

## Retirement residence rises

### New home in the works at Greystone Village

MEREDITH NEWBERRY

A new retirement residence is coming to Old Ottawa East next year. Construction on the residence in Greystone Village is scheduled to begin as early as March 2018 with rental units available in mid-2019, according to Jennifer Martel, a partner at Greystone Village Retirement Residence (GVRR).

The partners at GVRR purchased approximately three-quarters of an acre of property along the river in Greystone Village. The plan, which required variance approvals for its oversized building, has been approved by the City of Ottawa's Committee of Adjustment.

The plan is for 146 residences within three buildings which are two-, seven- and eight-stories high in a "T-shape".

Martel says the building will take advantage of Old Ottawa East's river views by incorporating walk out patios and two rooftop terraces. Amenities are also planned for the residence. "We are planning multiple lounges, a gym,



CREATED BY NEUF ARCHITECTS

This rendering shows what the soon-to-be-built Greystone Village Retirement Residence at 225 Scholastic Dr. should look like from the North East corner of the property. This image was included in the proposal submitted to the City of Ottawa in 2017.

movie theatre, full service dining room, hair salon, spa, cafe, pub. Our goal is to create a product that our residents and community will be proud to bring their family and friends to," said Martel.

The project has been met with some challenges within the community. Additional housing for seniors is welcomed by the community, but the

buildings themselves were considered just too high.

One of the biggest issues expressed by some residents, and subsequently communicated through the OECA at the Committee of Adjustment, is that a building adjacent to the Deschâtelets building should not exceed it in height. The height limit was set to ensure the

heritage building will be the focal point of the Greystone Village. The community association worries that the height variance could set an increased height precedent for developments outside of this Deschâtelets block. They believe the building should be built without a variance.

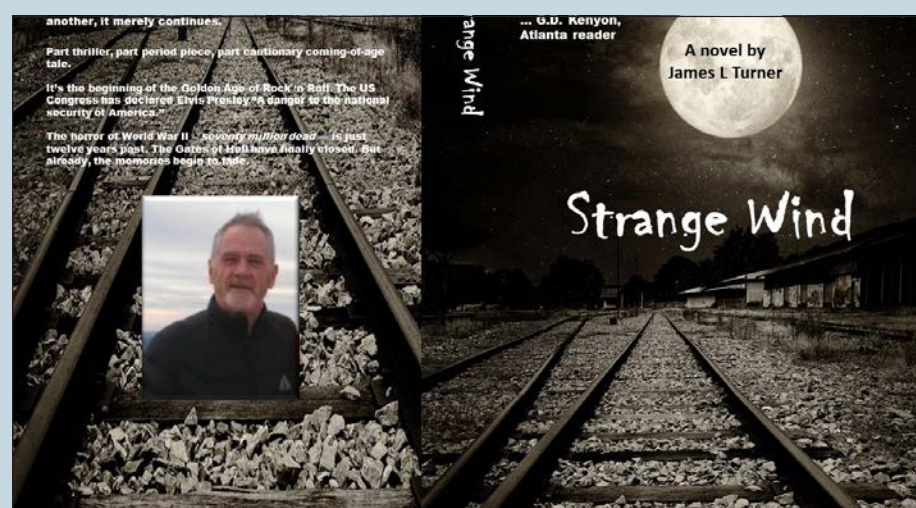
Continued on Page 6

## Local author shares childhood memories in thriller

KELTIE ROBERSTON

Ottawa author James Turner has recently published his first novel, *Strange Wind*, a thriller combining memories of his childhood spent in Old Ottawa East with historical elements of the Second World War era. *The Mainstreeter* talked to Turner to find out more about his writing process, his childhood in our neighbourhood and the inspiration behind *Strange Wind*.

**What motivated you to set part of the story in Old Ottawa East? What importance does this setting play in the plot and story?**



There are two main reasons for using the setting of Old Ottawa East. One, I simply stuck to an old adage "write what you know about". Second,

the novel has an autobiographical aspect - for the most part, it is. In the first draft, the McDaniel family from Hurdman's Bridge was named Turner.

Ottawa author James Turner has recently published his first novel, *Strange Wind*, which is set in Old Ottawa East.

My editor insisted that I change it. He pointed out that since the book's official genre is Historical Fiction, it was too confusing for readers to have the main protagonists use the same name as the author. All of the characters are real people, or composites of real people. There was more than enough material from my experience growing up on Lower Lees Avenue for a book. And I found it much easier to keep the characters in their real setting.

Continued on Page 9



Selena Arvai unseated Todd Dunnett as this year's champion of CAG's Soup Cook-Off. It came down to a battle of minestrone vs. minestrone and Old Ottawa East's tummies voted Arvai's soup as #1. What's her secret? She makes her own stock. PHOTO BY: MEREDITH NEWBERRY



If the weather outside is frightful, Paint Nite might be delightful. The Royal Oak Canal at Pretoria Bridge plays venue to Paint Nite, a warm winter retreat for budding artists on many Thursday and Saturdays nights. Participants can share a meal on the main floor of the pub and then head upstairs for a painting lesson.

PHOTO BY: MEREDITH NEWBERRY



Who needs a toboggan when you've got another way down the hill? Jeff Morris and his son take a fun ride down the hill at Brantwood Park during the CAG Winter Party in February. PHOTO BY: JIM LAMONT



These two brothers are all smiles as they slide down the toboggan run at Brantwood Park during the CAG Winter Party. They might be dressed in blue but they're beating any chance of the winter blues by playing outside in Old Ottawa East. PHOTO BY: JIM LAMONT

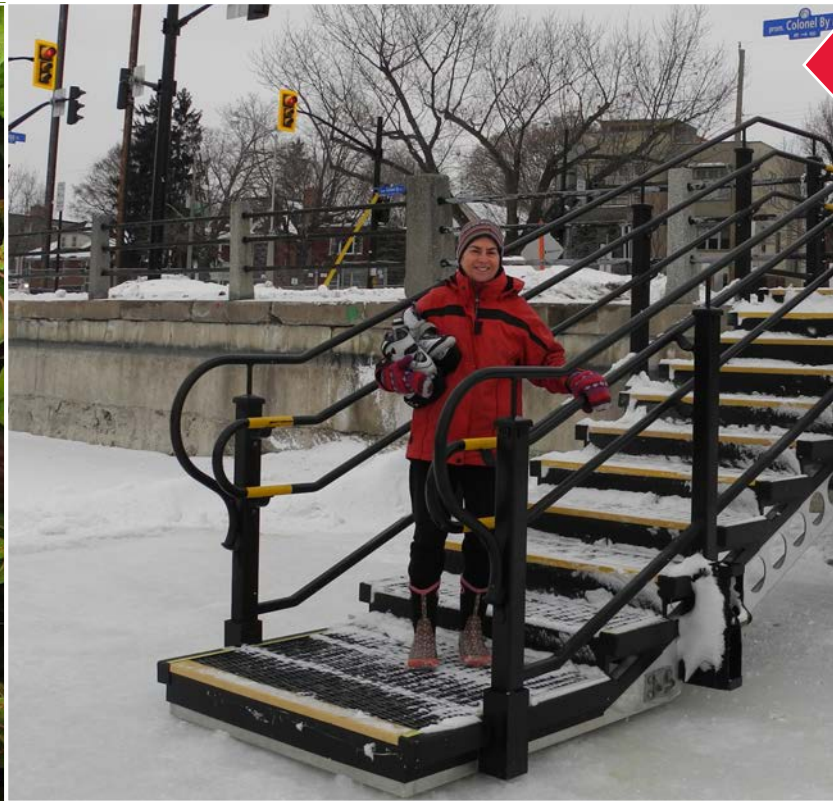


Old Ottawa East showed it's true holiday colours this season. The award for most festive Christmas tree goes to...Kings Landing Private. PHOTO BY: ASHLEY BURKE





This Old Ottawa East boy kept busy in January with visits to warm coffee shops and long museum walks. Butterflies in Flight, the exhibit shown here, is on at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa until April 2, 2018 and is sure to warm up anyone in need of a burst of warm air. PHOTO BY SARA LANDRETH



Edwina Schneiderman (formerly a resident of Beckwith Road) was the first skater to use the stairs down from Colonel By Drive to the Canal this season. It's smooth skating even with the construction of the Clegg-Fifth Bridge underway. PHOTO BY: JOHN DANCE

How many other Old Ottawa East kids learned to skate on the Brantwood Park rink? Photographer Jim Lamont caught this little one skating during CAG's Winter Party. What do you think, a future Hoser for the rink some day? PHOTO BY: JIM LAMONT



Darryl Arvai plays a little one-on-one with his son at the Brantwood Park rink. Despite some extreme weather and lots of snow, the rink is in great shape and should stay open to at least the end of February. PHOTO BY: MEREDITH NEWBERRY



New Brantwood Rink czar Marco DeNigris (right) is pictured above with rink attendant Matt Dunn. Marco has taken over from Cindy Courtemanche, after her many years in the same. Volunteers are most welcomed to sign-up for flooding. PHOTO BY: JOHN DANCE





MEREDITH NEWBERRY PHOTO

Lady Evelyn students are amped up to have a new connection with the University of Ottawa. Students at the University and teacher Kim Symes (shown) provide students with hands-on activities using electricity.

## New club sparks fun at Lady Evelyn Alternative

**NATALIJA MUDRIC AND  
NADYA BISSETT**

The Robotics Club at Lady Evelyn gives kids a chance to open their minds. With the help of students from the University of Ottawa, 20 Grade 4, 5 and 6 students gained experience playing with electricity. We used technology such as: gears, robots, wires and even 3D printers. We also made electrically powered dogs and inchworms. Zoe M., 10, said, "It's a wonderful chance to learn and play and will make future electricians out of kids."

Amon E., 10, said, "[The club was a] fun experience for kids to learn about technology. Fun!"

The Lady Evelyn students say they can't wait for the Robotics Club to start up again. Special thanks to University of Ottawa students Matthew Walsh and Isabelle Eid-Holm for hosting Robotics Club and to Ms. Symes for organizing it.

