

The Old Town Hall - 1895 - ???

Through the photos of James Ballantyne, we trace the history of the venerable building at the core of our community's past, and John Dance speculates on its future.

Pages 2 & 12



Cross-town cycling

Our community association lobbies to have the planned route traverse OOE and the Glebe.

Page 13

Our Neighbours

Old Ottawa East boasts many acclaimed visual artists. Louise Rachlis likes her art to have a sense of fun and place.

Page 29



With plans for 121 storeys of residential towers at the heart of Lansdowne park, we wonder...

JUST HOW DENSE IS TOO DENSE?



OSEG IMAGE ENHANCED

This enhanced rendering of the Lansdowne 2.0 development plan is dominated by three proposed residential towers of between 30 and 46 storeys which would be situated behind new north-side stands.

The Greenfield, Main and Hawthorne (GMH) Project:

Big improvements, but big problems still to be resolved

JOHN DANCE

This summer, the massive four-year Greenfield, Main and Hawthorne (GMH) road construction project will be well underway and it will yield many benefits. Yet the “final design” still has serious shortcomings in the view of many residents who attended a recent public consultation. The thrusts of the project are to separate the storm and sanitary sewers in the northern part of Old Ottawa East where

currently they are all in one pipe, to replace very old water mains, and to bring the roadway up to current standards, including making the major routes complete streets.

Three significant design improvements that have been added to the GMH project since the previous consultation a year ago are: both Colonel By Drive/Main Street and Greenfield Avenue/Concord Street intersections will have fully signalized pedestrian crossings and the hydro wires and their massive poles will disappear from the major roadways.

Continued on Page 11

From the James Ballantyne Photo Archives

Old Town Hall - 1895 to ????

BELOW: This undated photo of the Old Town Hall taken by James Ballantyne was one of many the photographer took between 1899 and 1916 looking either north or south down Main Street, nearby to the Ballantyne home located across the street from the building. An unidentified boy and girl stare out across the street, no doubt looking at Ballantyne and his camera "contraption". Note the dirt road surface of Main Street and the abundance of horse manure that must have kept road crossers of the day stepping lightly at all times!



ABOVE: Stonemasons and other construction workers pause for a photo as the solid foundation of the Old Town Hall is laid back in 1895. BELOW: The Town Hall played a major role in the life of the village of Ottawa East and, after 1907, in the amalgamated community of Ottawa East within the City of Ottawa. Here, local residents gather on election day to cast their ballots with directions for doing so posted on the tree.



JAMES BALLANTYNE PHOTO ARCHIVES

The above photos picture the Old Town Hall in 1915 (right) and in 1984 (left) following renovations. As described in the *History of Old Ottawa East*, the Old Town Hall has endured through three centuries: "It has been a baby clinic, dance hall, school, kindergarten, Carnegie Library, head office of a water company, Baptist Mission, election headquarters, police commission, recreation department, home of a theatre group and a jail. It has been used by practicing brass bands, local community groups, comedians and politicians; left vacant; caught fire and had its name changed; and above all else, it has endured." With a new community centre in the Deschêtelets Building on the drawing boards, questions have arisen about what the future holds for the Old Town Hall. See the story on the Old Town Hall and its possible future on page 12 of this issue.

Virtual consultations yield details on new OOE community centre

KRISTINE HOUDE

In late April, City of Ottawa staff held virtual consultations on the future Old Ottawa East (OOE) Community Centre, fire lane, and Forecourt Park at the Deschâtelets Building. Following an introduction from Councillor Shawn Menard, City staff presented concepts for these spaces and invited participants to submit questions in a chat box which were then answered by staff.

Proposed Community Centre

In 2020, the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE) acquired the existing Deschâtelets Building to house its French elementary school, Au Coeur d'Ottawa. The community centre will use 10-20% of the existing building, including a small kitchen for catering needs, multipurpose and meeting rooms and storage space.

An addition will be added to the north of Deschâtelets with access from Oblates Avenue to outdoor parking on the building's east side. The addition, complete with elevator, will house a new gymnasium and other community facilities, including a reception desk, staff room, weight and cardio/fitness rooms, lockers and unisex change rooms with private change cubicles equipped with floor to ceiling doors. The gymnasium will include a movable stage and be a shared space with the elementary school, with community access to the gym likely restricted to evenings and weekends.

The following are some takeaways from the consultations:

1. Facilities Management and Programming

City staff stated they will be responsible for all programming and rentals, like the approach used with the Sandy Hill Community Centre. This would be a marked departure from the current approach in Old Ottawa East where CAG is responsible for rentals and programming at Old Town Hall and Brantwood Park. City responsibility for programming also differs from the Glebe and Old Ottawa South, where the City owns, staffs and maintains the community centre facilities and rentals, while Glebe and Old Ottawa South community groups staff and manage all other programming.

2. Gymnasium, Fitness Rooms, Meeting Rooms

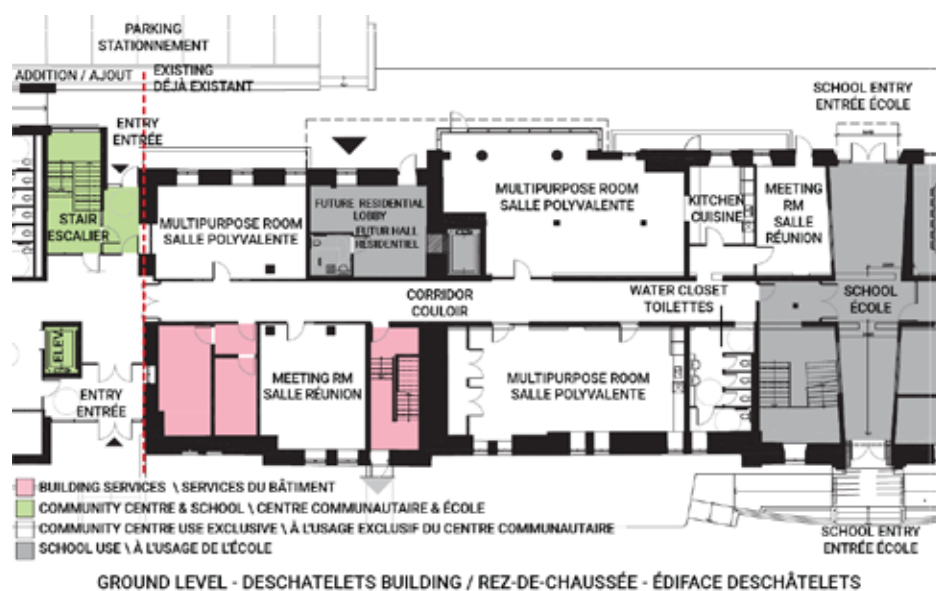
Gym plans appear to support a full-sized basketball/volleyball court, but no details were available regarding gym dimensions or the height of the ceiling, whether or not it would accommodate a regular-sized court, and if smaller courts could be set up crosswise to allow more than one activity - for example, badminton - to take place at the same time. The weight room and cardio/fitness room will be welcome additions to OOE, but absent from the plans is a separate room for yoga, Pilates, or mobility classes. The meeting rooms depicted in the concept also appear undersized for the needs of larger groups for town halls or other large-scale events, especially if social distancing continues to be a requirement.

