



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The future of the corridor running along the Rideau River and through Greystone Village is unknown; both the City of Ottawa and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority have declined ownership of the land.

At Brantwood Park...

Much-needed upgrade to tennis courts coming soon

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The increasingly busy and deteriorated tennis/pickleball courts at Brantwood Park will be replaced next year, Councillor Shawn Menard's office has informed *The Mainstreeter*.

Last month, *The Mainstreeter* asked the City for an update on improvements to the courts. The response from a City staffer was it would happen in "two or three years, contingent on funding availability."

But Councillor Menard has advanced this plan so that "(t)he designs should be completed this winter, with construction happening in the spring or summer."

"It's clear from the volume of emails we receive about [the courts] that it's a priority for constituents in the ward, particularly with the increase in density from the Greystone development. We're happy to be able to expedite it through cash in lieu of parkland [funding]," Ariela Summit, staff advisor to the councillor, reported.

The original timeline provided by City staff did not sit well with local players.

"There are large, jagged horizontal cracks running right across the west-side court," says pickleball enthusiast Linda Pollock. "They are close to the baseline and present a clear hazard to players



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Racquets owned by Eric Campbell (left) and Martin Cloake are swallowed by a crack in the Brantwood Park tennis court.

running backwards to get deep shots or forward for short balls."

Two years ago, the courts' surface

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Prime Old Ottawa East waterfront property up for grabs - but nobody wants it!

JOHN DANCE

So where can you find half a kilometre of Rideau River naturalized property in the heart of the City of Ottawa that everybody values yet nobody wants to own? The answer is becoming all too clear: the Rideau River Nature Trail and its adjacent multi-use pathway through Greystone Village in Old Ottawa East.

The initial impetus to naturalize the popular 30-metre-wide waterfront corridor running from Clegg Street to Springhurst Park came from Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE) and was reflected in the Old Ottawa East community design plan and then the secondary plan. Greystone Village developer, Regional, embraced the idea and funded the related landscaping. Regional made clear from the outset, however, that it did not want ongoing ownership and maintenance responsibility for the corridor.

Neither the City of Ottawa nor the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is interested in owning the property.

"The corridor is contaminated, and the extent of remediation required for the City to assume the corridor is more than what was financially feasible," says Douglas James, the City's Manager, Development Review.

Despite not wanting to own the property, the City has two easements that run through the corridor, one for the multi-use pathway and the other for the massive sewer line that runs beneath. The City approved a \$15.8 million grant to Regional so that it could clean up contaminated soil, work that was necessary for for the development to proceed.

However, there was no funding provided for cleaning up the corridor's contaminated

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CELEBRATING OUR GOLD MEDAL HEROES



Clockwise from above: 1. Canada's soccer superstar Christine Sinclair is congratulated by teammate Kadeisha Buchanan after Sinclair notched a crowd-pleasing goal against New Zealand; 2. The Canadian and New Zealand teams take a moment of silence prior to the start of their match to show solidarity with victims of abuse in sport; 3. The women's national soccer team celebrates their gold medals in front of the Olympic rings in Tokyo; 4. The Celebration Tour match in Ottawa was an opportunity to toast the accomplishments of the Canadian women as they sported their gold medals; 5. Players participate in their pre-match warm-up before the kick-off; and 6. Most of the action in the friendly between the two countries occurred in front of the New Zealand goal as Canada found the back of the net five times in a convincing win.





MICHAEL TURNER PHOTO

Craig Turner and Brian Harrison, two self-described "old British car fans", presented Tim Hunt's sketch of Redshaw Auto Care to owner Prem Sookdeo.

A fond farewell to Redshaw Auto Care

Loyal customers salute local garage owner Prem Sookdeo

CRAIG TURNER

This is a sad day for old British car fans (and full disclosure, I qualify as both old and as a fan of old British cars). The reason for the sadness is that a neighbourhood icon, Redshaw Auto Care (Redshaw) on Hawthorne Avenue closed during the third week of November - before this edition of *The Mainstreeter* hit the street.

The owner of Redshaw, Prem Sookdeo (Prem), began working at the original Redshaw garage 41 years ago, and took over when the founder retired. A consummate professional of the old school, Prem learned his trade in British Guyana where British cars ruled the road. He is now a key part of a network in Ottawa which is relied upon by owners of cars such as MGs, Triumphs, and Austin Minis. A gentleman who was always ready to explain a problem and offer advice, he has become a friend to many loyal customers.

I relied on Prem for my own MGs, and more recently for a 1964 Jaguar Mk2, although he is less interested in that car given how long it could tie up his shop while waiting for parts. While he has focused on old British cars, he did not limit himself, as there were often more modern cars in the shop for various reasons, including regular servicing and tire changes - so the loss is to the entire neighbourhood and not just to those of us

with old British cars.

Although Prem doesn't seem any older to many of us, he claims to be ready to retire and has grown tired of the labour involved in running a garage. The signs have been there for a while. He started to transition last winter when he came in to the garage only on a part-time basis. Also, last summer, I came across him practising a new skill in the garage - his golf swing. And his interest in golf has increased this summer, to the point where it may be stronger than his love of old cars.

Coincidentally, there was a watercolour sketch of the Redshaw garage by Old Ottawa East artist, Tim Hunt, featured in the October issue of *The Mainstreeter*. When I saw Hunt's sketch, just after Prem had mentioned his retirement plans, it seemed to be serendipitous, and I have since purchased the sketch. Another loyal customer who will miss dropping in on Prem, Brian Harrison, an MGB owner, and I recently presented the sketch to Prem as a retirement gift. Hunt was enthusiastic about the idea, as he was one of many people over the years, owners and non-owners of old British cars, who enjoyed walking by the open door of the garage and looking in to see the car show inside. The Ottawa MG club also commemorated the impromptu gift-giving ceremony with a well-received plaque from an event held at the garage some time ago.

Fortunately, this is not exactly a full retirement for Prem, as he intends to

keep busy, presumably when he is not golfing, by working on old cars in their owners' garages. This is something that Prem has done generously in the past, as I can attest to. On occasion, working in my own garage, I came up against something beyond my very limited skills as a mechanic, and Prem would kindly drive over and sort it out.

The physical premises of the garage will remain in place for the moment. It will be reopened soon by Cycos, which

is located just down the street. However, the future of that block of Hawthorne Avenue remains in flux until the Ministry of Transport Ontario finally decides on its plans to use the land for staging work connected with replacing the two nearby Queensway bridges. That work has been delayed, but still looms over the street, so major changes beyond Redshaw's closure are possible. Also, for unrelated reasons, the antique store next door to Redshaw Auto Care is also for sale.



TIM HUNT SKETCH

Auto mechanic Prem Sookdeo worked on Austin Minis, like the one pictured here in Tim Hunt's sketch, for 41 years at Redshaw Auto Care.

SHARING LUNCH WITH...

The term “career politician” is not in all cases, a flattering one. But for those who are deeply involved in politics, who have entered the fray for all of the right reasons, and who have a clear aptitude for the role, the term career politician is not merely apt, it can, in fact, be a term of endearment.

During his prior term in provincial politics, as a backbench MLA and then as a Cabinet Minister, Yasir Naqvi did much to endear himself to his Ottawa Centre constituents, including his important efforts to secure political support and funding for the Flora Footbridge. Now, as Ottawa Centre’s newly-elected Member of Parliament, Naqvi returns to a life he knows and loves, re-energized by time away and eager to leave his mark on the federal political landscape. Despite new issues, challenges and pitfalls at every turn, there is no other role Naqvi would rather have and no other place he would rather be.

The Mainstreeter sat down with Naqvi in late October for a wide-ranging interview. At that time, Naqvi was putting finishing touches on his new constituency office and rounding out his political staff team. Busy times indeed, but Naqvi was happy for the chance to speak to the residents of Old Ottawa East, and offer up insights on his family background, his formative years and the forces that have shaped his life and career in politics, a career of which he is rightfully proud.

THE MAINSTREETER: *For those who do not know you, Yasir, can you tell us a little bit about your formative years in Pakistan and the very early days for you and your family here in Canada?*

YASIR NAQVI: Certainly, but first, thank you for this opportunity. I’m very excited to take on the role of being a Member of Parliament for our community in Ottawa Centre.

My story of coming to Canada is a very typical story of many immigrants or refugees driven by the desire to build a better life. My parents are both lawyers by profession, now retired. Besides being involved in the legal profession in Pakistan, they were also involved in the pro-democracy movement in Pakistan when I was a child. There was no democracy - it was a military government in power, and my parents chose to be engaged to make sure that there would be strong democratic institutions in the country. My father was part of a movement to restore democracy in Pakistan. He led a pro-democracy march for which he was arrested and imprisoned for nine months as a political prisoner. I was 10 years old at that time, and that remains quite a vivid part of my memory and my upbringing. My mother led the fight to ensure that my father’s rights were protected when he was detained. She ran the family law practice so that there

was food on the table. And I and my other siblings, along with my mother, often went to meet my father in prison.

All this to say that those values - in terms of engagement, upholding democracy, the right to vote - those very fundamental issues are key for me today. When my parents decided to immigrate to Canada, the decision was very much driven by the notion that they wanted their children to live in a free society, to be able to do whatever they wanted to do.

I was 15-years-old when I came to Canada, of high school age. And the very first card that we signed up for was at the local library because that was the equivalent of the internet back then. Through the library we could engage in a new community and learn about our new country. The second card we signed up for was for the Liberal Party of Canada, and that was because we were finally living in a country where it was not a criminal offence to be part of a political party. And hence, the journey started, and has stayed with me, and I’ve been a lifelong member of the Liberal Party, both provincially and federally. For me, it’s been a vehicle for engagement in any community that I’ve lived in, whether it’s part of a university community, or once I came to Ottawa. I believe I’ve picked up from my parents that passion for public



JOHN DANCE PHOTOS

Yasir Naqvi is pictured above taking a photo with his young son and is seen below with a backdrop of the much-loved Flora Footbridge

service that has led me to run for office provincially and federally.

THE MAINSTREETER: *You were elected as a member of the provincial legislature at Queen’s Park and served as an MLA for 10 or 11 years. And then you finally got a break from politics. So, why did you decide to run again for political office, and this time at the federal level?*

YASIR NAQVI: That’s a very good question. The big reason I decided to run again is because of the moment in time that we find ourselves. The pandemic has changed a lot. And there’s a great opportunity for us to rebuild in an inclusive manner. So when the opportunity came to seek public office again, that’s what compelled me to want to leverage my experience from being a provincial member as we do the rebuilding - knowing our community quite well, having those community connections and being able to be an effective voice for the community. This work can impact us right here in the downtown core of Ottawa, but also in the country writ large, so that’s what motivated me to come back into public office. I’m thrilled beyond imagination that I’m doing that because there’s some really important work that needs to happen as we escape this pandemic and imagine the kind of society we have an opportunity to build. If I can play a small part in that, I will be thrilled by the opportunity the community has given me.

THE MAINSTREETER: *What are the lessons you learned in your 10 or more years at Queen’s Park? What were the key takeaways, skill sets and experiences from your tenure as an MLA that you can now bring to federal office?*

YASIR NAQVI: There are three things I would highlight. One is how, as a member of the provincial legislature or as a federal MP, do you affect change on behalf of your community? In other words, how do you become a community champion? How do you change outcomes on important issues - whether it’s getting funding to build a bridge over the Canal, or funding to get a school built in your community, or changing laws that would reduce speed limits on residential streets in urban neighbourhoods? There’s an art that comes with being an elected

representative, working with other elected representatives, with members of cabinet and effecting that change. I bring that experience. I think I did that quite effectively when I was a member of the provincial assembly.

The second quite relevant thing I learned as a minister is the entire machinery of government. Government is complex in our system. There’s many layers to it, and there’s quite a few different levers from bureaucracy to political decision-making. How can you develop good public policy aligned with good politics to effect change? Again, there’s a skill and an art that goes into it. One learns by being part of this system, and as a senior cabinet minister over the years at Queen’s Park I was instrumental in effecting some good public policy changes.

But the most paramount lesson I’ve learned is that in governments generally, and it doesn’t matter which political stripe, there tends to be a notion of defending the status quo, because that’s where the comfort level is. And one of the things I learned is how you go about challenging the status quo. I used to remind bureaucrats all the time that no politician knocks on 1000s of doors during a campaign and says: “Elect me and I will defend the status quo.” We all want change. So let’s work on making that change. It’s challenging, and it’s difficult, and that’s where the hard work comes. The notion of challenging the status quo is, I think, the biggest overarching lesson and experience that I learned over the last 11 years, and the one that I’m hoping to exercise at the federal level.

THE MAINSTREETER: *Speaking to specifics, when you were a provincial MPP and a minister, what specific changes did you accomplish, and now, as an MP and maybe as a future minister, what specifically do you hope to achieve federally?*

YASIR NAQVI: I’ll give you one example provincially - it was a change that I drove working not by myself, because there’s a whole machine that’s part of it, but a change about which the initial response was “no, we cannot do that.” It concerned banning



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YASIR NAQVI - OTTAWA CENTRE'S NEW MP

Continued from Page 4

the whole exercise of carding, a practice that the police in Ontario were engaging in, especially in major urban centres like Ottawa and Toronto where, primarily, black men, indigenous men, and brown men were being stopped by the police for doing nothing wrong and having their personal information collected. Clearly, this practice was a violation of basic Charter rights, but it was all being done from the perspective of public safety. And Ontario was, and still is, the first jurisdiction in all of North America to bring in a set of rules, enforced by law, to say you cannot do that. I cannot tell you how difficult it was to change a practice that became rooted over decades and decades, but it was victimizing innocent people and having a real negative impact. And we managed to do this before the great reckoning that we saw two years ago with the murder of George Floyd. Ontario, as a result, is ahead of the curve. There's still more work to be done to ban carding, but this is an example of where you can make monumental change in the system, even though the system says you cannot do that. I want to take that kind of bold thinking to the federal level and help get over some of that hesitancy. I want to make sure that we are making decisions based on good evidence and rooted in good public policy.

There's three specific things that I spoke about in the election campaign that I'm keen to pursue. First, rebuilding has to be inclusive, which means that we need to bring everybody along for the process. Child care, for example, is a big piece from an economic policy perspective and a key central tenet of the Liberal government's re-election plan.

Number two is bold and ambitious action on climate change. I will tell you that the number one issue I heard in the community in Ottawa Centre when I was knocking on doors is that people want bold change. So there's a fair bit of work that needs to be done on that. And the last one is fighting racial injustice. There are still issues in federal law enforcement when it comes to

racial profiling and anti-indigenous practices that I want to leverage my provincial experience to work to effect change.

THE MAINSTREETER: *At Queen's Park, you were first a backbencher MLA, and then you became a Cabinet Minister. So you have experienced both of those very different roles. You enter federal politics as a backbencher once again. Do you think your role in the Trudeau government outside of Cabinet will limit your ability to achieve what you hope to get done?*

YASIR NAQVI: That's a good question – but that should not impair or hinder my effectiveness as a Member of Parliament because I take my marching orders from the members of my community who have elected me. I'm their voice at the House of Commons. That's the central tenet of our system.

I think I tabled about 10 different private member's bills when I was a backbencher, and you cannot do that as a Cabinet Minister, and all but two of them became laws in Ontario. These were substantive pieces of legislation dealing with the Highway Traffic Act, and with creating an independent public health agency here in the City of Ottawa, which we've seen the benefits of today during this COVID crisis. I created a piece of legislation that prohibited frivolous lawsuits against community activist members, and I was able to see them get incorporated into law. Because again, I worked with the government, with members from all political parties. And I did my homework, my research and made sure that there was good public policy ideas that were brought forward on behalf the community.

The other thing I will tell you is that all of the ideas behind those bills came from our community. I'll never forget the bill that became law allowing for individuals, primarily woman again, unfortunately, who are victims of domestic violence, to terminate their leases so that they could escape from their perpetrators. That bill came to be because a young woman from our community came to me as her MPP and

told me her story. I said to her, let's do some research and let's write a bill together, and we did, and that became law in Ontario.

I will rely on that same work ethic, and my knowledge of how government operates. And I will work with anyone and everyone. I don't get into this myopic view of I'm a Liberal so I shall only work with Liberals. The beautiful thing about the legislature is that you've got members who bring their dreams and aspirations and ideas from their respective communities. And the key here is to find that common ground and work with individuals with common sets of values to get things done, and that's what I plan to do.

