

MAINSTREETER

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

JUNE | JUIN 2016

Rooming House Row Ramping Up City urged to better manage OOE's changing face

BY JOE PARASKEVAS

Coun. David Chernushenko agreed to comment on this story over the summer in an interview with the Mainstreeter about Archville resident concerns. The city planner looking after zoning issues the neighbourhood is seeing would also sit down to explain how the city will approach managing the situation.

Resident frustration is rising in Archville over rooming houses and student residences popping up on previously quiet streets.

Homeowners claim developers are taking advantage of the city's slowness to manage density in Old Ottawa East's northernmost neighbourhood.

They acknowledge developers of massive new buildings are not violating zoning bylaws. Nor do they want to appear unwelcoming to students who stand to be the most likely new tenants.

Instead, the object of growing public unrest is the city for a perceived failure to step in and regulate Archville's changing character.

"I am concerned about a new development on my street and would like to bring it to your attention," Concord Street North resident Freddie Richings wrote to the office of Coun. David Chernushenko in March.

Richings feared the new development at 59 Concord St. N was set to become an

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ANCHORS AWEIGH! Canal Paddlers Have Easy Access

BY JOHN DANCE



OECA president Phyllis Odenbach Sutton joined MP Catherine McKenna's flotilla celebrating the new paddling access points on the Rideau Canal.

PHOTO BY JOHN DANCE

The day has arrived when a federal minister can paddle to a cabinet meeting.

Federal Environment and Climate Change minister Catherine McKenna tweeted this message to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on a recent May morning when she helped launch the first canoes from new easy-access points on the Rideau Canal and then led several dozen paddlers to the National Arts Centre.

On May 10, amid a flurry of media attention, McKenna portaged a canoe from her home in the Glebe and made the inaugural launch at the new Patterson

Creek facilities.

It was an event that came about through the persistence of two community groups.

The Glebe and Old Ottawa East community associations recently wrote to federal ministers responsible for the National Capital Commission and Parks Canada asking them to provide paddlers with better access to the central Ottawa portion of the Rideau Canal.

Just three weeks after OECA president Phyllis Odenbach Sutton and GCA

president Christine McAllister made the case, Parks Canada installed a dock with easy access at Patterson Creek. A second dock was to go in at the western end of Clegg Street.

"It's a glorious way to experience the heart of the capital," Odenbach Sutton said. "The new docks and access points will make it easy for residents and visitors to actually get on the canal and enjoy the beauty in the midst of the city's hubbub."

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Future Challenges Await Lady Evelyn

BY MEREDITH NEWBERRY

Main Street is no stranger to change and evolution. Nor is a school nestled among the backhoes and excavators now digging up Old Ottawa East's largest thoroughfare.

Lady Evelyn Alternative School is facing potentially major changes in the 2016-17 school year. At the top of the list is declining enrollment.

The Mainstreeter looked at Lady Evelyn student numbers over the past three

years. They showed a significant drop.

The school has a capacity of 361 students. Last October, there were 210 enrolled, 48 fewer than in 2012 and 77 fewer than 2013, when Lady Evelyn saw a jump in its population.

The decline is in contrast to student numbers at other area schools.

Another change taking place at Lady Evelyn concerns the curriculum.

In September, the school, which holds classes only in English for students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Six, will begin to offer kindergarten students half-day French instruction.

The move is part of a change across the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. It isn't news to parents of young children in Ottawa, but to a school that has offered an English curriculum with only 40 minutes of French a day,

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THE MAINSTREETER ANALYZES POLL-BY-POLL RESULTS FOR OLD OTTAWA EAST

OOE Voters Joined Liberal Wave But NDP still competitive for votes in neighbourhood

BY STEVEN STAPLES

The federal Liberals made large gains in Old Ottawa East in the 42nd general election last fall, more than doubling their support: from 21 percent in 2011 to 44 percent. The party carried the area easily.

OOE voters were part of the cross-country political shift that propelled the Trudeau Liberals to a majority government.

But the New Democratic Party still holds significant standing in OOE. It was only five percentage points behind at 39 percent locally, suggesting that neither they nor the Liberals have a firm grip on these neighbourhoods.

The Mainstreeter combined Elections Canada results and polling station locations to create a complete political map of Old Ottawa East.

The map allows the newspaper to tabulate Old Ottawa East's votes within the overall results of Electoral District of Ottawa Centre. Individual poll results reveal election contests virtually block by block.

Extending the map to other neighbourhoods allowed the Mainstreeter to compare Old Ottawa East's voting patterns with those of the Glebe and Ottawa South.

THE OLD OTTAWA EAST POLITICAL MAP

Old Ottawa East sets itself apart from other neighbourhoods in the riding, the Mainstreeter found. There are even distinct voting preferences within OOE neighbourhoods.

In 2015, Liberal Catherine McKenna overtook three-time election winner Paul Dewar of the NDP by winning 43 percent of votes in Ottawa Centre, swinging the riding back to the Liberal fold after the NDP had held it for 11 years.

It was a stunning upset. Dewar had won the 2011 election easily by carrying 52 percent of the vote, far ahead of Liberal Scott Bradley and Conservative Damian Konstantinakos.

Looking back at party support for the past two elections, Old Ottawa East's voters tend to support each party's candidate within one or two percentage points of the riding as a whole.

This makes OOE a so-called Goldilocks neighbourhood compared to the Glebe and Ottawa South.

The Glebe tends to back the Liberals more than the rest of the riding. Ottawa South leans toward the NDP. When compared to the overall results from Ottawa Centre, Old Ottawa East is 'just right.'

In 2015, voters in the Glebe moved to the Liberals in even greater numbers than those in OOE, casting 47 percent of votes for McKenna, three percentage points more than Old Ottawa East and four percentage points more than Ottawa Centre overall.

Meanwhile, 41 percent of Ottawa South voters chose the NDP, two percentage points more than OOE voters and a significant five percentage points more than voters in the Glebe.

NDP support in Old Ottawa East fell from 53 percent in 2011 to 39 percent in 2015, but still sat three percentage points higher than NDP support in the Glebe. The Conservatives, who typically finish in third place in the neighbourhood and the riding, dropped seven points to 13 percent in OOE.

VOTER TURNOUT IN OLD OTTAWA EAST

Old Ottawa East makes up a small part of the electoral district of Ottawa Centre, which encompasses neighbourhoods from OOE to Westboro and from Parliament Hill to Mooney's Bay. There were 5,440 electors in Old Ottawa East in the last election, accounting for just 5.7 percent of Ottawa Centre's 94,858 eligible voters.

Ottawa Centre's overall turnout was an impressive 80 percent – the third highest in Canada. OOE residents also had no trouble finding their way to the voting booth. Voter turnout last October jumped five percentage points to 82 percent. One out of every three votes was cast at advance polls.

Voter turnout in Old Ottawa East was higher than in the Glebe, at 80 percent, but couldn't match Ottawa South whose voters produced a whopping 87 percent turnout.

SUPPORT FOR THE PARTIES

Looking at results poll by poll reveals a 'paint-by-numbers' of OOE that's near-

ly entirely Liberal red. McKenna's top two polls for votes were polls near Riverdale Avenue, and an apartment building close to Lees Avenue Station.

The NDP, which won every poll five years ago, carried only three last October. Its strongest support by votes were the two polls adjoining Brantwood Park.

Conservative support was strongest near the Rideau Canal, where second-time candidate Damian Konstantinakos attracted his most votes along Echo Drive.

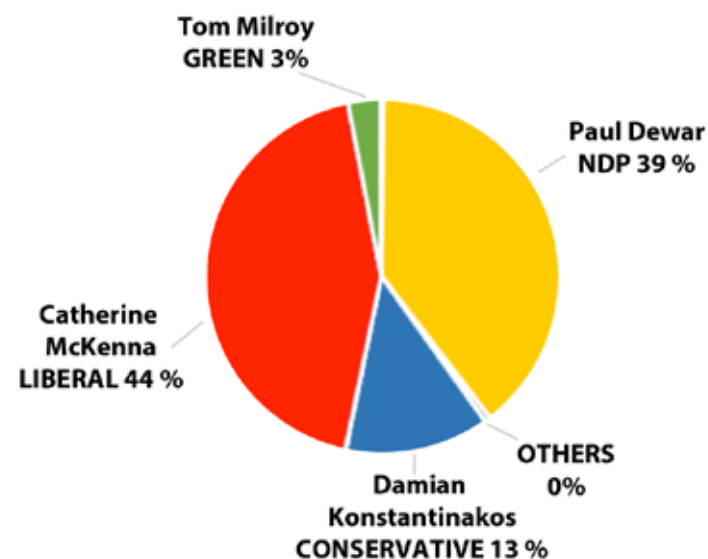
The Green Party faces an uphill struggle in Old Ottawa East. Its support was nearly halved from five percent in 2011, to three percent for Tom Milroy in 2015. This echoes a steady decline in Ottawa Centre's overall support for the Greens. The party saw its vote share drop from a high of 10 percent in 2008 to six percent in 2011 and three percent in 2015.

