

Neighbourhood left in the dirt

Field construction underway, residents question process

LORNE ABUGOV

Construction of a controversial new artificial turf sports field at Immaculata High School is now well underway following unsuccessful efforts by angry Old Ottawa East residents and neighbours of the school intent on forcing the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) to halt the digging and consult on alternative options.

As described in the April issue of the *Mainstreeter*, neighbours on Drummond and Glenora streets in OOE had waged an 11th hour campaign to stall the excavation of the green space at Immaculata and introduce a consultation with the board to discuss less invasive options for refurbishing the field.

However, on April 30, barricades surrounding the field were erected and both the existing running track and the grass field have now been stripped, with no plans by the board to slow construction plans that are expected to see the new turf completed and ready for use by September 2018.

Members of the community opposed to the board's 21-year \$2 million agreement with the private Footy Sevens



CARLY LANG PHOTO

Newly erected barricade around Immaculata High School sports field leaves neighbourhood youngsters on the outside looking in.

company, and to the lack of transparency of the process involved in negotiating the deal, have formed an organization, Neighbours for Community Fields (NCF).

As the *Mainstreeter* went to press, the NCF had retained legal counsel and exchanged correspondence with lawyers for the board. The group has also launched a GoFundMe account to underwrite the legal costs of their

campaign, which is expected to seek monetary damages for loss of enjoyment of property and possibly injunctive relief to halt the construction.

At a recent planning meeting, members of NCF vowed to continue their campaign to pressure the board to delay the construction and to consider the community's proposals for refurbishing the Immaculata sports field.

"We have all agreed that there will be no letup, because there can't be," said Mitch Vlad, a Hazel Street resident and one of the founding members of the NCF. "We are not going to roll over and play dead in the face of the board's actions because there are so many fundamentally wrong aspects to this situation."

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Greenfield Village: A thriving corner of our community

TARA HOGETERP

Old Ottawa East is made up of many different little neighbourhoods. I am hoping to introduce readers to perhaps a lesser known corner of our community. Our little section is made up of just eight small streets and sits north of Highway 417 with a wide variety of housing, including townhomes, condos, apartment buildings, and single family homes. We have a small handful of businesses including The Emporium furniture

store and HBK Hair Concepts, as well as hosting the AIDS Committee of Ottawa.

I think our little corner of Old Ottawa East deserves an informal name that is fitting of our thriving and changing neighbourhood. I have heard people refer to the area as the Archville Triangle, but I feel that the name does not do the area justice, since Highway 417 cut off the community from Archville many years ago. I bought a map of Ottawa a few years ago which named our neighbourhood

"Greenfield Village", and to me that name really captures where our little corner of Old Ottawa East is heading.

Having lived in "Greenfield Village" for nearly a decade, it sometimes feels a little disconnected from the larger Old Ottawa East community. The highway creates a clear barrier and very much separates us. In fact, many readers may only ever enter our neighborhood to access the highway going west, or when heading to the University of Ottawa.

Our linkage to OOE remains Main

Street – and you can tell that we are disconnected as the City didn't even include our section's revitalization as part of the initial reconstruction of the street. Today, the bike lanes end as you enter our neighbourhood, shooting cyclists out into traffic and causing me to hold my breath every time our children bike home along the path. However, I like to think the recent artistic paintings completed along the walls of the overpass create a vibrant welcome to the area.

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City crews were out in full force during April's snow storm. Downed trees across Old Ottawa East kept crews busy and remarkably efficient. Most trees on the south side of Main Street were cleaned up and removed within 24 hours, many gone before noon the day of the storm while the rain continued. This old tree on Chestnut Street came down in the middle of the night, but didn't do any damage to the property owner's home.

PHOTO BY: MEREDITH NEWBERRY



Gosia Otreba and her daughters Sophie and Emily dress the part at Lady Evelyn's International Bread Festival in April. Otreba and her family brought Polish delights to share at the annual celebration.

PHOTO BY: MEREDITH NEWBERRY

Game on! Ananda Kelly leads the co-operative games at the Lady Evelyn Earth Day Festival. Elliot, 7, is just one of the kids who volunteered at the event which happily coincided with the first sunny, warm day of Spring.

PHOTO BY: MEREDITH NEWBERRY



Eleven-year old Lotus rallied her neighbours to help clean up Springhurst Park. She and her dad Scott registered with the City's Clean Up The Capital program and asked neighbours to join them. This team hauled out 14 bags of trash while another team, led by the dog-owners association of Old Ottawa East, hauled out another 15 bags after the wind storm swept up the contents of a dumpster and deposited it along the riverbed near Hurdman Bridge.

PHOTO BY: MEREDITH NEWBERRY



Syrian refugees: the ones left behind

CAROL BUCKLEY & CAROL ALETTE

It has been two years since the Syrian crisis captured the world's attention, and the hearts and minds of Canadians. Ottawa has proudly welcomed thousands of Syrian refugees, and the community of Old Ottawa East has done its part, sponsoring a number of families.

Among those who have arrived in Ottawa is the Yakoub-Shalhoub family, which was sponsored by the Brantwood Sponsorship Group, a group of committed volunteers from Old Ottawa East. The Yakoub-Shalhoub family arrived from Syria via Lebanon in October 2016. They settled into a South Keys neighbourhood, where the children – Batrisia (11), George (7) and Andria (4) – are thriving in school, learning both English and French. Their parents, Rana and Basam, are in language school, and Basam looks forward to putting his plumbing and building skills to use in Canada.

Although the official duties of the Brantwood Sponsorship Group were over as of October 2017, volunteers have continued to spend enjoyable time with the family. Activities have moved past the dental visits, budgets and vaccinations to piano lessons, gardening, playing games and enjoying the family's delicious Syrian cooking.

Like other newcomers to Canada, Basam and Rana's family has faced challenges in understanding an unfamiliar culture, learning a new language, managing in a different climate and missing friends and family that were close by at home. However, they have embraced their new lives in Ottawa with vigour. They have skied, skated, tobogganed and snow-shoed, and they have taken swimming lessons and mastered the bike paths from Hunt Club to Brantwood Park. Last summer, they could be found BBQing kabobs at Mooney's Bay and fishing (catch and release) along the Rideau River.

The Yakoub/Shalhoub family are similar to other newcomers - their relief and gratitude to be living in Canada is tempered by worry for relatives still in Syria and Lebanon. Basam is most worried about his brother, whose three children include a newborn and a one-year-old.

His brother's family is living just across the border from Syria in rural Lebanon, and although they are away from the active fighting, their lives are very difficult. Syrian refugees cannot legally work in Lebanon, so they are surviving on a very small stipend from the United Nations. School is intermittent for the oldest child and discrimination towards



CAROL ALETTE PHOTO

The Yakoub-Shalhoub family enjoying the sights and sounds of an Ottawa summer during last year's Tulip Festival at Dow's Lake. From L to R: Basam, Rana, Batrisia, George and Andria.

Syrians, especially Christians such as this family, is rampant. Last year, locals blocked roads and burned vehicles in protest against the local economic impact of Syrian refugees working illegally. This family has no future in Lebanon and Syria remains in the grip of war. Reuniting the Yakoub brothers and their families would be a wonderful gift from our community!

Finding a sponsor to bring family members to Ottawa is difficult. The Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization has been able to find only one sponsor for every ten requests. Many Ottawans who stepped up generously in 2016 and 2017 with their time and money have moved on to other causes.

With two years of experience behind them and a core group of dedicated volunteers, the Brantwood Sponsorship Group has agreed to sponsor Basam's brother, his wife and their children. Reuniting the Yakoub brothers and their families would be a wonderful gift from our community!

If you would like to help provide a brighter future for a Syrian family, please contact Pauline Lynch (lynchstewart@bell.net) or Carol Buckley (buckleybest@rogers.com) to make a donation. Tax receipts are available for donations over \$20. Also, the group will hold a fundraiser at the Green

Door Restaurant on Monday, May 28th. Although the ticket purchase deadline was May 14th, there may

still be seats available by this issue's publication date; contact Pauline or Carol for more information!



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REALTORS® lift the lid on why OOE is one of Ottawa's hottest markets

In this installment of our Mainstreeter interviews, we sit down with four real estate professionals who live and work in and around Old Ottawa East and who have sold hundreds of homes in this community over the years. We can think of no one better to predict how the myriad of new housing developments in OOE will affect our home and land values and the profile and demographics of our neighbourhoods.

The Mainstreeter: We'd like to know how the Main Street and Greystone Village developments that are still ongoing have affected home and land valuations in Old Ottawa East?

Judy Faulkner: Historically, there has always been a perceived and real difference in price values between Old Ottawa East and the neighbouring communities, the Glebe and Old Ottawa South. That is due mainly to the fact that Old Ottawa East didn't offer the walkable amenities that buyers are keen on acquiring today. I anticipate with the Main Street development, and the walking bridge going over to the Glebe, that the property value differentials are going to narrow dramatically when Main Street is completed with added supporting commercial activities.

The gap in pricing between Old Ottawa East and the

other neighbouring communities like the Glebe and OOS was a sizeable one. Market prices are driven by supply and demand, and the demand for the more walkable communities is significantly greater than for communities that lacked walkable amenities. So between the Glebe, Old Ottawa South and Old Ottawa East, Old Ottawa East was always third on the list. But right at this moment, all through the walkable communities, which would now include Old Ottawa East, we have an under supply of inventory and a high buyer demand.

Lyne Burton: One of the bigger challenges we have had for those that wanted to look for real estate in the downtown core is that they want a high walking score and want to be able to walk to shops. Sometimes, and in some minds, OOE would be a little bit further behind than maybe the Glebe and OOS. But the new developments are just going to erase that hurdle for some folks. I think it's going to really help the whole community, and put it on an even plain with adjacent communities like OOS and the Glebe. We know that, over the past year, the OOE pocket has increased by 10.5 percent on average and over 23 percent in three years, so the market in this community is doing well.

The Mainstreeter: Has all of the new development taking place in Old Ottawa East affected or changed what you tell your prospective homebuyer clients about this community?

Lyne: I've always described Old Ottawa East in very positive terms, and that hasn't changed. I think it is one of the nicest communities to live in, great for families, and close to downtown, so it's always been one of my favourite areas to bring clients, and I've sold many homes there.

Now, I'm especially keen to bring new families here because of the walkability to different shops, which is what a lot of people are looking for. It is also really nice for families who have children who want to go to Franco-Jeunesse, and we know some families that have

moved here just for that reason. I'm a very big fan of OOE.

Dominique Milne: The number of parks, the proximity to the river and to the canal, that's all very positive and it's always been that way; it's such a great place to raise a family, and definitely with the new retail that's coming, it will make it even more appealing to people, and let's not forget the footbridge. All of a sudden, you're connected to Lansdowne and the Glebe.

The Mainstreeter: From your experience, was there a certain demographic profile to home buyers interested in OOE before the recent community development? Do you anticipate a change in that profile with more than 1,000 new housing units of all kinds coming on market?

Diane Allingham: Like all the older neighbourhoods, you have a lot of people who have been in Old Ottawa East and have lived in their homes for a very long time, and as they move on, or downsize, or move out to easier living, those homes are tending to turn over to a younger demographic, or to people who are looking for places to develop, or for new homes. I know that the demographic of buyers in Greystone is quite varied, because you have condos as well as large single homes, as well as townhomes, and apartments.

I will say that we had a number of buyers in young families and first time buyers and people who will be starting families in the townhome section of Greystone. A lot of people don't want older construction, they don't want to do renovations and they don't have the money or the vision for that, so Greystone fills that gap in the neighbourhood quite nicely. First time buyers and second time buyers have a bigger budget for purchasing homes than they did even five years ago, and interest rates are very low so their buying power is greater.

Judy: The Greystone development for the most part is not adding families. It's typically going to be people downsizing, or people starting out as first time home buyers, some increased rental units and the retirement residence. We are definitely going to see more

elderly people downsizing within that community. I think it's wonderful that there is going to be a retirement residence in Old Ottawa East. This aging population, they will want and need somewhere to go and there is no better place than staying within the surroundings that you love.

The Mainstreeter: What amenities does this community currently lack and need, in your view, to make Old Ottawa East a highly "livable" enclave and a more desirable one to potential homebuyers?

Dominique: People want to be proud of their community, and they want something unique and something to talk about, and if what they have to talk about is a new Best Buy or a WalMart, it's not what they want and it's not what the neighbourhood needs. People want to support the stores in their core. I think it is key to your identity to bring in those independents and those boutiques.

The reality is there may always be a chain store, and it hard to keep them out, but I think if the majority of your new shops are independently-owned, unique shops, it will add to the flavour of the neighborhood, to its uniqueness. OOE has always been unique, and I certainly hope that it remains that way.

Lyne: I think it makes a big difference in real estate because the folks that are trying to live downtown are not looking for what's in the suburbs, they are looking for something else, and that's what is going to attract them to downtown.