*Mudric and Bissett are Lady Evelyn students and members of the Robotics Club.*

## Don't get schooled by budget discussions

The 2018 School Board Budget will be a pivotal document:

■ The Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is one of four School Boards in Ottawa. It is, by far, the largest Board, with over 72,000 students and nearly 150 schools.

■ The OCDSB will have a budget of nearly \$1 billion in 2018, which is about 1/3rd of the City of Ottawa's budget.

There are a number of important discussions that take place during this process, including special education investment, the number of teachers and educational assistants needed to ensure proper support in our classrooms, infrastructure investment, and much more.

The reason the 2018 budget will be so pivotal is that the Board's financial position has improved, a contingency exists and there are identified needs that must be fulfilled by this Board.

**Shawn  
Menard**

**OPINION**

The Board votes on the budget in two distinct parts. The first and largest portion (70%), is in late March, with the second portion (30%) taking place in June. Curiously, trustees are often put in the position of voting on the largest portion of the budget without first seeing the detailed Provincial Grant for Student Needs (GSNs) – which comprise the majority of the funding school boards receive in Ontario. The explanation being that staffing decisions need to be made by a certain date to prepare for a financial year that begins in September.

It would be a much better process if the Provincial Government provided predictability and certainty with regard to long-term funding for education in Ontario. I believe the two distinct portions of the budget process are also needlessly cumbersome and do not encourage public input. The budget should be consolidated into a single and highly consultative participatory budget process. It should include full knowledge of the type of funding the Board can expect prior to decisions being made.

In 2018 I will be hosting several budget discussions and forums to better understand what is needed, and incorporate those views into decision-making when voting takes place.

*Shawn Menard, Past Budget Chair for OCDSB and Trustee for Capital Ward and Rideau-Vanier Ward. 613-867-6772 shawn.menard@ocdsb.ca.*

### IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES TO KNOW

- February 2018 – Downtown wards budget consultation
- End of March – Vote on 70% of the budget
- April 16, 2018 – Staff update, including information on GSNs
- May 14, 2018 – Presentation of the staff recommended budget
- May 17, 2018 – Downtown wards budget consultation
- May 20, 2018 – Public delegations and committee questions
- June 4 2018 – Budget debate continues
- June 11, 2018 – Budget debate (if required) and recommendations to Special Board

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# Fifty years under the Rainbow

## OOE preschool celebrates major milestone in 2018

LUCIANNE POOLE

Screams of delight fill the room as Jack Miller celebrates his fifth birthday. He met most of his friends at the party at Rainbow Kidschool on Evelyn Avenue.

Now in kindergarten, Jack joins generations of Ottawa kids who've attended Rainbow Kidschool, which also celebrates a birthday: its 50th.

Rainbow first opened its doors in 1967 at Carleton University as a research facility and model preschool. Known as Carleton University Preschool, Rainbow was founded and first directed by early childhood education pioneer, Evelyn Gripton, who passed away in January 2017. A student in the inaugural year of the Institute of Child Study at the University of Toronto, Gripton earned her master's in child studies in 1944. In 1971, Gripton became an advisor to the province's Ministry of Community and Social Services, developing the standards for early childhood education in Ontario.

Since then, Rainbow Kidschool has been at the leading edge of preschool education in Ottawa. Although it left Carleton in 1982, the non-profit child centre still collaborates with Carleton researchers. Rainbow's co-director from 1985 to 1989, Denise Byrne, credits former director Marian Barnett with not just the continued connection, but also for keeping Rainbow open.

Carleton University cut the preschool's funding, so Barnett arranged for Carleton to donate all the preschool furniture and resources in return for continued access to observe the children for research (with parental permission).



JIM BRONSKILL PHOTO

Megan Stewart, Brett Miller and their family celebrate birthdays and friendships. All of Stewart and Miller's kids have been enrolled at Rainbow Kidschool.

Barnett, who passed away in 2011, moved Rainbow in 1982 to a custom-made facility in the newly-renovated Lady Evelyn to provide after-school care, as well to continue the preschool program.

That year was also pivotal for Nancy Marshall, former director from 1989 to 2016.

"I was the first Algonquin College early childhood education student at the centre back in 1982," Marshall wrote in an article for the Mainstreeter in 2016. "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 1999, Carleton Preschool changed its name to Rainbow Kidschool. Now

a registered charity run by a volunteer board of directors, Rainbow continues to offer preschool, after-school and full-day programs during PD days, Christmas, March break and summer camps.

"All three of my kids loved Rainbow," said Megan Stewart, mother of Jack, Sean, 4, and Isobel, 2, who is in her first year in Rainbow's preschool. "The

boys enjoy returning on PD days. They always have a lot of fun."

Long-time Old Ottawa East residents Stewart and husband Brett Miller praise Rainbow for its supportive staff, healthy meals and warm and caring environment.

Fellow Rainbow parent, Vivienne Macy, agrees. "We are incredibly fortunate to have such a well-run facility so close by," says Macy, whose daughter Kathryn, 5, attends the after-school program. "The staff genuinely care about the kids and my daughter loves every minute she spends there. We also love that the other kids on our street, regardless of where they go to school, all meet up there after school. It fosters a bond between neighbours which would otherwise not occur as readily."

Alumni, families, friends and former staffers are currently sharing their memories of the school online at [facebook.com/rainbowkidschool](https://facebook.com/rainbowkidschool). Anniversary activities will extend into the New Year, including a BBQ at the end of the school year.

*Lucianne Poole is the president of the board of directors of Rainbow Kidschool.*

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# Community centre in the works?

Regional Group project expected to go before city council within two months

DON STEPHENSON

Discussions between officials of the City of Ottawa and The Regional Group, the developer of Greystone Village, assessing the costs and technical feasibility of creating a new community centre in a restored and expanded Deschâtelets Building should result in a decision soon. The former Oblate Fathers' building at 175 Main Street, is a local landmark and a protected heritage building, which presents both opportunities and challenges in adapting it to new uses.

Many residents believe that Old Ottawa East is underserved in indoor community facilities. The existing community centre, housed in the Old Town Hall at 61 Main St., comprises only two rooms, only one of which is accessible to people with limited mobility and with little in the way of specialized equipment for sports or recreation programs.

The Deschâtelets Building – located at the end of the planned pedestrian street and in the geographic centre of the

community – has the potential to provide multiple, purpose-built and equipped spaces for sports and recreation, including a full-size gymnasium. The now vacant building offers an opportunity to create a community hub for youth and adult programs, community meetings, health and other services, in a preserved and re-purposed heritage property. Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC), a not-for-profit housing organization, has also been studying the feasibility of including affordable housing units in the design of the new facility.

Design concepts for the project were first developed by students in the Conservation Studio at Carleton's Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism, under the direction of Associate Professor Mariana Esponda. Preliminary designs were subsequently prepared by Hobin Architecture Inc.

At the Jan. 9, 2018 meeting of the Ottawa East Community Association, Coun. David Chernushenko reported that a recommendation on the project is expected to come before City Council



SUPPLIED BY HOBIN ARCHITECTURE

A proposal to create a community centre in the Deschâtelets Building has been under discussions. This graphic shows the vision imagined by Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC) and created by Hobin Architecture.



Inset: Design concepts by Lori Chan, Mimi Gagne and Summer Bourgon, Carleton University.

within the two months. No decision has been made about the usage of the existing Old Town Hall should the City decide to move forward with the Deschâtelets

Building project. It is certain, however, that community groups are hopeful for a positive decision on a new centre and look forward to expanding their programs and services.

## Company aims to make community proud

— Continued from Page 1

"I don't understand how a commercial company can consider buying a property if they know it will not be commercially viable," said Ron Rose, Chair of the Community planning committee. "If they need 150 units, go find a piece of property large enough and zoned appropriately to allow them to build a 150 unit building. They should not expect us to change our carefully negotiated design plan to suit their commercial needs."

According to Martel the final building should not encroach on any

of the Deschâtelets views. "We are slightly higher than the limit, but because of the elevation, our building sits much lower than the Deschâtelets building so from Main Street you don't even see our building. I understand that the OECA had some concerns, but our goal is to make a product that the community is really proud of."

There will be a sales trailer set up months before the opening of the residence next year so that people can learn more about the options for rentals. Costs will range from \$3900 to \$6100 per month.



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## FROM THE EDITOR | UN MOT DU RÉDACTEUR

I really love this issue of *The Mainstreeter*.

I might be biased, but I might also be right.

This issue covers so many issues that are at the core of our community: renovation, construction, arts, business, fun, education and family.

The youth in our community are involved in so many areas of our community and I am thrilled when I see them recognized, like young Miles Arthorne, who won a top honour at a creative writing contest with the CNIB.

Or the students at Lady Evelyn who started a robotics club at their school because they love learning even when outside their classroom. The learning bug goes for so many others in our community too, as evidenced by the huge turnout that the Speaker's Series on Canada's Prime Ministers received. And of course construction is always a hot topic in our hot pocket of Ottawa, so I'm happy that we have a few pieces that cover some incredibly real perspectives on renovating in our neighbourhood, building within our community design plan and some tips for how to live amid a few more years of heavy residential construction.



Today I am more than thrilled to share that we are welcoming a new editor to the folds of our paper. (Picture me clapping while typing. Yup... picture it.)

Please welcome Lorne Abugov. Lorne has lived in and around the community for 35 years.

He's been a reporter, an editor, a coach, and a broadcasting and telecommunications lawyer. And in his spare time he has owned a professional soccer club and a youth soccer academy.

I think he's going to bring some exciting new views to our community paper.

He's looking forward to the challenge of editing *The Mainstreeter* and to meeting the neighbours who so elegantly put the paper together every issue. I'm thrilled that you'll get to have another new perspective to the paper and continue to join in the sharing of our community.

Thanks to everyone, volunteers, readers and advertisers alike, who have supported us during our transition from editor to editor.

Happy February everyone!

— Meredith Newberry, Acting Editor

J'aime beaucoup ce numéro du *Mainstreeter*.