3. Safety and Accessibility

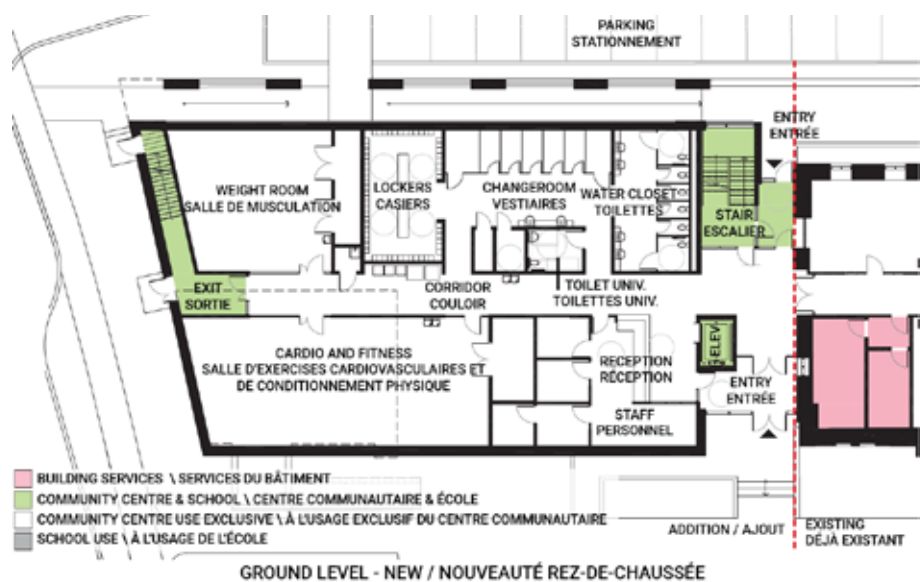
City staff could not specify what equipment would be included in the meeting and fitness rooms and whether fitness equipment and furniture could be selected with intention to meet the needs of all ages, as well as those with disabilities and mobility concerns. Some consultation participants expressed safety concerns if they were in distress while in a unisex change room closed cubicle. Staff responded that the reception desk would be located near the change rooms for staff to monitor traffic and respond promptly to emergencies. Participant suggestions to incorporate help/call buttons and enhanced safety features will be considered in future designs.

4. Retaining heritage design while respecting Indigenous Peoples impacted by the Oblates

For some, the Deschâtelets Building and heritage features need to be preserved, but for others, it is a



Above is a ground floor drawing of the proposed Old Ottawa East community centre; the floor plan of the adjoining gym is pictured below.



negative reminder of the prominent role the Oblates played in managing many residential schools across Canada. In his introduction, Councillor Menard spoke to the fact that these spaces are on uncaded land, a fact that should be considered in the design of this project. Greg Macdougall, present at these consultations, and who also penned an editorial on this topic in the October 2021 issue of *The Mainstreeter*, encouraged the City, school, and community to engage and to centre Oblates-impacted Indigenous peoples in decision-making on meaningful commemoration for these sites. Staff agreed some form of commemoration is needed and is looking to the community for further guidance.

Proposed Forecourt Park and Fire Lane

As OOE residents wait a second summer for work on the Grande Allée Park to begin, City staff presented three options for the fire lane, and a Forecourt Park concept they say is based on a 2015 in-person consultation and recent Fall 2021 online survey asking respondents to rank park features. Staff cautioned that work on the Forecourt Park and fire lane are years away, with final plans and timelines dependent on Regional's plans for its surrounding residential spaces and construction completion of the Deschâtelets Building.

City staff provided minimal details on the Forecourt Park, stating "unique equipment and treatments" were being proposed, i.e., a water fountain or splash pad. There are no plans to fence in the park, staff opting instead for a natural separation between future residences and the site. Public feedback included multiple questions and opposing opinions on park features which ranged from disappointment from 2015 consultation participants that their input was not better reflected in the concept to requests from community and Au Coeur parents for

fenced-in space and play structures and an open design for outdoor gatherings and special events. Also missing in the concept is dedicated space in the Forecourt Park for outdoor programming, with City staff recommending use of nearby parks to support these activities.

For the fire lane, option 1 (gravel) would be equipped with chained gates for access solely by fire and emergency vehicles. Option 2 (paved) would allow shared use by emergency and fire, with weekday access by school buses for student drop off and pick-up. Option 3 would allow access to any vehicle for drop-off at the front of the building. Opinions were once again split during the consultation process, with some preferring the space-saving and greenspace preserving design of option 1, and others preferring concept 2 or 3 to reduce peak hour street congestion and enable safer drop-offs.



With over 1,000 new residents moving to OOE in recent years, and little opportunity to assess changing community needs as new developments are added to Greystone Village, further consultation is clearly needed on these spaces destined to become a central hub for OOE. The proposed concepts can be viewed at Engage Ottawa - Old Ottawa East Community Centre and Forecourt Park Consultation (OOECC). Visit Engage Ottawa in June to view the proposed concepts, to see updates from the City, or to email feedback to OOECC-CCVOE@ottawa.ca. Residents are also encouraged to share your comments with Councillor Menard and the Old Ottawa East Community Association to help inform their recommendations to the City on future plans.

THE MAINSTREETER'S SPECIAL REPORT...

Will a Lansdowne 1.0 redux be a better deal for taxpayers?

ALEXANDRA GRUCA-MACAULAY

Why the sudden rush? That question is on the minds of many in response to the Lansdowne Partnership Sustainability Plan and Implementation Report that sought approval from City Council on June 8th as *The Mainstreeter* was going to press. The controversial plan (known as "Lansdowne 2.0") would see the City embarking on a \$332.6 million reconstruction project at Lansdowne Park, involving the redevelopment of the north side stadium stands, the construction of a new underground event centre, as well as a retail podium. To help fund the project, the development would add 59,000 square feet of retail space, and 1200 residential units situated within three residential towers ranging between 30 and 46 storeys.

The City's financial strategy includes a scheme to channel property taxes from the new retail and residential development towards construction debt pay-down. Given the complexity of the financial arrangements, the number of immediate concerns that Lansdowne 2.0 has already raised, the absence of prior consultation, and the fact that this Council is in its "final days" in office, Councillor Shawn Menard - the ward councillor for Lansdowne - has asked that Council defer decision-making on Lansdowne 2.0 until a robust public consultation on the proposal has been allowed to take place.

The Lansdowne problem of financial viability – the City has received \$0.0 return on investment to date

In 2012, a plan to revitalize Lansdowne was approved by Council. The Lansdowne project was anticipated to become a showpiece for public/private development partnerships where a group of private developers - under the umbrella of the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG) - would partner with the City to bring financial health and community vibrancy to Lansdowne. The City, at a cost of \$166.0 million, redeveloped the football stadium, especially the south-side stands, and made a number of improvements to the Civic Centre. OSEG committed to its ownership of the Ottawa Redblacks CFL team, to the maintenance of the stadium and the Civic Centre and to managing the construction and operations of new retail space as well as two new residential condominium towers.

The City still owns the entire 40-acre Lansdowne site, but, under the partnership agreement, leases portions of it to OSEG. Within this leasing arrangement, OSEG has responsibility for the cost of maintenance of the leased facilities, and each of the City and OSEG were to share in the revenues that were expected to be generated by the operations of the facilities within the partnership. These revenues, under what is called the "waterfall agreement," were to be divided between the partners after meeting a series of

financial tests. From the start, the financial arrangement fell short of expectations – to date, the City has received \$0.0 return on its investment under the waterfall, and OSEG has claimed that it has needed to invest more than it anticipated under its obligation to maintain the facilities. The pandemic amplified the financial strain on the partnership, and, in July 2021, Council directed City staff to work with OSEG and with community stakeholders to develop a plan to bring the City/OSEG partnership into financial viability.

Sounding board - no consultation before release of plan

On December 9, 2020, Council directed City staff to create a group of stakeholders - the Sounding Board - that would include representatives from neighbouring community associations, including Old Ottawa East's, and to consult and engage with the group as plans for Lansdowne were developed. Although the Sounding Board was formed, City staff and OSEG moved planning behind closed doors, and despite regular requests for meetings and updates from Sounding Board representatives, City staff did not consult during the course of drawing up plans for Lansdowne 2.0. Instead, after almost a year of silence, the City released its 102-page report one week before tabling it with the City's Financial and Economic Development Committee (FEDCO) for approval. When questioned why the Lansdowne 2.0 report was tabled prior to any consultation with Sounding Board community representatives, Stephen Willis, the city's General Manager, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development, cited protracted confidential negotiations with OSEG and said that the City had "run out of time."