I have been in retail myself for a long time and I really hope for our community that we get a very nice mixture of independent, unique shops, which I think we really need here on Main Street. We have seen a lot of box stores, and I find they ruin neighbourhoods, so I just hope for the community's sake that it is done right by the developers.

Diane: As well as basic amenities, like another bank. This neighbourhood already has some very interesting shops, in fact, they are just as interesting or more than what is currently available in an area like the Glebe, what with the



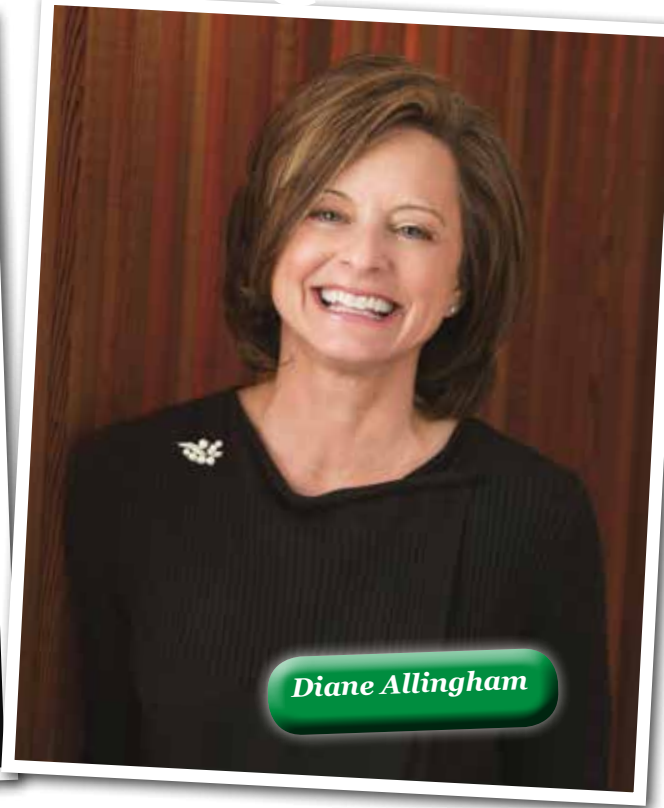
Judy Faulkner

THE MAINSTREETER INTERVIEW @ SEN



Lyne Burton

Dominique Milne



Diane Allingham

Emporium, the Green Door Restaurant and Singing Pebbles. You already have a good baseline, and that will be built on and property values should be on the rise, as well as land value.

The Green Door, for example, is already a major desirable destination, and so you have this great opportunity because you are drawing people from all over the place who are going there already. There aren't that many good healthy, vegan restaurants around. So the fact that you are drawing all those people around, what an opportunity to have good retail and services, you might find the community that much more desirable.

Judy: In Greystone, there is going to be a lot of non-family owners that won't be seeking out schooling - traditionally the area has been very focused on having good schools within the boundaries - but this new population is going to be wanting accessibility to get groceries, coffee shops, pubs, restaurants. Of course, they can come over to the Glebe or Old Ottawa South, but the more of that they can get on Main Street, certainly the better.

The Mainstreeter: If you project five to ten years out, as many in this neighbourhood are doing, Old Ottawa East may not be recognizable to those currently living here. Will OOE have a new "identity" or "persona" in a decade from now, and what might that be?

Dominique: I think you will find your persona through all the offerings, I think it will depend what retail comes in, to give it that identity that you are looking for.

Judy: We can look at other cities and other communities in Ottawa, for example Hintonburg, that area between Scott and Wellington, how it had modest housing, housing that wasn't of a great quality and it was just prime for redevelopment. If you drive through the area today, you are going to see a lot of infill housing going in. I think this is going to happen in OOE, and we have already seen it on Mutchmor and Mason Terrace, where builders are acquiring properties for land value. I think homeowners should be cautioned that when someone knocks on your door and offers you dollar figures for your house, because of its location, it may be worth a lot more than you think and what they offer.

Diane: And the zoning will impact that too because certain pockets in that area are a little more limiting for developers than, for instance, certain parts of Hintonburg. You are going to have a lot of people who want to either stay in the neighbourhood and live in a larger home and therefore will tear down and rebuild, or add on. Or, you will have people coming in who just love the neighbourhood and location, because it is so convenient to everything, and it's on the Canal and thus very desirable. Of course, Greystone is a perfect example of going from a primarily single family home area to a multi-housing area.

Lyne: I do think that there are many little micro neighborhoods in your community. For instance, the areas of Burnham and Marlow are all very family oriented, and the little park at Clegg that has been transformed into a Children's Garden just screams out green-thinking,

environmentally-conscious families. You now of course have the Greystone Village pocket, which I think of as more of a retirement community there, more professionals, not quite so family-oriented.

The Mainstreeter: Finally, imagine that you own a home right now in Old Ottawa East, and have owned it for 15 or 20 years, and you're now considering selling it and hoping to make an excellent return on your sale. If that imaginary home could be located anywhere in the community, where exactly would you want that home to be located? What mini-neighbourhood, what street would bring you a great return on your investment?

Judy: My choice would be Echo Drive overlooking the Canal. That is the best investment - to get an unobstructed view over the Canal on Echo Drive, a low traffic street. There is a lot of money in the world, and to be able to buy on Echo Drive at our prices, from a world perspective, is ridiculously low. So if you take a more global perspective of the market, that's way undervalued in my mind.

Diane: I think just about any property on a realistic size lot almost anywhere in Old Ottawa East, but particularly between Colonel By and Main, between Immaculata and Echo, and also on the Brantwood Park side. In any of those areas, to me, there is a lot of opportunity, so I would be happy to be sitting on something in any of those areas. I think there are going to be buyers for all of those areas.

Dominique: I would own on Merritt

Avenue; there is a ton of families on that street, and the moms, dads and kids are always outside together. I have 2 young kids so I think we would fit right in on that street with those neighbours. The houses are good size, not too big, so they are in a fairly good price range and easy to sell.

Lyne: I think I would like to be in front of Brantwood Park, I would love to look out over Brantwood Park and the kids playing there. So, for me, I would choose Onslow Crescent. I think that Brantwood Park is just a jewel. It would get a great return on investment.

If you have enjoyed reading excerpts from our interview with our panel of OOE real estate experts, please visit mainstreeter.ca to see the full interview, as well as other stories from the June edition of the Mainstreeter.

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Peter Fowler's OOE Focus

Surely one of the most iconic sights of Old Ottawa East is The Pretoria Lift Bridge. Built in 1915, it was named to commemorate the Canadian soldiers who fought in the second Boer War. It was lovingly restored in 1970 in spite of calls to make it higher and larger.

This shot, taken at night, speaks to the romance of properly lighting beautiful architecture.



PHOTO BY PETER FOWLER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GAP IN ENFORCEMENT ON NCC PATHWAYS

In your article published in the April edition, Improved safety on NCC pathways sought, it is mentioned that “a 20 km/hr speed limit has been implemented on the pathways, however, frequent cyclists in attendance at the consultation confirmed that there has been no enforcement of the limit to date, in their view.”

It is to be noted that although 20 km/hr is posted and other suggestions are noted like, Yield to pedestrian, Keep right, and Sound bell before passing, none of these are enforceable since the Ontario Highway Traffic Act does not apply to the pathways. The NCC Traffic Property Regulations have no section dealing with these offences and the city has no by-laws for pathways, therefore, no enforcement can be done, only suggestions.

The NCC and the city are well aware of this gap, and that accidents have occurred on the pathways, but to this date they have not created any laws to make enforcement possible and to make our pathways safer for all. They may even tell you that they have volunteer Pathway Patrollers ensuring the safety on the pathways, but these Patrollers do not have any authority.

— *Gilbert Bouffard, Ottawa*

RE: IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL FIELD

I wish to address one specific aspect of the agreement between the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) and Ottawa Footy Sevens, that being the use of the

word ‘partnership’ in written and verbal communications by OCSB and Footy Sevens.

A public-private partnership (PPP) worthy of the name involves a number of elements, including but not limited to: detailed bidding specifications developed by the public entity; a rigorous pre-qualification exercise to screen potential bidders (plural); and a rigorous bid evaluation process including a value-for-money test to ensure that a preferred bid would deliver acceptable value over the life of a concession (and greater value than competing bids).

Senior OCSB administrators based a view that the transaction with Footy Sevens did not require Board review and approval, environmental review, competitive bidding, or consultation with the local community, on the facile and inaccurate assertion that the use of the field is not changing. All of the essential components of a legitimate PPP were jettisoned, leaving mere vestiges of a ‘partnership’ – a taxpayer-funded school board the policies, procedures and values of which have been intentionally circumvented; and a private business that, relieved of customary burdens of rent and property taxes, stands to make handsome profits from operating a commercial business on what has long been a shared green space.

That the local community has been deliberately excluded is indefensible. We continue to explore all avenues to have this travesty set aside. We support a true partnership between OCSB and the local community to meet the needs of Immaculata students without compromising the

environment, a respectful and inclusive decision-making process, and the peace and legal rights of an entire neighbourhood.

— *Douglas Macaulay, Neighbours for Community Fields*

THE NEED FOR OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS

Members of our newly-established “Ottawa East Dogs” group of Old Ottawa East dog owners have been asked why a dog needs to have off-leash areas. In response, not all dogs do require off-leash, but most benefit; dogs really need time off-leash, be it to retrieve balls or simply to socialize with other dogs. The type of activity that they get off-leash is extraordinarily different from what they receive on-leash. Dogs need to play just like children and being off-leash allows for a greater ability to play. It also allows the owners to engage in community with each other.

Other community members concerned about dogs felt a fenced-in dog park would be the best solution. Although fenced-in parks work for some dogs, they are not ideal for the majority of dogs. To begin, they are very expensive due to the cost of fencing and the wear and tear on the turf, which has to be replaced frequently because they become mud pits quickly. For dogs that are more introverted or feel threatened by larger dogs, yet need exercise, these parks are not good as these type of dogs feel too vulnerable with the large numbers of dogs playing in a small enclosed space.

— *Margaret Vant Erve, Ottawa East Dogs*

Group hoping to educate OOE on field project

— *Continued from Page 1*

NCF is active on Twitter (@NeighbourFields), has collected petition signatures door-to-door and has forcefully communicated its concerns to both local politicians and the media. One of the group’s objectives is to foster a community-wide understanding of the facts associated with the board’s behaviour in inking its long-term contract with Footy Sevens without any community involvement.

“The commercialization of the Immaculata field is the first case in Ottawa of a school field for-profit model that is attempting to spread throughout Ontario,” according to the NCF. “These commercial sports field operators target property tax exempt school properties and structure 21 year deals with school boards that exploit tax loopholes in order to avoid paying property tax or rent while running intense-use commercial businesses on school properties.”

The group has learned that near-identical scenarios are playing out involving a sport field turf conversion at Applewood High School in Mississauga and a turf project already completed at Hart Lake Secondary School in Brampton, both of which projects have unfolded with no notice given to the communities in question and curtailment of public access rights to the completed turf fields.

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High school volunteers should submit their papers for signature to Daniel Racicot

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Councillor David Chernushenko: David.Chernushenko@ottawa.ca

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

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

Mayor Jim Watson: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

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FROM THE EDITOR | UN MOT DU RÉDACTEUR

The marathon of deception at Immaculata

In 1980, a 26-year-old New York city woman stunned the world of sports by coming from nowhere to win the Boston Marathon in near record time, four minutes faster than noted Canadian marathoner, Jacqueline Gareau, who placed a disappointing second. The winning runner that day was a woman that few will ever forget - Rosie Ruiz.

Today, we know that Ruiz actually ran only one mile of the 26.2-mile course in the full glare of daylight, with the rest of her winning “run” spent out of sight, underground, riding the Boston subway. Close to the finish line, she resurfaced for all to see, well ahead of the rest of the women’s field, and graciously accepted the winner’s laurels, having hardly broken a sweat.

We remember Ruiz to this day for two simple reasons. First, in the field of honour that is amateur sports, she was a notorious cheater. She paid no heed to tradition and violated all accepted standards of morality, ethics, honesty and fair play.

Second, although her brazen act of deception took place nearly forty years ago, the memory of one of the worst moments in marathon history lingers for those she injured, innocent victims like Gareau, whose hopes and dreams of winning Boston, fair and square, were left in tatters.

Human beings are quick to forgive, but they don't easily forget.

Enter the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB, the board)...

Since February 2017, the OCSB has run its own marathon of deception here in Old Ottawa East in relation to the turf sports field project at Immaculata High School, conducting secret negotiations to strike a 21-year deal with the private Footy Sevens company, eschewing public consultations and mimicking the “whatever it takes to win” strategy of Ruiz.

In doing so, the board has run roughshod over dozens of neighbours and families living adjacent or nearby to Immaculata, effectively shredding the public trust and credibility that the board may have enjoyed, causing incalculable harm to community relations that may take years to heal and decades to forget.

