

## Old Ottawa East is "a wonderful place surrounded by great people..."

**Editor's Note:** Most of the articles published in *The Mainstreeter* are stories that are either assigned by the Editor to our small army of volunteer reporters or proposed to the Editor by our reporters. However, some of our published articles, such as this submission by Andrei and Lena Davedianov, newcomers to our community, are submitted to us on an unsolicited basis - and we are always grateful to receive them. Oftentimes, these submitted stories add a delightful element of insight, surprise and originality to *The Mainstreeter*. We hope you enjoy Andrei and Lena's article as much as we did!

### ANDREI & LENA DAVEDIANOV

Hello dear Old Ottawa East neighbours!

Greetings from a Russian family! We are Andrei and Lena Davedianov. I (Andrei) am doing my Interdisciplinary Ph.D. at Saint Paul University, while Lena is working as a freelance translator. Our three daughters, Natasha, Masha, and Nina came with us from Vladimir, Russia in June 2021. We settled down on Main Street and absolutely fell in love with this neighbourhood and with the community.

This is why:

**1. Location:** We were surprised at first when we learned that the street that is called Main is not exactly the main street in the City. But we soon learned that this place enjoys the best of both worlds. One can easily walk to all the touristy places and also walk to the river to enjoy the beauty and calmness of nature.

**2. Community:** You greet one another in the streets, you share with people in need, you support local businesses. Local artists are willing to share their work with their neighbours. All of this speaks volumes to your welcoming



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**Newcomers from Russia - Lena and Andrei Davedianov - have absolutely fallen in love with Old Ottawa East!**

attitude to everyone. We have enjoyed our days so much in this area and we have met so many lovely people.

**3. Environment:** You care for nature; we have lost count of how many animals

and birds we have already seen here in the middle of the City: squirrels, chipmunks, ducks, geese, groundhogs, robins, cardinals, and turtles. It is very

unusual for us to see that you care so much for nature that you even put out bowls of water for pets and cover the

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## INSIDE THE MAINSTREETER



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# SCENES FROM THE 2021 OOE ART TOUR



The paintings of Bess Fraser and photography of Peter Fowler, both of whom volunteer with *The Mainstreeter*, proved popular with art fans during the OOE Art Tour.

Former Ottawa resident and graphic designer Laura Seigny volunteered her time, energy and talent to design the Old Ottawa East Art Tour poster. Thanks Laura! You can check out Laura's creative design work at [lauraseignydesign.com](http://lauraseignydesign.com).



Above Top: Underwater photography of Sean Landsman on display outside his OOE home before the commencement of the Art Tour; Above: A steady stream of on-lookers provided young calligraphiti artist Luke Goldsmith with plenty of exposure for his work; Below: One of the founders of the OOE Art Tour, artist Steve Fick, exhibited his portraits and landscapes outside his Drummond Street home.





**Taking DIY to new heights...**

# Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Good grief, it is a plane!

**Old Ottawa East resident Maurizio Penna is building an airplane in his basement, garage and his kitchen! According to Penna, he began the project “...about 15,000 rivets ago! It’s kind of like a giant IKEA product.”**



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

**Maurizio Penna, pictured here with his wrench in hand, took his indoor DIY project public in mid-September and had curious neighbours flocking to his Mason Terrace driveway to watch him build his airplane.**

## LORNE ABUGOV

Few people are aware that Old Ottawa East (OOE) ranks as one of Canada’s pioneering communities in aviation, able to boast the first inter-city airplane flight in Canadian history when William C. Robinson landed his tiny plane in Slaterry’s Field off Main Street in October 1913 after completing a flight from Montreal carrying mail and daily newspapers.

And, until recently, even fewer people in this community were aware that Maurizio Penna, a present-day OOE resident, was continuing the tradition of community airplane pioneers more than a century later, by building his own airplane inside his Mason Terrace home and garage.

But all that changed on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, on a sunny late morning and early afternoon, when Penna emerged from his home with a 60% completed full-sized, two-seater, do-it-yourself (DIY) all-aluminum Van’s RV12 aircraft. With little fanfare, Penna set about to an afternoon of work, attaching the wings that he built in his basement last winter to the fuselage that he built in his garage the

year before.

“What the heck is that?” intoned this reporter and his wife as we drove west along Mason Terrace and caught a glimpse of a huge and shiny metal “thing” consuming most of Penna’s driveway and half of his front lawn, wedged between a tree and a garden plot.

“Good grief, it is an airplane!” we answered our own question, dumbstruck!

Over the next few hours, a steady parade of unsuspecting drivers and pedestrians in this quiet corner of Old Ottawa East were literally stopped in their tracks at the sight of the airplane, and of Penna working away with his wrenches and rivet gun, entirely non-plussed by the general fuss and commotion his DIY labour-of-love project seemed to be having on the curious locals.

“What are you doing?”, asked one motorist who stopped to gawk, blocking Mason Terrace to vehicular traffic for a good five minutes as she grilled the soft-spoken Penna on whether it was a real airplane, how he got it onto his driveway, and what his future intentions were.

“Is that an airplane?” asked one neighbourhood kid. “You got a permit for that thing?” questioned an elderly stroller. The questions were hitting Penna like a wave of air currents, yet he calmly and quietly responded to each, all the while attempting to get on with the work of affixing the aluminum wings to the snub-nosed, as-yet motorless craft that is both his current passion and his life-long dream.

“Well, I’ve always been interested in flying since I was a little kid, so I took it up recently in my 40s. And I’ve always liked the idea of building an airplane,” says Penna. “I’ve always built stuff, and I thought this would be a pretty neat project.”

In response to a question about how exactly one builds an airplane in his garage, Penna explains that you just have to go on-line and google Van’s Aircraft Total Performance (<https://www.vansaircraft.com/>) and join Van’s Air Force of home builders. As the website says: “Anyone can do it!”

According to Penna, the aircraft is shipped to customers in stages from a factory in North Plains, Oregon – a small town about 25 miles west of

Portland. “It arrives in five sections in huge wooden crates. My plan was to have one crate per year shipped to Ottawa, so that the build would take me five years. But...”, Penna grins, “I’m ahead of schedule!” He started building the plane three years ago and he expects to complete it next year and fly it in 2023.

He graciously took a few moments from his work and from answering questions from neighbours to respond to more questions from *The Mainstreeter*. On the plane itself, Penna was quick to quote impressive metrics. “So, when I finish it, it will fly at about 200 kilometers an hour for about four to five hours, at up to about 14,000 feet in altitude, for which I would need oxygen, but normally in a range of between 3,000 and 5,000 feet,” he explained.

As for the cost of his RV12 two seater, Penna initially hesitated: “Well, that depends on whether or not my wife is going to see this article.” A moment later, when told that she likely would, he nonetheless confessed that it would “range somewhere between \$60,000 and \$100,000 depending on the avionics and the options” that he selected from the company.

Both he and his wife are licensed pilots and currently fly out of the Smiths Falls airport, from where his under construction plane will also fly. Asked if the craft was guaranteed to be safe and airworthy, Penna did not hesitate: “You need to register a new airplane, kind of like a building permit for a house. And there’s a series of inspections, so inspectors from Transport Canada would come here - and they already have - to inspect work at different stages. And when it’s completed, they’re going to come back and give it a certificate of airworthiness,” he notes. “And then at that point, I become the test pilot. And I’ll have to do the first flight. I’m limited for the first 25 hours of flight, to flying within 25 miles of the airport. And after that, I can fly anywhere I want.”

The next obvious question – “So, where do you want to fly to first?” Expecting maybe Montreal or Toronto, the not-so-obvious answer was: “Oshkosh, Wisconsin. When I started building this plane,” Penna recalls, “I put up this sign in my garage that says Oshkosh 2025”

Huh?

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# SHARING LUNCH WITH... AIDS COMMITTEE

Our popular interview feature - *Sharing Lunch With...* - returns in this issue to introduce the community to an organization located in Old Ottawa East that has been doing critically important work in support of its clients since 1985 – the AIDS Committee of Ottawa (ACO). Located since 2014 in a relatively obscure building situated at the juncture of Main Street and Greenfield Avenue, ACO has been an excellent neighbour to those residents living nearby, many of whom have provided donations or served as volunteers since the organization moved into Old Ottawa East from its original downtown location.

In this instalment of *Sharing Lunch With...*, we spoke to Khaled Salam, the vibrant Executive Director of ACO for the past 10 years, and a force behind the successful operation of the organization and its seamless integration into our community. Salam, who has spent his entire working career with ACO in one role or another, explains the work the organization does and how it has helped its clients navigate their way safely through the COVID virus even as they continued to grapple with the more familiar AIDS virus.

**THE MAINSTREETER:** Khaled, how long has the ACO organization been located in its current offices on Main Street?

**SALAM:** We are at 19 Main Street, between Greenfield Avenue and Echo Drive by the Rideau Canal. We are very privileged to have this wonderful location in this community. We opened our doors here on Main Street on December 1, 2014. December 1 is World AIDS Day, in case anyone doesn't know. So we have been here going on seven years. Initially, we signed a five year lease from 2014 to 2019, and we were very happy to renew our lease for another five years. So we are going to be here for sure until at least December, 1 2024.

**THE MAINSTREETER:** Where was ACO located before you moved to Main Street, and when you did move, at that time, were there any concerns expressed by the community or by neighbours?

**SALAM:** Prior to the move to Main Street, the ACO office was located at the corner of Bank Street and Cooper Street downtown in a 7-storey high rise building. We were in that building from

2003 to 2014, a total of 11 years before we moved to Old Ottawa East.

I was the executive director when we moved here. Overall, the move, and our transition to this community, was quite smooth. But at the same time, as an organization and as a client community, we knew that in moving to this new neighborhood, we would need to have some kind of a communications plan in place to let people know ahead of time that they're going to have a social service agency in their midst. This kind of news doesn't please everyone. Naturally, we expected this to be the case when an organization like ours that provides various services and programs to people living with HIV and people at risk of HIV moves into your neighborhood.

We started by reaching out to the community association through then City Councillor David Chernushenko. We invited people for open viewings of our space, and we took part in the Doors Open Ottawa event every year so that neighbours and others could visit our space and learn about our work.

At the beginning, it was a little bit of



**AIDS Committee of Ottawa Executive Director Khaled Salam**

a rough ride in the sense that there were definitely some very vocal community members who didn't know much about us and had concerns around our services and programs - particularly our Harm Reduction Program, through which we provide safer injection supplies to folks who use drugs. The program is much more than just a needle drop off and pick up - it provides many different types of support that people with HIV need in various aspects of their life, but nevertheless, it's a controversial program in the sense of how it's perceived.

We live in a drug-phobic society where people have myths and misconceptions about drug use, about who uses drugs and how they use drugs. When we first moved to the neighborhood, some community members had legitimate fears and concerns because they didn't know much about harm reduction or our program in general. I think there were some folks concerned that they'd be finding needles and syringes everywhere on the sidewalk or step on them, and that crime would go up in the neighborhood because of who uses our services and programs. I mean there's a legitimacy to some of those concerns, especially if people don't know or have the information. I think it was great that we were able to connect and share our point of view in response to the questions and share the information that we have.

**THE MAINSTREETER:** And how have things actually turned out over the years up to the present time in Old Ottawa East?

**SALAM:** Once we started making ourselves visible, and we opened up the doors of our agency to the neighbours to come and have tours and to get to know us, to meet our staff and board,

things really started to shift. After that, our work began to do the talking. People started to see the benefit of our organization in the community, helping folks who are underprivileged and marginalized in our community. They came to see that even though we are a social service organization, we are professional in nature with professional folks who work here, and we have policies and guidelines to keep everybody safe, whether it's our staff or volunteers or people accessing services within the neighborhood. Obviously, because of COVID, everybody's been disconnected for the last year and a half, but even pre-COVID, it's been a few years since there were any concerns brought to my attention by the neighbours.

Had we come in to this community without any communications, and had our doors been shut to the neighbors, people would have continued to make false assumptions about us, and it might have snowballed and gotten worse. Instead, we came in saying this is who we are, this is what we do, this is where we help, and please come visit us. Indeed, there were a couple of neighbors who have actually ended up volunteering with us in some capacity after they got to know us.

**THE MAINSTREETER:** Can you scope out the size of the HIV/AIDS community in Ottawa, both in 2014 when you first arrived here, and today?

**SALAM:** In terms of public health data, there's roughly 65,000 people living with HIV across Canada. In Ottawa, it's guesstimated that there's about 4,000 people living with HIV. Those numbers have gone up a little bit since 2014.

The key thing to remember though

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SUPPLIED PHOTOS

OOE neighbours and friends donate hundreds of egg cartons for use in the weekly food bank program run by the Ottawa AIDS Committee.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KHALED SALAM

*Continued from Page 4*

is that our work is not just with people living with HIV, which is the data that I've given you, but it's also many more people here in Ottawa with the risk of acquiring HIV. Those people who are the most at risk are the folks that we target in the outreach work that we do. Most of our efforts are to make sure that people have the proper information, and that they are educated on the various modes of transmission of HIV so that we're able to lower their risk of contracting the virus. These would include different priority populations most impacted by HIV as identified by data in Ontario, such as the GBMSM community (the Gay Bisexual Men who have Sex with other Men), the African-Caribbean black community, the Indigenous community, people who use drugs, and women and youth. So the numbers of those at risk of acquiring HIV are much higher than those who actually have HIV. One thing we know, based on the most recent public health data available to us from 2019, is that HIV is definitely an issue that still exists today in our community.

**THE MAINSTREETER:** Over the years since AIDS first came to the world's attention, have there been any changes or developments in treatment that have helped those afflicted with the virus?

**SALAM:** Certainly the virus has evolved over the last three decades, and indeed there have been huge advancements made in the biomedical aspects of HIV, especially around HIV treatment and medication. There's a lot of preventative tools that are there now, like PREP, for example, which is Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. It's a pill that people who are not living with HIV can take that reduces the risk of contracting HIV. And there is also a great deal of research being done to develop a vaccine for HIV that uses the same

mRNA technology that underlies the COVID-19 vaccines.

There's a lot to be excited about when it comes to the evolution of HIV. For instance, we now know that even if a person is living with HIV, if they are on medication and treatment and their viral load, as a result, becomes undetectable - meaning the level of virus in their blood is extremely low - then that person cannot sexually transmit the virus to another person.

So, there is much to be hopeful about for the future, but the piece that really still requires a lot of work is the stigma and discrimination that surrounds HIV. AIDS stigma was running rampant back in the early days of HIV, in the 1980s. And while things are different today in terms of the stigma, it still exists, and that's probably our biggest battle when we do our work in the community. We are in a real fight today to eradicate HIV stigma and discrimination, even though we have all the information about HIV accessible to us, literally a fingertip away on our smartphones.

The reason why HIV stigma and discrimination still exists in 2021 is because it's deeply rooted in larger issues like racism and homophobia, drug phobia and sexism, to name a few. There is still this mentality or these myths and misconceptions that black people brought HIV to Canada, or that gay folks deserve to have HIV because they're doing something sinful, or that people who share needles that use drugs deserve to die, and that they're at the bottom of our society, so who really cares. Those are just a few examples of how HIV stigma is connected to these larger issues. And because we haven't been able to fully address those larger systemic issues, HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination still exists and is still the same problem in our community that it was back in 2014.



The staff and volunteers of the Ottawa AIDS Committee gathered together at Christmastime to prepare the many Holiday Hampers of food that they distribute to their clients.

**THE MAINSTREETER:** How has COVID, in your opinion, affected the community of individuals in Ottawa and across Canada who have AIDS, in what way and to what extent?