In response to the exceptionally short time frame to digest the implications for what would be the City's third largest debt undertaking after phases 1 and 2 of the LRT, Councillor Menard asked at the May 6th meeting of FEDCO whether one of the committee members would read in a motion that essentially would



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Viewed from across the Rideau Canal, Lansdowne's showpiece, the storied Aberdeen Pavillion, would be engulfed by three surrounding massive residential towers if Lansdowne 2.0 is approved by City Council.

have seen the report's recommendations "received" rather than "approved" and would have mandated the City to begin robust public consultation prior to making any decisions. No member of FEDCO was willing to read the motion in, and the chair, Mayor Watson, refused to allow Councillor Menard to read out the contents of the motion. FEDCO approved the report, and it is now tabled for City Council's June 8th meeting.

The Lansdowne 2.0 Event Centre and Stadium—projected losses

The Lansdowne 2.0 report, while

observing that the north stands and Civic Centre are structurally sound, claims at page 79 that without a redeveloped stadium and a new events centre, "it will be extremely difficult for the partnership to meet its...financial sustainability requirements." This claim seems to rest on the view that although functional, the stadium and event centre are not sufficiently up to date "to impart an exciting user experience and to attract new visitors to the site." As a result, the report has asked Council: to approve the recommended business model and

Continued on Page 5

Financing Lansdowne 2.0: What's a "Property Tax Uplift"?

Part of the 40-year debt repayment plan for Lansdowne 2.0 involves taking \$129.4 million from "property tax uplift." While "property tax uplift" seems to be a term coined by the City for this proposal, the financial mechanism that is described is an inverted form of what is commonly known as Tax Increment Financing (TIF). TIF is used in cases where a city raises debt in order to provide financial incentives to entice private developers to come and develop depressed, low-value land with a hope of transforming the land into a future viable neighbourhood.

Under TIF, property taxes for the land prior to development are "frozen" and continue to be collected towards the city's revenues. But, the "increment" in property taxes that comes from the land's development is captured to repay the city's debt. Since property taxes are diverted, TIF normally needs to pass a "but for" test: "but for" the financial incentives, the land in question could not be developed.

Lansdowne 2.0 turns the TIF model upside down: where TIF freezes a "worthless" land tax base at a project's commencement, "property tax uplift" - not used anywhere else in Ottawa - would first skim the property tax "value cream" from the attractive prime high-value land at Lansdowne. This diversion of taxes means that all the other Ottawa taxpayers, but not the 2,400 new Lansdowne residents, would shoulder the bulk of the costs for municipal services and projects. "The proposed use of property tax revenue to provide a direct revenue stream is unusual and could establish an undesired precedent." (Office of the Auditor General: 2009 Audit Of The Lansdowne Park Proposal Process)

...ON THE LANSDOWNE 2.0 PROPOSAL



If approved, the Lansdowne 2.0 plan would be built in stages; the 5,500 seat Event Centre would be constructed first with completion in October 2024, followed by the new north side stands finished in 2027, and the residential towers, which would begin housing residents in 2027 and be fully built by 2029.

financial funding strategy that would see the construction of the new event centre and redevelopment of the north side stands; and to establish budget authority for the cost of construction and preliminary works in an amount of \$332.6 million.

While the existing Civic Centre seats 9,862, the new event centre would have a reduced seating capacity of 5,500, and questions have been raised as to whether a smaller event centre is what Ottawa's growing population needs. This new event centre would be relocated under the west end of the stadium's field, beneath the grassy berm where today people enjoy sitting in the summer and sledding in the winter. The sunken roof of the event centre would be "grassy" but would not be able to support the weight of people on it, resulting in the removal of 58,000 square feet of useable park greenspace from Lansdowne.

The Lansdowne 2.0 business and financial plan is dense, but at its heart is the claim that a new event centre and north stands are necessary for a viable partnership. Although touted as critical to financial sustainability, the stadium and new event centre - somewhat alarmingly - are projected to lose \$84.0 million over the life of the partnership. When questioned about this expected loss (\$124.0 million when 67's hockey is included) during the May 6th FEDCO meeting, the City's Deputy Treasurer, Isabelle Jasmin, replied that while these components will "not be as profitable" as some of the others, the proposal must be understood as a complete package where the anticipated profitability of the Redblacks, and especially of the new retail operations would offset the event centre/stadium operating losses.

Lansdowne 2.0: Lansdowne 1.0 on a larger scale

As the City would be responsible for the entire cost of construction of the event centre and north stands, OSEG presented a business case for offsetting the City's costs of construction and debt servicing. To this end, the report proposes that a new 100,000 square foot retail podium be constructed above the north side stands to replace the existing retail space located there. At a cost of \$40.0 million, the retail podium would increase the retail space by 59,000 square feet. The City would fund 25% of the cost of the construction of the retail podium directly and would guarantee OSEG's loan for the remaining 75%. The City therefore would take on 100% of the risk of the construction debt for the retail podium, and some have raised the question of whether the City's guarantee of OSEG's loan might be deemed a form of subsidy to a private developer.

OSEG's business plan has reasoned that a considerable increase in retail needs a commensurate infusion of shoppers, which would be provided through the construction of 1200 residential units above the retail podium - confirmed by City staff to involve 3 varying height residential towers that would range between 30 and 46 storeys. Although the plan claims that 10% of the new residential units will be "affordable," Mr. Willis confirmed that the term "affordable" should be understood as something like "moderately affordable," more akin to what might be affordable to someone who is "on a nurse's salary." As the City would continue to own the land below the podium and towers, it plans to sell "air rights" for the private residential development. In addition, under what the City has termed "property tax uplift," the City would divert 90% of the property taxes from the new retail and residential development towards the repayment of its anticipated \$239.0 million 40-year term

project debt.

The public realm: "wish list" but no funding

The spaces at Lansdowne that are not subject to the City/OSEG leasing arrangements, such as the Aberdeen Pavilion and Square, the Horticulture Building, and the Great Lawn, are discussed in the report, but seem not to play an actual role in the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal. The report revisits a number of previously suggested improvements that have accumulated over the years

but makes no commitment towards the commencement of their implementation. The report relegates the funding of needed public realm improvements to a future hope of budgetary capital allocations. Indeed, the report seems unaware of the irony that one of the effects of its proposed "property tax uplift" financing scheme would be to divert municipal revenues away from Ottawa city park projects, including Lansdowne's public spaces.

Implications for Ottawa residents: what are the risks?

The Lansdowne 2.0 proposal espouses a view that a successful future would require "more of the same" but, to be financially sustainable this "more" needs to be a "lot more" - more retail space and especially more people. The City staff report asks that Council approve the financial and business plan, and delegate authority to the City Manager to renegotiate the partnership with OSEG on the basis of the plan's financial strategy. The main components would then be locked in without the benefit of public consultation, or even sufficient time to allow most citizens the opportunity to begin to understand the ramifications of the proposal.

A good number of issues have been raised since the plan's release, including financial concerns over the viability of the Redblacks for the full 40-year life of the debt repayment, and particularly, since so much of the financial success of the plan depends upon the retail operations, the risk level that underlies any assumptions around retail operations at a time when the retail sector is moving through a

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The rectangle in the image above shows how much parkland will be eliminated from Lansdowne Park if the proposed event centre is approved. The berm that is our community's sliding hill in the winter would be shifted substantially to the east.

Roof design of proposed event centre removes parkland

The impact of the proposed event centre on parkland is profound. The event centre would eat up about a football-field worth of existing parkland.

What's worse is that the new Official Plan requires a hectare of parkland for every 300 dwelling units. That would mean that the new towers should generate four hectares of new parkland, yet none is proposed. In football-field terms, four hectares are about the size of five Canadian football fields.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One-sided coverage of the occupation

I am shocked by the one-sided articles and letters about the “ugly occupation” in the pages of the April 2022 issue of *The Mainstreeter*. I have an opposite view informed by several visits to the Freedom Convoy, many conversations with the “occupiers,” and my research.