THIS COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED

And worst of all, none of this needed to happen. This fiasco could have been averted, if those within the OCSB who spearheaded this initiative had chosen to run a fair and square marathon, in the light of day, instead of racing along in secret, underground, out of sight of an unsuspecting community.

To fully understand and untangle the Immaculata turf field

saga, one should examine each of the three interrelated component parts of the story.

1. The first component is actually a happy one. For the students and staff at Immaculata, a brand-new sports field and running track is indeed a well-deserved and long-overdue development. No one on either side of this pitched turf battle has ever questioned the need for a refurbished sports facility at the high school.

As the varsity football captain explained to the *Mainstreeter*, the new field will do more than merely rid the school of a dangerous playing surface; it will also eliminate a demoralizing albatross that has hung heavy around the necks of coaches and athletes for years, draining school pride in their sports teams.

And make no mistake about this - there are many residents of this community who support this deal, and have no qualms whatsoever about the board's agreement with Footy Sevens and the installation of a state-of-the-art turf field for the school and the students.

2. The second component is a far less happy one. Indeed, it is nothing less than a dark stain on the reputation and trustworthiness of the OCSB, and on those within the board who devised a process that knowingly kept Old Ottawa East in the dark, or else acquiesced to the execution of this calculated strategy. Like Ruiz, the board has acted in a callous fashion, displaying no regard for those whose rights and interests have been confiscated, and whose ongoing enjoyment of their property the OCSB has materially damaged for decades to come.

Old Ottawa East has recently proven itself to be an effective collaboration partner on development initiatives, as witnessed by the progressive relationship between the community and developers of the Main Street and Greystone Village projects. But in this case, rather than engage the community in meaningful prior consultation on plans for the Immaculata green space, those within the board who championed this deal chose instead to keep their heads down and their mouths shut as they ran the marathon of deception.

WAS A GAG ORDER NECESSARY?

OOE residents attending the April 12th information session at Immaculata learned that the OCSB - shortly after it received the unsolicited \$2 million offer from Footy Sevens - placed an internal gag order last summer on any public discussion of the turf field project and negotiations. It seems to have been quite effective.

As reported in the April *Mainstreeter*, the board has acknowledged that it discussed and

then rejected engaging the community in prior consultation about the proposed plans, choosing instead to remain silent on the deal until February 2018. And once news of the deal finally reached alarmed residents of OOE as February turned to March, the OCSB responded to growing anger from the community by staging the information session at Immaculata on April 12, several days after the agreement with Footy Sevens had been safely signed, sealed and delivered.

3. The third component is the murkiest - the actual terms and conditions of the Footy Sevens agreement that will govern the use of the Immaculata sports field for the next 21 years. Questions, facts and fiction, to say nothing of conflicting viewpoints on virtually all aspects of the deal, fairly abound. The list of contentious items is long and hotly-debated. Research studies on the choice and safety of turf fields and the effects of lighting and noise are currently flying around the neighbourhood like footballs.

AN INSULT TO OUR INTELLIGENCE

On behalf of the residents of this community who have been denied a voice, it is this newspaper's duty to comment on the board's much-repeated justification for effectively muzzling the community. According to the OCSB, prior public consultation was deemed unnecessary since there was “no change to the use of the sports field” as a result of its deal with Footy Sevens.

We have difficulty concluding whether the board's “no change in use” rationale for its unfair process is more shameful or embarrassing. What we can say with certainty, though, is that the argument amounts to nothing less than an insult to the intelligence of this community.

Far from no change in use, the terms and conditions of the board's agreement with Footy Sevens, taken collectively, amount to a massive and irreversible change in the traditional use of the Immaculata sports field.

The OCSB has delivered a knockout to the neighbours of the high school who never saw the punch coming, and has set a shocking example of what a publicly funded institution will do when, like Ruiz, it needs to win at all costs.

For the neighbours and for those in the community who have now witnessed the very best and the very worst of public consultation over the past few years in OOE, sadly, you will have the next 21 years to try to forgive, and maybe even forget.

Children's Garden remediation saga

JOHN DANCE

The good news is that after a year-long shutdown the Children's Garden in Legget Park at the corner of Clegg and Main streets is reopened with improved accessibility and the contaminated soil safely isolated.

The bad news is that the remediation and accessibility measures cost the City of Ottawa in the range of \$500,000. Worse still, the Children's Garden's volunteers and adjacent neighbours much prefer the simple award-winning design of the garden as it had been before the City decided remediation work was necessary.

The saga began back in December 2016 when the community was informed by City Councillor David Chernushenko that "the City's Environmental Remediation Unit [had] identified shallow soil contamination at 321 Main Street, the location of Robert F. Legget Park and the Ottawa Children's Garden."

"The contaminants of concern include a number of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) compounds which have been detected at concentrations exceeding the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change standards," the Councillor's email noted. "Ottawa Public Health has confirmed that there is no immediate risk to residents from this soil. Acute exposure from being at the park or working in the garden should not pose any health effects," the attached backgrounder noted.

Nevertheless, after further testing, the City decided remediation was required and proceeded to prepare plans for remediation and improving accessibility.

A lengthy consultation process followed. The Garden volunteer board worked with the children at Lady Evelyn School and in the community to redesign the garden – with the garden design being the same in terms of elevation, brush along the edges as it was before, but



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Gardeners (from left) Isaac Cullen, James Newberry, Elliot Cullen, Clarke McLean and Rohan Gillis with some of the newly painted pickets for the restored Children's Garden.

with some new features to make it more educational. These features were shared with the City but few made it into the new design.

A second problem is that adjacent neighbours on Marlowe Crescent were not consulted on the remediated park being about 1.5 metres higher along the property lines than it had been. As a result of the raised elevation, neighbours have lost privacy in their back yards and park users will now be looking directly into neighbours' windows.

Efforts to have better fencing to restore neighbours' privacy have not yet been successful. The City has been adamant that the new chain link fence is sufficient and any "solid" fencing would have to be paid for by the community or residents.

The City says "woody vegetation (fruit trees and clematis vine along the fence) will be planted to provide visual screening." However, one resident wrote to the City, noting that "planting vines may serve to screen for a few months of

the year at best, and then only if you are able to grow anything in the few inches of soil that caps the many feet of gravel fill."

The elaborate design of the rebuilt children's garden includes many cedar timber planting beds with new soil connected by accessible pathways. Most of the planting beds are about a metre high, although a few are about half this height. Some residents have questioned how easy it will be for children to readily dig in the raised beds.

Another new feature is a large sandbox with an elaborate entrance step. The sandbox had been suggested by the City during the consultation process but was not a feature in the children's design.

The origins of the contamination are not known. When the park was originally proposed as the site for the children's garden in 2009 the soil was tested and deemed safe. But with the more recent testing, contamination was found.

"The consultant has indicated the elevated PAH levels may be associated

with the site's previous uses, possibly as a railway loop or the possibility that contaminated garden or growing soil was imported to the Park during the development of the garden," says the City.

While the remediation was underway, the children gardeners at Lady Evelyn School and a few other children in the community have worked hard to paint another set of colourful fence pickets, one of the defining features of the "old" garden. The City provided the school with the new pickets.

"It is positive that we will get back in the Garden on May 18th," says Sue McKee, one of the co-chairs of the volunteer board. "The children at Lady Evelyn and the others are excited to plant and see their creative art work surrounding the garden again on the fence posts! Nouvelle école élémentaire catholique au cœur d'Ottawa at 88 Main Street is currently painting some fence pickets and hoping to do a lot of their science education in the garden."

Construction plans continue for Greenfield

— Continued from Page 1

Fortunately, north of the highway will receive the same treatment as the rest of Main Street; in 2019 the city plans to begin finishing our section with bike paths and hopefully a crossing along Colonel By Drive. Greenfield Avenue will also be dug up and plans are in the works for bike lanes and a signalized pedestrian crossing across Greenfield at Concord Street. Despite the impending construction, with all its noise, dirt, and disruption, I know our family is looking forward to the

results – making our little community safer and more accessible for all.

Speaking of construction, new developments are going in at almost a breathtaking pace. We have had two four-storey apartment buildings, infill buildings, a townhouse complex, and a number of major house modifications in the last couple of years. Two new buildings are being constructed now, with the potential for 3 or 4 other projects to begin in the near future. The neighbourhood is rapidly changing, as are the residents.

When we first moved into the area there were few children and we felt a little lonely, but more and more families are now living here. A group of families have even created a community Facebook group and host events such as Easter egg hunts, caroling and trick or treating. To me, the neighbourhood seems all the more vibrant with the increased number of children out and about.

I decided to do some digging and contacted the artist of that city map I bought, to see where he found the name, "Greenfield Village", but

sadly he did not recall. I really like the name and hope that others may share my opinion. I know there are historical connections to the name "Archville" but that covers much more than just our small section. I am curious to hear what other residents of Old Ottawa East think.

In the next issue of the *Mainstreeter*, I plan to take a more historical look at Greenfield Village. If any readers have any stories, memories or photos they wish to share I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

What's new in the *Mainstreeter*?

LORNE ABUGOV

In this issue of the *Mainstreeter*, we introduce a new feature called “Mentors in the Neighbourhood” in which we profile two OOE residents, focusing on their successful careers in their chosen profession, providing advice and tips for students and anyone looking to make a career choice. In this issue, Theresa Wallace profiles two accomplished neighbours of ours - Taffe Charles and Dave Best - who have built successful careers in the field of sports business management and sports coaching, and have inspired young students to follow in their footsteps.

New to the *Mainstreeter* is Genevieve Gazaille, who has written an article on her specialty - food - and more particularly, on growing your own food in community, communal and mixed gardens. Genevieve has recently moved back to Old Ottawa East after a 4-year hiatus. She runs a boutique marketing agency called The Storyteller, loves to eat fresh produce and is a member of the Ottawa Food Policy Council. You can read her stories on food and food policy in upcoming editions of the *Mainstreeter* and also follow her blog at genevievegazaille.com.

Also, some stories contained in

previous issues of the *Mainstreeter* are worthy of follow-up or have been the subject of more recent developments. In this issue, and in others to follow, we will catch up with previous stories and update them on our Follow Up page so that readers can stay on top of issues of importance to them and to the community.

Finally, we continue our nearly-new *Mainstreeter* interview series, entitled “Sharing Lunch With...”. This time, we interview a panel of four experienced real estate agents who ply their trade in Old Ottawa East, having bought and sold hundreds of homes in our community for their

clients over the years. We sat down over lunch with several of the panel members at the SEN Asian Fusion restaurant in Lansdowne Park and discussed the changes we are experiencing with hundreds of new housing units coming on stream.

You can feel the excitement of our realtor panel members as they discuss the “buzz” surrounding the local housing market, and enjoy their assessment of the next five to ten years of vibrant real estate developments in OOE that are already turning this community into one of the top 5 housing markets in the city.



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MICHAEL SHAW PHOTO

Two homes on Chestnut Street were vandalized with graffiti.

Teens charged after destructive night in OOE

LORNE ABUGOV

Residents of OOE are only now coming to grips with a vandalism spree in the early hours of Sunday, April 29 that left car windshields smashed and racist graffiti spray-painted on vehicles, benches and a children's playground in Springhurst Park and two neighbouring homes at 23 and 27 Chestnut Street.

Neighbours in an area bounded by Chestnut, Lees Avenue, Springhurst Avenue and Main Street were awakened between 12:30 and 1:00 a.m. by the sound of breaking glass and noticed the three vandals on bicycles damaging cars and property in their path.

Chestnut Street resident Michael Shaw

was one of a number of neighbours who spent the following Sunday morning cleaning up after the vandal's rampage, hard at work ridding the Springhurst Park play structure of the offensive graffiti.

“The destruction aside, it's sad to see that some teens still don't understand the impact that words can have. Thankfully, our tight-knit community wasn't going to let vandalism affect our way of life,” said Shaw.

Ottawa Police have charged Connor Hutcheson, 18, and Thomas Gagnon-Jones, 19 with one count each of mischief to property over \$5,000. A third person, under the age of 18, faces a charge of mischief to property under \$5,000 and assault with intent to resist arrest.

Volunteer with the *Mainstreeter*.

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editor@mainstreeter.ca

City asked to consult on off-leash dog parks in OOE

MARGARET VANT ERVE

Since losing access to most of the former Oblate lands, Old Ottawa East resident dog owners have been seeking new green space to walk their dogs. Unlike neighbouring communities in the Glebe, Ottawa South and Sandy Hill, all of which have dedicated green spaces where dogs are allowed either on or off leash, there is currently a prohibition against dogs in either of the two major parks.