Je suis peut-être biaisée, mais j'ai peut-être raison aussi. Dans ce numéro, vous trouverez des articles sur de nombreux enjeux qui sont au cœur de notre communauté : les rénovations, la construction, les arts, les affaires, le divertissement, l'éducation et la famille. Les jeunes de notre communauté s'impliquent et je suis ravie de les voir récompensés, comme le jeune Miles Arthorne, qui s'est vu remporter un premier prix dans le cadre d'un concours de création littéraire de l'INCA. Ou les étudiants de Lady Evelyn qui ont fondé un club de robotique à leur école parce qu'ils adorent apprendre même à l'extérieur de la salle de classe. Cette soif d'apprendre s'étend à plusieurs membres de notre communauté, comme en témoigne la participation élevée à la série de conférences de l'association communautaire sur les premiers ministres du Canada. Bien évidemment, la construction est toujours d'actualité dans notre coin d'Ottawa.

Je suis donc bien contente que ce numéro contienne quelques articles traitant de façon honnête des rénovations dans notre quartier et de la construction dans le respect du plan d'aménagement de la collectivité ainsi que des conseils pour survivre à quelques années de plus de construction résidentielle lourde.



Par ailleurs, j'ai aujourd'hui l'immense plaisir de vous annoncer que nous accueillons un nouveau rédacteur en chef dans nos rangs. (Si je le pouvais, j'applaudirais en tapant!) Accueillons chaleureusement Lorne Abugov. Lorne habite dans et près de notre quartier depuis 35 ans. Il a été journaliste, rédacteur, entraîneur et avocat spécialiste de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications.

Et dans son temps libre, il a été propriétaire d'un club de soccer professionnel et d'une académie de soccer pour jeunes.

Je pense qu'il va apporter de nouvelles perspectives intéressantes à notre journal communautaire. Il a hâte de relever les défis associés à la rédaction du *Mainstreeter* et de rencontrer les voisins qui travaillent avec acharnement pour préparer ce journal à chaque numéro. Je me réjouis que vous ayez un nouveau point de vue dans ce journal et que vous puissiez continuer à profiter du partage au sein de notre communauté.

Merci à tous les bénévoles, lecteurs et annonceurs qui ont su nous soutenir pendant cette transition d'un rédacteur à un autre. Bon mois de février!

— Meredith Newberry, rédactrice par intérim

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*We were very touched by the outpouring of condolences, cards, calls, small gifts and other expressions of sympathy offered to us over the past few weeks.*

*On January 4, our small dog, Louie, was on one of his regular daily walks and was jumped by a larger dog and shaken viciously.*

*The next day Louie had to be put down because of a severely broken jaw which could not be fixed by any veterinarian in Ottawa. We were heart-broken about the loss of our little rescue dog from Iqaluit. Louie's passing left a large void in our house. We were helped through this mourning period by the*

*neighbours on our street and in the area of Old Ottawa East who reached out to us. We just wanted to say a sincere 'thanks' and that it meant a lot of both of us.*

— Bob Parkins & Anne Marie Smart  
Springhurst Avenue



# LRT delay extends ramp and pathway closures

JOHN DANCE

The recently announced delay in the completion of the new Light Rail Transit line means an extended closure of both the 417 eastbound on-ramp at Lees Avenue and the pathways on the Rideau River LRT bridge, just east of the Lees apartment buildings.

Originally the Rideau Transit Group (RTG), the consortium responsible for constructing the LRT, planned to complete the new Confederation Line by May 2018. But various factors, including the massive sinkhole on Rideau Street, have led to an indefinite delay.

Before this new delay was announced, Steve Cripps, Director, O-Train Construction said the re-opening of the eastbound access to the Queensway couldn't happen until the LRT was fully operational and until the new Queensway lanes had been converted from "bus-only" use to regular vehicle usage.

"Access to eastbound Queensway will remain impossible for as long as the ramp and outer lane is a dedicated bus lane and cannot have private vehicles mixed in — just as with any other dedicated lane of this kind," said Capital Ward Councillor David Chernushenko. "Until the rail is open, the buses can't be removed and therefore the on-ramp cannot be re-opened. Frustrating, but a reality."

Similarly, there has been no target set for opening the pathways that run along the LRT bridge over the Rideau River, connecting the Rideau River Western and Eastern Pathways.

"The continued closure makes very little sense," says Kris Nanda, president of the Riverview Park Community Association. The group's area extends from the river to St. Laurent Blvd between the VIA rail lines and Smyth Road. Before the bridge's closure, many Riverview Park residents used the LRT bridge for commuting and recreation.

"The possible - though unlikely - convenience for the LRT contractor should not come at the expense of the continued daily inconvenience to taxpaying pedestrians and cyclists who would otherwise use Hurdman [Rideau River] LRT Bridge," said Nanda.

"The pathway remains closed because it is still part of the active construction zone, and is used by RTG to access the guideway and to transport materials between their work areas on either side of the river," Cripps said. "As such, there

***"Until the rail is open, the buses can't be removed and therefore the on-ramp cannot be re-opened. Frustrating, but a reality."***

— Coun. David Chernushenko

may still be construction equipment travelling across the Rideau River Bridge and RTG is not able to reopen the pathway at this time. The City continues to review with RTG the potential for the early opening of project elements, including the Rideau River Bridge pathways, once they are no longer required for construction purposes and deemed safe for use."

"For many people to whom I have spoken, it seems like the contractor is coming up with excuses to keep the bridge closed - especially since the protective fencing along the LRT and the rails themselves have now been completed," responded Nanda.

"I think people would accept the occasional short-term closure of the bridge for LRT contractor purposes if advance notice was given, as was the case when the paths along the river under the Queensway were being reconstructed to accommodate the added lanes on the 417 Bridge," he said.

Chernushenko said he'll continue to push for a speedier resolution to the closures. "It is unfortunate that the required closure for construction and safety purposes is such a prolonged one. I will work to see that it is reopened as soon as this can be done, but without taking unnecessary risks for the public,



PHOTO BY JOHN DANCE

After two years of construction activity the pathway is open under the LRT Rideau River bridge but the pathways on the bridge remain indefinitely closed just like the Lees Avenue on-ramp to the eastbound Queensway.

or compromising the construction of this very important infrastructure project."

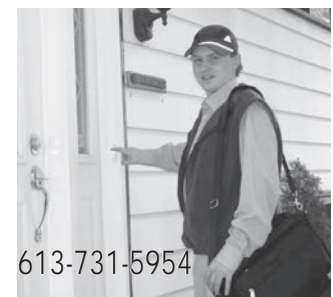
In the meantime, while pedestrians and cyclists can't go over the LRT bridge they can go under it. Construction of the section of the Rideau River Western Pathway (RRWP) between the Lees

campus of the University of Ottawa and Springhurst Park was finished in December and is open. By the end of the summer, with the completion of the Greystone Village section, the RRWP will run all the way from Sandy Hill's Strathcona Park to Brantwood Park.

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# 'The inspiration came from my siblings'

— Continued from Page 1

**What was it like to grow up in this neighbourhood at that time? Does it match the poetic description of life here in the 50s that you give in the beginning of the book?**

I grew up in Old Ottawa East, on lower Lees Avenue. From kindergarten to eighth grade, my siblings and I, all ten of us, went to Canadian Martyrs Catholic School on Graham Avenue. (That building is still there and looks exactly the same. I believe it's the Adult High School now.) We were officially part of Ottawa East, but isolated by the railroad tracks. And I did my very best to capture life in that era, exactly as I recalled it.

**What inspired you to put pen to paper and write the story?**

A lot of the inspiration came from my siblings. Seems that each of us has our role in the family. My eldest sister Josephine is the family historian, while I've ended up, by default, being the family scribe. Several of my siblings have urged me over the years to write a book. For the most part, they wanted to read about our neighbourhood and

what it was like growing up there. I'm not sure they're totally happy with the results, though. I think they were expecting our family version of *Angela's Ashes*. I don't think they were prepared to have me rattle a few of our family skeletons in public. But those skeletons are real, and part of my overall intent was to shine a light on the universality of those evils. So I left them in.

[Another motivation] is to show younger generations the truths of that era (WW II and its aftermath). When I talk to younger people today it becomes evident that most of them have only a surface understanding of events - Hollywood's version. I'd like to demonstrate that these evils are universal, timeless, and recognize no geographic boundary - that, regrettably, the Nazis were not a one-time aberration.

**The narrative orbits around a factory near the Rideau River, where some German POWs are working in the aftermath of WWII. Is this something that actually happened?**

[Turner recalls that] the Harry Hayley Cinder Block Company did employ German POWs during, and after WW II. There is little or no public information

readily available on this. My eldest sister has clear memories of watching a flatbed truck deliver the prisoners each morning, then returning them to the prison camp, in Hull, in the afternoon.

**The book plays a lot on the trope of truth versus fiction. There are some parts that seem autobiographical but there are also archival photos, maps, and extensive footnotes and end notes. To what extent was the book based on true or autobiographical events?**

I've been asked this question many times. The novel is, in general, autobiographical. The main story elements are based on factual events, the characters are real people - with, of course, some dramatic and narrative license employed. As one example, the chapter where the narrator (me) is chased by one of the main villains actually occurred. Writing about it was basically simple reporting, up to the time I escape. Everything subsequent to do with this character is fiction. The photographs, and other historical data, are tools that, I believe, lend authenticity to the tale.

**The research provided in the footnotes and endnotes is quite extensive. Was there a search to uncover some sort of truth, or to present the "real" facts that have been forgotten by history? Was this inspired by the current political climate?**

In the first draft, I did not employ endnotes. Most of this information was woven into the novel. But on review, I found that it interfered with narrative flow. Hence, the end notes. Why did I include these elements? Since childhood, when I began reading, I've been fascinated by WW II, particularly the events of the Holocaust. The numbers and statistics from that era have always astonished me. In fact, I've never been able to view them as "statistics" - always been cursed/blessed with mentally picturing the reality. In researching that era, I was stricken by the many similarities between pre-war Germany and modern America. That research also brought to light similar, unflattering events from Canada's not so innocent, but colourful, past.