The three-week Wellington street gathering was a respectful, safe, generous and joyful family-friendly demonstration. The suffering and concerns of the demonstrators are real and justified. The quantified excess of mortality from all causes of young men in western provinces is significant and is an indicator of massive structural harm. The COVID measures and economic consequences caused immense suffering.

The government’s campaign to coerce individuals to get injected is a violation of bodily integrity and of the freedom to refuse a medical intervention. The war measures response was disproportionate and unnecessary. The Convoy inconveniences, during a slow time of societal activity, were a small matter compared to the magnitude of the suffering and violations of fundamental rights.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The mainstream media reports were incomprehensibly contrary to everything that I directly witnessed. I wish I shared the views of

many of my neighbours on this question, but I do not, and I feel compelled to let you know.

*Denis Rancourt,
Simcoe Street*



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Cash isn't the problem

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, a majority of businesses declined to use cash, fearing the worst. A great many promoted a “cashless, contactless, touchless” approach as if it was the best thing since sliced bread. This despite the fact that neither politicians nor medical professionals have said that taking cash is dangerous. The widespread and growing reluctance to use cash in daily local transactions made me write this letter.

Has anyone wondered about the homeless and disadvantaged people among us who have no modern method of payment and have no other choice but to use cash?

When COVID-19 began, I met a homeless person seeking food outside of a Tim Horton's, which was declining cash at the time. He said to me: “I am hungry and want to eat something and they have bagels – can you please help me?” I asked how I could help, and he requested a Timmy's gift card, which I purchased for him. He proceeded to get his bagels. He told me: “Nobody cares for people like us, they think it's good to not take cash.” There was another gentleman there asking for help. At his request, I gave him cash and he went to a Quickie outlet and got a sandwich and coffee. He said to me: “You know, I am so grateful to this store for taking cash, otherwise I would be starving.”

That's when I said to myself that I needed to take the time to express sincere appreciation to those businesses that continue to take cash payments, particularly the corner and convenience stores.

I recently said thanks to a local store cashier for taking cash and for doing the right thing and making a difference. The cashier smiled and said she appreciated my thanks. If there is a problem, it is not cash, it's we as humans for creating a problem when none existed.

*Anant Nagpur,
Glen Avenue*

THE MAINSTREETER

www.Mainstreeter.ca

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

Old Town Hall: 613.627.0062

OPINION

L'Atelier d'innovation sociale Mauril-Bélanger Social Innovation Workshop

Social Innovation - what does it mean?

AMÉLIE NEAULT

It would come as no surprise to me that most people who read the phrase “social innovation” don’t know what it means.

We often associate the word “innovation” with big tech companies revolutionizing the world (not necessarily for the better), but the goal of the Mauril-Bélanger Social Innovation Workshop (the “Atelier”) is altogether different.

So what then is a social innovation? Simply put, those of us at the Atelier want to help change our community for the better.

Our society is facing immense challenges, such as climate change and increasing socioeconomic inequalities among the population. These and other factors breed a feeling of uncertainty, such that we don’t always know the best starting point to tackle.

For us, in order to solve issues, the concept of social justice cannot be disassociated from social innovation. Social justice comes from the idea that applying a band-aid solution

to a problem is a temporary fix at best. We need to address the root of the problem. To do so, we must question the current models and systems in place to render them more democratic and better suited to self-organisation for the people using and benefiting from them. These models and systems have to be inclusive of voices left aside too often in the past and they have to be economically just and viable for all. At the Atelier, we work towards models and systems designed for the collective good of our community.

The people who come to the Atelier are concerned citizens and community members addressing issues that they experience on a personal level. In Old Ottawa East, through the Building Bridges project (Fall 2020), we invited residents and local organizations such as The Mainstreeter to collaborate with us on different brainstorming sessions. The goal was to reflect on the transformation of this community in order to make it more healthy, just and sustainable. For example, at the Atelier, we work with individuals

and organizations advocating for affordable innovative housing alternatives.

Given the Atelier’s close ties with the Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation at Saint Paul University, we are able to connect Francophone and Anglophone communities to establish communications and collaboration between both that is essential for a stronger community.

To conclude, the Atelier is a place where we spark change for a more resilient society. We advocate for transformative and systemic change where knowledge and resources such as our workspace and meeting rooms are shared among our members and the community. In a bilingual environment, we help engaged individuals, students, members of the community, professors, researchers and social organizations to foster connections and collaboration. If you want to join us, our doors are wide open to social innovation ideas and projects to put in place in the community.

L'innovation sociale, qu'est que cela veut dire?

Je ne serais pas surpris que la plupart des gens qui lisent l'expression "innovation sociale" ne sachent pas ce qu'elle signifie.

Nous associons souvent le terme innovation aux grandes entreprises technologiques qui révolutionnent le monde (bien souvent plus à tort qu'à notre avantage malheureusement), mais l'objectif de l'Atelier d'innovation sociale Mauril-Bélanger est différent.

Qu'est-ce qu'une innovation sociale? Sans fausse modestie, l'Atelier veut contribuer à améliorer notre communauté pour le mieux de tous et toutes.

Notre société est confrontée à d'immenses défis, tels que les changements climatiques et l'accroissement des inégalités socio-économiques au sein de la population. Ces facteurs, ainsi que d'autres, engendrent un sentiment d'incertitude écrasant, de sorte que nous ne savons pas toujours quel est le meilleur point de départ à aborder.

Pour nous, afin de résoudre ces enjeux, le concept de justice sociale est indissociable de celui de l'innovation sociale.

Sous la perspective de la justice sociale, mettre un simple pansement sur un problème est une solution temporaire dans le meilleur des cas. Il faut s'attaquer à la racine du

problème. Il y a un ensemble de choses à penser et à réaliser. Il faut remettre en question les modèles et systèmes actuels en place pour les rendre plus démocratiques et auto-gérés par les personnes qui les utilisent et qui en bénéficient. Ces modèles et systèmes doivent inclure les voix laissées de côté trop souvent dans le passé et être économiquement justes et viables pour tous et toutes. Nous voulons développer des modèles et des systèmes visant le bien collectif de notre communauté.

Les personnes venant à l'Atelier sont des citoyennes concernées et des membres de la communauté désirant résoudre des problèmes souvent vécus à un niveau personnel. Par le passé, dans le Vieux Ottawa Est, dans le cadre du projet Construire des ponts (automne 2020), nous avons invité des résidentes et des organisations locales telles que le Mainstreeter à participer à différentes sessions d'idéations. L'objectif était de réfléchir à la façon dont nous devrions transformer le quartier pour le rendre plus sain, juste et durable. Par exemple, à l'Atelier, nous travaillons avec des personnes et des organisations qui préconisent des solutions innovantes et alternatives en matière de logement abordable.

De plus, grâce à nos liens étroits avec l'École d'innovation sociale

Élisabeth-Bruyère, faisant partie de l'Université Saint-Paul, nous lions les communautés francophones et anglophones, car nous croyons qu'un canal de communication et de collaboration entre les deux est essentiel pour renforcer la communauté.

Pour conclure, l'Atelier est un lieu où nous propulsons un changement pour une société plus résiliente. Nous défendons un changement transformateur et systémique, où les connaissances et les ressources telles que notre espace pour travailler et se rencontrer sont partagées entre nos membres et notre communauté. Dans un environnement bilingue, nous aidons des personnes engagées, composées d'étudiantes, d'individues de la communauté, de professeuses, de chercheuses et d'organisations sociales, pour engendrer des connexions et des collaborations. Si vous voulez vous joindre à nous, nos portes sont grandes ouvertes aux nouvelles idées et aux projets d'innovation sociale à mettre en place dans le quartier.

[Amélie Neault est la nouvelle coordonnatrice à l'administration de l'Atelier d'innovation sociale Mauril-Bélanger.]