A new network of Old Ottawa East residents who own dogs and advocate for responsible ownership has now been formed, entitled 'Ottawa East Dogs'. The new group's objectives include the restoration and preservation of a dog-friendly society, the recognition of the contribution of dogs through

companionship, service/assistance and therapy, and the promotion of responsible usage of green space by all park users, in order to maintain a safe, clean environment.

Many OOE dog owners are disregarding the prohibition against dogs in Brantwood and Springhurst parks because they feel they have a right to our community parks as much as families with children or those playing sports. Dog ownership is on the rise - consider the statistics: Agriculture Canada and Canadian Veterinarian Association statistics from 2016 indicate 35% of Canadian households have a dog. More recent 2018 statistics from the Canadian Animal Health Institute indicate 41% of Canadian households own a dog. Ottawa East Dogs will strive to reach a solution that allows for the use of our

parks by all who would benefit, including residents with dogs.

Our new advocacy group has proposed changes to animal by-laws in Brantwood and Springhurst Park, as reflected in the designation diagrams accompanying this article. The requests are quite reasonable in nature as they do not interfere with the sports teams playing in the summer and dogs will continue to be prohibited in all of the children's play areas.

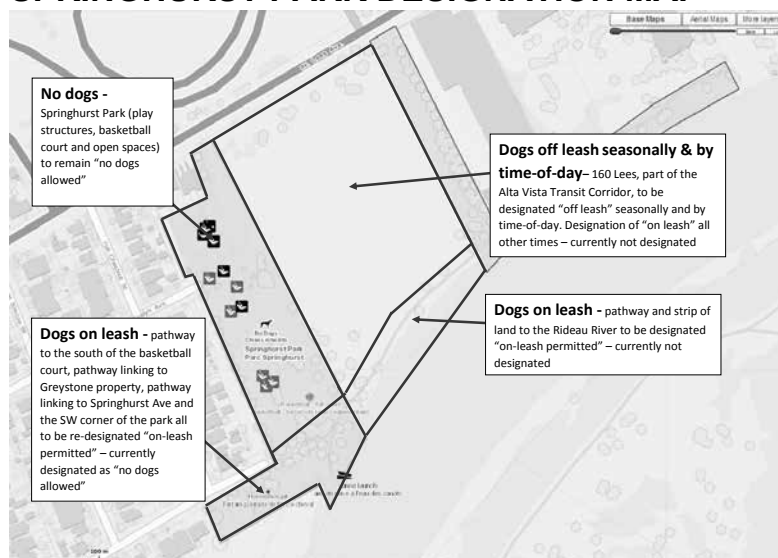
A request for community consultation has gone forward to the Capital Ward councillor's office which in turn has forwarded the request to the city by-law department. Signs are expected to be posted this spring allowing all OOE residents to engage in the process. If you are a dog owner and wish to stay informed, consider joining the Ottawa East Dogs Group via email: ottawaeastdogs@gmail.com or through facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ottawa-East-Dog-Group-230065014210967/>



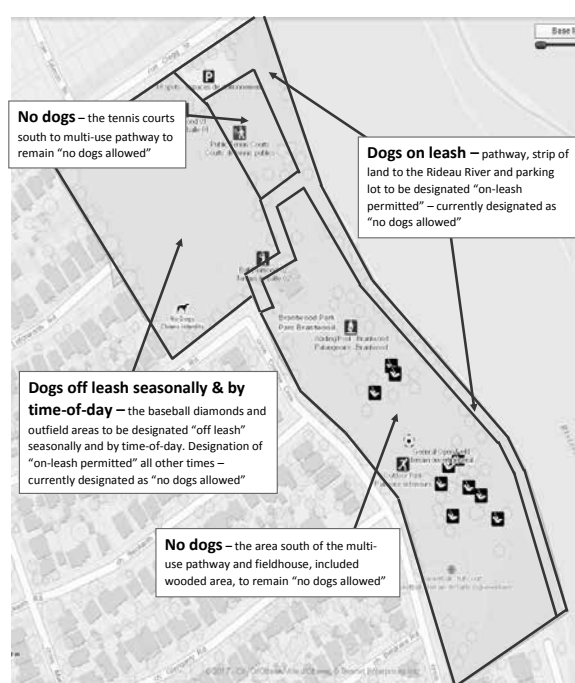
GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

- 1) Always pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste in a receptacle. Do not leave doggie bags lying around the parks.
- 2) If you see poop, even though it doesn't belong to your dog, help to keep the park green and pick it up.
- 3) If your dog cannot stop, heel or come on command, it should never be let off-leash except in enclosed designated dog parks.
- 4) Never let your dog jump up on people.
- 5) If you see someone is nervous about dogs, keep your dog close to you and respect that they may be afraid for good reason.
- 6) If your dog is aggressive, always keep it on a leash and put a muzzle on, if necessary.
- 7) If you throw a stick for your dog in a sports field area, remove the stick from the field afterwards to prevent injury to players.

SPRINGHURST PARK DESIGNATION MAP



BRANTWOOD PARK DESIGNATION MAP

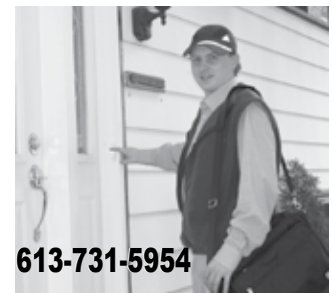


If the above proposals placed before the City of Ottawa by newly-formed Ottawa East Dogs group are accepted, sharing of Brantwood and Springhurst parks with our four legged friends will become more equitable and more responsible.

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Odyssey Theatre to premiere new comedy at Strathcona Park

BRUCE BURWELL

A couple of kilometers up the Rideau River from Brantwood Park lies another, older gem of an oasis on the river, Strathcona Park. Each year, Odyssey Theatre welcomes the Ottawa community to their stage in Strathcona Park to enjoy a night of Theatre Under the Stars, their open-air performances featuring mask, movement, music, and elaborate sets.

For the past 32 years, Odyssey's plays have been a draw for theatregoers from Old Ottawa East, offering a unique blend of contemporary adaptations, new plays, and classical theatre.

This year will be no different. Odyssey Theatre's outdoor stage will be host to a world premiere of *Lysistrata* and the *Temple of Gaia*, a new comedy by award-winning Toronto writer and director, David S. Craig. The play is inspired by Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, which was originally performed in Athens in 411 BCE, making it one of the oldest plays in Western comedy.

The ancient Greek *Lysistrata* features a well-known and often-imitated plot device: the women of Athens go on a sex strike to convince their partners to stop a war. David S. Craig's *Lysistrata* and the *Temple of Gaia* takes the familiar story in a new direction. In the new play, the women strike, not to stop

conflict, but to convince their partners to take environmental issues seriously.

Lysistrata and the *Temple of Gaia* is set in the year 2118, and climate change has made the world inhospitable. The rising oceans are acidic, the air is toxic, and the plants and animals are dying.

But, for the humans of the future, it's easy to dismiss all of this as "just the weather." Easy, that is, until an ancient goddess named Gaia appears and threatens to destroy all humanity unless they promise to take better care of the planet. The women agree, the men refuse, and a classic battle of the sexes ensues.

Over a 44-year career, David S. Craig has distinguished himself as a major player in Canada's theatre world, having written over 30 plays, many of which have toured across Canada and the world. This is Craig's second time at the helm of an Odyssey production, his first being 2012's *The Fan*, for which he won the Prix Rideau Award for Outstanding Adaptation.

With an incredible cast, expert direction, and Odyssey's trademark style, *Lysistrata* and the *Temple of Gaia* promises to deliver classic comedy with an environmental twist, a recipe for a perfect night out in Strathcona Park, where the play will be showing this summer from Tuesdays to Sundays, July 26 to August 26.



JOHN FORSTER PHOTO

The whimsical energy of the Odyssey Theatre troupe comes to the fore in a scene from their 2016 Strathcona Park production *The Servant of Two Masters*.



Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

I must confess to a somewhat voyeuristic pleasure when I visit Vietnam. Standing on street corners to see what will appear next on the back of motorcycles and scooters is endlessly fascinating to me. At the Vietnamese New Year, the standard gift is a kumquat tree, which must be transported to the host's home - always towering over the intrepid scooter rider. A family outing requires that the whole clan cling to the back of the motorcycle - 5 or 6 of them, or whatever it takes. Our small hotel had the laundry picked up by a scooter driver dwarfed by the bundles behind him. He had to lean forward to get the front wheel to stay on the ground. A live cow strapped on another - but admittedly that was on a highway.

This particular pair in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) were obviously on their way to a gig and had to get the stand-up bass to the music hall. In a city always bustling with activity, I was pleased when the cleaning cart woman entered the picture and added another element of movement. Once the musician dismounted, he set up and played a few bars and offered me the chance to do the same, which I did with great pleasure.

Once again in this issue, *Mainstreeter* Photo Editor, Peter Fowler shares with readers the story behind his image captured on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). We are pleased to present Peter's favourite photos from his worldwide travels with his explanation of how the photo came to be, and why it stands out within his portfolio. We'd like to see your favourite photo from your own travel experiences. Old Ottawa East readers are invited to submit their personal favourite international travel photo along with a brief description of the photo, how they came to take it and an explanation of why it is a cherished favourite (200 words or less). Send your travel photo submissions to editor@mainstreeter.ca. Perhaps your international travel photo will appear in this space in a future issue of the *Mainstreeter*.



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MENTORS IN THE HOOD

In this issue: THE SPORTS INDUSTRY

Dave Best helps grads find good jobs

THERESA WALLACE

In this issue, we debut a regular column on mentors who reside in Old Ottawa East with profiles on Dave Best and Taffe Charles. Both have carved out highly successful careers as sports professionals helping young people achieve their goals.

Dave Best is a lifelong jock who likes to win, and in the current highly competitive job market, that's great news for students in Algonquin College's sport business management program.

Best, program coordinator and professor, says over 80 percent of graduates find work in their field, although some leave Ottawa for that job.

A prerequisite for the one-year graduate program at Algonquin is a three-year business diploma or a university degree.

Students tackle 15 courses over three academic terms, plus one substantive internship and three smaller special projects each semester. Special projects this year involved, for example, helping with the Grey Cup at Lansdowne and the Roar of the Rings curling Olympic qualifier at the Canadian Tire Centre.

"At the end of the year, students add this graduate certificate to their resumes," Best says. "But they are also able to list of up to nine special projects and three internships."

He advises young people looking for work to make a clear plan and get the volunteer experience plus education they need to back up that plan. "You are not

likely to get hired based on who you know. You have to demonstrate your abilities and show you can deliver."



Dave Best

Best built his own career on two big passions: sports and education. Best, 61, played varsity sports at Queen's University, and later in England while studying for a masters degree in sport finance. He taught high school, spent 14 years at what's now called the Canadian Olympic Committee, then started a company to

run national sport education programs. He's written two books about sport.

Much of this work has been done while he lived in Old Ottawa East. In 1984, Best and his wife Carol Buckley

bought a house on Toronto Street, then moved to Burnham Road. They now live on Centennial Boulevard beside the Rideau River.

Over the years, Best coached many neighbourhood kids through the Sandy Hill minor hockey association. Some of them, including his two sons, have graduated from his program, as have other young people who grew up in Old Ottawa East.

"I loved coaching hockey. What I do now is a bit like that. It's 35 jocks in a room and we all get along," Best explains.

"Our championship at the end of the year is graduation. If someone doesn't find something after, I consider it a failure, and I hate to fail, so I work hard to help them land their first job in sports management."

Taffe Charles coaches Carleton Ravens to gold

THERESA WALLACE

Taffe Charles has put in countless hours on the basketball court, behind the bench, and on the team bus. Now he's reaping the rewards. He's been named provincial and national university (U SPORT) coach of the year, plus City of Ottawa male coach of the year, and he's fresh off the best-ever season for the Carleton University women's basketball team, leading the Ravens to a win in every single game on their path to a final victory against Saskatchewan at the U SPORT championships in Regina in March.

Coach Charles, 46, and his wife Christiane Fox have lived near Brantwood Park for three years. He says he loves skating on the rink with his two young daughters. He grew up in Westboro and enrolled at Carleton in 1990, playing basketball for five years with the Ravens. "My dad likes to tell people I went to Carleton for school and never left," Charles says. When the 6'4" Ravens star graduated, he helped coach the women's basketball team for three years, and the men for another nine, until the full-time job with the women's team came up in 2007.

"When I sat down to apply, I had

close to 13 years of mostly volunteer experience coaching that I didn't realize I'd accumulated, although I always knew if I could ever turn my passion for sports and coaching into a career I would do so in a second."

From the beginning, head coach Charles dreamed of winning a national championship. To achieve this goal, he broke it into smaller milestones. "Having a vision doesn't mean it's going to happen. But I knew if we could win our Ontario conference, we'd be at nationals, where there are only eight teams left, so anything can happen. To win, you need to put yourself in the best position, but you need things to go your way too, and this year they did. Frankly, it is surreal to have made this dream a reality."