THE MAINSTREETER: *You have used the words engagement, inclusivity and diversity, all of which are fundamental to the democratic process and to the development of sound public policy. Here in Ottawa, we've just gone through an Official Plan (OP) process which is going to have profound impact on the development of this city, of our community and of every neighbourhood in Ottawa. Contrary to official claims, the development of the OP has been marked by a woeful lack of meaningful prior public consultation. With respect to what you want to achieve in federal politics, what are your thoughts or strategies when it comes to the use of public consultation?*

YASIR NAQVI: When we think of public consultation, we always think of one way of doing it, which is the one way we have always known – call a town hall meeting and have people gather in a room and then talk about it. I think that the model is becoming antiquated because, first of all, everybody lives really busy lives. People have other obligations and not everybody can come to the local community centre at 7pm to participate. So we usually start to see the same faces and therefore you tend to hear the same voices.

I think what's incumbent upon us public officials is to find other ways of engaging the community. Town halls are important. Social media, I think, is a really useful instrument, a tool for us to talk to people by engaging in online forums. I think the pandemic has shown that by using zoom and video conferencing methods you hear from more people because



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Ottawa Centre's new MP, Yasir Naqvi, wants to emphasize inclusivity.

it's more convenient. My favourite method that I have used quite effectively in the past is to just go knock on doors and have conversations. I learned about the idea for a footbridge over the Rideau Canal from John Dance when I knocked on his door. John told me at his doorstep that there's a 100-year-old idea to build a bridge, and we engaged in a few more conversations. He shared some documents with me. I'm not taking all the credit – the credit goes to the community – but here we are – and it got done. I plan to use all those different methods.

Will we be able to get consensus? Absolutely not. Because there's no such thing. Are we going to be able to speak to every single person – likely not. But we can get a broad sense of understanding and exchange of ideas, those who agree and disagree, so that there is respect of points of views. That's just my nature because I like to hear many voices before a decision is made. I'm going to make sure that before major decisions are made, the community has an opportunity to express their point of view.

THE MAINSTREETER: *You have stated that life/work balance is very important you. How do politicians manage to meet the day-to-day challenges of being an MP as well as a father to two young children?*

YASIR NAQVI: They don't do it. None of us do this by ourselves. We do it with the support of some incredible teams of really good people who help an elected representative, whether it's our city councillors, our provincial member or our federal representatives. That's how we get it done. There's only 24 hours in every day.

All of the elected representatives that I know in Ottawa, they're motivated individuals who are driven by the passion of building better communities. That's why people put their name on the ballot. It's all about the work we do.

I'm wrapping this up and finishing with the point that we started with – namely, that I feel myself extremely fortunate to be a Canadian. That one decision that my parents made to come to Canada, when we were young – that changed our lives, for the better. And so I do this as a sense of duty, because this is my opportunity to hopefully help to create a better life for others who live in our community.



During his years in provincial politics, Naqvi was a well-known figure in Old Ottawa East, seen here at the Brantwood Gates cenotaph.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ONE MAIN PROBLEM

On this November 7th, we attended a Remembrance Ceremony in our community at the Old Ottawa East Cenotaph adjacent to the Brantwood Gates on Main Street. This short event, including a laying of wreaths and hosted by the Strathcona Legion Branch '595', is a tradition in our community and an opportunity for residents of all ages to come together to honour all of those who have served and/or are serving in Canada's forces and contribute to peace and our collective well-being.

The ceremony was especially modest this year as a result of COVID considerations which precluded, for example, a cadet marching contingent. Nevertheless, the more abbreviated ceremony was well attended by neighbouring residents, members of the Legion and Canada's forces, members of both the federal and provincial legislatures and our municipal councillor. And the brief messages delivered and the laying of the four wreaths were as poignant as always.

Only one thing marred the ceremony, and that was the constant flow of traffic on Main Street. The noise drowned out the Legion president's brief message, the singing of the national anthem, the piper and trumpeters' pieces, and everything else. This was quite frustrating for all.

We subsequently learned that because of COVID, and the planned absence of a marching contingent, the Legion did not request that traffic be diverted this year onto roads parallel to Main Street (e.g. Mutchmor/McGillivray or Marlowe). While understandable, we sincerely hope that in future years, this lovely Brantwood Gates Remembrance Ceremony is able to take place in the absence of automobiles on Main Street.

This ceremony deserves this respect: vehicles should not be running through the sight-lines and hearts of the people congregated and the words of the speakers, and notes of the musicians should not be drowned out by the acceleration of engines! In the timeframe of an entire year, one minute's silence - accompanied by another 20 to 30 minutes of quiet - is surely not too much to grant those who wish to reflect and remember!

*Brian Bell and Carmen Connolly,
Bower Street*



JAMES BALLANTYNE PHOTO

A PHOTO CREDIT WORTH NOTING

I found the article in your October issue by Marjorie Carver very interesting. As a person interested in railway history as well as in Old Ottawa East history (my family was very much a part of the community years ago), I thought her story really gave an interesting account of one factor of daily life in the community during the Depression. I recall my mother mentioning having transients knock on their door in Old Ottawa South and her mother giving them money or something to eat. It was an unfortunate part of Depression-era living.

The roundhouse at Mann Avenue wasn't the first. In the late 1800s, the Canada Atlantic Railway built the original one at roughly Elgin Street and Argyle Avenue, where Elgin Square and the Tiffany Apartments are now. As business grew for the railway, larger facilities were needed and the whole complex was moved to Mann Avenue. The railway was an important part of the community, providing employment for many of the residents.

The first photo in the article of the children was actually taken just west of Main Street (looking west). The buildings at the right beside the tracks were the Ballantyne barrel factory which was operated until 1891 when the family switched to selling heating fuel. The photo was taken by my great great uncle, James Ballantyne.

*Bruce Ballantyne,
Kanata, ON*

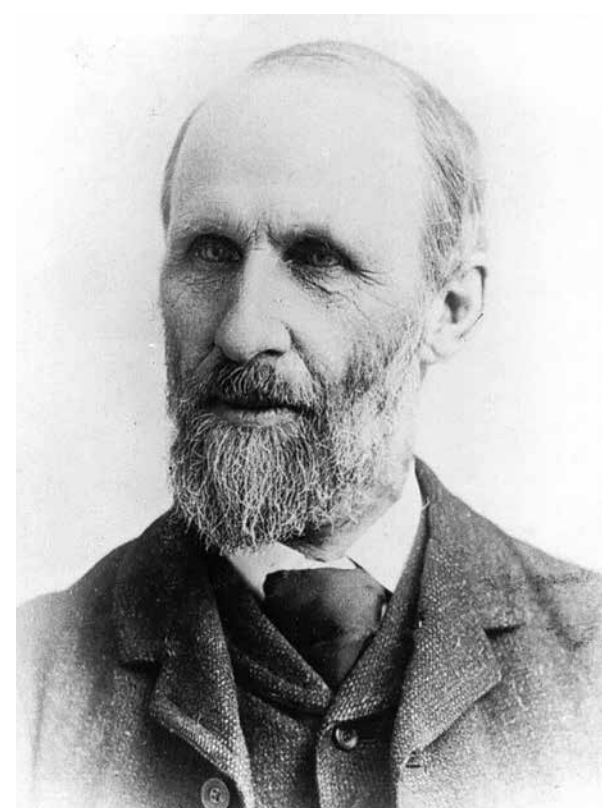
The incredible life and legacy of James Ballantyne

The above letter to the editor submitted by Kanata resident, Bruce Ballantyne, notes that his great great uncle, James Ballantyne, took the photograph of three youngsters perched on the railway tracks in Depression era Ottawa East that appeared in our October issue. He notes as well that his family was "very much a part of the community years ago."

We were thrilled to receive the submission from Mr. Ballantyne since it offered up the opportunity to revisit the legacy of one of the most important individuals in the history of Old Ottawa East. James Ballantyne surely was a part of the young community back in the late 19th century - indeed, according to *A History of Ottawa East*, he was the key figure in the early days of Old Ottawa East:

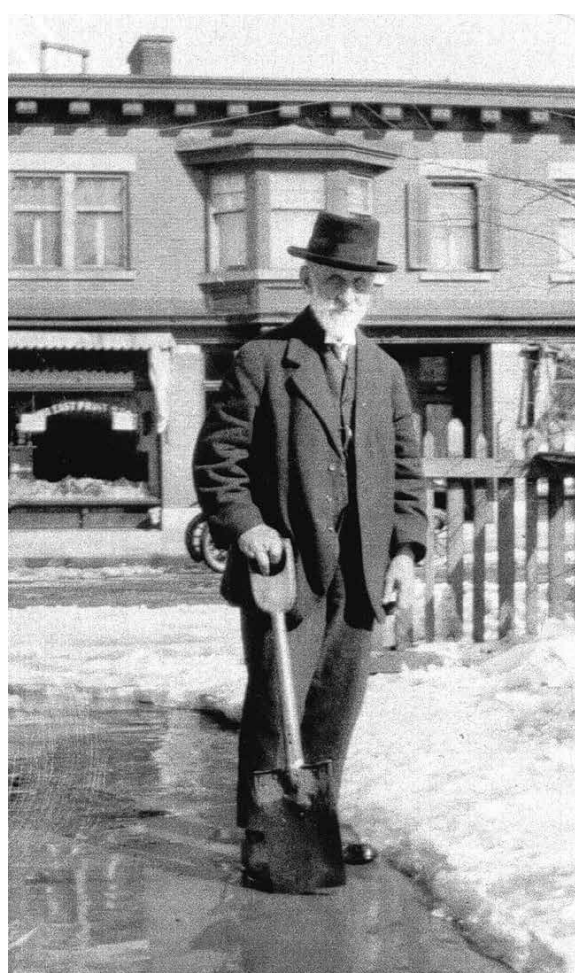
"If there is one special person in the history of Ottawa East, then it must be James Ballantyne - a true 'Renaissance man'. Of slight stature, quiet in disposition and brilliant of mind, James was the man who led Ottawa East from a motley collection of homes and businesses to a thriving successful village. His story is fascinating."

Upcoming in our February 2022 issue, we'll revisit the life and times of James Ballantyne, his legacy, and that of his family, to Old Ottawa East.



OOE HISTORY ARCHIVES PHOTOS

James Ballantyne (1835 - 1925) was a business and community leader in the village of Ottawa East for half a century.



THE MAINSTREETER

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OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

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Community Activities Group: Call Old Town Hall at 613-564-1078 and leave a message for Carol Toone

Community Police (for non-emergency concerns):

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

Old Town Hall: 613.627.0062

OPINION

OOE and the New Official Plan:

Getting involved is the top priority for tackling climate change challenges

PETER CROAL

Old Ottawa East (OOE) is an incredible place to live. It has the best characteristics of a liveable neighbourhood: close to services, trees, green spaces, and vibrant community energy. These characteristics are at risk (especially the loss of tree canopy) if OOE does not pay attention to Ottawa's newly approved Official Plan.

Ontario cities are required to develop an Official Plan (OP) every 25 years, and Ottawa has not had a new one since 2003. Many cities develop OPs that are easy to understand and implement, but this is not the case for Ottawa. A draft OP was released in 2019. Since then, the draft has been revised after much community involvement, and was finally approved by Council on October 27.

The importance of Ottawa's OP cannot be understated. Ottawa will grow by 400,000 people and 195,000 homes in the next 25 years. The OP will guide how and where we build our homes and businesses and transport ourselves. Will our community intensify in a gradual way with attractive additions to existing housing and low-rise units that allow OOE to continue to be liveable, healthy and sustainable? The OP is not clear on these concerns.

The OP is framed around "5 Big Ideas": Growth, Mobility, Urban Design, Resiliency and Economy. In submissions to the City, members of our community stated that tree canopy, climate change, neighbourhood boundaries, COVID-19 and housing were important issues for the new OP. The OP aims to have an overall 40% tree canopy, but this is not guaranteed for each ward. Intensification could occur at hubs and along road corridors, which will create "urban canyons." Non-enforceable language, such as "could," is commonly used. The draft OP indicated that development would be "restricted" if biodiversity was threatened. The approved OP states that development should be "avoided" if biodiversity is at risk. "Spot zoning," which allows for development not consistent with the OP, will also be allowed to happen.

The concerns expressed by OOE residents are found in the City's OP consultation report called "As We Heard It", which has an issues report for Capital Ward 17.

Sadly, the OP is a "brick" - dense, vague, contradictory and difficult to understand. It is over 250 pages,



PETER CROAL PHOTO

The new Official Plan states that all future development should be climate- and environmentally-friendly, but not everyone is optimistic that future actions will track these words.

not including hundreds of pages of annexes, maps, secondary plans and attachments.

The OP has provisions to ensure that Ottawa becomes diverse, healthy, and has walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods. The OP also emphasizes a need to minimize urban sprawl, and that all future development be climate- and environment-friendly. It emphasizes the need for 15 Minute Neighbourhoods. These aspirations are noteworthy, but the OP still:

- neglects details about urban development changes;
- aims to achieve energy retrofits for 325,000 homes but has no specifications for green standards for small low-rise developments;
- has no provisions for climate objectives on emissions in the High-Performance Development Standard, which is only applicable to high rises; and
- does not account for the effects of COVID-19 on transportation, housing and infrastructure.

OOE must have balanced growth guided by community involvement to ensure OOE is a more walkable and liveable community. The current OP does not provide clear policy direction for this, further jeopardizing our overall climate change and tree canopy efforts.

A Climate Change Master Plan was approved by City Council that identifies targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050. However, the OP lacks

policies and guidelines to align urban development with greenhouse gas emission targets related to zoning and by-laws. The new OP does require the City to report on the impact of intensification on GHG emissions.

OOE residents can better understand OP issues by referring to the People's Official Plan (POP), which is an alliance of over 20 local community organizations. The alliance has been working since 2019 to shape the OP, and foremost among its conclusions are that the OP does not effectively address the Climate Emergency, and that community consultation has been weak. POP developed eight summaries of the OP issues, which can be found at: <https://www.ottawacimatesolutions.net/>. Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE <https://ottawaeast.ca/sloe>) has also been very active to ensure OOE residents' views on community development are heard by the City.

OOE is a dynamic, beautiful and engaged community. To remain so, we must advocate for: official tree canopy targets for each neighbourhood; diverse and vibrant businesses on Main Street; more affordable housing; and restrictions on "spot zoning". We have many community-building opportunities to ensure OOE continues to be a wonderful place to live for generations by being connected to Ottawa's planning and approval processes. To explore engagement and support opportunities, please contact SLOE at sloe@ottawaeast.ca.

OOE Community Association responds to Yasir Naqvi

Improve Colonel By Drive, don't close it



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The Old Ottawa East Community Association has recommended that safety improvements be made to Colonel By Drive instead of the one-year pilot closure proposed by Ottawa Centre MP Yasir Naqvi during the recent election campaign.

JOHN DANCE

The Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) has pushed back on newly elected MP Yasir Naqvi's proposal to close Colonel By Drive to motorized traffic for a year-long, data-gathering pilot.

"We are of the view that there are two permanent measures that would have a similar impact to what you have proposed while allowing continued motorized vehicle use of Colonel By Drive," OOECA President Bob Gordon wrote to Naqvi.

Specifically, the community association has recommended that the National Capital Commission (1) reclaim space from the vehicle lanes in order to create bike lanes on the actual roadway for faster cyclists, e-cyclists, and e-scooters on the parkway; and (2) construct a pedestrian-only pathway expansion cantilevered over the Rideau Canal on the stretch from Clegg Street to Bank Street.

During the federal election campaign, Naqvi stated that "(e)xtending the popular Colonel By Drive pilot project to a full-year would not only allow our community to get out of their cars to walk, bike and roll to work and school, it would also give our community the necessary data and comprehensive details to measure the quantitative success of this important project."

In his response to Naqvi's proposal, Gordon advised that "(o)ur primary concern about closing Colonel By Drive to motorists is that this would likely result in more traffic through neighbourhood

streets in Old Ottawa East (OOE) and elsewhere both in Ottawa Centre and in other constituencies as south-end commuters and tourists travelling to and from downtown, Byward Market and the Quebec bridges would find alternative routes," wrote Gordon. "Colonel By is the only alternative to Main Street and its closure would result in longer and lengthier trips for many residents."