POLITICAL IMPACT OF IN-FILL, CONDOS

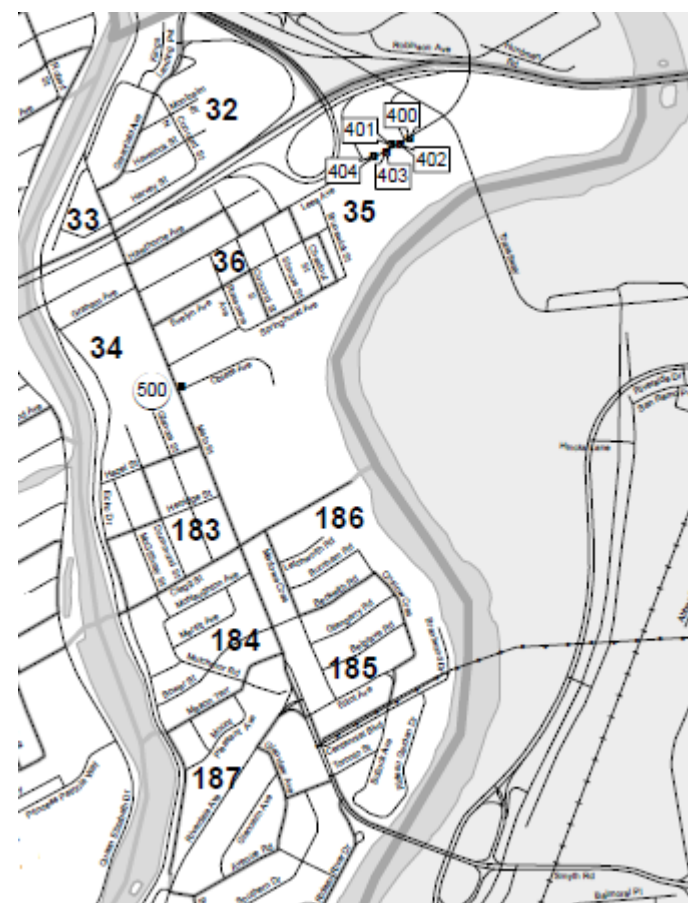
OOE will be remarkably different by the time the next federal election comes around in 2019.

Many streets are experiencing rapid development as older homes give way to multi-family buildings, densifying the neighbourhoods. More than 900 new condos will be built in Old Ottawa East as the development of the former Oblate lands are completed east of Main Street.

Will the influx of new residents shift the political character of OOE? This will be the subject of a follow-up study by



OOE POLLING STATIONS



the Mainstreeter, as it covers one of the most rapidly changing parts of Ottawa.

METHODOLOGY

There is no official boundary of Old Ottawa East, but for the purposes of its study the Mainstreeter followed the municipality and local organizations that generally agree our neighbourhood, wedged between the Rideau River and Rideau Canal, extends from near the Eastbound 417 on-ramp on Lees Avenue, down Main Street to Avenue Road where OOE meets Old Ottawa South.

This lines up with poll boundaries used by Elections Canada. Polls are groups of 150 to 450 electors who live within a few blocks of each other, or share a large dwelling such as an apartment building. All told, Old Ottawa East contains 18 polls including a mobile polling station and two advance polls.

TABLE 1. 42ND GENERAL ELECTION (2015) AND 41ST GENERAL ELECTION (2011) RESULTS

	NDP		Conservative		Liberal		Green		Others		Total Votes		Electors		Turnout	
	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011
Old Ottawa East	39%	53%	13%	20%	44%	21%	3%	5%	1%	1%	4462	4358	5440	5671	82%	77%
The Glebe	36%	53%	13%	18%	47%	23%	3%	6%	1%	0%	7351	6927	9140	8984	80%	77%
Ottawa South	41%	58%	11%	16%	44%	19%	3%	6%	1%	1%	5315	4497	6121	5308	87%	85%
Ottawa Centre	39%	52%	14%	22%	43%	20%	3%	5%	1%	1%	75886	65135	94858	90008	80%	72%

Source: Elections Canada, Mainstreeter calculations

TABLE 2. OLD OTTAWA EAST – 42ND GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS (2015)

Polling Station Number	32	33	34	35	36	183	184	185	186	187	400	401	402	403	404	500	502	613	614	Total
John Andrew Omowole Akpata, Marijuana	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0		1	3	0	9
Paul Dewar, NDP	76	49	78	72	99	86	70	112	110	89	63	35	70	36	47		22	297	342	1753
Dean T. Harris, Libertarian	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	4	2	2	1		1	2	2	24
Damian Konstantinakos, Conservative	29	41	29	31	25	24	40	28	27	33	22	8	17	1	15		25	115	73	583
Conrad Lukawski, Rhinoceros	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	2
Catherine Mary McKenna, Liberal	80	97	88	83	102	100	99	83	64	111	105	61	61	65	72		58	302	314	1945
Tom Milroy, Green	1	7	6	6	10	13	7	6	6	3	6	0	8	3	4		0	23	23	132
Stuart Ryan, Communist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	1	1	3
Rejected Ballots	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0		1	2	0	11
Total Votes	188	195	201	194	237	227	219	231	210	239	199	109	159	107	139		108	745	755	4462
Electors	406	404	440	382	452	399	391	424	415	410	248	138	259	279	174	77	142			5440

(Mobile poll 500 was merged with mobile poll 502, which included a portion of Centretown and the Glebe. Polls 613 and 614 are advance polls. Poll 614 includes a portion of Ottawa South, from Avenue Rd. to Bank St.)
Source: Elections Canada

TABLE 3. OLD OTTAWA EAST VOTING FACTS

General Election	42 nd (2015)	41 st (2011)	Change
Number of Votes	4462	4358	+104
Number of Electors	5440	5671	- 231
Advance Polls Turnout	34%	27%	+ 7%
Total Voter Turnout	82%	77%	+ 5%

Source: Elections Canada, Mainstreeter calculations

TABLE 4. BEST POLLS FOR THE PARTIES IN OLD OTTAWA EAST, BY VOTES

LIBERALS		
Poll	Location	Votes
187	Riverdale Ave., Mount Pleasant Ave.	111
400	River Club Apartments, 190 Lees Ave.	105
36	Lees Ave., Simcoe St.	102

NDP		
Poll	Location	Votes
185	Marlowe Cres., Elliot Ave.	112
186	Burnham Rd., Bullock Ave.	110
36	Lees Ave., Simcoe St.	99

CONSERVATIVES		
Poll	Location	Votes
33	Echo Drive North, Kings Landing Private	41
184	Echo Drive, Bower St.	40
187	Riverdale Ave., Mount Pleasant Ave.	31

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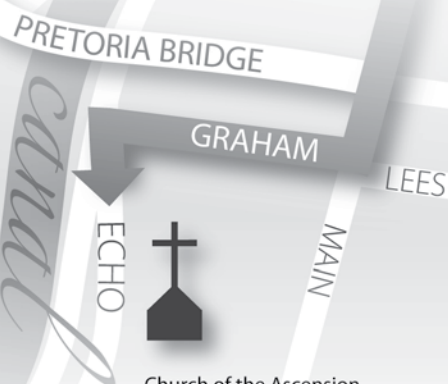


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FROM THE EDITOR

As a runner, I like the idea of a brisk little 10-kilometre race. It keeps mind and body fresh.

But as Bill Squires, the legendary coach who shepherded some of the best Boston marathoners, once said: "It's the long run that puts the tiger in the cat."

This month, Squires would be proud of the Mainstreeter.

Colleagues Steve Staples, Meredith Newberry and I set our sights on three marathon stories.

You won't read the last words on any of them in this issue. You will however, relish the first.

Steve compiled an insightful resumé of the 2015 federal election through the eyes of Old Ottawa East voters. He dove into Elections Canada data, going almost street-by-street to find coves of support for opposition parties in a sea of Liberal red.

I loved having a data wonk like Steve explain how voter preferences had shifted. But he also wondered how future elections might take shape, once OOE receives an invasion of hundreds of residents from new housing development in the years ahead.

Meredith too, went on a long-term pursuit.

Unable to coax a comment out of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board about changes planned at Lady Evelyn Alternative School, Mer banged out the facts she could gather and said to me the complete account would have to wait.

I told her not to be disappointed. Journalists don't always hit home runs. A base hit puts them on the proverbial base path. With a little scrappiness, a reporter can find his or her way home.

(Apologies for mixing sports metaphors.)

My own story showed the same distant promise as those of Steve and Meredith.

In fact, it may be easier to tell. I won't have to wait for an influx of new residents or chase down tight-lipped school trustees.

The players I want to talk to are already here and willing to speak to me. In the months ahead, look for Coun. David Chernushenko, city planners and the residents of Archville, to provide insight into the changing character of that neighbourhood as more multiple-unit buildings go up amid the single-family dwellings.

Change, wherever it surfaces, usually means a marathon for a newspaper team to follow.