Taffe Charles, heading into his twelfth

year coaching the Ravens, has this advice for young people looking for a job. "Sometimes you have to invent your own job. You do this by being passionate about your work, by putting in the hours to develop an expertise. Others are impressed with the results you get and willing to see what you do in a new way."

"Don't pursue a career just for the money. If you love what you're doing, the time and hard work it takes to become very good at it will not seem like a sacrifice or a struggle."

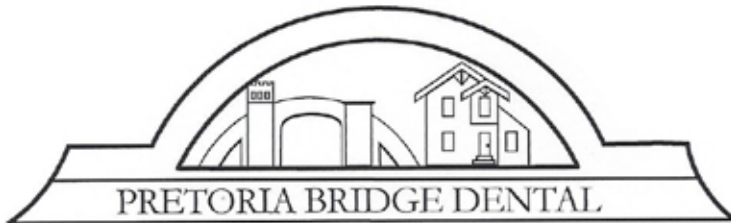
"Follow your dreams."

If you are interested in pursuing a career in sports management, business or coaching, please email us at mentors@mainstreeter.ca and we will connect you with the sports professionals profiled here.



ARTHUR IMAGES

Taffe Charles' Carleton University womens varsity team had a perfect record this season of 29 wins and no losses to win the USports national championship.



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PRETORIA BRIDGE DENTAL

Community centre project clears first hurdle

DON STEPHENSON

As reported in the February *Mainstreeter*, the City of Ottawa has been engaged in exploratory discussions with The Regional Group of Companies and Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC) regarding the possible inclusion of a community recreation facility in a redeveloped Deschatelets Building, at 175 Main Street. The focus of these discussions has been to repurpose this heritage landmark for both public and private uses, possibly including a community centre with a full-sized gymnasium, a community health centre, non-profit housing, a day care centre and commercial condominium units.

Based on these discussions and with the approval of the Finance and Economic Development Committee of the Municipal Council, Dan Chenier, the General Manager of Recreation, Culture and Facility Services for the City of Ottawa, recently confirmed that "... the City remains interested in pursuing this opportunity, and recognizes that this proposal demonstrates appreciable social benefit for the community".

In his letter to the proponents, Mr. Chenier states that the project remains at an "early stage of negotiation" and much remains to be done before a recommendation to proceed with the project can be made to City Council.

Mr. Chenier notes further that the City "requires more information and a more in-depth understanding of all

aspects of the proposed project prior to finalizing our commitment. For example, additional information is required on the overall concept for the building, including such things as the equity model and expectations from each partner, options for the City's occupancy of the space (and other participants in the public domain), and the financial structure anticipated for the initial and ongoing partnership."

More detailed discussions of the foregoing and other topics will now begin. No timetable is set out in Mr. Chenier's letter, but it seems reasonable to assume this next phase of planning and negotiation will take several months. He concludes on an encouraging note, however, committing his team to begin the work at the partners' "earliest convenience".

There is certainly no firm commitment yet from the City, which is clearly taking a cautious approach to the project, not least because it is based on an unsolicited proposal, which demands a high degree of due diligence and transparency. Nor should the challenges inherent in working with heritage buildings and public-private partnerships be minimized. However, with the encouragement of Capital Ward Councillor David Chernushenko, who has pressed for a clear signal of support for the project, the City has moved the community centre project forward. Residents of Old Ottawa East should be encouraged by this small step forward and watch closely for the next!

Sixth candidate emerges for Capital Ward

In the April issue of the *Mainstreeter*, John Dance profiled the five candidates for the hotly-contested Capital Ward seat in the upcoming municipal election. A sixth candidate has now entered the fray, Jide Afolabi, who submitted the following key points about his candidacy:

Jide Afolabi: "My aim is to bring bold thinking back to City Hall," says Mr. Afolabi. "To promote the kind of solutions that Capital Ward, as part of Ottawa, desperately needs - regular community forums to bring City Hall to the people, smart city pilot projects to tackle fundamental questions like road surface deterioration, a dog waste to energy pilot project, resident-centered snow removal, and more. ... I aim

to be an ultra-engaging and ultra-engaged councillor."

Mr. Afolabi is lawyer with a practice in Ottawa. He is also the managing director of nextOttawa, a non-governmental organization

committed to the promotion of progressive policy ideas for Ottawa. He has served and continues to serve on the boards of a number of community organizations, such as the African Canadian Dramatic Arts Society, the African Canadian Associations of Ottawa,

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, and the Ottawa Centre Provincial Liberal Association. He is a long-term resident of the Glebe, within Capital Ward.



Jide Afolabi

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SORRY, NO OVERNIGHTS OR BOARDING

Meet the candidates

Six people throw their names into the hat for Ottawa Centre

JOHN DANCE

Five candidates are challenging Ottawa Centre Liberal incumbent Yasir Naqvi in the Ontario provincial election set for June 7.

Naqvi has won the last three elections with an ever-increasing share of the vote but, after 14 years in power, the provincial Liberals have not been doing well in the polls.

Since its creation in 1967, only candidates of the New Democratic and Liberal parties have won Ottawa Centre, a riding that includes such communities as Centretown, Westboro and Old Ottawa East.

The Old Ottawa East Community Association has joined other community associations to organize an all-candidates meeting set for 7:00 pm, Thursday, May 17 at the Glebe Community Centre, 175 - Third Avenue.

The Mainstreeter asked candidates for two paragraphs briefly outlining why they were running and their background. The lightly edited responses in alphabetical order are as follow:

Joel Harden, New Democratic Party

"The Ottawa I am campaigning for is a green, liveable city. We need more bike lanes and cheaper public transport, not the congestion that widening the Queensway will bring," says Joel Harden, the NDP candidate. "We must deal immediately with a major housing shortage, the lack of quality, affordable childcare and long-



Joel Harden, NDP



Colleen McCleery, PC



Yasir Naqvi, Liberal



Cheri Wong, Green

term care, and the crisis of hospital overcrowding. I'm tired of political baffle-gab—Ontarians deserve better. The NDP offers a clear choice: business as usual, or a positive new direction for the province and for our city."

Harden is a teacher, activist, writer, and father, and an Ottawa resident since 2007. While at the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), he designed a successful campaign to improve the Canada Pension Plan. In 2012, he left the CLC to write a book on grassroots social movements, and taught at Carleton University. Harden presently works as a researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students.

Colleen McCleery, Progressive Conservative

"Ontarians used to be proud that our province was the economic powerhouse of Canada. Under the Liberal's watch we have record high debt levels that have paralyzed our economy. Ontarians deserve better," said Colleen McCleery, the

Progressive Conservative candidate. "It's time for the party with taxpayers money to stop, and to refocus on good governance and fiscal responsibility which has been sorely lacking under the Wynne Liberals."

McCleery is a long-time resident of the riding. She was a management consultant for 18 years and holds a degree in systems design engineering from the University of Waterloo, an MBA from Queen's University and a medical degree from Ross School of Medicine in Dominica. "She is passionate about health care delivery and working to get the province's finances back on track after over a decade of reckless Liberal spending and mismanagement," says campaign manager Robert Dekker.

Yasir Naqvi, Liberal

"It has been a privilege to serve our community as the MPP. Thanks to your support, I have had the opportunity to advocate on your behalf and I am very excited about everything we have accomplished," says Yasir Naqvi, the Liberal incumbent. "My focus is to build a fair and caring society, that gives everyone an opportunity to grow and succeed. My commitment to you is that I will continue to work hard to keep building a better community, together."

"Christine and I are proud to live and raise our kids - Rafi and Ellie - in this community and call Ottawa our home. We shop, jog and work here. I obtained my law degree from the University of Ottawa, and Master of Arts at Carleton University. I practiced law locally and volunteered with several organizations such as the Ottawa Food Bank and Centretown Community Health Centre."

Cheri Wong, Green Party

"I spent my teen years disengaged in politics," says Cheri Wong, Green Party candidate. "There is a distinct lack of diverse voices, which often leads to repressive policies for marginalized communities. I know the right to participate in civic and political life is not always a guarantee. In Canada, I choose to use my freedom to participate as a voter, a candidate, and hopefully, your next MPP."

"I am fortunate to call Ottawa, located on traditional unceded Algonquin territory, home," she continues. "I completed my Honours Bachelor at the University of Ottawa. While in school, I volunteered for many student organizations. From my active work with youths, I found my interest in youth empowerment and politics: I reside in Centretown with my partner Alex, my cat Booker, and my dog Stormageddon."

Other Candidates

As of April 22, two other candidates had also filed their papers for the upcoming election: Marc Adornato of the None of the Above Party and Bruce Faulkner representing the Libertarian Party.

Adornato's home page says he is "a Canadian contemporary artist, satirist, reformed antique hoarder, and occasional shit-disturber. His provocative art practice usually consists of sharp socio-political critique, with themes of wealth inequality, terrorism, state surveillance, technology, pollution, and plagiarism - with a hint of dystopian sarcasm or dark humour."

Faulkner's Facebook profile is "Trucker; studied at school of hard knocks; went to the school of hard knocks, the university of life."



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SPRING COMMUNITY UPDATE #PROGRESS



I was honoured to be featured in Ottawa-Gatineau Printmaking Collective's exhibit "My City, My Town, My Village" at the Green Door Restaurant, and the source of inspiration for Darcy Whyte's piece titled "Pass the Scissors". Always a pleasure meeting talented artists in the community!



City Building

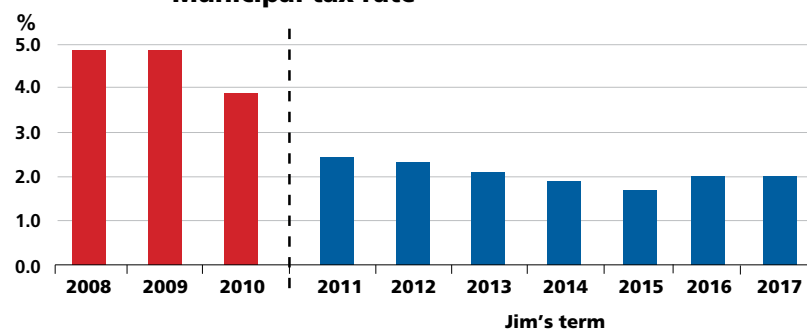
- Confederation Line of our Light Rail Transit (LRT) System opening to the public in November 2018
- Record \$80 million invested into cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in this Term of Council
- Additional \$10 million being invested into road repairs and resurfacing in 2018 to bring the total roads budget to \$ 45.2 million
- Partnership with Library and Archives Canada and \$73.3 million funding secured for the new Ottawa Central Library



Community

- Official opening of the House of Sport at the RA Centre, which houses various local and national Sporting and Multi-Sport Organizations
- Official opening of the newly expanded and renovated Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG) on April 28, 2018
- 136 new affordable housing units to be completed in 2018, with 142 more to be built in 2019
- New Red Light cameras being installed and a new 30 km/h speed policy in school zones being implemented
- 75 new Police Officers and 52 new Paramedics hired
- Implemented the low income transit pass, EquiPass, and single-ride fare, EquiFare

Municipal tax rate



Affordability

- Overall surplus of \$24.9 million for 2017
- Maintained a Moody's Aaa credit rating
- Keeping the City affordable with a 2% tax cap

Turning into history: Tories from Bennett to Campbell

DON CUMMER

"I'd like to tell you my story,"

Said one of them so young and bold.

"I'd like to tell you my story

Before I turn into gold."

- Leonard Cohen

Eventually, history catches up with us. Or maybe it's the other way around: the times we've been through turn into history.

The Old Ottawa East Community Association's series on Prime Ministers began with Sir John A. Macdonald – a figure the audience knew only through history.

To wrap up this Canada 150 project at St. Paul's University, historian and author Bob Plamondon bridged to our world: one Prime Minister lost in the mists of time, and four others whom some of us remember vividly. What future generations remember will eventually be the gold left behind in the sluice of time.

AN HISTORIAN OF POLITICIANS

Plamondon himself has participated in that story. He was the Progressive Conservative candidate for Ottawa Centre in the 1988 (free trade) election. The electors, he joked, determined that his career would be that of an historian of politicians, rather than a politician himself.



NICK MASCIANTONIO PHOTO

Political historian and author Bob Plamondon entertained another large audience at St. Paul's University to close out the highly successful Prime Minister's Series; his latest book, *Blue Thunder* (inset), a history of the Conservatives from Macdonald to Harper, fueled his presentation and the Q & A session which followed.

He has written biographies of Pierre Trudeau and Jean Chrétien. Copies of his history of the Tories, *Blue Thunder*, were given away to the audience who came to hear his talk. Drawing from his book, Plamondon skipped lightly and humorously through the decades. In the end, we were left with an impression of what is remembered now – and what will turn into gold for future generations.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R.B. Bennett governed not so much as a politician but as a chairman of the board. He created many of the institutions that defined Canada – the CBC, the Bank of Canada, the Wheat Board. He proposed public

health care and unemployment insurance, but never had a chance to pursue the agenda.