Residents are also concerned any diversion of traffic from Colonel By Drive to Main, Hawthorne and Greenfield will aggravate traffic problems resulting from the multi-year reconstruction project that has just begun.

"An unintended consequence of closure of Colonel By could be renewed pressure from southern constituencies to build a four-lane roadway through the Alta Vista Transportation roadway, something Old Ottawa East and neighbouring communities have been trying to get out of City plans for 50 years," noted Gordon in his letter.

The specific context for Naqvi's proposal was the closure of Queen Elizabeth Drive last year and this spring and the closure this year of Colonel By Drive from July to October so that residents had safe, spacious areas to get exercise, socialize, and enjoy a green environment during the pandemic.

During an interview with *The Mainstreeter*, Naqvi noted that, "...the bigger point is that we are in a climate emergency. Climate change is real. And one of the things that I heard again and

again in the community, this campaign - and I'm a member of this community - is what does that mean for us locally?"

"Across the country, I was perhaps one of the very few, if not the only candidate who put forward a local climate action plan to look at things like a tree canopy strategy, to look at air pollution on major intersections in our community, and to find ways to ensure more active transportation. So that's where I'm coming from."

Naqvi has offered to meet with the community association to talk about his proposal and the association's alternative recommendations.

Although the community association's board was strongly opposed to a year-

long pilot closure of Colonel By Drive, there are association members, including SLOE Chairperson Jayson MacLean, who think the closure is a good idea. "I think that although the compromise offered in the letter approved by the OOECA certainly has its merits, the greater necessity in Ottawa as in every city worldwide is to cut down on single vehicle use for the sake of combatting climate change," he posted on Facebook. "Yes, closing Colonel By to cars would mean more traffic on Main Street, but unfortunately, that's really what we need to do anyway, i.e., make travelling by car an uncomfortable event."

The City of Ottawa's Director of Traffic Services, Phil Landry, took the following position on Naqvi's proposal: "If Colonel By Drive were to close to vehicle traffic for a year-long pilot project, the City would work with the National Capital Commission to remedy traffic impacts."

One immediate benefit of the community association providing its recommendations to Naqvi was that the National Capital Commission issued a quick response, as follows: "... the NCC recognizes that there are improvements to be considered for this section of the Rideau Canal Eastern pathway as outlined in the Capital Pathway Strategic Plan." The NCC also noted that "the suggestion for the boardwalk extension over the canal would require the involvement of Parks Canada, as the agency responsible for the Rideau Canal."

One suggestion that several people have made is that Queen Elizabeth Driveway be closed rather than Colonel By. During the two seasons of "pandemic" closures, the Driveway had an average of 3,175 daily visits, more than twice the daily average of 1,482 for Colonel By this year. Also, according to a 2019 City traffic study, the Driveway had about a third less motorized traffic than did Colonel By, so that its closure would have less of an impact on drivers.

The informal "Parkways for People" group has also suggested that the Driveway be permanently closed between Fifth and Pretoria.

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Ye Olde Ottawa East pub - wherefore art thou?

JOHN DANCE

Old Ottawa East (OOE) is steadily growing and gaining amenities, but it lacks one “institution” that our neighbours in the Glebe, Old Ottawa South, Sandy Hill and Centretown have: a local pub, or at least a restaurant with a bar. And it seems there are no immediate prospects for the gap to be filled.

During the pandemic, our one and only pub - the Royal Oak at Pretoria - closed its doors for good. The Gray Jay, an upscale restaurant, will be taking over the prime location.

The situation is not utterly bleak for those seeking a beer, though. Main Street's The Green Door offers beer and wine, the new Happy Goat has beer, and the Giant Panda at 170 Lees Avenue hopes to resume serving beer now that many pandemic restrictions have been lifted. Also, a short walk to Lansdowne or to Bank or Elgin streets provides lots of opportunities for finding a beverage and a bite.

However, on the basis of an informal survey on the OOE Grapevine Facebook page, it appears as though there is substantial support for a new pub in our community. Responses were generally enthusiastic with exclamation marks: “We need a couple of them! ... 100% for a pub in our neighbourhood! ... I am deeply in favour of the neighbourhood acquiring a pub! ... A pub would be great... A pub is a necessity for our community... Yes, our household would love a pub... Would be a great addition to the neighbourhood.” Others offered variations and qualifications

such as a pub that served breakfast, had live music, had TVs to watch sports, was part of a restaurant, and wasn't noisy for neighbouring residents. Two respondents suggested that OOE had higher priorities.

Three years ago, École d'innovation sociale Élisabeth-Bruyère ran a well-attended focus group session with a view to determining if some sort of pub on or near the campus would be a desirable proposition. There was good support for the idea but, says Julie Chateauvert, assistant professor at Saint Paul University, “We unfortunately put this (great) project on hold for the lack of enough people to do everything that needed to be done.”

Similarly, Michael Eastabrooks, now the owner of the venerable Irene's Pub in the Glebe, contemplated opening a pub in OOE but couldn't find a suitable location. Eastabrooks, who lived near the corner of



Michael Eastabrooks, owner of Irene's Pub, thinks Greystone Village could help support a pub.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Larry Leadman (left) and Don McNicol enjoy a pint at Irene's. McNicol, a Clegg Street resident, says "It's about time" Old Ottawa East had a pub.

Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue, speaks of the limited infrastructure for a new pub here. At one point, he considered the Caisse at the corner of Main and Herridge Street, but it became the location for a new cosmetic surgery business.

Eastabrooks says Greystone Village may be the catalyst for a new pub. Currently, the Regional Group is seeking occupants for the ground floor commercial space of the two new buildings on Avenue des Oblats. They are “looking for a range of tenants to support the neighbourhood, [and] this includes potential for a restaurant tenant,” says Evan Garfinkel, Regional's coordinator of land development.

Domicile, the developer of the Corners on Main condominiums, has tried to secure

a pub for the ground floor space, but so far, with no success. There are just two bays left in the middle of Domicile's Main Street frontage. As David Chick, Domicile's vice-president, puts it, this space is “shell” space, “ready for a new restaurant/pub to use to make its mark in Old Ottawa East.”

While the impact of COVID-19 could make this a challenge with a number of fully fit-up leasing opportunities out there in the larger market, Chick concludes that a “first-in,” well-crafted local pub on Main Street could be supported by the expanding community.”

The questions are whether a keen entrepreneur will be interested and will be able to find a good location to slake the local thirst for beverages and socializing.

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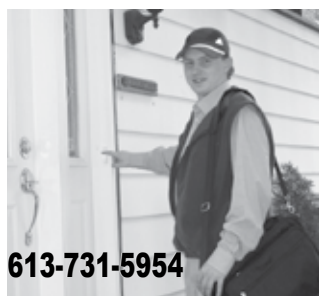
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Nicolas St-Pierre: Old Ottawa East 2021 Art Tour participant wins prestigious international photo book award

LORNE ABUGOV

Fresh from exhibiting his photographic artistry in front of his Marlowe Street home during the OOE 2021 Art Tour, local resident Nicolas St-Pierre has captured international acclaim by winning the 2021 URBAN Book Award at the world-famous Trieste Photo Days festival. A practitioner of urban street photography, St-Pierre's book, entitled *Where Have the Birds Gone?*, took the prestigious prize as the top photography book of the year.

St-Pierre's photography was first featured in the pages of *The Mainstreeter* in the October 2019 issue. Readers may recall his arresting image of a young girl peering through metal bars from her train compartment while it idled at the Howrah railway station in Kolkata, India (see page 23).

Since the Trieste Photo Days festival was launched in 2014, it has confirmed itself as a point of reference for cutting-edge international photography. Every year, the festival attracts an ever-increasing number of international artists and guests. Amongst the various awards presented each year by the festival organizers, the URBAN Book Award, which was conferred this year on St-Pierre, is dedicated to extended authorial projects/photographic books.

For St-Pierre's part, the URBAN Book Award, while unexpected, represented his progression as an urban photographer onto the global scene. According to St-Pierre: "Given the increasing recognition of the Trieste Photo Days amongst photographers who practice street photography, it only seemed natural for me to submit my book to the festival in the hope that it would catch the jury's attention and help me establish myself as an international artist."

"Needless to say, I was thrilled beyond words to learn confidentially in August that my book had been selected by Francesco Cito, Italian photojournalist, from over 125 competing projects, and would be published in Italy by the festival organizers. I am also pleased that thanks to this award, my work has now gained critical acclaim and will soon be published in French and Italian photo magazines."

Commenting on the artistry of this year's award winner, awards judge Cito observed that "Nicolas St-Pierre's work is an intellectual fantasy carried out with mastery and a skilful photographic language. Good photography, engraved, well structured, and masterfully post produced."

St-Pierre, a career diplomat within Canada's foreign service, has travelled extensively for work and pleasure, usually with camera in hand. Describing himself as a "wanderer at heart," most of his spare time is spent capturing the places and people that he encounters while abroad.

"Ever since I picked up my first camera some 30 years ago, this little piece of equipment has become a wonderful tool to help me step out of my comfort zone, an invitation to explore, and a means to build bridges between myself and the other. The camera provides me with both an excuse and an incentive to get closer, to connect emotionally and physically with those who cross my path and arouse my curiosity," St-Pierre states in his website biography. "Of all photographic genres, street and travel photography, with a slight documentary bent and an occasional touch of humour, are

Continued on Page 23



NICOLAS ST-PIERRE PHOTOS

On the images in his book, *Where Have the Birds Gone?*, Nicolas St-Pierre recalls: "I spent countless hours exploring on foot the streets and back alleys of Tokyo. Almost every day, I was stopped dead in my own tracks by the unexpected sight of something that did not belong to the scene, or the deafening silence of something that cried out to be there."



A selection of images included in St-Pierre's award-winning book, *Where Have the Birds Gone?*, may be found on his website at the following address: <https://www.nstpierrephoto.com/Personal-Projects/Where-have-the-birds-gone/>. Those interested in purchasing the self-published edition of the book can also do so online through St-Pierre's website (<https://www.nstpierrephoto.com/Shopping>) or alternatively by emailing him at nstpierrephoto@gmail.com to arrange for a direct purchase of books and/or prints.



Lees Avenue newsbox missing!

And then there were four...

The Mainstreeter purchased, painted and positioned five newsboxes earlier this year, but now there are only four - the newsbox that was placed in front of the Lees Avenue LRT station this past February has disappeared without a trace.

"A big mystery, a whodunit, really," says Lorne Abugov, editor of *The Mainstreeter*. "We are completely in the dark about what happened to our Lees Avenue newsbox."

The mystery came to light on Monday, November 15 when artist Luke Goldsmith, who painted the box a distinctive green and gold calligraphic design, and his father, John drove to the Lees LRT to pick up the box to do some touch-up painting. But it was nowhere to be seen.

Subsequent visits to the LRT station turned up nothing. The newsbox was last seen in its usual resting spot on Lees Avenue the previous Friday, November 12,



JOHN GOLDSMITH PHOTO

Whodunit? Artist Luke Goldsmith and editor Lorne Abugov pictured back in February with the now-missing newsbox.

in separate sightings by *The Mainstreeter's* distribution manager Dan Racicot and arts editor Tanis Browning-Shelp.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of our newsbox is asked to email editor@mainstreeter.ca.

Tennis courts pose user risk

Continued from Page 1

was repaired but, according to tennis player Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, the repair work has not been effective. "Unfortunately, we are back to a situation where the court surface would compromise quality of play, and also player safety," she says.

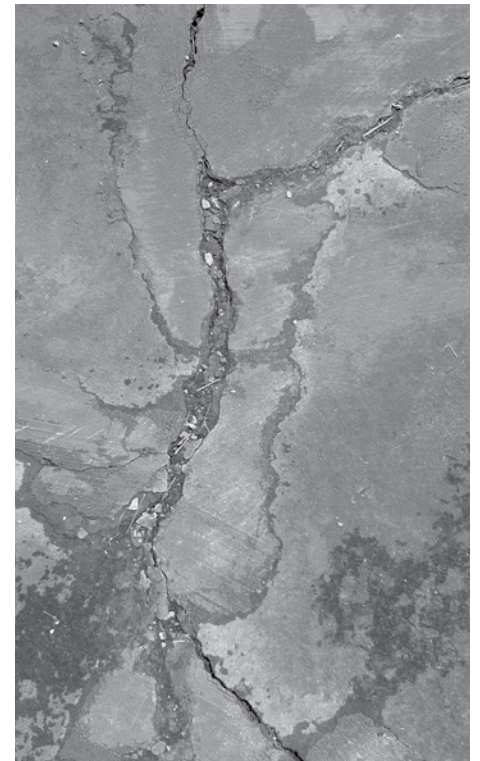
The two courts have always been popular, but the courts are now used even more because of the boom of pickleball and the many new residents of Greystone Village. There have been some requests for additional courts so that Brantwood would have as many courts as Windsor Park in Old Ottawa South.

Ben Hebb, a resident of Glengarry Road, has suggested that new courts could be built at Springhurst Park, something that would relieve the pressure at Brantwood while providing a needed facility for racquet enthusiasts in the northern part of Old Ottawa East. He also notes, "There is also potential to add more courts to the current footprint in Brantwood Park - maybe reconfiguring the baseball fields to make it all work."

In related news, the basketball court in

Brantwood Park has been assessed by the City as being "in good condition" and is not scheduled to be replaced within the next five years.

The City's assessment is not shared by a number of users.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Cracked surface at the Brantwood Park tennis courts will be repaired next spring or summer.

Future remains uncertain for Rideau River's OOE corridor

Continued from Page 1

soil. Regional "capped" the contaminated soil in a fashion similar to what the City has done with its Alta Vista Transportation Corridor lands beside Springhurst Park so that the contaminated soil does not pose a health risk unless it is disturbed.

Lots of ifs and buts

Recently, a dozen SLOE members and Greystone Village residents had a walkabout of the waterfront corridor with a view to assessing how the naturalization of this greenspace was working out. In the resulting report, written by former SLOE chair Rebecca Aird, the overall perspective is that "To a large extent, the resulting landscape is very successful." And as Ian McRae, SLOE's tree expert, says, "The site is naturalizing nicely despite the challenges of trampling and drought. Many of the first trees planted are doing well." But there are lots of ifs and buts.

"[I]n many places aggressive and unappealing weed species are increasingly dominant," the report notes. "A key question is where to actively maintain open grassland/meadow versus allowing tree 'succession' to proceed. Also, where a canopy will form, how much energy should go into controlling invasives in the meantime, and to removing 'volunteer' trees."

"But no matter who assumes maintenance responsibility, it makes sense

to minimize the financial and labour investments needed for the long-term success of this naturalized landscape," says the report. "That means understanding and working with 'natural' tendencies. Over the last few years, a volunteer 'invasives brigade' has worked hard to remove invasives along the Greystone corridor and other stretches of the Rideau River Nature Trail, but there are limitations to how much can be done by volunteers."

Other identified issues include how to keep users on the single intended path to protect the soils and the vegetation. Also, the woodchips on the footpath have largely decomposed or washed off the path so options include annual replenishment of the wood chips or replacement with stone dust.

The impact of dumping salt-laden snow onto the corridor also was a considerable concern because only ragweed seems to grow in the contaminated soil. The report recommends replacing the contaminated soil and ending the snow-dumping practice. Evan Garfinkel, Regional's land manager says, "We are aware that snow plowing contractors inadvertently stored snow in the corridor last year. Both City/private contractors were advised that snow was not permitted to be stored in the corridor and as a result it was removed promptly afterwards. We have delivered the same message to contractors this year that snow storage is not permitted within the environmental corridor."

Given Regional's insistence that it does not have ongoing responsibility

for the corridor, SLOE is proposing two complementary options.

Two proposed options

SLOE's report says, "One alternative that has been proposed is to mount a campaign to convince the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, the National Capital Commission and the City that an innovative partnership is needed in order that the whole shoreline beginning at Strathcona Park (Sandy Hill) and extending to Linda Thom Park (Old Ottawa South) is treated as a single park of significant ecological and recreational importance in Ottawa."

The second option is a community land trust. "This would only make sense if an endowment could be established that would generate sufficient annual revenue for ongoing maintenance needs," says the report.