**SALAM:** Not many people realize that COVID-19 and HIV are eerily similar in terms of the HIV epidemic back in the 1980s and the COVID-19 pandemic right now. For people living with HIV who were around in the early 80s, and who are still around today, COVID is a big trigger for them, and the commonality of the two epidemics has had a huge negative impact on the HIV community in terms of social isolation. And in particular, it's been very harmful to people who may have already been isolated prior to the COVID pandemic because of HIV stigma and discrimination.

For example, many individuals who were shunned by their friends or their family or by society in general when they acquired HIV, now find that COVID has been another layer of harmful isolation. For a year and a half, these individuals haven't been able to go outside to see anybody or to access services at a social service agency that might have helped them prior to COVID.

The pandemic has had a tremendous negative impact on people's mental health no matter where you live in Canada, and especially for people living with HIV who were previously struggling with housing or food security issues. A lot of social services and resources that were previously available to people at risk of HIV or people living with HIV, including people who are severely immunocompromised, were redirected to COVID.

**THE MAINSTREETER:** Was there

anything about the community that led you to recently renew your lease rather than relocate away from Old Ottawa East?

**SALAM:** The community response from Old Ottawa East has been amazing. We have incredible neighbours; people are very friendly, extremely supportive and helpful; they drop off food supplies for us or clothing to give out, or they come by and help out with our garden. I really feel that that we are part of this community now, and that was definitely a factor in us wanting to stay here.

Had our staff and clients felt that we're not wanted here, then for sure we would have looked elsewhere. But since the early days, you could feel that we were accepted, and you could see on the faces of folks who walk by our agency or walk into our agency that we are part of this neighbourhood.

**THE MAINSTREETER:** Any final thoughts, Khaled?

**SALAM:** If any of your readers are looking to lend a helping hand to a community-based organization, please consider ours. If you're looking to be involved with a social justice organization or you want to fulfill a social activism need, then please volunteer with us. You can help in so many ways - you can make a monetary donation to ACO, or you can choose to come on board and volunteer here, which is an extremely rewarding experience. We are always happy to provide educational sessions for the community. If you'd like to know more about HIV, we can do an online one-on-one information session for you. Please feel free to drop by our offices any time.

It's been a very interesting discussion and a great pleasure.



As a participant in the 2019 edition of Open Doors Ottawa, staff and volunteers gathered together to tour neighbours and others around their building and provide information about the important work they do.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ONCE AN OLD OTTAWA EASTER, ALWAYS AN OLD OTTAWA EASTER

I have just read through the February issue of *The Mainstreeter* that is a total delight with so many great articles and pictures. I was especially pleased to see, on page three, the article, entitled “The villages of old Ottawa East have evolved for more than 150 years”. I especially enjoyed the map that one can actually see and make out the details.

It is so interesting to me that I was born in “Archville”. My mother and her family started out on Drummond Street, (Spenceville), then moved to Springhurst (Greystone Village) where my father’s family lived. And finally, on to Havelock Avenue, where I was born (actually in the Civic Hospital) in 1928.

I had so wished I could have stayed in Old Ottawa East so many years ago, but, there were no available apartments in those days. I was lucky that I was able to find my home here across the Canal from my beloved homeland. That was in 1971. I have been here ever since.

Even though I live in the Glebe, I have been blessed because a good

friend has always kept a copy of *The Mainstreeter* for me for many, many years. These days, some kind Old Ottawa East person delivers a bundle of *The Mainstreeters* to our high-rise building at the corner of Second Avenue.

I have been published in *The Mainstreeter* before, but, health situations have limited me from writing for a very long time. I am now, 93, plus six months young. If you wish to use any of my stories, please be feel free to do so.

*Marjorie S. Carver,  
Second Avenue*

*Editor’s note: Marjorie Carver began writing this letter in February 2021, but COVID and the passage of time delayed her completing it, along with several stories that she wrote about her days growing up in Old Ottawa East, until July 2021. We are delighted to publish Marjorie’s account of Old Ottawa East and the Depression of the “Dirty 30s” at page 29 of this issue.*

## MUFFLING THE COMMUNITY’S VOICE

Having just read the latest column from the president of the Old Ottawa East Community Association, I feel I must voice my displeasure with the decision to charge the community association for the space for their regular column. This does not serve the community or the association. Indeed, it muffles the voice of the association to residents.

This should immediately be reconsidered, and if *The Mainstreeter* is that desperate for funds, it should reach out for help from the community, not work against its own mandate. *The Mainstreeter* is a very useful and beneficial publication, it is important. Keep in mind what it does for the neighbourhood. Reverse that decision.

*James McKimm,  
Lees Avenue*

## A REPLY FROM THE MAINSTREETER

Both OOECA President Bob Gordon and our reader, James McKimm, in his letter to the editor above, have now presented their perspectives on the decision by *The Mainstreeter*’s Board of Directors to recover its costs for editorial space from both OOECA and Old Ottawa East’s Community Activities Group (CAG).

A reply from *The Mainstreeter* and its Board of Directors seems to be warranted.

For starters, *The Mainstreeter* is not “desperate for funds.” We are a not-for-profit (NFP) corporation and we have survived financially for the past 35 years. We hope and expect to be around for at least another 35 years - and hopefully many more.

In fact, the decision by our Board of Directors had very little to do with money. For OOECA to have continued to publish its column in *The Mainstreeter* would have cost the community association \$480.00 per year. That’s the amount that *The Mainstreeter* now charges CAG for its monthly column space.

Instead, our decision was based on fairness to all the organizations and companies that choose to use column space in each issue of *The Mainstreeter* to achieve their goals and promote their activities.

Because we are an NFP, we neither turn a profit nor incur a loss. So, one of our goals is to ensure that every issue of *The Mainstreeter* covers its costs. Our main costs are the paper, ink and printing expenses we incur to publish the newspaper. To cover these costs, we need to make sure that all users of *The Mainstreeter*’s pages make a financial contribution to offset the cost of the space they utilize.

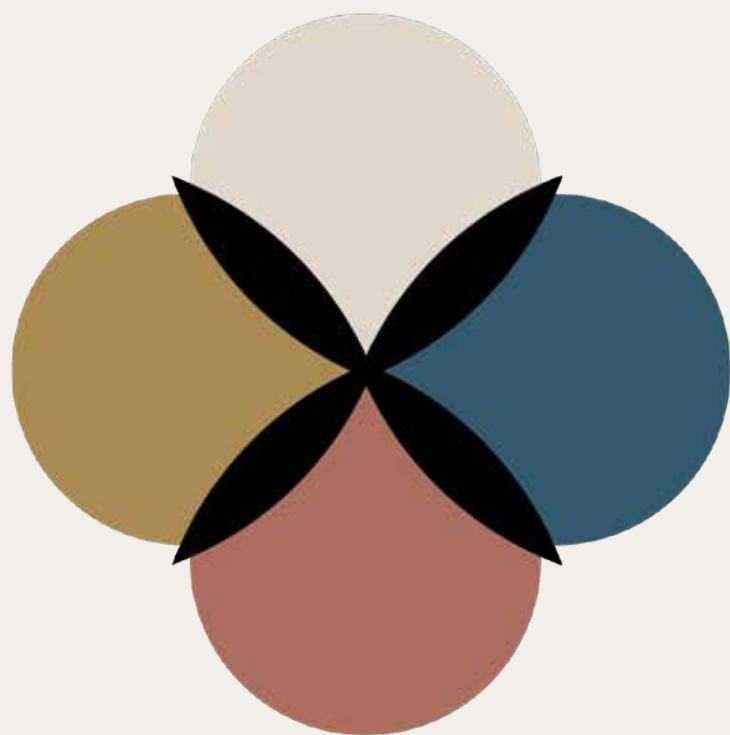
We publish six issues of *The Mainstreeter* every year. When an organization uses our column space six times per year and makes no financial contribution, *The Mainstreeter* loses out - in two different ways. First, the space is not available for any other party to use, even if they wish to pay for the space - and that results in *The Mainstreeter* having to forego \$960.00 of annual revenue. Second, *The Mainstreeter* is effectively subsidizing 100% of the costs of the organization that makes no contribution to our costs, and that’s not fair.

Advertisers in our paper pay our ad rates for the use of space in *The Mainstreeter*. Politicians such as Joel Harden and Shawn Menard also pay for the use of space for their recurring columns. CAG is a community organization of importance in Old Ottawa East - but it pays for its advertisements in *The Mainstreeter* and for its new recurring column. So too does the Farmer’s Market for their advertising space.

In reaching our decision, we recognized the community role and mandate of CAG and the Farmer’s Market, which is why we have agreed to charge both organizations only 50% of what we charge our other advertisers for comparable use of our space. By doing so, *The Mainstreeter* subsidizes 50% of their publishing costs - and we are content to do so to fulfill our commitment to the community. These community organizations understand the value they get from exposure in our community newspaper, and they are willing to pay their fair share to ensure that all community groups are supported, including *The Mainstreeter*.

Our Board believes that OOECA should be treated no differently than CAG and the Farmer’s Market. We felt it was only fair to other users of our space, and to *The Mainstreeter* itself, that our community association should make some contribution - even a discounted one - to pay for their publishing costs - and to support their community newspaper.

*Ron Rose,  
Chairperson,  
The Mainstreeter*



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**Community Activities Group:** Call Old Town Hall at 613-564-1078 and leave a message for Lee Jacobs

**Community Police (for non-emergency concerns):**

613-236-1222 x5287 or [huntmr@ottawapolice.ca](mailto:huntmr@ottawapolice.ca)

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## EDITORIAL

# An opportunity for Truth and Reconciliation in Old Ottawa East

GREG MACDOUGALL

There is a significant, and unique opportunity in Old Ottawa East for ‘Truth and Reconciliation’ with regards to the horrific history of residential schools in Canada.

The opportunity is at the historic Oblates site, also known as the new “Greystone Village” development. Specifically, there is the original Deschâtelets Building that is soon to be the refurbished home of a new community centre and the “Au Coeur d’Ottawa” French-language Catholic elementary school, and there are the outdoors spaces: two adjoining public parks plus the 30-metre-wide ‘river corridor’ alongside the Rideau River (known as the Pasapedjiwananong in the Algonquin language, ‘the river that passes between the rocks’).

The site was originally acquired by the Catholic Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the 1860s to serve as their headquarters. As school principals and through other administrative duties, the Oblates ran 48 Indian Residential Schools – more than a third of all the federal residential schools in Canada – including Kamloops, Brandon, Marieval, St. Eugene’s, and Kuper Island, where an estimated 215, 104, 751, 182, and 160 unmarked graves, respectively, were discovered earlier this year. (*\*N.B. the latter two were administered by the Oblates only in the later period of the schools’ operations.*)

Apart from residential schools, the Oblates were engaged in a larger missionary campaign with many Indigenous nations across the country, including the Algonquin locally; they began these activities in the 1840s, and there were both supportive and colonizing aspects to them. The Oblates also founded and ran the University of Ottawa, and later, Saint Paul University.

\*\*\*\*\*

Call To Action # 79 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is about residential school commemoration under a reconciliation framework. It points to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, including its National Program of Historical Commemoration (NPOH).

Implicit in the recommendation is to have Indigenous peoples guide



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**Current plaque at Oblates site by the Rideau River Nature Trail provides some but not all information about the Oblates’ missionary history in Canada.**

whatever form of commemoration is ultimately implemented.

A main form of commemoration under the current NPOH is a plaque. An existing NPOH plaque commemorating the Oblates, at their older site of St. Joseph Church on Wilbrod Street, is notably listed as “Under Review” on the NPOH website.

There is presently a non-NPOH plaque at the Old Ottawa East site, also in need of review, that was installed a decade or so ago by Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE) and the City of Ottawa as part of the Rideau River Nature Trail signage. The plaque has an overview of the Oblates history there, and mentions their missionary activities with Indigenous communities, but doesn’t mention the residential schools nor any associated harms.

\*\*\*\*\*

So what could commemoration look like at the site?

Hopefully, it can be more than plaques and can create space(s) that foster ongoing ‘reconciliation’ activity, given the public use planned for the site, and the magnitude and lasting impacts of the crimes being commemorated.

In 2013 when I interviewed TRC chair Murray Sinclair, he made clear that even before considering the individual atrocities and deaths, “The forcible annihilation, through removal of children, of one race... is an act of genocide. ... [T]he International Convention on Genocide includes a definition [article 2(e)] that exactly describes what went on in residential schools and why residential schools were created.”

To some extent, it will be up to the French-language Catholic school board (CECCE) and the City of Ottawa to decide what commemoration will be implemented at the Deschâtelets Building itself, the City as to what is included at the adjacent public park(s), and the developers (Regional Group, and EQ Homes) for what might go along the riverside corridor.

But if reconciliation is worth the word, those entities need to work with Oblates-impacted Indigenous peoples to implement what the residential school survivors and their families, and the communities, deem appropriate and worthwhile.

The Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation – many of whose residential school attendees were taken to Oblates-run schools (either at Amos QC or Kenora ON); many of whose communities now live on reserves that the Oblates helped create; and on whose unceded territory the site is located – should be included at the centre of decision-making.

\*\*\*\*\*

One way to push for this, is for individuals and collectives to reach out to the relevant institutions listed above – as well as helping to spread the word to others.

There is also a fledgling community grassroots initiative to help coordinate and support the creation, facilitation, and advocacy for Indigenous-led visions of commemoration at the Oblates site, contactable via: [algonquinakimedia@riseup.net](mailto:algonquinakimedia@riseup.net) (*Greg Macdougall has participated in many activist efforts, and publishes at EquitableEducation.ca.*)





JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Sean Rankin collects waste from Merritt Avenue residences. He may have fewer bags to pick up in the future.

## City aims to limit number of garbage bags destined for landfill

**JOHN DANCE**

The City of Ottawa wants to know how homeowners wish to reduce the amount of curbside pickup waste going to the Trail Road landfill site. The options the City is proposing are: reducing the number of allowable bags each collection day; charging for bags exceeding a limit; permitting only clear bags; or some combination of these.

The context for a recent survey on these options is the City's desire to extend the life of the current landfill site and avoid the enormous cost and difficulty of creating a new site.

Currently, much of the material that homeowners include in their "garbage" could be "diverted" into the blue and black recycling bins or into the "organics" green bin.

Regardless of what option is approved, homeowners will pay between \$5 and \$10 more per year to implement the new measure. And if the "charging for bags above a limit" is implemented, then residents will also be paying for the extra bags which, in other jurisdictions, cost between \$2 and \$3 per bag over the prescribed limit. The increase would be on top of the \$165 that residents currently pay in their tax bill for waste management.

None of the options was greeted enthusiastically by those who commented on this issue in postings to

an Old Ottawa East (OOE) Facebook group.

A number of respondents highlighted that the City needs to put greater emphasis on reducing the amount of waste, the first R of the three R's of waste management, the others being reuse and recycle.

Brenda Duke, founder of the popular OOE Buy Nothing Facebook site, stresses the desirability of sharing and reusing things rather than pitching them. Also, she notes, "During the pandemic, many people found themselves with more time at home and were curious about the minimalist culture with shows such as Marie Kondo's 'Magic of Tidying Up: the Art of Decluttering'."

The sharing of surplus items also "helped minimize exposure to a virus by avoiding another trip, saved gas emissions by travelling on foot to someone's porch, and saved money," she says, concluding, "It also helped us feel connected during a time of uncertainty."