Fortunately for readers, the Mainstreeter can be a tiger when it wants.



PHOTO BY NANCY MCL IMAGES

Joe Paraskevas, Mainstreeter Editor.

En tant que coureur, j'aime bien l'idée d'une petite course rapide de 10 kilomètres. Cela aide à garder l'esprit et le corps sains. Toutefois, comme l'a dit Bill Squires, l'entraîneur célèbre qui a aidé certains des meilleurs coureurs du marathon de Boston, « c'est la course de longue distance qui met du tigre dans le chat ».

Squires serait fier du Mainstreeter ce mois-ci. Steve Staples, Meredith Newberry et moi avons trois récits de calibre marathonien. Vous ne lirez pas la fin de chacune de ces histoires dans ce numéro mais pourrez toutefois profiter de leurs débuts.

Steve a compilé un résumé perspicace de l'élection 2015 telle que vue par les résidents du vieil Ottawa-Est. Il a plongé dans les données d'Élections Canada, procédant presque rue par rue pour trouver des pochettes de soutien pour les partis de l'opposition dans une mer de rouge libéral.

J'ai adoré avoir un mordu de données comme Steve nous expliquer comment les préférences des électeurs ont changé. Il s'est aussi demandé à quoi les élections à venir pourraient ressembler, une fois la vague de nouveaux résidents installée dans les projets de logement en construction.

Meredith a elle aussi entamé un projet de longue envergure. N'arrivant pas à obtenir de commentaires de la part du Ottawa-Carleton District School Board concernant les changements prévus pour l'école alternative Lady Evelyn, Mer a rassemblé les faits qu'elle a pu obtenir et m'a avisé que l'histoire complète était à venir.

Je lui ai dit de ne pas être trop déçue. Les journalistes ne frappent pas toujours un coup de circuit. Un coup simple les met sur la ligne des buts. Avec un peu de ténacité, un journaliste peut se rendre au marbre.

(Toutes mes excuses pour les métaphores sportives composées.)

Le reportage sur lequel j'ai travaillé démontre, comme ceux de Steve et de Meredith, un potentiel à long terme. Il pourrait toutefois être plus facile à raconter. Je n'aurai pas à attendre l'arrivée de nouveaux résidents ou à poursuivre les commentaires de conseillers scolaires peu volubiles.

Les individus qui m'intéressent sont déjà ici, prêts à me parler. Dans les mois à venir, le conseiller municipal David Chernushenko, les urbanistes et les résidents d'Archville fourniront un aperçu du caractère changeant du quartier alors que des immeubles à logements multiples se multiplient parmi les logements individuels.

Le changement, où qu'il se pointe le nez, représente normalement un marathon pour les journalistes. Nos lecteurs ont de la chance : le Mainstreeter est capable de se montrer tigre quand il le veut.

MAIN STREETER

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Editor: editor@mainstreeter.ca
Copy editors:

Joe Paraskevas
Joe Paraskevas
Michele Castonguay
Keltie Roberson
Ron Rose

Rédactrice (pour le français):
Advertising Manager:
advertising@mainstreeter.ca
Accounts Manager:
Layout Designer:
Photographers:

Cynthia Dwyer
Monika Lavallée - Unika Studio
Peter Croal
John Dance
D.N. Milburn
T.L. di Giacomo

Reporters:

Web Team:

Phil Legault, Michele Castonguay,
Meredith Newberry
Anthony Lenzo
Monika Lavallée - Unika Studio
Carol Workun
Daniel Racicot

Social Media Editor:
Production:
CAG program guide layout:
Distribution

Old Ottawa East eUpdate: info@ottawaeastCAG.ca
Beat Editors
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Councillor David Chernushenko: David.Chernushenko@ottawa.ca

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

Community Police (for non-emergency concerns): 613-236-1222 x5287 or huntmr@ottawapolic.ca

Mayor Jim Watson: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

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Old Ottawa East Community Association: info@ottawaeast.ca

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It was recently pointed out to me that I'm not very diplomatic. Actually, I can be a bull in a china shop when it comes to dealing with others on community issues.

My problem comes from having worked in the military and in sales. In both, I know who's boss and whose priorities matter. In fact, everything from a vision to clear goals is fundamental to any team being effective. But in our democratic system, when it comes to constituent engagement, nothing is clear.

Herein lies our problem. There is no system. Outside of our humble community association meetings, there are no regular public forums where we can express our opinions and ideas to each other in order to define a common vision and goals. Virtually no public resources go into facilitating collective public expression much less educating us about how to be engaged.

There is no meaningful program to create any skills and knowledge needed to participate. It's anarchy at the bottom.

Admittedly, when I do participate I make others face my ignorance. I was recently told I just don't understand about how the city is helping with the Greystone development. When the final report that went to council came to my home, I only read some of the 65-plus pages. In it, city staff wrote that the Greystone project was essentially a break-even affair for the city. Eight months later, it's announced that the city is effectively giving the developer \$15.8 million to clean up the land. I sent a letter to the councilor and demanded to know what was going on. How is it break-even when millions in tax breaks and development fees are being forfeited?

When Regional negotiated with the Oblates they knew the land had to be remediated. Effectively, the city is subsidizing the Oblates and the developer. It might be too late for this site, but the city will be giving development discounts and tax breaks for the clean up of Lebreton Flats. Why is the city subsidizing the developer and the NCC for over \$100 million there?

It was our councillor who told me I don't understand. Yet, I also heard him on the radio say that there will be lots of opportunity to get those subsidies back in taxes.

If \$15.8 million can be forfeited for 'economic development' because

taxes from future residents in the neighbourhood will be paying for it, then where's the commitment for social-infrastructure development for the neighbourhood?

Our linear park that is the shoreline was given up by the city because it might have had to pay for its clean up. Are there not lots of future taxes to pay for our social well-being? Is our local natural environment that is the shoreline, and the park, not worth the investment? Apparently not. In contrast, our tax dollars and future residents tax dollars will pay for things like the Alta Vista Transit Corridor, which has a \$60 million dollar piece being built on the other side of the river over precious urban green space. It will do little for the residents of this area except increase local noise and air pollution. Damn right, I don't understand. I don't understand whose priorities are being represented.

The reality is the councilor is not to blame. But discarding legitimate questions because you don't like the tone of a frustrated constituent is frankly why democratic reform in this country does not need to start at the ballot box, it needs to start in communities.

Communities need public forums where serious questions to elected officials are answered even if our officials don't like it. Accountability will only come when enough of us are engaged so they can't pick and choose what to focus on and who respond to.

Right now we're divided and conquered. If our representative in government is having trouble getting our wishes fulfilled then he should work with us and identify some of the many brilliant people in our community he could ask for advice. Furthermore, if we're not educated enough about what's going on then do a better job to educate. This type of reform to our democratic system should apply to all levels of government.

I'm going to try harder to get along with others in the sandbox. But in a system where our only official role is to put an X on a multiple choice ballot every four years, the same way it was done 149 years ago when our constitution was written with quill pens under oil lamps, being engaged and participating in this archaic make-it-up-as-we-go democratic system will continue to be difficult for anyone who tries.

Jamie Brougham

Thank you for the work you do for the Mainstreeter. It is much appreciated. Community newspapers are more important today due to the crisis in print media.

In the April editorial of the Mainstreeter you made an apology to John Dance for the recent matter concerning the headline of the article on the proposed Clegg-Fifth footbridge. Your apology is a good example of value-based journalism.

However, the editorial has some comments, which concern me. The tone of the second half of the editorial is in my view somewhat confrontational. For example, the editorial states you will not apologize to any politicians as a result of this issue. Statements such as these and the overall tone of this part of the editorial do not respect the values of the Mainstreeter or the broader OOE community.

Progress on the footbridge is slow, but some progress is nevertheless being made, whether it is stated or implied. Our politicians are working hard to meet the needs of their respective constituents. For real progress to occur, the Mainstreeter must ensure that our working relationships with the various levels of politicians are constructive and positive. If the paper is overtly critical of the work the politicians are doing, then these very same politicians, being human, could turn their attention to other issues and constituents that are less confrontational, where more political capital can be secured.

I believe that any Mainstreeter editorial should be as constructive as possible to reflect the community and relationship-building values of the community paper and OOE residents.

Peter Croal

MAIN STREET LOOKING GOOD

In a recent CBC morning interview the rehabilitated Preston Street was discussed. One of the sticking points was a lack of bike paths along the street, which has seen many new people-oriented businesses established. That will surely not be a problem for Main Street, following completion of its new 'complete street' design.

Of course considerable chaos can be observed at rush hours at the moment, as traffic snakes through single-lane, single-direction detours, while construction activities go on. A real challenge is the Hawthorne Avenue-Main Street intersection, especially when articulated OC Transpo buses try to negotiate through.

But it is all temporary. The skilful information campaign (we receive regular e-mails from the city coordinator of the project, informing us of planned work and local detours with estimated timelines), is very helpful in supporting the impression that construction is under control and the expected completion dates will

be achieved. Kudos to the project manager and staff, the consultants and contractors.