"Further research and study would be needed to determine what an adequate budget would be. But given that Regional is currently paying about \$15,000 in annual taxes on the shoreline land, an ask for a significant contribution to a community land trust endowment may not be so far-fetched."

After reviewing SLOE's report, Regional's Garfinkel responded, "This winter, Regional will be reviewing a strategy to address these unplanned footpaths where planting had occurred and any additional remaining deficiencies from the approved landscape plans.

While we greatly appreciate all of

the feedback and ownership that the community association has taken, it is important to remind everyone that the vision for the corridor was always to let it 'grow wild' and become naturalized. We would be happy to meet with the community later in the winter once we have reviewed and finalized our remaining landscaping works."

Derrick Crossman, one of the participants in the walkabout and a Greystone Village resident, has a more critical perspective on the situation: "I assume Regional is profiting from their acquisition of the Oblats property, but since the buffer zone is a non-revenue generating asset (although they use it in their marketing material) they want to walk away from it and hope the community takes over responsibility. They need to be good corporate citizens and step up and maintain their property."



Residents who are interested in helping with the removal of invasives along the river shoreline or getting involved with the future of the river corridor should email Sloe@ottawaeast.ca. The full report on the river corridor is available at: <https://ottawaeast.ca/sloe>.



PETER FOWLER PHOTO

Nifty 5-1 win over New Zealand

Canada's women's national soccer team flaunt Olympic gold medals, on-field brilliance, during Celebration Tour match at TD Place



FLICKR PHOTO

DANIEL MIRANDA

October 23rd was a memorable day for Canadian soccer at Lansdowne's

TD Place Stadium. A crowd of nearly 17,000 witnessed the inaugural stop on the Celebration Tour to commemorate the gold medal-winning effort from the Canadian Women's National Team (WNT) during this year's Olympic Games in Japan. New Zealand's WNT graciously played the supporting role in this much-anticipated performance aimed at showcasing the women of the red maple leaf on center stage.

It was a crisp and beautiful fall afternoon with sunny skies and more than a few teary eyes. The heroic squad got to show the nation's capital their well-deserved Olympic gold medals to a chorus of resounding applause. None of the cheers was louder than those reserved for number 12, team captain Christine

Sinclair.

One could only wonder whether the day's celebrations were vindication for the heinous crime perpetrated by the referee in the 2012 Olympics - where Sinclair had one of the greatest performances in international soccer history negated by an unprecedented delay of game free kick in a finals match against the United States that snatched defeat from the jaws of victory for Canada. Despite this crushing setback, the Canadian women's soccer program took fate into their own hands by persevering and playing nine years of extraordinary soccer to find themselves once again back in the Olympic final. And this time, they turned the pain into gold.

Sinclair's contribution to this long and triumphant crusade is as clear as the sun beaming down on TD Place Stadium on a cloud-free October day.

Stephanie Labbé, at the opposite end of the field, proudly stood on the goal line once again for Canada and defended the hopes of a nation. Ottawa certainly recognized the job she did, and gave her, and penalty shot phenom Jessie Fleming, roaring rounds of applause. Of course, in a team sport, no contribution is too small, and the crowd showed their respect for all members of the team and coaching staff.

The fans would likely have been happy to go home after the emotional presentation of medals and the video recap of Canada's Olympic soccer highlights. But that proved to be just the beginning of a fantastic soccer fest. We were treated next to a performance showcasing just how good this team has become.

For the captain's part, Sinclair reminded us why her name will go down as one of the best players that women's soccer has ever seen, and its leading overall goal scorer in international play. Despite her age, the first half was

dominated by the Canadian legend. She drew a penalty in the early stages of the game. In unselfish fashion, she chose Jessie Fleming to take the penalty and, as she had done so many times in the Olympics, Fleming converted from the spot. The next goal was all Sinclair – and a thing of beauty. Sinclair poked the ball clear after the New Zealand goalie and defender crossed paths, spun around 180 degrees and lifted the ball over the last two defenders with her left foot and into the top right corner. Were it not for a goal line stop from a centre back and a jumping save from a goalie, she might have had a couple more goals to add to her record tally.

In the second half, after the standing ovation and cheers died down, Sinclair made way for Adriana Leon, who stated her case for Canada's captaincy when Sinclair eventually steps down from the throne. The hardest working Canadian (besides Kadeisha Buchanan with her stalwart defending and galloping runs), Leon inspired great team football around her valiant effort and positive play. It was very reminiscent of how she changed the momentum of the Olympic final against Sweden in Canada's favour. Her two goals didn't hurt, either. How fortunate she is to be the understudy to one of the greatest players to ever lace up the soccer boots, especially because they play the same position and have the same team-first demeanour.

To nobody's surprise, the match ended in a lopsided score in favour of the ladies in red. What a performance and welcome home for all of the players, and what a gift for all of us in the stands to witness the celebration unfold.



FLICKR PHOTO

TOP: Canada's gold medal-winning women's soccer team salute the fans at TD Place Stadium prior to kick-off; **MIDDLE:** Captain Christine Sinclair (right) and Janine Beckie put on a dazzling display of soccer against an over-matched New Zealand team; and **ABOVE:** The jubilation erupts in Tokyo seconds after Julia Grosso netted the gold medal-winning goal in a tense shootout against Sweden.



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PETER CROAL PHOTO

Indeed! A beleaguered LRT train swallowed up by a giant sinkhole festoons the Marlowe Crescent front lawn of residents Nick Masciantonio and Leslie Swartman. The couple have been creating distinctive "Marlowe'en " displays since 2005, and this year's "LRT meets Sink Hole" theme is one of their best efforts yet.

A Message from the Board of Directors of the *The Mainstreeter*

To the many residents of Old Ottawa East who volunteered their time and energy to help us produce and distribute *The Mainstreeter* in 2021

WE SURE NOTICED...

*and we couldn't have done it without you...
our sincere thanks to you all!*

Costly lot at 67 Springhurst

Informal plan proposes intense densification

JOHN DANCE

This past summer, the two-storey red brick and stucco house and its large double lot at 67 Springhurst Avenue, across from The Corners on Main, went up for sale with an asking price of \$2.8 million.

Chris Jalkotzy, the planner/designer for one of the people interested in purchasing the property, has developed an initial proposal for the lot that would see two triplexes on Springhurst and, behind them, eight townhouses, each with a secondary dwelling unit, for a total of at least 22 units.

As of this writing, the lot remains unsold and the interested party Jalkotzy represents has not bought the property. However, Jalkotzy is organizing a meeting with neighbouring residents to discuss possibilities for the site.

“As you can imagine, we have ideas about how the mix of ‘market rate housing, affordable rents, rent to own and cohousing’ could be brought together, but because we want ‘heavy emphasis on local community social sustainability’ and we have not yet had any discussion with the community, so plans could and maybe should change dramatically,” Jalkotzy explained in an email.

Although neither Jalkotzy nor the potential buyer has made a formal submission of plans to the City, there has been what the City calls “pre-consultation,”

whereby a developer may discuss proposals with both City staff and members of the community association who have signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) pledging not to divulge any part of the discussion until a formal submission is filed with the City. Through this process, the developer gains some understanding of City and community perspectives while the community gets to provide initial comments.

In this case, since the real estate agent for the lot included a slightly revised proposal on its website, the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) requested that its representatives no longer be bound by the NDA, and this was agreed to.

The OOECA reps at the “pre-consultation” have a number of concerns about the initial proposal that is now on the table. They think there are too many units for the 86 x 165 foot lot; the side yards are inadequate; there is inadequate provision for the townhouses’ residents to access the proposed gardens at the rear; the driveway serving the underground parking of the townhouses is too narrow and limiting; there appears to be no provision for trees; and traffic and parking problems on Springhurst are foreseen especially as the redevelopment of the Sisters’ former convent property proceeds. OOECA is also concerned that the townhouses’ secondary units would end

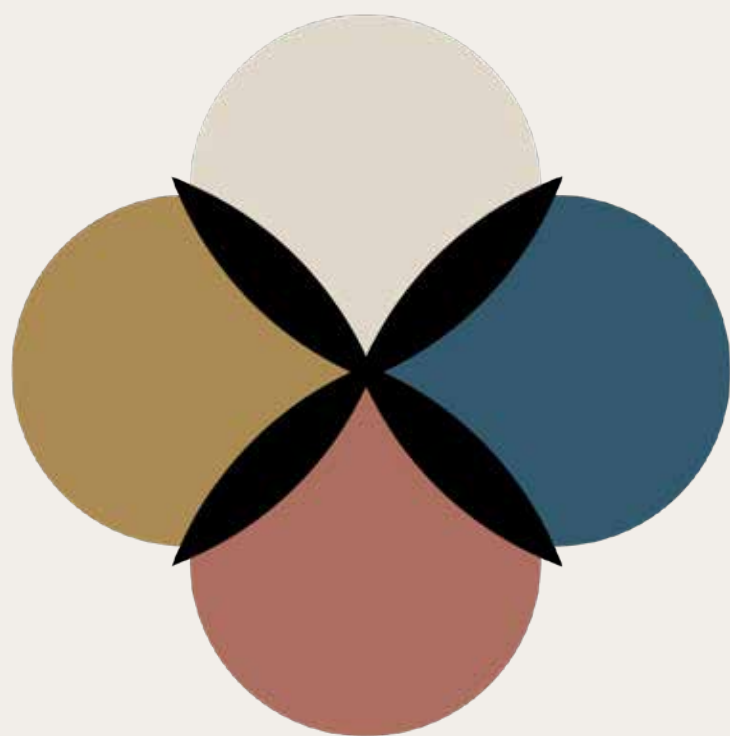


JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The lot at 67 Springhurst Avenue is for sale with an asking price of \$2.8 million. One prospective purchaser has made an initial proposal to build two triplexes and eight townhouses on the lot.

up as Airbnb units and not as affordable housing, an outcome that could generate more parking issues and other problems.

Editor's Note: John Dance is chair of the OOECA planning committee.



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BE THE CHANGE

Across the Rideau River

On making the grass greener on the other side

JAMIE BROUGHAM

As strange as it may sound, I'm happy that the other side of the Rideau River across from Old Ottawa East is contaminated land that used to be a garbage dump. Were it otherwise, there might very well be a string of high-rise condos and a sea of pavement and cement instead of the naturalized area we enjoy today.

I've written to the National Capital Commission (NCC) to ask them their plans for the area, and it appears that they are content to sit on the lands with no plans at all. According to their response, the NCC considers the area to have non-national value, and they advise that investing in more than the current bike path would not be within their mandate.

In my discussions with the NCC, I suggested that, with the support of Sustainable Living Ottawa East, there could be community interest in planting and 'cleaning up' the area. By cleaning up, I mean cutting fallen trees that cross paths, perhaps spreading wood chips for trails, trimming to promote growth of more desirable species, some vegetation management, and generally making the area more inviting.

It seems likely, however, given the potential for liability, that nothing will

happen to enhance the social value of this land if the NCC is unwilling to lead the charge.

As the discussions were wrapping up, the NCC provided me with the last environmental assessment report done in the area. As I understood from reading it, the area is safe for surface engagement because it has a soil cap. Exposure to contamination could occur when digging. The report's example of significant risk was utility workers excavating deep holes that have significant methane build-up (a by-product from rotting garbage that is not exposed to oxygen) potentially causing suffocation. While there are metals and other significant contaminants in the soil, the report provides that not digging deeper than a foot or two down should minimize potential exposure. While ground water that leaks into the Rideau River does have contaminants, given the volume of water in the Rideau, there was no significant difference in water quality downstream from the location than upstream, according to the report.

I wrote back to the NCC but didn't get a response, so I'm left to speculate on the next steps. Here are my thoughts. I think if something is to be done, it will first of all



SUPPLIED MAP

Visions of a Vincent Massey-like park on the other side of the Rideau River.


require a plan that insulates the NCC from liability. Even then, the NCC would not likely approve a plan for their land that they are not spearheading. And finally, any plan for NCC land in the Capital Region must help foster a greater National Capital region that reflects Canada for Canadians and visitors to Ottawa.

With the NCC's mandate in mind, I can point to a couple of features of the Hurdman area that might make developing the land worth the NCC's effort. Area residents and tourists can now easily access the land with the LRT. There is a significant vista overlooking much of the city. Trees have grown now to cover the view of Parliament Hill, however, in the winter, the Peace Tower

is visible from the top of the hill. Much of the area is well suited for track sports - running, skiing, and BMX. The area, particularly with more and better paths, would be tailor-made for engaging nature in the City, giving thousands of people the mental and physical health benefits of being in the great outdoors. I envision the area becoming something more like Vincent Massey Park.

By developing the shoreline in an environmentally responsible manner, there could be an access point to the historic Rideau River with an opportunity to paddle, or simply to sit ashore and admire the beauty. It's true that nearby Dow's Lake

Continued on Page 18



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JAMIE BROUGHAM PHOTO

Creating a 'nationally significant' park on the other side of the Rideau River - the challenge would lie in convincing the NCC.

Greener on the other side

Continued from Page 17

offers canoeing, but the built shoreline and the plastic paddles hardly represent a truly Canadian experience in nature. By comparison, the Rideau River is far safer for paddling than the Ottawa River and is much prettier.

This leads me to another vision for the area. When I was recently in Germany, off the side of a paved path, there was an 'oasis beer garden.' The outdoor pub had a bicycle parking lot, it was within walking distance of many residences, and yet it was in a fairly narrow, wooded area next to

an apple orchard in a densely-populated community. When I went by it was filled with locals enjoying themselves. I just could not rid my mind of what a bridge across the Rideau at the end of Clegg Street would mean with a beer garden just off the other side's bike path.

The hardest thing about effecting change on the other side of the Rideau is not so much developing ideas but rather convincing those who 'own' the land to buy in. The other side of the river could be a significant asset that would make our 15-minute community here in Old Ottawa East even more complete with a beautiful 'nationally significant' park.



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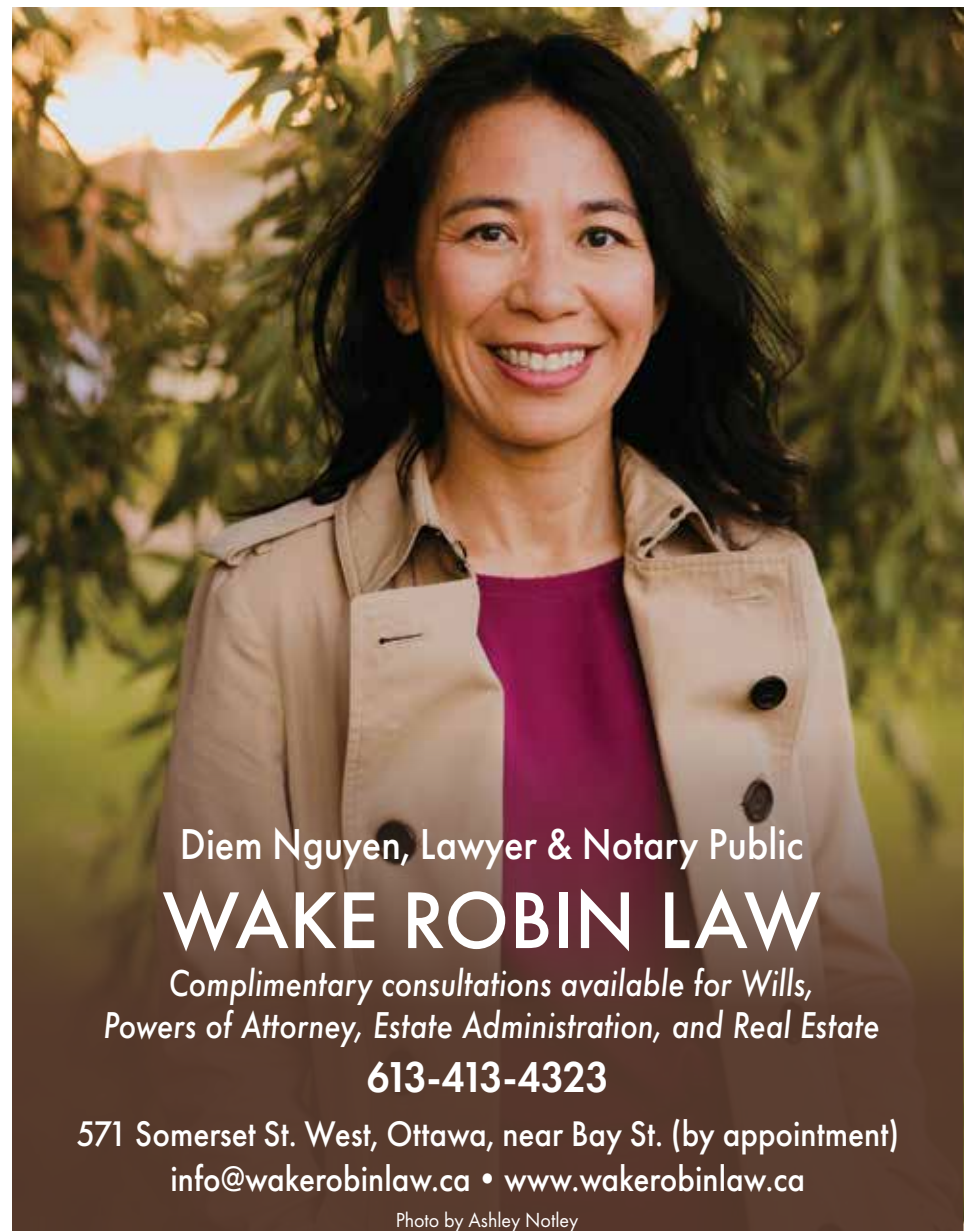
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Photo by Ashley Notley

First Halloween in Canada!