*Strange Wind can be found on Amazon.com in print and ebook. It's available on Amazon.ca as an ebook.*

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# OMB reforms: New appeals system 'creates incentives for better decision-making'

JOHN DANCE

Ontario's land-use planning appeals system has been reformed to give municipalities and community associations a stronger voice in land use planning, Yasir Naqvi, Ottawa Centre MPP and Ontario's attorney general, explained at the January 2018 meeting of the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OECA).

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) will be replaced by the new Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) that will be able to overturn municipal planning decisions only if they do not follow provincial and local plans or policies. Previously, the OMB had the power on an appeal to substitute its decision for that of a municipality or a Committee of Adjustment.

The new appeals system to replace the OMB "creates incentives for better decision-making at the community level," said Naqvi. Other reforms include exempting a broader range of major land-use planning decisions

from appeal, including municipalities' overall frameworks for development ("official plans"); "faster, fairer and more affordable hearing by establishing clear timelines;" and providing access to free legal and planning support for Ontarians throughout the appeal process.

According to Naqvi, a key implication of the reformed system is that municipalities, developers, community associations and residents will have to work together in the early stages of the development of major local land-use plans, given that the new legislation no longer provides for any appeal of such plans once they are approved by the municipality in question.

"Your community is a great example of this collaboration," Naqvi said in reference to the joint planning work done by the community, the city and developers in setting out the framework for the Regional and Domicile developments in Old Ottawa East. "Not everybody is 100 per cent happy, but it is a very good example

and there hasn't been a single OMB appeal," Naqvi said of the Regional and Domicile developments in Old Ottawa East.

In terms of a simplified appeal system - which in the OMB era was "long and costly" - the new Appeal Tribunal will narrow down issues, set maximum procedural time deadlines to expedite decisions, bring rigour to the process, and no longer require witnesses. "We don't need a complex system that lawyers and planners thrive on," said Naqvi.

"I strongly believe that these changes will create a balanced decision-making process that is more predictable, faster and less costly, and can help ensure that cities and towns reflect the best interests of the people living in them today, as well as future generations by fostering community-inspired development," Naqvi noted in a handout he provided at the meeting.

Ron Rose, Chair of the OOECA planning committee, said the community was cautiously optimistic about the proposed changes. "It is very costly and time-consuming for a community association to appeal municipal planning decisions through the OMB, and any measure that will reduce those costs and simplify the process would be welcome," said Rose.

He added that the Province's promise of providing access to free legal and planning support was particularly appreciated, and noted that it would be great if in the future such support could also be provided by the municipality.


OOE resident Jamie Brougham commented at the meeting that the key to more, and better community

involvement in the process is enhanced and broader citizen education, especially in a complex area such as land use planning, a point with which Naqvi agreed.


In terms of the City of Ottawa's efforts to help communities better understand and participate in planning, Charmaine Forgie, a manager within Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development department said, "Representatives from the department meet regularly with members of the Federation of Community Associations to solicit feedback on planning and development matters. As well, the City is in the process of seeking candidates for the Planning Advisory Committee, which will be formed in 2018."

Also, the City's planning department has implemented the "Pre-Application Consultation Project" in the central wards of the City. Currently, there are 50 members of multiple community associations, including OOECA, who are eligible to attend and participate in the pre-application process in the central wards.


Naqvi also used the OOECA meeting to highlight another new legislative measure aimed at lowering speed limits on local roads, and notably on residential non-arterial streets and in school zones. Under Bill 65, the Safer School Zones Act, municipalities can now create zones with reduced speed limits down from 50 km/h to either 30 or 40 km/h to reduce the frequency and severity of vehicle-pedestrian or -cyclist collisions. More details on this road safety measure will appear in a future issue of the Mainstreeter.




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# Living in a construction zone

TARA HOGETERP

Moving into a new home is often both exciting and stressful: boxing up your life and then unpacking it into a new space, finding spots for your treasured possessions, and finding some things no longer fit in your new space. Then there is the excitement of exploring a new neighbourhood, and meeting new people who live, work and shop near your new home.

Old Ottawa East will be welcoming an unprecedented number of new residents into our small community in the upcoming months as more and more people move into the new developments in Greystone Village and Corners on Main. Those coming into the neighbourhood will not only be negotiating all the newness that comes with a move, but also life in the midst of a construction zone.

Old Ottawa East resident Heather Jarrett is moving into the new condos Corners on Main in February of this year. While she has never lived in a construction zone, she has lived through many construction projects near her current home. That includes three months of the road being torn up during water-main replacements, which she found fascinating. She said that her worries about moving into a construction zone were “pretty predictable -- dust, noise, construction traffic” and emphasized that she is not overly concerned and “finds watching the construction very interesting”.

Architect and former Old Ottawa East resident Michael Kilpatrick has

renovated and rebuilt many homes throughout the neighbourhood, and had some suggestions for what new residents can do to manage life amid construction. Kilpatrick advised that changing your air filter regularly and keeping doors and windows closed are two of the easiest and most useful steps homeowners can take to keep the dust down.

Kilpatrick also said door mats will help reduce construction residue in your home. “If you have the space available then put out several in a row to act as a runway coming into the house. There is a reason why big commercial buildings put about 30 feet of matting inside their main entrances and that is to control dirt and dust from entering the building.”

He also noted that if neighbours or residents moving in have any concerns, they should find out who the project’s site supervisor is. “If you are having problems contact that person first. A good site supervisor will quickly respond to your concerns and attempt to rectify the problem before the situation escalates.”

As she prepares for her upcoming move into Corners on Main, Jarrett said she hasn’t received any tips regarding life in a construction zone from the developers at Domicile — other than being informed that a second building will be going up. She anticipates that residents will be told about any impacts after they’ve moved in. In the meantime, she’s coming up with one definite plan of her own: “the fact that it is happening directly



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

After almost four months of very noisy work, the pile-driving for the Clegg-Fifth Canal footbridge is, to the great relief of nearby residents, all done.

opposite our windows — we will need to get window coverings pretty soon after we move in!”

As families settle into their new

homes, we hope that they feel welcome in our community and that life in a construction zone will prove more interesting than challenging.

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## Five tips for new residents

■ Take down any pictures that are hanging on walls and that may be prone to being jiggled off a hook. With all the rumbling from the heavy equipment it is better to be safe than sorry!

■ If you have delicate china in a cabinet -- especially sitting on glass shelves -- it may be wise to remove those items and pack them up until construction settles down.

■ Take pictures of the interior walls. If a crack develops, the photographic evidence will be your best means of proving it was a result of construction activities.

■ Keep a log of when unusual things happen, such as a door that used to open easily now sticking

when being closed, or when cracks appear in walls or floor tiles. This can provide you with information about your home and help you better understand the impact nearby construction is having.

■ Don't forget your plants! A layer of dust on plant leaves can have a big effect on their ability to survive. Dust can affect photosynthesis, block stomatal pores which prevents their proper functioning, and the pH level of the dust may affect the surface chemistry of the leaf. The best solution here is to regularly hose down your garden to ensure that plants stay happy, green and growing.

— Courtesy  
Michael Kilpatrick Design





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# So you say you want a renovation ...

## STACEY WOWCHUK

Next to the Brantwood Park BBQ and the Main Street Farmer's Market, improving one's property seems to be one of Old Ottawa East's favourite warm-weather activities. Our family went through this process a few years ago, and I thought I would share a bit of our story. Hopefully it will help you realize your dreams or avoid a nightmare.

## DO YOU REALLY WANT TO RENOVATE?

In all seriousness. Do you really? Renovation has been heavily romanticized through reality television and home decor media. Living through a renovation could take a toll – on your wallet if it's late, or on your relationships if it's anything but smooth sailing. If you are doing this with a partner, you have to be on the same page and capable of making quick decisions. Otherwise, you might find yourself faced with the urge to light a hardware store on fire when the hundredth white paint chip "just isn't grey enough."

From planning to possession (and depending on the size of the project) you should estimate at least 12 months for a full home renovation. Whereas, it's possible buy a different house in a day and be moved in within the month. We started researching firms in November and moved into our fully renovated house in September of the following year. We made it a priority to stick to the

project schedule because any delay on our end – even a day, could result in an overall project delay of weeks. The actual construction took five months, meaning we spent 50% of our time planning.

## HAVE YOU DONE YOUR HOMEWORK?

A successful renovation requires thorough planning. Will your dream project require a variance? Are there mature trees on your property? Have you researched the floodplain? Do you live on a former dumpsite? If you're an Old Ottawa East property owner, chances are your project could touch on at least one of the above. This will either delay your dream house or outright kill it. You can consult the Old Ottawa East Community Association and leverage the resources they have on their website. Your reno team should know all this and have the necessary paperwork in place, and give you an estimate of the time required to obtain approvals.

You must also be informed. As the homeowner, you are ultimately responsible for anything that might negatively affect your neighbours. You may also want to consult, or at the very least inform your neighbours of your project.

Stephen Pope, architect and past Chair of the Old Ottawa East Community Association's Planning Committee, agrees. "The best way of keeping things smooth with your neighbours is to talk up the new work as much as possible.



*Selecting a reputable firm cannot be emphasized enough."*

Early warning prevents them from being surprised. Good design accompanied by documentation in terms of plans and street views of the proposal can help explain the impact of the new work." He adds, "understanding how your design will impact neighbouring views and in turn listening to your neighbours' concerns can help prevent misunderstandings."

Selecting a reputable firm cannot be emphasized enough. You can observe a lot just by walking around the neighbourhood – such as projects in a constant state of delay or those numbered companies that disappear every two years. When you do find a house you like, I suggest contacting the owners. You can also speak to their neighbours. You'll get the most honest perspective from those affected by the construction e.g. noise issues, bylaw infractions, and the conduct of the construction crew.

For our project, we went with a design-build firm that has been around since 1982. The biggest reason was that we never heard any negative feedback about our builder.

## CAN WE REALLY AFFORD THIS?

The biggest question that will drive your decision to renovate is can we afford this project? There are times where a renovation just doesn't make any sense. It may be that the improvement isn't going to result in a real augmentation in

the value of the home, or that the time / effort / cost involved is simply too much. Most of us have to secure some kind of financing to renovate and to do so will require an appraisal of what your future home may be worth. That's where you'll get your definitive answer.