The Mainstreeter's Theresa Ann Wallace & Lori Gandy

Two OOE residents short-listed for 2022 National Capital Writing Awards

MAINSTREETER STAFF

In our August 2020 issue, *The Mainstreeter's* reporter Lori Gandy interviewed Old Ottawa East resident Theresa Ann Wallace following the latter's selection as the winner of the 2020 National Capital Writing Competition (short story category) presented by the National Capital Region (NCR) branch of the Canadian Authors Association (CAA).

Today, both Gandy, herself an Old Ottawa East resident, and Wallace, who like Gandy regularly contributes articles to *The Mainstreeter*, find themselves short-listed for the 2022 National Capital Writing Competition - Gandy in the poetry category for her poem, *Afternoon Tea*, and Wallace, for her latest short story, *Aftermath*.

Both Gandy and Wallace, and five other finalists in each of the poetry and short story categories, will learn of the award winners on Tuesday, June 14th at the NCR Awards Night ceremony on ZOOM. Responsibility for selection of the short-listed finalists and the ultimate award winners in both categories rests

with the distinguished judges of this year's competition, Heather O'Neill and Lorna Crozier.

O'Neill is a novelist, short-story writer and essayist. Her most recent bestselling novel, *The Lonely Hearts Hotel*, won the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and was long-listed for the Women's Prize for Fiction and CBC's Canada Reads. Her previous work, which includes *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, *The Girl Who Was Saturday Night* and *Daydreams of Angels*, has been shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, the Orange Prize for Fiction and the Scotiabank Giller Prize two years in a row.

Crozier's books have received numerous national awards, including the Governor-General's Award for Poetry. The Globe and Mail declared *The Book of Marvels: A Compendium of Everyday Things* one of its Top 100 Books of the Year, and Amazon chose her memoir as one of the 100 books you should read in your lifetime. A Professor Emerita at the University of Victoria, Crozier's poetry has been translated into several languages, on every continent except

Antarctica. Her book, *What the Soul Doesn't Want*, was nominated for the 2017 Governor General's Award for Poetry.

When contacted by *The Mainstreeter*, Wallace was particularly pleased that her fellow volunteer writer with the community newspaper had earned a selection as a first-time finalist in the NCR poetry competition.

"It's wonderful that *The Mainstreeter's* reporter and copy editor Lori Gandy has been shortlisted in a writing contest judged by Lorna Crozier, one of this country's best-loved poets. To know that such a fantastic poet has read your work, and given it the thumbs up, is a boost for Lori," said Wallace. Gandy, who admitted to being "quite chuffed" to have been short-listed, likewise referred to Crozier as her "favourite living poet."

On behalf of all of the volunteers of *The Mainstreeter*, we extend congratulations to both of our tremendous volunteer writers and wish them well on June 14th. We will have further coverage of the competition in our August issue.



ROSS DANCE PHOTO

Theresa Ann Wallace



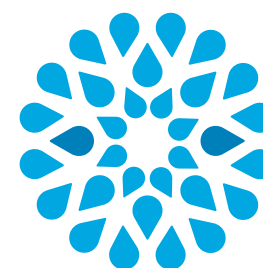
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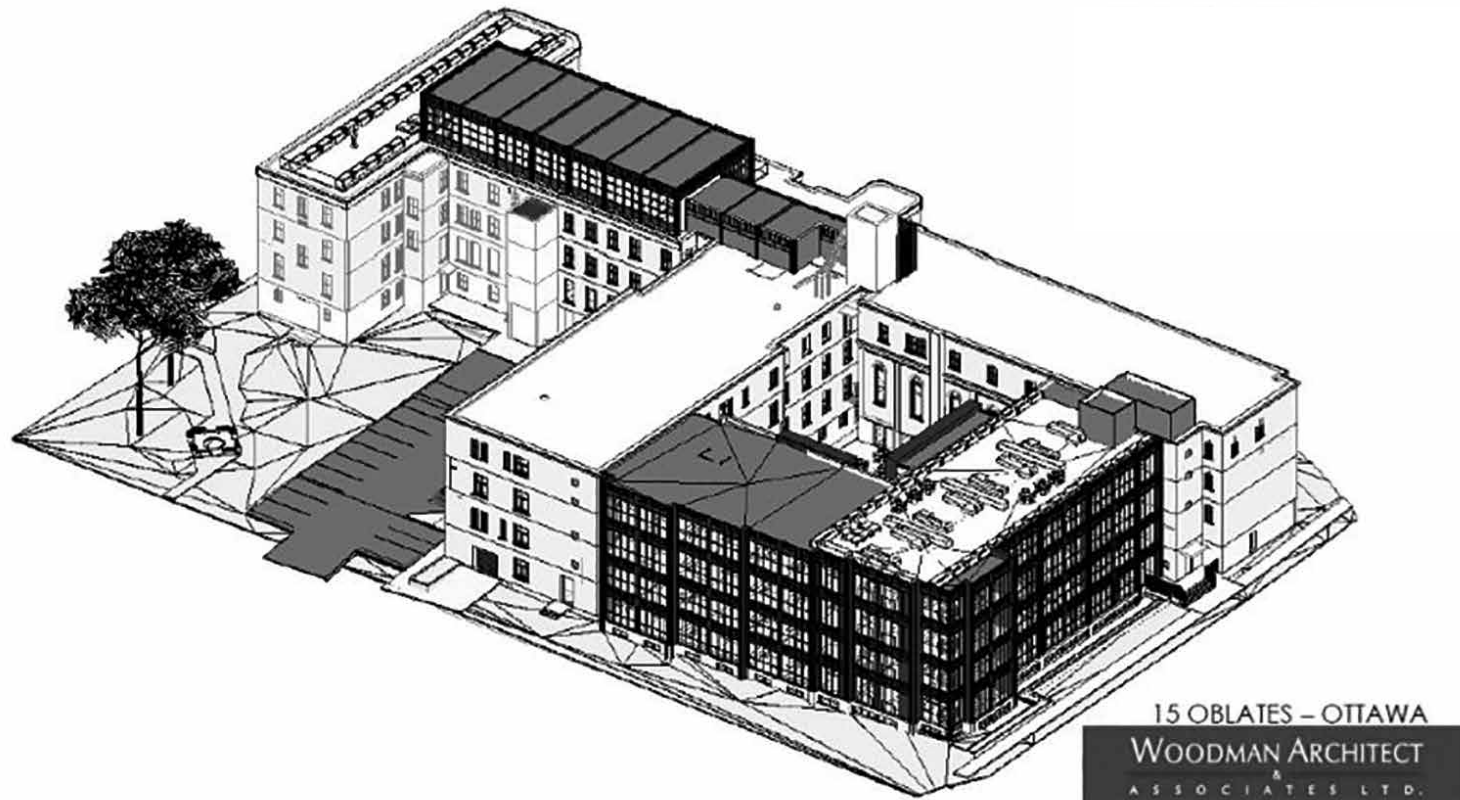
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SUPPLIED IMAGE

The proposed adaptive reuse of the Sisters Convent at 15 des Oblats Avenue would include an addition at the northwest (four-storey black section at lower right of image), a new public park at the northeast, and a public pathway between the building and The Corners on Main condo to the west.

Development plans for the Sisters Convent draw mixed support and concerns from the community during consultations

JOHN DANCE

As previously reported in *The Mainstreeter*, partners Smart Living Properties (Ottawa) and Forum Equity Partners (Toronto) propose to refurbish the four-storey Sisters convent brick building at 15 des Oblats Avenue just to the east of the Corners on Main condos and create 284 dwelling units, the large majority of which would be fully furnished “studio” rental units.

A public Zoom meeting on the proposed development of the Sisters convent is scheduled for Monday evening, June 28th between 7:00 and 9:00 pm.

The plans for the convent have evolved as the developers have discussed them with City staff, Councillor Shawn Menard and community association representatives. Although the current proposal has substantially fewer units than what was originally proposed, there remain a number of objections, particularly from residents who live in The Corners on Main, the two-building condominium between des Oblats and Springhurst Avenue.

