall campaign for OOECA 2021 memberships began in September and draws to a close in early November, just prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of OOECA, which is set to take place digitally on November 10th, 2020.

This year, because door-to-door canvassing is not a feasible option in COVID times, instead, a volunteer will deliver a notice regarding the OOECA AGM along with membership sign-up instructions to your mailbox. The Singing Pebble Books located at 260 Main Street has graciously offered to help out this year

and will trade your \$3 for a membership card. An OOECA annual household membership costs \$3.00. Where else can you buy a vote for \$3.00? This small annual fee pays for association expenses, various community events, as well as the hosting of our ever-changing OOECA website.

Old Ottawa East (OOE) continues to grow, and to all new residents, OOECA welcomes you. We look forward to meeting you at community events and meetings, or in our shops or parks and on our neighbourhood streets – socially distanced, of course.

OOE is a vibrant and livable community. Over the years, we have been fortunate to have countless active and engaged volunteers who have provided leadership and helped to steer

the development of our community – the Flora Footbridge, the Main Street Farmers' Market, and the Rideau River Nature Trail are just a few examples of the successes achieved by our community volunteers. As our community continues to grow, we look forward to having both new and old residents participate in the growth and change of this amazing community.

If you do not receive an AGM notice and a membership sign-up instruction sheet, it could mean that no one has volunteered to canvass your street. We are always looking for volunteers to join our team of canvassers and invite you to offer your help in the neighborhood. The time commitment for membership canvassers is quite minimal, usually only two or three hours.

As OOE continues our exciting period of growth and change, we hope that you and your family will be involved. It is your community, make sure you join OOECA and have your say.

[Suzanne Johnston is the Chair of the OOECA Membership Committee]



If you would like to inquire about the canvasser for your street or would like to sign up to canvass

your street, please contact Suzanne Johnston at suzanne.johnston@sympatico.ca. For up-to-date information and an agenda for the OOECA AGM, go to www.ottawaeast.ca

OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY 1985 - 2020

FROM THE MAINSTREETER - JUNE 1988

Old Ottawa East: Who built what and when

We continue to celebrate 35 years of *The Mainstreeter* with this informative examination of the roots of house-building in Old Ottawa East, which was undertaken by our reporter, Don Fugler back in June 1988, shortly after he purchased his family home on Mason Terrace. Like many of the new residents of the community today, Fugler was curious to know how the built environment of Old Ottawa East came to be – when and by whom it was built. In conjunction with the author, we have updated and supplemented the information in the article, and our edits are noted in [italics within square parentheses]. Extensive new home building and intensive development have occurred in our community since this article was written 32 years ago, and the information contained in the article and accompanying map reflect reality as it was back then.

DON FUGLER

Speaking as a relatively new homeowner to this "last, and best" residential area, I had often wondered what the progression of house building was in Old Ottawa East. Did it develop uniformly, as one can see the suburbs of Orleans and Kanata grow now? There are some areas of Old Ottawa East where this seemed possible, as there is an obvious regularity of styles of construction. Yet there are also older farm type houses that sit unique among their neighbours, and sections of the community that are non-uniform.

Local residents were a big help in sorting out the details. The City of Ottawa also opened their computerized database to me and created a listing of the age of houses on each block. The results are shown on the hand drawn map of the community that accompany this article.