Cash flow may be an issue. This has been the case for almost everyone we know who has undertaken a large-scale renovation. Glen MacEachern and his family went through a renovation where they found themselves in this situation. "Despite our best efforts, we had to scramble to secure extra money to cover about a one week period where we were waiting for a release from the bank. It was an extremely stressful time."

We too were no exception. So make sure that you have access to at least one-third of your project cost in credit or savings. If this is not possible, it's a good indicator that the project as conceived may be unaffordable.

We found that when it was all said and done, our renovation cost less than simply buying a different house. But it wasn't by much. This included the cost of the construction (including additions), a rental house for the construction period, moving all of our stuff out and then back into our house, as well as new furnishings. However, we ended up with a quality house we love, designed exactly how we want it, and the reassurance that it was built with care. To that end, it was well worth the time, effort and cost.

There is no right answer regarding renovation; it's whatever works for your family. Take the time to clear up questions regarding affordability. Have those sometimes difficult conversations with your partner regarding your ideal living space, and your willingness to undertake the significant effort required of a renovation. It will pay off in the long run.



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Spring -  
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Program Guide

Registration  
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March 6 at  
9:00 p.m.

[info@OttawaEastCAG.ca](mailto:info@OttawaEastCAG.ca)

Old Town Hall 61 Main Street 613-627-0062  
Brantwood Park fieldhouse 39 Onslow Crescent 613-230-0076

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# Preschool

For children with parents/guardians unless otherwise stated

## Community Playgroup (0 – 5 years)

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 6 – June 22  
Friday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
\$52 first child, siblings \$37  
July 4 – August 17  
Wednesday OR Friday  
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
\$30 first child, siblings \$15  
Siblings under 12 months of age are free

## Cooperative Playgroup (0 – 3 years)

Brantwood Park fieldhouse,  
39 Onslow  
April 3 – June 14  
Tuesday OR Thursday  
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
\$30 per child  
Siblings under 12 months of age are free

## Children's Garden Playgroup (0 – 5 years)

A coordinated playgroup with crafts, education, games, garden sampling, bug hunts and more.  
Ottawa Children's Garden,  
Main & Clegg  
July 3 – August 23,  
no program August 14 or 16  
Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
\$30 first child, siblings \$15

## Parent Time

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 3 – June 5  
Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
**FREE**  
Pre-registration required.  
Program funded by CAG.

## Hush-a-Bye Babies® (1 – 12 months)

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
March 8 – April 19  
Thursday 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
OR May 10 – June 21  
Thursday 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
\$96

## Little Lotus™ Mom and Baby Yoga (6 weeks – crawling)

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 3 – May 8 OR;  
May 15 – June 19  
Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
\$90 per adult

## Music Together (0 – 4 years)

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 7 – June 16,  
no program May 19  
Saturday 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.  
\$160 including materials,  
siblings \$85  
Siblings under 9 months of age are free

# School age

Drop-off programs unless otherwise stated

## Adoption Potluck & Play (5 – 12 years)

Brantwood Park fieldhouse,  
39 Onslow  
April 22, May 27 and June 10  
Sunday 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
\$22 per child with family

## Soccer in the Park (3 – 6 years)

Brantwood Park, 39 Onslow  
May 12 – June 16  
Saturday  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m. (3 yrs)  
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (4 – 6 yrs)  
\$53  
June 21 – July 19  
Thursday  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (3 – 6 years)  
\$44  
Parent or supervising adult required to stay in the park.

## Youth Sports (7 – 12 years)

Lady Evelyn School gym, 63 Evelyn  
April 5 – May 17,  
no program May 10  
Thursday 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
\$30  
Program subsidized by CAG.

## Youth Activity Club (7 – 12 years)

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
Friday April 20  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
**FREE**  
Pre-registration required.  
Program funded by CAG.

# SUMMER Camp 2018

Registration for summer camp is open now.

## Jump Start Summer (5 – 10 years)

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
June 25 – 29  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$224

## Camp Brantwood (4 – 8 years)

Brantwood Park field house, 39 Onslow  
July 30 – August 3  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$224  
August 20 – 24  
Monday – Friday,  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$224

## Children's Garden Camp (5 – 10 years)

Brantwood Park field house, 39 Onslow  
August 13 – 17  
Monday – Friday,  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$224

## Canoe Kids (7- 12 years)

Brantwood Park field house, 39 Onslow  
July 3 – 6  
Tuesday – Friday  
8:30 – 5:30 p.m., \$271  
July 9 – 13  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 – 5:30 p.m., \$336  
July 16 – 20  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 – 5:30 p.m., \$336  
July 23 – 27  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 – 5:30 p.m., \$336

Children must pass a swim test to participate; see website for details.

## Nature and Art Camp (5 – 10 years)

Brantwood Park field house, 39 Onslow  
August 7 – 10  
Tuesday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$180

## PLEASE NOTE:

Our camp prices are inclusive of pre and post-care.



For more detailed information visit [www.OttawaEastCAG.ca](http://www.OttawaEastCAG.ca)



# MARCH break

Registration for this camp is open now.

## March Break Camp (5 – 10 years)

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
March 12 – 16  
Monday – Friday,  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
\$224

# AFTER school

Registration for 2018-19 opens at 9:00p.m. Tuesday, March 6. If the program is full please add your name to the wait list.

## Brantwood Park After School (Age 6 – Grade 6)

For children attending Hopewell and Lamoureux schools  
Brantwood Park fieldhouse,  
39 Onslow  
Pick up by 5:45 p.m.  
\$210/month

## Old Town Hall After School (Age 6 – Grade 6)

For children attending Lady Evelyn, Elgin and Francojeunesse schools  
Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
Pick up by 5:30 p.m.  
\$210/month



Please see  
[www.OttawaEastCAG.ca](http://www.OttawaEastCAG.ca)  
for more information  
regarding CAG After School  
programs.



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# ADULT general interest

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Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 9 – May 14  
Monday 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
\$160

## Group Guitar Lessons (12 – 95 years)

For returning and new students. Participants provide their own instrument.  
Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 4 – June 6  
Wednesday 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. \$250



# EVENTS

## Brantwood BBQ & Picnic

Brantwood Park fieldhouse,  
39 Onslow  
May 17 – Aug 2  
Thursday 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

## The Main Event Outdoor Movie Night, Garage Sale & Community Party

More info coming soon... Sign up for the CAG weekly eUpdate at [www.ottawaeast.ca/eupdate](http://www.ottawaeast.ca/eupdate) to be sure not to miss it!

# Adult sport

## Co-Ed Volleyball

Lady Evelyn School, 63 Evelyn  
April 5 – May 17,  
no program May 10  
Thursday 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
\$35

## Women's Ultimate

Springhurst Park  
May 24 – August 23  
Thursdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
\$86

# ABOUT us

The Community Activities Group of Old Ottawa East (CAG) is a voluntary, not for profit, community-based organization that works in partnership with the City of Ottawa to provide the residents of Ottawa East with programming, recreation, and special event opportunities that are local, affordable, inclusive and of interest to members of the community.

**Chair**, Don Stephenson, **Past Chair**, Melanie Gilbert,  
**Treasurer**, Lynne Byford,  
**Secretary & Communications**, Tina Raymond  
**Volunteers & Events**, Lisa Dunnett,

**Executive Director**, Carol Workun, **Program Assistant**, Megan Shoemaker, **Program Assistant**, Isobel Smith

**For more detailed information visit**  
**[www.OttawaEastCAG.ca](http://www.OttawaEastCAG.ca)**

**[info@OttawaEastCAG.ca](mailto:info@OttawaEastCAG.ca)**



# ADULT fitness & sport

All classes are beginner/intermediate unless otherwise stated.

## Vinyasa Flow Yoga

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 4 – June 20  
Wednesday 7:15 – 8:45 p.m.  
Wednesday 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
(Intermediate),  
\$113  
July 4 – August 22  
Wednesday 5:45 – 7:15 p.m.  
\$76

## Hatha Yoga

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 7 – June 16,  
no program May 19  
Saturday 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.  
\$94

## Yin Yoga

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 3 – June 19,  
Tuesday 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.  
\$113

## Tai Chi Qi Gong

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 16 – June 18,  
no program May 21  
Monday 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
\$85  
April 4 – June 20  
Wednesday 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
\$104

## Zumba - NEW!

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 5 – June 21  
Thursday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
\$94



## Better Body Boot Camp

Lady Evelyn School gym,  
63 Evelyn  
March 26 – April 30,  
no program April 2  
Monday 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
\$60  
March 21 – May 2  
Wednesday 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.  
\$84

## Better Body Boot Camp in the Park

Brantwood Park, 39 Onslow  
May 7 – June 18,  
no program May 21  
Monday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
\$72  
May 9 – June 20  
Wednesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.,  
\$84  
June 25 – July 30,  
no program July 2  
Monday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
\$60  
July 4 – July 25  
Wednesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
\$48

## Strength & Tone

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 4 – June 22  
Wednesday OR Friday  
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
\$85  
July 11 – August 10  
Wed 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
\$36

# www.OttawaEastCAG.ca

## Pilates

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 3 – June 19  
Tuesday 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
\$113  
July 4 – August 22  
Wednesday 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
\$76

## 20-20-20

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
April 3 – June 19  
Tuesday 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.  
\$85

## Urban Pole Walking

Old Town Hall, 61 Main  
May 15 & 22  
Tuesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
\$10  
Program subsidized by CAG.

## Single Class Fitness Passes

\$18/class Better Body Boot-camp  
\$14/class for Yoga, Pilates,  
Tai Chi  
\$11/class for Strength &  
Tone and 20-20-20

# For more detailed information visit

**Online registration** opens  
9:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at  
www.OttawaEastCAG.ca, with  
Visa or MasterCard.

**In-person registration** opens  
2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall  
on Wednesday, March 7, pay-  
ment is by personal cheque  
only.

Programs are advertised in the  
language in which they will be  
presented/ Les programmes se-  
ront donc offerts dans la langue  
dans laquelle ils sont présentés.

**Financial assistance** is  
available to Ottawa East  
residents; please apply in person.

The **CAG Weather Policy** is  
such that we run all outdoor  
programs rain or shine unless  
otherwise stated in the program  
description; programs will be  
cancelled in the event of lightening  
or thunderstorm at the time  
of the program.

