

MAINSTREETER

OLD OTTAWA EAST'S COMMUNITY VOICE

| LA VOIX COMMUNAUTAIRE DU VIEUX OTTAWA-EST

FEBRUARY | FÉVRIER 2022

Dr. Chantal Beauvais

We discuss the changes that have re-shaped Saint Paul University under the pragmatic leadership of its long-time Rector.

Pages 4 & 5



Isn't it time we had a national bird?

What's behind the growing support to recognize the Canada jay as our country's official bird? Two residents of OOE explain why this feathered friend fits the bill.

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James Ballantyne

Lori Gandy revisits the remarkable life and continuing legacy of one of OOE's most storied founders.

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The 5th anniversary verdict is in...

Special Report on the remaking of Main Street - it's a near complete success



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The old Main Street was dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists because there was little room for them. Turning Main into a complete street with wider sidewalks and new cycling tracks has made it safe to walk the neighbourhood. In a special report from *The Mainstreeter's* John Dance, Old Ottawa East residents tell us that the difference has been "like night and day".

JOHN DANCE

As rebuilding of the north end of Main Street begins, it's time to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the reopening of the radically rebuilt rest of Main as a complete street.

It took years to plan and three years to rebuild and barely got approval from the City's transportation committee, but Old Ottawa East's fabric dramatically changed when Main's four lanes were reduced to two with wider sidewalks and separate

cycle tracks. So has it met expectations? What does and doesn't work?

Through an OOE Grapevine Facebook survey and reaching out to those involved with the planning and construction of the new Main, *The Mainstreeter* has learned that the overall opinion is that Main as a complete street has been a considerable success although there remain some outstanding issues.

Traffic

In terms of motor vehicles, the 2013

research projected that peak hourly traffic volume on Main Street would decline from 1200 vehicles an hour to 900 vehicles per hour (i.e., the capacity of Main Street with one lane per direction).

"From a review of post-construction traffic count data, traffic volumes have declined along the corridor," says Jeff McEwen, director of the City's transportation planning. "Only one segment was observed to have peak hourly traffic volumes exceeding 900 vehicles per hour, which was Main Street

at Riverdale Avenue northbound, with a morning peak hour volume of 915 vehicles an hour and an afternoon peak hour volume of 1045 vehicles per hour."

The 2013 City report on the Main Street Renewal Project noted the number of cyclists using the Main Street corridor before the project was implemented ranged from roughly 200 to 350 cyclists per day. "After opening the segregated cycling facility, it was projected that

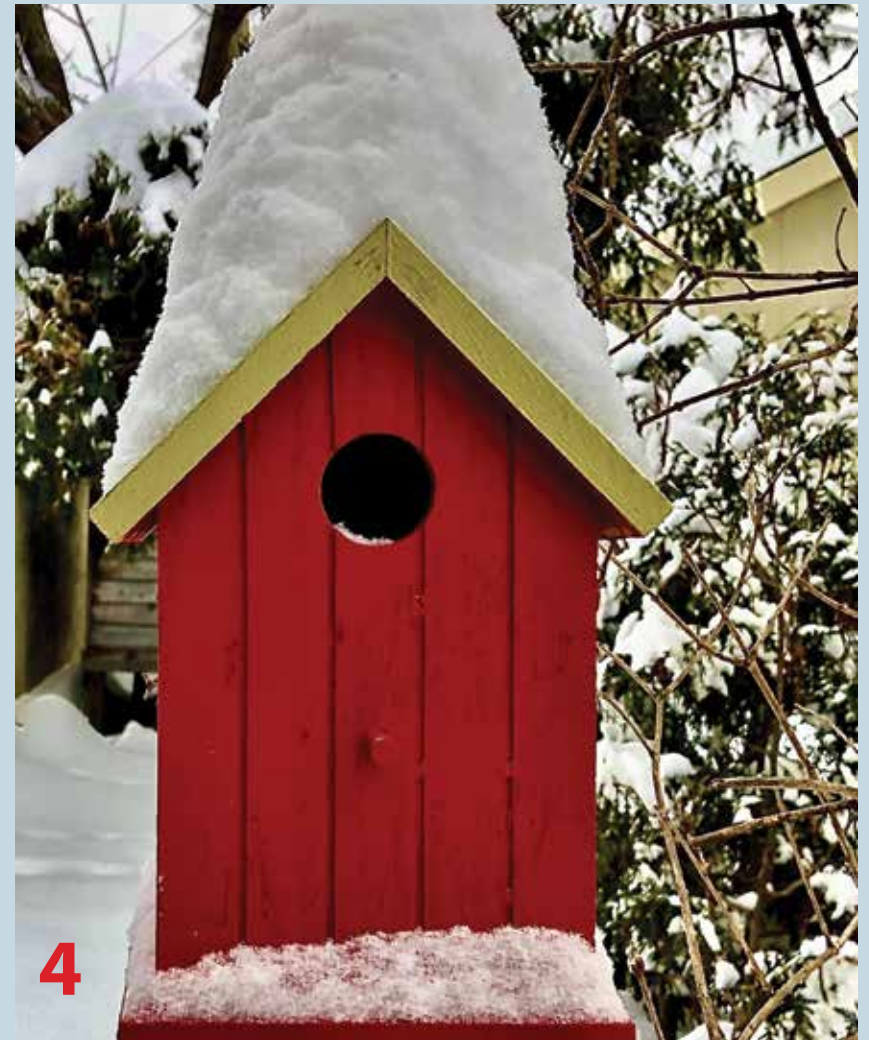
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We the North!!

According to the Weather Network, winter 2022 was supposed to have a “come-and-go” temperature pattern with periods of high impact winter weather, interrupted by periods of mild weather. Someone must have forgotten to tell the experts about Ottawa this January because the mild weather never really materialized. The average daily temperature in our City climbed above 0 degrees on only four out of 31 days during the month. Our photographer Peter Croal found lots of the white stuff this January in Old Ottawa East...

1. The canal proved to be a major hit this season with some of the best ice conditions ever reported.
2. Nearly half a metre of snow fell on January 17th, the most since records began to be kept in 1873.
3. Homegrown hockey rinks at Brantwood and along the river made for some spectacular shinny games last month.
4. But for some in the community, January’s snowy and cold weather was entirely for the birds.





Old Ottawa East resident and runner Fiona Harper and her cousin, Matthias Neil pictured here on the streets of Manhattan, warming up after completing the NYC Marathon.

school that we began to pursue running more seriously than we had in the past. We ran the Gatineau Park Half Marathon multiple times and participated in the Ottawa race weekend, amongst other races. Since that time, we have both completed marathons and will be travelling to Boston together in the spring to participate in the Boston Marathon.

My partner and I moved to Old Ottawa East (OOE) in autumn 2018 and immediately fell in love with our new neighbourhood, and with the people, businesses, and greenspaces, that comprise this community. I was awestruck by our neighbourhoods' offerings for runners – with easy access to both the Canal and the river pathways, Old Ottawa East is my dream running headquarters. As my neighbours and friends can attest, I can often be seen running along the Canal to Hog's Back Falls or the Arboretum, along the river path in Brantwood Park, or right down Main Street. I can also be found in and around OOE with a large group of runners from Mile to Marathon, a running club that comes together several times a week to train and support each other in its members' various running endeavours.

As a result of my expeditions around the neighborhood, I know this community well. I now recognize which houses in OOE have the most elaborate holiday lighting displays and those homes with extraordinarily beautiful gardens. I know when the tennis courts at Brantwood Park have the longest lines and when is a good time to visit the Green Door restaurant to avoid crowds. I know that the empathetic baristas at Happy Goat Coffee will provide a glass of water to a weary runner at the end of a workout. Finally, I know that, no matter which neighbourhood street I choose to run down, I will be guaranteed to pass a runner who, like me, is enjoying the beautiful surroundings of OOE.

"My dream running headquarters..."

Our community... through the eyes of a marathon runner

FIONA HARPER

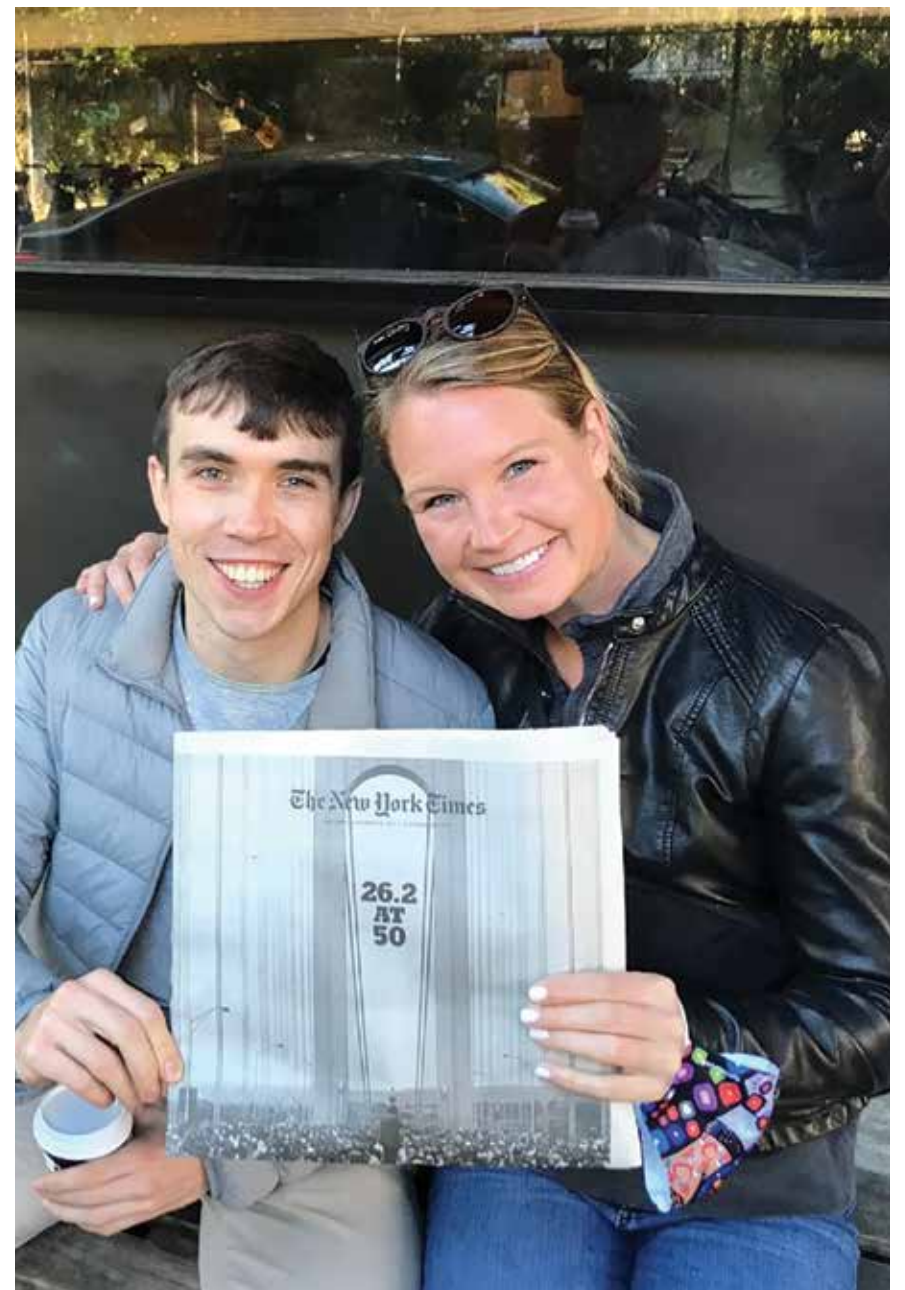
As I crossed into Central Park on November 7th with less than four kilometres to go until crossing the finish line of the New York City Marathon, I reflected on those who supported me to achieve this goal. I thought of my sisters, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, running community, and my partner. I also thought about Old Ottawa East – my training grounds for the last four years and, more intensively, for the four months leading up to the race.

Running has been one of my greatest joys and the most consistent practice throughout my life. It has provided an outlet for me to meditate on those things causing excitement, anxiety, happiness, unrest, or pain. It has allowed me to spend hours outdoors in all weather conditions. It has introduced me to an incredible community of athletes and friends. Finally, it has encouraged me to explore my surroundings in an intimate way.

I have been fortunate to travel widely throughout my life. In the years immediately preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, I travelled across Canada for work. Whether early in the mornings or after long days of meetings and before work dinners, I squeezed in runs through the streets of Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, and Saskatoon. Through personal travels, I have had the good fortune to run through Colombian and Irish countrysides, along cobblestone streets in Mexico and Antigua, along back roads in Ghana, and in both urban and rural

centres across North America. Every run in a new location provides a unique opportunity to explore that small section of the world in a way that is unfamiliar to many others. It has become a common occurrence for me to stumble across coffeeshops or bookstores located on side streets or outside of tourist areas during my travel runs and then returning to those spots later on in the trip to explore in less-sweaty attire.

The opportunity that running provides to explore one's surroundings is one of my favourite elements of the sport and, as I have discovered, exploration through running is not unique to travelling. I moved to Ottawa to pursue a professional degree in 2015. At that time, I was living in the Byward Market and from my small apartment on Cumberland Street, I would embark on meandering runs through Gatineau Park, Rockcliffe Park, and along the Rideau Canal. My very close friend and fellow runner joined me on these adventures. It was during our time in



SANDY HART PHOTOS

Fiona Harper, and Matthias Neil display a copy of the New York Times newspaper announcing the 50th anniversary of the NYC Marathon.

SHARING LUNCH WITH... DR. CHANTAL BEAUVAIS,

At Saint Paul University...

Innovation in Education

In this installment of our popular interview feature, we bring to light many of the ground-breaking changes that have helped to revitalize Saint Paul University under the steady hand and guidance of long-time university Rector Chantal Beauvais.

For many years, Saint Paul was a little-known enigma in Old Ottawa East, a looming physical presence in the centre of the community but an educational non-entity to most of us who thought of the institution as a religious seminary, if they thought of it at all.

Today, COVID notwithstanding, Saint Paul is a bustling beehive of innovation and a leader in multidisciplinary learning, thanks in part to the vision of Rector Chantal Beauvais.

THE MAINSTREETER: Dr. Beauvais, perhaps we can start with you telling us a little bit about yourself, your background and how long you've been with Saint Paul University.

DR. BEAUVAIS: I was born in Rouyn Noranda, a mining town, in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region of Quebec. My relatives are still there, but I have spent more than half of my professional life in Ontario. I left home when I was 18 to attend the Loyalist College of Applied Arts and Technology in Belleville, Ontario where I studied accounting. I later restarted my academic journey in philosophy, with a Bachelors, Masters, and then a PhD at the University of Ottawa; I'm

a philosopher by training. I've been at Saint Paul since 2001 and have always been involved in academic administration. I've been Rector since 2009. Before Saint Paul, I worked at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the Council of Ethics of Human Research.

THE MAINSTREETER: What have been the most significant changes you've seen at the University since you assumed your position?

DR. BEAUVAIS: Significant changes? Where to start? If we look at infrastructure, I think a lot has been done because these are older buildings. We were able to renovate a lot of spaces - the Student Centre where the cafeteria is, the library and the Mauril Bélanger centre. We're not finished yet. We still have other projects.