"We decided not to rush to conclusions..."

In our October issue, *The Mainstreeter* featured Andrei and Lena Davedianov, newcomers to Old Ottawa East, who shared their first impressions of our community and contrasted them with the life they knew in their homeland of Russia. In this latest installment, the couple describes their first exposure to the strange and spooky holiday that is Halloween in Canada.

ANDREI & LENA DAVEDIANOV

It is amazing to have an opportunity to see different cultures. It is stretching to see the differences and so heartwarming to see similarities with the familiar.

October gave us this chance. At the beginning of the month, we started seeing strange "graveyards" appearing in the neighborhood. Then various skeletons, skulls, witches, black cats, ghosts inhabited the porches and front yards. Although it was a nice distraction from the usual autumn blues, these things made us cringe, especially in the evenings.

You see, in our home country, nobody decorates houses for the fall. And decoration with scary things is something unheard of. Maybe because 70% of people in Russia live in constant stress and avoid adding more stress to their lives. We decided not to rush to conclusions; it felt like the neighbors were trying to create an atmosphere and we wanted to be part of it. So we bought candy

and the kids prepared costumes.

On Halloween night we left the candy on the porch and took a walk in the neighborhood to feel the atmosphere. And what a fun celebration it was! First, we have never seen so many people outside; Old Ottawa East is such a busy neighbourhood after all. We witnessed the beautiful sense of community; people were willing to contribute to everyone's celebration. Kids and adults in fun costumes, cheerful and a bit spooky hosts, and fearless visitors. Little kids, teenagers, and adults – all having fun.

We saw the "newsmaking" LRT installation and loved that you can laugh at stressful situations. We heard the pumpkin-head fiddle player by the park and loved his willingness to invest in the fun for others, rather than just expecting to be entertained. The atmosphere of joint celebration, the welcoming of strangers, the good cheer was shared by everyone. It is wonderful that it is safe here to let kids walk in the neighbourhood and know that they will enjoy it so much and remember this mood



ANDREI & LENA DAVEDIANOV

for their whole life.

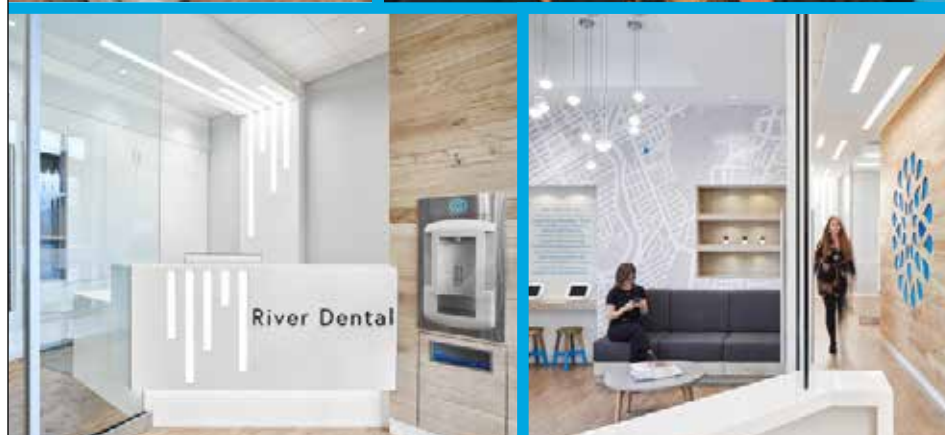
The Halloween celebration reminded us about the New Year celebration in Russia. Historically, the New Year's Eve became one of the main and the most fun holidays. We also try to create a holiday atmosphere for the children on this day. We decorate our homes, set up New Year trees, and "Ded Moroz" (the Russian Santa) brings gifts under the tree. Everywhere children go during the holiday week, they get lots of candy. So the "sugar overdose" that happened with us on Halloween here does happen in Russia, just two months later.

It is common to hold costume parties on New Year's Eve. One doesn't see many scary characters' costumes, but Elsas, Red Riding Hoods, Snow Whites, robots, pirates, and fun animals are everywhere. People usually

invite guests around 10 PM and have a big dinner together. It is almost mandatory to stay up at least until midnight. Children usually like to brag about how late they were up on New Year's night.

At midnight, after the president's address on TV, people go outside and greet each other. It is the most crowded night of the winter. People set off fireworks and it is quite loud outside until at least 1AM when some finally decide to go home to sleep. This is how we welcome the New Year in Russia.

Seeing parallels between cultures helps to overcome the differences and appreciate the uniqueness of everyone. Thank you for letting us see part of your uniqueness during this holiday. And we promise not to set off fireworks in the neighbourhood on New Year's night.



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La croissance de la francophonie dans les écoles du Vieil Ottawa-Est

ZACHARIE LANDRY

L'éducation est au cœur d'une communauté dynamique et forte. À Ottawa, où près de 40 % de la population parle un certain niveau de français, il est de la plus haute importance que l'éducation française soit accessible à tous les groupes d'âge. C'est pourquoi, dans le quartier diversifié du Vieil Ottawa-Est, des écoles ont fait l'effort d'assurer et de soutenir la culture francophone en offrant des cours et des programmes en français.

« Dis-moi et j'oublie. Montre-moi et je me souviens. Implique-moi et je comprends » est une citation importante pour l'école élémentaire catholique Au Cœur d'Ottawa, et l'école essaie de l'appliquer à chaque étape de leur éducation. Pour Au Cœur d'Ottawa, ils sont fiers de partager la culture francophone par l'utilisation de diverses musiques et de chansons. Dans les classes d'Au Cœur d'Ottawa, « les élèves peuvent vibrer au rythme de musiques francophones, et ce, chaque semaine, par l'entremise d'un duel de chansons francophones », dit la gestionnaire des affaires publiques et communications, Isabelle Beaudoin. Cette pratique a été un succès, car l'école rapporte que les enfants ont pu « accroître leur vocabulaire et surtout reconnaître les différents styles musicaux ».

En ce qui concerne l'enseignement supérieur, l'Université Saint-Paul a constaté que la collaboration avec des parties extérieures fonctionne très bien pour préserver l'identité francophone de l'école. Chantal Beauvais, rectrice à l'Université Saint-Paul dit que l'école « a travaillé très fort avec les collèges comme La Cité et Collège Boréal ». Saint-Paul crée des liens entre les programmes universitaires et collégiaux, permettant à l'enseignement supérieur en français d'atteindre un public le plus large possible. Mme Beauvais dit aussi que quand l'Université « embauche une personne -- un professeur ou un employé -- on s'assure que la personne est capable de s'exprimer en français ». Depuis l'arrivée de Mme Beauvais à Saint-Paul en 2009, le taux d'étudiants francophones à l'institution est passé d'environ 33 % à 50 %. Bien que ces pratiques puissent demander beaucoup de suivi, elles ont sans aucun doute contribué à l'essor d'une communauté francophone.

À l'égard des plus jeunes générations,

Rainbow Kidschool aide à créer des environnements confortables pour que les enfants de tous milieux se réunissent à travers leurs activités extra-scolaires. Roxeanne Marberl, la directrice de l'école, dit qu'ils « prennent des enfants à la fois de l'école élémentaire publique Francojeunesse et d'Au Cœur d'Ottawa ». Marberl déclare que Rainbow Kidschool a des éducateurs bilingues. Cela crée un foyer sûr et inclusif, et permet aux étudiants français de se sentir à l'aise avec leur identité tout en rencontrant des enfants de cultures diverses.

Quant aux lycéens, Immaculata High School prépare ses élèves pour le monde adulte en leur faisant passer des examens qui donnent au bachelier un Diplôme d'études en langue française. Le DELF est administré par l'ambassade de France et certifie que les étudiants ont des capacités en français. Lisa Shea, chef du Département des Langues Vivantes à Immaculata, dit que « plusieurs étudiants en immersion prendront des cours en français à l'Université d'Ottawa dans le cadre de leur programme d'immersion », ce qui démontre l'importance pour Immaculata de s'assurer que ses élèves sont prêts pour des carrières en français.

Avec un campus situé sur l'avenue Lees, l'Université d'Ottawa, la plus grande université bilingue anglais-français au monde, est capable d'offrir des opportunités aux francophones du Vieil Ottawa-Est. Isabelle Mailloux, chef des relations de presse, souligne que « la richesse de notre bilinguisme et notre engagement à faire rayonner la francophonie au sein d'un environnement culturel exceptionnel font partie de nos plus fières réalisations ». À l'Université d'Ottawa, « la francophonie occupe une place privilégiée » parmi leurs recherches et leurs programmes d'études. Au campus Lees en particulier, l'Université loge plusieurs unités académiques, y compris la faculté des sciences de la santé. Depuis le jour où l'Université d'Ottawa a occupé le terrain et les bâtiments du campus Lees, l'école a maintenu un engagement ferme à offrir des possibilités aux étudiants français et anglais, permettant ainsi à un milieu universitaire culturellement diversifié de se développer.

Pour les étudiants de tous âges, le Vieil Ottawa-Est abrite une variété de centres éducatifs qui répondent aux besoins de la communauté francophone du quartier. À travers des mesures



d'encadrement managérial, des programmes académiques, et même des activités ludiques, l'enseignement français est pris au sérieux à tous les niveaux dans le voisinage. Tant que ces écoles

continueront dans cette même direction, le Vieil Ottawa-Est ne fera que devenir une lueur d'espoir plus prononcée pour le multiculturalisme dans la capitale du pays.

The growth of Francophonie in Old Ottawa East schools

ZACHARIE LANDRY

Education is at the heart of a vibrant and strong community. In Ottawa, where nearly 40% of the population speaks some level of French, it is of utmost importance that French education be accessible to all age groups. That is why schools in the diverse neighbourhood of Old Ottawa East have tried to ensure and support Francophone culture by offering courses and programs in French.

"Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand" is an important quote for Au Cœur d'Ottawa Catholic Elementary School, and the school tries to apply it to every stage of their education. At Au Cœur d'Ottawa, they take pride in sharing Francophone culture through the use of various music and songs. In Au Cœur d'Ottawa classrooms, "students can tap to the rhythm of Francophone music every week through a Francophone song duel," says Isabelle Beaudoin, Manager of Public Affairs and Communications. This practice has been a success, as the school reports that the children have been able to "increase their vocabulary and especially recognize the different musical styles."

In terms of higher education, St. Paul University has found that collaboration with outside parties works very well to preserve the school's Francophone identity. Chantal

Beauvais, Rector at St. Paul's University says that the school "has worked very hard with colleges such as La Cité and Collège Boréal." St. Paul creates links between university and college programs, allowing higher education in French to reach the widest possible audience. Beauvais also says that when the university "hires a person -- a professor or an employee -- we make sure that the person is capable of expressing him or herself in French." Since Beauvais arrived at St. Paul in 2009, the rate of Francophone students at the institution has risen from about 33% to 50%. While these practices may require a great deal of follow-up, they have undoubtedly contributed to the growth of a Francophone community.

For the younger generation, Rainbow Kidschool helps create comfortable environments for children of all backgrounds to come together through their extracurricular activities. Roxeanne Marberl, the school's principal, says they "take children from both Francojeunesse public elementary school and Au Cœur d'Ottawa." Marberl says Rainbow Kidschool has bilingual educators. This creates a safe and inclusive home and allows French students to feel comfortable with their identity while meeting children from diverse cultures.

With respect to high school students,

Continued on Page 24



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The hallway leading to the Indigenous Centre at Saint Paul University features a mural of a turtle, a key symbol for the First Peoples of Canada.

Indigenous initiatives launched at Saint Paul University

PHYLLIS ODENBACH SUTTON

Following from The Truth and Reconciliation Report and Universities Canada's calls to action, Saint Paul University (SPU) has introduced a number of indigenous initiatives - actions that the university's Rector, Chantal Beauvais, hopes will take root in the institution and be embraced by everybody. *The Mainstreeter* recently met with Beauvais to learn more about SPU's strategic plan to support Transformative Leadership, heal broken human relationships and open a respectful dialogue with Canada's first peoples.

During the meeting, Beauvais outlined some of the wide-ranging measures recently introduced by the university related to Indigenous peoples.

Currently, approximately four per cent of SPU's student population self-identify as Indigenous. The university believes there may be more indigenous students but recognizes that people need to feel safe in order to self-identify. Many of SPU's initiatives focus on creating "cultural safety".

One such initiative is the new Indigenous Centre, designed by an Indigenous architect, and open to the entire SPU community. The Centre currently has two knowledge keepers on staff (one Algonquin, one Métis), with a new coordinator expected to be in place shortly. Student feedback has been very positive. Indeed, according to Beauvais, "Indigenous students feel at home, in part because their cultural symbols are also there, and for them, that is very, very important and reassuring." The Centre has also become a preferred spot for many

international students, some of whom have faced similar challenges in their own countries; they feel connected with the place, Beauvais notes, and culturally safe in its environment.

SPU has also created an indigenization committee made up of professors, deans, senior administration and Indigenous knowledge keepers. The goal of this committee is to examine indigenization across all programs, take steps to decolonize academia and incorporate Indigenous perspectives on knowledge. According to Beauvais, this is viewed as a long-term project, again because it needs to be embraced by everybody.

Another recent measure introduced by SPU is the mandatory undergraduate course, First Peoples of Canada, offered in both French and English. This course covers the Indigenous history of the entire country. A handful of professors teach the course, with input from the knowledge keepers and the indigenization committee. It is very important to SPU that the course is accurate and culturally relevant. During the discussion, Beauvais advised that she grew up in Algonquin territory northwest of Quebec but did not have much knowledge of Indigenous peoples at that time. From her perspective, one of the best remedies to overcome this lack of understanding is education. She noted that most of the students at SPU have been amazed by what they have learned in the mandatory course and shocked about what they did not know. The students are changed after they have completed the course, Beauvais says, and the outcome is that the students are becoming allies.

The university has also established a number of bridging programs with

Indigenous colleges which allow students to link their college diplomas with SPU's bachelor degrees, primarily the Bachelor's in Human Relations and Spirituality and the Bachelor's in Social Innovation.

SPU is actively seeking support from many organizations to sponsor scholarships for Indigenous students, many of whom are traveling here from a remote community and thus face high transportation costs. Although students may receive scholarships from their Band Councils and from other Indigenous organizations, those awards do not

necessarily cover all expenses.

Finally, the university has partnered with the Indigenous Women of Quebec organization to provide leadership/empowerment training so that women can become leaders in their communities. This program was co-designed by the organization and the university with the goal of ensuring that the courses offered are respectful of cultures and spiritualities. At the moment, only an English cohort is offered, but it is hoped that SPU will soon offer a French cohort as well.



Saint Paul University's Remembrance Day Ceremony - L to R: Chantal Beauvais, University Rector; Marie-Louise Perron, Knowledge Keeper; Chaplain-Colonel (Retired) Sylvain Maurais, CD ; Anne-Marie Habyalimana, Coordinator of Pastoral Services; Sharp Dopler CD Lt. (Navy) Retired, alumni; and Mizel Gauthier, Knowledge Keeper.