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If you would like more information on the CAG Community Partnership Program  
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## Old Ottawa East eUpdate

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# Our Neighbours: Catherine Patterson

BONNIE WEPPLER

She is currently taking both swimming and skating lessons. Her PhD dissertation is titled: The heritage of life and death in historical family cemeteries of Niagara, Ontario. Her best friend lives in British Columbia.

Meet Catherine Patterson. A transplant from Hamilton, Patterson arrived in Ottawa almost two years ago for a job at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission where she is responsible for ensuring the maintenance of memorials and headstones for the Commonwealth war dead as well as the proper commemoration of the names of the war dead.

Patterson loves her job and is grateful that she got one of the few non-academic opportunities in her field, one that allows her to immerse herself in her passion.

Patterson has been “forever interested in cemeteries” and has long loved the phenomenon of family farm cemeteries. During her undergraduate studies, she had a project researching farm cemeteries with considerations around conservation, modern care and historical research. She had the opportunity to work on four headstones

in a family farm cemetery in the Acton, Ontario area.

“The stories are personal but can also scope out the story of a town and community – the carving, architecture and landscape”, explains Patterson.

When Patterson knew she would be moving to Ottawa, a colleague sent her a map of Ottawa. Patterson, her mom and uncle, came up one weekend and drove around the different areas to see where she wanted to live. Her primary consideration was the ability to walk to work. She looked at places in Sandy Hill, New Edinburgh and Old Ottawa East. She contacted one landlord about a place in Sandy Hill; he recommended her to another of his buildings in Old Ottawa East. She returned to Ottawa the following weekend and the deal was done.

When asked about her thoughts on Old Ottawa East, Patterson comments that she likes the architecture, the people, and the neighbourhood is a convenient place to live and be able to walk to so many places.

“It’s good; it’s residential but there are a lot of things going on. It’s a friendly spot.”

When giving general directions as to where she lives, she uses the Green



BONNIE WEPPLER PHOTO

Catherine Patterson waits for the canal to reopen so she can practice her skating skills!

Door as the landmark. “I am a fan of the Main Street strip,” she said.

Patterson is still exploring all that Ottawa has to offer but she loves Bike Sundays and she’s involved with the Ottawa Outdoor Club.

“It’s a great way to meet people as a newcomer to the City. It’s how I got to know Gatineau Park. We also went to Algonquin Park’s Radio Observatory

for a three-day star-gazing trip.”

Patterson has participated in Heritage Ottawa lectures as well NCC’s Urbanism Lab lectures. She has run around the city during Doors Open and Jane’s Walks weekends.

“Ottawa is starting to feel like home,” she said. Patterson is looking forward to using her newly developed skating skills on the Rideau Canal skateway.



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# CAG winter party a huge success

SUEELLEN MACGOWAN

Brantwood Park drew crowds of neighbours for the annual Winter Party in the Park and Soup Cook-off Jan 21, 2018. Thanks to many volunteers, sponsors, chefs and organizers; the event was a huge success and went smoothly despite plus temperatures.

“Weather is always an unpredictable factor,” said Carol Workun, Executive Director of the Community Activities Group of Old Ottawa East (CAG) that runs the annual event. “This year we thought we might have to cancel due to the effects of the warm weather on the ice, but we made our final call to carry-on with full support of Marco DeNigris, of the Brantwood Rink Group. We really appreciate it, since everything went really well and it was wonderful to see the park and the beautiful rink so well used.”

Visitors to this free-event enjoyed horse-drawn sleigh rides, sledding, snow-shoeing, skating, hockey target shooting, and roasting marshmallows against the scenic backdrop of the Rideau River. Inside the Brantwood fieldhouse, there was hot chocolate, hot dogs, popcorn, baked goods and soups entered into the cook-off.

Selena Arvai and her Minestrone soup won the Cook-off, as judged by community members, she received a \$100 gift certificate from Al's Steakhouse. Additional prizes were donated by The Royal Oak on The Canal and distributed to others. CAG greatly appreciated the great support of all this year's participants, which included Todd Dunnett's delicious Sausage Minestrone. Soup submitted

was quickly consumed by enthusiastic taste-testers, recipes online at [www.OttawaEastCAG.ca/winterpartyreport](http://www.OttawaEastCAG.ca/winterpartyreport).

Elysia Allen won the candy jar guess, guessing 48, the correct number! The candy jar was filled with an assortment of different sized gummy candies, 64 individuals tried to their luck in guessing the number crammed inside the Mason jar.

“The Winter Party is a great way to connect with neighbours while having fun outside as a family,” said Leah Skuce of Old Ottawa East. “We go every year and are always impressed by how great everything is and much our kids never want to go home at the end.”

CAG thanks its community partners who helped make this event possible, including City of Ottawa, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre Watson's Pharmacy and Wellness Centre, The Green Door, Diane & Jen Realty, The Regional Group – Greystone Village, Bank of Montreal – Lansdowne.

CAG also thanks Loblaws, Pretoria for donating some of the food and Al's Steakhouse and The Royal Oak on the Canal for donating cook-off prizes.

CAG also thanks its large team of volunteers, without whom there would be no event:

Marie-Eve Noel, Jim Lamont, Nick Workun, Lisa & Todd Dunnett, Ben Hebb, Fiona Clark, Jane Gough, Selena Fraser, Carol Anne Owen, Marnie Drover, Chaz Davies, Camrose Burdon, Seveda Lisiecki, SueEllen MacGowan, Tina Raymond, Suzanne Gagnon, Heather Jarrett, Dave Macki, Ramine Shaw, Jim Fraser and Tera Winter.

CAG also extends its warm appreciation to rink volunteers without



JIM LAMONT PHOTO

These girls had a blast using snowshoes at the CAG Winter Party.

whom the event would not be possible.

Did you enjoy the Winter Party?? Please considering volunteering for our upcoming Valentines Days Skate and Chili Cook-Off!! These Events NEED volunteers like you to

make them a success! Contact Lisa at [volunteer@OttawaEastCAG](mailto:volunteer@OttawaEastCAG) for more info. The Valentine Skate is Friday, February 9 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Brantwood Park, more info: [www.OttawaEastCAG.ca](http://www.OttawaEastCAG.ca).

## My Mistake Poem

By Miles Arthorne

Old Ottawa East's Miles Arthorne, 10, is a winner of the recent CNIB Braille Creative Writing Contest. Here's his funny and creative poem:

*I went to the sea to find shipwrecks,  
I made a mistake and found semtex.  
I went to the cupboard to find some jam,  
I made a mistake and found a ram.  
I went to the garden to find a rake.  
I made a mistake and found some steak.  
I went to the mines to find a jewel,  
I made a mistake and found a ghoul.*

*I went to the basement to get applesauce,  
I made a mistake and got an albatross.  
I went to the park to sit on a bench,  
I made a mistake and sat on a wrench.  
I went to the street to catch a cab.  
I made a mistake and caught a crab.  
I went to the airport to fly a plane.  
I made a mistake and flew a train.*

*I went to the store to buy some wine,  
I made a mistake and bought a porcupine.  
I went to work to make a chair,  
I made a mistake and made a pair  
I went to the living room to vacuum the floor,  
I made a mistake and vacuumed a boar.  
I went to the stadium to watch the 67's,  
I made a mistake and went to the heavens.*



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# POLITICAL PAGES

## OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BY PHYLLIS ODENBACH SUTTON  
INFO@OTTAWAEAST.CA



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW AND WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT YEAR

My last column was written shortly before our Annual General Meeting on November 14. What a great evening that was; it was wonderful to have such a large crowd at the Church of the Ascension that night. Thank you to everyone who attended.

I am pleased to report that we now have a new team in place. We have a number of returning Board members, some who have retained their previous positions (John Dance as Past President, Don Fugler as Treasurer, Suzanne Johnston heading our Membership drive, and Catherine Pacella on Communications), with others accepting new challenges (Mark Seebaran as Federation of Citizens' Association representative and Jocelyn Kearney as Secretary). We are pleased to welcome some previous Board members back to our team (Ron Rose as Vice President and Chair of our Planning Committee, Heather Jarrett as our liaison with new residents at the Corners on Main and Greystone Village, and Jaime Girard as Health and Safety representative) as well as having a number of brand new volunteers (Tom Scott on Transportation, Anne-Raphael Audoin looking to engage Lees Avenue Apartment dwellers, and three new members-at-large: Bob Gordon, Richard Cundall and Cam Vidler).

Since my last column, the Springhurst portion of the Rideau River Western Pathway has been completed, although the sidewalks on the LRT bridge across the Rideau River remain closed. Considerable construction progress has been made on the footbridge at Clegg. Many residents of the community will I am sure be thankful when the pile driving on this project is complete!

More new neighbours have moved in to Greystone Village and residents are now moving into their condominium units in Phase 1 of The-Corners-on-Main. Construction is continuing at both of these developments; at

Greystone Village, construction of the first condominium tower has started as have the pre-construction activities in the North Village development south of Springhurst, with work continuing on the single-family homes and townhouses north of Clegg. At Domicile, Phase 2 on Main Street is well underway.

While Canada's sesquicentennial year may be officially over, we are very pleased to announce the continuation, for at least a few more months, of our Prime Ministers Speakers' Series. To date we have celebrated the lives and times of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Robert Borden, Lester B. Pearson, Louis St. Laurent, William Lyon Mackenzie King, Pierre Trudeau, John Diefenbaker and Alexander Mackenzie. Our February 26 session will be looking at the life and times of PM Jean Chrétien, a former resident of Old Ottawa East! I encourage you all to read a bit more about our series in the article included in this edition of the *Mainstreeter*. And please have some fun with our PM quiz (also in this edition of the *Mainstreeter*).

To continue in the Sesquicentennial spirit, I am also very pleased to mention that four members of our community received special Canada 150 awards from our MPP Yasir Naqvi: Heather Jarrett and John Dance (current members of our Board and long-time volunteers in our community), Don Smith (for his work with refugees), and in the youth category, Daxton Rhead (recognized in part for his support of indigenous rights at the First Nations Child and Family caring society of Ottawa).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our MPP Yasir Naqvi for coming to our January 9 Board meeting to provide information on the proposed replacement to the Ontario Municipal Board and respond to the numerous questions from our audience that evening.