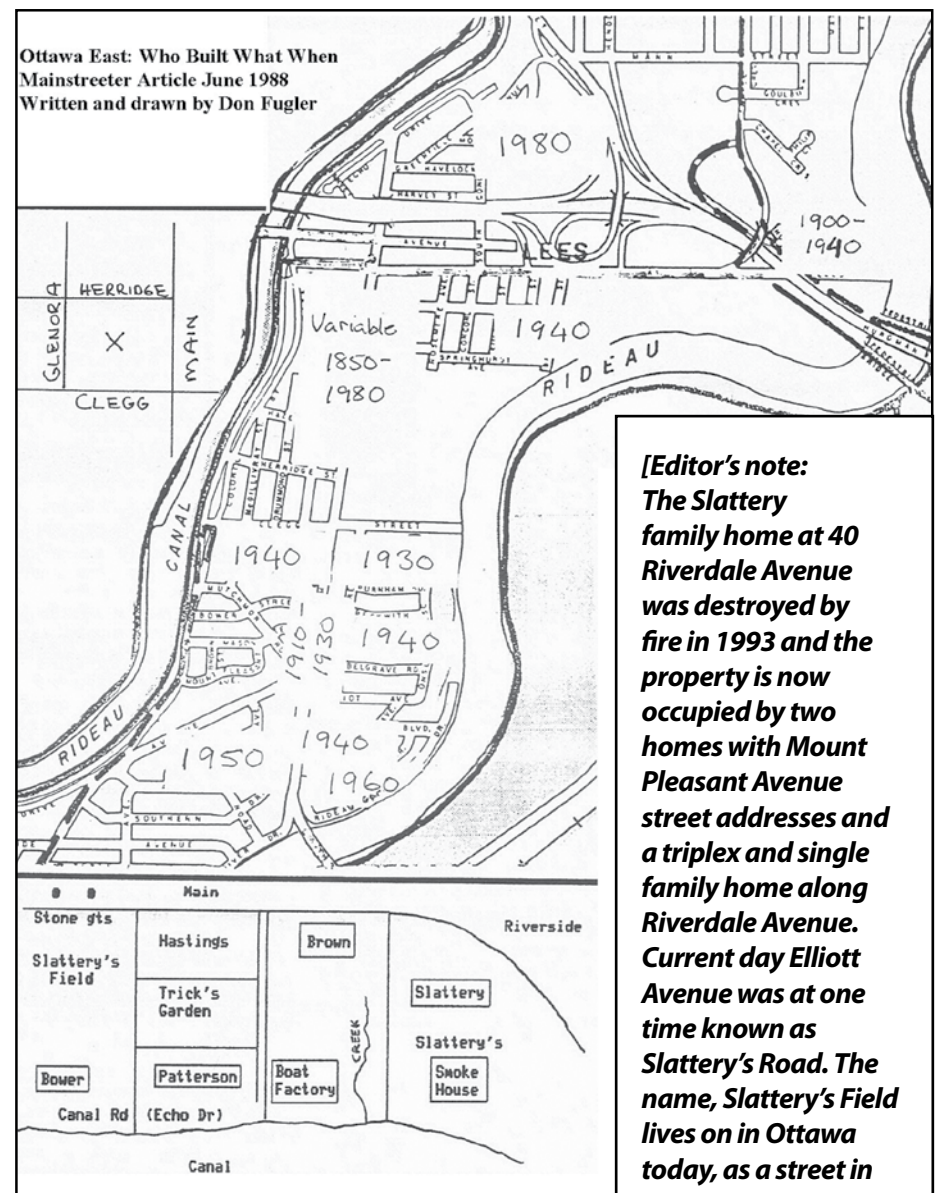
The map provides the construction dates of various parts of the community, marked for those sections that are largely built within the same decade. This is generally the case for homes in the south and east edges of Old Ottawa East. The central area, north of Clegg Street to just north of the Queensway, is much harder to typify, as each block contains buildings of many different eras. Consider the one-blocksquare section at the junction of Clegg and Main streets boxed at the lower left of the map. The City computer lists all 16 houses on this block by the decade of their construction. In 10 of the last 12

decades, since 1870, someone has built a house here.

Essentially, the community was settled by farmers and small landowners, as well as various religious orders. The names of the original landowners live on in the street names - Brown, Lees, Graham, Bower and others. Some of the houses of these settlers are still prominently standing, overshadowing their next-door neighbours.

The Village of Archville, once located in the area of the present site of the Old Ottawa East sector of the Queensway, became the Village of Ottawa East, and was then annexed to Ottawa early in the 1900s. It had its commercial section on Main Street near the Old Town Hall. Let us look at more specific areas, such as shown in the hand-drawn map accompanying this article. "The Pines" was the family home of the Browns, and before its demolition in 1974, it was located where the Cuban Embassy now squats. "The Pines" was built before there were any other houses to the south; the Browns had a clear view of the Rideau River. Down at the Canal end of their property there was a boat factory, making small craft for those using the canal.

On some days, the Browns found the smell from the nearby Slattery's smokehouse quite strong. Slattery, Ottawa's largest meat supplier in the early 1900s, kept sheep on the fields which lay to the south of present day Clegg Street. Slattery's house still sits



between Riverdale and Mount Pleasant avenues and was a noted landmark even at the turn of the century. As each landowner sold off his holdings, the blocks were developed, much the same as rural Ottawa is now being absorbed. One part of Old Ottawa East that took some time to grow was the Brantwood Park vicinity. The great stone gates at Beckwith Road and Main Street were built to welcome the influx of investors searching for "exclusiveness, proximity, and desirability guaranteed for all time", as a 1912 promotional brochure extolled. Stringent regulations regarding the minimum building costs, exterior finish and distance from the stable would make this area "a new high class residential section". Unfortunately the initial development did not attract sufficient numbers of far-sighted buyers, and the area was not developed until several decades later.