The creation of new schools would be the other significant change. There is now a School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality and a Centre for Social Innovation. Soon we'll have a School of Integral Ecology. Most of the schools at SPU are interdisciplinary, contrary to many other institutions. Here, a School of Public Ethics will have somebody who is trained in politics and someone else trained in philosophy; the School of Conflict Studies will have sociologists, anthropologists and theologians. The school structure allows us to better present our programs to the community, and also creates a sense of belonging for the students.

THE MAINSTREETER: Do you think Saint Paul is now better known in the community than it used to be?

DR. BEAUVAIS: We did a survey, I think back in 2006, and we found out that almost nobody knew about Saint Paul University, even in the local postal code. And those who knew Saint Paul University thought we were like a seminary. That was an eye opener and we decided to rebrand the

Chantal Beauvais,
Rector of Saint Paul University:
Her tenure has changed the face of the university.



university, invest more in marketing and enter into relationships with different partners and school boards. All that had to be built as there weren't really any structured outreach mechanisms. People knew Saint Paul from word of mouth. And we decided, well, that's not enough. We needed to start building a marketing strategy, and I think it's going very well. We're also online right now so that also helps our visibility, not only in Canada, but abroad as well.

THE MAINSTREETER: How has COVID impacted the university?

DR. BEAUVAIS: When we talk about COVID, we often talk about the negative impacts, and certainly we had a loss of revenues and more expenses than we had planned. However, we were able to switch from face-to-face delivery to online delivery in two days. Some of our partners took much longer to achieve that. I think that's a testament to the dedication of our professors and staff. The students were very happy in their courses and the way they were laid out.

Also, the professors and staff realized we could reach out to many more people, not just international students, but also people who have mobility challenges and those who reside in more remote areas. Normally, they wouldn't come on campus for their courses. COVID opened up new doors for us.

Keeping online options in the future is a delicate issue because we can't force professors to choose that mode of delivery. We have to engage in a dialogue and some of them have discovered the advantages. Some initially thought we would lose too much by offering distance courses, or they thought that some of the courses could not possibly be offered online because they're very abstract. But they found that with the evolution of technology, there's so much that

is possible, and you can really offer a lively course online. Some of the professors now prefer this option.

THE MAINSTREETER: How has the identity of the university changed during your tenure?

DR. BEAUVAIS: I would say it hasn't changed fundamentally. It is still following the Catholic tradition and is bilingual. Actually, bilingualism is probably stronger now. About 33% of the students used to be registered in the French program - now it's at least 50%. This is in part because we have articulation agreements with French colleges.

It's sensitive to market a Catholic institution. It's a very funny semantic word: Catholic. People have their own understanding of what that means; it is a challenge, as there's a lot of nuance and it takes time to explain. Universities were founded in the medieval times by Catholic institutions. A Catholic institution has rigorous norms, and there's an interaction between faith, reason and culture. You cannot ignore the progress in science and in culture - everything is intertwined. Openness is important as well. SPU is not offering courses to only Catholics; there are people of every faith and no faith. We welcome everybody who is interested in our programs and interested in making this world a better place. And it works. We have very diverse classrooms.

The Congregation of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate are still our world sponsors. That means they are responsible to the Vatican for the Catholic identity of the university. They oversee at a governance level that we're still a Catholic University, according to the Vatican norms, but also according to the local colours. Being a Catholic University in Ottawa is not the same as in Paris



Dr. Beauvais at the university's 2021 graduation ceremony.

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RECTOR, SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY

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or Colombia, as there are cultural aspects to be taken into consideration.

THE MAINSTREETER: You've been moving more and more into social engagement and social justice. Could you please highlight for me some of the changes or innovations of which you're most proud?

DR. BEAUVAIS: I think the first one is that we have been able to embrace a vision of social justice across the schools. One school in particular embraces this theme – the Élisabeth Bruyère School of Social Innovation. Its goal is to eradicate poverty, focus on social exclusion, and things like that. I'm very happy about this program because it's not just a theoretical program of learning about social justice; the students are actually involved in the community. They can start their own businesses or social organizations, and the young people really enjoy this.

The enrolment in these programs at the moment is around 100 – both undergraduate and graduate. The Graduate school is picking up more and more students. At the undergraduate level, a bit more effort is needed to market social innovation and interdisciplinary programs, as some people are still unsure what is meant. Social innovation is basically social change, democratic governance, and social economy – it revolves around those three pillars.

I think SPU students really enjoy the interdisciplinary aspect. We have heard stories of students coming from other universities who might have been registered in a psychology program with a desire to help people and they got a lot of theoretical courses and science courses. It's not bad, but it just doesn't meet their expectations of being able to help people. These students migrate to our human relations and spirituality program, and they are very happy because it's not just theory, it's also

about social justice.

We also have a School of Ethics, Social Justice and Public Service; it used to be our School of Public Ethics. Their course offerings now are more directly linked to social justice. Ethics and social justice are, I think, good companions, and we're trying to create a stronger link between the university and the public service community. Indeed, we now have a university champion, Nancy Chahwan, Senior Associate Deputy Minister of National Defence. [Note: Ms. Chahwan recently retired, and SPU is awaiting the appointment of a new champion.] This Public Service program appoints senior bureaucrats to facilitate relationships between the public service and the institution and vice versa. Because of that, we're now able to create new links.

We also have some public servants coming to our classrooms to give talks about ethics and conflict resolution plus we organize events together. For example, we have hosted a winter session on Algorithms and Big Data in the Public Sectors. We've been organizing this now for three years; it's a partnership between the public service, the Institute of Governance, and SPU; it's one week when public servants join us on campus, and we learn about themes such as algorithms and big data. We have also had people from the public service come on campus to assist students in the writing of their CVs and offer mock interviews for employment.

Finally, I am very proud of the Centre for Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Persons. The mission of this centre is to help eliminate the threat and trauma of sexual abuse in society and in the Church. There are many events, workshops, webinars and, conferences organized by this Centre. [See the link

https://ustpaul.ca/en/centre-for-safeguarding-minors-and-vulnerable-persons_7038_1109.htm]



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Living Laboratory for Knowledge Mobilization. From L to R: Jean-Marc Barrette, Vice-rector, Academic and Research; Chantal Beauvais, Rector; and Normand Beaulieu, Vice-Rector, Administration.



Dr. Beauvais presides over Saint Paul University's Ceremony of Lights, a holiday tradition.

THE MAINSTREETER: Are sessions of the Centre for Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Persons open to the public?

DR. BEAUVAIS: Yes, for example, there is a course on vulnerability as well as a course on spiritual abuse. We decided to create this Centre because we thought that as a Catholic and Oblate institution, we had a personal responsibility to be part of the solution. We get a lot of interest. Sometimes we have people who were abused come and knock on the door, and we try to find appropriate resources for them. We're also looking at the question of how to deal with perpetrators according to civil laws and the law of church, and also treatment for perpetrators. We also have a counseling centre open to victims; anybody in the community who wants to can seek counseling.

Indeed, SPU has probably the largest Counseling Centre in the area; I think in 2020 we had 20,000 visits. We have about 200 Master's students in counseling, and they do their job placements here in the clinic under supervision. And people pay what they can afford. We suggest an amount but if people cannot afford it, we can negotiate because mental health is a big, big issue.

THE MAINSTREETER: How can the community engage more with Saint Paul University?

DR. BEAUVAIS: There are a number of opportunities: the indigenous centre, when it opens to the public; Doors Open Ottawa; and by using public spaces like the cafeteria – with its very good food, and we intend to offer beer and wine in the Inner Courtyard, by the cafeteria, when it is completed.

At some point we were exploring having a gym here. If anybody in the community is entrepreneurial, we can explore that.

There is also philanthropy. If people are interested in leaving a legacy, this is something that we always use for scholarships for students.

Your question makes me think

about how we could engage the community to build more bridges. The Mainstreeter's interest, it's an excellent initiative. And I made a presentation to the Ottawa East Community Association several years ago.

I also had this dream that if I had a huge grant or donation, I would build a glass semi-circle that would unite the two buildings and be lit by particular colours. For example, if it was orange, everybody would be welcome during that week to talk about innovation. The students could present posters, community members could come to have dialogues, we could have speakers. The next week it could be purple, and be about conflict resolution, and the following week, green for the environment. And then the university would become a real hub. There would be the building of knowledge, not just by the academics but the community members as well. I think that ideally, universities should be encouraging community help.

We know that Old Ottawa East is one of the most highly educated parts of the city, and this is one of the reasons why we created a PhD in Interdisciplinary Research on Contemporary Social Issues. We had a lot of retired public servants who wanted to do a PhD in Conflict Studies or Ethics, but they didn't have the prerequisites that are normally required. We decided to create this interdisciplinary program, where they can come in with whatever Master's degree they have, and they can then reflect on a particular issue, perhaps from their career. We have about 15 candidates right now in that program, and most of them are preoccupied with ethics and social justice.

Organizing events together would also be good. There was an example of that when we collaborated on work related to aging in an aging society. We held a workshop open to organisations, and people were very interested. It was wonderful, so these things are possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Colonel By conundrum

I want to object in the strongest possible terms to a repeat of the summer of 2021 when Colonel By Drive was closed to cars. I have just finished reading an article in the OSCAR proposing the same thing for the summer of 2022, written by a resident of Ottawa South.

I am asking the Old Ottawa East Community Association to oppose this plan, which Yasir Naqvi has endorsed.

My observation on many occasions was that there were very few people using Colonel By last summer for

either walking or cycling. In years past, we used to hike regularly along Echo Drive, then use the bike path beyond Hawthorne Avenue to access the Byward Market. With age, our biking days are more limited, as it is for many residents of Old Ottawa East, but we still like to be able to get back and forth to the market and to Loblaw's easily. We also enjoy the scenery along the Canal, which was unavailable to us last year.

Surely the fact that, with Colonel By closed, we are forced to use Main Street, now a very busy street, as the only way to Rideau Gardens (unless one uses Bank Street and Sunnyside Avenue) will have some weight in the decision making.

**Lorna J. Glennie,
Bullock Street**

Looking out for number 1

What with early dark evenings and seasonal rushing about to drop things off and pick things up, I have been terribly frustrated to find that on some blocks in Old Ottawa East nine out of 10 house numbers are not visible at night. Many are posted on the outside of porches where there is no light. Some are missing altogether or are black letters on dark brick.

Please go outside your home at night and look for your street number. Is it visible? If not, please fix it. This is also important for taxis and Ubers and emergency vehicles and deliveries.

It should be a by-law that numbers can be seen.

**Patsy Royer,
Old Ottawa East**

Let nature be wild

In the December issue of *The Mainstreeter*, Jamie Brougham makes an inviting case to have some sort of development and recreational features in the forested area across the Rideau River from Brantwood Park. Although this land is not in Old Ottawa East (OOE), any proposals for development would still impact OOE residents and require consultation. The possibility of having another pedestrian bridge, pub, bike trails and other amenities would certainly raise a lot of interest and curiosity. However, I urge OOE residents and the National Capital Commission (NCC), which owns this land, to keep the area wild and untamed. Those who have walked, skied and biked along the existing path through this forest will recognize that they were not in a city of one million people, but rather in a small patch of wilderness.

Nature has huge mental, physical and "sense of place" values that we have all discovered during the last two years of the pandemic. Research is showing that even small patches of undeveloped urban land can act as incubators, staging and breeding areas, and food sources for a wide range of wildlife that can help stem the loss of species and habitat. This unique, wonderful and tangled forest is a real treasure that is home to a wide range of birds, mammals and reptiles. Any sort of development in this space would upset the delicate balance needed to maintain species diversity and numbers. We need some urban places to remain undeveloped for present and future generations. Let nature be wild when we can.

**Peter Croal,
Elliot Avenue**

Your Little House

*For Doug, a good neighbour
(1946-2015)*

The little houses on our street
fall one by one
to fashion or decay,
whatever moves the world along.

The week you left,
another house came down.
We told the stories
that its walls contained
as we watched the backhoe slam
through brick and pane,
peeling memory back,
parlour, kitchen, bath,
until it finally unveiled
the most intimate of spaces.
A life-sized dollhouse
into whose rooms
we placed each vanished
woman, child, and man.

With one wild swing,
the wrecker's arm rammed
the roof and last supporting wall.
The small house caved
like a pricked balloon,
its noisy ruin a hail of grit
that sent us running
and took it back to earth.

You knew the frailty
of mortar, brick and wood,
yet understood
what is appraisal,
what defies defining worth.
Even so, you said,
our little houses cannot last—
foundations crumble,
shingles crack; seals blow
and let the cold wind pass.
Newer houses
take their place.

We will say
you fixed what you could
until all fixing failed.

~Suzanne Nussey, Ottawa, 2021

A marvellous night - but no Sundance

We wish to thank the musicians and choir, as well as everyone who has supported the wonderful tradition of the Brantwood Christmas Eve Sleigh Ride.

Although our beloved sleigh was absent this year, it was a magical evening after all. The skating rink was all lit up and families were enjoying the outdoors; kinda like our very own Christmas card! Sundance and his team have been compensated and we wish everyone a wonderful 2022. Un gros merci à tous!

**Johanne Lalonde,
Centennial Boulevard**



MARGO BISSON PHOTO

"Your Little House" was written by award-winning Canadian poet and memoirist Suzanne Nussey who lives right here in Old Ottawa East. Suzanne's work has appeared in many literary journals in Canada, including *The New Quarterly*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Prairie Fire* and *EVENT*. She wrote this poem a number of years ago to honour one of her neighbours on Merritt Avenue, and she read it at his funeral. We asked Suzanne if she would allow us to publish her poem and she agreed.

THE MAINSTREETER

www.Mainstreeter.ca

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

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

Old Town Hall: 613.627.0062

OPINION

The Gray Jay? – NO – the Canada Jay

It's time Canada had a national bird

PHYLLIS ODENBACH SUTTON
WITH ALEX SUTTON*

While we now have a new restaurant in Old Ottawa East – the Gray Jay – we no longer have a bird by that name in Canada. Scientifically known as the *Perisoreus canadensis*, this bird was known as the Canada jay from 1831-1957, then the Gray jay until 2018 when its name was changed back to the Canada jay.

The recent name change was the result of the work of Dan Strickland, who has been studying Canada jays since 1967, and six other bird experts who submitted a deeply researched proposal to the American Ornithological Society (AOS), outlining why they thought the bird's name needed to be changed. The AOS agreed and thus we now have a bird with a very fitting name for national bird status.

The Gray jay (as it was still then known) was the *Canadian Geographic's* sesquicentennial National Bird Project choice for official bird of Canada. Why? Because it is found in every province and territory, is not already a provincial or territorial bird, the vast majority of its range is in Canada, and it is a year-round resident – no winter vacations in the south for this hardy bird!

Unfortunately, the government decided that Canada did not need a national bird (a real shame in my view). There is a group of Canada jay enthusiasts though who are trying to find a way to change the mind of the politicians and have them officially proclaim the Canada jay as our national bird.

What's my particular interest? I have a personal connection through my son, Alex, who spent four winters and springs in Algonquin Park doing research on these jays for his PhD in Integrative Biology. I spent time snowshoeing and canoeing to nesting sites with him, hand fed jays and even got to see young nestlings being banded and equipped with radio transmitters.

I thought other residents of OOE might be interested in learning more



ALEX SUTTON PHOTO

about this wonderful bird as well, so I asked my own expert (Alex) to share some additional information.

What's the closest place to see Canada jays?

One of the best places to see these birds close to Ottawa is Algonquin Park where they remain relatively common despite a long-term decline over the past four decades.