The option of requiring clear plastic bags has the potential to increase the amount of material that is diverted from the landfill site by 10 percent, says Nichole Hoover-Bienasz, of the City's Public Works and Environmental Services department. Charging for bags above a limit would result in a six percent increase in diversion and a

reduced limit would yield a five percent diversion.

Residents question how well the clear bag option would work. "The workers who collect our garbage do not have time to check clear bags for things that shouldn't be there!" Bernita Capstick noted on the Facebook site.

Similarly, the bag limit option could have adverse consequences says Main Street resident Janice Cameron, noting, "Those who put out too much garbage will just leave it there. We will have a huge mess. There is an Airbnb across the street. Many bags of garbage when guests leave. Happens every week."

Residents also suggested ideas going beyond the proposed new options for curbside pick-ups. For instance, Bernita Capstick recommended the incineration of garbage; Rob Poirier suggested sorting the material at a processing facility; Connie Fiske said "the only thing that will work is education in waste management on a variety of levels," and Barry Davis suggested the waste streams from large buildings need to be better regulated.

Later this fall, the City will also consult on waste management of material that doesn't come from curbside pick-up, such as waste from apartment buildings.

***New speed limits now in force should help to...***

## Slow down drivers!

**JOHN DANCE**

Speed limits throughout Old Ottawa East have been reduced as of last month after Ottawa City Council approved a 30km/h limit for streets east of Main Street and a 40km/h limit for all of Main Street. These changes follow last year's reduction of the speed limit to 30km/h for streets west of Main Street.

Another long-sought traffic calming measure was also approved, notably making the Chestnut Street - Evelyn Avenue intersection an all-way stop.

"These changes will help nurture a safer, more vibrant street life on Main Street and in residential neighborhoods and complement other measures we've brought forward such as automatic walk signals for crossings on Main Street during daylight hours, and a new fully signalized intersection to be installed at Colonel By Drive and Main," says Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard.

"Very positive and welcomed steps for improved safety," commented Tom Scott, Transportation Director of the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA).

Scott noted that "selective and targeted enforcement is needed to set a pattern of deterrence, along with increased social communication by the City."

A few other traffic safety measures remain outstanding. At the September OOECA meeting, residents commented that sidewalks are needed on both Evelyn and Springhurst avenues between Chestnut and Brunswick streets.

Also, the pedestrian crosswalk signalization pole on Greenfield Avenue at Concord Street North has been destroyed several times by large trucks and improvements need to be made to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

A nearby resident recommends that the base of the signalization poles be wrapped in a foot-thick concrete bollard to persuade truck drivers to be careful in making their turns. Others are of the view that large trucks should be banned from the side streets.



**Possibly a part of the next Cabinet?**

# Yasir Naqvi returns to Ottawa Centre as new Liberal MP; NDP place a distant second

**JOHN DANCE**

Liberal candidate Yasir Naqvi soundly won the Ottawa Centre riding in the September 20 federal election, defeating the NDP's Angella MacEwen by more than 8,000 votes. Conservative candidate Carol Clemenhausen was third, followed by the Green Party's Angela Keller-Herzog.

At his victory celebration, Naqvi promised to continue in the tradition of Ed Broadbent, Paul Dewar and Catherine McKenna, the previous Ottawa Centre MPs.

Naqvi served Ottawa Centre as its provincial MPP for eight years until he was defeated by the NDP's Joel Harden in the 2018 election.

The Ottawa Centre race was characterized by intense campaigning but also, as evidenced by the candidates' virtual debate, a degree of progressive consensus on a number of issues. Indeed, at times during the debate hosted by local community associations, it appeared that the candidates of the major parties had many of the same goals, differing only on how they'd achieve them and what their specific targets would be.

"Inclusion is the only way of doing things," Naqvi remarked at his victory party held at the patio of Old Ottawa South's Senate Tavern. Naqvi was in the provincial Cabinet, serving in several positions including Attorney General,

but at this point it is not clear whether he will become part of the new Liberal government's Cabinet. Predecessor Catherine McKenna was initially Minister of the Environment and subsequently Minister of Infrastructure and Communities.

In comparison to what happened nationally, the Ottawa Centre candidates' performances varied significantly. Naqvi's 45 percent share was much higher than the national Liberal share of 32 percent; MacEwen's 33 percent share was also much higher than the national NDP share of 18 percent; Clemenhausen at 16 percent was about half of the Tories' national share of 34 percent; and Keller-Herzog's 3 percent was above the national Green rate of 2 percent. Nationally, the right-wing People's Party received 5 percent while Regina Watteel, the Ottawa Centre candidate, received 2 percent.

Compared to the 2019 election, the Liberal vote in Ottawa Centre was down by 5 percent, the NDP was up by 3; the Conservatives increased by 4, the Greens were down by 4, the People's Party was up by 2.

Voter participation continued to fall in Ottawa Centre. Preliminary figures show a participation rate of 70 percent, down 6 percent from 2019 and 12 percent from 2021. The pandemic resulted in greater voting at advance polls, but it also may have contributed to lower overall participation.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

**At his victory party, Liberal Yasir Naqvi graciously spoke of continuing in the footsteps of previous Ottawa Centre MPs Ed Broadbent, Paul Dewar and Catherine McKenna.**

One local issue that arose during the campaign was Naqvi's proposal to extend the project to close Colonel By Drive to vehicle traffic for a full-year pilot. This would "get [people] out of their cars to walk, bike and roll to work and school, [and] it would also give our community the necessary data and comprehensive details to measure the quantitative success of this important

project," Naqvi wrote to the National Capital Commission.

Reaction to the proposal has been mixed. Many are concerned about the impact of such a measure on Main Street and other routes while others welcome the idea of the parkway being safer and more accommodating for pedestrians and cyclists.

The virtual debate of Ottawa Centre candidates featured shared perspectives on many issues, respect of opponents and collaboration. Clockwise from top left: Angela Keller-Herzog (Green); Angella MacEwen (NDP); Carol Clemenhausen (Conservative), and Yasir Naqvi (Liberal);





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## The trees of Echo Drive

# SLOE develops self-guided tour of OOE's urban forest

JOHN DANCE

Who knew a stroll along Echo Drive could be an exploration of trees from around the world?

Following last year's successful Brantwood Park tree tour, Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE) has created another self-guided tour, this one of Echo Drive's trees, that will contribute to appreciating the diversity and value of our urban forest.

Along the walk, you will see trees that come from Siberia, and from Norway, Japan, Scotland and elsewhere, but all of them are here, providing us with oxygen, shade and beauty.

Some of SLOE's goals are to promote the value of our urban forest, protect the trees we have and plant many more trees to make a greener and healthier community.

Over the coming years, SLOE will launch a number of specific initiatives to achieve these goals. The group values the support and participation of members of the Old Ottawa East community.

Unbeknownst to many of us, there are over 70 different species of trees on City property in Old Ottawa East. And there's a tonne of environmental and social benefits accruing to our community from our urban forests?

Now, on to the newest "branch" of SLOE's OOE tree walks! Your starting point is Echo Drive just south of Hazel Street, and your end point is Echo Drive at Riverdale Avenue. The estimated walk time is about an hour, depending on how long you end up gazing thoughtfully at nature!

*(This article was first posted elsewhere by SLOE.)*



*In your tour please keep to the sidewalk as many of the identified trees are on private property. A mobile phone version of the Echo*

*Drive Tree walk, complete with a Google Map of the tour, are available on SLOE's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ottawaeast.ca>*



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# Limestone blocks give Canal retaining wall a new look

**JOHN DANCE**

Massive limestone blocks - similar to the ones used for the construction of the Rideau Canal locks - form the new retaining wall between Echo Drive and Colonel By Drive in the 400-metre section running from Avenue Road to Mount Pleasant Avenue.

The blocks replace the stone masonry wall that had been slowly crumbling away since the wall was built in the 50s and 60s.

"After detailed studies from various experts in masonry and engineering, it was determined that further repair and partial localized reconstruction [would] not eliminate inherent issues," National Capital Commission's Dominique Huras told *The Mainstreeter*.

"The wall reached the end of its lifecycle and full replacement was required," she said. "Natural limestone was chosen as the preferred material. There are no mortar joints in this type of construction; therefore, this type of wall is more resistant to winter

conditions and more durable than other solutions."

Construction work began in July and is scheduled for completion late this fall. The northbound lane of Colonel By Drive is required for the construction activity and in the summer the southbound lane was reserved solely for cyclists and pedestrians. In September, the southbound lane reopened to cars and was repurposed as a two-way lane with the direction of traffic controlled by traffic signals at both ends.

The work includes installation of an effective drainage system behind the new retaining wall, deposition of new non-frost-susceptible material behind the wall, reinstallation of related items such as light posts and implementation of revegetation.

The NCC says the cost of the project will not be publicly available until the work is completed, however, the wall replacement is one of four NCC projects with a total budget of \$31.5 million.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The masonry retaining wall between Echo Drive and Colonel By Drive is being replaced with massive, stacked limestone blocks.

## Queensway bridge replacement project delayed

**MAINSTREETER STAFF**

Old Ottawa East may get a bit of a respite in the series of ongoing mega infrastructure projects that have affected the community.

The replacement of our Highway 417 bridges - including the ones over the Rideau Canal and Main Street - is "unlikely to start before 2025 and is subject to funding and provincial priorities," says Lori Alarie, spokesperson for the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO).

The City of Ottawa's reconstruction of Greenfield Avenue, Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue is scheduled to be completed in 2024, so the dust may settle for a while before the bridge replacement project begins.

Details on the project to replace the "end-of-their-lifecycle" bridges remain vague, however, it appears that fewer buildings along the north side of Hawthorne will be demolished to allow the project to proceed than originally proposed.

Originally, the Royal Oak - now the Gray Jay Hospitality - at the corner of Hawthorne and Echo Drive was to have been demolished but, following

interventions from Councillor Shawn Menard's office, proposed construction methods have changed so that it is likely to be preserved.

Plans for the bridge replacement will require the use of Ballantyne Park on Hawthorne. At least one of the new bridges will be assembled on this site.

"The Ministry is currently undertaking a preliminary design environmental assessment study for the Highway 417 'Downtown Bridges' project from Bank Street to Main Street," says Alarie. "A transportation environmental assessment report will be released to the public at a later date."

MTO has made no commitment to consultation beyond what occurred several years ago. "Should it be determined that additional public consultation is required, the public will be notified in advance," says Alarie. "Once the environmental assessment report has been finalized, and in advance of it being released to the public, a 'notice of completion' will be published, informing the public that the [report] is available for review and where they can view a copy."



MELINDA NEWMAN PHOTO

## A long overdue welcome home

This simple chalked blackboard sign that popped up recently outside a Main Street residence conveyed heartfelt sentiments that all Canadians felt when the two Michaels - Kovrig and Spavor - were released from their jail cells in China following more than 1,000 days of captivity.



## Springhurst Park official opening celebrations

# Local kids abuzz with excitement over park improvements

### JOHN DANCE

After the long pandemic and a lengthy effort, Springhurst Park's many new amenities were officially opened in September at a celebration starring a gaggle of happy children and the driving forces behind the improvements leading to the party.

Springhurst Park Action, led by Chestnut Street resident Rick Borrowes and supported by the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA), worked with Councillor Shawn Menard and City of Ottawa staff to plan and implement new fitness equipment for adults, a permanent concrete ping pong table, additional benches and a beach volleyball court, as well as the new "junior" play structure which the City wanted to replace.

About 100 people of all ages joined in the celebration, quaffing numerous gallons of hot chocolate and 130 Timbits brought by Councillor Menard.

Menard and OOECA president Bob Gordon thanked Burrowes for his persistence and dedication in making Springhurst an even better park than it was.

During the celebration, the park was vibrant, abuzz with many different activities. Soccer players were off to the east; teenagers batted a ball on the ping pong table; the basketball court was packed as usual; both play structures were crawling with kids and a few adults developed muscle mass in the new exercise area.

The evening of celebration and play was concluded with the screening of the classic film, *The Wizard of Oz*, presented by Gerald Dragon of the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, an organization that has strongly



JOHN DANCE PHOTOS

**Councillor Shawn Menard, Springhurst Park Action's Rick Burrowes, OOECA president Bob Gordon and a gaggle of children officially opened the much-improved Springhurst Park in September.**

supported improvements to the park over the last decade.

OOECA and the OOE Community Activities Group (CAG) have long-campaigned for the improvements to the park. More than a decade ago the proposed concrete ping pong table was deemed too expensive, but now it is a solid and permanent presence.

In his opening remarks, Menard noted that now the City needs to remove the proposed Alta Vista Transportation Corridor from the transportation master plan so that the large greenspace between Springhurst



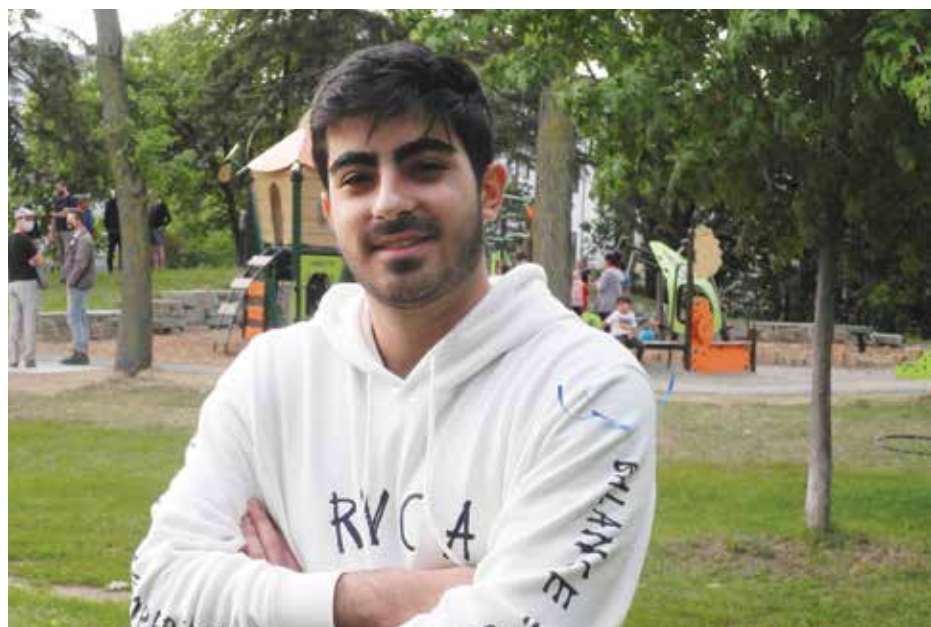
**Springhurst's new concrete ping pong table draws players from around town. Clockwise from top right: Sara Hubberstey, Victor Avila, Jude and Will Kulidjian.**

Park and the Lees Avenue apartment towers becomes part of the park rather than being reserved for construction of a massive new roadway leading to downtown.

In addition to expanding the Park, residents are seeking other improvements, including a splash pad and a paddling dock like the one at Brantwood Park. Interestingly, a resident recently spotted Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and one of his sons putting their canoe into the Rideau River near where the proposed dock would go.

Another much-needed community park improvement is a refurbishment of the tennis courts at Brantwood Park,

which are now in greater demand with the growth of pickleball. The green-painted hardcourt surface at the courts is chipped, the pad itself is badly-cracked and gaps in the fencing enclosures result in tennis balls routinely leaving the court area and rolling down the embankment to the river. Community efforts over the last few years resulted in a few improvements to the courts' surface but the job wasn't satisfactory. The City has said that full repairs will be made as part of "lifecycle" work, but no date was specified.