The pleasure of doing this brief synopsis of local history was in talking to people, some of whom could easily recall sufficient historical material to merit a book. My thanks to Susan and Betty Hill, Bill Smith, Laine Wyman of the City of Ottawa, and others.



HISTORY.OTTAWAEAST.CA

The home of Old Ottawa East resident Bernard Slattery at 40 Riverdale Avenue was destroyed by fire in 1993. Slattery was a foremost supplier of meat in the early 1900s and grazed sheep on his fields south of present day Clegg Street.

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Faulkner Real Estate Celebrates 20 Years



By Judy Faulkner,
Broker of Record / Owner

I can't believe it's been 20 years since I left a national real estate company and made the big leap by launching Faulkner Real Estate. It feels like only yesterday that I was putting up my first “Sold” sign. I'd been working out of the basement of my home at the time, joined by my team.

In starting my own business, I knew that there was room for considerable improvement within the industry and I wanted consumers to experience a fresh approach.

My goal was simple: to create more fairness, honesty and integrity. It meant offering progressive compensation options, and ending the practice of “multiple representation”, which occurs when a listing brokerage also represents an interested buyer. This puts both the buyer and seller at a disadvantage because their brokerage has a conflict of interest and can not give advice that favours one client over the other.

Despite our humble beginnings, Faulkner Real Estate immediately took off. Not long after, the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce honoured us with the New Business of the Year Award for our innovative business practices.



Judy Faulkner with her mother and mentor, Sandra Faulkner, and her team, outside her home-based office during the early years of Faulkner Real Estate.

I see my role as more than just selling homes. I'm helping people in transition — from those looking to buy their first home together, to empty-nesters wanting to downsize, to families relocating to the city but not knowing how to find the perfect home and neighbourhood.

We work in a fast-paced environment, one that also requires us to be educators, marketers, negotiators and confidants. Just as we celebrate our clients' successes, so, too, do we give them encouragement and a boost, when needed.

I've long since learned that the lines between my work life and personal life are blurred. I'm like hot water on demand; when I'm needed, I'm there. I love helping and connecting with people. I love the unpredictability of each day.

I'm also proud of the way Faulkner Real Estate has been able to give back to our community over the past 20 years. Among the groups that we've supported is the community meal program run through local churches in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

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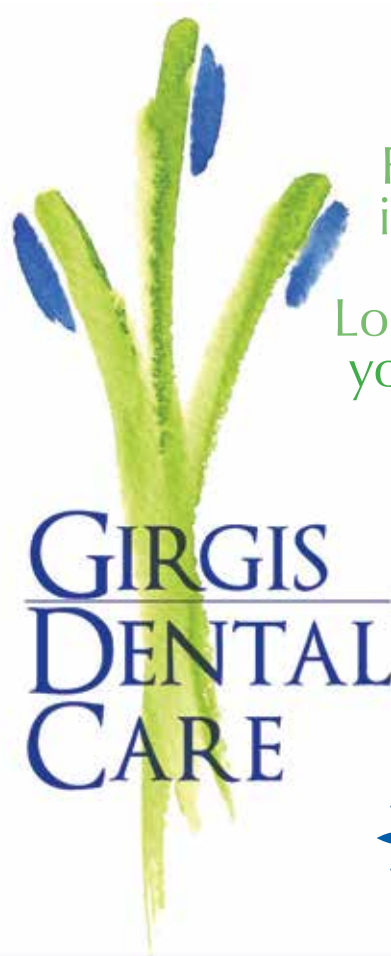
The Old Town Hall - vibrant past, uncertain future!



ABOVE: The Old Town Hall, which was constructed in 1895, comes to life in this photo taken by photo editor Peter Fowler. The land on which the historic building sits was purchased from the estate of Robert Lees (who had died in 1893) for \$450. **BELOW:** This photo was taken in 1895 and shows workers of the day laying the foundation of the Old Town Hall. As we await confirmation of a new community centre for Old Ottawa East, the future of the Old Town Hall remains a mystery.