What is their survival strategy?

Canada jays are pretty remarkable because they are able to survive through harsh winters when little to no fresh food is available. In order to do this, they must begin caching food throughout the late-summer and fall and then slowly retrieve this food during the winter. Cached food is integral not only to their survival throughout the winter, but also to allowing Canada jays to start breeding as early as February when temperatures can drop as low as -40°C and thick blankets of snow cover the ground. Cached food is

also fed to developing nestlings, which will typically leave their nests in late-March or April.

What's their favourite foods?

Canada jays are quite cosmopolitan in their tastes and will eat pretty much anything! Beware if you are planning on eating lunch with them around because they may just take your sandwich or anything else you were planning on eating!

A memorable experience?

One of the fondest memories I have from the park was finding a nest with five nestlings in it. This has only happened three times in the almost 50 years that Canada jays have been studied in Algonquin Park, so being able to witness this myself was a special moment!

[* Alex Sutton is a post-doctoral fellow in the Division of Biology at Kansas State University.]



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The Old Ottawa East Community Association believes that rather than closing Colonel By Drive to motorists, active transportation should be encouraged by widening the pathway and adding bike lanes to the roadway.

Discussions continue on Yasir Naqvi's controversial Colonel By Drive closure proposal

JOHN DANCE

The campaign for a year-long pilot closure of Colonel By Drive continues as the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) has raised the potential negative consequences while others laud its potential benefits.

During the federal election campaign last year, Ottawa Centre MP Yasir Naqvi proposed as part of his local climate change plan a full-year closure of Colonel By Drive as a pilot project to promote more active transportation and to “give our community the necessary data and comprehensive details to measure the quantitative success of this important project.”

Since the issue was reported in the December 2021 issue of *The Mainstreeter*, OOECA has met with Naqvi who was the initial proponent of the idea, an on-line discussion was held by the Parkways for People group, and an editorial column

was published in Old Ottawa South's OSCAR extolling the benefits of the closure. OOECA has now responded to the editorial, noting that a pilot and a permanent closure of Colonel By to motorized traffic would have a number of serious adverse impacts on Old Ottawa East.

Naqvi, in his meeting with OOECA president Bob Gordon, advised that he looks forward to working with the community on this issue and will be meeting with the National Capital Commission (NCC) to discuss it, given that the NCC would be making any related decisions.

As Gordon wrote to the Parkways for People group, OOECA strongly supports more active transportation but recommends that the NCC encourage active use of Colonel By Drive by reclaiming space from the existing vehicle lanes in order to create bike lanes on the parkway that would serve faster cyclists,

e-cyclists, and e-scooters. Secondly, OOECA recommends construction of a pedestrian-only pathway expansion over the Rideau Canal on the stretch from Clegg Street to Bank Street, in order to widen the pathway and make it safe for all users.

“Yasir Naqvi's proposed closure of Colonel By Drive should not be considered until the above-noted improvements are made and until there is a thorough examination of existing data and travel patterns to clarify the impacts of the closure of either Queen Elizabeth Drive or Colonel By Drive,” says Gordon. OOECA is also concerned that the closure of Colonel By would result in strengthened calls for the construction of the four-lane Alta Vista Transportation Corridor.

In her OSCAR editorial column, Erin Maher, the co-lead of Parkways for People, notes, “With the parkways closed to vehicles, the canal pathways could

be retained exclusively for pedestrians, enabling an inclusive experience for those with disabilities and families with small children. A car-free Colonel By Drive offers possibilities for great spaces beyond the bike. The stunning greenspace between Bronson and Bank could be enhanced with pollinator gardens and would be safer and more enjoyable for play and picnics without a front row seat to vehicular traffic.”

In January, during the Omicron wave of the pandemic, the NCC decided to close Queen Elizabeth Driveway (QED) from Fifth Avenue to Somerset Street to motorized use during the day on Saturdays and Sundays. Meanwhile, the Bike Ottawa advocacy group has called for the permanent closure of QED to motorized vehicles, noting its use by cyclists and pedestrians (25,000/week) is “a level well beyond other parkways.”



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The plan behind the Deschâtelets Building

Greystone Village Phase 3 - Take 2 for the Regional Group

JOHN DANCE

In response to issues raised by City planning staff and community members in the fall, The Regional Group has redrafted its plans for Greystone Village's Phase 3 with its two mid-rise residential buildings to the east and south of the Deschâtelets Building.

A key part of the revisions is the reduction of the visual impact of the new buildings on the Deschâtelets Building. Specifically, Regional is now proposing to pull the southern building farther away from Deschâtelets. Secondly, the upper floors of the southern building would be stepped back farther from the lower floors to reduce any overcrowding/overshadowing effects on Deschâtelets.

In response to concerns that the view from the river side of Deschâtelets would be too blocked, Regional proposes increased space between the two new buildings. "This change will help to provide a wider view of the Deschâtelets Building from the river," says Evan Garfinkel, Regional's manager of land development.

Both buildings will be set back farther from the streets (Scholastic and Deschâtelets) which, according to Garfinkel, "will improve the streetscape and allow us to explore some additional plantings."

Regional originally proposed that access to the parking garage would be

from Scholastic Drive which runs parallel to the river pathway. Residents objected to the additional traffic that would be brought to this area so Regional is instead proposing that the garage access would be from Deschâtelets Avenue which runs along the southern side of the new buildings.

In the fall, residents argued that the new buildings coupled with the new school and all of the rest of the growing development would result in too much traffic within Greystone Village and on Main Street. In response to this feedback, Regional proposes to remove the second level of underground parking which

in turn has reduced the total parking spaces in the Phase 3 development. "The initial site plan submission proposed 266 parking spaces and we are now proposing a reduction of about 90 parking spaces," says Garfinkel.

As a result of the changes noted above, the proposed total floor area of the two new buildings has been reduced slightly, however, the proposed number of units - some smaller than what was originally proposed - has grown by 10 to 270.

Some residents objected to the elevated pathway that went between the two buildings and allowed the public ready

access from the west side of Deschâtelets to the river side. The concern was that the "bridge" prevented the public from accessing the area between the two new buildings. Regional's preference is to keep the proposed feature.

Regional proposed to present the new plans at the February meeting of the Old Ottawa East Community Association, however, this was too late to include related discussions in this article. Regional plans to resubmit its site plan application to the City by the end of February and does not anticipate that any minor variances or rezoning will be required for the revised proposal.



REGIONAL GROUP IMAGE

In its revised Phase 3 proposal, Regional Group has made changes to better respect the Deschâtelets Building and to reduce traffic on Scholastic Drive along the river.

Additional trees sought from developers to enhance OOE's tree canopy

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Trees have suffered as a result of various developments over the last decade, a fact that has prompted the Old Ottawa East Community Association's (OOECA) planning committee to request that the City require developers to not merely protect trees but to also plant and maintain new ones to enhance the community's "tree canopy."

Specifically, the planning committee has recommended: a maximum lot building coverage so that there is room for canopy trees; all new development/renovated lots have a number of canopy trees directly linked to the size of the lot; and trees on developed lots be maintained for a minimum of five years.

The recommendation was made in the context of the City of Ottawa's draft "high performance development standards," described by the City as "a key tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Ottawa's buildings and increase our climate resiliency." The draft standards were developed by the City and the local development industry, but there is currently little in them that goes beyond existing tree by-laws.

Meanwhile, the City has set the Official Plan goal of having a 40 percent tree canopy, meaning 40 percent of the city should be shaded by trees. Old Ottawa East currently has about 24 percent canopy, but infill development continues to result in the removal and death of many large trees.

Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) adapted OOECA's recommendation to make its own pitch to the City for a high performance development standard that would result in expansion of the City's tree canopy. CAFES also recommended that "Planted trees should be native canopy trees that will be at least 12 metres or 40 feet at maturity and that will adapt to Ottawa's changing climate (heat, drought tolerant)."

In addition to recommending strengthened tree provisions, the planning committee made a number of suggestions pertaining to increased burial of hydro wires, better "low impact development" in terms of stormwater management, and cool landscaping and paving.

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JOHN DANCE PHOTOS

This stretch of Echo Drive between Avenue Road and Bank Street is still posted erroneously as 40 kilometres/hour. The City has inadvertently left the sign up but will be removing it soon.

OOE residents applaud lower speed limits, but questions abound over enforcement

JOHN DANCE

Speed limits have been reduced almost everywhere in Old Ottawa East, a move welcomed by most, although many feel that there is inadequate enforcement of the lower limits.

The lower speed limits are part of the City's "Safe Roads," program and are based on studies that show motorized vehicle collisions with pedestrians and cyclists decline in both number and severity when speed limits are reduced.

In an informal canvassing of members of the OOE Grapevine Facebook site, respondents applauded the lower speed limits but had lots of questions about enforcement and suggestions for better monitoring.

"It is a great idea, but unfortunately many are not following the speed limits," commented Steve Konkle.

When asked if the city had data from speed boards that were present before and after speed limits were reduced, the City media staff responded that the data would not be available "until sometime in the second quarter of 2022."

Similarly, no before-and-after data were readily available from the Ottawa Police Services (OPS). "OPS operates an intelligence-led perspective to the complaints that it receives," Sgt. Rob Cairns of the OPS Traffic Services told *The Mainstreeter*. "So, in essence, if a sole complaint is received in relation to a traffic complaint, it is unlikely to be immediately acted upon, unless further complaints are received specific to that

same complaint or area."

"Councillor Menard should be applauded for taking the initiative to get the 30 kilometre/hour zones declared and marked, while continuing to work with communities to develop more substantial traffic calming measures and get them into the City's pipeline to have them implemented," noted Michael Vickers.

Enforcement Issues

"There is no enforcement, so no adherence," commented Teddie

Roulston. "I was doing 30 on my street in December and a guy driving a school van (fortunately no students) passed me, stopped in front of my house and got out of his vehicle to swear at me for driving too slowly. He was practically shaking with rage, and I was quite frightened."

There were also lots of suggestions for where speed boards should be installed. The electronic sensing signs show the speed of passing vehicles, flashing red numbers when the driver exceeds the speed limit. However, the boards

are strictly for information - there is no enforcement aspect. Nevertheless, the boards maintain the record of the number of vehicles, their speeds and when they pass.

The suggestion for a speed board on Greenfield Avenue has already been satisfied with the City erecting one in January. A brief observation of the board indicated that most vehicles were exceeding the 30 kilometre/hour limit but relatively few were going more than 40.

According to respondents, speed boards are also wanted on Main Street, as motorists enter OOE from the McIlraith Bridge, and in the stretch between Clegg Street and Hawthorne Avenue, and on Lees Avenue.

Measures like additional crosswalks and narrowing of streets at intersections were other suggestions to calm traffic.

"If we could install spike straps at Mason Terrace and Mutchmor Road that somehow targeted people who blow through the stop sign, that would save me a lot of shouting," Mutchmor resident Rob Fletcher facetiously noted. With its lack of stop signs, great width and two dead-ends, Mutchmor Road has lots of speeders, Facebook commentators noted.

"If a member of the public has concerns relating to speed they should contact OPS by using the online traffic complaint reporting portal on the OPS website," says Sgt. Cairns.



A speed board on Greenfield Avenue shows motorists are breaking the new 30 kilometre/hour speed limit.

Continued on Page 32

PARKS OF OLD OTTAWA EAST

Park and Community Centre consultation continues

JOHN DANCE

Results of the fall on-line consultation on the new community centre and the Forecourt Park within Greystone Village have set the stage for another round of consultation scheduled to take place this spring.

When the 144 respondents ranked the importance of the following six features for a new community centre, from most important to least important, the ranking was activity room, cardio room, lounge, fitness room, meeting room, kitchen.

In terms of possible community centre activities, fitness and sports were the most popular among respondents, followed closely by dance and general interest, with playgroups and visual arts being less popular.

Other activities that were suggested multiple times were: Indigenous recognition and programming, children's programming, French-language programming and a sports equipment lending library.

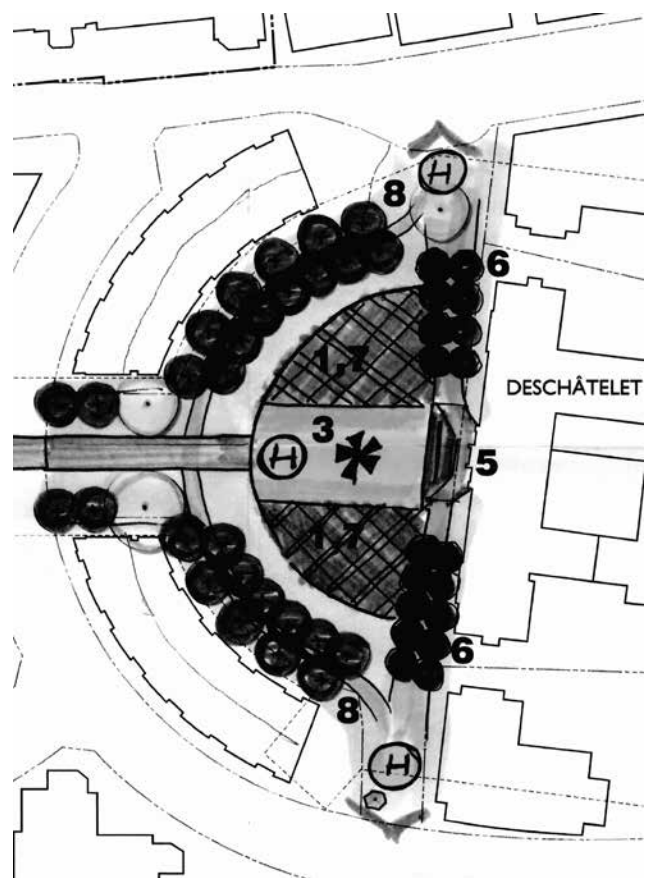
The new community centre will occupy half of the ground floor of the refurbished Deschâtelets Building and will also have a large gymnasium/multi-purpose building just to the north. The gym will be shared with the new Au Cœur d'Ottawa school being created within the Deschâtelets Building. To the west of the community centre and

school will be the new Forecourt Park.

When asked to rank the importance of the following possible features for the new park, from most important to least important, the ranking was: shade, play structure, water play feature, benches, picnic tables, swings, games tables, and fitness equipment. Some respondents expressed a desire for a natural play structure and traditional water play feature. Other frequently suggested elements were: trees/greenery, stage/concerts, dog park, skate/scoot park, a natural barrier to road, and a fenced play area for children.

Parents of Au Cœur school had asked of Councillor Shawn Menard that there be an area within the park exclusively for students, but the school board now intends to purchase another block of land on the south side of the Deschâtelets Building that will be exclusively for kindergarten students.

The 2022 City budget provides \$1.2 million to build the Forecourt Park and \$520,000 to build the Grand Allée Park which will connect the Forecourt Park and the Deschâtelets Building to Main Street. Consultation on the Grande Allée Park is completed, and construction is expected to start this spring. Timing for completion of the Forecourt Park and the community centre is not known at this point.



The draft 2015 plan for the Forecourt Park called for a large, paved area, however, the establishment of a new school and a community centre in the Deschâtelets Building, along with other factors, will result in a new plan for the park.

THE REGIONAL GROUP IMAGE



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

SLOE tree troopers Peter Croal and Judith Kennedy give a little hug to one of the large maples of Ballantyne Park that will be protected when the park becomes the “lay-down” area for the reconstruction of Queensway bridges.