The Mainstreeter
2022 Production Schedule

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Issue # 4		
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Issue # 5		
September 9, 2022	September 23, 2022	October 7, 2022
Issue # 6		
November 14, 2022	November 28, 2022	December 9, 2022

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Heather Jarrett: Passionate advocate for the community & the environment

THERESA WALLACE

If you enjoy the soccer, basketball, ping-pong, play structures for kids and adults, riverbank walk and wide-open spaces of Springhurst Park and you're happy it doesn't yet have an elevated four-lane road right beside it, one of the people to thank is Heather Jarrett, who moved to Old Ottawa East in 1994 and spent years fighting the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC).

"Between 2000 and 2007 that battle heated up and completely took over my life," admits Jarrett, who along with Sandy Hill's John Legg was a key leader in the City centre coalition that fought the building of a highway from Conroy Road in the south through Alta Vista and over the Rideau River into Springhurst Park, potentially dumping more cars and trucks than available capacity onto Nicholas Street, Lees Avenue and the Queensway.

Mason Terrace resident Don Fugler met Heather decades ago when a fledgling group of neighbours worked in opposition to the AVTC. In recent years, they've become part of a dynamic bridge foursome with fellow community activists Jan D'Arcy and Paul Goodkey. "Heather brought her considerable professional knowledge in environmental assessments to the table when we were working against the AVTC being in the official plan," Fugler explains. "I remember her being tenacious and passionate back then, and that hasn't changed. She's a lot of fun to play bridge with, too."

Despite the significance of that fight, Jarrett's opposition to the AVTC represents only a small part of her contribution to life in Old Ottawa East. Through her longtime involvement with the community association, *The Mainstreeter*—she has not only delivered the paper for decades, but she was also an original member of the board of directors and drafted the bylaws with Jan D'Arcy—and the neighbourhood at large, Jarrett has been involved in almost every major community improvement in Old Ottawa East over the past couple of decades.

Clive Doucet, former city councillor for Capital Ward, was part of a lunchtime running group that included

THE MAINSTREETER'S VOLUNTEER DISTRIBUTORS

[This is one in an occasional series of profiles spotlighting the volunteers who bring *The Mainstreeter* to your door.]



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Heather Jarrett and her husband John are pictured here overlooking the Rideau River.

Heather Jarrett back in the 1980s when they were both public servants. "Heather was a great runner. We trained together for the 10K Montée de la Gatineau, a race on the hills in Gatineau Park, and we became good friends," Doucet says. "I'm not surprised Heather is still fighting the good fight in Old Ottawa East. All her life, she has been committed to community."

Jarrett grew up on a dairy farm near Kingston and says her volunteer ethos flows directly from both her father, who is in the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame, and her mother, who was active in the Anglican church. Jarrett's first job with the feds was at Labour Canada, but subsequently she moved to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office and worked on environmental assessments for much of her career. (For over two decades, she also captained a dragon boat that started out being mostly co-workers and she also served on the race committee for the dragon boat festival.)

Heather Jarrett and her husband, painter John Jarrett, now live in Phase One of The Corners on Main (TCOM). When asked what Heather brings to TCOM, neighbour Monica Helm said, "What doesn't she bring? Heather delivers *The Mainstreeter* to us, works on the community association membership drive, spearheaded our protest when the city approved nine storeys for

building 2B in Greystone Village. She is one of the key people who helps maintain our courtyard garden. Her feisty passion, combined with her droll sense of humour, keep us talking and engaged. We're so very glad she chose to live at TCOM!"

Jarrett says, "I have always looked at community as an extension of family. I believe inclusivity is really important. The Buy Nothing site, the Grapevine, the people who help the turtles, the woman who coordinates the puzzle exchange—all these things make a more inclusive community. Things that work against inclusivity are, for example, the board of *The Mainstreeter* requiring the Old Ottawa East community association to pay for their columns in the paper, and the corner of Greystone Village that has closed itself off and called its sidewalks and roads private."

Jarrett, who is 78, doesn't run anymore, but she walks along the Rideau River every day, sometimes alone, sometimes with her husband John. "My favourite thing about Old Ottawa East is something I have not had a role in," Jarrett says. "It's the river. I love it. Every time we walk along the river, I see at least one person I know and say hello to and can chat with."

"I have a big family here, which is amazing and quite wonderful."

Nicolas St-Pierre:

From the pages of *The Mainstreeter* to the international stage

Continued from Page 11

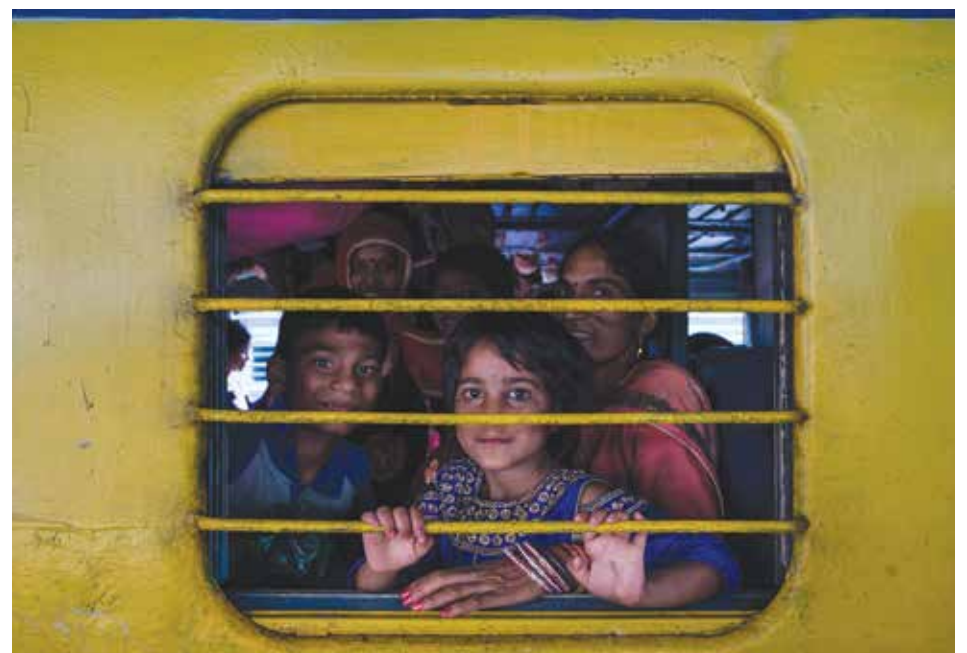
those that currently appeal to me the most."

The award-winning images in *Where Have the Birds Gone?*, which St-Pierre captured during his time in Japan, are not easily described or simple to understand, nor are they intended to be, according to the photographer. He has described the contents of his breakthrough book in the following words:

"From 2015-19, I had the amazing opportunity of living in Japan. During the four years that I lived there, I spent countless hours exploring on foot the streets and back alleys of Tokyo. Almost

every day, I was stopped dead in my own tracks by the unexpected sight of something that did not belong to the scene, or the deafening silence of something that cried out to be there.

"Despite all the time and efforts that I had invested to learn Japanese and acquaint myself with local culture, I was never able to completely shake off the impression that I had set foot in a strange land. The photographs presented in *Where Have the Birds Gone?* constitute my own attempt at rendering the sense of alienation and unease that I felt while living in Japan, and which will be so familiar to those who have visited the country."



The urban artistry of photographer Nicolas St-Pierre was first published in *The Mainstreeter* in October 2019.

Growth of Francophonie in OOE schools

Continued from Page 20

Immaculata High School prepares its students for the adult world by administering exams that give the graduate a Diplôme d'études en langue française. The DELF is administered by the French Embassy and certifies that students have French language skills. Lisa Shea, Head of the Department of Modern Languages at Immaculata, says that "many immersion students will be taking courses in French at the University of Ottawa as part of their immersion program," which underlines the importance for Immaculata to ensure that its students are ready for careers in French.

With a campus located on Lees Avenue, the University of Ottawa, the largest English-French bilingual university in the world, is able to offer opportunities to Francophones in Old Ottawa East. Isabelle Mailloux, Head of Media Relations, says, "The richness of

our bilingualism and our commitment to promoting Francophonie in an exceptional cultural environment are among our proudest achievements."

At the University of Ottawa, "Francophonie occupies a special place" among its research and study programs. At the Lees campus in particular, the University houses several academic units, including the Faculty of Health Sciences. Since the day the University of Ottawa occupied the land and buildings of the Lees Campus, the school has maintained a strong commitment to providing opportunities for both French and English students, allowing a culturally diverse academic environment to develop.

For students of all ages, Old Ottawa East is home to a variety of educational centres that cater to the needs of the neighbourhood's Francophone community. Through managerial supporting measures, academic programs, and even recreational activities, French education is taken seriously at all levels in the neighbourhood.

As long as these schools continue in this same direction, Old Ottawa East will only become a more pronounced beacon of hope for multiculturalism in our nation's capital.

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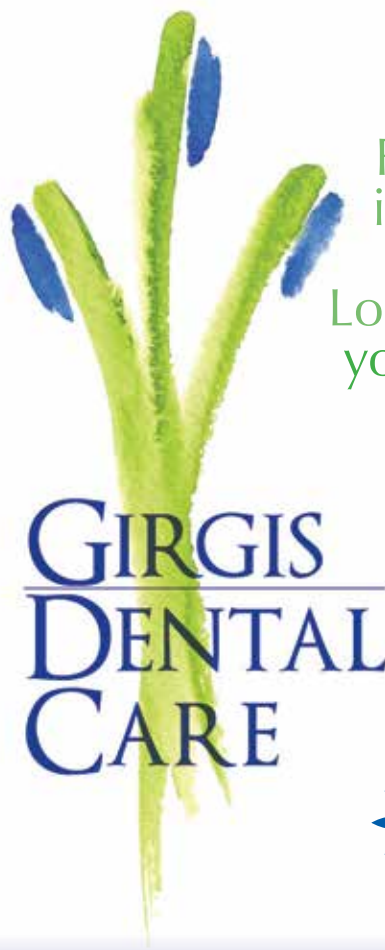
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Brantwood Rink retirements, renewal and restoration

JOHN DANCE

As the Brantwood Park Rink gears up for another season, Cindy Courtemanche and Marco DeNigris are retiring after a remarkable 12 years of managing the volunteer operation that continues to provide winter delight and escape for residents of all ages.

Back in 2008, the couple answered the urgent call for a replacement of the long-serving Don McCanse, unaware the task would last for more than a decade. "What the heck was I thinking?" Courtemanche says as she reflects back on volunteering while also a mother of a four- and a six-year old and having a full-time job.

She tells the story of returning from the ski hills and checking how the rink was rather than going straight home with her daughter, Amelia, who asked, "Can't we just go home, Mom?"

But the rink is a bit of an obsession for many of those who live in Old Ottawa East. While all of the outdoor rinks in the City are important for winter life, Brantwood is special, says Courtemanche. Part of the reason is the rink doesn't have boards, so that hockey becomes a game of finesse. If you shoot hard and miss the net, the puck may end up buried deep in a snow bank or even out on the Rideau River.

Also, the rink is, as Courtemanche puts it, "very unstructured." The only reserved time has been for a joint Sandy Hill

Community Health Centre/Community Activities Group program to teach new immigrants how to skate. So this means that anybody at almost any time can drop down for a skate or shinny on the adjoining large and medium-sized surfaces.

After seven years, Courtemanche decided to step down as Brantwood czarina but, again, nobody jumped up to replace her. So, sometime later, her husband Marco stepped into the breach and continued on until this year.

They both note how much the rink is a team effort. Volunteers work hours on end to get it going at the beginning of the season and every night they come out to renew the surface. Indeed, a shinny-playing senator has commented that Brantwood has the best ice of any community outdoor rink in Ottawa. And it's also often the first rink to open and the last to close each year.

Other volunteers contribute in other ways. For instance, Claire Frechette has maintained the books of the operation

since 2008. She ensures there is a sound record of the use of the modest City grant that allows the hiring of teenagers to ensure the safe use of the rink and to do the critical pre-flood scraping of the ice. And, as has been the case for many years, Mike Galazka plows the ice after heavy snowfalls with Jim Naida lending a hand when the snow is particularly deep.

Greystone Village resident Louis Denis has stepped forward to become the new rink coordinator. Shortly after moving to Old Ottawa East, Denis became a "hoser" and after his first year of volunteering was named "Hoser of the Year."

Growing up in Cornwall, Denis played and worked on outdoor rinks and he was delighted to find a rink almost on his doorstep when he moved here. When he's not recruiting volunteers and teenage attendants for the rink, you may just see him out there with his grandson on Old Ottawa East's winter jewel.

More volunteers are needed for the nightly flooding. Volunteers are assigned to one of four teams and each volunteer "hoser" generally floods only about six or seven evenings during the course of the season. Flooding takes anywhere from one to two hours and the task is done with another team member.

If you would like to become a Brantwood Rink hozer, please contact Louis Denis, the new rink czar, at brantwood.rink@gmail.com.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

New rink czar Louis Denis (centre) presented outgoing czarina Cindy Courtemanche and czar Marco DeNigris with the Hoser of the Year award.

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ART BEAT



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OOE ARTIST FEATURE: PETER FOWLER - NOT A WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER!

Photographer Peter Fowler is more than meets the eye. He is an optometrist who has been in practice in Manotick for 46 years. He is a musician in a band, with whom he has performed since his university days. (I am not allowed to talk about that in this feature!) And he is a photographer and Photo Editor for *The Mainstreeter*.

In addition to accepting photo assignments—like shooting the recent Canadian women's soccer team match against New Zealand during their Olympic gold medal Celebration Tour at TD Place—Fowler has also held what he describes as the “honorary position” of Photo Editor for the newspaper's Travel Photos feature. “For about five years we have invited readers to submit their travel photos and I make the selections for publication,” he explains. “I have been impressed with the quality of the submissions.”

He has also shot several photographic series on Halloween displays, Christmas displays, and the gates of Old Ottawa East, for example. “We have endless subjects to capture in this neighbourhood,” he says. “I love to get on my bike or walk around in search of them. When people ask what I'm up to, I am always proud to say that I am shooting for *The Mainstreeter*.” Soon, Fowler plans to shoot Old Ottawa East sculptures.

Fowler was first inspired to pursue photography at age 16 when his sister gave him her old camera. He is self-taught, much like with his music. “My sister always says that I got a guitar, went into my bedroom... and four years later, I came out a guitar player!” He also credits his parents and the way that they critiqued their own photos over years of getting their 35 mm film developed. And, in university, Fowler had several friends who were architecture students at Carleton. “I learned a lot about esthetics from them,” he says. “As Frank Lloyd Wright said: ‘I believe a house is more a home by being a work of art.’” His architecture friends also had a dark room, where Fowler learned from them.

Initially, he resisted making the shift to digital photography. As an optometry student, he studied optics - depth of field, time exposure, light, and colour. Now he loves using the features digital cameras

A finger on the pulse of the arts in OOE

provide. “If colour is not important to one of my photographs, then I make it in black and white, where the focus is more on texture and shadow. Sometimes I use digital effects to impart a feel to an image. Through my work with *The Mainstreeter* I've also learned a lot about which images translate well in a newspaper.”

In the home he shares with his wife Shaun, one of their dining room walls forms an expansive photo gallery. Fowler changes out the photographs often. Currently, the gallery's theme is brides. “This particular collection of photos perhaps makes me look like a wedding photographer, but that is not the case,” he says. “I have taken photos of brides on our journeys about the world simply because of the beauty and happiness their days radiate. They almost never know of my presence.”

Fowler has created several books of photographs on various themes, such as bridges, fog, Ottawa, and two wheels. He does not shape his experiences and travel around particular themes. “The themes themselves emerge from the life I am living,” he says.

According to *The Mainstreeter* Editor Lorne Abugov, Peter's “dining room gallery” has been a source of great pleasure for Peter's friends and family over the years.

“Peter's thematic approach to photography is more than just a handy



ABOVE “I spotted this bride in Santorini, Greece, where weddings have multiple film crews. I was staying just below where the bride was staying. She had escaped to get away from the hubbub—a rare moment of freedom—allowing the breeze to blow her veil.”

BELOW LEFT “I captured the veil in the breeze while attending this wedding. The veil is about motion, but the hand on her back is the emotion.”