But in the public imagination he is perhaps best remembered for "the Bennett buggy" – an automobile pulled by a horse, because few on the prairies could afford gasoline. His legacy was to leave the folklore that "Tory times are hard times." Bennett was the epitome of the plutocrat politician.

John Diefenbaker was the opposite: a populist who railed against the established order, even in his own party. "Everyone is against me but the people," he'd say. Diefenbaker championed un-hyphenated Canadianism: "One Canada." He regarded his crowning achievement as the Bill of Rights.

Plamondon was not kind in his assessment of Joe Clark, a Prime Minister for 273 days. The media had derided Clark as a wimp, said Plamondon, and as Prime Minister, he tried to show how tough he was. Given a minority, he governed as if he had a majority. The first step was to bring down a tough budget. The resulting election consigned the Tories once more to Opposition.

THE LEADER THEY NEEDED

Neither in his talk nor in his book did Plamondon account for Brian Mulroney's role in overthrowing Clark – it was all done by others, it seems. But Plamondon underscores that, with Mulroney, the PCs got the leader they needed. Canada needed him too.

Mulroney proved to be one of the transformational Prime Ministers. His legacy is strong: the Free Trade Agreement, the Acid Rain Treaty, major tax reform (GST), global leadership against South African apartheid, and moving government operations into the black (only interest on the debt put budgets into deficit).

His successor, Kim Campbell, was "extraordinarily intelligent" but had little interest or talent in retail politics. "Voters will find me as boring as I find them," she said, and "An election is no time to discuss serious issues." Upon winning the PC Leadership, she had the highest ratings in Canadian history. At the end of the 1994 election, the Tories were reduced to two seats.

Ah yes, we remember it well. But it's history now.

In the Q&A period, someone asked whether Campbell had been set up as a sacrificial lamb destined to lose. Plamondon replied that she certainly had a good shot. Chretien was regarded as "yesterday's man." Campbell ran an incompetent campaign.

Throughout the series, the Q&A session provided many insights, and this night was no different:

Diefenbaker and the Avro Arrow: intercontinental missiles had replaced planes at the forefront of defence policy. It was Lester Pearson, as Louis St. Laurent's foreign minister, who first recommended against the Arrow.

The money Mulroney took from Karl-Heinz Schreiber: it showed "extraordinary bad judgement" but the Oliphant inquiry found no connection with government decisions. Macdonald, Mulroney and Chretien each have these black marks against them.

Now that the series is over, what can be done to continue celebrating our Prime Ministers? Plamondon replied, open a National Portrait Gallery.

The talk history did not include Stephen Harper. Too recent, Plamondon argued. Not yet turned to gold, it seems.

The video archive of the entire Prime Minister's series will be made available at <https://www.ottawaeast.ca/>.

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Community Activities Group of Ottawa East (CAG) BBQ's and Picnics in Brantwood Park



Brantwood BBQ and Picnic

Every Thursday, May 17 - August 2
5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Brantwood Park,
39 Onslow Crescent

Come and enjoy the best of the season in the park with friends and neighbours. Bring a picnic from home or purchase supper from the BBQ; hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie dogs and drinks will be available to purchase. Food and drink sales support community programs and events.

For cancellations due to weather please check www.OttawaEastCAG.ca by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the event.



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It's easy being green at Lady Evelyn

MEREDITH NEWBERRY

This year Lady Evelyn Alternative School's annual fundraising efforts turned a new leaf. A big new green leaf. Parent council closed the chapter on its annual book sale and created a community Earth Day Festival instead. The event raised \$2,000 and brought hundreds of people to the school on April 21.

The Festival encouraged the community to think twice about the items in their home and where they can go when no longer useful. Whether it was collecting electronic waste, or providing a booth for others to swap their used toys or clothes, Lady Evelyn modeled the behaviour that helps reduce waste and encourages recycling.

Grade 1 and 2 students sold seedlings that they planted. The month-long endeavour both taught the kids how to grow plants and also gave the community the opportunity to buy the plants for their own herb garden.

Kids could play any of the games, create eco-crafts, make their own no-waste birdfeeders, or weave flowers in an outdoor loom. Most kids and parents were happy to hit up the bake sale and take part in the free coffee with a reusable mug offering too.



"Lady Evelyn's Earth Day event was a huge success! In many ways, the event represented what, as an alternative school, we strive to exhibit every day," said Ananda Kelly, a parent council volunteer at the school. "Our family and community-centered school environment was so absolutely evident in the coming together and contributions of teachers,



MEREDITH NEWBERRY PHOTOS

Above: Grade 1/2 teacher, Kim Symes, guided her students through the process of growing edible plants from seeds. Symes organized the sales of the seedlings at the Festival to help both her kids and the community learn about the delicate balance of growing plants and supporting organic, healthy food. Symes is shown here with Elliot, Isaac, and James.

Below: Children are all smiles as they play under a parachute during Earth Day activities.

staff, students, parents and extended community."

WHAT A WASTE

Part of the waste problem that still continues in 2018 is that consumers either don't dispose of waste properly or are using materials that don't easily break down. A display at the school shows everyday items in just about every OOE home and the time it takes for each item to break down. Here's what you can do to help the environment every day, not just on Earth Day.

It takes a plastic bag 500 years to decompose underground. Bring your own bags to the store, or shop bulk with your own containers.

Clothing can take 20-50 years to break down in landfill. Those nylon athletic pants you've needed an excuse to get

rid of – pass them along to a thrift shop instead of tossing them in the garbage.

It takes just a few weeks for compost to break down. The City picks up compost every week and with just a few changes in your garbage habits you could reduce the weight of your garbage bag by half.

It takes 1000 years for electronics to decompose. Imagine that the iPad you toss out today could still be sitting in landfill when your great-great-great-great-great-great-grandkids are around. Instead, take it to an e-waste facility or fundraising program like the one Lady Evelyn organized.

Avoid Styrofoam! Ottawa doesn't recycle Styrofoam so it sits in landfill after just a single use. If you get take-out ask if they use Styrofoam and if you can bring your own containers.



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HUGO LAMA PHOTO

The Peace Lutheran Church on Main Street is the site of many social and cultural events, including the upcoming 100th birthday celebration of the birth of Latvia.

Peace Lutheran Church celebrates Latvia's 100th birthday

ILSE ZANDSTRA

Peace Lutheran Church is participating in Doors Open Ottawa on June 2 - 3. Come and join us at 83 Main Street and learn more about the people who worship and socialize in your neighbourhood.

Our more than eighty-year-old building houses the Latvian Lutheran congregation of Ottawa and hosts numerous lively social events throughout the year. But this year is a special one, as Latvia is celebrating its 100th birthday! Come and celebrate with us and learn about Latvia, where Canadian troops are currently stationed as part of a NATO mission, and sample Latvian culture, art, music, dance, a little history, and some Latvian delicacies.

Our church at 83 Main Street has a fascinating history. In the early 1930s, Canadian Martyrs congregation purchased land at Main Street & Lees Avenue and built the church. W.C. Beattie, a well-known Ottawa architect, designed the building. The first services in the new church were held in the spring of 1931. By 1950, the congregation had outgrown the building and the Canadian Martyrs moved further south on Main Street. They kept the old building, deconsecrated it and used it as a community centre.

Thirty years later, on 30 September 1982, the Peace Lutheran Church congregation purchased the building. The structure was in very poor condition and required significant renovations. Volunteers from the congregation did all the work themselves. For the last 35 years, the Peace Lutheran congregation has maintained the building and its surroundings. The building serves as a home to the congregation and to the Latvian community in Ottawa, and welcomes visitors and friends of Latvia from Ottawa and elsewhere.

To showcase the richness and uniqueness of the Latvian culture we invite all readers of the Mainstreeter to visit our Church and learn more about us. We are Canadians, with a rich Latvian cultural heritage, who have worked and contributed to Ottawa and to this country for decades. To celebrate Latvia's 100th birthday as well as Doors Open Ottawa we plan to offer a program of mini-concerts - piano, guitar, and kokle, a traditional stringed instrument - on the hour. The community choir, dance group, as well as youth band will also perform. Latvian-Canadian art and crafts will be displayed. There will be coffee and traditional Latvian food available free of charge. On Sunday, at 11 a.m. our pastor will hold a bilingual (Latvian and English) church service. We welcome you.

OOE COMMUNITY EVENTS

WELCOMING OTTAWA WEEK – JUNE 18 TO 30, 2018

Every year about 12,000 immigrants arrive in Ottawa. Our city has a well-earned reputation as being welcoming to newcomers, one of only six cities in the country receiving top marks for attracting newcomers, according to the Conference Board of Canada. Welcoming Ottawa Week (WOW) provides an excellent forum for conveying to newcomers Ottawa's warm welcome and genuine hospitality.

WOW is an annual, week-long series of cultural and celebratory events, sports activities, documentary screenings, dialogues, town halls, and other engaging, thought-provoking and fun events held in various locations of the city in the 12 days leading up to Canada Day. It is designed to connect, strengthen, and amplify the many ways in which our city is welcoming to newcomers. WOW also provides opportunities for quality interactions between residents, long-term and new.

"Newcomers are attracted to diverse, vibrant cities where their families can participate in city life, contribute economically and actively engage in civic development," says Hindia Mohamoud, Director of the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership which leads WOW. "By hosting a WOW event and participating in its wide range of activities, you can not only provide a warm welcome to newcomers, but you will also meet people from all over the world, learn about different cultures, and have fun through the many educational, cultural, artistic and sporting events that are a mainstay of WOW."

In its sixth year, WOW has grown to 73 events held across the city last year. Do not miss being a part of this incredible celebration! Together we can make Ottawa Canada's most welcoming city!

GIRLS NIGHT OUT FOR HOSPICE CARE OTTAWA

Can you think of a better way to launch into summer than to join over 500 women for a lively evening of good food, drinks, music, prizes, auctions and firefighters? Party with a purpose! All proceeds of this

fun evening are in support of Hospice Care Ottawa. Bring your friends, coworkers and family. By the end of this celebratory night you may have some new acquaintances too! Let's get this party going! Don't delay. Friday, June 22, 2018, Algonquin College - Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Girls Night Out is a major fundraiser for Hospice Care Ottawa, a community-based charitable, non-profit organization. It is thanks to a small dedicated staff, many volunteers and generous donors that they can offer palliative and end-of-life care, at no charge, to individuals living with a life-limiting illness and their families. Programs include weekly in-home visiting by a trained volunteer, Day Hospice gatherings, caregiver and bereavement support as well as round the clock residential hospice care in a comfortable, home-like setting.



Girls Night Out tickets are limited and sell quickly. Buy yours today. Tickets: \$85 each. For more information or to purchase your tickets call 613-260-2906 ext. 222 or visit <https://www.hospicecareottawa.ca/girls-night-out-2018.html>.



RAINBOW KIDSCHOOL'S 50TH BIRTHDAY BBQ & PARTY

Come celebrate at a free BBQ and neighbourhood party at Lady Evelyn School! Everyone is welcome on Wednesday, June 6 from 4:30 - 7:30pm at the party of the season! We are proud to invite members of the community to celebrate this Old Ottawa East institution, one of the city's oldest preschools (and a registered charity). There will be entertainment for kids and adults alike! Former students will also be able to reminisce with some of their past teachers and other Rainbow families. Hope to see you there!

Community gardening for all: What's on your plate?

GENEVIÈVE GAZAILLE

In 2017, Ottawa celebrated 20 years of community gardening. Although community gardens started to develop in the 1980s, it was only in 1997 that the Community Gardening Network of Ottawa was officially created. Today, some 80 gardens can be found throughout the city, and Old Ottawa East has become the host to three of them over the past few years.

Different types of gardens exist, and in Ottawa, the most common is what we call the “community garden”; individuals are allocated their own plot, which they can plant and harvest at their leisure. They must also contribute to overall maintenance of the garden, as directed by the garden's rules. Other models include “communal gardens”, where people typically plant, maintain and harvest in a collaborative manner, often to the benefit of community groups or individuals who don't actively participate in the garden's activities, and “mixed gardens”, combining individual plots and a communal portion.

The Old Ottawa East Community Garden is a good example of a mixed garden as it features individual plots, a space reserved for the Urban Café located inside St. Paul University and an allotment helping the Centretown Emergency Food Centre which benefits from 800 pounds of fresh produce every year thanks to local gardeners and students who volunteer to maintain and harvest the allotment. On the other hand, the Children's Garden is of the communal garden type and acts as an



SUPPLIED PHOTO

educational tool for children, camps and other groups.

What's the point?