Now we're waiting for the trees that showed on the original sketches and the repairs to many properties that will be made whole again after construction.

We are anxiously awaiting the new businesses, the sidewalk cafes and restaurants, both as a result of the improved street design and as a consequence of the increased densities from new residential projects northeast of Saint Paul University. We may even get a glimpse of the river and be able to stroll toward it.

We are also waiting for more frequent bus service, ideally at 10-minute intervals all day to connect to downtown and the new light-rail system. That will then be the 'complete street' – people, bicycles, trees, sidewalk facilities, transit, oh, and a few cars. If all that happens we will be up for a prize in urban design.

Ben Novak

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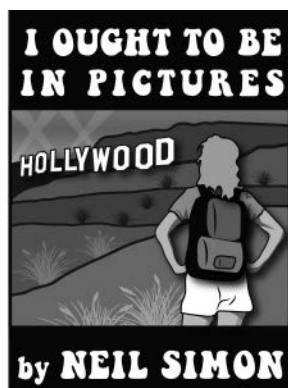
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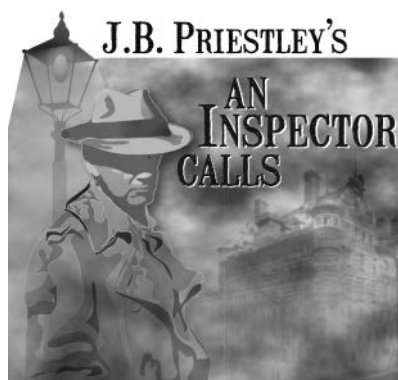


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FUTURE CHALLENGES AWAIT LADY EVELYN *cont. from page 1*

boosting the amount of French could be significant.

The OCDSB did not reply to a request for comment about Lady Evelyn from the Mainstreeter.

In contrast to Lady Evelyn's declining numbers, nearby Elgin Street Public School was so crowded that the OCDSB decided to move Elgin's English program to Centennial Public School on Gloucester Street in Centretown. The entire Elgin Street facility except for one grade will be committed to French immersion programs.

Elgin Street, with a capacity of 254 students, was oversubscribed this past academic year. The school has 329 students, 76 more than in 2012.

Viscount Alexander Public School on Mann Avenue in Sandy Hill has seen a slight increase in its student body. Like Elgin Street, Viscount Alexander offers both English and Early French Immersion options.

Viscount Alexander has a 188-student capacity. The school had 181 students in 2015-16, 19 more than in 2012.

Lady Evelyn parents appear positive about the future of their school and like the coming changes.

Amy Campbell McGee, an Old Ottawa East parent of three, sends one child to Lady Evelyn and another to the Early French Immersion program at Elgin Street.

"Our experience at Lady Evelyn is that the teachers have been incredibly responsive to the needs of our kids, both as learners and in terms of embracing who they are and providing a safe environment," Campbell McGee said. "We only wish that there was French immersion available at the school. We would never have sent our youngest elsewhere otherwise."

Ananda Kelly, a mother of one child that attended Lady Evelyn from Junior

Kindergarten to Grade Six and another going into Grade One in September, said she hoped enrollment increases and parents see the value an alternative school curriculum provides.

"There is no single way or pace of learning that universally works for everyone," Kelly said, "and the teachers at Lady Evelyn really get that. The teaching and even the evaluations are innovative, with projects that are really outside the box compared to the mainstream school model."

Programs in alternative schools are based on student-centered learning. The schools still meet Ministry of Education standards but with more flexibility to concentrate in areas of students' own interests and aptitudes. Alternative schools focus on multiple types of assessments and evaluations rather than traditional tests and grades.

ANCHORS AWEIGH! *cont. from page 1*

Residents will now be able to more readily explore the Rideau Canal system and take trips to Hartwell locks, Hog's Back, Black Rapids and perhaps even to Kingston.

Until now, a metre-high guardrail along both sides of the canal from Wellington Street to Dow's Lake has made it difficult to launch and board canoes and kayaks. Four years ago, the OECA asked that several skateway gates be opened during the boating season so that paddlers could readily launch their craft. The National Capital Commission responded however, that study was required to ensure safety and facilities were properly designed for various types of users.

The new access points and docks are a pilot project. McKenna cautioned that their continuation depends on actual use. If they prove successful there is the possibility of additional points in the central Ottawa portion of the canal. The improvements are a part of a \$57 million federal investment in the Rideau Canal.

ROOMING HOUSE ROW RAMPING UP *cont. from page 1*

unregistered rooming house and he urged Chernushenko to ensure proper management of the building and uphold the intent of zoning bylaws to maintain "reasonable density."

"What was a single family house six months ago will now have 12 people none of whom are connected to one another or the surrounding community except for the fact they require short-term economical lodging," Richings wrote.

"I like the fact that my community has students living in it," Richings was quick to point out, "and would welcome a student rooming house if it was properly licensed and capped at the maximum allowed number of residents for this zone, which is seven. My problem with 59 Concord St N is the fact that it is not in any way ideologically motivated. Instead, it has deliberately targeted students knowing that it can draw the biggest profit from them. I believe that this development is subverting the intent of our bylaws, which, I assume is to keep group accommodations at a reasonable density and ensure that they are properly supervised and managed."

The storm over new triplexes or four-plexes has brewed for some time.

"It has been in the last five years that small family homes have been bought up and torn down to be replaced with new-build, three-storey rental buildings," said resident Christine Honsl, who lives next door to one of the new structures. "There are now four rental triplexes on the two blocks of Chestnut Street and another kitty-corner on Lees. They each consist of three flats and an additional basement unit. They are all rental buildings. The one at 35 Chestnut has 11 students living in it and the new one at 43 will as well."

The result, Honsl went on to say, was a declining quality of life that permeated her entire neighbourhood.

"With 11 unrelated young people in a single building there is a great increase in traffic on what was a quiet residential street. There are an incredible number of pick-ups, drop-offs, food and parcel delivery, most of which end up pulling into my driveway. Since the (new) house was allowed to max out the lot, they have no driveway of their own. Backyards have been paved for vehicle parking, so enjoyment of nearby yards is significantly compromised."

The Old Ottawa East Community Association has heard resident complaints and cautioned that rooming

houses are a complicated matter depending on how a property is zoned and even where it is located. The OECA pointed to the city to step in and better mediate development.

"The unfortunate reality is that the biggest part of this story is change management," said Stephen Pope, the OECA's Planning committee chair. "There is very little in the building code or the city's zoning bylaws that would limit the kind of development that is now appearing in the North of Queensway neighbourhood."

OECA president Phyllis Odenbach Sutton said the matter called for the city to look again at its zoning rules.

"Triplexes are being built on lots on Chestnut that were never zoned to accommodate such structures, given their small size," she said.

Chernushenko's assistant replied to Richings within days of receiving his e-mail but the response was not what the frustrated homeowner wanted to hear.

Ian Grabina said what was taking place in Archville was typical of development in other parts of the city, such as Old Ottawa South and Sandy Hill.

"The truth of the matter is, that there is nothing that can be done once a three-unit triplex (like the one that has gone up on Concord) has been built and the owner decides to facilitate the full use of the building via sublets," Grabina told Richings.

"As I'm sure you are aware, a 'standard' rooming house requires that there be a user-owned suite 'in-house' as it were," Grabina added. "In the case of Concord, this will not be the case. However, as it is not formally a rooming house, this requirement is not applicable. Further, as the owner will only be signing three leases (and will no doubt allow the primary tenants to sign sub-leases) he will meet all of the warrants needed for the rental of a standard triplex."

Grabina admitted the kinds of structures Archville residents were seeing constituted a "blind spot" in the building code. He said Chernushenko was sympathetic and would press the city to amend its bylaws and definition of rooming houses.

Reached by the Mainstreeter, Grabina said Chernushenko and the city planner working on the Archville zoning issues would sit down with the newspaper to discuss resident concerns.



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A Story Both Wild and Real

OOE welcomes a promising young author

Kat, a 12-year-old orphan, runs away from her foster parents to find her lost sister. The search leads her on wild adventures. And yet, Kat's story has about it a gritty realism young people will find easy to relate to.

So goes the plot of *Runaway: Book One*, the debut novel by Nina Popovic, 14, a Grade Eight student at Hopewell Avenue Public School. This month, Nina hosted a launch party at the Ottawa South Firehall. The event drew about 100 people and featured a performance by the Hopewell school Glee Club.

Nina spoke with Willow Paraskevas.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU TO WRITE THE BOOK?

I started early in 2013 and then by the time it took me to publish it and everything, there was probably around two and a half years.

HOW DO YOU FIT BOOK WRITING INTO YOUR DAILY LIFE?

It's really all about time management. I don't do it every day. I just do it if I have time. I focus on getting done class

and piano and schoolwork and those little things that have to get out of the way first. And then if I have time at the end of the day, then I write. But if I don't, that's fine.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO WRITE A BOOK?