**Toronto resident Alireza Mohammadzudeh, who once lived in the Lees Avenue towers, happened to be in town and joined the Springhurst celebration. He was astounded at how the park had improved over the last decade.**





### COVID-19 recovery

- Highest vaccination rate amongst large cities in Canada
- Increased vaccination access through mobile and neighbourhood clinics to reach #CommunityImmunity
- Creation of the Human Needs Task Force to assist our most vulnerable residents
- Support for small businesses throughout the pandemic: Buy Local Campaign, Property Tax Hardship Deferral Program, Business Reopening Toolkit, waived patio fees



### Economic rebound

- Lowest unemployment rate amongst Canada's six largest cities throughout the pandemic
- Patio Innovation Program: hundreds of new patios, 500 additional seats with street closures, and lifted café seating limits
- Attracting more major events: 2021 Canoe Kayak Sprint Championships, 2022 LPGA CP Women's Open, 2022 Volleyball Nationals, 2026 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships & more
- \$398M in investments attracted to Ottawa and 990 new jobs created through Invest Ottawa
- Diversified rural investment and job-creation through the City's first Rural Economic Development Strategy



### Equity & affordability

- \$82M in COVID-specific funding for housing and social service partners
- Opened three respite centres with access to bathrooms, showers and other supports for residents in the shelter system, serving an average of 210 clients daily
- Delivering a record amount of new affordable units in this term of Council (\$47M in affordable housing to deliver 359 units in 2021)
- Froze the cost of the EquiPass and the Community Pass for the third consecutive year – an additional investment of \$185K for low-income transit users



### Protecting our environment

- Delivering the first Net Zero Carbon library in Canada
- Arrival of electric buses this year
- Transforming the Prince of Wales Bridge into the Chief William Commanda active transportation corridor for pedestrians, cyclists and x-country skiers
- Completed planning for Stage 3 LRT to Kanata, Stittsville and Barrhaven



### Safer roads and neighbourhoods

- Creating 15-minute walkable communities
- Spending \$37.8M this year on road safety initiatives
- Reduced serious T-bone collisions by 50% thanks to our Red-Light Camera Program
- Reinvesting \$2.5M in road safety measures through the Automated Speed Enforcement pilot
- Reinstated the Neighbourhood Policing Program to forge positive relationships with residents and community partners
- Renewed William and Rideau Streets in the ByWard Market to provide more greenery, safer walking and cycling conditions and help businesses
- Established a Byward Market Leadership Table with key partners to address ongoing public safety concerns

### Our community

- City's Active Transportation Plan eyes improvements in Old Ottawa East
- Live sports and events are back at Lansdowne! Don't miss out on the action at the BlackJacks, the Aces, Atlético and the RedBlacks games this year!
- Significant increase in crossings on the Flora Footbridge



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## From Russia - with much love

*Continued from Page 1*

hatching turtles nests for safety. We were also surprised to see so many tall trees in the residential areas. In Russian cities, a lot of trees get cut down since they are difficult to maintain. But you are resolved to care for them, and they reward you with their beauty.

**4. Transparency:** Most of the houses in Russia are surrounded by high fences for safety reasons. We have hardly seen any fences here. You share the beauty of your front yards with the passersby, and every walk along the streets of Old

Ottawa East brings so much joy to us. **5. Care:** Everything we observe in the community shows care for people: reduced speed for vehicles on many streets, special bicycle lanes, ramps for easy access everywhere, easy-to-use public transportation with multiple stops, clean and safe construction sites, potable tap water, well-developed sports grounds. And finally, the beautiful Flora walking bridge, saving everyone a lot of time on the way to Lansdowne.

*We wanted to share our experiences with you so that you can also count your blessings and be assured that you live in a wonderful place surrounded by great people. We are very glad to have been welcomed in this area.*

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# Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

*Continued from Page 3*

Oshkosh, it turns out, is the site of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, the largest annual gathering of aviation enthusiasts in the United States and the #1 rated airshow in the world. Who knew?

According to the website, “the show has over 10,000 aircraft in attendance with a little bit of everything represented, including warbirds, home-built aircraft, ultralights and vintage planes.” Before the pandemic, the airshow attracted 500,000 spectators annually.

“It’s the biggest convention in the world for home built aircraft. So, I’m giving myself about a year for all the testing and then I’m going to fly it to Oshkosh, about 6,000 miles. Because there are literally tens of thousands of small aircraft flying there, logistically, I’ll have to stop at some place along the way, meet up with about 50 or so other Van’s Aircraft owners, and we’ll all fly together into Oshkosh without causing any aircraft control tower issues.”

Penna may have company on the flight to Oshkosh. It turns out that there are approximately

20 other Van’s Aircraft currently flying in and around Ottawa, and three or four others under construction. “I know of several,” Penna says. “There are more than 1,000 of this specific model flying in total. Mine is something like 1,023.”

And if you want to be a passenger in Penna’s plane, occupying that second seat next to the pilot, you’ll have to weigh in at less than 250 pounds. “The weight of the plane, two passengers included, is limited to 1400 pounds. Of that, the two passengers can’t total more than 450 pounds.” For his part, Penna says he tips the scale at 200 pounds.

A nervous flyer, I squirm slightly and vow to eat larger portions, since I currently qualify.



LORNE ABUGOV/HISTORY OF OTTAWA EAST ARCHIVE PHOTOS

**LEFT:** The tailgate portion of Maurizio Penna’s Van’s RV12 airplane is squeezed in between a tree and a garden patch of his Mason Terrace home; **CENTRE:** One of many drivers and pedestrians who were stopped in their tracks on a Saturday afternoon in September when Penna attached the wings of his plane to the fuselage on his driveway; **RIGHT:** The bi-plane flown by William C. Robinson in October 1913 sits on the bumpy pastureland of Slattery’s Field in Old Ottawa East where the aviator landed his craft after the first inter-city flight in Canadian history.



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*At the Children's Garden this summer...*

# "The plants leapt out of the ground!"

## MAINSTREETER STAFF

It has been a beautiful and productive year in the Children's Garden, according to Telsing Andrews, the Summer Garden Coordinator and an avid gardener in her own right.

"The start of the year was very warm and dry, so plants leapt out of the ground," Andrews recalls. "We had a great early crop of volunteer lettuce, spinach and mustard greens, followed by the first planting of root crops, and finally a nice harvest of tomatoes and squash - despite bugs like squash vine borers, lined potato bugs (actually beetles), cucumber beetles, and leaf miners that shared our bounty."

Andrews explained that the restrictions imposed by COVID meant that the usual big crowds of happy families and classes couldn't materialize this summer, however, the garden still thrived as a result of a dedicated group of registered volunteer gardeners big and small who kept the beds planted, weeded, harvested and watered.

She notes that early in the year, when no organized activities could be run and mixed household groups weren't allowed due to the pandemic, these volunteers acted like "garden fairies", arriving to enjoy the urban oasis and to plant home-saved runner beans and tiny Brussel sprout seedlings that have subsequently become towering giants.

Although the number of young gardeners had to be kept low, Andrews says that there have been plenty of other small creatures abounding, such as squirrels running off with peas, grackles pulling the odd potato stem, and squash bees sleeping in the pumpkin flowers.

Andrews is thankful that the rain returned mid-summer. "We are now into our third succession sowing of greens, and the fruiting crops like peppers and tomatillos are still going strong. A number of our families and our volunteer gardeners have really enjoyed the harvest over the summer.

"With the lifting of some COVID restrictions, we have also been able to resume more structured activities once again in the Garden, including Saturday Story and Harvest, Monday and Wednesday Circle Time, Workshop Wednesdays, and Friday morning Drop-ins. Some of the topics in our daytime workshop series include seed saving, bees and wasps in the garden, winter sowing and how to observe nature," she says.

The Children's Garden was also able to participate this summer in the "city-cavity-nesters" project, assisted by Lydia Wong, a University of Ottawa Ph.D. candidate in biology, which monitored



**The Children's Garden has supported local organizations through donations of its bountiful produce, and this summer was no exception.**

the bee and wasp population. Some highlights included spotting leaf cutter bees with their orange bellies, metallic green sweat bees, honeybees, wool carder bees busily scraping the fuzz off artemisia leaves, as well as several species of bumble bee.

As in years past, the Children's Garden donates part of its harvest to the Parkdale Kitchen and the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre. A small selection of the produce is also available at the Main Street Market, sold by Cadence Ecological Farm to help with the Garden's costs.



TELSING ANDREWS PHOTOS

**Young Elan proudly displays some of the potato crop that was recently harvested at the Children's Garden.**



*To see a list of on-going programs/times, visit the Children's Garden's Facebook page or email a request for information to [ottawachildrengardeninfo@gmail.com](mailto:ottawachildrengardeninfo@gmail.com). You will need to read and agree with the COVID rules and register for numbers before joining any activities.*

**Please wear a mask and stay safe!**

**Joel Harden**

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# AFFORDABLE HOUSING/ LOGEMENT ABORDABLE

*Habitation partagées Mirela*

## Lancement d'un projet de logements partagés dans le Vieil Ottawa-Est

MEGAN SICARD

Au cœur du Vieil Ottawa-Est, il existe l'Atelier d'innovation sociale Mauril-Bélanger - une organisation à but non lucratif qui prône l'engagement communautaire, la justice sociale et la collaboration dans le travail. C'est à l'Atelier que plusieurs projets incubateurs ont été lancés dans la communauté, dont le projet d'Habitations partagées Mirela.

Le projet est un modèle alternatif de logement solidaire et abordable qui jumelle deux personnes ayant des affinités et des besoins complémentaires - l'une pouvant bénéficier d'une présence et d'un soutien, et l'autre d'un logement abordable. C'est un organisme à but non lucratif francophone qui met en relation et soutient des personnes de tout âge et de toute origine souhaitant partager une habitation dans le but de briser l'isolement, s'épanouir, s'entraider et se loger à moindre coût dans la région

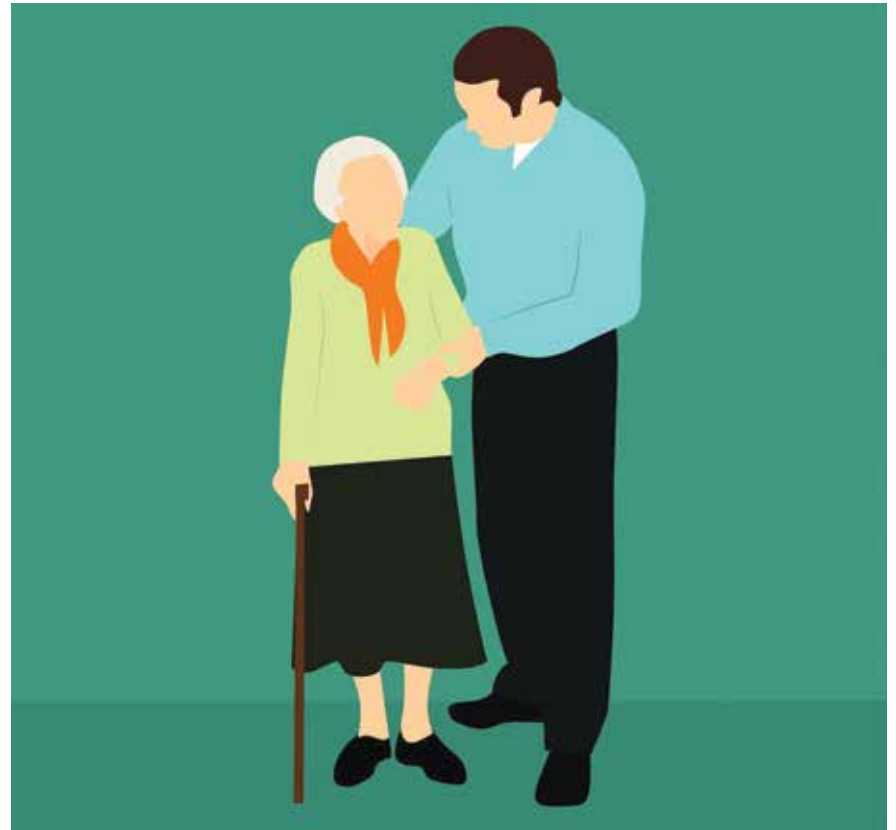
d'Ottawa.

Une habitation partagée est un type d'arrangement locatif où deux personnes qui ne se connaissent pas s'arrangent pour partager une même résidence.

Dans ce concept, chaque personne dispose d'une chambre privée et d'une salle de bain. Cela dit, les autres pièces comme la cuisine et le salon constituent des aires communes et sont donc partagées.

Les responsabilités ménagères sont également partagées, à moins que l'entente ne soit sujette à l'octroi de services en échange d'une réduction du loyer ou d'un loyer gratuit.

C'est un projet crucial pour faire une transition après la pandémie qui répond à pleins d'enjeux sociaux criants. Dans la communauté du Vieil Ottawa-Est, le projet peut être particulièrement utile aux étudiantes de l'Université Saint-Paul. C'est une opportunité pour bien intégrer les étudiantes internationales et pour



offrir un logement abordable dans la région, tout en diminuant l'isolement des personnes âgées, ou de toute personne ayant vécu de l'isolement social.

### Histoire

Habitations partagées Mirela, c'est d'abord le résultat d'une vision, celle de Mireille Leroux. Après avoir vécu plusieurs expériences de cohabitation, Leroux croit que l'habitation partagée a le potentiel d'être une recette gagnante pour plusieurs.

social et à la crise du logement.

Durant sa conception, Pascale Thériault a entendu parler du projet et s'est jointe presque immédiatement. À l'aide de son expertise et de son dévouement, c'est à ce moment que le projet a commencé à se concrétiser. Habitations partagées Mirela est née.

Les trois co-fondatrices ont conçu le projet entièrement sur une base bénévole, et ont réussi à animer des tables de discussions, des sondages, participer à

**« L'habitation partagée est le miracle que j'attendais depuis longtemps! L'essayer, c'est le garder! »**

**Claire, 87 ans, Orléans**

Le projet ne serait qu'une idée sans sa rencontre avec Megan Sicard comme stagiaire lorsqu'elle était aux études. Étant passionnée du vieillissement et en étant une étudiante dans une situation précaire, Sicard reconnaissait l'urgence de trouver des solutions durables à l'isolement

plusieurs webinaires et remporter une bourse de \$10 000.

Le projet est actuellement en phase de prédémarrage et est à la recherche de membres pour leur conseil d'administration et de participantes pour un projet pilote.

*Project Mirela tackles isolation and affordability*

## Shared housing project set to launch in Old Ottawa East


MEGAN SICARD

The Mauril-Bélanger Social Innovation Workshop - a non-profit organization that promotes community engagement, social justice and collaboration at work - lies in the heart of Old Ottawa East. The Workshop has successfully launched several incubator projects in the

community, including the Mirela Shared Housing (Mirela Project).

The Mirela Project is an alternative model of inclusive and affordable housing that pairs two people with complementary affinities and needs - one who can benefit from presence

*Continued on Page 22*



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## Official Plan update

# City extends consultation and approval vote schedules in face of public demands for added review time

**RON ROSE**

Shortly after the August issue of *The Mainstreeter* went to press, the City of Ottawa agreed to growing demands from the public that important meetings to consider the revised Official Plan should be delayed by at least a month. The joint meeting of the Planning Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC) was rescheduled to October 14th, and the Public Open House was moved to September 29th.

The purpose of the Public Open House was to allow the public to learn more about the revised draft Official Plan. Unfortunately, the meeting didn't add a lot of clarity, as most of the time was taken by City Staff explaining how they have arrived at the final draft. Most of the few questions that were allowed had been selected in advance, and there was limited opportunity to ask questions in response to the Staff's presentation.