Town Hall foundation 1895



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ECLECTIC EVENTS...

November 18th, 25th & December 2nd Building Bridges, Virtual Collective Ideation Sessions, Mauril-Bélanger Social Innovation Workshop.

You can engage with members of the Old Ottawa East community on ideas to make the neighbourhood an even

better place to live and work. This series of ideation workshops on various themes will help to bring your ideas to life to create real and lasting change for the betterment of the community.

The sessions are run by the staff and resources of the Mauril-Bélanger Atelier for Social Innovation in association with Saint Paul University. For more information visit: bit.ly/construiredespoints.



Michele Genest

October 24th @ 1:30pm Webinar: Three-Stone Fire, Two-Burner Stove: A Canadian Cook Learns a Thing or Two in a Maasai Kitchen, TEMBO.

Michele Genest is an internationally renowned Canadian chef, and an author of several cookbooks celebrating the wild and cultivated foods of the boreal forest. She writes cooking columns for Yukon, North of Ordinary Magazine and What's Up Yukon.

In 2019, Michele volunteered at a Maasai camp in northern Tanzania, where she worked with three Maasai cooks, creating dishes in a "new" tradition they affectionately dubbed "Maasai Fusion Cuisine."

Michele will talk about what a day in the life of the camp kitchen is like, from unlocking the kitchen door in the morning (locked to keep the Baboons out), feeding the three-stone fire, putting on chai, to nightfall, dinner, dishes and locking the kitchen up again. She will discuss the beauties and challenges of the traditional cooking techniques such as using carrots as a thickener in dishes, or how to use the traditional whisk.

TEMBO works to support Tanzanian partners by providing educational and micro business opportunities for girls and women with a strong army of volunteers working here and in Tanzania to address these needs. (www.projecttembo.org). 100% of the proceeds from this event goes to support TEMBO's work in Tanzania. Use TEMBO's Facebook link for more information and to purchase tickets: www.facebook.com/projecttembo.



Guided walks through Brantwood Park's tree landscape, presented by Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE).

Don't you just love the trees in Brantwood Park? The majestic maples, the huge weeping willows cascading over the Rideau River, the tall oaks and elms, the shady canopy around the kids' wading pool.

You can now take a guided walk through Brantwood Park's tree landscape! Put together by your friends at SLOE — Sustainable Living Ottawa East — as part of this year's Main Event, the walk features commentary on 17 trees along the Rideau River Nature Trail, representing just a handful of over 40 different species of trees and shrubs within the park.

Take the tour virtually by going to SLOE's webpage (ottawaeast.ca/sloe) and clicking on the link to the Brantwood Tree Map or follow along on your smartphone as you stroll through the park!

October 16th @ 7:00pm Food Security & COVID-19 Experts Panel Presentation - A Free ZOOM Virtual Community Event on World Food Day Presented by The Mainstreeter.

You are invited to attend The Mainstreeter's inaugural Community Panel Presentation on Social Issues on Friday, October 16th at 7:00 pm. To commemorate World Food Day, your community newspaper is proud to present: Food Security & COVID-19: Examining the pandemic's impacts on the food we eat, a free virtual event that will bring together expert presenters on a timely social issue of importance to all residents of Old Ottawa East.

The Food Security & COVID-19 panel presentation is the first in a series of topical expert presentations on social issues that confront our community of Old Ottawa East. The Mainstreeter is proud to launch its Social Issues panel presentation series in collaboration with our community partner organizations, The Atelier for Social Innovation at Saint Paul's University and the Community Activities Group (CAG) of Old Ottawa East.

This virtual information session will offer an Old Ottawa East community-centric examination of food security, food safety and food sovereignty, and explore how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting our ability to

access sufficient food that is healthy and nutritious to meet our daily needs. It will also recommend ways in which all of us can influence these factors to achieve better and more sustainable choices about what we eat, where it originates and how it is produced.

There is still time to confirm your attendance. If you are thinking about these issues, and you are concerned about our food supply during the pandemic and afterwards, you may find the information both important and timely.

So please join us on World Food Day from the safety of your own homes in Old Ottawa East. Our neighbours in adjoining communities, including Old Ottawa South, the Glebe and Alta Vista, will find our series of panel presentations on social issues to be of interest as well, and everyone is very welcome to attend!