Not always. The first time I tried writing a book, I didn't really like where it was going and I kind of gave up on it. And the second time I lost the copy that I was writing on paper and then I said, "Well, OK, that's the end of that." And then, when I started writing *Runaway*, I kind of realized this is going well. I continued doing it and that's when I realized (I wanted to write).

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BRITAIN AS THE SETTING FOR YOUR BOOK?

One, because that was after I read *Harry Potter*. So, I was inspired by the location. And two, because, I don't know, it was just beforehand, I was fascinated by the culture and the location. That's the two main reasons.



Author Nina Popovic (left), her mother Jelena Niketic-Popovic, father Vlad Popovic and sister Sara, at the launch of *Runaway: Book One* at the Old Ottawa South Firehall

PHOTO BY MARNI KAGAN

WERE THERE ANY ELEMENTS IN YOUR REAL LIFE THAT INSPIRED A PART IN YOUR BOOK?

Yes there was. So, there's a few things that Kat does that I do as well. Her personality is a lot like mine. And then also, a few characters in the book are named after some of my friends, which you'll see once you read the book. There were other things in there that were kind of inspired by my life at home and outside at school but those were the two main ones really.

WHO DID THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN YOUR BOOK?

My dad.

WILL THERE BE A SEQUEL?

There will be a sequel. I'm working on it right now. I'm probably going to finish the first draft by this summer and we'll see how long it takes to publish it and print it.

From the Future, a Gift of the Past

BY JOE PARASKEVAS

Some Old Ottawa East residents got a history lesson recently.

How they got it was almost as interesting as what they learned.

The residents went to hear a presentation

by David McGee, a representative of Lost Ottawa, a Facebook site dedicated to collecting historic photographs of the National Capital Region.

The event took place at the presentation centre of Domicile Developments Inc.,

an Ottawa developer building the Corners on Main condominiums north of the century-old Oblates property at Saint Paul University.

In that way, it was an ironic confluence of past and future: a group interested in preserving Ottawa's heritage appearing at an event organized by a company dedicated to tearing it down.

Domicile's senior vice-president didn't see things quite that harshly.

"We love the history of our Ottawa communities, while at the same time we embrace and effect what we hope to be positive change," said David Chick. "In many ways bringing people back to the city's core to live resurrects a 'historical lifestyle.' New and more residents help bring life to the streets, especially streets that were traditional main streets of the past, providing shops and services easily accessible by foot and bicycle."

McGee came to the event seeking to add to Lost Ottawa's supply of photos by asking residents to contribute to his site. He showed photos of OOE's early

days to generate feedback on aspects of the community that held public interest.

"I think the relative isolation of the community is one of the most interesting things," he said, when asked about OOE's most enduring characteristics. "(It was) right next door to a burgeoning Ottawa, that had just become the capital, but for the longest time there was hardly anyway to get to it. There was a Pretoria bridge and its predecessor, but Billings Bridge was far away, and from the north you had to cross the no man's land of the railyards. Those railyards are probably the second most important thing helping to shape the community, followed by the Rideau Canal which was the original barrier between Ottawa and OOE."

McGee said Lost Ottawa would scan people's historic photographs of OOE for free in exchange for permission to use them.

Domicile will host more arts and cultural events at its presentation centre, Chick said.



PHOTO BY MEREDITH NEWBERRY

Wooden sidewalks, Mrs. Harvey's cows and how to mount bikes seemingly too big for their riders. These are elements of Old Ottawa East's rich history in the early 1900s. They are also memorable stories told by local archivist David McGee of Lost Ottawa at Domicile's Corners on Main presentation centre May 11. Residents were treated to a rich pictorial history and an exchange of stories with neighbours as part of a speaker series dedicated to life in Old Ottawa East. OOE resident and area historian, Rick Wallace of Concord Street also provided local colour about life well before Highway 417 was built.

GRAND OPENING



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Planting Seeds in a Place of Knowledge

BY JOE PARASKEVAS

If users of Sunnyside Library see a change this summer in the flower beds that frame the branch's entrance, they should not be surprised.

John Lubrun, whose arrangements of the library's garden earned fans and awards over the years, retired in May.

Lubrun, 65, has taken care of the library building and garden since 1984.

He remembered how he started tending the flower beds, three or four years after he began work at the library doing maintenance.

"The entrance to the library wasn't looking that nice," Lubrun said. "I didn't like the ambiance of the place."

He started small, planting some annuals, he said, and later some bushes. He tried planting perennials but they fell victim to the salt ploughed off Bank Street by city crews in winter.

Before long, Lubrun had covered the entire front of the library in flowers.

People took notice. The city gave him two awards for beautifying the urban landscape.

A spiritual man, Lubrun saw symbolic meaning in the flowers he nurtured each year.

"A seed is an image of infinity, of eternity," he said. "Think of the spirituality that's involved in it."



Some of the flowers John Lubrun grew at the city's Sunnyside library branch.

PHOTO BY CITY OF OTTAWA



PHOTO BY CITY OF OTTAWA

John Lubrun, whose beautiful arrangements of the Sunnyside Library garden earned many fans and awards over the years, retired in May. Everyone at Sunnyside Branch would like to thank John for over 30 years of dedicated service!



A bus! A bus! One of the first OC Transpo buses rumbles down Marlowe Crescent during the early days of the second phase of Main Street construction, when northbound traffic between Riverdale and Clegg was re-routed to Marlowe. Street residents were unhappy about the increased traffic. Coun. David Chernushenko promised to monitor the situation.

PHOTO BY PETER CROAL

CAG Summer Camps

All camps at Brantwood Park field house, 39 Onslow Crescent

Kinder Camp (3 – 6 years)

August 2 - 5 (4 days)
Tuesday – Friday,
9:00 a.m. – noon, \$80

Camp Brantwood (4 – 8 years)

August 15 - 19 OR;
August 22 – 26 (5 days)
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., \$175

Children's Garden Camp (5 – 10 years)

June 27 – 30, no camp July 1
Monday – Thursday (4 days)
8:30 – 5:00 p.m., \$140
August 8 – 12
Monday – Friday (5 days)
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., \$175

Canoe Kids (7- 12 years)

July 4 – 8, July 11 – 15
July 18 – 22, July 25 – 29
Monday – Friday (5 days)
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., \$270

Half-day spots will open up in the
above camps on June 1, space
permitting

Half Day Activity Camp (9 - 14 years)

July 4 – 8 OR;
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The Annual Main Event



The Main Event: Outdoor Movie Night The Little Prince (G) - 108 minutes

**Friday, June 17
9:00 p.m. or dusk
Springhurst Park, Lees Avenue
Free**

The Main Event: Garage Sale

**Saturday, June 18
8:00 a.m. - noon, throughout Old Ottawa East
From Rideau Gardens Drive to Greenfield Avenue and from
Echo Drive to the Rideau River**

The Main Event: Community Party

**Saturday, June 18
10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m., Brantwood Park, 39 Onslow Crescent**

**Wagon rides, children's games, bouncy castle, live music,
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More information: www.OttawaEastCAG.ca



What is important to you Old Ottawa East?

The Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) and the Community Activities Group of Old Ottawa East (CAG) conducted the first of a two stage survey recently. The purpose of the survey to understand what is important to you in our rapidly growing and changing community.

Feedback is being analyzed and will be published in the next few week on the CAG website (www.ottawaeastCAG.ca) as well as the OOECA website (www.ottawaeast.ca).

Please sign up for the Old Ottawa East eUpdate (www.ottawaeastCAG.ca/eUpdate) to receive notification of the survey results and to participate in the second survey.

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BUSINESS BEAT

BY RON ROSE

When I moved back to Ottawa from Halifax in 2008, I was recently retired, and suffered from lower back pains. It was typical, I was told, of someone who had spent a career riding a desk.

Since I was living in Old Ottawa East, I looked for a clinic in our neighbourhood. Fortunately, I found Sue Raven Physiotherapy Clinic. There, I was successfully treated by physiotherapist Vicki Chase, whose Maritime roots and love of wine reflected my background and interests. Eight treatment sessions, plus a set of home exercises which I have followed less frequently than I should have, resolved my issues.

Prior to establishing the clinic, Sue had worked in private clinics in Toronto and the Netherlands. She had directed the physiotherapy education program at St Vincent Hospital. She then decided to strike out on her own. She chose our community for her clinic in Suite 205 of the Main Street Medical Building, 194 Main St.

Established in 1995, with just Sue and a part-time receptionist, the clinic has grown to include six physiotherapists, a certified physiotherapy assistant, a registered massage therapist, and Shelley, the full-time receptionist-office manager. The size of the clinic has also expanded. It now includes

a large suite of rooms on the second floor.

The clinic offers a full range of physiotherapy services, including massage therapy; acupuncture and ergonomics. Staff will also make home visits. A growing proportion of clients seek treatment for post-operative issues.

The most common group of ailments the clinic treats is muscular-skeletal problems. Sue has credited the acceptance of acupuncture for the increasing success in treating these.