Key concerns of some Corners residents relate to parking, the rooftop terraces on the west and southeast, the proposed public walkway between Corners and 15 des Oblats, density, unit mix, affordability, location of the Mary statue parkette, proximity of Corners to the western face of the proposed addition and worries about the new development becoming primarily a student residence.

The Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) planning committee sees a number of positives within the proposal, notably: the adaptive

reuse of the Sisters convent rather than demolishing it; not building to the maximum heights allowed by current zoning; not seeking rezoning pertaining to height limitations; creating a new city park with retention of the Mary statue; protection of two large silver maple trees on the property; and the creation of the public pathway, consistent with the Old Ottawa East (OOE) community design plan.

One key committee concern is the number of proposed units. The OOE Secondary Plan set a target of 1,000 dwelling units for the Sisters/Oblates/Saint Paul University lands. Units built and approved to date already exceed this number, and committee members question just how many more can be approved, given traffic limitations of Main Street, des Oblats, Springhurst and other residential streets.

The development was discussed at the last two monthly meetings of the OOECA Board and there was a diversity of opinions. Although concerns were raised about the number of students who may live in the new development, others were pleased to see the availability of affordable housing and the potential of a younger demographic within OOE. As defined by the City, “affordable housing” means a low- or moderate-income household pays no more than 30 percent of its gross annual income on accommodation.

Councillor Shawn Menard specifically seeks some “deeply affordable” housing benefits from the development and a wider diversity of unit types. In a letter to the developers, he also noted, “The nascent community of Greystone is already experiencing issues relating to parking and

traffic. This area already has very limited spots, which has led to conflict with the staff at the Bruyère facility and residents leaving vehicles for extended periods in short-term parking. A reduction of parking spots for the proposed development at 15 Oblats aligns with the goal of creating a car-light community, but we want to ensure that we won’t see an increase in issues with on-street parking,

community centre may add additional people and additional car traffic to the very narrow streets.”

Further details regarding the June 28th consultation will be noted on OOE social media and on the OOECA website.

John Dance is chair of the OOECA planning committee.

People's Park



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CITY OF OTTAWA IMAGE

Four years ago, the City's Main Street Safety Audit described the risks to safety at the southwest corner of Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue as "extreme" but the new design for the corner still provides no additional space for pedestrians and cyclists.

The GMH Project:

Design plans offer no fix for southwest corner of Main and Hawthorne

Continued from Page 1

These improvements have been long sought by the Old Ottawa East (OOE) Community Association and ones that Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard spearheaded.

However, the final design for the massive GMH project fails to render the southwest corner of Main and Hawthorne safe for pedestrians and cyclists. Minor changes have been proposed for the corner, including relocating the pole that reduces the constrained pedestrian space. Nevertheless, the space from the corner of the restaurant to the curb is actually less than the width of the adjoining sidewalks of Main and Hawthorne.

"As someone who does daycare pick-up with three children aged seven and under (and sometimes our puppy!), this corner is terrifying," OOE resident Brenda Duke commented on the OOE Grapevine Facebook site. "In fact, if we aren't in a rush, we avoid it altogether as we've had a

close call there once before."

Four years ago, the City's Main Street Safety Audit deemed the risks to safety of the corner to be "extreme" yet the new design doesn't deal with the fundamental problem of pedestrians and cyclists needing more space. In the intervening period, the Province of Ontario bought the private lands on the opposite side of Hawthorne.

Residents argue that the City should negotiate with the province to acquire a metre or two of this land so that the roadway could be correspondingly shifted to create space for pedestrians and cyclists. When asked why this wasn't being done, City staff responded there isn't enough time to negotiate a land deal with the province.

A related problem with the new design is that it still does not provide for dedicated southbound cycling lanes on Main Street between Harvey and Graham streets, whereas the rest of Main Street will have cycling lanes at the end of construction. City staff responded, "[T]

he Main Street Reconstruction project limits do not extend south of Hawthorne Avenue,[so] Transportation Planning has initiated a separate review to assess the feasibility of adding a southbound cycling facility to connect with Graham Avenue."

Like the situation with the dangerous southwest corner of Main and Hawthorne, if the City simply acquired a metre or so of provincial land then a southbound cycling track could be built from Harvey to Hawthorne, a section of the roadway within the defined project limits.

In the new plan, the protected bike lanes for southbound cyclists on Main Street north of Greenfield and on Greenfield east of Concord have disappeared (they'll simply be "lined" lanes), a development that will not be welcomed by cyclists. Also, residents in the northern part of Old Ottawa East are concerned about the lengthy detours that are proposed during construction. And residents have asked why there won't be a left turn from Main onto Colonel By now

that the intersection is going to be fully signalized.

Work on the project began last year and this summer it will ramp up with a focus on Hawthorne between Colonel By and Main; Colonel By and Echo just south of Hawthorne; and Old Greenfield and the northern end of Greenfield. The signalized crossing of Colonel By at Main will also be finished this summer.

Next year will see the most intense construction with Main north of Hawthorne, Concord North, most of Greenfield, and Echo between Main and Concord being reconstructed. In 2024, work on Harvey west of Main and Echo south of Main will complete the project.

For more details on the GMH Project, go to: <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/greenfield-avenue-main-street-hawthorne-avenue-et-al-reconstruction-project>.

Following the news

Community updates in brief

JOHN DANCE

Colonel By Drive will not be closed this summer for pedestrians and cyclists. The rehabilitation work on CBD's massive stone wall will be completed by the end of June.

For the National Capital Commission, it was time to choose sides

Queen Elizabeth Driveway (QED), rather than Colonel By Drive, will be this year's Rideau Canal parkway for pedestrians and cyclists. Motorized use of the QED will be banned 24 hours a day between Fifth Avenue and Somerset Street during most of the summer and on fall weekends.

The decision taken by the National Capital Commission (NCC) will be welcomed by those who were concerned that the NCC was going to close Colonel By Drive (CBD), a route that this summer will become increasingly important to Old Ottawa East residents because of the road construction in the northern part of the community. The Parkways for People advocacy group had argued for the closure of CBD to vehicular traffic, as had MP Yasir Naqvi, but both acknowledged that the choice between CBD and QED would be made by the NCC.

"The NCC will study the results of the pilot [closure of QED] at the end of the season," says NCC spokesperson Dominique Huras. "This evaluation will help inform future programming. The NCC will work with its partners to review the impacts of the current Lansdowne 2.0 proposal on NCC Lands." The challenge to the operations of Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group at Lansdowne Park is that with the partial closure of QED motorists will not be able to access the park's eastern entrance from southbound QED.

For many years, CBD was the Canal parkway closed for Sunday "active" use in the summer. But now, QED may be the NCC's preferred active parkway. During the pandemic, QED had twice the pedestrian/cyclist daily usage that CBD had when they were closed. Conversely, CBD has much more motorized traffic than QED.

In other NCC news, Huras reports that the rehabilitation and landscaping of the CBD retaining wall, locally dubbed the Great Wall of Old Ottawa East, should be completed at the end of June.

Brantwood tennis courts work begins, but don't hold your breath

In May, the initial soil testing work for the Brantwood tennis courts replacement project was conducted, but the project is going to take longer and cost more than initially thought.

The saga began in 2019 when cracks in the courts' surfaces were repaired but the work was unsatisfactory. According to the City's lifecycle replacement criteria, the courts will not qualify for a resurfacing or replacement based on their condition for several more years, with no guarantees on the timeframe.

To expedite replacement, Councillor Shawn Menard committed \$305,000 from Capital Ward's development-generated "cash-in-lieu of parkland funding" to pay for the project that was to have been completed this spring.

However, because of the backlog of projects in the system, City staff have delayed the schedule until the end of the summer. "There are many factors behind the delay including less workers because of COVID, increased construction demand, a shortage of materials and other supply chain issues" reports Ariela Summit, advisor to Councillor Menard.