The main sections of the revised draft of the Official Plan had been released through July and August, while

the revised draft of the Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan was not released until early September. The revised Official Plan includes nine sections, totaling 268 pages, plus three sets of Schedules, 10 annexes and 28 Secondary Plans.

To see what the City is proposing for our community, the most important document was the revised Secondary Plan for Old Ottawa East. That's because, in spite of the word "Secondary" in its title, any policy contained in a Secondary Plan overrides whatever the Official Plan declares about that policy.

For example, the Official Plan states that buildings along Main Street can be up to nine storeys high. If, however, the Secondary Plan says houses on a portion of Main Street are limited to four stories, then the four-storey height limit in the Secondary prevails.

The late release of the revised Secondary Plan for Old Ottawa East has made it difficult to review the changes and to compare the policies of the Secondary Plan to those of the Official Plan. There have been a number

of changes to the Secondary Plan from the version released earlier in the year. Some of those changes went a long way to meeting the concerns raised by the community. For example, the original Secondary Plan, approved only 10 years ago, included the area north of the Queensway between the Rideau Canal and Nicholas Street, as well as the area between Brunswick Lane and the Rideau River. Initial drafts of the Secondary Plan, however, excluded those two areas.

The community, supported by Ward Councillor Shawn Menard, objected to those exclusions, and requested that all of Old Ottawa East be included in the same Secondary Plan. As a result of those suggestions, the revised draft of the Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan now includes the area north of the 417 and the lands between Brunswick Lane, including Springhurst Park and the open field to the east, up to and including the Alta Vista Transit Corridor (AVTC).

While these inclusions are welcomed, the draft still excludes the Lees Avenue apartments and the Ottawa University

campus at 200 Lees Avenue.

The revised Secondary Plan contained a few other disappointments for residents of Old Ottawa East. For instance, the decision to include Springhurst Park and the open field east of the park within the Plan meant that the route of the AVTC is now included in the Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan. These AVTC lands are now called a "Green Transportation and Utility Corridor". Regardless of the name, the community continues to oppose any consideration of the AVTC, either within the Official Plan or the Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan.

Affordable housing was another area where the community's requests have been denied. The original 2011 Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan included a provision that would ensure that 25% of all new rental housing, and 25% of all new ownership housing, be affordable. In spite of concerns raised by the community, that provision has now been dropped from the Secondary Plan.



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## THE MAINSTREETER'S SPECIAL REPORT...

# Ottawa's community newspapers have emerged healthy and vibrant from COVID

JOHN DANCE

Despite the pandemic, climate change, political divisiveness and social media focused on virtual communities and individuals, local physical communities continue to thrive through their newspapers. *The Mainstreeter* is just one of the non-profits that regularly entertains and enlightens residents.

Over the last two decades, mainstream commercial media have reduced local coverage or simply gone out of business in the face of Google and Facebook gobbling up advertising dollars. While *The Ottawa Citizen/Sun* and several television and radio stations still have several reporters who focus on local matters, they tend to deal with broad city or regional issues. Meanwhile what happens in, say, Old Ottawa East doesn't get reported on except in *The Mainstreeter*. Readers get to see pictures of their kids' winning hockey team, something that doesn't happen with the city's daily newspapers.

To get a sense for the state of 10 nearby community papers, *The Mainstreeter* canvassed their editors, seeking information on their papers' histories, status, operations, and challenges.

What emerged was a picture of vibrant community-based and business-supported enterprises produced with the talent and energy of a thousand or more volunteers and with direction from editors and a few others occasionally rewarded with limited

honoraria. What follows is a summary of what their editors shared.

The papers covered by this survey were: the *Glebe Report*; the *Centretown BUZZ*; Alta Vista's *VISTAS*; Old Ottawa South's *The OSCAR*; the *New Edinburgh News* (NEN); *Lower Town Echo de la Basse-Ville*; the *Manor Park Chronicle*; Sandy Hill's *IMAGE*; Overbrook's *Connexions*; and *The Mainstreeter*. These papers cover the urban core and the next communities beyond.

### History

The oldest local community paper is the *Manor Park Chronicle*, now 70 years old. The youngest is *Connexions*. Most of the others are almost 50 years old although *The Mainstreeter*, *The Buzz* and the *Lower Town Echo* are younger at 36, 26, and 10, respectively.

The origins of the papers vary but some are quite distinct. For instance, says editor Christina Leadley, "*The New Edinburgh News* began in 1976 when the community was fighting the so-called Vanier Extension ... New Edinburgh won this battle, and the extension was never built. Since then, the NEN has continued to be the voice of the community."

All of the papers have evolved with changing technology and have become longer and more readable – and they tend to have readily accessible electronic versions. *The Echo*, which was the predecessor of *The Mainstreeter*, had

just four black and white pages when it hit the streets in 1981, while now *The Mainstreeter* often runs to 44 pages, with the majority of them in colour.

Many papers are independent of community associations, however, *The OSCAR*, *The Buzz* and NEN are owned or operated by the related community association. Nevertheless, all papers have fiercely independent editorial policies.

### Circulation and Financing

The combined circulation of the 10 papers is about 62,000, a sizable number in light of what *The Citizen's* circulation may now be (data are not readily available). In 2015, *The Citizen* had a circulation of about 93,000 but it undoubtedly has declined since then.

Two fundamental differences between the remaining mainstream newspapers and non-profit community papers are: the former charges readers an ever-increasing amount and, generally, publish six times a week while the community papers are free of charge and publish between five and 11 times a year. About half of the community papers publish 10 to 11 times/year. The others publish just four to six times.

Both for-profit and non-profit papers depend on paid advertising. The former are also now receiving some support through a new federal \$595 million program, but community papers have historically received little government support aside from some political

advertising.

### Content

"News with a local angle," is how NEN describes the content in their newspaper. And this is common to all of the community papers. All of them have regular columns from such parties as community associations and activities groups, schools, churches and elected officials.

Community association columns and articles deal with their range of efforts including transportation, development, public safety, environment, trees, heritage and housing.

All of the community papers have regular reporting or columns on such matters as technology, indigenous issues, health matters, book and film reviews, food, disability issues, local sports, travel, and, in one case, "decluttering." Arts and community events are also regularly reported. "There is something for everyone," says the *Echo's* editor John Chenier.

One common feature is regular reporting on business, often with profiles of new businesses. NEN's "Burgh Business Briefs" section runs five-six pages every issue. *The OSCAR's* "Business Beat," is a prominent standard feature that reports on new businesses and changes with other

*Continued on Page 21*

CENTRETOWN BUZZ

glebe report

VISTAS

Lowertown *echo* de la Basse-ville

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

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# ON COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

## "News with a local flavour..."

*Continued from Page 20*

businesses.

Some papers have particularly unique features. For instance, the *Glebe Report's* back cover alternates between "a striking photo and a piece of art by a local artist," says Editor Liz McKeen. NEN has its "Breezy Bits" on the back page with its "little announcements like birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, condolences, welcomes and farewells, and other happy little announcements to share with neighbours." *ConneXions* profiles interesting people through features called "Humans of Overbrook." In *The Mainstreeter*, unusual, diverse and fun activities in and around Old Ottawa East are often featured on its "Eclectic Events" page.

"We try to balance the challenges that our readers must respond to with successes and upbeat stories," notes *BUZZ* editor Alayne McGregor. "It's always an interesting challenge to find enough relevant photos."

All papers welcome letters to the editor and op-eds. Most editors include their own editorial on relevant matters. "[W]e print what comes in (after checking and editing) so it depends on the energy level of community activists and writer," says *IMAGE's* Jane Waterston. "We follow the community association but if there is nothing interesting going on we don't print anything. Anyone who lives or works in the neighbourhood is welcome to submit."

### **The Monthly (or Bimonthly) Task**

The volunteer-based operations gear up for each issue with core teams and the volunteer writers, photographers and artists who produce an avalanche - or trickle - of copy that may or may not meet the deadline. The core team, usually including the editor, copy editors, the advertising manager, and a lay-out expert, then make order and, occasionally, beauty out of the deluge.

The single largest expense - one that has recently grown much faster than the rate of inflation - is the cost of printing the newspaper, including the mounting costs of ink and paper. Once the paper is printed the copies are generally distributed to volunteers who deliver to specific streets or multi-unit buildings. This vital volunteer role makes it possible for the papers to be distributed throughout the communities free of charge. In a few instances, papers contract with Canada Post or others to deliver the copies to large multi-unit buildings, but this is costly.

To augment distribution, several papers have bought newspaper boxes so that passers-by may readily get a paper. Given that their readerships overlap, the *Glebe Report* and *The OSCAR* share boxes. Like those two newspapers, *The Mainstreeter* had its five newsboxes painted by local artists who incorporated local landmarks

into their designs.

### **Challenges**

Aside from the relentless need to get advertising to keep going, community papers face a raft of issues beyond just the production of each issue.

In terms of news, with their infrequent publication, community newspapers face the challenge of being timely, relevant and actually "news." But given that many of their stories aren't reported elsewhere, they often provide readers with information they haven't seen elsewhere or, at least, provide a level of local details that wouldn't otherwise be available.

"Reliance on volunteers has its upside, but means the product is not always at the peak of professionalism," says McKeen. "Sometimes [it is] hard to find writers to cover stories. [You] need to walk a fine line between saccharine boosterism and hard-hitting gotcha journalism (an exaggeration but hopefully you get what I mean — community building vs writing hard truths about, for example, neighbourhood conflicts)."

"Tackling issues with journalistic rigour, when the vast amount of our contributions are from volunteers with (quite understandably) no professional writing experience, is also a challenge," notes Wes Smiderle, *Manor Park Chronicle* editor.

The constant turnover of volunteers is always a challenge too. Similarly, filling key positions, especially the editor, advertising, financial, distribution and social media managers, is critical for the operation of the paper.

"We include both hard news and features, and both more detailed-oriented planning stories and profiles of people important to the area," says McGregor. "We try to balance the challenges that our readers must respond to with successes and upbeat stories. It's always an interesting challenge to find enough relevant photos."

For Lorne Abugov, who edits *The Mainstreeter*, "the biggest challenge is to produce a newspaper that all of our readers find engaging, that tries to find the sweet spot or the right mix of news and features. When I took on this role, I worried whether a small community like ours could generate enough interesting stories. I now know there is no shortage of great stories in our community — they're out there just waiting to be uncovered."

One pet peeve of volunteers is the difficulty of getting information from the City of Ottawa. While the City provides staff for interviews with mainstream media, often community papers get only limited email responses from the City's media relations group. "The City, our city, should be less guarded and closed about information," says Brendan McCoy, *The OSCAR* editor.

All community papers face the challenge of how to distribute the paper to closed apartment and condominium dwellers. And there is the broader and related issue

cited by the Echo's John Chenier: "The disintegration of community, started by the dissection of neighbourhoods by major transportation arteries, is now further being exacerbated by more highrise buildings whose residents are transitory — Lowertown is somewhere where you might live three to five years of your life— and live insulated from the community and their neighbours."

"Maintaining a healthy advertising base," is also a key challenge, Leadley notes. This became even more challenging during the pandemic when businesses closed and those that remained open often were stretched in many ways.

The pandemic threw a number of other challenges to community papers. In a few cases papers were not produced or distributed, particularly to businesses within the various communities that were mostly closed to the public. In all cases, there were fewer events to cover. On the other hand, the pandemic itself became a dominant story.

"Looking back, it has been a pretty happy era for the paper with people having more time on their hands, so we have a few new writers," says Waterston. "And we have done some good work."

### **The Future?**

Despite these challenges and given the success of community papers over the last few decades, their future looks secure, at least relative to the commercial print media.

As *VISTAS'* editor Karen Johns notes: "In *VISTAS'* four-plus decades, it has made a recognized place in the community. The *VISTAS* board of directors is confident that its newspaper is growing in popularity and readership and believes that the future for it is bright."

"*The BUZZ* sees community newspapers as increasingly important as the space for news and community concerns in the dailies and on radio and TV continues to shrink," says McGregor. "More money, more ads, and more volunteers would help keep the paper vital."

"I see no loss of interest in them [community papers] — the readers want them, and they can help local businesses," comments Waterston. "If it is sustained by a volunteer base, it will continue. The important thing is to encourage good writers and be welcoming to all who show an interest. We are not hampered by bureaucracy, have no assets and nothing to lose. If things go wrong, we will just cease publishing."

Although all of the community papers operate entirely independently of each other, there may be opportunities for collaboration and sharing of efforts. For instance, a case could be made that greater government advertising in community papers would be beneficial in many ways. Similarly, a united front to seek greater government responsiveness in dealing with requests for information could be worthwhile. There is a provincial association of community newspapers based in Toronto, however, membership is restricted to for-profit papers, thus

excluding most of Ottawa's community newspapers.

While an organization comprised of local non-profit newspapers could be "hugely beneficial" to their operations, according to *The Mainstreeter's* Lorne Abugov, he and other editors readily acknowledge that they are already stretched, so that another effort and more meetings would be a challenge.

American political scientist Robert Putnam has argued that the decline of newspapers contributes to the erosion of "social capital" and of democracy. In Ottawa, at least, the strength of our local non-profit community newspapers may contribute to building social capital and may strengthen local democracy. Perhaps our community papers are really important.

## Wanted: Volunteers!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of community newspapers, and each of the nine papers that responded to *The Mainstreeter's* survey rely on the various contributions of community members without whom these papers could not exist.

The vital roles that community newspaper volunteers play vary from newspaper to newspaper, but generally include writing, photography or illustration, copyediting, translation, distribution or a seat on the board of directors.

Some of the benefits associated with volunteering with your local newspaper include learning more about your community, mastering new skills or re-discovering old ones, meeting interesting new people, being a member of a productive team and learning to love deadlines.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering with your community newspaper, send an email to the paper at:

**Alta Vista's VISTAS:** Editor@vistas-news.ca

**Centretown Buzz:** editor@centretownbuzz.com

**ConneXions:** editor@overbrook.ca

**Glebe Report:** editor@glebereport.ca

**Image Sandy Hill:** editor@imagesandyhill.org

**Lower Town Echo de la Basse-Ville:** volunteer.for.echo@gmail.com

**Manor Park Chronicle:** editor@manorparkchronicle.com

**New Edinburgh News:** newednews@hotmail.com

**The Mainstreeter:** editor@mainstreeter.ca

**The OSCAR:** oscar@oldottawasouth.ca



## A winning recipe for people of all ages

# Shared living project coming to OOE will help tackle issues of isolation and housing affordability

Continued from Page 18

and support, and the other from affordable housing. It is a French-speaking, non-profit organization that connects and supports people of all ages and all origins wishing to share a home in order to break isolation, to flourish, to help each other and to find affordable housing within the Ottawa area.

***"Shared housing is the miracle I have been waiting for! To try it is to keep it!" - Claire, 87-years-old, Orléans***

A shared dwelling is a type of rental arrangement where two people who do not know each other arrange to share the same residence. Under this concept, each person has a private bedroom and a bathroom but the other rooms, such as the kitchen and the living room, are common areas and are therefore shared.

Household responsibilities are also shared unless the agreement is subject to the provision of services in exchange for reduced or free rent.

The Mirela Project is a crucial COVID-transition project that responds to many glaring social issues. Within the Old Ottawa East community, the project can be particularly useful for students at Saint Paul University. Through shared housing, there is an opportunity to integrate international female students and to provide affordable housing

in the region, while reducing the isolation of the elderly, or anyone who has experienced social isolation.

### History

The Mirela Project is first and foremost the result of the vision of Mireille Leroux. After having lived in several shared housing arrangements, Leroux came to believe that shared housing has the potential to be a winning recipe for many people.