No matter what name you give them, gardens play several roles. We tend to see them as places for gardeners to socialize - which is important as it helps break down barriers of all types - but there is more to it. Food security comes to mind. “Many of us are committed urban farmers and food security activists and grow our own produce as a matter of course”, says Annette Hegel, co-coordinator of the Old Ottawa East Community Garden. In its Nutritious Food Basket 2017 survey, Ottawa Public Health estimated that on average, a family of four needs \$873 per month to feed itself appropriately. Once all the other bills are paid, the food bill can be out of reach for many people, so growing food becomes a good way of eating healthy food without breaking the bank.

Another benefit of gardening is food literacy. Activities such as the Children's Garden have

been proven to encourage a higher consumption of produce within the younger population. For example, a 2015 Cornell University study showed that children were four times more likely to eat a school salad if the vegetables came from their school garden.

Sue McKee of the Old Ottawa East Children's Garden confirms there are many benefits to gardening initiatives. “Children can learn through hands-on, experiential learning the joy and importance of growing their own food. They watch the seeds they plant germinate and grow. They care for the garden, do crafts and science about the garden, and have fun doing it. They learn about composting, weeds, food plants, ripeness, healthy eating, the importance of water to food, and much more”.

Many Ottawa gardens have long waiting lists to access a plot. Why not start a new garden for your community?



The Community Gardening Network (CGN) has many tools to support you, including funding. Here's how to get started:

■ Explore the CGN page on www.justfood.ca and contact its coordinator.

■ Find community members to help you develop the project.

■ Speak to your local community association to find out if other people are considering a similar project and to get their support.

■ Identify potential sites that could host your garden.

■ Attend one of CGN's 'How to Start a Community Garden' workshops for a full run down on what to consider, how to do it and how to submit a funding proposal.

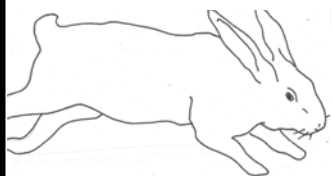


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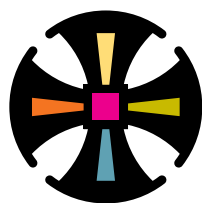
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POLITICAL PAGES

OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BY PHYLLIS ODENBACH SUTTON
INFO@OTTAWAEAST.CA



LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

As I have prepared this column, I have seen freezing rain, ice pellets, sunny skies, drizzle and rain. Hopefully when you read this article, winter-like weather will be but a distant memory!

Probably the most contentious current issue in our community is the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) plans for Immaculata High School, i.e., the conversion of the playing field to artificial turf and a partnership with the Ottawa Footy Sevens to operate the field in the evening and on weekends.

Some key recent events include presentations by many residents at the March 27 and April 10 OCSB Trustee meetings and an April 12 information meeting at Immaculata. While I met some strong supporters of the new field at the Immaculata meeting, including community members and school students, there remain many others concerned about potential adverse impacts from noise, lights, parking and traffic. Note that construction information will be posted on Immaculata's website <http://imh.ocsb.ca>

I continue to personally struggle with a number of issues relating to the Immaculata turf field initiative. Should the public have the right to access publicly funded school grounds after hours, particularly in the inner core of Ottawa where green space is at a premium? (Note that the City has instituted a policy to share school fields with school boards in the suburbs.) And is there really no change in the use of a field when lights are installed and a commercial enterprise can operate the facility weekday evenings from 6:00 to 11:00pm and from 8:00am to 11:00pm on weekends? (Note it is only when there is a change in use that public consultations are required.)

There is no further news on the timing of the City's review of Main Street's performance and safety. But I have seen an increase in cyclist traffic, including a number of cyclists using the bike paths in the wrong direction. I have also heard from residents north of the Queensway on the state of Main Street between

Harvey and Greenfield; the poor condition of the asphalt and multiple potholes are making it difficult for both drivers and cyclists.

Our community continues to be impacted by delays in the LRT system: the Queensway on-ramp at Lees will not likely reopen until early summer 2019, and there is no pedestrian access on the LRT bridge over the Rideau River.

On the planning front, the rezoning application for increased height for one of the planned rental buildings in Greystone Village (from six to nine storeys) has raised concerns, particularly with our new neighbours at the Corners on Main. The application raises an important issue; no matter what the original plans and communications, there is still the possibility that applications to change such things as height or setbacks can be filed and approved.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

■ As the provincial election of June 7 approaches, the OOECA is joining with eight other community associations in Ottawa-Centre to host an all candidates meeting on Thursday, May 17 from 7:00-9:00pm at the Glebe Community Centre.

■ The next Main Event will be back on Main Street on Saturday, June 16. The OOECA will again be running the barbeque as a fundraiser so please stop by for a hot dog or hamburger and a chat.

■ And finally check our website for links to our sesquicentennial Prime Ministers speaking series - videos courtesy of Nick Masciantonio at CommuniquéDirect.

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/>



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SHORT-TERM RENTALS, LONG-TERM TREES, AND MORE

Short-term rental platforms such as Airbnb have brought with them tremendous opportunities for people all over the world to rent or rent out a vast selection of lodgings for vacations or work, at prices often cheaper than a hotel.

Along with cost savings for guests and income potential for hosts participating in this "sharing economy", short-term stays can bring with them a series of problems and nuisances. In Ottawa, neighbours of some rentals have complained of a revolving door of visitors on their streets, or in their condo or apartment buildings. Security and noise problems are causing disruptions at properties not zoned for hotel-type use. The already tight long-term rental market is shrinking.

The proliferation of short-term rentals has also raised concerns of unfair competition in the hotel industry. A 2017 study showed that instead of "sharing" a spare room in their homes for extra cash, most short-term rental hosts have turned entire apartments or houses into full-time guest lodgings, even buying multiple properties specifically for this purpose. That makes them commercial enterprises that should be taxed and regulated accordingly.

The economic issue has been significantly addressed — Airbnb-type hosts are now required to collect HST as well as the City of Ottawa's 4% Hotel and Short Term Accommodation Tax, which funds the promotion and development of tourism to Ottawa.

As for other concerns, the City is responding with a public consultation and comprehensive review by early 2019, examining issues such as licensing of residential room rentals, short-term rentals (i.e., Airbnb) and student/shared accommodations,

as well as public safety, consumer protection and community nuisance issues. I will provide further details about the study, and ways of participating, as this information becomes available.

Urban tree bylaw review coming

In early 2017, City Council approved Ottawa's first ever Urban Forest Management Plan. Since then, work has begun on a number of the action items set out in the 15-year plan. Not surprisingly, residents have expressed a strong interest in preserving the local tree canopy, protecting trees on public rights of way and private property, and seeing more new trees planted.

A notable first step includes a full review by City staff of two existing, related bylaws: The Municipal Trees and Natural Areas Protection Bylaw, which covers all municipally-owned trees, and the Urban Tree Conservation Bylaw, which applies to a portion of privately-owned trees within the urban boundary, depending on property size and tree size.

This project will:

- Seek opportunities to strengthen the Municipal Trees and Natural Areas Protection By-law
- Investigate the need for a Heritage Tree By-law, program, or registry in Ottawa
- Develop city-wide tree compensation guidelines
- Identify and formalize incentives for tree conservation and establishment.

The City expects to release a discussion paper next January, and to present recommendations to the Environment and Climate Protection Committee in February, and to full Council in June 2019.

JIM WATSON, MAYOR OF OTTAWA

613-580-2496

JIM.WATSON@OTTAWA.CA

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SPRING CLEANING THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Each year, Ottawa residents eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring, as it signifies the end of our frigid winters and the beginning of our farmer markets, numerous festivals and outdoor recreation season. Parks, patios and public spaces are flooded with people of all ages soaking up the sun, enjoying our greenspace and making the most of the warm months. But the start of the nice weather also marks the onset of spring cleaning.

In addition to dusting off remnants of winter, scouring basements and attics to find garage sale treasures and making room for the new, residents can help keep the city of Ottawa in good shape by participating in the annual GLAD Cleaning the Capital campaign.

This citywide cleanup is a great opportunity for residents to foster community pride and for high school students to earn their community volunteer hours by cleaning up their parks, bus stops, woodlots, ravines, shorelines and pathways, while enjoying the outdoors and ensuring that Ottawa stays clean, green, and graffiti and litter-free.

Now in its 25th year, the cleaning campaign brings together neighbours,

communities and friends to help keep Ottawa clean and green! Since the campaign first started in 1994, more than one million volunteers have participated in more than 20,000 cleanup projects throughout the city. As a result, an estimated 1,000,000 kilograms of waste has been removed from our public spaces. Last year alone, 75,547 volunteers collected 60,437 kg of litter during 1,259 cleanup events!

You can register until May 15th by visiting www.Ottawa.ca/clean or by calling 3-1-1 (TTY: 613-580-2401) and you can report your cleanup project by May 31st. An online interactive map will show you which locations have already been claimed, and the registration form will allow you to choose your own project site and indicate the cleanup supplies that you need. Select a location such as a park, ravine, shoreline, bus stop, pathway or any public area that requires litter pickup or graffiti removal. Participants are even eligible to win prizes when they submit their on-line cleanup reports after their cleanup!

Together, we can keep our incredible city clean, green, and litter-free for all to enjoy.



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BUDGET 2018: WHAT IT MEANS FOR OTTAWA CENTRE?

In February, our Government tabled Equality + Growth, the federal budget for 2018. This budget is the next step in a long-term plan to invest in people, communities, and the economy. I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the exciting opportunities in Budget 2018 for Ottawa Centre.

When I was a candidate in 2015, I made a promise to secure federal funding for part of Ottawa's new central public library. Budget 2018 proposes \$73.3 million to support the construction and ongoing operations of a partnership between Library and Archives Canada and the Ottawa Public Library. I know folks in Ottawa have been waiting for this and I'm thrilled to be delivering on this campaign commitment. Right now, many of our country's artifacts are tucked away in storage units. When construction is complete, we're going to have a world-class facility to showcase artifacts and share our history with visitors from around the world.

Our public servants deserve to be paid properly and on time for the important work they are doing. Budget 2018 commits money for the next steps in addressing Phoenix pay system challenges including \$431.4 million to hire additional staff to support the system and \$16 million to work with experts and unions on developing a way forward for a new pay system. If you are a resident of Ottawa Centre who is experiencing issues with Phoenix, please contact my community office to see how we might be able to assist.

In 2015, I also made a commitment to help the National Capital Commission improve access to and address safety challenges on their pathways and bridges. Enjoying the outdoors is important to people in Ottawa, our greenspace is part of what makes Ottawa the best place to live. Budget 2018 includes \$55 million for the NCC

for critical repair and maintenance. This money will help ensure our infrastructure continues to be safe and accessible for everyone.

Budget 2018 also includes the single largest investment in fundamental research in Canadian history (\$1.7 billion for granting councils and research institutes and \$1.3 billion over five years for investments in laboratories, equipment and infrastructure). This is great news for our researchers and students at Carleton University. I have visited the campus many times and am always impressed by the work they are doing, particularly on climate change and the environment. Research expands our basic understanding of the world, generates new ideas, and helps build a workforce that is better able to respond to challenges.

Our government launched the Canada Child Benefit in 2016 to help pay for things like sports and school supplies. As of today, 7,340 families in Ottawa Centre are receiving an average of over \$5,000 annually. As a mom of three, I am pleased to see Budget 2018 recommit to helping middle-class families by investing an additional \$5.6 billion through the Canada Child Benefit. A new Parental Sharing Benefit was also announced in Budget 2018. This benefit would allow five additional weeks of EI to be accessed when both parents agree to share parental leave. This means new parents, especially mothers, could return to work sooner, more equitable hiring practices, and both parents spending more time with their newborns.

This budget puts people first, builds on the hard work of Canadians, and keeps us squarely focused on the future. I'm looking forward to working with all levels of government and the community on implementing these exciting opportunities.

Clegg footbridge taking shape

JOHN DANCE

While many of us simply tried to cope with another unusual winter, construction of the Clegg-Fifth footbridge pushed ahead and, by the end of June of this year, the steel span across the Canal will be installed.

Much remains to be done and the scheduled opening remains the summer of 2019, but over the winter the concrete piers in the canal, complete with their seating for skate changing, were completed as was the eastern abutment. The Glebe-side abutment should be finished by the beginning of May.

Another piece of good news is that the Colonel By pathway has been reinstated while an old water main is being replaced. The City is doing this work in conjunction with the bridge construction to avoid a separate and disruptive construction project later on.

“Once the water main work is complete the pathway detour will be reinstated to allow the contractor access to the east-side working pad in the Canal,” says Carina Duclos, Manager, Design and Construction. “We do anticipate that the Colonel By pathway will be reinstated before the new bridge opens.”

The crushed stone “working pads”



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

A worker carefully guided the 27 tonne switchback girder into place.

around the piers in the Canal will accommodate a large crane when it lifts the V-shaped vertical supports onto the tops of the concrete piers and then lifts the bridge girders onto the V-supports.