*Continued on Page 28*

## DAVID CHERNUSHENKO COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

613-580-2487

DAVID.CHERNUSHENKO@OTTAWA.CA  
CAPITALWARD.CA



## COMPROMISING ON AN ISSUE THAT DOGS US ALL

Dogs — they're a topic municipal politicians try to avoid. Why? Because some residents love dogs and feel they should be able to roam freely through every park or greenspace. Some tolerate them in designated off-leash areas, and some feel they should be on-leash at all times, everywhere. How is a politician to bring these groups, and the shades of grey between them, together for compromise when it's needed?

It's easier to let sleeping dogs lie.

But in Old Ottawa East, the development of the Oblates property means a wide-open expanse of land formerly used for dog walking has now become, for the most part, private property. The remaining corridor of land leading from Brantwood Park on the south to Springhurst Park on the north is far narrower and will accommodate both a paved multi-use pathway and a more naturalized footpath. This is, to most observers, not an ideal location to let dogs run free.

The challenge is therefore to find spaces, or to redefine those we already have, taking into account the growth and change in our community. How do we balance the needs of dog owners, other users of parks and pathways, and groups that use our fields for organized activities — all while ensuring that families and individuals feel safe and comfortable visiting our parks?

In the fall of 2016, my office began consultations with community groups (including the OECA and CAG) and City staff in three departments to help define permitted uses in our parks. That includes considering our options as a community, the processes we need to undertake, and the varying viewpoints on what is important for our park users.

At the March OECA Board meeting, the dog-owners' group will present a draft

proposal for wider discussion. Broadly, this proposal will aim to modify or add to our current park regulations:

- Dogs permitted on-leash on all pathways (paved or not) through Brantwood Park, the Greystone pathway and Springhurst Park.

- Dogs permitted off-leash (seasonally and by time of day) on the outfields of the baseball diamonds in Brantwood Park

- Dogs permitted on-leash in the southern section of Springhurst park, south of the pathway leading off of Springhurst Ave.

- Designating an off-leash area in the open green space at 160 Lees Ave., between Springhurst Park and the apartment complexes on Lees. The shape, location and nature of this area are still being defined, as we are very sensitive to families who use the playground area and the open field, and want to maintain safety and comfort for all users.

This spring, the City's By-Law group will undertake, with the help of my office, the public consultation process required to modify community parks. Signs will be posted in affected parks, and feedback sought from the community.

I understand the potential for this issue to pit neighbour against neighbour and, dog owners against those who do not have these pets as part of their families. I also appreciate the capacity of our community to openly discuss and compromise in everyone's interests.

I look forward to working with our vibrant and growing community to help ensure our spaces are welcoming, safe and sustained for everyone.



# POLITICAL PAGES

## CATHERINE MCKENNA, MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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Catherine McKenna recognizes OOE residents as Canada 150 Pin winners. Miranda Brethour was chosen as a passionate advocate for more rights and representation of minority groups in our community. She helped organize the most recent Flight to Freedom Conference in October which focused on the global search by refugees for a safe home. Inset: CAG was recognized as being an employer of youth in the city. They provide a variety of opportunities for high school and post-secondary students as well as volunteer opportunities to help young people gain valuable work experience.

## CALLING ALL YOUTH – STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE

Are you aged 15-24 and passionate about creating real change? Do you care about what happens in Ottawa Centre? If you answered yes, I want you on my Constituency Youth Council!

This nonpartisan council connects engaged and passionate youth within the riding with me and my team so we can hear fresh perspectives. At the same time, young people like you gain insight into the federal political process while building leadership skills.

The Prime Minister is the Minister of Youth and our government strongly believes that by partnering with young Canadians, we can inspire innovative ideas and initiatives. Difference makers come at all ages, and I am proud to be part of a government that celebrates and encourages the voices of our younger generations.

Members of the council meet regularly to discuss issues in Ottawa Centre that matter to them and work to find solutions. Last year's council noticed the Glebe Community Centre

did not have a composting strategy and decided that was something they wanted to change. Together, with the help of Coun. Chernushenko and the Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group, they successfully implemented a composting program at the centre this past fall. The Council's compost project is a great, practical example of caring for the environment, reducing our waste and taking sustainable action on climate change. I am so proud to see young people mobilize the community to make a positive impact; everything helps in making

Ottawa the greenest capital.

If you are interested in joining the Council, I encourage you to visit my website ([www.catherinemckennamp.ca](http://www.catherinemckennamp.ca)) or contact my office (613-946-8682) to get more information on how to apply. Applications will be accepted until February 28th, 2018.

I look forward to meeting the new members of the Ottawa Centre Council and am excited to work together to make Ottawa Centre a more positive and inclusive community.



# Turning the tables on the OECA Prime Minister Series: The speakers and audience react

LYNDA RIVINGTON

The sesquicentennial project of the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OECA) celebrating the life and times of Canada's Prime Ministers has been so successful that it is continuing on into 2018.

This series of free monthly lectures was the brainchild of current and former OECA presidents Phyllis Odenbach Sutton and John Dance. Their initial concerns about a small audience were immediately quashed when it was standing-room only at the first lecture last March at the Old Town Hall. The series was moved to a much larger room at St. Paul University which came on board as a co-sponsor.

An outstanding array of speakers volunteered their time free of charge to come and speak. In order of appearance, here is who we have heard from so far:

■ Richard Clippingdale, former director of Canadian Studies at Carleton University and author of *Laurier: His Life and World* presented on **Sir Wilfrid Laurier**.

■ Dr. Philippe Azzie with the public opinion research firm Phoenix Strategic Perspectives lectured on **Sir John A. Macdonald**.

■ Greg Donaghy, Deputy Director, Policy Research Division, Global Affairs Canada and author of *Grit: The Life and Times of Paul Martin Sr.* talked about **Sir Robert Borden**.

■ Dr. Stephen Azzi, associate professor of political management, history and political science at Carleton University lectured on **Lester B. Pearson**.

■ **Louis St-Laurent** was covered by Dr. Xavier Gélinas, the Canadian History Museum's Curator of Political History.

■ We heard about **Mackenzie King** from Dr. Norman Hillmer, Carleton's Chancellor's Professor for History and International Affairs.

■ Paul Litt from Carleton's Department of History and the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies and author of *Trudeaumania* spoke on **Pierre Trudeau**.

■ Lakehead University's Dr. Michael Stevenson covered **John Diefenbaker**.

Through these lectures, we learned more about our leaders and the events that helped shape some of their decisions. Sometimes this sparked an interest not there before as it did for Alta Vista resident Lois Jensen. "On

a few occasions, I came home and immediately went to the computer to further my knowledge of the prime minister spoken about. That was mainly when the PM featured had not been my favourite but the speaker pricked my interest to learn more."

## SPEAKERS

Did the presenters themselves have any expectations or concerns before coming to speak to us?

Dr. Phil Azzie was very pleased to learn that something like this was being organized to celebrate Canada's Prime Ministers. "It struck me as a welcome antidote to the 'bread-and-circuses' approach that characterized some of the official Canada 150 celebrations. I was honoured and pleased to participate in the series as a speaker and take pleasure in attending the other talks as a member of the audience."

"In terms of my own presentation," Dr. Azzie went on to say, "I was not sure what to expect – for example, how many people would attend, would they ask questions, what types of questions would they ask? I am impressed by the consistently large number of people who show up for these talks and heartened to see so many people interested in our country's history. I am also impressed by the level of engagement and thoughtfulness of audience members."

Dr. Xavier Gélinas, too, was pleasantly surprised by the knowledge level of the audience. "I expected a group of interested persons but I didn't expect such a high degree of culture, memories, readings, etc. This became immediately and pleasantly apparent to me in the informal brief conversations before the talk, in the Q&A session, and the informal chats after the Q&A. It is very rewarding for a presenter to have such an audience."

"To have been invited for such a 'generalist' presentation was beneficial to me," Dr. Gélinas went on to say. "Professional historians and/or academics in general always incur the risk of over-specialization. It is very useful to be forced to express one's ideas seriously and rigorously, to be sure, but succinctly and accessibly. The OECA has prepared me well for a second 'narrower' talk on Prime Minister St-Laurent that I will be presenting to an academic audience later in 2018 by allowing me to recreate an overall scenery, so to speak, before zooming in on a specific angle."

"This was a remarkable initiative



COURTESY

*John Diefenbaker.*

from the get-go," commented historian Greg Donaghy who presented on Sir Robert Borden. "The organizers have done an incredible job engaging the Old Ottawa East community, which responded with great enthusiasm. The sessions were lively, with lots of challenging questions. Canadians – or at least those living in Old Ottawa East – are clearly interested in discovering their past, warts and all."

## AUDIENCE REACTION

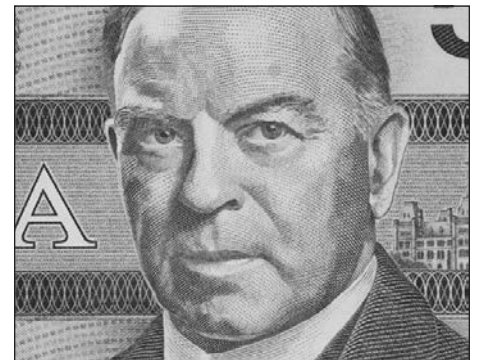
Just what did the audience get out of the lectures? Has the series changed their perspective of Canadian history? Has their interest in Canadian history been enlivened?

For local resident Heather Jarrett, this series has definitely awakened her interest in Canadian history. "I follow federal politics fairly closely so it has been curious to hear how former prime ministers were or were not successful in building alliances and developing compromises amongst their opposition to move policy forward. Historically, I think there was more of an attempt in the past to govern Canada for all of its citizens, rather than only for the interests of those constituents in the governing party."