**MIRELA**  
Habitations partagées

But the Mirela Project would only have been an idea had Leroux not met Megan Sicard while interning at Saint Paul. Passionate about aging and herself a Saint Paul student in a precarious financial situation, Sicard recognized the urgency of finding lasting solutions to social isolation and the housing crisis.

During the conception of Project Mirela, Pascale Thériault heard about the organization and joined almost immediately. Through Thériault's expertise and dedication, the project

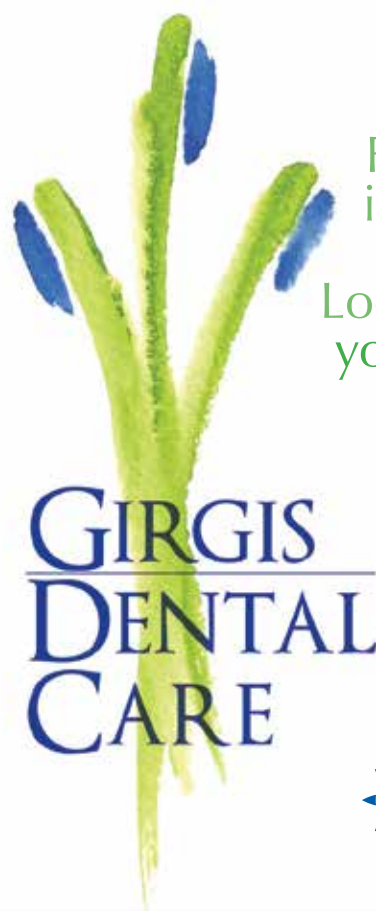
started to materialize, and the Mirela Project was born.

The three co-founders designed the project entirely on a volunteer basis, managing to host discussion tables, create polls, participate in several webinars and win a \$ 10,000 scholarship.

The Mirela Project is currently in the pre-launch phase and is looking for members for their Board of Directors and participants for a pilot project.



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# ART BEAT



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## OOE ARTIST FEATURE: POET BLAINE MARCHAND HONOURS HIS MOTHER AND OLD OTTAWA EAST IN HIS LATEST COLLECTION

Daily visits with his centenarian mother Dorothy Marchand in the Grace Manor for two years gave Ottawa poet Blaine Marchand the impetus to write creatively about the experience. “My mother shared a lot of stories with me as we sat and chatted,” Marchand says. “She always loved telling stories. She would act them out—capture the mannerisms and the voices—regaling me with tales from her past and present, all with complete clarity.”

It took Marchand seven years to complete the project, and his seventh book of poetry, *Becoming History* (published by Toronto’s Aeolus House), tells the story of his mother’s life from 1913 to 2016. “Abandoned by her parents, she was taken in by an older couple, James and Margaret Irish, who lived at 109 Echo Drive, where the Teron condos are now,” Marchand explains.

The first section of the book recreates his mother’s childhood with the Irishes. “The poems are centered and textured by her years in Old Ottawa East,” Marchand says.

“My mother talked about the neighbourhood her whole life, and it came back to her in even more vivid detail at the end.”

*Oh, there’s the Pretoria Bridge / I crossed over, that’s Downing’s where / I went for penny candy.* She lived with the Irishes until she married at age 24 in the Canadian Martyrs Parish (the old one). The book recreates those years and her experiences in the neighborhood.”

Marchand originally conceived of the book in the context of archeology. “It was like examining artifacts—portraits, letters, teacups, postcards—from the lives of ordinary people, not prime ministers, or monarchs,” he says. “I believe that these aspects of our everyday lives are as

## A finger on the pulse of the arts in OOE

much a part of history as was the history we recorded.”

“I’ve heard many people say that they wished that they had asked their own parents about their lives,” Marchand says. “I was always curious, even as a child.” In the poem *Equations*, which appears in the section *I Always Remember (1952-1964)*, in which Marchand writes about his own childhood, he examines his mother’s wedding rings as she washes the dishes and gets confused by the name Irish inscribed on the inside of them. He questions her, wanting to understand why.

I wait until you pull the stopper  
and the water coils down the drain,  
pluck up my courage.  
*Why is Irish on your ring?  
Nana and Grandad are Harris.*

“My mother met her biological parents and brother when she was 26. Initially, they had a joyful reunion, and an initial closeness; but, in truth, my mother never got over the fact that her own mother abandoned her.”

Home is one of the book’s core themes. Even though Dorothy Marchand lived through “Two World Wars. Revolutions, uprisings, four monarchs,” home is what she remembers when she looks back. “Our roots are important,” Marchand says. “To me, this book is also the story of a city and of two neighbourhoods—Old Ottawa East and Ottawa West, where my parents raised their eight children. Geography, in a way, repeated itself in my mother’s life.

Echo Drive, a wedge between canal  
and the crosshatch of railway lines...  
Ottawa West where the pattern repeats  
Between rail line and river...

As one reviewer of the book, Dave Allston, states: “*Becoming History* is not just the story of one woman’s life; it is a memorial that evokes thoughts and feelings borne from our own experiences.” The first poem in the collection mentions “the Spanish influenza / ravaging Europe” and a later poem describes Dorothy’s own childhood experience being isolated in hospital with diphtheria and having her throat burned:

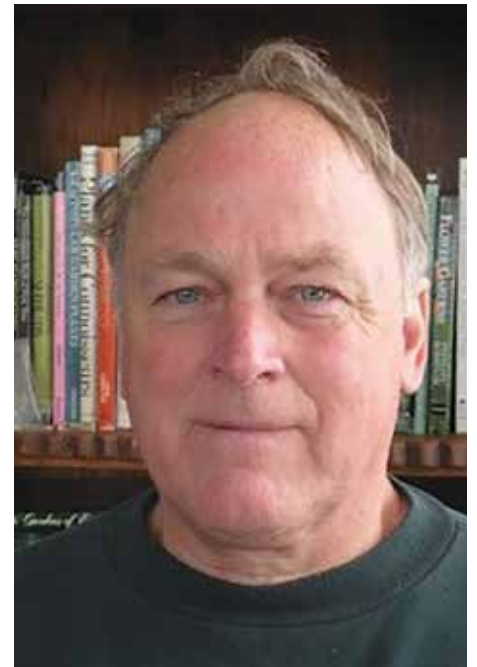
“Gowned / in white, with a mask so not  
to breath my breaths. I am told I am a /  
reservoir of infection, a carrier.”

These references resonate hauntingly for us today as we live with COVID.

Marchand points out that not everybody succumbs to dementia when they age. “You don’t often hear about that,” he says. “One of the palliative care nurses told me that, in her experience, positive people often live long lives. I don’t know if that is true, but my mother positively embraced life. She believed that she was lucky. She was renowned for it. She taught me what it is to be elderly.”

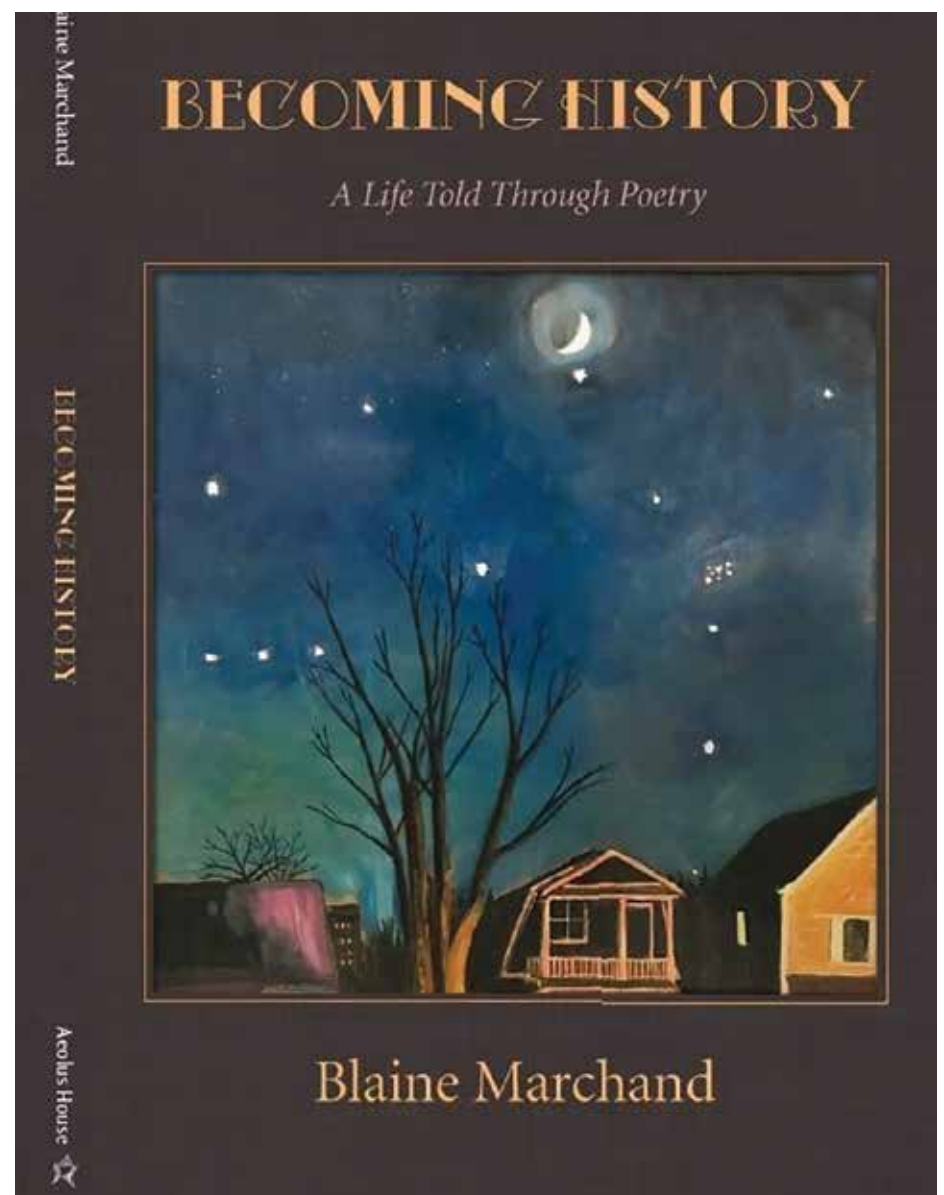
You can order a signed copy of Blaine Marchand’s book at any time by emailing him at [becominghistorypoetry@gmail.com](mailto:becominghistorypoetry@gmail.com).

*Author Tanis Browning-Shelp (<http://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](mailto:tanis@browning-shelp.com) if you have information about artists or art events that you believe would enrich our community members’ lives.*



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Ottawa poet, Blaine Marchand, spent seven years completing his seventh book of poetry, *Becoming History*.



The cover painting for Blaine Marchand’s latest poetry book captures the winter sky above his mother’s home (the house in the middle) and is entitled *Planets Align Over Dorothy’s* by D.H. Monet. The artist lived across the street from Dorothy Marchand in Ottawa West in her later years.



# ART BEAT



## TIM HUNT'S MAIN STREET SKETCHES

*Tim Hunt explores his community outfitted with a small sketchbook, pen, and watercolour kit. In our regular feature, he shares the pages from his sketchbook and tells the stories behind his work.*

**Tim Hunt:** When I was a kid, I dreamt of driving around in a British racing green MGB convertible. I have fond memories of being driven in my older cousin's orange Austin Mini, dubbed "The Pumpkin." These cars of my youth are the same quirky cars you can see parked out front or up on the hoist at Redshaw Car Care, the timeless cinder block shop with its hand-painted sign above the garage



door. Right next door, tucked between the garage and Ballantyne Park, sits Donahue and Bousquet Antiques. In business since 1971, this quaint yellow house retains the same class and character it has possessed for the past 50 years.

The enduring charm of familiar establishments offers some people comfort as Old Ottawa East experiences growth and change—perhaps even growing pains.

**Note:** I drew this early one Saturday morning, sitting across the street

on the rear bumper of my car with the hatch up, providing shelter from intermittent showers. The garage was closed, so I took artistic license, and added the Mini.

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# Lee Jacobs takes on the helm at CAG

## MAINSTREETER STAFF

Old Ottawa East resident Lee Jacobs has been named as the new Executive Director of the Community Activities Group (CAG), and according to one member of CAG's Board of Directors, Jacobs "hit the ground running" in late September.

"Everyone at CAG is really excited about this appointment," says Jana Trembinski, a member of CAG's Board. "We feel really lucky to have attracted someone like Lee and we can't wait for people in the community to meet him and get to work with him."

According to Trembinski, the new Executive Director has a lot of varied interests and great leadership skills, honed by a long career as an executive in the IT industry. Jacobs is also

a former association executive, an e-teacher at Lady Evelyn School and a musician.

Outgoing CAG Executive Director Carol Toone announced that she was stepping down this past summer and left the organization in September. Under Toone's direction, CAG successfully transitioned its programming in the face of the pandemic. She left the organization in a strong position according to Trembinski.

"Carol's focus on programming was very much appreciated. She built a strong team of after school programmers and adult instructors that Lee can rely on to maintain continuity and growth. CAG is continuing to offer great, affordable programs for the community, and we haven't skipped a beat with the changeover."



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~ New in Old Ottawa East ~

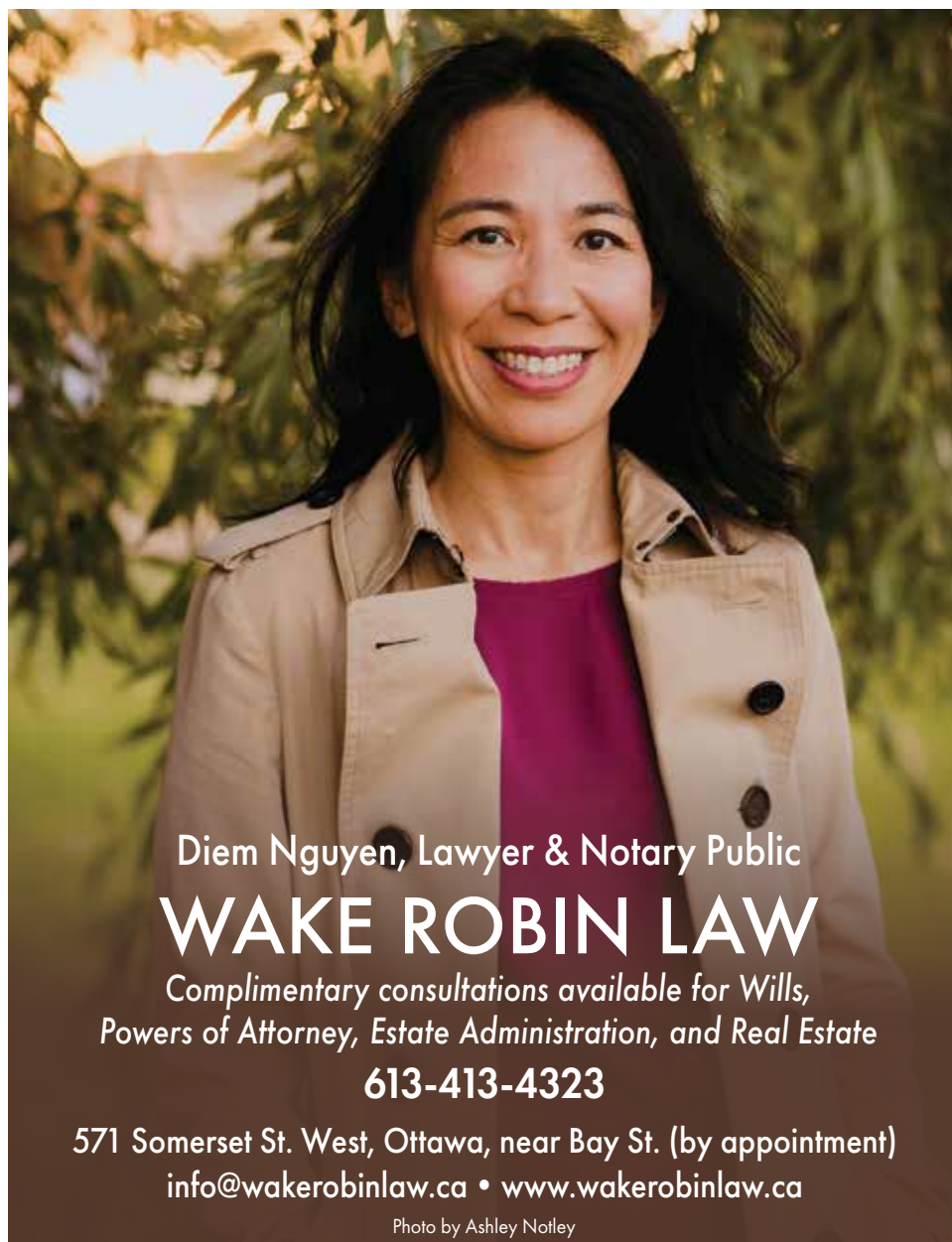
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Photo by Ashley Notley



# OLD OTTAWA EAST ART TOUR

**2021 edition was a hot hit!**

## Outdoor art tour attracts hundreds of OOE art lovers

### TANIS BROWNING-SHELP

Despite record-breaking heat, the second annual OOE outdoor Art Tour attracted hundreds of visitors to its 11 exhibitions on August 21. Attendees arrived on foot, on bikes or scooters, and, in some cases, in air-conditioned cars.