BOTTOM RIGHT: “At a wedding in the village of Les Eyzies de Tayac, the groom was muscled out of the way as a rag-tag band began to play. The bride—who was a member of the little local band—picked up a saxophone and began playing.”

BOTTOM LEFT: “This intimate moment between bride and groom took place at a wedding I attended in Hamilton, Ontario. The groom had arrived on a beautiful Palomino horse with a golden veil enshrouding his face. The veil had to be removed for this kiss.”

way of sorting and exhibiting his photos. I think Peter enjoys seeking commonalities and differences across cultures and continents, in people, in places, and in public and private settings.” Abugov says. “Given his portfolio of over 17,000 images, and his tendency to compare and contrast his subject matter over space and time, he

has virtually endless capability to mount thematic exhibits on that wall gallery!”

In the photo captions in this article, Fowler shares the stories behind some of the photographs in that gallery. “None of these subjects were posing for me,” he clarifies.

More recently, Fowler has been exploring the art of video making. During COVID, he created a video about the destruction of the Chapel wing of the Deschâtelets Building. “I have begun

Continued on Page 27



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: Sketching this familiar string of buildings along Hawthorne Avenue, approaching the Pretoria Bridge, I had to take a break midway to warm my drawing hand on one of the first subzero mornings of the season.

Anchoring these modest two-storey



Edwardian townhouses at Colonel By Drive is the building formerly occupied by the Royal Oak (OOE's only pub for almost 20 years) and now the future home of Gray Jay Hospitality.

Next door, Greek-on-Wheels (recently relocated) started its popular

business here almost a quarter century ago. Its east-side neighbour, Cyclo's, has rented bikes and skates to Rideau Canal visitors for 25 years.

One of the joys of drawing these buildings is getting to know the details one might not notice while going about daily business. Waiting for

the 55 bus or having a few minutes to kill while the vertical lift bridge does its thing is a good opportunity to check out the ornate balconies on the apartments and the architectural details above street level.



ARTIST FEATURE: PETER FOWLER

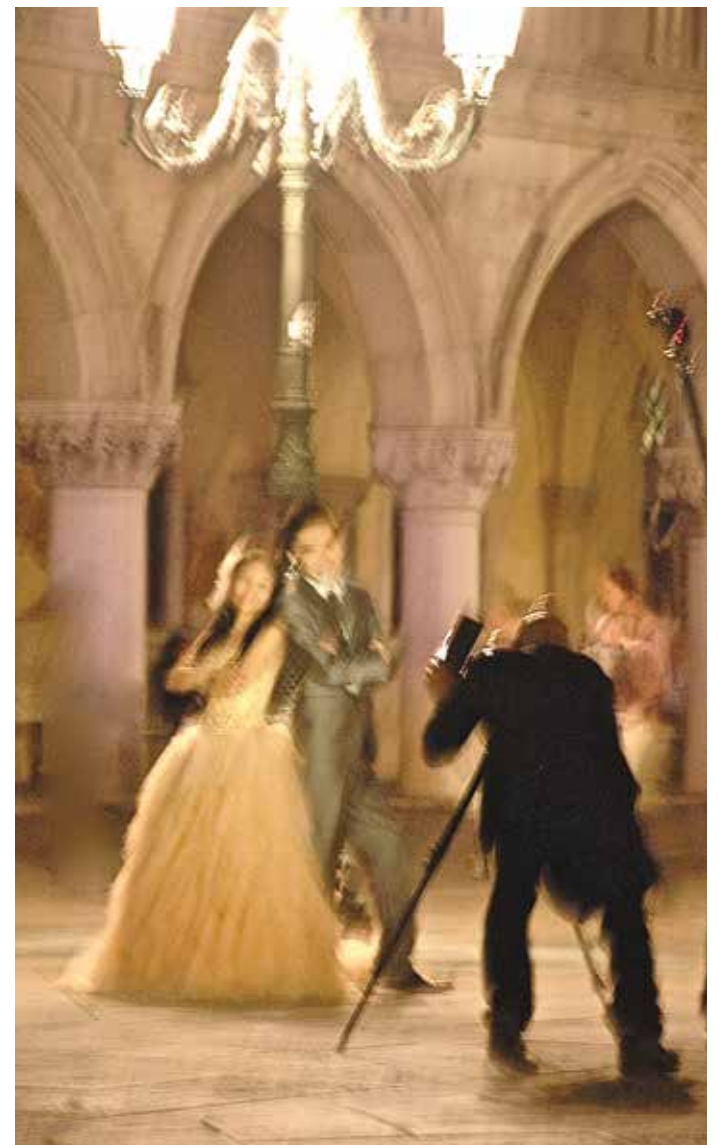
Continued from Page 26

learning more about video production and I am really enjoying this new creative chapter!"

Fowler exhibited a collection of his photographs as part of the 2021 OOE Art Tour. To see more of his work, email editor@mainstreeter.ca with the subject line "Peter Fowler".

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 if you have information about artists or art events that you believe would enrich our community members' lives.

LEFT: "The bride chasing the rainbow was in Winkler, Manitoba. Who could resist taking her photo? It was a country wedding. They went out into a field to take photographs after the ceremony. And this was a completely spontaneous moment!"; **RIGHT:** "The bride and groom under the streetlamp are in St. Mark's Square, Venice. It was their photographer that appealed to me in this shot...all hunched over and dark like the Phantom of the Opera."



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OOE Community Association AGM: New board not bored

MAINSTREETER STAFF

A new board of directors was approved at the Old Ottawa East Community Association's (OOECA) Annual General Meeting in November with Bob Gordon continuing as president and Catherine Pacella becoming the new vice-president. Other notable changes include Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay returning to the board as the chair of the Lansdowne Park committee. OOECA still needs a new secretary, and chairs of the Parks and Greenspace, and Communications committees.

Gordon outlined the association's many achievements over the last year, including the safety improvements made to the community's streets, the new facilities at Springhurst Park, the City's approval of undergrounding of the hydro wires on Hawthorne and Greenfield avenues and the northern part of Main Street, and maintaining the integrity of the community's Secondary Plan despite the City's attempt to diminish it through the new Official Plan.

He thanked the many who had contributed during the year, particularly Councillor Shawn Menard and his staff, John Jarrett who made a large donation to the association, and Ron Rose who has led many initiatives over the years.

For his part, Menard spoke of a number of budget approvals that will benefit Old Ottawa East, specifically, the rebuilding of roadways and underground services in the northern part of the community and the creation of the two new parks in Greystone Village. He also noted the significant progress that is expected with the new community centre and school in the Deschâtelets Building and the new fully signalized pedestrian crossing of Colonel By Drive at the northern end of Main Street.

Concerns raised during the "open session" included the lack of affordable housing in Greystone Village and elsewhere, the City's use of salt rather than sand on lanes, and MP Yasir Naqvi's proposed one-year closure of Colonel By Drive.

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High-speed fibre internet service continues to roll- out in Old Ottawa East

MAINSTREETER STAFF

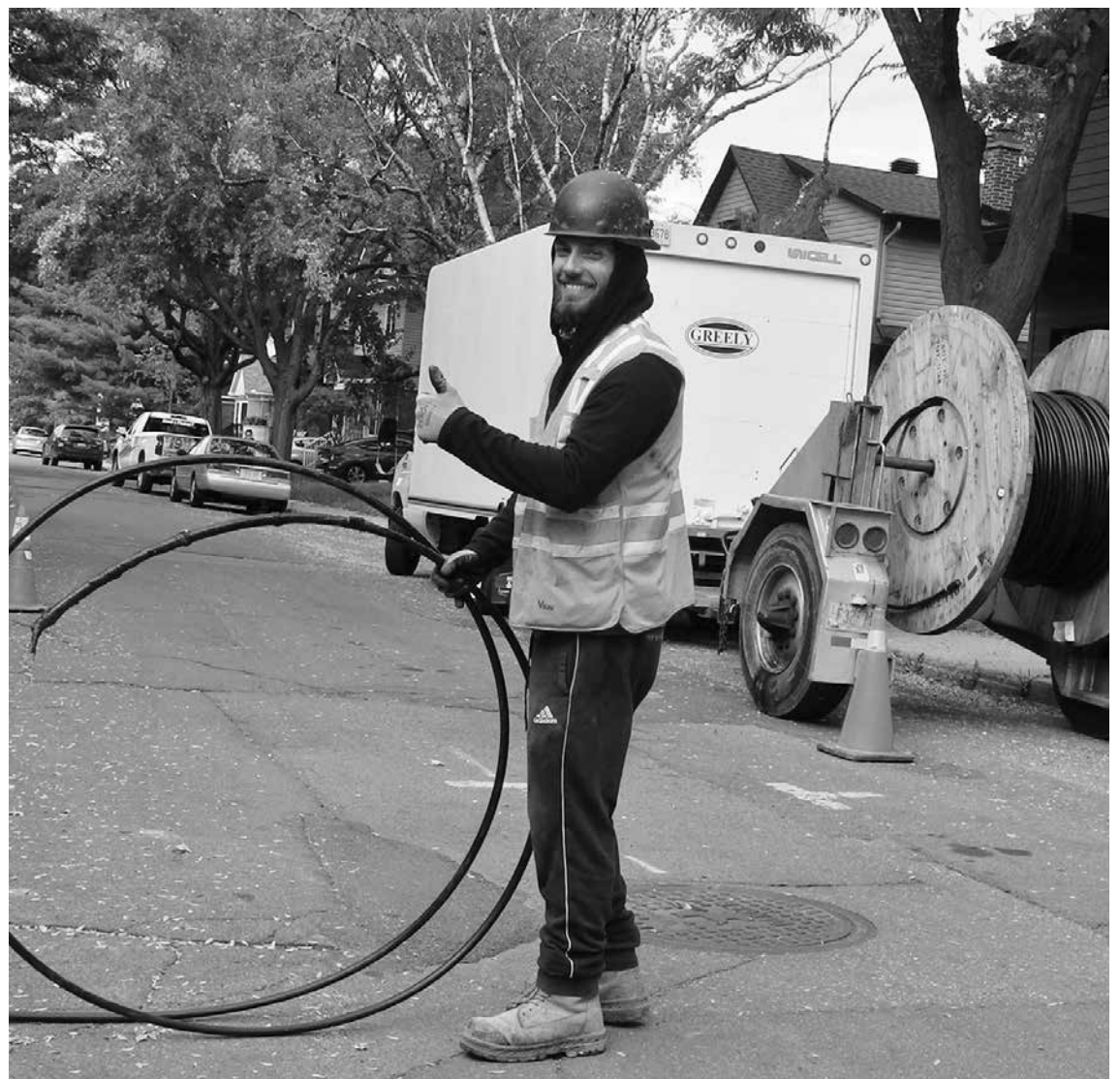
The latest extensive construction project in Old Ottawa East is Bell Canada's installation of high-speed fibre internet service to homes.

"Fibre is now available to over 500 homes in the Old Ottawa East area, and 900 more will be added in 2022," says Bell media spokesperson Jacqueline Michelis. The new, faster service has been installed in areas around the Lees campus of uOttawa, and along Greenfield and Riverdale avenues. Work is ongoing throughout the other parts of the neighbourhood.

Fibre optic cable allows much faster transmission of greater quantities of data than what can be achieved with the copper lines installed for the old telephone system and the co-axial cable traditionally used for cable television systems. Fibre will be installed to subscribers' homes and will terminate in modems that serve multiple devices in a home. Bell advertises upload speeds of up to 1.5 gigabits per second, "15 times faster than other providers."

The installation of the new lines has not been quite so fast, as the contractor must string the new lines on existing poles throughout OOE. A complicating factor has been the need to pull the new fibre cable through underground conduits in some neighbourhoods.

On Merritt and McNaughton avenues, the contractor had to contend with finding buried conduit that had been obscured by various construction efforts undertaken since the original work was conducted back in the 1940s.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Greely Construction's Tyler Dubois installs Bell Canada's new fibre optic cable on McNaughton Avenue.

POLITICAL PAGES

SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR-ELECT, CAPITAL WARD

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A NEW OFFICIAL PLAN, A NEW BUDGET AND CONTINUING LRT PROBLEMS

We've been talking about the Official Plan (OP) a lot these days. It's the foundational planning document for the City, and it was scheduled to be updated. Last month, after a lot of effort and good ideas from the community, we were able to make improvements to the OP before it was passed by City Council, and to pass a number of motions relevant to Old Ottawa East, including:

- Enhancing the Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan, ensuring it offers clear, proper guidance on the allowable heights in the area.
- Directing staff to review the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC) with the impetus to replace the proposed four-lane road with a park, next to the Lees Avenue towers, instead. The AVTC has been in City plans for half a century and, if it were ever fully built, it would rob the community of needed greenspace, while increasing congestion and pollution.
- Making changes in the OP to improve

the City's actions on climate change.

- Strengthening the City's commitment to affordable housing (we moved the target from 10-15% to 20% for new builds, created a more robust definition for what would constitute affordable housing and pushed for anti-displacement policies to be part of the zoning bylaw review that follows)
- Pushing for retention of site plan control on low rises in Capital Ward

It will be important in the years to come to keep pushing for improvements to our City, and not let powerful and monied interests continue to steamroll over established City plans. That's why I voted against the expansion of our suburbs with this plan that would benefit developers at the expense of our environment while putting pressure on already stretched services and tax bills.

2022 Budget – Progress for Old Ottawa East

I continue to be concerned about the overall City-wide budget which greatly

expands roads while investing a fraction of that amount into new affordable housing, or increases transit fares to some of the highest in North America, despite declines in ridership.

This year, we've worked directly with staff for a very local focus on Capital Ward projects that are set to receive public funding in the proposed 2022 budget.

- Funding for the Greenfield-Main-Hawthorne project has been included in the budget at \$30 million. This will include our collective and hard-won battle to bury the hydro lines on Hawthorne. The designs are just about finished, and work is expected to begin in the spring while we have an ongoing associated project, the new pedestrian crossing at Main and Colonel By/Echo, underway.
- This year's budget has funding for the anticipated Forecourt Park and Grand Allée in front of the Deschâtelets Building.
- We also recently announced that we will be proceeding with the refurbishment of the well-loved tennis courts at Brantwood Park in 2022.
- Funding is being provided to lower speed limits with gateway speed signs, associated traffic calming, and new stop signs where warranted in Old Ottawa East.

LRT Problems Continue

The LRT has just resumed after multiple derailments. The Transportation Safety Board released a damning report on the maintenance processes by the private-sector partners.

It's clear that the entire procurement process, contract and implementation of LRT has been plagued with self-inflicted problems - including the decision to go with

low-cost bids that cut quality to keep the price tag down.

In November, Councillor McKenney brought a second motion back to city council to pursue a judicial inquiry into the LRT decision-making. It was voted down 13 to 10, a sad decision that avoids accountability by the Watson Club (a group of 12 Councillors and the Mayor who have acted without independence in their votes this term) and shuts the transparency and accountability we are owed.

Vibrations on Greenfield

Last week, I met with residents, and with staff from OC Transpo and the City to address the issue of vibrations emanating from heavy traffic on Greenfield. The problem is specifically related to buses and heavy vehicles speeding over cracks and uneven sections of the road. We are working with staff to mitigate the vibrations.

In the long-run, the re-construction of Greenfield as part of the Greenfield-Main-Hawthorne should address the vibration issues, as the road should be smoother and is being re-designed to slow down traffic. That project starts next year, but it will take multiple years to complete.

In the meantime, we are implementing a number of measures to mitigate the vibrations, including:

- lowering the speed limit to 30 km/h. Slower speeds will lead to fewer vibrations.
- OC Transpo has agreed to enforce the 30 km/h limit with their drivers.
- Vibration monitors are being implemented in nearby homes.
- Public Works will be inspecting the street to fill cracks or potholes.
- We are working with staff to pay for a new speedboard on Greenfield.

Extended to Bank Street

An expanded Rideau Winter Trail awaits outdoor enthusiasts

MAINSTREETER STAFF

After a beautiful summer in the nation's capital, the thoughts of those organizing the Rideau Winter Trail (RWT) have definitely turned to winter at this point.

The RWT is a volunteer run not-for-profit trail located in the heart of the city, running along the Rideau River from Donald Street (where the Rideau Sports Centre is located) to Bank Street (more on this below), offering approximately 12 kilometres of groomed trail for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fat biking and walking.