"The presenters have been careful to show the positive and negative features of their subject, and to describe the context (economic and moral) within which they governed, so we have been treated to a fair representation of our former prime ministers. They have been particularly impressive in the question periods after their presentations where their depth of knowledge was on display."

Lois Jensen, quoted earlier, added, "Every presenter has been well prepared and enthusiastic about the person featured. Having this series during Canada's sesquicentennial has been one of the highlights of the year for me."

Glebe resident and former chair of the Ottawa Board of Education Lynn



COURTESY BANK OF CANADA

*Mackenzie King.*

Graham concurred. "For me, this series was definitely a highlight of Canada's sesquicentennial year so I am pleased that it is continuing into 2018."

"Congratulations to the OECA for organizing and hosting. It has been so informative and enjoyable. Kudos to the excellent and learned speakers who all contributed on a voluntary basis and who presented balanced views of the prime ministers. Thanks to Saint Paul University for accommodating the sessions as their popularity grew beyond the space at the Old Town Hall. No doubt the podcasts will be equally popular. The series also offered community engagement with neighbours and friends."

Dr. Gélinas offered up some practical observations. "The room for these prime ministerial presentations is excellent and the fact it is located within a university gives extra credibility to the OECA and to the speakers. The email and Twitter announcements are effective. The materiel organization – microphone, lighting, availability of chairs, heating/air conditioning – is impeccable. As a result, the audience is impressive in size, and this project is impressive for a totally volunteer local borough association. I tip my hat."

Lois Jensen also commented on the venue. "It has allowed each speaker to be heard easily as well as allowing the audience to readily view the video enhancement. Hopefully the series will be available for public consumption since it has been so outstanding. I salute the OECA for organizing this series and for getting such outstanding speakers every time which is a credit to the organizers."

Each lecture is being taped by the firm of Nick Masciantonio (CommuniquéDirect - Video Production & Streaming Services) and, once completed, the series will be available for viewing on YouTube. Keep checking the community website at [ottawaeast.ca](http://ottawaeast.ca) as more information becomes available.



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# How well do you know the prime ministers?

Has the Speaker's Series helped you learn more about our PMs? Perhaps you are an expert already? Test your knowledge here. Answers below. Don't peek!

**1)** When viewers cast their ballots in 2004 for CBC's *The Greatest Canadian*, this PM was ranked number eight - one place behind Don Cherry.

**2)** A British High Commissioner made this comment: "My wife says after a conversation with him she feels as if the cat had licked her all over and she ought to go and have a bath."

**3)** Canada's first French-Canadian PM and an imposing figure: tall, dignified and a splendid speaker in either language.

**4)** Many of his policies seemed controversial at the time: bilingualism,

television networks as well as the creation of the National Library and the Canada Council.

*How did you do? Need more of a challenge? Head to [www.ottawaeast.ca/pm150](http://www.ottawaeast.ca/pm150) for a longer version of this quiz.*

## Closer look at active files in OOE

— Continued from Page 24

For more information about this topic check out John Dance's article in this edition of the Mainstreeter.

Finally, I would like to provide a brief overview of some of the active files in our neighbourhood.

On the transportation front, the first public information centre meeting was held on December 5 for the preliminary design and environmental assessment study for the Queensway downtown bridge rehabilitation / replacement from Metcalfe Street to Main Street. Upcoming consultations will be noted in this column and/or the Community Activities Group weekly e-update.

On planning, there have been a number of minor variance requests for Old Ottawa East at the Committee of Adjustment. Applications for increased height for a retirement residence at 225 Scholastic Drive and variances for the construction of a semi-detached dwelling and a single-family residence at 31 Simcoe Street were considered and approved on December 6. On January 17, minor variances for a semi-detached dwelling at 3 Chestnut Street were approved while the discussion of the application for variances for a triplex at 173 Glenora Avenue was deferred to February 7. The site plan approval process is ongoing for 113-115 Echo Drive (the site of the former Portuguese church).

Note that at our February 13 Board meeting we will be discussing our top three environmental concerns (at the request of Ecology Ottawa) while on March 13, we will be discussing dogs in parks; see our Councillor's column for more information on this topic.

Have questions? Want to learn more or volunteer to make improvements in the community? Then please attend the monthly OOECA Board meetings (second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Old Town Hall). For more details check out the OOECA website at <http://www.ottawaeast.ca/> or contact me at [info@ottawaeast.ca](mailto:info@ottawaeast.ca).

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### ANSWERS:

1) Sir John A Macdonald

2) William Lyon Mackenzie King

3) Sir Wilfrid Laurier

4) Pierre Trudeau  
5) Louis St. Laurent



# Business Beat: Mike Galazka Service Centre

RON ROSE

Fifty years ago, Main Street looked a lot different than it does today. But despite the time that's gone by and the changes we've seen, there's at least one business that's still here today. And while it looks different than it did in 1966, the business still holds onto its roots. That business is Mike Galazka Service Centre.

Some readers will remember taking their cars to Mike Galazka Sr. as early as the 60s. Some might remember seeing a young Mike Galazka Jr. there in the 70s too. Mike graduated from Carleton University with a mechanical engineering degree in 1980 and moved to Toronto for a few years. However he missed working on vehicles and the contact with customers. He decided to move back to Ottawa, follow in his father's footsteps, and took over the business in the mid-90s.

Bob Forget, the front line guy whose job it is to work with customers, was there with the previous station operator and is still working with Mike Jr. Mechanic Tom Walsh, whose father also worked there before him, has been working there for more than 40 years. It's a place where you know who will be there and they know who you are.

The Service Centre first operated out of the FINA station (later to become a Petro-Canada station) at 129 Main St. The current location at 123 Main St. was established in 1997 when Mike Jr. bought the house on that lot and built the current service centre that operates in the back of the property today.

For a few years after Mike built the service centre he was managing it, the Petro-Can station, and a towing service. In 2004, Petro-Canada gave notice that they were closing their gas station. This drove Mike to concentrate on the service centre. Throughout these changes, Mike has ensured customer service and satisfaction remains his number one priority and strength.

"I have a high level of trust in them based on a relationship built up over the years," said Hugh Dale-Harris, an Old Ottawa East resident and one of Galazka's loyal customers. "Often they will give me several different repair options or maintenance strategies and suggest the one that suits best, not the one that they will be able to charge the most for."

Dale-Harris isn't the only one grateful for this business. Galazka has been a stalwart in the community, being not only a long-time supporter of the Mainstreeter, but also providing snow

plowing for the Brantwood rink, a service that earned him the "Hoser of the Year" award in 1995. The garage also provides summer opportunities for co-op students to learn mechanical trades. The Galazka team has also been known to pick up vehicles or drop customers off at their houses. It's a courtesy they provide long-term customers if they are able to help out.

Mike and his team realize that the business is changing, that customers have many options and that competition is fierce in the vehicle repair business. Their prices remain competitive and they constantly take training courses to remain up to date. They value their long-standing relationships with their customers, and welcome new customers who often arrive after receiving recommendations from existing customers.

Dale-Harris is certain there's always going to be room for Galazka. "Just yesterday I got a flat tire. I took it directly over to Mike's to see if they could fix it. Not only did they take it in right away, the fix was done for maybe a quarter of what a franchised garage would charge."



RON ROSE PHOTO

The team at Mike Galazka Service Centre. From left to right: Tom Walsh, Mike Galazka and Bob Forget.

Old Ottawa East will continue to change with new housing and other developments. Mike and his team look forward to meeting new clients and continuing to serve current customers, who now include second and third generation family members. He lives in the neighbourhood and has no plans to stop providing service - he won't be going anywhere!

## Experience the drama of Holy Week and Easter

March 29 at 6pm, Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Supper

March 30

- 10am, Stations of the Cross for Children and their Grown-Ups
- 11am, Making Contemplative Art
- 1pm, Good Friday Liturgy

April 1 at 10am, Easter Sunday Eucharist

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# Trois livres et albums à agencer cet hiver

KELTIE ROBERTSON

Vous rentrez d'une sortie de patinage sur le canal Rideau, les joues rouges, les pieds un peu frigorifiés, les jambes fatiguées. Branchez la bouilloire, préparez un chocolat chaud, enfiler vos bas de laine et enfouissez-vous sous la couette avec un livre et un album. Voici quelques suggestions (toutes disponibles à notre bibliothèque publique) :

**LIVRE : LA DÉLICATESSE, DAVID FOENKINOS**  
**ALBUM : LES AMOURS PARALLÈLES, STÉPHANIE LAPOINTE**

Ce roman de Foenkinos, paru en 2009 et adapté au cinéma en 2011, est un véritable petit bijou. Cette histoire d'amour tendre se lit rapidement, mais se savoure du début à la fin. Les amours parallèles est l'album parfait pour accompagner cette lecture. La voix et les arrangements épurés de Stéphanie Lapointe s'agencent à merveille avec le style simple, mais élégant de Foenkinos.

**LIVRE : LA FAIM BLANCHE, AKI OLLIKAINEN (TRAD. CLAIRE ST-GERMAIN)**



KELTIE ROBERTSON PHOTO

**ALBUM : TWIN SOLITUDES, LEIF VOLLEBEKK**

Les chansons éthérées et languissantes de Leif Vollebekk (natif d'Ottawa, mais d'origine islandaise) seront un complément idéal pour le roman du Finlandais Aki Ollikainen (paru en 2016 dans l'excellente collection Fictions du Nord de La Peuplade). Alors que le vent souffle dehors, plongez-vous dans le froid intense,

tant émotif que météorologique, de ce roman qui suit le trajet à pied d'une femme tentant de survivre lors de la grande famine finlandaise de 1867.

**LIVRE : PETITE LAINE, AMÉLIE PANNETON**  
**ALBUM : LIMOILLOU, SAFIA NOLIN**

La quatrième de couverture le dit bien : Petite laine, le premier roman

d'Amélie Panneton (publié l'an dernier), est «comme un chandail tricoté par ta grand-mère». Il relate l'histoire d'un collectif de laine-graffiti, dont les membres sont dorénavant octogénaires. Le réconfort émanant du livre saura venir contrebalancer la mélancolie qui imbibe les chansons de Safia Nolin, pour former un agencement aussi complexe que l'hiver lui-même.



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