Ballantyne Park's mature maple trees to be saved

JOHN DANCE

Ballantyne Park's large maple trees along Hawthorne Avenue will be protected when the park is taken over in 2025 as a staging ground for the Highway 417 bridge replacement project. The “tree troop” of Sustainable Living Ottawa East has confirmed with Councillor Shawn Menard that these trees will be saved.

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario plans on using the park as the “lay-down” area for the assembly of the spans that will be used to replace the 56-year-old Highway 417 bridges over the Rideau Canal and Main Street. Given the size of the bridge components, tree troop members feared that Ballantyne Park's majestic trees would be removed.

When contacted by The Mainstreeter, MTO responded, “Where trees are anticipated to be removed, they will be catalogued and plans for replacement will be made. Where trees in close proximity to construction activity can be preserved they will be identified and protected.”

However, the City of Ottawa was not ambiguous in its response to Councillor Menard's question on the trees' future. Dan Chenier, general manager of recreation, cultural and facility services wrote: “[T]he trees along Hawthorne have been identified for preservation, but the trees along the north side appear to be on provincial land and we have not seen a plan to preserve them.”

Tree troop member Judith Kennedy led the pursuit of the issue, and she promises to keep a close eye on construction activity to ensure that the trees really are protected. Furthermore, she and her colleagues intend to ensure that any trees or vegetation damaged, killed or removed during the construction will be replaced with native vegetation. They'll also explore how more trees can be planted in the park near existing mature trees since these trees are reaching full maturity and the park needs more trees.

“Losing the street trees would have been a big blow to the community, which already has tree cover well below the 40 per cent canopy that's being backed by the City's new Official Plan,” commented SLOE chair Jayson MacLean.

Much-needed traffic lights to be installed for busy Concord – Greenfield intersection

JOHN DANCE

At last: traffic lights will be installed at the corners of Concord Street North - Greenfield Avenue so that pedestrians may safely cross the busy intersection.

Four years ago the City installed a “pedestrian crossover,” (PXO) with yellow flashing lights and, while this was an improvement, many drivers have continued to ignore the lights.

“We have been having many discussions with City staff to try to find a better solution, and we’re happy to say that staff have decided to upgrade the intersection from a PXO to an “Intersection Pedestrian Signal” (IPS), Councillor Shawn Menard wrote in his recent monthly update.

“An IPS will provide the full red-yellow-green traffic lights for cars going in both directions along Greenfield, giving pedestrians a proper walk signal,” says Menard. “This type of

traffic signal is much clearer than a PXO, and drivers are much more likely to stop at a red light than a PXO’s flashing yellow light.”

The new signal will be the same as the lights installed at Colonel By Drive at Seneca Street in Old Ottawa South. “Vehicle traffic on Concord will still have a stop sign, just as they do now,” says Menard. “So they will not have to wait for the IPS to change, though they will benefit when it does.”

The existing PXO has not only been ignored but has also been demolished several times by errant trucks. Another measure that may add to pedestrians’ safety is the recent reduction of the speed limit on Greenfield to 30 kilometres/hour.

Two continuing issues are whether the new speed limit and the new signal will be respected and whether Ottawa Police Services will enforce the changes.



Ottawa East resident Gisèle St-Hilaire stands beside the dangerous Greenfield-Concord North crossing. The flashing yellow lights will be replaced with full red-yellow-green traffic lights.

JOHN DANCE PHOTO



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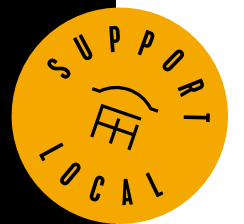
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BUSINESS BEAT

Donohue and Bousquet Antiques

The little antique shop on Hawthorne Avenue was a hidden gem of the community

QUINN ABUGOV

A “hidden gem” in Old Ottawa East has recently closed its doors after 37 years serving the local community.

Opened in 1983 by Boston native Arthur Bousquet, Donohue and Bousquet Antiques was considered by some, to not only possess the best antique silverware in Ottawa, but in all of Canada.

Bousquet, a Vietnam War veteran, met his wife Lelia on a visit to Canada, and soon after moved to Ottawa full-time after short stints operating similar businesses in Quebec City and Valcartier, Quebec. After opening up his first Ottawa store on Somerset Street West a number of years prior, he moved the shop to its location on Hawthorne Avenue in 1983.

Sandwiched between Redshaw Auto Care to its east and Ballantyne Park to the west, the unassuming bungalow turned storefront quickly became a local destination for antiquing hobbyists, and Ottawa’s diplomatic and political elite alike. It’s the type of place where local residents and hobbyists could rub elbows with sitting Prime Ministers, Supreme Court Chief Justices, actors and members of the diplomatic community.

Bousquet was unavailable to speak with *The Mainstreeter*, however, we spoke to long-time store manager, Collin O’Leary, who has been an employee of Donohue and Bousquet since 1984. “This past May marked 37 years,” said O’Leary, who joined up with Bousquet, in part, because they both shared an interest in unique and rare silverware. “I’d been in the antique business for a while, having worked in several stores and owning my



TIM HUNT SKETCH

Bousquet and Donohue Antiques, pictured here in Tim Hunt’s charming October 2021 sketch, was considered by some to have stocked the finest silverware in Canada.

own shop on Bank and Argyle. I went to Arthur Bousquet’s store because we both specialized in silver, and I thought it would be a good fit,” says O’Leary.

In the business’s heyday, during the antique boom of the 1990’s, the diverse collection on display included vintage Canadian, American and European silverware, in addition to other rare antique items from around the globe.

While O’Leary’s love of the antique business has not waned, the industry today, he says, looks much different than it did nearly 40 years ago. First off, take the shopping experience itself. “Antique stores are very directional, meaning that people used to make a point of going to them. Nowadays, you don’t see a consistent interest in antiques, it’s mostly people walking in off the street,

are buying items because of how they look, not because of the history behind them. In the last 40 years, people would be coming in looking for specialty silver, early dated artifacts, specific makers of products, mahogany.” And lastly, a shift in demographics. “Collectors are getting older, and the younger generation is into vintage items and things like chalk painting wood furniture, so the market has changed for your average antique shop around town,” O’Leary says.

When asked the reason for the shop’s recent closure, O’Leary was candid in his response. “You always hate to close,” he says. “Arthur had been running the business in some form for 50 years, but the market has changed drastically since 9/11. There’s been a shift away from traditional antique shops to digital commerce and Arthur and I both prefer the old way of doing things, so it was simply time to close.”



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Au Cœur d'Ottawa opening delayed until September 2023

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The target for opening the relocated Au Cœur d'Ottawa elementary school in the Deschâtelets Building has been pushed to September 2023, rather than sometime in 2022 as was reported in *The Mainstreeter* last summer.

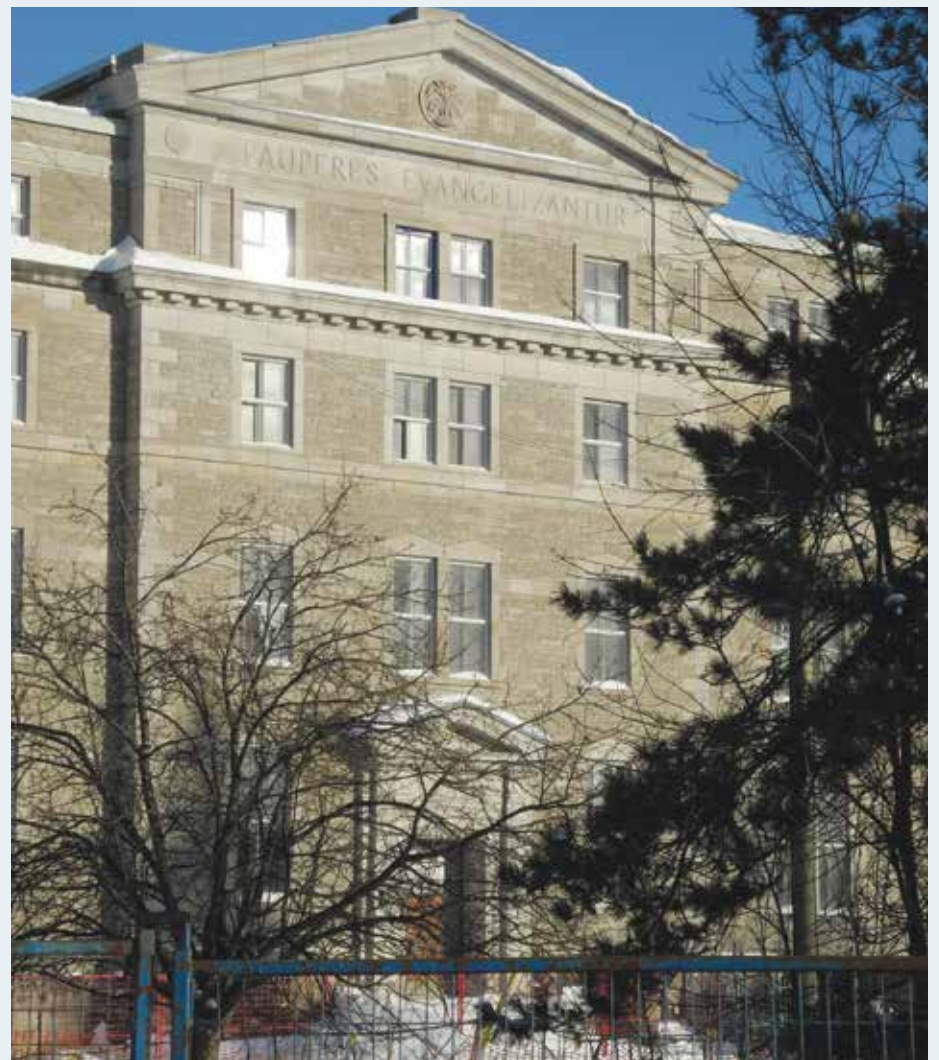
Obtaining provincial and municipal approvals for the many required steps to bring the heritage building up to current building standards; respecting the heritage requirements; and working out arrangements with the City of Ottawa to have a new community centre in part of Deschâtelets have all taken longer than initially expected.

Nevertheless, progress is being made and the construction to bring the old building up to current seismic standards is expected to begin soon. Masonry work will also be done during this phase of construction, which is scheduled for completion by the end of the summer. At this

point, if Ministry of Education and City approvals are granted, the interior work will begin. Work on the gymnasium and the community centre portion of Deschâtelets is not expected to begin until the school construction is completed.

The Conseil des Écoles Catholiques du Centre-Est, the school board that is building the 350-student school, has now acquired the land to the north of the Deschâtelets Building from the Regional Group so that it can build the gymnasium that will serve both the school and the community. Regional Group has also agreed to sell the school board land on the east side of Deschâtelets to provide a safe yard for kindergarten students.

The school board continues to regularly meet with Ottawa Community Housing as they explore the possibility of seniors housing in the upper floors of the Deschâtelets Building.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Work to ensure the Deschâtelets Building's structure meets current seismic standards is set to begin soon.



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THE LIVING LEGACY OF JAMES BALLANTYNE

OOE founder, builder, renaissance man

The remarkable life's work of James Ballantyne lives on today



LEFT: James Ballantyne's now-demolished home at 54 Main Street was as central to the life of the community as was Ballantyne himself; **RIGHT:** The horse-drawn coal cart outside Ballantyne's coal shed circa 1895.



LORI GANDY

Old Ottawa East has its share of notable forefathers and mothers who devoted much energy to enhancing and improving everything around them, freely giving of their time and expertise. James Ballantyne (Ballantyne) is one such individual. Often referred to as a "renaissance man," he had wide-ranging interests and an infinite capacity to get involved and get things done. Old Ottawa East is all the richer because of Ballantyne's contributions.

Born in Newcastleton, Scotland on May 9, 1835, Ballantyne immigrated to Canada with his brother Thomas when they were 16 and 14 respectively. They settled near Smith Falls with their parents and eight brothers and three sisters who had immigrated around 1840. (Really, someone should write an article about his mother, Marion Ballantyne – 13 children!) In his early years, Ballantyne was involved in building and contracting work.

An entrepreneur at heart

Ballantyne left his family in 1863 and set out for Ottawa where he established a cooperage - a barrel-making business - in the Lower Town area. When that business was destroyed by fire in 1870, he relocated the cooperage to Ottawa East, and was

joined by his brother Thomas as partner in the business. In 1890, the brothers converted their barrel-making business into the J. and T. Ballantyne Heating Fuels Company on Echo Drive, which became a family business when their sons later joined them. Ballantyne lived in the Ottawa East Village until his death in 1925.

His contributions to our community go much beyond supplying wheel barrels and fuel. With his strong civic focus and innovative, enquiring spirit, Ballantyne "fuelled" many an endeavour, improvement and constructive enterprise.

An early mover and shaker in civic affairs

Upon settling in Ottawa East, at the time the Village of Archville, Ballantyne took a great interest in municipal and civic affairs and was one of the leading citizens of the town. In 1888, when the Village of Archville officially incorporated as Ottawa East Village, he became the first village Reeve, and held the position for seven consecutive years. He was actively involved in numerous betterment plans and projects, including establishing, along with other prominent community members, a system of waterworks for the Ottawa East village.

A driving force behind the Town Hall

It was during his time as Reeve that our beloved Town Hall building was designed and built. Ballantyne wanted a building that would announce the presence of the thriving Ottawa East Village. He commissioned his nephew Henry, a newly minted architect, to draft the plans and the building was erected in 1895.

The Town Hall served many purposes in its early days, including a dance hall, kindergarten, Carnegie Library, Baptist Mission, a theatre group and a jail, to name just a few, a splendid showcase of the life and times of Ottawa East over the years.

Beyond the Village....

Ballantyne's influence and interests went beyond the Village of Ottawa East. He was also elected to the Carleton County Council for nine years and he served as secretary-treasurer of the Ottawa East Public Schools. By 1907, he was one of the main supporters of the village's annexation into Ottawa. He is also renowned for establishing the first schools in the Village.

His lasting legacy

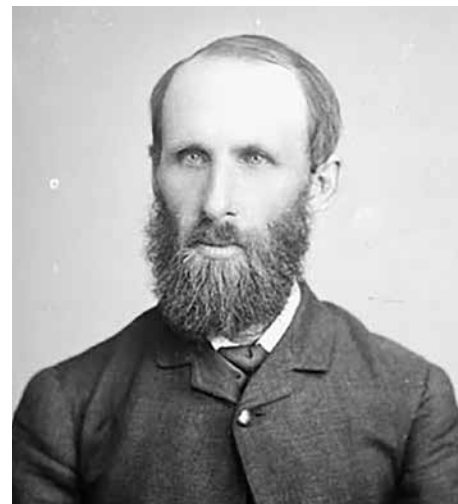
An archaeological find in our midst

As a founding member of the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society (later the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club), Ballantyne indulged his interest in archaeology. And a good thing too, because in 1892 when he unearthed a prehistoric adze in the Graham Brickyard near Brantwood Park, Ballantyne realized its value and was able to remove and preserve it properly. An adze is a ground and polished stone artefact characterized by a generally rectangular shape with a bevelled cutting edge on one end. It is used as a woodworking tool.

Ballantyne donated the adze to the Geological Survey of Canada. The adze, dated at 3,000 to 5,000 years old, is the oldest object ever found in Ottawa East, and it now resides in the Museum of Civilization. The adze is a tangible reminder of the Indigenous peoples who thrived in this community thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans like James Ballantyne.