The RWT organizers recently received funding through the Community Foundation of Canada's Healthy Communities initiative, and they are grateful for the financial support which will fund their purchase of some of their own equipment. "This is huge for our trail," says Martha Jeacle, a volunteer with the RWT. "Previously, we were reliant

on the fantastic grooming services of a contract groomer, who is very busy with multiple contracts. When snow arrived, we waited until the groomer was available to come and get the trail ready."

Her views are shared by Head Groomer and RWT's Director of Operations, Peter Nor: "With our own equipment, and with the work of our awesome volunteer groomers, we will be able to get the trail ready more quickly and more often."

As happened last year, volunteers will be grooming two paths - one for multi-use (skiing, snowshoeing, walking, fat biking) that runs directly along the river, and one that ideally is kept for skiers and snowshoers, so that the grooming is preserved for these users.

There are some exciting new things on tap for the 2021/22 RWT season, including an extended trail stretching all the way to Bank Street, giving users a few more kilometres of trail to enjoy. To do that will

also require some additional reliance on "Shovel Elves" to move snow under the Smyth Street bridge. "Our long term goal is to groom all the way to Mooney's Bay, and this gets us a few kilometres closer," according to Jeacle.

One issue that arose last season was people leaving garbage on top of closed off bins along the trail, which had to be collected and removed by volunteers. This year, trail users are asked to take any dog waste or other garbage with them and use the open receptacles at bins that will be placed at trail entrances, where City of Ottawa garbage trucks can easily access them for collection.

The RWT has also reached a partnership with the Ottawa Outdoor Gear Library, which will provide equipment available for loan to local residents. Details on location and hours will be made public soon. Organizers are also working with local schools, and they will be grooming the trail in advance of

the students' visits. "We want to get as many students out on the Rideau Winter Trail as possible, and we are happy to be working with local schools to ensure a great experience for the children," says Nor.



If you'd like to volunteer to help, send an email to rideauwintertrail@gmail.com. A new GoFundMe page will

also be established for those who'd like to provide a financial contribution to help maintain and expand the Rideau Winter Trail for years to come. Keep updated on all things RWT-related on Twitter (@RideauWinter), Facebook (@RideauWinterTrail) and Instagram (@RideauWinterTrail) or on the website (www.rideauwintertrail.ca).

POLITICAL PAGES

JOEL HARDEN MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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LRT PUBLIC INQUIRY IS ON

It's been quite a trying time for Ottawa's LRT. I've been asking the Province to help fix our LRT for a long time. After over almost two years of urging action, they're finally beginning to listen.

On December 1st, 2019, we held an LRT town hall in the basement of the Centretown United Church with transit users and workers. What we heard that day shocked us. Doors that jammed. Train wheels that cracked. Stations that smelled of sewer gas. None of this made sense.

So we called on the Province to act. We insisted they find out why this train doesn't work, and why it is so challenging to investigate the secretive public-private partnership (P3) behind our LRT. At that time, the Province refused. They said this was the City's problem.

Undeterred, some Councillors worked hard for answers but were met with excuses, obstruction, and delays. Councillor McKenney, a member of the City's Transit Commission, could only review the LRT's monthly maintenance contract in the City Solicitor's Office, and was banned from taking photos or written notes.

Calling this Kafkaesque is an insult to a great novelist. There was no subtlety here, no man-beetle metamorphosis with the insect flipped on its back. This was a mess that only abated with reduced ridership under COVID-19, while many of us worked from home.

But then, a sixth LRT derailment happened on September 19, 2021. A train entering Tremblay station travelled across a rail bridge with 12 passengers as a wheel remained off the track. That sent shockwaves through our City. Our office was flooded with calls and emails from commuters who were left stranded.

In the two months since, as Joanne Chianello from CBC Ottawa continued her focus on finding the truth, more concerns came to light. All of this traced

back to our secretive P3 LRT deal.

After previously insisting that this was our City's problem, Caroline Mulroney, Ontario's Transportation Minister announced a public inquiry on November 17th, after I spent two days asking her about it in Question Period. The dam finally broke.

So there you have it, dear readers. The LRT public inquiry is on because some of us demanded more from politics. Some of us believe that fighting back and speaking out can make a difference. Let's keep the pressure on, let's get the answers and the LRT we deserve.

We can't cop out on climate change

On November 12th, environmental leaders walked out of the UN Climate Change (COP26) talks in Glasgow, Scotland. They are irate - for good reason - at the tepid pace of change in the face of a planetary emergency.

Other countries (including many with limited resources) are building a green economy, while Canada is stuck in Alberta's oil sands, and other extractive industries. A green energy revolution is afoot worldwide.

Canada must embrace sustainable forms of energy, housing, transportation, and agriculture. Prime Minister Trudeau needs to implement the Just Transition Act he promised two years ago to help energy workers as Canada shifts off fossil fuels. And Premier Ford has to stop rolling back environmental protections and signing Ministerial Zoning Orders so his developer friends can bulldoze over protected areas like wetlands.

It's time to say no to the status quo. We need courage and leadership to stand up to the fossil fuel industry and act with the urgency this moment demands.

YASIR NAQVI MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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PHONE: 613-946-8682
COMMUNITY OFFICE:
404 - 1066 SOMERSET STREET WEST



HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME OF GIVING

I am thrilled to be submitting my first column this month as your new MP for Ottawa Centre.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank you for putting your trust in me to represent you as your Member of Parliament. My team and I have already hit the ground running, working on key issues that are important to the residents of our community.

As we enter the holiday season, I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanza. And of course, a very Happy New Year! I hope you are able to enjoy some quality time safely with family and friends.

For some in our community, the holidays can be a difficult time. Please check-in with your friends and family to make sure they are okay. Also, connect with our community. We have many amazing local organizations here in Ottawa Centre that continue to do great work to support those in need. But they cannot do it alone. If you are able to, please support these organizations. Whether that is by volunteering your time with the Shepherds of Good Hope, or participating in The Good Companions' Santa 4 Seniors.

There are so many ways we can come together and support our community during the holiday season.

Below is a list of a few local organizations you can support:

- Shepherds of Good Hope
- Parkdale Food Centre
- Cornerstone Housing for Women
- Meals on Wheels
- The Good Companions
- The Snowsuit Fund of Ottawa
- Operation Come Home
- The Ottawa Mission
- Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa

I want you to know that being an MP who is accessible is of utmost importance to me. I am excited to share with you that my community office is now officially up and running. It is located on 404 - 1066 Somerset Street West. I have a great team of individuals who are ready to assist constituents and provide exceptional service.

Please reach out to me at YASIR.NAQVI@PARL.GC.CA or call us at 613-946-8682 - and let me know how we can help. Invite me to your holiday or charity events, or let me know what you think about important issues in our community.

I look forward to connecting with you over the holiday season and beyond!

Visit us at
www.themainstreeter.ca
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An architectural gem on Echo Drive

Century milestone for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons building

LORI GANDY

Given the prime location of Old Ottawa East (OOE) between the Rideau Canal and the Rideau River, residents of this community have much beauty in our midst to gaze upon. One of the most stunning sights, while not exactly within OOE's borders, is nevertheless ours to enjoy.

All of us are familiar with the imposing building that occupies pride of place on Echo Drive next to the Sunnyside branch of the Public Library, close to Bank Street. If it looks to you like a monastery, give yourself full marks.

The building, which marked its 100th birthday in 2021, has been home to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons since the early 1990's, but it began its life

as the Monastery of the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, an order of contemplative nuns who moved into the building in 1923.

Architectural features

Canadian architect Alphonse Contant designed the building, in keeping with the style of convents and monasteries being built throughout Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is a large, four-storey structure with a hip roof and a modified mansard roof with dormers forming an attic storey on the north façade. The original layout included a central courtyard (now a glassed atrium) with four-storey wings on three sides and a two-storey wing on the front with an attractive frontispiece, including a round-headed arch topped with a monumental



LORI GANDY PHOTO

ABOVE & BELOW: Home to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons since the early 1990's, the imposing pale yellow brick building, which began its life in 1921 as a monastery and is pictured below in a 1924 photo, is an architectural masterpiece in our midst.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

pediment (a triangular-shaped gable) over the double front doors of the entrance.

While some have described its exterior as "austere," a close look shows it is anything but. The choice of pale yellow brick was inspired, as it allows the architectural details of the building to stand out, including the smooth stone stringcourses that separate the storeys of the front façade, and partially continue around the corners to the east and west facades. The detail adorning the seemingly simple rectangular windows bears examination. Many of the windows are round-headed with intricate detailing, while some of the east-facing windows are decorated with stained glass, appropriately, as these windows look into what was once the chapel, now a meeting hall.

The west façade displays more of the simple rectangular windows with stone lintels found elsewhere on the building, while the south façade (difficult to get a good look at because of the homes between it and Sunnyside Avenue) features an open three-storey gallery overlooking a lawn.

A striking focal point of the building is its large central belfry, which was once topped by a large cross when the building was a monastery.

The Royal College purchased the building in 1991 and undertook extensive renovations, with careful consideration given to preserving the exterior architectural integrity. In 1999, a new building with the same brick colour was built west of the older

structure.

Recognition

The City of Ottawa has twice recognized the College for its efforts to preserve the architectural integrity and historic significance of the building: in 1993, the Royal College received a Certificate of Merit "to recognize its efforts to retain and re-use the building while paying particular attention to the preservation of its windows and stained glass"; and in 1998, the building was designated a heritage property, and a Heritage Designation Plaque was affixed to the building's north façade.

See for yourself

Regrettably, public access is not available at this time, so the public cannot view the interior of the building. Once the pandemic and physical distancing guidelines are behind us, however, the Royal College will resume public tours of the interior, arranged with an appointment.

In the meantime, it is well worth a meander down Echo Drive to admire this beautiful building.

Definitions for the architectural features of this proud building referred to in this article can be found at <https://buffaloah.com/a/DCTNRY/vocab.html>. And if you are interested in learning more about the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, you may want to check out a documentary produced in 1981 that showcases the lives of the sisters inside the monastery.

(see <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/kpzjtj>)

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We are calling on you to help Centre 105, Centre 454, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre (OPC), Refugee Ministry, St Luke's Table, and The Well to serve people living precariously, struggling with poverty, and challenged by mental health issues.

Through your special Christmas gift, you can support our Community Ministries participants and give a meaningful gift to a family member, friend or colleague. With each gift that you make, you will receive a personalized gift card you can send out for Christmas, letting your loved ones know you made a gift in their honour.

To make a gift online please visit
www.todayfortomorrow.ca.
Or call 613-232-7124, ext. 221

Rideau Chorale returns with a live Baroque performance

JANICE MANCHEE

Rideau Chorale was deep into preparation of Bach's Mass in B Minor when everything shut down in March 2020.

"We packed up our scores and headed home," says Rideau Chorale Board Chair and soprano Liz Tromp. "From that point on, we were carried from one wave to the next. One closure to the next. But the research was definitive -- singing together, even with masks, was not a good idea."



Rideau Chorale in rehearsal for their first live performance since March 2020.

The Board worked hard to provide the choir with some sort of creative outlet. This included Zoom rehearsals, which led to a virtual concert in the spring featuring pieces from the Mass and Handel's Messiah. Rideau Chorale had produced sold-out performances of this latter masterwork in previous seasons.

Finally, in September 2021, Rideau Chorale resumed in-person rehearsal – all participants masked, distanced and double-vaccinated.

The Zoom rehearsals kept us singing," says Ottawa East resident and tenor Lawrence Cumming, "but it was wonderful to actually sing with everyone else."

Tromp goes further.

"The first time we were back in the church to practice, even spread out in the pews as we were and not really hearing others as we normally do, it felt magical. Special. Worth it."

This season Rideau Chorale is working with guest conductor and Old Ottawa South resident Matthew Larkin. Larkin is a renowned Canadian organist, composer, and choral and orchestral

conductor, known for his enthusiastic and engaging leadership style.

And next up is a return to live performance.

Rideau Chorale's A Baroque Christmas will take place at 7:30pm on December 11th at Southminster Church, featuring seasonal works by Bach and Handel. The concert will be shorter than usual, but it will offer the opportunity to be together, sharing beautiful music.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Matthew Larkin of Old Ottawa South is the Guest Conductor for Rideau Chorale's 2021-22 Season. The choir will present A Baroque Christmas at 7:30pm on December 11th at Southminster Church, featuring seasonal works by Bach and Handel.

Baroque is a type of western music composed between about 1600 and 1750. It is known for its intricate harmonies and the development of the modern orchestra.

The program includes Bach's Cantata 191. It is one of over 250 cantatas written by Bach, likely in 1742 for a Christmas celebration at the University of Leipzig.

The Cantata is made up of three pieces drawn from the earlier-composed Mass in B Minor. The first two are largely like those in the Mass, while the third piece takes a slightly different musical and lyrical path.

The concert will also feature several pieces from Handel's Messiah, including the well-known and powerful Hallelujah Chorus.

Performing alongside Larkin and Rideau Chorale will be soprano and tenor soloists Maghan McPhee and

Dillon Parmer. Both are local talents with extensive performance experience.

"I've enjoyed my association with Rideau Chorale over the course of several years," says Larkin, "and I'm looking forward to a full season working with the choir as we return to live performance."

To ensure the health and safety of performers and audience, tickets will not be sold at the door, but are available in limited number through Eventbrite. All relevant health protocols will be observed. As well, and to ensure everyone can enjoy the concert, it will also be live-streamed.

[Janice Manchee sings tenor with Rideau Chorale. Information about Rideau Chorale and its virtual and upcoming performances can be found at rideauchorale.org.]





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PETER CROAL PHOTO

COMING SOON TO YOUR BACKYARD?

Is this somewhere in rural Lanark County? A farm outside of Ottawa? No, it's a backyard in Old Ottawa East! We're all familiar with the feeling one gets when surrounded by trees and the tranquility and natural beauty they impart. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have more backyards like this in OOE? We can. SLOE is undertaking a project to get more trees planted across our neighbourhood and that includes in backyards where residents are looking to "rewild" their surroundings. If you'd like to have more trees on your property or you'd like to volunteer with SLOE on the Tree Canopy project, contact Jayson MacLean at sloe@ottawaeast.ca.

A go-to recipe for feeding those finicky kids

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Anyone who has ever tried to feed hordes of hungry but sometimes finicky preschoolers could pick up a few tips from Rainbow Kidschool's Joanne Benoit, who works fulltime at Rainbow as a cook in the mornings and in the afternoons as an

early childhood educator in the school-age after-school program.

"Since I love both children and kitchens, the job suits me well," Benoit says.

Rainbow Kidschool serves children aged 2 ½ to 12 through its various programs and is located in Lady Evelyn Alternative School. (It evolved and expanded its

services from the old Carleton Preschool, which many longtime residents of Old Ottawa East will remember.)

Benoit has shared one of her go-to recipes from Rainbow Kidschool's current season menu that the preschool children love.

Joanne Benoit is also the force behind

Your Occasional Caterer, which has been operating for decades in Old Ottawa East. 'Tis the season, so she's busy filling orders for rum balls, cookies, shortbread, cherry blossoms and other delicious holiday treats for both adults and kids. She can be reached at joanne.benoit@rogers.com.

Rainbow Tortellini with Bacon and Peas

½ cup bacon or pancetta (Italian bacon), cubed
4 tbsp olive oil, separated into two parts
¾ pound fresh tortellini (ravioli is delish too)
2 - 3 tbsp fresh basil, chopped
¾ cup grated parmesan cheese
1 cup frozen peas

Boil pasta two minutes less than package directions.

Drain and reserve at least 1 cup of the pasta water.

Fry bacon or pancetta until crispy.

Remove from pan.

To the same pan add 2 tbsp (more if you like) olive oil. Once pasta has boiled and drained, add to fry pan along with the cooked bacon, parmesan cheese, peas and enough of the pasta water to make a light sauce, not too wet, just enough to scoop easily. Once heated through, add additional olive oil, chopped basil and additional parmesan.

TA-DA!!

This recipe can be easily multiplied

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Late day sunset at Brantwood Park



JAMIE BROUGHAM PHOTO

Photographer Jamie Brougham captures the Fall colours of the trees and leaves burnished by a late November afternoon sun at Brantwood Park.

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