In April, the Councillor was informed that the project was over budget by \$140,000. According to City staff, the change in cost estimate is mostly due to the high tender results they are receiving of late, the premium cost associated with the disposal of contaminated soils and concerns over whether the existing sub base can be used or else require a full replacement.

The only bright side to the delay in actual construction is that the courts will be open - albeit cracked - during the summer period when Brantwood courts - the only public courts in Old Ottawa East - are busiest.

Phase 3 Greystone Village update is one short story, and one storey short

The Regional Group continues to refine its Greystone Village "Phase 3" plans for the two mid-rise residential buildings to the south and east of the Deschâtelets Building. One change is that the building to the south of Deschâtelets will have one fewer storey in order to make the building "more efficient."

The loss of a storey will reduce the number of units but the specific number has not yet been determined, says Evan Garfinkel, Regional's Manager of Land Development. Once the refinements have been completed, Regional will resubmit their site plan control documents to the City. Approval may take as long as a year.

What new tricks are in store for the Old Town Hall?

What should become of Old Town Hall once Old Ottawa East's new community centre opens in Greystone Village? Built in 1895 and one of the most significant heritage structures in Old Ottawa East (OOE), its future is not clear.

The building has served as the community centre for decades but, despite its heritage features and numerous upgrades, it does not meet accessibility standards, it's energy inefficient and its various rooms limit the range of activities that can be hosted.

The building has no elevator or lift to the second floor, it has limited washroom facilities, and the capacity of the rooms would be classified as small-medium spaces. According to regular users, the playground and splash pad are in serious need of a refresh and the building itself requires new windows, some roof work, and some internal updating of kitchen facilities and other areas.

Yet ... some see it as a great location and building for daycare, a museum or some other community use. Others who discussed the issue on the OOE Grapevine Facebook site, suggested that perhaps it should be torn down and deeply affordable housing should be built on its site. One suggestion was to maintain the historic façade and develop the property to provide



JOHN DANCE PHOTOS

The future of the 127 year-old Old Town Hall is not clear.

a mix of affordable and market housing with community and/or retail space at ground level.

The City has no immediate plans for a new use: "At this time, the City is not proposing any changes to the use of the Old Town Hall Community Centre," says Dan Chenier, General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services.

There is no urgency in finding a new use, but it will become a more pressing issue when the new community centre is built in several years' time.

Hopes are high for affordable housing atop new elementary school at the Deschâtelets Building

Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard is optimistic that an announcement will be forthcoming this month confirming that a number of parties have come together to commit to seniors' affordable housing in the two upper floors of the Deschâtelets Building.

The project has been under discussion for three years and it reflects the cooperation of the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE), Ottawa Community Housing, and the City of Ottawa. CECCE now owns the Deschâtelets Building and is rehabilitating the lower floors for its new elementary school. Current plans are that the ground floor would also house part of the new Old Ottawa East community centre, which is the subject of a more detailed update at page 3 of this issue.

In addition to his role as The Mainstreeter's chief reporter, John Dance is the Chair of the Old Ottawa East Community Association's Planning Committee.

Community association contends:

Cross-town cycling route should go through OOE and the Glebe

JOHN DANCE

An east-west cross-town cycling route going through Old Ottawa East should be included in the City's new active transportation network, the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) says.

In order to bike any significant distance east or west, the draft plans of the City now would require local cyclists to either pedal downtown to access the cross-town cycling route that has Laurier Avenue at its centre or travel far to the south to the Baseline/Heron/Walkley cross-town route. Both options would add considerable time to a cyclist's trip and neither would be as safe or pleasant as a route through the Glebe and Old Ottawa East.

"The excellent investment in the Flora Footbridge - which we advocated for decades before it was finally built - would be a key component of a midtown east-west cross-town cycling route," Tom Scott, OOECA's transportation and infrastructure director, recently wrote to Vivi Chi, the City's senior officer responsible for the new Transportation Master Plan and its active transportation network.

"With the construction of a relatively less costly footbridge across the Rideau River at the eastern end of Clegg Street or somewhere farther south, cyclists and pedestrians could readily get to the eastern

side of the river and beyond," Scott noted.

"This cross-town route could then link up with the Hospital Link multi-use pathway, the hydro corridor or the new multi-use pathway of the Confederation Line that we've heard will go eastward right to Trim Road," Scott continued. "To the west, the midtown east-west cross-town route could incorporate the proposed cycling lanes along Carling Avenue."

OOECA has asked that the City conduct a feasibility study of the new river footbridge that would be part of the proposed cross-town cycling route. A feasibility study was the first step that the City took when it considered building the Flora Footbridge and, through the related consultation and analysis, the bridge was justified and the optimal location was chosen.

Earlier in consultations on the new active transportation network, City staff told the community association that, while a new river footbridge will likely be built someday, it won't be within the next 10 years and the driving force behind its creation will be the private sector's development of the Hurdman area on the east side of the river, consistent with the City's Hurdman "transit-oriented development" plans.

"This response fails to recognize the lack of safe accessibility from one side of the Rideau River to the other in the 2.5



BASED ON CITY OF OTTAWA MAP

The dashed line approximates the location of a proposed east-west cross-town cycling route through Old Ottawa East and the Glebe. Current City plans would require local cyclists to pedal to either Laurier Avenue or Baseline/Heron/Walkley to access a major east-west cross-town route.

kilometre stretch between the LRT bridge and Billings Bridge," Scott noted. "The McIlraith (Smyth) Bridge is within this stretch but, despite now having good cycling lanes, leads to a hazardous crossing of vehicles turning right down to Riverside and then to the hopelessly dangerous underpass of the rail lines so that Smyth is a poor way

for cyclists to proceed east-west," Scott added.

"I will review these two projects with the AT master planning team," Chi responded to Scott. "Strong community support, such as

Continued on Page 18



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OPINION

Lansdowne Follies 2.0

JOHN DANCE

As you may have heard, the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG) want to demolish Lansdowne Park's north side stands and the arena beneath them and then build new stands and a new entertainment centre/arena.

The City/OSEG proposal - known as Lansdowne 2.0 - would have its \$332 million cost covered by selling air rights to build three towers in the middle of the park, by diverting most of the new property taxes from the towers' residential and commercial space to pay for the new stands/entertainment centre, and by receiving additional revenue from ticket sales and the so called "waterfall agreement" with OSEG.

This "revenue neutral" proposition is anything but. In order to use the new taxes for repaying the new Lansdowne debt, every taxpayer in the City will have to pay additional taxes to cover off the incremental cost of municipal services for the 2,400 or so new residents in the towers.

Secondly, why should the proceeds from the sale of air rights go to a new stadium/entertainment centre rather than to a variety of other higher priority items that the City hasn't been able to fund (e.g., deeply affordable housing)? That said, it's debatable whether there should be any sale of Lansdowne air rights: having three tall towers will not make for a better urban park.

To give a sense of the abysmal consultation behind this proposal, it's worth noting that when OSEG and the City finally presented their concept to the community representatives on the

"community sounding board," the City staff said there would be "three 20-plus storey towers. A week later when the proposal went to Mayor Watson's finance and economic development committee (FEDCO) for "approval in principle," the three towers had become 46, 40 and 35 storeys high. This gross difference is typical of the City's and OSEG's approach

to our communities.

Then there is the hopelessly optimistic revenue source of funding from the

"waterfall" agreement. The City has yet to receive one cent from the waterfall - why would we imagine this is going to significantly change?

There are numerous other issues, for instance, "Is Lansdowne the right site for a new entertainment centre, given there is no LRT access and never will be?"

And, as we all know, there is no east-west driving access to the park, and in terms of north-south access, we have the clogged Bank Street and an NCC parkway that was never meant to be an arterial for commercial purposes. The LRT needs all the support it can get - building a new entertainment centre with no direct LRT connection makes no sense.