A legacy in photographs

Ballantyne's interest in photography resulted in a vast collection of photos that provide a valuable portrait of the early years of our community. He was an avid and prolific photographer who often joined his daughter Mae with their camera equipment to capture scenes of ordinary daily life, in the Ottawa East



This photo of James Ballantyne was taken between 1882 and 1890. He passed away in 1925.

Village and beyond. He left a remarkable legacy to this community in the form of numerous images of the people who lived, worked and played in the Village during his time. The "James Ballantyne Photographic Collection" resides in the National Archives of Canada and the entire collection is online at <http://www.ottawahh.com/ottawahh.pl?x=gallery&g=ballantyne-1&p=27>. His interest in photography also led him to establish the Ottawa Camera Club. Throughout 2022, *The Mainstreeter* will publish selected photos from the Ballantyne photo collection to provide all of our readers with a fascinating glimpse of this community as it existed during the period of 1880 – 1920, when much of Ballantyne's photographic history of Ottawa East was compiled.

A legacy in our landscape

Ballantyne's giving spirit lives today in the form of a park. His property at 54 Main Street was demolished after his death and that of his daughter, Mae, who had been living there, and the land was donated to the community to become Ballantyne Park on Hawthorne Avenue. The donation of land included a \$10,000 trust, which was discovered in the 1980's and used to install lights and a plaque in the park.



Ballantyne's 1906 portrait of a pipe-smoking woman resident of Old Ottawa East.



ALL PHOTOS - JAMES BALLANTYNE PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION - LIBRARY & ARCHIVES CANADA

A Christmas Day, 1901 game of hockey on the Rideau Canal and James Ballantyne was there to capture the community's history in photos.



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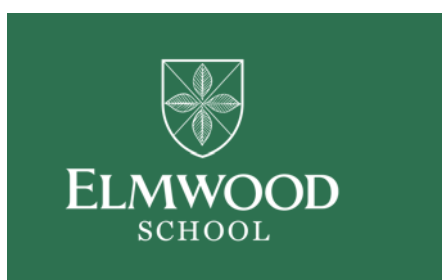
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OOE's community soccer club turns 50!

Ottawa Internationals to celebrate grassroots kid's soccer this summer



TRACY LUCKING PHOTO

Emily enjoyed learning to play soccer in the Internationals U-7 DSP program.

LORNE ABUGOV

Without question, 2021 was the year that Canada gained worldwide recognition as an emerging power in international soccer. The Women's national soccer team won gold at the Tokyo Olympics, while the Men's national team rose meteorically up the global rankings to an all-time high, earning FIFA's Most Improved Team of the Year.

And while prospects for the national men's and women's soccer teams remain bright this year, 2022 is also expected to be a memorable one for Canadian soccer at the grassroots level, including here in Ottawa.

One local soccer club, the Ottawa Internationals, is poised to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2022, and the club

expects to have a banner year ahead despite the lingering effects of COVID.

Widely regarded as Ottawa's "community soccer club," the Internationals have provided soccer skills training and team opportunities to youngsters and adults residing inside the city's Greenbelt since 1972.

"We've always been an openly accessible and inclusive soccer club - something we are very proud of and see continuing and growing in the years ahead," says International's president, Fabio Onesi.

"Like our name, we have always welcomed soccer enthusiasts who come to Ottawa from all over the world, young and old, whatever their background. Soccer is a global game, and our membership really reflects the mosaic of our city and our country."

Onesi notes that while the Internationals have worked hard over the past two years during the COVID shutdowns to re-imagine local soccer and to 'build back better,' he believes that "we must always place a priority on health and safety and govern ourselves strictly by prevailing COVID restrictions. As a result, all of our 50th anniversary plans are subject to change, if necessary," he says.

"But we remain very enthusiastic and optimistic that 2022 will be a great year for our club and for getting people off their sofas, out of their homes and onto their community soccer pitch."

Alumni of the Ottawa Internationals

Over its first 50 years, the Internationals have trained many young players who have gone on to play high-level soccer with university and college teams in



DAN TELLO PHOTO

The DSP program offered by the Ottawa Internationals gives kids like Nicholas their first taste of organized soccer and teamwork skills.

Canada and the U.S., as well as in pro soccer.

A recent example is Ottawa's emerging global soccer superstar, Jonathan David, who in the past two years has topped all scorers in the Belgian and French professional leagues and on the Canadian men's national team. Before he left Canada to sign professionally in Belgium, David trained with the Ottawa Internationals and was the top goal scorer on the Internationals men's premier soccer team during the 2016/2017 seasons.

The club's general manager, Graeme Bali, is proud to have had a generational talent like David wear the Ottawa Internationals red, white and black colours. "For an amateur club like ours to have had Jonathan for a couple of seasons of men's soccer here in Ottawa shows our young players that with hard work and talent it's possible for Canadian kids to excel at the sport."

But the real strength of the Internationals, Bali acknowledges, is the club's enduring ability to offer soccer skills training and opportunities to play the game to every person who wants to play, regardless of age or ability.

"Others might make the claim, but during our first 50 years, the Internationals have been a "cradle to grave" community soccer club that welcomes anyone who wants to play the sport, at whatever level of play they happen to be," says Bali.

The Internationals return to the community in 2022

The Internationals are especially proud of their popular city-wide Developmental Soccer Program (DSP) for boys and girls four years of age up to 11 years of age (as of January 1, 2022), which has operated since 1997 and celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2022.

The DSP will return to its community roots this summer at neighbourhood parks and playgrounds. Since COVID struck, the Internationals have been forced to operate DSP entirely at its two centralized turf fields in Alta Vista. The club is pleased that parents can once

again enroll their children in DSP soccer at their local community parks and playgrounds this coming summer.

"We are really excited to bring this community feature back to DSP, and parents should register now if they want to ensure a spot for their kids nearby to where they live for the 15-week summer season," says Dan Tello, the club's vice-president of youth recreational soccer, and himself a former DSP parent volunteer and coach.

Within Old Ottawa East, the DSP playing field location is at Brantwood Park. Should registrations at Brantwood become oversubscribed, as has happened in the past, parents can select alternative DSP fields such as Windsor or Brewer parks, again subject to availability, when they register their child(ren) for the program.

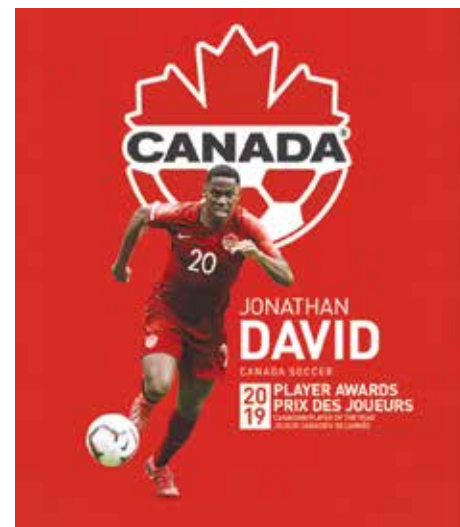
The DSP spring 2022 season - which begins on April 16th and runs to May 7th - features 1-hour sessions on four consecutive Saturday mornings at the club's centralized turf fields for youngsters in the under-7, under-9 and under-12 (as of December 21, 2021) age groups. The DSP 2022 summer season - which also offers an under-5 age group - will shift to multiple community soccer fields and runs from the week of May 17th to the

Continued on Page 23



DAN TELLO PHOTO

Thomas gained confidence and learned fundamental foot skills during his years in the DSP program.



CANADA SOCCER PHOTO

Canadian soccer star Jonathan David is a recent graduate of the Ottawa Internationals club.

A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE REMAKING OF MAIN STREET:

Safer walking, cycling and less traffic all cited as major gains of the complete street

Continued from Page 1

cyclist volumes would double within the first year, and again within three to four years, resulting in roughly 1000 to 1500 cyclists using the corridor each day,” says McEwen.

“Based on cycling volumes from 2019, there was an average of 850 to 950 cyclists using the Main Street corridor each weekday during the peak months of June and July,” reports McEwan. “Although these figures represent only two years of growth since the facility opened in 2017, they are approaching the five-year projections for the corridor. Daily cycling volumes in 2020 and 2021 have declined due to the pandemic, however, based on the 2019 data, the facility was on track to meet the cycling projections had the pandemic not occurred.”

While figures are not available, the pedestrian experience on Main Street has changed radically since the rebuild. As long-time resident Heather Jarrett put it, “The comparison between the former Main Street and the current one is like night and day. The old sidewalks were too narrow for a walker to feel safe from traffic, especially during the winter when the slope of the sidewalk increased the possibility of sliding into a car. Today’s sidewalks encourage walkers, not just to move in single-file, but to amble along conversing with friends and enjoying a leisurely stroll.”

“The redesigned Main Street is great for walking, running, and cycling,” commented Steve Konkle. “I’m not sure that I would have been comfortable letting my kids walk down Main Street before the redesign - the sidewalks were so narrow and the traffic seemed closer and faster.”



There is still heavy traffic on Main Street at peak times, but it’s safer and more comfortable for pedestrians and cyclists.

As predicted, the narrower roadway has slowed down traffic at peak times and the new 40 kilometre/hour limit has also contributed to slower traffic.

Development

The rebuilt Main Street helped pave the way for an explosion of redevelopment with The Corners on Main, Greystone Village and new smaller developments. These developments were accompanied by new businesses in the ground floors of the new buildings.

Five new restaurants are now operating on Main Street: Sula Wok, Happy Goat, Greens & Beans, Little Italy and Subway. Although all have been challenged during the pandemic, they have provided much needed amenities to the community. Other new businesses like Nu Grocery also have addressed key needs.

When the plans for a two-lane Main Street were debated at City Council, the Oblates and the Sisters were guaranteed

that their lands could have a “minimum” of 1,000 new dwellings and that the city would not limit development because of reduced transportation capacity of the rebuilt Main. The number of planned and built units in the Corners on Main and Greystone Village developments now exceeds 1,000 units and residents have raised concerns about related traffic congestion.

Currently, the City has not set a “maximum” number of units for the institutional lands or, for that matter, for other Main Street properties which are zoned for six storeys. As explained by Doug James, the City’s manager for development review, “As part of a rezoning request or site plan control application, traffic assessments are completed for a development proposal. These assessments include expected traffic from a proposal, as well as background traffic and traffic counts from other developments in the area.”

Residential Impact

In some areas, the reduction of lanes did not provide enough additional space for the cycle tracks and wider sidewalks so the City had to reclaim its right of way property and, in some cases, buy additional frontage from landowners along Main. Consequently, some front yards became smaller.

“Although I lost a good chunk of my front yard, it actually makes my house farther from the road and the yard I do still have is much more usable,” says Main Street resident Taya Morris. “My kids do chalk drawings on the sidewalk without fear of being hit by a speeding car. My bed used to shake when buses went by but now the speed of traffic is reduced. All in all, it is so much better. I remember walking down Main Street with my double stroller and on a rainy or slushy

day fast cars would splash me and my kids and it was almost unavoidable. Now I feel safe walking and biking on Main Street.”

The rebuilding of Main also led to the restoration of the Brantwood Gates, something that had been sought for many years. The gates were also relocated slightly to provide them with more space and to make it easier for drivers turning from Beckwith Road on to Main.

Trees and Hydro Wires

A large number of trees were removed because of the reconstruction, however, many new trees were planted. “In general, the new trees along Main Street are doing well,” says Tracey-Lee Schwets, the City’s program manager of forest management. “Hard surface planting locations are typically difficult growing environments for trees, and it is expected that some may struggle more than others. These trees are on a weekly watering schedule during the summer months. They are regularly inspected and replaced as required.”

In addition to new street trees, many homeowners welcomed the planting of new trees in their front yards and these have tended to do better than the street trees.

OOECA pushed hard to get Main Street’s hydro wires buried but the City refused to do so because of the incremental costs. For many, the remaining hydro poles and wires detract from the improved street and mean trees that would form a real canopy couldn’t be planted under the wires. However, in the new project, the City has agreed to bury hydro wires on Greenfield, Hawthorne and the northern section of Main.

Safety

The wider sidewalks, cycle tracks and slower motorized traffic have given the impression of a safer street, but City reports still show collisions. In 2018, the City conducted the Main Street Road Safety Audit which identified 25 problem areas. Many of these have been addressed, however, three major intersections continue to be dangerous in the view of residents: at Riverdale, Hazel and Hawthorne.

The Riverdale-Main “T” intersection is problematic for both pedestrians and cyclists, especially at the northwest corner. “It is only a matter of time before there is a tragic accident at Main and Riverdale,” Tim Bourne wrote to Councillor Shawn Menard. “The traffic calming measures instituted at the intersection are not

Continued on Page 21



Main Street residents Taya and Jeff Morris and their children Rohlyn (left) and Tate find the new Main much better than the old four-lane roadway even though some of their front yard was used for the wider sidewalk and new cycle track.

"THE DIFFERENCE IS LIKE NIGHT AND DAY.."

Continued from Page 20

effective. I encourage you to consider other solutions to further limit the likelihood of an accident. One option is to prevent right turns on red lights for vehicles travelling south on Main Street, even if only during rush hours when traffic is heavy, drivers are in a rush and children are more likely to be crossing the intersection."

"The issue with traffic turning dangerously onto Riverdale from Main is one we've been trying to get sorted out," responded Jonathan McLeod, the transportation specialist within the councillor's office. "We have repeatedly requested that staff put in a no-right-on-red there, but staff don't think it's necessary, and they're worried about traffic backing up. We don't agree with the City's policy that prioritizes traffic flow (even through red lights) over safety. We are pushing back against staff to try to get this implemented."

A related issue is that southbound cyclists are also endangered because the cycle track cuts away from Main so that cyclists are less visible to rushing motorists turning onto Riverdale from both northbound and southbound Main.

The safety audit rated the cycling problem as having "extreme" severity, but the audit did not identify the pedestrian crossing issue. In the response to the safety audit, the City committed to "monitor collisions and do conflict analysis to identify near misses", and such an analysis was conducted in 2019. "The data indicated that conflicts between vehicles and bicycles were occurring for some movements and mitigation measures are currently being reviewed," Phil Landry, director of traffic services told *The Mainstreeter*. "A second conflict analysis will be conducted following the



Former Councillor David Chernushenko (left), project manager Josée Vallée, and former OOECA president Phyllis Odenbach Sutton led the official re-opening of Main Street in 2017.

implementation of mitigation measures."

The Hazel-Main intersection is dangerous for southbound cyclists because motorists' view of cyclists can be blocked by parked cars.

The southwest corner of Hawthorne and Main is dangerous because of the very limited space for pedestrians. Many vehicles - especially larger ones like trucks and buses - often drive over the corner of the sidewalk and the flex stakes that were installed to provide protection to pedestrians have been demolished.

The new project will make some improvements to this corner notes

Bruce Kenny, the City's manager of design and construction: straightening the southern curb line on the western approach to Main Street, widening of the eastbound Hawthorne curb lane, and implementing a concrete rumble strip to better align large right-turning vehicles and limit encroachment on the sidewalk. "Unfortunately, the existing building at this location limits the extent of improvements that can be implemented," says Kenny.

Three general safety problems cited by many are that some cyclists continue to go the wrong way on the cycle tracks, some go too fast and are not careful near pedestrians, and some pedestrians use the cycle tracks with little awareness of cyclists.

Greenfield, Main, Hawthorne

Work has begun on turning the northern end of Main into a complete street as well. This work is being done in conjunction with the rebuilding of Greenfield, Hawthorne between Main and Echo, and a number of the connecting streets.