“Twenty-four years ago, acupuncture was accepted as an appropriate treatment in physiotherapy,” Sue said.

She finds it effective in treating all kinds of pain, including headaches. All her physiotherapy staff are trained in acupuncture treatment. The clinic website, <http://sueravenphysio.com/>, offers a full explanation of the conditions treated and the services offered.

Sue has seen a number of changes in her profession since she began practicing. One of the most important was seatbelt legislation, which, according to Sue, “has drastically reduced the incidence of head and neck injuries.”



Clinic Receptionist-Office Manager Shelley Richardson (left) and owner Sue Raven in the clinic waiting room

PHOTO BY RON ROSE

Another major development was a change in customer access.

“Approximately 20 years ago, physiotherapists became classified as primary practitioners, meaning patients could access our services directly, without the need of a doctor’s referral,” she said. She did caution that many health insurance providers have not recognized the change and still insist on a doctor’s prescription before approving payment for physiotherapy treatment.

So how much does it cost to visit Sue’s clinic? The initial assessment, to determine the cause and nature of

a problem, is \$80. An individualized program is then set up. Each follow-up visit, which usually lasts for an hour, costs \$65. According to Sue, the follow-up treatment may include; manual therapy (traction, joint mobilizations etc.), an exercise and stretching program, education, and the use of various treatment modalities.

The clinic opens each weekday at 8 a.m. and closes at either 6 or 7 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 5 p.m. on Friday. The clinic can be reached at 613-567-4808.

Old Ottawa East’ers like to eat sweets



Volunteer : Marie Eve Noel
Child volunteer : Maya Barclay-Génio



From right to left,
Emina Lojo, Ana Génio, Sandra Koch

PHOTOS BY LADY EVELYN

The findings come from sampling the treats at Lady Evelyn Alternative School’s bake sale last month. The school raised \$800 in sweet, sweet sales that will go to the Chestnut Sponsorship Group for their efforts to bring a Syrian family to Old Ottawa East. Muffins, lemon squares, rice krispie treats and cupcakes galore contributed to waistlines and the fundraisers’ bottom line.



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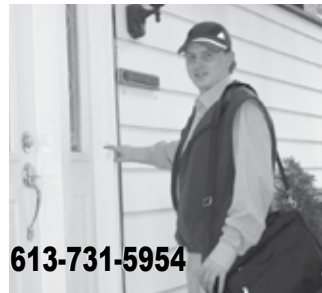
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Music on Mann

BY CLAIRE MARSHALL



PHOTO BY CLAIRE MARSHALL

Geneviève de Caen and Hana (l to r)

Squeals of joy rang out in the violin class. The teacher had just announced the children could take their loaned instruments home to practise. Most people I know remember practice as boring. What's going on here?

I had visited Viscount Alexander to see the kids at work on their violins. The school hosts two OrKidstra programs: KidStringers (Grades 3 to 6) and KiddlyWinks (Kindergarten to Grade 2).

At the after-school KidStringers program, Cendrine Despax, an OrKidstra teacher, teaches 15 kids sight-reading and how to play their full- and half-size violins.

"I really like the violin," said Martin.

"It's easy to carry, and to tune." Hadrian agreed. "It makes a nice sound. Listen! I'm really good today!"

Instead of kids working hard, I saw them at play, making music and having fun while learning. And one student stood out above all the others—literally.

Paul Potvin teaches French and Gym at the school.

"Playing the violin was on my bucket list," he said. "This was a terrific opportunity to learn and help kids at the same time."

To the surprise of his colleagues, who had him pegged more for kayaks than strings, he joined the class in January and has already upgraded his starter violin.

A teacher learning? What a great lesson for the kids, proving that learning can be fun and part of your life always.

KiddlyWinks is delivered in class time, in partnership with OCDSB. Here, Cendrine teaches music and movement, using recorders, xylophones and dance.

Students learn listening skills, harmony and self-expression. A recently-arrived Syrian refugee child has no trouble sharing his thoughts through music, even though he can't yet speak English.

There are young Syrian refugees in OrKidstra programs at other schools, too. At R.E. Wilson, Mohammad, another Mohammad, Ali and Bushra—all recently arrived from Syrian camps—jump for joy with their recorders, proud to be on an equal footing with their new

classmates.

OrKidstra is all about helping kids overcome barriers not of their own making.

Gareth joined OrKidstra when he was 10, weeks after arriving from a refugee camp in Myanmar. He faced complete change: housing, language, schooling, friends, food, climate, clothing. He had to create a new identity. At OrKidstra, he fell in love with and mastered the cello. Better school grades resulted from his increased focus. He was accepted at Lisgar and is now on scholarship at Algonquin College, learning entrepreneurship. He returns every week to coach OrKidstra's cello class at St. Anthony's.

"I'm where I am today because of OrKidstra," he wrote in his high-school yearbook.

At an OrKidstra concert in late 2014, I saw an autistic child on the edge of KidSingers, struggling with words and rhythm, her gestures broad and erratic. By the following June, one of my friends commented on the obvious enjoyment of a little girl in the front row. It was the same child. She had kept her sunny enthusiasm but found her focus.

OrKidstra is a charitable, social development program which teaches children from Ottawa's under-served areas the life-skills they need to achieve their potential. Through making music together, they learn teamwork, commitment, patience and pride in achievement. The program started in 2007 with 27 children. Now there are over 400 children aged 5 to 18 in the program, from 42 linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

KiddlyWinks started at Viscount

Alexander last September; KidStringers, in January. Deb Woods admitted to being a little anxious at the beginning.

"A new program is risky," she said. "Will the kids take to it? But OrKidstra is a huge success. It's awesome!"

OrKidstra is made possible by generous donors who understand the value of music to young minds. As Deb Woods said: "Music and the arts help brain development and strengthen memory skills."

Granting organizations and community-minded corporate sponsors also support the program. Instruments are donated. Ninety-six per cent of OrKidstra's students pay nothing, making the program accessible to families of modest means.

In September, a new OrKidstra hub, at Rideau High School, will open to kids from surrounding neighbourhoods (Vanier, Overbrook) offering them a chance to learn life-skills through music. We look to the local communities to rally round and make it a reality.

See for yourself. Come to OrKidstra's Year End Concert on Thursday, June 16, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Glebe Collegiate. Two hundred kids will participate in an energetic celebration: singing, dancing, playing instruments of every kind and sharing their achievement and exuberance with you. No tickets required, but we hope for donations so that this program of joy and purpose can spread all across town.

Claire Marshall is OrKidstra's Board Chair and an Old Ottawa East resident www.orkidstra.ca

Rainbow Kidschool Director Says Farewell

BY NANCY MARSHALL

Charles Dickens said it perfectly: "It was the best of times." It has been the best of careers for me.

For the past 31 years, Rainbow Kidschool (Carleton Preschool) has been a part of my everyday life. Our connection actually began 34 years ago, when Carleton University Preschool moved from the campus to Lady Evelyn Public School. I was the first Algonquin College Early Childhood Education student at the centre back in 1982.

That was a year of big changes for Carleton Preschool. Once located at

Lady Evelyn School, the centre dropped the 'university' from its name. That was the year that Lady Evelyn became an alternative school as well, the first in the city.

It wasn't until 1985 that Carleton Preschool had a job opening for me. I knew, following my placement with the centre that this was where I wanted to be. It just felt right. In 1989, the position for director became available. The rest, as they say, is history.

It has been an incredible history for me. I have had the pleasure of knowing so

many children and families over the years. And although those children have grown taller and some even have children of their own, it still only feels like yesterday. The full circle effect has begun in recent years too, with the children of children now attending the centre. Where did the time go?

I can't imagine a more rewarding career: having the opportunity to guide young ones on their early path of learning. Each and every day has given moments of shared laughter. That's what I'll remember most: the laughter.

Rainbow Kidschool will always be very special to me. I wish the centre many, many more years of success as it continues to hold an important place in Old Ottawa East.

And so, to quote Dickens again, "It is a far, far better rest I go to than I have ever known." But he wasn't referring to Nova Scotia.

Please check our website at www.rainbowkidschool.ca soon for information about a farewell gathering.

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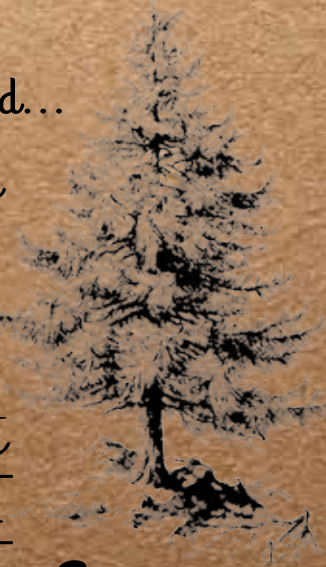
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POLITICAL PAGES

OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BY PHYLLIS ODENBACH SUTTON
INFO@OTTAWAEAST.CA



A month in the life of our community

This month I would like to share some of the recent issues raised by members of our community as well as highlight work being done. There is a lot going on in Old Ottawa East!