"Everyone involved put in a great deal of time, energy, and effort to make the art tour a really fun event that even the heat and humidity couldn't put a damper on," *The Mainstreeter* editor Lorne Abugov said. *The Mainstreeter* organized and backed the tour along with sponsors Helene Stanciu from ReMax Hallmark Ottawa, and Brian Montgomery from Oat Couture Oatmeal Café and Montgomery Scotch Lounge. "I am very thankful to Helene and Brian for jumping in with both feet to help support this event, and we are delighted that they have signed aboard to sponsor once again in 2022!"

Painter Karen Goetzinger emphasized how much a community's support for artist's work matters. "It is important to our art practices, and it keeps us going back to the studio," she explained.

Oil painter John Jarrett said he really enjoyed the day. "It was wonderful seeing so many friends and neighbours. I count myself lucky to be part of Old Ottawa East. This event was another big plus for our neighbourhood!"

Acrylic painter Ruth Browning chatted with close to 100 visitors about her landscape paintings, many of which she created from her travel photographs. "People recognized the scenes from their own trips to places like Prince Edward

Island, Ireland, Hawaii, and Australia and really seemed to enjoy sharing their travel memories with me."

According to artist Steve Fick, who paints landscapes and portraits in oil, he had a steady stream of appreciative viewers. "I love the informality of the event, and the chance to meet people, see old friends and students, and have lots of interesting conversations," Fick said. "It re-inspired me. It is also a great way to enrich the vitality of our community. I heard a lot of talk about what a great neighbourhood this is, from both long-time residents and newcomers."

With photographer Jim Lamont away working in the Yukon, his wife Marina represented him during his exhibition. "The non-stop stream of visitors between 11:00 am and 3:40 pm kept mentioning how appreciative they were of this opportunity to attend an outdoor community event," she said.

Underwater photographer Sean Landsman had a lot of fun "connecting with folks in the neighbourhood" while sharing his work with them.

Calligraffiti artist Luke Goldsmith, the youngest of the exhibitors at this year's Art Tour, was excited by the opportunity to display his artwork for the first time to large numbers of visitors to the side and rear yards of his parents' Bower Street home.

Watercolour, pastel, and acrylic painter Rosie Cusson thought the show was a great success. "I met so many interesting people and new neighbours," she said. "Fortunately, my driveway was in the shade all afternoon. I also put up my

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banner: LAZY, BUT ONLY A BIT CRAZY which drew a few laughs!"

Cusson also organized the inaugural Kid's Korner exhibition. Twelve children

participated in this special event which raised \$112.00 for the Ottawa Food Bank.

## Old Ottawa East loses a bright light

### MAINSTREETER STAFF

Kathleen McCrea, life-long resident of Old Ottawa East, respected multidisciplinary artist, and co-founder of the Old Ottawa East Art Tour, passed away on September 5, 2021, of cancer. Kathleen had lived in the same house on Clegg Street since the mid-1950s, the childhood home she shared with her parents and four brothers. In memories shared by friends and family in *The Ottawa Citizen*, Kathleen was described again and again as creative, curious, big-hearted, fun, enthusiastic, joyful, and as a person with a great sense of humour who took a keen interest in others. One neighbour called her: "a bright light in Old Ottawa East." One friend called her: "Canadian Picasso."

After retiring from a career at Industry Canada, Kathleen continued to shine through her art. She graduated from the Ottawa School of Art's three-year program where, according to long-time friend, neighbour, and fellow artist Rosie Cusson: "Kathleen studied and excelled in the original traditional Renaissance style of painting with gold leaf, making the traditional glue for the framing, and using special paints." Kathleen did potting and sculpting for many years. "Several of her sculptures enhanced her lovely garden," Cusson said. Kathleen had been involved in the Nepean Visual Arts Centre, the Artist Centre at the Old Town Hall Community Centre, the New Edinburgh Community & Art Centre, and "The Bottom Line" Life Drawing Group at the Sandy Hill Community Centre. She was also a frequent visitor to The National Gallery and their many special exhibitions. "She was a painter in all mediums and exhibited her work at many different art shows."

"Her exceptional works were studied and admired at last year's Art Tour, and many were sold," Cusson said. Kathleen planned to exhibit at this summer's Art Tour but had to withdraw due to illness. Her most recent works were reverse painting on glass. The glass was sourced from recycled picture frames.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

**TOP RIGHT:** OOE youngster's contributions of artwork to the 2021 Art Tour generated a donation of \$112.00 to the Ottawa Food Bank. Thanks to artist and Kid's Korner organizer, Rosie Cusson! **ABOVE:** Art lovers - both the two-legged and four-legged variety - braved the heat to peruse Jim Lamont's spectacular photography on Belgrave Road during the Art Tour.



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

The late Kathleen McCrea, shown at the Old Ottawa East Art Tour in August 2020 along with several of her contemporary icon pieces, was one of the founders of the event.



# Community Association's 2022 Fall membership drive is now well underway

**SUZANNE JOHNSTON**

The 2022 Membership Drive fall campaign for the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) started in September and draws to a close in early November, just prior to the OOECA Annual General Meeting, which is set to take place virtually on November 9, 2021. For up-to-date information and to view the AGM agenda, go to [www.OttawaEast.ca](http://www.OttawaEast.ca).

The Annual General Meeting and the Membership Drive continue to evolve due to the pandemic. This year we have four options to process your 2022 membership:

1. A volunteer will deliver a notice regarding the OOECA AGM along with membership signup instructions to your mailbox. An annual household membership costs \$5.00. Yes, for the first time the fee has increased, and a household membership is now \$5.00! Where else can you buy a vote for \$5.00? This small annual fee pays for association expenses, various community events as well as the hosting of our ever-changing OOECA website.
2. Visit Singing Pebble Books at 206 Main Street and the friendly staff will sign you up and provide you with a membership card in exchange for your \$5.00.
3. Visit the Membership Table set up most Saturdays until November 1st at the Main Street Farmers' Market.
4. Membership sign up and Payment are available online by visiting [www.ottawaeast.ca/membership](http://www.ottawaeast.ca/membership). Your email confirmation is your Membership Card.

Old Ottawa East continues to grow, and to all new residents, OOECA welcomes you. We look forward to meeting you at community events, meetings or in our shops, parks and on our neighborhood streets.

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. 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](mailto:suzanne.johnston@sympatico.ca). We are always looking for volunteers to join our team of canvassers and invite you to contact the undersigned to offer to help in your neighborhood. The time commitment for membership canvassers is quite minimal, usually only two or three hours.

As OOE continues to experience an exciting period of growth and change, we hope that you and your family will get involved. It is your community, so make sure you join and have your say.

*(Suzanne Johnston is the Chair of the OOECA Membership Committee)*

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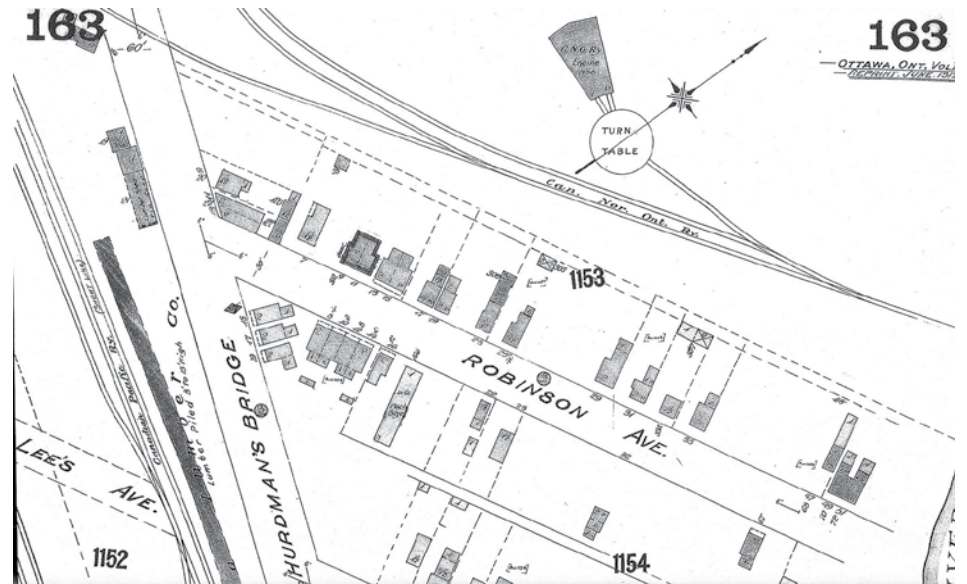
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HISTORY OF OLD OTTAWA EAST ARCHIVES

**TOP LEFT:** In this 1901 photo, three young boys pose on the railway tracks near the current area around Mann Avenue and the Queensway; **TOP RIGHT:** This 1912 railway map shows the roundhouse that Marjorie Carver remembers vividly in her reflections on an Old Ottawa East childhood.

### *The 'Dirty 30s' – of Hobos and handouts*

## My memories of Old Ottawa East during the Depression

### MARJORIE CARVER

During the 'Dirty 30s' the depression was in full bloom, and people were hurting. So many people were losing their jobs, and there was no work to be found.

I remember my dear Mother saying: "We are so lucky, your Father has three days work a week at the railway." On the other days, Dad would do any odd job he could get to augment those wages. He would come home on payday with the little brown envelope in his hand and walk through the house to the kitchen where Mom would be waiting. They had a little ritual. Mom would put her hand out and Dad, with great flourish, would snap each bill before handing one bill after another into Mom's palm. A little bit went back into Dad's hand, just for himself.

We lived on Havelock Avenue, at the end of a dead end street. Across the road was the big 'gully', and just beyond the gully was the railway tracks and the 'big Y'. Down the track, to the left, was the CNR complex which included the huge roundhouse with its turntable, a big grey

wooden building housing an office and supplies. The machine shops were further down the tracks. They're all gone now, replaced by the Queensway.

In the summertime, we would sit on our big front verandahs. During the Depression we could see the 'Hobos', who had hitched a ride on the freight and coal cars - all coming east to find employment. One time, we counted 100 men on those cars. So sad. Only the clothes on their backs and no food.

Some of the Hobos would hop off the trains and make their way over to our street. I know for sure that they had our house 'marked'. Mom never turned them away. She always had a special greeting: "What can I do for you, young man?" If they were hungry, I would have the task of taking them down the side lane and around to our old English garden. Mom would put out a pan of warm water, some soap and a towel for the person to clean up. The next thing to arrive would be a large pot of hot tea, with a tea cup. Most of the time, Mom would be able to make the gentlemen huge sandwiches. I don't know how she ever did it because there was never a lot of food in our old ice box.

When I was about six-years-old, and playing outside at the front of our house, I noticed two Hobos coming down our street. One took a small piece of paper out of his pocket to check something. They talked quietly together. Seeing our house number, they walked up onto the verandah, and knocked on the door. Mom came to the door, and with the usual: "What can I do for you, gentlemen? Are you hungry?" "No, ma'am. We just ate. But we would like to borrow some needle and thread to mend our clothes and to sew some buttons on our shirts." Once again, I took them around to the garden.

I shall never forget one Fall when blueberries were ripe for the picking. Mom had baked some blueberry pies. Yes – a Hobo who was hungry came to our door, and around to the garden once again. Out came the pan with water, soap and towel too, and the big pot of tea. Then two big sandwiches. My eyes could not believe what I was seeing. When the

sandwiches were devoured, Mom came out with a quarter slice of blueberry pie for that gentleman. My mouth watered. There were no snacks in between meals in those days. I remained sitting in the garden that day, watching and trying to figure out how much pie there would be left for supper that evening.



Main St. 1896 looking north from Town Hall to Canal



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***We catch up with “Teacher X”...***

# One more time with gusto for the Ottawa Virtual Academy school teacher

*One year ago, in our October 2020 issue, we introduced our readers to the mysterious “Teacher X”, an experienced elementary school classroom teacher with the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) who had made a difficult decision to pivot her career during the darkest days of COVID-19 to take up new duties as a member of the online faculty of the OCSB’s Virtual Academy. In our introductory article, and only one month into the school year, Teacher X offered some candid insights into the brave new world of online learning for herself and for her students and explained how some massive changes in the shift to pandemic-style learning were affecting both teachers and students alike.*

*One year later, while COVID concerns borne by the 4th wave variant persist unabated, widespread vaccinations have eased some of the parental concerns surrounding a return to the classroom for their children. Still, for many parents, online learning remains the alternative of choice for their children, and so Teacher X continues to play a key role within the Virtual Academy as she begins her second full year at the helm of her computer-based classroom. We caught up with Teacher X last month and found a very different educator than a year previously, one who was brimming with confidence and contentment, borne of the satisfaction that, after a tough initial year, she had turned a corner in her own ability to instruct and motivate her young charges through online learning.*

*To ensure confidentiality and candid responses, we continue to refer to this veteran of more than 20 years of elementary school teaching as “Teacher X”.*

## MAINSTREETER STAFF

In a COVID-induced world of computer-based education and online classes, what a difference one year can make. That’s definitely the prevailing mindset of Teacher X, the veteran Ottawa in-classroom teacher who has made the switch to an online teacher as a member of her school board’s Virtual Academy.

“I can’t say this is going to be an easy year for me and my colleagues, but I think I can say that it will be easier for most of us than it was last year,” Teacher X predicts.

Last year, in her first full year as an online educator, the challenges proved many and varied for Teacher X, as there were so many key differences from her two decades as an in-classroom teacher. “Teaching online, the way we did last year, that wasn’t something that we had ever been trained to do,” she explains. “So the challenge for us as teachers was learning how to do that - finding ways to take everything that you would do in the classroom and making it accessible online to students.”