We hope that future panel presentations in our series scheduled throughout 2021 can take place in-person, however, for the time being, to ensure participant safety, our panel on Food Security & COVID-19 will be presented as a ZOOM meeting. All you need to do is register in advance, fire up your laptop after dinner on October 16th at 7:00 pm and join us! The panel presentation will be 45 minutes in duration, followed by 45 minutes of addressing your questions about food security in Old Ottawa East during these COVID times.

Register for the Food Security & COVID-19 panel presentation before October 16th at: www.ottawaeastcag.ca/upcoming-events

Wednesdays @ 1:00pm & Thursdays @ 7:00pm Shout Sister! Choir - Join a ZOOM choir from your own home

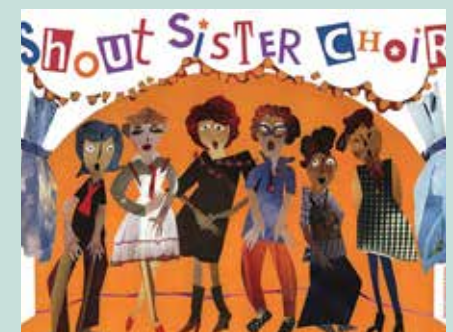
Shout Sister has created a unique, enjoyable choir experience while singing from the comfort of your own home. The choir uses ZOOM to meet virtually every Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening. ZOOM is easy to install, user-friendly, and works on most computers, smartphones, and tablets.

Shout Sister! has support to help you get set-up and running every step of the way. You can Zoom from anywhere and everyone is welcome.

Jody Benjamin directs the Ottawa chapters of Shout Sister Choir. Jody is an accomplished musician, a dance instructor, and a fabulous choir Director. There are 25 Chapters of

Shout Sister! Choir in Ontario and the choir is constantly growing. Shout Sister! takes an unorthodox approach to choral singing. There are no auditions, and the choir sings a fun variety of music from pop and Motown, to folk, to a touch of country and blues. Learning is from recorded tracks, so there is no requirement to read music. The method is fresh and fun, and Shout Sister! is a warm and welcoming community.

For information on joining, email: members@shoutsisterchoir.ca





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Emergency Food Centre Coordinator Steps Down

MARTHA MUSGROVE

Kerry Kaiser, the long-standing and much-loved Coordinator of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre (CEFC) is stepping down from her position at the end of this year.

Established in 1978, the CEFC is one of the busiest food centres in Ottawa, serving a catchment area that includes Centretown, the Glebe and Old Ottawa South and East. In recent years, an average of 800 client visits have been made to the Centre each month at its location at 507 Bank Street where a three-day supply of nutritious food is provided, along with a friendly greeting and advice on a range of additional services available from other organizations.

For the past 26 years, Kerry has been the welcoming and compassionate face of the Food Centre, helping countless clients who struggle to maintain their families and themselves while living on limited income. In her many public speaking engagements to enlist support for the Centre, Kerry always relates stories of clients who were able to turn their lives around, thanks to the help they received.

Allison Dingle, chair of the CEFC Management Committee describes Kerry as “a tireless champion for our clients and for the high standards of our Food Centre. She will be greatly missed and challenging to replace.”

Kerry will leave the Food Centre with an impressive list of accomplishments. She has attracted, trained and retained a corps of dedicated volunteers. She has



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Kerry Kaiser, head of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre for 26 years, will step down from her position at the end of 2020.

mentored many social work students and student interns, giving them a firm foundation for their future careers. She has established strong ties with other social service organizations in the downtown core, and she has ensured that donor contributions to the Centre are used efficiently and effectively for their intended purpose.

On Sunday, October 4, the annual Walk for the Centre took place. Because of the constraints imposed by COVID-19, this year's event was virtual.

However, whether walkers followed the traditional route around Parliament Hill or walked in their own neighbourhood, no doubt their thoughts

and gratitude were directed to Kerry Kaiser who has served the Ottawa community so faithfully for so many years.



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THE MAINSTREETER PRESENTS

FOOD SECURITY & COVID-19

Examining the pandemic's impacts on the food we eat in Ottawa East

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020 — 7:00 PM — 8:30 PM

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone the spotlight on the safety, accessibility and security of our food supply.

Join our inaugural **Social Issues Series** panel webcast on Friday evening, October 16th — United Nations World Food Day — to learn from leading experts in international and local Food Security.

Register today: ottawaeastcag.ca/upcoming-events

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