Like the first Main Street project, the work is driven by the need to replace and improve underground sewer and water services and, because the roads are all being dug up, it provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve the roadway. Given the success of the rebuilt southern part of Main, many similar improvements will be made, notably adding cycling facilities and wider sidewalks.

Cycling tracks will be built on both

sides of Greenfield and on most of Main north of Hawthorne, with a couple of stretches where the cycling facility will be at road level for specific technical reasons. The cycling design for the Harvey Street to Hawthorne section of Main has not been finalized but the City will undertake additional community consultation once a preferred solution is identified. Hawthorne will have a westbound cycling lane at road level.

When the Greenfield, Main, Hawthorne work is finished, Main Street will have almost complete cycling facilities. The one missing piece will be the one-block southbound stretch between Hawthorne and Graham. To date, the City has been unwilling to consider any lane reductions to generate space for a separate cycle lane.

Part of the success of the initial Main Street work was because there were many community working group meetings as the project was planned. During construction, the project manager was readily available for questions and regular update emails were sent to residents. The second project has had much less community involvement in the planning phase.

Our report on the remaking of Main Street continues on the following page.



JOHN DANCE PHOTOS

Walking up and down the wider sidewalks on Main Street is now a pleasure for local residents.

David Chernushenko on the new Main Street

“Today, it’s a different world, almost entirely for the better.”

David Chernushenko served as Capital Ward Councillor during the lengthy planning and rebuilding of Main Street. He and Ian Grabina, his advisor and a Main Street resident, were at the heart of the changes. Chernushenko’s assessment of the project follows:

In 2011, I invited residents and the media to join me on a Saturday morning walk down the length of Main Street to look at what might be kept or changed. Most of the time it was too loud to converse. Most of the time we could not walk two abreast, the speeding traffic being centimetres from our shoulders. I saw and heard how more businesses were closing than thriving, how residents kept their windows shut against the noise, dust and spray, how NOBODY chose to cycle

down Main Street.

Today it is a different world, almost entirely for the better. Sure, motorized traffic moves slower at peak hours. But no slower than in rush hour prior to revitalization. Sure, traffic moved faster back then outside rush hour, but mostly too fast for a healthy, livable community environment. Then, it was a pass-through speedway. Now it is a Main Street. I just wish more big trees could have been saved, and new ones successfully planted.

Lights out on Colonel By

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Residents who have noticed non-functioning street lights on Colonel By Drive north of Clegg Street will remain in the dark for an unknown period of time. The lights have been out for months.

“The NCC is aware of the situation with these street lights,” says Dominique Huras, spokesperson for the National Capital Commission. “Street lights are maintained by the City of Ottawa on behalf of the NCC. They are also aware of the issue. We do not have an ETA on the short-term repairs for the street lights at this time.”

But on the bright side, the NCC

has launched a project to improve the electrical systems (lights, kiosks, etc.) across NCC sites and the first phase of the project will focus on the Rideau Canal corridor.

Currently, new lights are being installed along the pathway at the southern end of Col By and temporary LED lights along Colonel By Drive, between Bank to Clegg Street, were installed during the rehabilitation of the Colonel By retaining wall. New lighting poles are expected to be installed this spring.

The NCC has experienced some delays in these electrical rehabilitation projects due to manufacturing delays for the luminaire components.

The AVTC connection to Main

In 2013, during the City’s transportation committee review of the Main Street rebuild options, Gloucester-Southgate Councillor Diane Deans asked the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) representatives a pointed question. “If Main Street was approved as a complete street, she asked, would OOECA support the construction of the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC) which would go through Old Ottawa East, east of Springhurst Park?” OOECA responded “No.”

Councillor Deans’ question was rooted in the premise that a rebuilt, slower, lower-capacity Main Street would increase pressure for a new north-south route, one using the AVTC corridor. Since that time, Councillor Deans as well as Alta Vista’s Jean Cloutier have continued to support the AVTC.

Councillor Cloutier - who supported Main becoming a complete street - says “Main Street is lovely, functional, doing what it was supposed to ... people adjust their times.” He also thinks its success should be replicated with the reconstruction of Smyth Road which is now “unpleasant and dangerous.” But in terms of AVTC, he says he is supportive and that “(I)ts future need will be evaluated.” He also says AVTC “need not be a road - it could be transit.”

For her part, Councillor Deans, who is a candidate for mayor, emailed *The Mainstreeter*. “I am supportive of protecting the Alta Vista Transit Corridor. We do not have many north-south routes in the city, so protecting this one to meet future transportation needs – whether it is for cycling, high occupancy vehicles, or as a transit corridor – is important. What will become of the corridor in the future will be up to communities and Council to determine.”



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Bring on the seasons:

The Ottawa Outdoor Gear Library flings open its doors

THERESA WALLACE

A free outdoor gear lending library has launched itself into the heart of another pandemic winter to help National Capital Region residents get outside and have fun, all in the interests of health and equity.

“Spending time outside is important for physical and mental well-being,” explains Chris Osler, one of the founders of the Ottawa Outdoor Gear Library (OOG), which opened in mid-January and by the end of the month had 350 members. “But this pandemic has only exacerbated the inequality of access to nature and the outdoors. Some people with lower incomes cannot afford ski passes, or gear. Some have no storage space. Our mission is to respond to barriers experienced by racialized and marginalized communities, and we are super excited to see the community support.”

Volunteers have been busy collecting, fixing up and organizing donated equipment since last summer. The OOG has two locations: its main operation at 877A Boyd Avenue next to the Ottawa Tool Library, and a pop-up site in the Overbrook Community Centre at 33 Quill Street. Volunteers built the equipment storage bins on wheels, so they can be moved outside easily for covid-safe borrowing.

Because it has limited space, the library is working with like-minded partners. “One of the joys of this project is to intentionally collaborate with other groups already doing this kind of work and help expand that existing network,” says Osler. “We’ve shared lots of bicycles with Vélo-Vanier, for example, and with community health centres.”

The non-profit OOG has been supported by a funding grant until the end of June 2022. It’s volunteer-run but employs three young people part-time to help with day-to-day operations. In addition to Chris Osler, there are three other members of the volunteer leadership team, including Carol Workun, former director of the Community Activities Group (CAG) of Old Ottawa East. The outdoor gear library was partly inspired by the learn-to-skate program at Brantwood Park offered jointly by CAG and the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, where Osler worked for 19 years. “We quickly figured out through the learn-to-skate program that no matter how low the instructor-to-student ratio, access to equipment was a huge barrier,” Osler says, “and we’ve applied what we learned to this gear library project.”

What the library needs

Skilled volunteers have worked magic cobbling together boots, bindings, skis and poles for cross-country skiing, but at this time of year, the OOG needs waxless ski sets with fully compatible boots, bindings, skis and poles. There’s also a need for snowshoes, skates and other winter gear in good condition. (A full donation wish list can be found on the OOG website at ottawaoutdoorgearlibrary.com.) As the weather changes, so will the equipment asks, but the OOG is always looking for volunteer helpers, donations of money, and ideas on future sources of funding to keep the library going for many years to come.

How to borrow equipment

You have to be a member to borrow from the library. At ottawaoutdoorgearlibrary.com, click on <Become A Member>, then on <MyTurn> and finally <Create Account> in the upper right corner. Enter the account details and you’re in! All that’s left is browsing the inventory and picking up your gear. “If signing up online is a barrier to you, come on down and we can help you navigate through the process,” says Sherry Wu, the OOG library coordinator. “Please drop by towards the end of our operating hours, as we tend to be very busy when we first open.”

At the Overbrook pop-up, because it is closer to the Rideau Winter Trail, the



THERESA WALLACE PHOTO

Merritt Avenue volunteers Tim Jordan (left) and Stuart Inglis ready to load up the storage bins for ski equipment they made at home. Inglis has also worked hard repairing and matching up skis, boots, bindings, and other equipment for members of the Ottawa Outdoor Gear Library.

library has cross-country ski equipment, snowshoes, and poles for walking, skiing or snowshoeing. At 877A Boyd Avenue off Carling Avenue, the concentration is on skates, hockey sticks and helmets, outdoor camping gear, nature/field guides and binoculars.

Gear can be borrowed by library members for up to five days.



To volunteer with the Ottawa Outdoor Gear library, please contact Xandria Reece: oogl.engagementcoordinator@gmail.com. For inventory, borrowing and membership questions, contact Sherry Wu: oogl.librarycoordinator@gmail.com. For programming and partnership inquiries, contact Caleb Dibula: oogl.programcoordinator@gmail.com.

Youth soccer returns to OOE this summer



Continued from Page 19

week of August 26th.

The under-5 age group participates once per week for one hour on a weekday evening depending on availability of the community field, while the older age groups practice twice per week for one hour sessions on weekday evenings. Separate sessions for boys and girls are offered in the older age groups, though groups may be combined depending on registration numbers.

In addition to DSP for youngsters, the Internationals also offer competitive (ages 8 – 17) and recreational (ages 12 – 17) teams and skills training for youth, as well as for adult men and women. Renso Vettoretti, the Internationals’ vice president of men’s soccer, looks forward to outdoor soccer kicking off in a few short months. “We are planning to get our youth competitive tryouts underway in March and our adult men and women members outdoors practising in April,” says Vettoretti, who has coached and played men’s soccer with the Internationals for several decades.

Parents can reserve spots for their child(ren) now in the 2022 DSP by registering for the spring and summer seasons. For further information about DSP, including costs, or to register your child(ren) now, visit the Internationals’ website at <http://www.ottawasoccer.com>.

Information on soccer programs for boys and girls aged 12 and older and for adult men and women can be obtained at the Internationals’ website at <http://www.ottawasoccer.com> or by emailing the appropriate club contacts: Men’s: mens@ottawasoccer.com; Women’s: womens@ottawasoccer.com; Youth Recreational: youthrec@ottawasoccer.com; Youth Competitive – Boys: boys-competitive@ottawasoccer.com; Youth Competitive – Girls: girls-competitive@ottawasoccer.com.

ART BEAT



**TANIS
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OOE ARTIST FEATURE: JULIAN ARMOUR... MUSIC AND BEYOND... AND THE VIENNESE WINTER BALL

Tanis Browning-Shelp interviews Music and Beyond's Julian Armour about the organization he directs and its magical and "open to one and all" February 26th event...the Virtual Viennese Winter Ball.

TANIS: I've been involved with *Music and Beyond* for a few years now, and I'm currently on the organization's Board of Directors, so I know you quite well. However, some residents of Old Ottawa East may not. How would you introduce yourself in the context of *Music and Beyond*?

JULIAN: My main role in life is Artistic and Executive Director of *Music and Beyond*. I am also Director/Producer of the Viennese Winter Ball, one of our premier annual events. As well, I am an adjunct professor at Carleton University's Sprott School of Business where I teach Ottawa's only university level—graduate and undergraduate—arts administration course.

TANIS: How long has *Music and Beyond* been around?

JULIAN: *Music and Beyond* was founded in 2009. We had our first festival in July of 2010, and we've been going non-stop ever since.

It was very hard back then, as it is

A finger on the pulse of the arts in OOE



ANASTASIA KRACHKOVSKAYA PHOTO

ABOVE: Debutantes and Cavaliers waltz at the 2020 Viennese Winter Ball—the last live version of the event; **BELOW LEFT:** Soprano Mireille Asselin singing "My Hero" from *The Chocolate Soldier* at this year's virtual ball.

today, to start up a new arts organization because it was almost impossible to get into the funding loop. Granters at all levels of government had been reduced to funding only well-established arts organizations. So, we are Canada's *newest* major cultural arts festival!

TANIS: How would you describe *Music and Beyond* and its work?

JULIAN: *Music and Beyond* was founded as a response to the fact that people aren't hearing much classical music these days—not on the radio and not in our schools. We thought we could do something really creative to show that music doesn't exist in a vacuum. We believe that music, and indeed all forms of the arts, are essential components of a healthy and thriving society. *Music and Beyond* is unique because part of our core mandate is to demonstrate how music interacts with other artforms and cultural disciplines and how, in fact, it has important connections with all aspects of society. We are about strengthening the cultural dialogue.

TANIS: So, "who *Music and Beyond* is..." is multi-faceted and the "beyond"

part is what makes it particularly unique. Can you give me some examples of *Music and Beyond's* collaborations over the years?

JULIAN: There are so many ways of interpreting the word *beyond*. We also perform in surprising venues, involve multiple generations, reach out to various geographies, and draw in diverse styles of music. But our core base is classical music and we *do* offer concerts in traditional settings. The French version of our organization's name gets even closer to who we are...*Musique et Autres Mondes*—other worlds.

When we collaborated with Christopher Plummer, one of the greatest actors of our time, we created a show called *Shakespeare and Music*. Christopher Plummer fans from many parts of North America came out and heard some classical music, and classical music fans learned about acting, Shakespeare, and Christopher Plummer.

Peter Robinson, the British-born Canadian crime writer, is a big classical music fan. We were on a panel together for a CBC contest and that's when I found out that many of the passages in his novels were inspired by pieces of classical music. So, we created an event where Peter Robinson was invited to read passages from his novels, and we played the pieces that inspired them. Half of the audience was made up of his readers/fans and they, of course, were exposed to classical music through the event. (One woman approached me afterwards and told me that it had been the greatest day of her life!) Many of Robinson's fans bought passes to our festival after that.

The arts bring you to new places... transport you somewhere. We created our National Gallery Soirée event with the idea of bringing visual art to life. We feature artworks from every gallery—Indigenous, Baroque, Modern—and find

music which encapsulates the pieces. Under ordinary circumstances, if you watch somebody looking at a piece of art in a gallery, you will notice that they will stand and look at a piece for a few seconds and then move on. With our gallery soirées, people take in the art for the whole duration of the music. As a result, they notice much more in the pieces and develop a heightened level of awareness about them.

Other examples of the "beyond" aspect can be experienced through our series on Music and Global Warming, Music and Mental Health, and Music and Law.

TANIS: The Viennese Winter Ball is another example of how *Music and Beyond* collaborates with other artforms. Can you tell our readers more about it?

JULIAN: This Ottawa event is truly magical! For more than 25 years it has been an incredible live event featuring the most uplifting music ever written. Hearing the music, watching the young debutantes and cavaliers perform the Viennese waltzes, dancing, and dining in the Viennese tradition have made this glamorous event a gala in the true sense of the word.

Last year, we held our first *virtual* version of the ball. Some people dressed up in formal attire at home, ordered in lovely meals from our partner restaurants, and mingled during the cocktail hour in



PETER POLGAR PHOTO

Violist Juan-Miguel Hernandez performing at this year's virtual ball.

various breakout rooms through Zoom.

This year, we've created another full evening event to transport people from the dark and cold of winter into a sparkling musical experience from the comfort of home. We will have a special guest host and a cocktail hour. We hope to offer a dance lesson for participants and three hours—and a full range—of Austrian music. We have pre-recorded



PETER POLGAR PHOTO

Continued on Page 25

ART BEAT



TIM HUNT'S MAIN STREET SKETCHES

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

Tim Hunt: Heading out on a weekend morning with the intention to sketch, I'm never sure where I will end up, or what will show up on the page. A short scout around the neighbourhood is usually all it takes before something peaks my interest.

Beginning a drawing is a bit like

starting a new book, or getting into a movie. It's a little awkward at first, but once you get to know the characters and are committed to seeing it through, things begin to fall into place, and you get lost in the story.