Even the standard things that defined her role as a teacher, like checking on her students’ homework or in-class assignments, proved to be major challenges last year in the online environment. “A lot of times, kids don’t hand things in on time. When you’re in the classroom, you can keep them in for recess until their assignment gets done. You can’t do that when you’re online – it’s just goodbye and have a nice day. You’re not able to help them or work with them to complete their work. Email and

parents’ support were very helpful for sure but making certain that kids completed their work was challenging.”

But, according to Teacher X, some of the challenges she faced last year in the Virtual Academy turned out to be hidden advantages. For example, she notes that teaching through a computer means that you can’t be as interactive with the students as you would normally be in the classroom, in part, because you don’t know the children you are teaching in the online world. But she says that’s a double-edged sword.

### *A great new day*

“My students came from a number of different schools, but that was fine in some respects. When I reflect upon last year, not knowing my students actually helped me to not form opinions or pre-judge students, which is a nice thing,” she recalls. “When you’re in the classroom, you find that you are managing the class all the time, but being online, you didn’t have to do that. I wasn’t managing the kids and I wasn’t managing their behaviours. So every day seemed like a pleasant day, and I went into every day feeling happy, like it was a great new day. If I were back in the classroom, I’d like to remember that every day can be as positive as it was online.”

All in all, the 2020/2021 school year proved to be one of the most difficult and tiring of her career, but Teacher X also believes that her experience gained as a Virtual Academy teacher “made me a better and more effective teacher in many ways.” She says that with technology progressing so rapidly, going online

allowed her an opportunity to learn how to use digital teaching tools and integrate them into her toolkit.

“I think that if I were going back into the classroom this year, which I am not, there’s a lot of things that I would do differently because of my online experience. For example, one of the things that we had to do last year was to make everything that we taught accessible online.

“That’s something that I think I would do in the future, regardless of whether or not I was teaching in the classroom. For students who are ill or absent, the work is always there for them to refer to and they can use it anytime,” Teacher X observes.

### *Fear is a factor*

But while learning how to use technology was a big breakthrough for Teacher X, she is aware that some other teachers who opted to be members of the Virtual Academy last year were not quite as successful as she was in the transition from the classroom.

“I think fear is a factor,” she says. “There were certainly some teachers out there who were fearful because they lacked any experience to teach online. Not everyone has the same knowledge when it comes to technology, and some people are afraid to take it on. I think that if you go into it like that, then you’re not going to want to learn as easily, and you won’t learn as quickly. I may have had an advantage because I started into this new role really wanting to do it.”

Having come so far, so fast, as an online

educator, Teacher X is excited about the new school year. “In March 2020, when everyone was sent home, we began online, but we were definitely not online the way we were in September 2020. And having now gone through it for a full year, we know how to teach online.

“Of course, we’re still learning, but we’re way better at it than we were. And we know what to expect. We know the goals we have to try and meet and we’re obviously better prepared. It’s definitely going to be less stressful, less intense and a lot more enjoyable,” she believes.

But despite having made a personal commitment this year to the Virtual Academy, Teacher X isn’t entirely sold on the merits of online teaching in comparison with in-classroom teaching. “Personally, I think you need to be in the classroom to learn from the social interactions between students, and to be able to physically see how kids are learning and how you can best help them,” she concludes. “When you are behind a computer screen, you definitely don’t have those insights as a teacher. It’s harder to question what is really going through that student’s brain? Or to know and recognize if there are any distractions? Because you’re not physically there, you have no idea if perhaps a student is surfing on another website. So, the online environment is by no means perfect for teachers or for students.”

She thinks online teaching may be beneficial, however, and even a godsend for some students.

*Continued on Page 32*





# POLITICAL PAGES

## JOEL HARDEN MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

COMMUNITY OFFICE  
JHARDEN-CO@NDP.ON.CA  
613-722-6414  
109 CATHERINE ST, OTTAWA, ON, K2P 0P4



### WE NEED HOSPITAL SAFETY ZONES TO PROTECT PATIENTS & STAFF

On September 13, I arrived at the Civic Hospital. Anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers were holding a protest there as part of a nation-wide day of action. I worried that protesters intended to block or disrupt the hospital (as has happened elsewhere).

One of the protesters came over to say hello. It was a constituent our MPP Office has been helping who lives with daily pain, and whose life has fallen apart.

My heart sank. Standing next to me was someone our society has left behind. I was shown videos of their involvement in anti-mask, anti-vaccine protests. The constituent remarked on the speeches they had given to massive crowds, and the support they had received.

As the constituent expounded on anti-vaccine and anti-mask arguments, I wasn't filled with anger. I felt a deep sadness and awareness of the challenge before us under COVID-19: how do we talk to those who are persuaded by disinformation campaigns?

I told the constituent we were not aligned on these issues. I urged them to be safe, and mindful of the safety of others. And I won't stop fighting for justice in their disability claim.

I support COVID-19 vaccine mandates, and I support COVID-19 vaccine certificates. Ontario must introduce these measures, and that will mean consequences for those who refuse to get vaccinated. Protests are likely to continue, and we must keep everyone safe.

That's why we are calling for hospital safety zones to protect patients and staff. We have asked Premier Ford to reconvene the Legislature right away to help make it happen.

But as we do that, let's address disinformation campaigns with persuasive arguments, and resist the urge to belittle others. Let's build that bridge so others may cross.

***Time for an Auditor General Investigation in to Ottawa's LRT***

I love our city.  
I love our neighbourhoods, and the

green spaces decorating our urban landscape. I love our music and art venues, the sandwich shops, the coffee shops, the bakeries and bike paths. I love the community groups that work hard to help those in need.

What I don't love is how big decisions happen here under a shroud of secrecy. The new Civic Hospital, the redevelopment of Lansdowne Park, and Ottawa's LRT were projects that, we were assured, would offer us value for public money. Trust us, our leaders said.

Why do a few people make decisions on key procurement projects, and why do these decisions get made with limited or no public scrutiny? When millions or billions of public funds are at stake, residents of this city have a right to know why decisions are made, with full transparency.

And as we learned recently, there are real consequences when our democracy falls short.

On September 19, an LRT train derailed with twelve passengers on board, and it was a metaphor for everything that's wrong in how Ottawa makes decisions. It's a miracle no one was injured.

Our \$2.1 billion LRT is frequently non-functional. It has faced numerous operational issues since it was launched in September 2019. To make matters worse, the 30-year maintenance contract with Rideau Transit Group is shrouded in secrecy, with councillors unable to get answers about what keeps going wrong with the trains.

The province shares responsibility for this mess too: it has put \$1.8 billion into phases 1 & 2, and both the current and previous governments have promoted the public-private partnership (P3) model that costs people more for less reliable service.

That's why I'm calling on the Auditor General of Ontario to investigate this debacle, and Infrastructure Ontario's role bottom-lining the project. It's time for answers and accountability, it's the least residents deserve.

## SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR-ELECT, CAPITAL WARD

SHAWN.MENARD@OTTAWA.CA  
SHAWNMENARD.CA



### THE FALL SEASON IS A LIVELY ONE AT CITY HALL

September proved to be a very busy month of activity at City Hall, and October is shaping up to be no different. City Council is back in full swing...virtually. We've had a lot of important meetings during the last month, and more coming up, including public consultations on developments in Old Ottawa East. Here are just a few of them, plus some other community news.

#### New Official Plan Meetings

The joint committee meeting to consider the final report for the new Official Plan (OP) will happen on October 14, 2021, with the final plan going to City Council on Wednesday, October 27.

This change to the OP approval schedule is due in a large part to your advocacy, and it has provided a bit more time for community members to present and prepare delegations. The proposed revisions to the OP are posted in track changes on the city's project webpage at <https://engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan> as they become available, along with the final revised draft of the OP.

#### Greystone Phase III Consultation

We hosted a public consultation on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm to discuss Phase III of the Greystone development Site Plan Control Application. The proposed development is comprised of two seven-storey residential buildings with a total of 260 units, a private courtyard area with an elevated footbridge connection to the river, and an underground garage with a total of 266 vehicular spaces and 260 bicycle parking spaces. The meeting provided a chance to review a number of questions that have been raised by the community, including traffic circulation, unit count, and public space. Detailed documentation for phase III is available on the City's devapps website at <https://devapps.ottawa.ca/en/applications/D07-12-21-0111/details>.

#### Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Two new electric vehicle charging stations are coming to Capital Ward, one at 186 Main Street and the other at Hurdman Station. As we continue our fight against climate change, making electric vehicles easier to use will help us wean off of fossil fuels.

These stations are expected to be installed in the Fall, and they should be fully operational by the end of 2021 or early 2022.

#### Ain't No Party Like a Springhurst Party!

We had a great time at the community party at Springhurst Park in September. It was great to join with residents as they enjoyed the new play structure and amenities at the park. We've said it a lot, but this really is an important bit of greenspace in the neighbourhood, and I'm glad we could work with the community and the city to make these improvements.

#### West Coast Video Update

After 12 years of having a vacant building on Bank Street in Old Ottawa South, we're happy to report that a demolition permit has been issued for the building at 1123-1125 Bank Street—the old West Coast Video building. We have been working since 2018 with the City to remove incentives for vacant buildings which sit empty for too long. We've also been working with the building ownership to highlight the benefits of this potential outcome.

At this time, we have worked out that grass would take the place of the building with boulders on the periphery (so no one parks there). Over time, we expect an application to come forward either by the current owners or should the building be sold. It would be ideal to see a mixed use building here with business on the bottom. We are anticipating that fencing will go up in late October with demolition to take place shortly after that. We asked for pest control to take place in the building prior to demolition (this is being done).



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# One more time with gusto for Teacher X

*Continued from Page 30*

"I think it can be a helpful way to deal with certain types of students." She recounts a surprising conversation she had during 2020 with her online students. "I remember last year asking the kids if they liked virtual teaching, and I was shocked when a lot of them told me that they really loved it."

You know, at school there are some kids that feel uncomfortable, they may feel they are being picked on, maybe even bullied. That's not to say that online learning solves the issue, but maybe it can provide a temporary respite depending on how serious the situation is, alleviating that bit of stress for a student of having to go to school under difficult circumstances."

And while taking a leave from the classroom may prove to be a boon for some students, what about Teacher X herself? When asked if she sees herself ever returning to school as an in-classroom teacher, Teacher X paused before answering.

"You know, I've asked myself that question, and I really don't know the answer. I think I'll have to see where this year goes. Part of me feels that I've been out of the classroom for two years, and I sometimes tell myself that I'm not going back into the classroom."

"It still isn't like it was in 2019, when kids weren't wearing masks, when we're not telling kids to stay apart, and when we're doing sports and various activities together with the students."

"That's the part of classroom teaching that I do miss, and we're not back there yet. I think that until that comes back, I'm comfortable staying virtual. I know what I'm doing. I've gotten used to it now."

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## *The Mainstreeter*

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**CONTACT: Lorne Abugov editor@mainstreeter.ca**



# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



## Demolition shifts to Lees Avenue

PETER CROAL PHOTO

The demolition crews that had spent much of the summer in the central part of Old Ottawa East at and around the Greystone development have now shifted northward to the UOttawa Lees Avenue campus where work has begun on building the university's new Health Sciences building.



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BARB GRISDALE PHOTO

## A sailor's warning!

The reddish hue of the clouds and the water had all the signs of a pleasant early evening sunset over the Rideau Canal, except that this photo taken by local photographer Barb Grisdale was snapped in the early morning hours and foretold of some nasty weather to follow on its heels.



## Being Church *online*

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# ECLECTIC EVENTS



MARTIN RUEGNER/GETTYIMAGES

## Immediate Need! The Adopt-A-Bunny Program, Ottawa Humane Society.

The Ottawa Humane Society (OHS) is alerting the community to a burgeoning bunny crisis in Ottawa and the province. Shelters across Ontario — and even in other parts of North America — are seeing a growing bunny population with few homes willing to adopt the rabbits.

Over the past decade, rabbit intake at the OHS has steadily increased

— especially relative to the intake of other species.

Currently, the OHS has close to 20 rabbits waiting for adoption, a third of which are in the homes of OHS foster volunteers.

For those who would like to help tackle the growing bunny crisis, consider adopting a rabbit from the OHS and visit their website at: <https://ottawahumane.ca/adopt/small-animals-and-birds/>. If you would like to become a foster volunteer, visit: <https://ottawahumane.ca/get-involved/volunteering/volunteer-opportunities/foster-program/>.

## November 18th Homes for the Holidays 2021 - A ZOOM Virtual Event, Hospice Care Ottawa.

*Homes for the Holidays* is back again this year! This marquis event has raised over \$2.5 million for hospice and end-of-life care in our community since its inception in 2003. Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, *Homes for the Holidays* is one of the longest-standing fundraisers in the National Capital Region in support of Hospice Care Ottawa.

The home tour portion of the event will be available online starting November 18th. Six exquisite homes across Ottawa will be seasonally decorated by local florists. While participants will not be able to physically walk through the home, those who make a donation to Hospice Care Ottawa will receive a special *Virtual Homes for the Holidays* tour link which grants participants access to videos and 3D tours that they can view from the comfort and safety of their own home.

“Throughout the pandemic, Hospice Care Ottawa has continued to provide compassionate end-of-life care” says



Lisa Sullivan, Executive Director. “Each year we must raise \$2 million to support our clients at Hospice. Special events like *Homes for the Holidays* helps us reach this goal so I encourage everyone to join in on this festive event.”

*Homes for the Holidays* organizers are hoping to surpass last year’s fundraising amount of \$57,000. They are also planning an in-person Holiday PopUp Shop, more details on this to come. All of the funds will stay within the Ottawa community to provide compassionate and supportive care, at no charge, to individuals with a life-limiting illness and their families.

For more information, visit [www.hospicecareottawa.ca](http://www.hospicecareottawa.ca) or call 613-260-2906 ext. 222

## October 19th @ 5:00pm or October 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am Adult Learn-to- Curl Program, RA Centre.

The RA Club will again be offering its popular 10-week co-ed instructional program on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings.

The purpose of the program is to allow new and almost-new curlers to have fun while gaining an appreciation for the fundamentals of the game.

Under the watchful guidance of fully-trained instructors, participants will learn the no-lift forward slide delivery, proper sweeping techniques, and basic strategy. The program is based on a curriculum developed by Curling Canada.

This league is open to everyone aged 18 and up. This is your chance to learn to curl with fellow rookies, to develop skills in a no-pressure environment, and to have fun! In order to keep the instructor to student ratio low, space is extremely limited.

**Registration is now open.** Sign up early to avoid disappointment.

### EVENING LEARN-TO-CURL PROGRAM

Tuesdays: 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
October 19 to December 21, 2021

### DAYTIME LEARN-TO-CURL PROGRAM

Wednesdays: 9:00am - 11:00am  
October 20 to December 22, 2021

## November 7th @ 10:45am The 2021 Remembrance Ceremony, Old Ottawa East Cenotaph, Brantwood Gates.

Once again this year the members of Strathcona Legion Branch ‘595’ will be conducting a scaled down Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday November 7th 2021 to be held at the Old Ottawa East Cenotaph at the Brantwood Gates, starting at 10:45am with a moment of silence at 11:00am.

There will be a short ceremony and laying of wreaths by the Legion Branch. Anyone wishing to place a wreath of their own is welcome to do so after the ceremony.

Rev. Georges Winters, B.Msc., Chaplain of the Strathcona Legion Branch ‘595’, invites all OOE residents



SUPPLIED PHOTO

to take a few moments to come and pay gratitude to those who gave the supreme sacrifice so that we can enjoy living in freedom here in Canada.





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