“The entire bridge consists of eight structural steel segments,” says Duclos. “There are two V-piers which sit atop the concrete piers and five girders over the Canal span. In addition, the switchback

on the Ottawa East side has one girder.”

The switchback girder was installed in April with the operation going perfectly, according to the construction crew. The 30 metre-long girder weighing 27 tonnes was unloaded from a flat-bed truck and raised into place in about an hour.

Three girders have already been fabricated in North Bay and fabrication of the remaining three, along with the

two V-piers is underway. The bridge girders and V-piers are scheduled to arrive and be installed in June.

Construction of the ramps and remaining east-side switchback elements will follow the bridge girder installation. After the bridge steel is installed, the contractor will form and pour the concrete deck and then install the railings and deck waterproofing.

The Queensway bridges projects 2018 to 2030?

TOM SCOTT

Just when the residents of Old Ottawa East thought they were past a decade of noise, vibration and dust from the construction of the LRT and development of the former Oblates properties along Main Street, a new set of major infrastructure projects looms on the immediate horizon.

The Queensway was constructed over 50 years ago and many of its bridges have already had to be replaced. In a regular progression, Ottawa has seen overpasses and underpasses to the east and west of the downtown core repaired in a few cases, but entirely replaced in most instances.

Environmental Assessment (EA) and consultations are necessary steps for a group of projects aimed at replacing or rehabilitating four bridging sections of the Queensway as an elevated highway from Main Street, the Rideau Canal, and Elgin Street to Metcalfe Street. The sections from O'Connor Street and west are covered by a separate and virtually complete EA, as is the section to the east

for Nicholas and out to ‘the Split’. The Lees Avenue overpass was completed a few years ago and the design for Nicholas is to be very similar.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and its consultant contractor, BT Engineering (BTE) hosted a Public Information Centre (PIC) session at St. Paul’s University late last year. A number of advisors from BTE were available to answer questions from OOE residents.

Since the PIC, MTO staff members were to have met with City of Ottawa staff, and were also to get feedback from federal officials regarding any National Capital Commission or Parks Canada (World Heritage Site) concerns and requirements.

A second PIC is planned for the near future and Mainstreeter readers will be advised as to the timing for that session, and provided with more information about the construction process favoured by MTO and potential impacts on neighbourhood businesses and residents.

That brings us to the options presented at the initial PIC for replacing the downtown bridges: Metcalfe, Elgin, the

The Queensway was constructed over 50 years ago and many of its bridges have already had to be replaced.

Rideau Canal and Main. In fact they make up seven distinct bridges. A variety of design options for the downtown core bridges were presented at St. Paul’s, as well as design alternatives for the Canal bridges.

For both the Main Street and Canal bridges, the preferred options and alternatives seem to be aiming at Ballantyne Park and the older buildings along the north side of Hawthorne as an area for lay-down of materials and construction of bridge sections to be moved in place when completed. The routes for the very large transportation platforms would need to see most of the mature trees on site cut down, Gordon’s office and Alain’s salon removed (perhaps to be replaced but stored elsewhere during construction phases), as well as

removal of the buildings right down to and including the Royal Oak.

Projected timelines for all the associated construction work previewed at the St. Paul’s PIC extended beyond a decade from initiation. For example, MTO representatives noted that there were no plans to provide interim sound barriers to protect the surrounding neighbourhoods during the extensive construction. Permanent sound barriers meeting a Provincial standard would not even be considered until sometime around 2030. Local traffic disruptions, diversions and loading from heavy equipment movement, construction vehicles and suppliers (including concrete and steel) would be sporadic but continuous over this decade-plus infrastructure project.



PHOTO BY JOHN DANCE

Pair of hosers win top honours

Mike Galazka (right) and Tim Wilshaw have won the Hosers of the Year trophy, Old Ottawa East's most prestigious (and only) annual award. The honour goes to those who have distinguished themselves by extraordinary service to the Brantwood Community Rink. Galazka becomes the first two-time winner, having won before in 1997. Proprietor of Mike Galazka Service Centre on Main Street, Galazka has promptly and perfectly plowed the rink for more than two decades.



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Impact Hours: connecting 55+ experience with the community

CHRISTINE FRANKLIN

Do you know individuals, retired or later in their careers, who are looking for short-term volunteer opportunities to apply their skills and experience to a good cause?

ImpactHours.org is a new website that connects individuals aged 55+ with Ottawa non-profits for short-term, skill-based volunteer opportunities. Spotlights by the Council on Aging as an “Innovative Age-Friendly Initiative” and recently featured on CBC Ottawa Morning, Impact Hours provides a free local service to 55+ individuals, offering them access to an inventory of volunteer opportunities posted by non-profits in need of their skill-sets and experience.

Non-profits with limited resources and gaps to fill benefit from donated skills and experience of 55+ adults to help with specific needs in support of their core missions, or to assist with questions or issues in areas such as

technology, marketing, or fundraising.

In developing Impact Hours, organizers knew that volunteers play a vital role in supporting non-profits in their social missions to do good in the community. However, they discovered that expectations and attitudes of volunteers are changing, with many wanting increased flexibility. For example, some older adults expressed reluctance to take on a regular volunteer commitment but indicated that they would welcome informal, ‘one-off’ volunteer opportunities that valued their time and experience. Since short-term, skill-based volunteer opportunities can be difficult to find, Impact Hours was created.

Organizations like the Ottawa Tool Library are already actively engaging the skills of 55+ adults through Impact Hours, and they are increasing their impact as a result. “Older adults have a tremendous amount of knowledge that would be so sad not to pass on to the next generation,” says Bettina

Vollmerhausen, co-founder of the Ottawa Tool Library.

“At our tool library, we have many people 55+ who share their skills in meaningful ways, either as tool librarians, tool ninjas, or tool doctors. In particular, our tool ninjas like sharing their gained knowledge around proper tool handling and project management during our Maker Days when members come to work on their DIY projects with the tools in our inventory,” said Vollmerhausen.

Impact Hours, was developed in the belief that small actions can have an impact, for the benefit of individuals, non-profits and the wider community. Here are just a few of the volunteer opportunities currently listed on the site by non-profits wanting to engage skilled volunteers:

- Construction of Sunshelter Structure (Canadensis Botanical Garden Society)
- Videographer (The Glebe Centre)

- Repair Café Fixers (Ottawa Tool Library)

- Skill-Based Mentors (Junior Achievement Ottawa)

- Environmental Project Advice (Ottawa Eco-Talent Network)

- Writers (Council on Aging, Ottawa Network for Education, Dementia Justice Society of Canada)

Visit ImpactHours.org to view other volunteer opportunities and to learn more about how the platform facilitates connections between skilled 55+ volunteers and non-profits. You can also sign up for Impact Hours' newsletter and subscribe to email alerts for new volunteer listings that match preferred search criteria. Christine Franklin is the founder of Impact Hours and can be reached at info@impacthours.org.



Hike raises funds for Hospice Care Ottawa

KRISTINA VOTH-CHILDS

Hundreds of hikers laced up their shoes for the annual Hike for Hospice event on Saturday, May 5. Participants walked along the beautiful Carleton University trails to show their support of and raise funds for Hospice Care Ottawa.

For the past number of years the popular event had rain on Hike days, but this year Mother Nature cooperated bringing warmth and sunshine, and swelling the number of participants.

Hike for Hospice is a major fundraiser for Hospice Care Ottawa, a community-based charitable, non-profit organization. It is thanks to a small dedicated staff, many volunteers and generous donors that they can offer palliative and end-of-life care, at no charge, to individuals

living with a life-limiting illness and their families. Programs include weekly in-home visiting by a trained volunteer, Day Hospice gatherings, caregiver and bereavement support as well as round the clock residential hospice care in a comfortable, home-like setting.

“With our aging population, demand for our services continues to increase,” says Lisa Sullivan, Executive Director of Hospice Care Ottawa. “Special events, like Hike for Hospice Care Ottawa, help us raise the over \$2 million we require annually to continue to provide our services free of charge.”

Enthusiastic volunteers kept Hikers' spirits up, cheering them on along throughout the Hike and rest stops ensured hiker's stayed hydrated along the route. Upon return, hike participants



BRIAN HUM PHOTO

enjoyed refreshments, were treated to live music provided by the Retrosonics, and kids were entertained in the Kids' Zone.

At the time of print the tally of the funds raised had reached \$110,000.00, with counting not yet completed. Up to

date information can be found at www.hospicecareottawa.ca. All funds raised will go towards the palliative and end-of-life programs and services that Hospice Care Ottawa provides to the greater Ottawa region at no charge, over 1,500 individuals annually.

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- ✓ OHIP+: **Full coverage of prescription medications** for everyone up to 25 years old, and starting August 2019, everyone that is 65+ will receive full coverage
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Yasir Naqvi

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p.m.

More Info:
www.OttawaEastCAG

Other CAG Camps (4–10 years)

Jump Start Summer (5 – 10 years)

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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 Crescent

July 30 – August 3 or August 20 – 24

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$224

Nature and Art Camp (5 – 10 years)

Brantwood Park field house, 39 Onslow Crescent

August 7 – 10

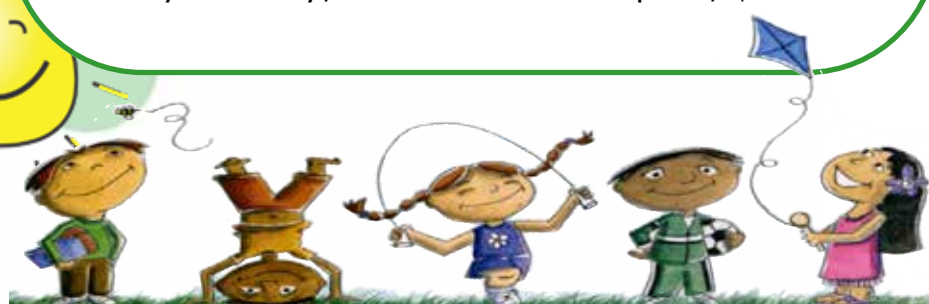
Tuesday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$180

Children's Garden Camp (5 – 10 years)

Brantwood Park field house, 39 Onslow Crescent

August 13 – 17

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$224



OPENING DAY IS JUNE 2ND!

The Main Farmers' Market, 210 Main Street
Every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., beside the Green Door plaza.

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Des livres à lire au grand air

KELTIE ROBERTSON

Après un hiver prolongé, l'été approche enfin à très grands pas. Quoi de mieux pour célébrer la belle saison que des idées de livres à lire au grand air?

Nous sommes chanceux de vivre dans un quartier entouré de cours d'eau, alors aussi bien en profiter pour rêvasser en canot ou sur une planche à rames. Pour accompagner cette dérive, pourquoi ne pas empocher un recueil de poésie? Le premier livre de la Canadienne Rupi Kaur, *Lait et miel* (Guy St-Jean Éditeur) contient des poèmes courts, honnêtes et souvent percutants. Traduit de l'anglais par Lori Saint-Martin et Paul Gagné, ce recueil peut se lire rapidement en un après-midi sur le canal ou sur la rivière Rideau, ou bien se savourer lentement au fil d'expéditions maritimes tout au long de l'été.

Quand le soleil plombe, munissez-vous d'un chapeau et de crème solaire pour aller prendre une boisson froide sur une terrasse (le Green Door et le Royal Oak en ont de belles, sans oublier le banc devant le Café qui pense!) La canicule fera écho à l'ambiance de *Bonjour tristesse* de Françoise Sagan, dont l'action se déroule en grande partie dans le sable



KELTIE ROBERTSON PHOTO

Un hamac à l'ombre et vous voilà prêt pour des heures de lecture.

chaud de la Côte d'Azur. Classique paru en 1954 aux Éditions Julliard, ce roman suit Cécile, 17 ans, qui passe l'été dans une villa avec son père et sa nouvelle copine. L'écriture et la trame narrative évoquent la chaleur presque insoutenable, le soleil aveuglant et l'adolescence insouciance.

Finalement, qui dit été, dit après-midi de lecture au parc. Le tout dernier livre d'Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt s'agencera parfaitement avec une couverture à l'ombre d'un arbre. Dans *Madame Pylinksa et le secret de Chopin*, paru chez Albin Michel le 9 avril de cette année,

l'auteur tisse le conte d'un étudiant et de sa relation avec sa professeure de piano, Madame Pylinksa. C'est un volume mince, qui se glissera facilement parmi les provisions dans un panier à pique-nique!

Bonne lecture!

WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR YOUR DAUGHTER?

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Welcome summer with Watson's as we support our community this June:

Saturday, June 2nd

Support the Watson children and friends as they sell lemonade on Main St. to raise money for the **Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation**. Watson's will match every dollar raised on the 2nd (and prior to the 2nd in-store) for this worthwhile cause.

Saturday June 16th

As a proud Community Partner of the Community Activities Group of Old Ottawa East, Watson's is once again delighted to be part of the **Main Event**.