I pass by the Emporium almost



every day, usually in a rush, but on this particular morning I had the luxury of sketching it from across the street. I was drawn in by the hand painted sign, the red door facing out from the corner and the juxtaposition of the wood building butting up against its brick counterpart.

Telephone poles, hydro wires and road signs, so ubiquitous they are almost invisible to us, help frame and add a certain authenticity to the picture. A passerby brings a bit of life to the otherwise quiet scene and affords the opportunity to add a pop of colour.

JULIAN ARMOUR... MUSIC AND BEYOND

Continued from Page 24

some great music with Jonathon Crow, violinist and Concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Soprano Mireille Asselin singing "My Hero" from *The Chocolate Soldier*, an operetta by Oscar Straus, and much more.

TANIS: Is the Viennese Winter Ball a fundraiser?

JULIAN: Absolutely! The Viennese Winter Ball raises funds for our youth cultural initiatives. It also provides opportunities for young people to perform.

TANIS: Can anybody attend this year's Viennese Winter Ball?

JULIAN: Yes! Last year's virtual ball was seen by over 80,000 people; while the gala, in its day, might only be experienced by a few hundred. It is free, so there are no barriers. It will air on Rogers TV and on *Music and Beyond's* YouTube channel. And people who aren't available on the evening of the 26th will be able to watch the program after the ball. The video version will remain available, free of charge, on our YouTube channel.

TANIS: How do people sign up if they want to be a part of the cocktail hour, break-out rooms, and other special features available via Zoom?

JULIAN: Anyone can go to the *Music and Beyond* website at www.musicandbeyond.ca to register.

TANIS: Can you tell me more about *Music and Beyond's* commitment to young people?

JULIAN: A major part of the mandate of *Music and Beyond* is to build an appreciation for music in young people. We have a comprehensive Young People's Strategy where we work to enhance music programming for young people, reach out to schools and community organizations to create opportunities for young people to interact with music, and create performance opportunities for children with professional musicians from Canada and around the world. During the pandemic, we've developed a major amount of free video content for young people—concerts designed for them, and concerts featuring young performers. Our Music and Nature



PETER POLGAR PHOTO

Teen musician Natalie Paravolos performing at this year's virtual ball—an opportunity provided as part of Music and Beyond's Young People's Strategy.

videos were filmed throughout the Canadian Museum of Nature, highlighting its exhibits and galleries. Our Music and Circus videos feature members of Montreal's Cirque Fantastic. Right now, we are working on a Carnival of the Animals contest for kids. Once things open up again, we will bring back live events like our Family Music Expo.

TANIS: Besides the ball, what else is around the corner for *Music and Beyond*?

JULIAN: We will be releasing a piano performance (video) by Angela Hewitt this month and we have many extraordinary performances and collaborations in the works.

Author Tanis Browning-Shelp (www.browning-shelp.com) pens her Maryn O'Brien Young Adult Fiction series, published by Dog-Eared Books, from her home in Old Ottawa East. Contact tanis@browning-shelp.com if you have information about artists or art events that you believe would enrich our community members' lives.



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New Rideau River dock slated for Springhurst Park

MAINSTREETER STAFF

A decade-long community quest for a dock at Springhurst Park may become a reality this year as a result of Councillor Shawn Menard approving the project.

With the explosion of paddling along the Rideau River, residents on the northern side of Greystone Village will no longer need to portage to the Brantwood Park dock. In the past, City planners objected to the second dock because there already was one in Brantwood Park.

The dock will be paid for with \$70,000 from the “cash-in-lieu of parkland” funding that new developments in the community have generated.

“[The dock] has to go through a public consultation, environmental testing, and permits with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority so it’s a complicated endeavour,” says Ariela Summit, advisor to Councillor Menard.

“The project charter and applications for required permits will be submitted

in the new year allowing us to move forward with a public consultation during the winter,” says Summit.

“We have checked in with the RVCA (shoreline) and the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry who have jurisdiction over the bed of the Rideau River regarding approvals.”

The City’s river docks have a concrete abutment on the shoreline and are hinged to an anchored floating aluminum frame span. The spans must be removed each fall so that the ice and the spring flooding doesn’t damage them.

Community association board member Kristine Houde wants to ensure that accessibility for people with disabilities and multi-generational use of these spaces is considered in planning, and, she says, “ [I]f the Springhurst dock is a go, I’d like to share plans I have seen that have considered these users in the selection of the dock.”

The original concept plan for



MS ARCHIVES/JOHN DANCE PHOTO

In addition to helping paddlers launch their craft, the Brantwood dock is a great place to enjoy the river scenery.

Credit:

Greystone Village included a dock, however, The Regional Group abandoned the idea because the slope was considered too steep.

OOE’s Brantwood Park dock and OOS’s Windsor Park dock have

inspired Alta Vista Councillor Jean Cloutier to investigate the possibility of locating a dock on the east side of the Rideau River to benefit Alta Vista and Riverview Park residents.



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LOCAL POLITICS

Watson won't run for re-election, Menard will

Municipal election campaigns now underway

JOHN DANCE

The fall municipal election campaigns have begun. While long-time Mayor Jim Watson will not be running again, Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard will.

Most of the other Capital ward contenders in the last election are not planning on challenging Menard, although Anthony Carricato, who finished fourth in 2018, is considering another shot.

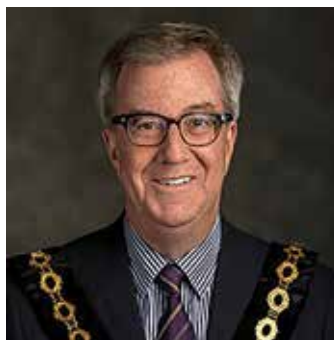
"I have been humbled by the many residents in our ward who have been encouraging me to run again," Carricato told *The Mainstreeter*. "Most of these residents are not happy with the combative and

negative approach of Councillor Menard."

In a tweet announcing his candidacy, Menard said, "I love serving Capital Ward and I know the potential of this city." He also declared his support for Catherine McKenney, councillor for Somerset Ward, who is running for mayor.

Emilie Taman, who withdrew from the last Capital Ward race, says she is chairing Menard's campaign "So no, I don't intend to run against him!"

Two-time Councillor David Chernushenko also said he will not run again nor will Jide Afolabi, who finished fifth last time. *The Mainstreeter* was not able to contact Christine McAllister who finished second



JIM WATSON



DIANE DEANS



SHAWN MENARD



CATHERINE MCKENNEY



BOB CHIARELLI



ANTHONY CARRICATO

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Municipal elections will be held in Ottawa on Monday, October 24, 2022.

last election.

Others who have said they would run for mayor are Councillor Diane Deans and Bob Chiarelli, who was Ottawa's mayor from 2000 to 2006.

In the previous municipal election in 2018, 52.4 per cent of eligible voters cast

their ballots in Capital Ward, with Menard capturing 28.1 percent of votes cast, followed by McAllister, three percentage points behind, Chernushenko, five percentage points behind, and Carricato, nine percentage points behind.

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NOTRE COMMUNAUTE FRANCOPHONE

Expériences de deux étudiants poursuivant une scolarité francophone en 2021-22

ZACHARIE LANDRY

Même avec le fort secteur d'éducation francophone du Vieil Ottawa-Est, la dynamique multiculturelle d'Ottawa fait en sorte que les études françaises sont présentes à presque tous les coins de la ville. Bien qu'il y ait des étudiants français qui résident dans le Vieil Ottawa-Est et qui reçoivent également une éducation dans le même quartier, il y en a qui fréquentent des institutions francophones à l'extérieur de la communauté. Chaque jeune étudiant a sa propre histoire unique, et il est important de comprendre chacune afin d'assurer le plein potentiel de l'esprit des générations futures.

Sebastien, un élève de troisième année qui fréquente l'École secondaire publique De La Salle, fait le voyage dans la Basse-Ville d'Ottawa depuis qu'il a franchi les portes de l'établissement en 2017. L'école n'est pas du tout au coin de la rue pour le jeune homme, mais en expérimentant avec le transport en commun d'OC Transpo, il a réussi à rendre le trajet aller-retour beaucoup plus supportable. En raison de

la distance relativement éloignée pour Sebastien de l'école, il fait partie des nombreux autres élèves de De La Salle qui ont droit à un laissez-passer Presto pour l'année scolaire. Alors que les autobus qui passent au long de la rue Main peuvent être utilisés par quelqu'un comme Sebastien pour se rendre dans la Basse-Ville d'Ottawa, le lycéen a plus de facilité avec le transport depuis l'ouverture de l'O-Train, le système de métro léger d'Ottawa. En fait, avec une station située directement sur l'avenue Lees, les trajets de Sébastien vers l'école sont devenus beaucoup plus faciles. « C'est tellement plus rapide qu'avant, et avec le stress réduit d'être en retard à l'école, je me sens beaucoup plus prêt pour ce que la journée a à offrir », dit l'élève de 11^{ème} année. Si ce n'était pas pour la commodité d'OC Transpo, l'accessibilité à l'éducation en français à De La Salle pour Sebastien aurait grandement diminué.

Sophia est une étudiante de deuxième année à l'université qui a dû gérer sa scolarité étant à la fois en ligne et en personne. Comme tous les autres étudiants universitaires de l'Ontario, la rentrée

scolaire de Sophia après les vacances de Noël était entièrement virtuelle. Depuis le 26 janvier, cependant, elle est en mesure de se présenter à l'un de ses cours sur le campus. Elle dit que « comme beaucoup de personnes, je partage une préférence d'avoir des cours en personnes. L'école a toujours été en personne. Mais, en ce moment, je suis plus confortable d'étudier à partir de la maison pendant la pandémie ». Un inconvénient que la jeune femme a toutefois remarqué est que « les professeurs sont plus inclinés à attribuer plus de travaux à leurs élèves pendant que leurs cours sont en ligne que si leurs cours étaient en personne. » Pour une travailleuse à temps partiel comme Sophia, ce stress supplémentaire peut sérieusement impacter une vie déjà trépidante. Pourtant, elle croit que les choses à l'école vont dans la bonne direction. « Vivre avec la Covid-19 a été quelque chose de nouveau pour tout le monde », dit Sophia. « Mais, le plus qu'on a avancé dans la pandémie, le plus que l'Université d'Ottawa a eu le temps de s'adapter et de s'améliorer. »

Sebastien et Sophia, qui sont respectivement étudiants à l'école secondaire et l'université, ont des expériences différentes de fréquenter une école à l'extérieur du Vieil Ottawa Est. Les deux étudiants, cependant, partagent une résilience similaire sur la façon dont ils sont capables de s'adapter de manière adéquate à des circonstances en perpétuel changement, en particulier à la suite de la pandémie de Covid-19. Les histoires de Sebastien et Sophia sont un bon indicateur que, même dans une situation bouleversante, les élèves sont tout à fait capables de trouver l'importance de l'éducation, et dans ce cas, l'éducation francophone. Les étudiants francophones du Vieil Ottawa-Est comprennent ce que leur scolarité signifie pour eux, et les défis tels que les longs transports ou l'apprentissage en dehors du campus n'empêchent pas leur poursuite d'une éducation francophone.

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POLITICAL PAGES

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LET'S MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE AND STOP FURTHER CLOSURES

On January 11, the Ford government announced that schools would reopen the following Monday, January 17.

Amidst the relief, there is also anxiety. That's because this Premier and his Minister of Education have consistently failed to take the steps that are necessary to keep schools safe and open for in-person learning.

Even before the most recent round of school closures was announced, Ontario lead the country in terms of the number of cancelled in-person learning days. Indeed, Ontario schools have been closed for more days than anywhere else in North America and most of Europe. The negative impact of these closures on the mental health and wellbeing of children is significant. This is a major failure on the part of the government, which time and again has failed to follow the advice of medical experts, education staff and parents.

For well over a year, we've been urging this government to give schools the resources they need to implement smaller class sizes, upgrade ventilation, and equip staff with the personal protective equipment (PPE) they need to stay safe. Time and again, these appeals have fallen on deaf ears.

To keep kids in class and avoid sending them home once again, the government needs to start listening. It's time for them to make the necessary investments including smaller class sizes, free rapid tests for all students, teachers and education workers, in-school vaccine clinics with a major outreach campaign, upgraded ventilation and free N95 masks for all teachers and education workers.

We are finally starting to see some progress on several of these demands after significant public pressure. Any progress, though, is undermined by the government's changes to COVID-19 reporting in our schools. Parents and staff were shocked to learn that schools will only be reporting outbreaks when 30% of staff and students test positive. As Marit Stiles, our official opposition critic for education put it so well, "it shouldn't be easier to find out about a lice outbreak [in your child's school] than a COVID outbreak."

Why has this government consistently failed to adequately invest in making schools safer? It stems from an obsession to save money at all costs, even in the middle of a global pandemic. Premier Ford once said that he would "spare no expense" in the fight against COVID-19. But his actions speak much louder than his words.

According to the Financial Accountability Officer, the Ford government spent a staggering \$4.3 billion less than budgeted in the first half of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Of this amount, \$600 million was underspent on public health, and \$700 million was underspent on education. This is money that could have been used to shore up our health care system, support workers and small businesses affected by closures and give our kids safer, smaller class sizes.

Safe, in-person learning can't be done on the cheap. If this government truly believes that schools should be the first to open and the last to close, they must heed our advice and make the investments that are required to keep our kids in the classroom.

YASIR NAQVI MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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WE WILL KEEP HAVING YOUR BACK

I hope you are staying safe and healthy. I am thinking of how you are coping at this stage of the pandemic. We didn't expect to start the year with a surge in Omicron cases, and as a result we've gone through school closures and restrictions. It's been very tough. For businesses, for workers, for parents and kids, for students and beyond. Check in with your loved ones and seek help if you need it. There are great organizations in Ottawa Centre that can offer support and assistance.

I want you to know that there is hope. The best way to prevent further lockdowns and keep the economy growing is by finishing the job on vaccines. That's why we put in place mandatory vaccine requirements for federally regulated work places and for people wanting to travel on a train or plane. If you haven't yet, please book your booster shots and get vaccinated.

Leading up to the holidays, our federal government took swift action and passed critical legislation to provide financial support to Canadians and businesses impacted by the pandemic, so that no Canadian is left without support when they need it most.

The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit, providing \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers who are directly impacted by a COVID-19-related public health lockdown in their region up until May 7, 2022. Eligible workers can apply to receive this support retroactively from October 24, 2021.

The Local Lockdown Program, providing businesses that face temporary new local lockdowns up to the maximum amount available through the wage and rent subsidy programs.

Extending the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit until May 7, 2022, and increasing the maximum duration of benefits by 2 weeks. This extends the caregiving benefit from 42 to 44 weeks and the sickness benefit from 4 to 6 weeks.

The Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program, providing support through wage and rent subsidies to, for example, hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, and restaurants, with a subsidy rate of up to 75 per cent.

The Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program, providing support through wage and rent subsidies to other businesses that have faced deep losses, with a subsidy rate of up to 50 per cent.

Extending the Canada Recovery Hiring Program until May 7, 2022, for eligible employers with current revenue losses above 10 per cent and increasing the subsidy rate to 50 per cent. This extension will help businesses continue to hire back workers, increase hours, and create the additional jobs Canada needs for a robust recovery.

Extending the Canada Emergency Businesses Account (CEBA) and Regional Relief and Recovery Fund repayment deadlines to the end of 2023 for eligible businesses.