North of the Queensway, many neighbours are concerned with the rapid pace of intensification and the movement towards a dormitory-apartment-style building. Several new developments have transformed single or double houses into 12-16 bedroom dwellings. Concern continues with the city's proposed reduction in parking requirements for new development. People are already struggling to find parking spots, there is continued concern with the state of sound barriers beside the Queensway and the lack of noise studies to assess the situation.

In Archville, concerns continue with the construction of triplexes on lots zoned to accommodate no more than a duplex as well as the loss of trees due to both disease and new construction.

Rideau Gardens continues to witness a changing landscape as the rehabilitation of the Regional lands proceeds. With the Main Street northbound closure south of Clegg, a number of streets in this neighbourhood are likely to see an increase in traffic, including OC Transpo buses. The return of spring has also meant the return of Canada geese and the consequent challenges at Brantwood Park.

The recommencement of the Main Street renewal project has been impacting all parts of our community. Traffic rerouting continues and construction activity is once again in high gear.

One bit of good news is that the pathway under the Smythe bridge has now reopened. Hopefully the summer and fall construction will proceed as planned and we will all soon be able to enjoy the new sidewalks, safe cycling and new roadways.

The dog walkers in our community are hoping to find some space to allow for off-leash exercise for their pets. Stay tuned as they seek more information and input.

There is continued concern with a number of city planning initiatives, both those already proposed (e.g., the Infill 2 rules which the OECA is challenging to the Ontario Municipal Board) and those under development (e.g., coach houses, which were discussed in my column last month). As a result of feedback received, the city has delayed its process on coach houses somewhat and is now planning to release the final study recommendations in July, with a staff report to the Planning committee and council in September. OECA will be attending a special session for community associations in mid-May.

Access has recently been restricted to the pathway along the Rideau River (to the east of the Greystone Village development). The reopening of this access in May should include a more gently sloped access point at Brantwood Park.

We have also recently had a 'Stonehenge on Main' moment. Thanks to Ian McRae and John Dance who initially had the vision, to Mike Powers who found us the required storage pellets at short notice, to Domicile who agreed to save and donate the stones, to Novatech who transported approximately 30 limestone blocks (that previously supported the columns of the rowhouses at 141 Main St.) to a temporary resting spot provided courtesy of the Regional Group. Our hope is that the new park along the Grande Allée will eventually incorporate these blocks of history from our past.

Our community association also worked with the Glebe Community Association to get better access points to the Rideau Canal in our neighbourhoods for boats and kayaks. We have a sympathetic MP so this long-standing request actually turned into a reality this year.

Finally, the potential for a new community centre seems more promising than ever, with a plan for space being developed in a revitalized Deschâtelets Building. The OECA is currently working with the Community Activities Group on a survey of our community to better understand what people love about their neighbourhood and how conditions could be improved.

For more details check out the OECA website at: <http://www.ottawaeast.ca/>

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POLITICAL PAGES

SHAWN MENARD

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Dear Neighbour,

For the remainder of my term as Trustee, I will be submitting a regular column to the Mainstreeter. As a resident of Old Ottawa East, I read and love the paper. I hope this column adds some value to your regular reading.

Summer is almost upon us, yet much important work remains at the school board these days.

On May 25 at Glebe Collegiate, my colleagues Trustee Braunovan (Somerset/Kitchissippi) and Trustee Ellis (Rideau-Rockcliffe/ Alta Vista) and I (Capital and Rideau-Vanier) hosted an open discussion about the Ottawa Carleton District School Board.

The topics included the recently tabled draft 2016-2017 Budget, proposed changes to Secondary Schools, as well as information about upcoming accommodation reviews being planned city-wide.

As this print edition overlaps with that date, please find more information below on each of the topics.

BUDGET 2016-2017

The latest staff-tabled Budget contains many measures to return the School Board to balance for this upcoming year. Concerns have been expressed regarding the amount of reductions, particularly to special education staff, assistance for Syrian refugees and school office staff. The School Board is mandated to balance its budget every year. However, there are moving pieces and options to refocus on priority areas. You can also go to OCDSB.ca to find out more information. I am concerned that the draft budget as tabled may result in negative outcomes for student learning and well-being and I will be bringing amendments.

SECONDARY SCHOOL REVIEW

Secondary School Review consultations are coming to a close and staff will be reviewing the community feedback before making final recommendations to Committee of the Whole on June 7. There is still time to express your views at OCDSB.ca, as well as during Trustee deliberations on that date.

The Secondary School Program Review was initiated in 2011 to review the way programs and services are delivered in secondary schools. Recommendations will outline changes to the delivery framework.

The Secondary School Review is proposing several major changes:

- **School Configurations:** Moving to eliminate Grade 7-8 schools and move to a model of K-6 or K-8 and 7-12 or 9-12 schools.
- **Specialist High Skills Major Programs:** The clear articulation that a placement in an inter-school program does not require a cross-boundary transfer and allowing the student the option to finish their high school graduation requirements in the host school, if so desired.
- **French as a Second Language:** The expectation that all secondary schools that offer regular day school programs will offer both core French and French immersion courses, thereby making all program pathways (core/extended/immersion) available to students based on the number of credits in French that are undertaken.
- **International Baccalaureate /Advanced Placement:** Consideration is being given to making application for a second IB site in the western part of the school district.

ACCOMMODATION REVIEWS

Multi-Year Student Learning and Pupil Accommodation Planning will be the focus of the Board over the next several years. On May 17, staff brought forward a discussion report outlining a multi-year strategy for student learning and pupil accommodation reviews. It could result in recommendations for school closures, school consolidations and significant boundary changes. I will remain active on this file and will be working to ensure our downtown schools remain vibrant.

As always, if you have any questions or comments please send me a note or call.

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BEWARE INNOVATION WITHOUT REGULATION

The debate over how — or even whether — to update Ottawa's Taxi By-law is among the most contentious issues tackled by city hall in recent memory, thanks to the guerilla actions of the transportation company Uber. At the heart of the discussion: the decision to open the door to personal transportation companies (PTCs), and the public's apparent dissatisfaction with various aspects of the taxi industry.

There has been much public pressure to allow innovators such as Uber to operate legally in Ottawa. Uber, which first came to Ottawa in 2014, connects riders with freelance drivers at a (usually) lower price than what the city requires registered taxis to charge. As in other cities, the company got its foot in the door by ignoring the existing Taxi by-law — or rather, by claiming it does not apply because Uber is a technology company, not a transportation company — and by paying fines racked up by drivers caught violating the by-law.

This evolved into a closer examination of the status quo, and how Ottawa might modernize private transportation by devising a system to allow any PTC, including taxis, to operate under regulations that are as fair and unbiased as possible, while maintaining public security and safety.

Cabbies and Uber drivers alike need to earn a living. The citizens of Ottawa deserve access to quality transportation under clear rules that are properly enforced. Balancing these needs is a tall order. Despite a city staff report recommending a way forward, this is a work in progress.

My duty as councillor is not simply to get out of the way of free enterprise. Regulations exist to protect the public. If we encourage innovation without regulation, where does that stop? Cheaper food with

no health inspections? Buses without insurance or safety checks?

The 'sharing economy' sounds positive, but many of its services are simply business transactions taking place with little oversight or legal recourse, and no taxation to help fund services necessary for a functioning society.

So where are we now? Council approved a new set of rules meant to open the transportation market to PTCs while preserving some functions for registered taxi companies only. Ideally, the competition will force all operators to improve services. Prices may decrease a bit. But this is not the end of the affair. Council has asked for regular reports from staff on how this transition is proceeding.

Change is coming. Change is often good. But as an elected official, I have a responsibility to ensure 'change' is not just a code word for 'anything goes.'

Main Street update

The second construction season is gearing up on Main Street Renewal project, which means more shifting road closures in Old Ottawa East over the coming months.

The northbound lane remains closed until September from Clegg Street to Lees Avenue and until November from Riverdale Avenue to Clegg Street. The designated detour route is via Riverside Drive, Bank Street and Isabella Street. Find out more at capitalward.ca/mainst.

I, along with city traffic safety staff and police, will monitor the situation for problems and illegal behaviour and respond as required.

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POLITICAL PAGES

YASIR NAQVI MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES IN OTTAWA AND ACROSS ONTARIO

Ontario is one of the safest places to live. The provincial government has worked hard to make the province safe. But now we must work smarter to make it even safer. That is why our government is developing the Strategy for a Safer Ontario - a blueprint for effective, sustainable, and community-based policing. I was pleased to be at the Taggart Family Y in February to announce the start of public consultations on our strategy.

The nature of policing has changed since the Police Services Act was written in 1990. The legislation has not. The last 25 years have seen advancements in technology and an increasing frequency of police interactions with vulnerable individuals, such as those suffering with mental health or addiction issues. More than that, the residents of Ontario expect enhanced oversight and accountability of law enforcement.

I have been travelling across the province, including a public session held at the Old Ottawa South Community Centre earlier this month, listening to residents' lived experiences and how people want to interact with their local police forces - ensuring that those in need of help receive the right response, at the right time and by the right service provider.