You can find more details on all these programs at Canada.ca/coronavirus and please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 613 946 8682 or email us at Yasir.Naqvi@parl.gc.ca if you have any questions.

We will get through this, Ottawa.

VOLUNTEERING

Ottawa South Committee for Refugee Support

Local community refugee support group expands its efforts to help Afghan arrivals

MAINSTREETER STAFF

A community volunteer organization based in Old Ottawa South is poised to make a big difference in the lives of refugee families who have recently arrived in Ottawa from strife-torn Afghanistan.

The Ottawa South Committee for Refugee Support (OSCRS) has been operating since 2015 and has already sponsored or supported some eight refugee families, mostly from Syria. The group helps to orient newcomer families to Canadian life and provides them with accommodation, food and the necessities of life for one year.

According to Kevin Mills and Bev Davis, co-chairs of the OSCRS, language training and employment assistance are key to the success of the families' integration into their new lives

in Ottawa. "Most of our families have found employment, are enrolled in school or are pursuing post secondary education. Although we have Ottawa South in our name, we have volunteers, partners and allies throughout the city, including some in Old Ottawa East," says Mills.

"As a group, we have submitted an application for a family of six who fled the Democratic Republic of Congo and are refugees in South Africa. The estimated processing time for applications is 23 months, so as a volunteer group, we decided to focus our efforts on an immediate need – the assistance of Afghan refugees families recently arrived in Ottawa," advises Davis.

OSCRS reached out to the Afghan Canadian Support Network (ACSN), a not-for-profit organization of

nine volunteers attempting to provide assistance and guidance to approximately 87 families.

ACSN, along with other overwhelmed agencies in Ottawa, are trying to establish the families in the City, but are very limited in the ongoing support they can provide. "The families do receive a small allowance from the government but we, as an experienced group, are aware of the multitude of challenges refugee families face in Ottawa including accessing services,

schools, and medical care," Mills notes.

OSCRS is already strategizing to raise funds to support its first Afghan family in Ottawa. To provide the extra funds to make the needed purchases of clothes, furniture, cell phones, and household setup, Davis says that her group will be organizing a Purdy's Easter chocolate fundraiser. Those wishing to support the group's Afghan initiative can do so by ordering online with curbside pick up in Old Ottawa South. Twenty-five percent of the sales goes to OSCRS and the Committee pledges to use those funds to support the Afghan family.

"Rest assured," says Davis, "once we have linked up with a family, we will introduce them to the community and provide updates on how they are doing and how the community at large can assist."



To follow the progress of OSCRS, visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OttawaSouthRefugeeSponsorship> or email the group at osrefugee@gmail.com. Financial donations can be made through Trinity Anglican Church at <https://www.trinityottawa.ca/give> or by sending a cheque to Trinity Anglican Church (with OSCRS on the memo line) at 1230 Bank St. Ottawa, K1S 3Y3.

NCC considering reduced speed limits on Colonel By Drive

Continued from Page 11

Asked about what proportion of OPS efforts was devoted to speed limit enforcement, Sgt. Cairns responded: "Speed enforcement is only one thing that Traffic Services deals with daily - we are obviously dealing with many more issues/offences relating to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA). I really can't provide you with a percentage of how much time we spend specifically on speed enforcement, but it will obviously be substantial due to the fact that it is probably the most often contravened act in the HTA."

Another method of ensuring enforcement suggested by Main Street resident Ian Grabina is simply driving the speed limit or a bit less. "[I]t gives me no greater pleasure than to drive 38 kilometres/hour on Main Street ahead of drivers trying to go faster, or to 'catch up' to speeders at the next traffic light."

Automated Enforcement?

The City of Ottawa recently approved the expansion of its successful automated speed enforcement (ASE) program. In a pilot project, automated speed cameras were installed in eight school zones. Over the course of a year, 101,778 tickets were issued with approximately \$5.4 million in revenue collected.

The cameras led to a 200 per cent

increase in compliance with the speed limit and a 72 per cent decrease in the percentage of high-end speeders at the pilot sites. The surplus of revenues over the cost of the project allowed the City to fund traffic calming measures throughout Ottawa. Given the success of the pilot, the program is going to be expanded.

Provincial policy prevents municipalities from using automatic speed cameras anywhere other than school zones and near retirement homes. When asked about this policy, many politicians, including outgoing Mayor Jim Watson, have said use of automated speed cameras beyond the specified zones would be a "cash grab."

Those threatened by speeding drivers might have other opinions. One other note: in the City's positive analysis of the ASE program, no mention was made of the fact that OPS would no longer have to spend so much time enforcing speed limits.

Echo and Colonel By Speed Reductions

The 40 km/h sign on Echo Drive between Avenue Road and Bank Street will be removed as a result of OOE's Paul Goodkey and OOS's Kathy Krywicki bringing this anomaly to the attention of the City.

The stretch of roadway has no sidewalks and is used by many



JOHN DANCE PHOTOS

Efforts to lower speed limits in Old Ottawa East will continue with further reductions planned for Colonel By Drive that will reduce limits to 40 kilometres/hour, which is the current posted speed limit for Main Street.

pedestrians on the way to school, the library and elsewhere.

"It recently came to the City's attention that a sign indicating a speed limit of 40 km/h was mistakenly left in place in this area of Echo Drive, which was an oversight," Phil Landry, director of traffic services told *The Mainstreeter*. "Staff will be removing the sign as soon as feasibly possible and would like to apologize for any confusion it may have caused."

"The National Capital Commission is currently reviewing the posted speed

limits on Colonel By Drive and the Queen Elizabeth Parkway with the aim to reduce the sections currently posted as 60 km/h to 40 km/h," Dominique Huras told *The Mainstreeter*.

The NCC has already reduced the speed limit on Col By between Bank and Bronson streets and also on Queen Elizabeth Drive near Bank Street.

OUR NEIGHBOURS

Old Ottawa East casts a spell on this group of friends and family - it's a community that "makes you want to stay"

DIANNE WING

There is something about Old Ottawa East that makes you want to stay. For me, it was the canopy of maples and a secluded front verandah. I don't remember much else about my decision to buy a home on Hawthorne Avenue in 1983 but I don't regret that choice. Many maples have come down, but new trees are planted, and the verandah is still my little bit of heaven.

For Tracy Townsend it was the character of the old brick walk-up on Hawthorne Avenue renovated with all the modern conveniences that drew her to buy her home in 2012. She loved the history of the row house circa 1912 and the location with a little park across the street. A Senior Manager/Advisor at the Public Health Agency, she had been living in a condo in Centretown and was ready for more space. It was a bonus that her parents at that time were living nearby on Evelyn Avenue.

For Emma LaFloor it was the pandemic that drew her back to her childhood home, the one with the secluded verandah, to live with me (her mother). Emma had recently returned from teaching in Frankfurt, Germany. Little did anyone know how long the pandemic would go on and, by March 2020, Emma became restless to find a home of her own.

That little park across from Tracy's row house is a hidden treasure for Hawthorne Avenue residents. Children play, build forts and practice throwing balls there. Dog owners convene there with their ever-growing canine population. Emma played in that park as a child and my three generations of dogs romped there on a daily basis. People and dogs become friends.

It was in that park that Emma and I met James Tourigny. His dogs, Indie, a seven-year-old Lab/Collie/Cattle dog mix and one-year-old Luna, a mystery rescue mix, liked to play with Greta, Emma's three-year-old Labernese dog. While dogs play, people chat. We learned that James was a Senior Learning and Organizational Development Advisor at the House of Commons and that he had married Tracy in 2018.



PETER CROAL PHOTO

This group of family and friends have most willingly gone to the dogs! Pictured here at the Hawthorne Avenue "little treasure" of a park, starting with the "two leggers" from left to right, are James Tourigny, Tracy Townsend, Dianne Wing and Emma LaFloor. Indie (left), Luna (centre) and Greta (right) are the lovable "four leggers" who patiently posed for this group photo.

It was a surprise then, one August morning to see a For Sale sign appear at Tracy and James' home. They had been keeping an eye out for houses in the area for a few years. Old Ottawa East had cast its spell and they knew they wanted to stay in the neighbourhood. They walked often in Brantwood Park and admired its beautiful homes and proximity to the river.

As Tracy says, "it is the perfect escape while still being so centrally located. It is truly the best of both worlds." And one day they found the right house.

Meanwhile, Emma had decided to postpone her dreams of finding a home in the crazy Ottawa real estate market, hoping things might be better in the spring. She was now teaching in the Ottawa Carleton District School Board and feeling settled back in Ottawa. But on that August morning Emma's new home found her, across the street from Greta's daily dog park.

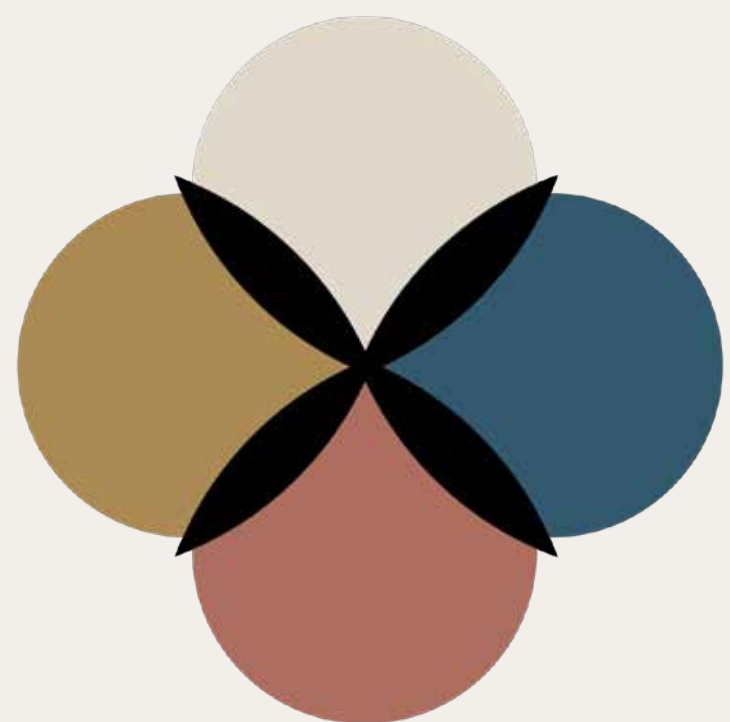
Like Tracy, she loved the old world charm and the modern renovation. It was the perfect size for both Greta and Emma. And it was just down the street

from her mother and her childhood home. Doggie day care and car sharing were among the many benefits of buying Tracy and James' home.

Again the best of both worlds.

There is something about Old Ottawa East that makes you want to stay. I know that Tracy, James, Indie, Luna, Emma and Greta would all agree with me. And after Tracy and James moved to Brantwood Park, Emma moved into her dream home with a welcome gift of dog treats and toys from Indie and Luna to Greta.

Dianne Wing will be profiling other wonderful neighbours in her ongoing column. Please let her know about other amazing folks in OOE who can be featured. (mdianne.wing@gmail.com).



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Summer Camp Registration open February 18, 2022

All programming and events are subject to change.

Register @ www.ottawaeastcag.org/programs-and-events



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- Yin Yoga
- Zumba

Children's Programs

- After-School Programs (Old Town Hall and Brantwood Field house)
- Summer Camp PDF posted on Friday February 4th, 2022
- Summer Camp Registration opens Friday February 18th, 2022

Thank you to our 2021-22
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A northern take on Peru's famed Nasca Lines



PETER CROAL PHOTO / FANSHARE (INSET)

Does Ottawa now have its own mysterious Nasca Lines (Inset) that are found on the plains of Peru? Although quite similar, these wonderful shapes captured in Peter Croal's photograph are borne from the creative skating spirits of Old Ottawa East residents just east of the McIlraith Bridge. Our community is fortunate to have a river that provides so much beauty, nature and recreation right on our doorsteps.

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ECLECTIC EVENTS



ANASTASIA KRACHKOVSKAYA PHOTO

**February 26th @
7:00pm (TV and
ZOOM)**

**DRESS UP,
DINE IN, AND
DANCE! THE
2022 VIRTUAL
VIENNESE
WINTER BALL.**

All of the glamour of the Viennese Winter Ball (pictured above at the Shaw Centre in 2020) is back this year in virtual format. And it's free to enjoy with your favourite waltz partner on a variety of digital platforms including on Rogers cable television, on Zoom and on Music and Beyond's YouTube channel.

There's no better way to dance the night away! Full information and registration at www.musicandbeyond.ca.

**February 25th & 26th
from 6:00pm - midnight;
February 27th from
6:00pm - 11:00 pm**

**FIRE & ICE
WINTER EXHIBIT,
BANK STREET BIA**

The Bank Street merchants invite you to escape the winter blues by immersing yourself in a fantasy world where fire meets ice. The Fire & Ice Winter Exhibit will dazzle you with its array of projected cinematic visuals, stunning sounds and exciting interactive lighting displays.

The Fire & Ice Winter Exhibit is a self-guided, family-friendly event that is free to the public.

For three evenings, Bank Street becomes the canvas for a collection of interactive artwork. Large-scale, interactive light based art and sound installations will fill Bank Street north of Cooper Street, making it come to life.



Each installation will be unique to the participant and will invite them to take part in a remarkable experience. Each stop on the light and sound tour will combine colourful digital imageries with captivating soundtracks to create a unique form of interactive storytelling. Bank Street's hidden spaces and buildings will turn into unique works of art through video walls, projection mapping and interactive installations.

The Fire & Ice Winter Exhibit promises to be an eclectic walkthrough experience like none other!

Until March 20th

**BOTANICA -
AN ONLINE
BOTANICAL ARTS
EXHIBITION,
OTTAWA
SOCIETY OF
BOTANICAL
ARTISTS.**

Have you had just about enough of the winter and the white stuff? Are you starting to crave the beauty and the colours of nature's gift of glorious flowers? If so, then take some time to visit the Ottawa Society of Botanical Artists' new website, including their glorious Botanica online exhibition of their members' handiwork.

Flowering trees, shrubs, and plants from the Arboretum, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, and the Ornamental Gardens of the Experimental Farm are the inspiration for the exhibition. Visit www.ottawasocietyofbotanicalartists.ca to see the exhibition.



Kristin Rothschild - Magnolia - Magnolia kobus - watercolour



Peg Duncan - Prickly Wild Rose - Rose acicularis - watercolour

February 19th - 21st

**HUNT FOR
HEARTS
SCAVENGER
HUNT,
UNIVERSITY OF
OTTAWA HEART
INSTITUTE**

February is Heart Month and this year, the University of Ottawa Heart Institute Foundation is hosting its second annual Scavenger Hunt in conjunction with Ottawa's Escape Manor!

Unlike last year's online event, this year's hunt allows participants to leave their homes and take place over the Family Day weekend!

Decipher clever clues and take your heart on an adventure right here in the Nation's Capital. Bundle up - it's time to get outside and Hunt for Hearts! With Hunt for Hearts, your body is in motion, your mind is active, and you can win prizes.

Participants must register in advance to qualify for prizes. Google Hunt for Hearts to register. You must have a smart phone with online access, a Facebook or social media account and QR scanner on your smartphone.

Cost to register is \$25 per participant. All registrants receive a Hunt for Hearts starter kit by email on February 18th at 11:00 am plus a promo code for a 20% discount to Escape Manor.

It is highly recommended that anyone age 16 or under be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the event.





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Whatever method you choose, it's a good idea to know your numbers!