We know that when communities plan and work together, they achieve better results for their residents. I hope you will add your voice to the conversation at ontario.ca/safercommunities.

Ontario's police services work hard every day to keep our streets, and communities safe. These are communities that are safest when there is a true partnership between police and the community they serve - a partnership built on trust and respect.

That is why I was proud to recently announce our government's final regulation to ban carding and set out new rules for voluntary interactions between police and the public they serve.

The regulation expressly bans arbitrary and race-based police stops to collect identifying information - stops based on nothing more than the colour of one's skin or the neighbourhood they live in.

We also heard from communities and share the view that respectful, rights-based interactions between police and the public are a good thing, a

foundational part of good community policing. As such, the regulation also sets out fair, enforceable and consistent rules that apply across the province for interactions with the public when our police are working to prevent, investigate and solve crimes.

This is a watershed moment in our province's history - putting in place enhanced accountability and oversight; making sure that individual rights are protected and interactions between police and public are clearly defined and conducted in a way that bolsters trust and respect.

This regulation was the result of extensive consultations across the province. I want to thank all those who attended the Ottawa session or provided feedback online. Your lived experiences was essential to developing the regulation that ensured individual rights are protected and our communities are safe.

Our government has been working to transform Ontario's correctional system because we know that status quo in our facilities is not acceptable.

This transformation is about creating a system that improves staff and inmate safety, enhances rehabilitation and reintegration programs, and strengthens inmate mental health supports.

The first step in that transformation is hiring additional correctional officers. We have already hired 710 new officers since 2013, including 32 for the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre and are in the process of recruiting 40 more for that facility. But we are not stopping there.

I was proud to recently announce that we would be hiring an additional 2,000 correctional officers over the next three years, helping boost staffing levels, improve programming availability and enhance staff and inmate safety. These additional officers build on the work already underway - enhanced mental health training, a comprehensive review of our segregation policy and infrastructure upgrades.

Our government will continue working to transform community safety and correctional services. Building safer, stronger communities for families in Ottawa and across Ontario is a key priority for all of us.

CATHERINE MCKENNA, MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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f MCKENNA.OTTAWA
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My first six months as your Member of Parliament have flown by at an incredible pace! Every day is a learning experience marked with major developments and achievements along the way.

NEW CANAL ACCESS POINTS

On May 10, I announced the installation of two new paddle access points along the Rideau Canal. These new paddle docks, which were installed in response to feedback from the community, will ensure safe and easy access to the Rideau Canal for paddlers and their canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.

The new paddle docks are part of a series of federal government infrastructure investments along the length of the Rideau Canal, between Ottawa and Kingston, totaling \$57 million. This is the largest investment of its kind in the 184-year history of the Rideau Canal. The funding will be used to rehabilitate and repair bridges, dams, locks and historic masonry structures in communities along the canal, more than doubling previously announced federal funding.

One access point is on the west side in the Glebe at Patterson Creek. The other is on the east side in Old Ottawa East at Clegg Street. As the weather warms up I encourage you to get out and take advantage of these new docks!

CLIMATE CHANGE

On April 22, I had the honour of joining Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the historic signing of the Paris Agreement on climate change at the UN in New York. On May 6, I tabled the Paris Agreement in the House of Commons. It should be ratified later this year. Our government views climate change not only as a challenge, but as an opportunity. It is a chance to build a clean-growth economy that will help fight climate change, while also creating well-paying jobs for middle-class Canadians.

We know that to move towards a real solution we need to work with all partners - including at the community level. I was very pleased to host a climate-change consultation in Ottawa Centre on April 28. Some 250 constituents attended this successful event to provide input on mitigating the effects of climate change by reducing emissions, putting a price on carbon, growing good jobs through clean technology and preparing our communities.

If you missed the consultation session, you can still join the conversation and contribute to the climate change debate at www.canada.ca/climateaction. I want to hear your ideas!

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

On the same day as the climate change consultation, the National Capital Commission board announced that, following a broad consultation and rigorous evaluation process, the Commission would begin negotiations for the redevelopment of LeBreton Flats with RendezVous LeBreton Group.

As part of my commitment to you, I called for NCC reform to increase openness and require stakeholder engagement, particularly for major developments on public lands. Close to 8,000 Canadians contributed their views on what a redeveloped Flats should look like. Another 3,000 people participated in town halls leading up to this announcement.

In the past, I have also called for formalizing the participation of the two National Capital Region local governments at the NCC board level. On April 28, I was thrilled to see Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and Gatineau Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin attend their first NCC board meeting as ex-officio board members!

At the same meeting, I was also pleased that the NCC board approved a federal land use request that the Memorial for Victims of Communism be built in the Garden of the Provinces and Territories. I support this new location, as a much more appropriate site than what was originally planned in the parliamentary and judicial precinct on Wellington Street.

NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY PROJECT

The Ottawa Public Library board is in the planning stage for the new central library. Ottawa residents will have an opportunity to help shape the criteria that will be used to evaluate the potential sites. A public consultation meeting was held on May 16, followed by online input. I hope you will give your thoughts. Visit <http://ottawacentrallibrary.ca/get-involved> for more information.

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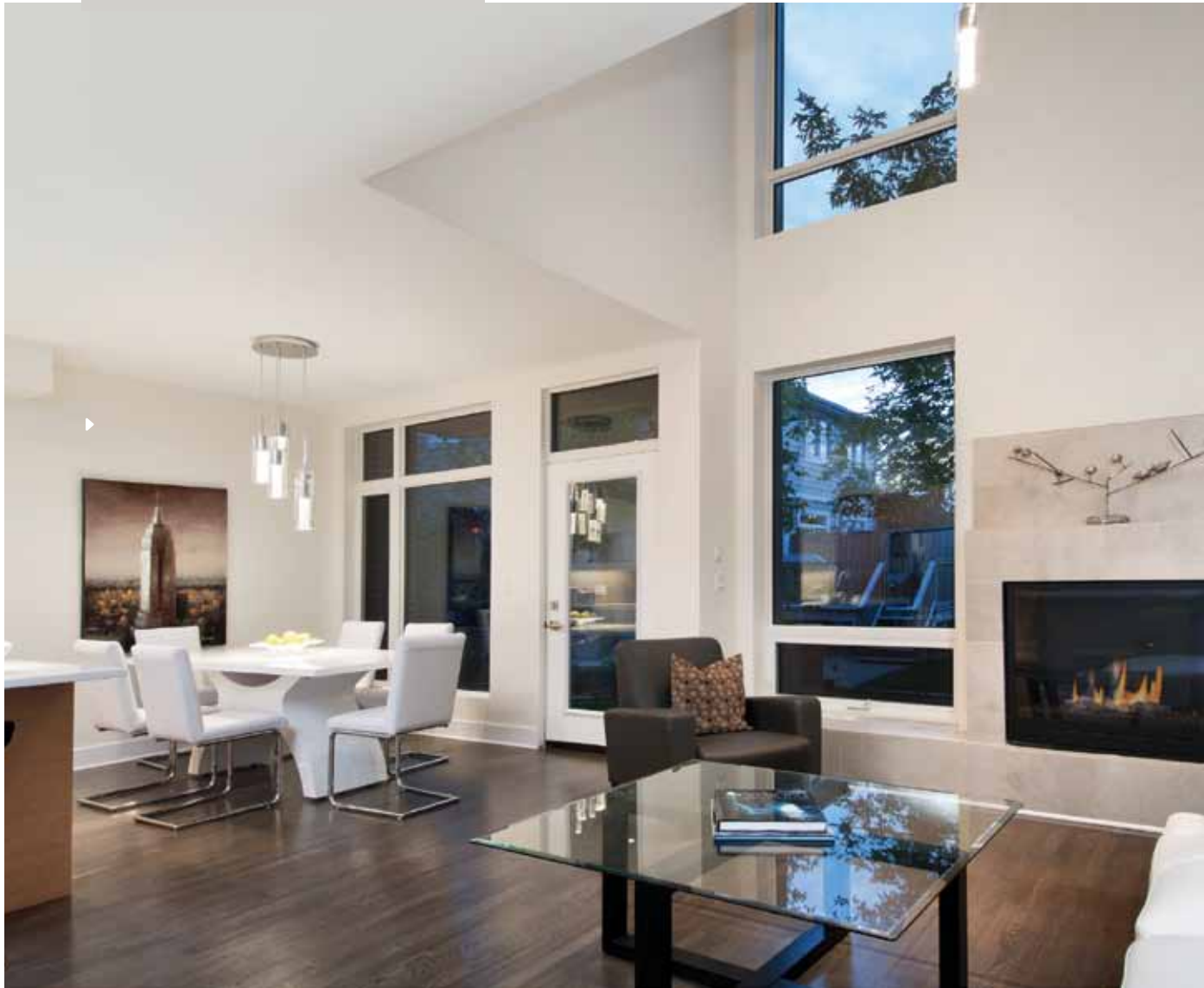
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