Also, it's hard to believe that a new Lansdowne arena facility will contribute to the success of the Senators getting a new home on an LRT route. The Senators don't get a subsidy - why should OSEG's teams' facilities be subsidized?

The impact of the proposed changes on parkland is profound. The event center will eat up about half a football-field worth of existing parkland.

At Mayor Watson's FEDCO meeting, much was made of OSEG and Roger Greenberg's contributions to the City. While these may be commendable, they are not a justification for the City's financial support of the parties. All professional sports teams - regardless of whether they are located at Lansdowne or elsewhere - need to reach out to work with communities for their businesses to prosper.

Similarly, the City and OSEG claim that great economic benefits will accrue to the City with the proposed \$332 million investment at Lansdowne. The truth is that such a massive investment would have profound impact regardless of where it was made in Ottawa. Indeed, if the investment was made adjacent to the LRT system, it might have an even greater impact than what OSEG claims.

"Lansdowne 2.0" should be well-

consulted on with thorough studies of impacts on traffic, heritage, city finances, and the functioning of the urban park. Also, if Ottawa needs a new

entertainment centre, then let's determine and assess the options to locate it so it is readily accessible by LRT.

This article was first published in the OSCAR and is reprinted here with the consent of the editor and the author.

Special report on Lansdowne 2.0

No opportunity for people of Ottawa to consider viable alternatives

Continued from Page 5

significant post-pandemic transformation.

On a human, quality-of-life scale, serious concerns are being raised about the lack of solutions to what most certainly will be an acute escalation of stress on traffic congestion, the significant reduction of public park space by the event centre's design at a time when approximately 2,400 new residents would be introduced to the area, and the crowding out of the Aberdeen Pavillion - considered by many to be the historic jewel of Lansdowne - by three visually overpowering towers.

On the heels of the City's newly minted Official Plan, the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal would require an amendment to the Zoning By-Law, and also legal amendments to the 2011 Ontario Municipal Board Settlement that had set development parameters for the site. The proposal raises critical questions around the issue of whether Lansdowne 2.0 would provide sufficient value to the residents of Ottawa to justify the significant financial and quality-of-life risks that the effects of the proposal would impose.

Most importantly, absent public consultation, there has been no opportunity for the people of Ottawa to consider viable alternatives for comparison and consideration. Without public consultation, and without adequate time to develop a clear understanding of the proposal, it is difficult to understand how this Council, just three months before it enters a period of legislated pre-election restriction on its authority to enter into binding financial decisions, is equipped to answer the question: Is this the best plan for Lansdowne?

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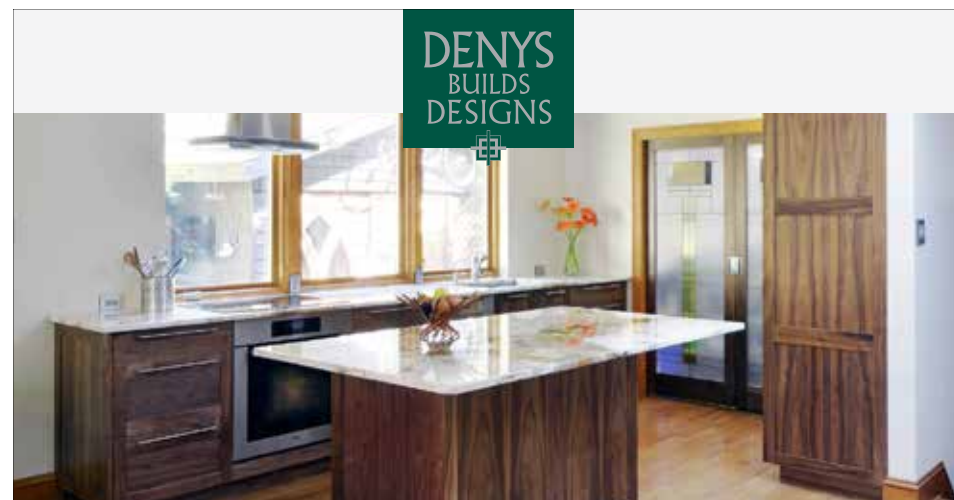
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ONTARIO VOTES 2022

Incumbent wins in a landslide

Joel Harden retains Ottawa Centre for NDP

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Bucking the blue conservative wave that engulfed much of Ontario in the June 2nd provincial election, Ottawa Centre incumbent Joel Harden managed to not merely hang on to his seat for the NDP but to widen his margin of victory compared to his first electoral win in the 2018 campaign.

Harden, known for his grassroots approach to politics, told his ecstatic supporters on election night that he owed his success to his concerted efforts to make communities within his riding better places to live.

He hinted that the NDP might have fared better across the province had others within the party paid less attention to partisan sniping at Queen's Park and more attention to local issues. "I think had we done that two years ago, we would have had a different result," Harden said following his lopsided win over nine other candidates vying for Ottawa Centre.

Provincially, both the NDP under Andrea Horwath and the Liberals under Steven Del Duca, stalled badly in their attempts to improve their party's seat count at Queen's Park. The NDP lost nine seats – down from 40 to 31 – and the Liberals added one seat – from seven to eight – but again failed to achieve major party status in the legislature. As a consequence, both Horwath and Del Duca resigned as party leaders on election night.

Prior to Horwath's resignation announcement, Harden was asked if he felt the NDP needed a leadership change, and he answered in the positive. His comments were widely-reported both before and after Horwath announced her decision to step aside.

After comfortably retaining his seat in

Ottawa Centre, Harden was also asked about his own leadership aspirations, and responded that running for the top job in the party was not top of mind for him, though he didn't rule out the possibility.

Local issues predominated during the campaign, and the May 21st storm that buffeted parts of the riding brought the issue of climate change to the fore for many of the candidates. For Harden, issues of importance included the loss of trees at the Experimental Farm to make way for the new Civic campus of the Ottawa Hospital and its associated parking garage and the failure to engage in meaningful consultations on the Lansdowne Park rebuild.

A popular and visible figure in and around Old Ottawa East, Harden focused his election night speech to supporters and comments to the media on his "hyper-local" style and approach to provincial politics. He decried the party partisanship that dominates politics at Queen's Park and spoke to an approach that concentrated on community action, and one that expended more energy on grassroots issues. He said less emphasis should be placed on promoting the party leaders and more attention paid to working with and funding local community organizations such as the food bank.

Harden burst on the provincial political scene in 2018 when he took the Ottawa Centre riding in upset fashion, defeating then incumbent Liberal and Ontario Attorney-General Yasir Naqvi, winning 46.1 per cent of the vote to Naqvi's 32.8 per cent of the vote. While Naqvi has rebounded with success in the last federal election, Harden has consolidated his stranglehold on Ottawa Centre provincially, increasing his winning share of the vote count to 54.4 per cent, far ahead of second-place finisher Katie Gibbs of the Liberals, who collected 22.5 per cent of the votes tallied in the riding.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Ottawa Centre MLA Joel Harden celebrated a dominant win in the June 2nd election with his supporters, attributing his success to his hyper-local approach to provincial politics.

In a message to her supporters, Gibbs described running for office in this campaign as "the experience of her lifetime." She referred to herself as an organizer at heart and said she was committed to keep fighting. "...for me it's always the act of showing up and fighting for better that needs

to be celebrated, not the result."

Conservative candidate Scott Healey placed third in the vote, netting 15.7 per cent of the vote, while the Green Party's Shelby Bertrand was fourth with 4.8 per cent of the vote. Six other candidates from various parties also contested the riding.

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ONTARIO VOTES 2022

Voter turnout in Ottawa Centre 12% lower than 2018

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Despite having the highest voter turnout percentage of any riding in the Ottawa area in the June 2nd provincial election, Ottawa Centre still recorded a drop of almost 12% in voters casting ballots compared to the previous election in 2018. Less than half of the eligible voters in Ottawa Centre voted this time around (49.5%), whereas 61.2% voted in the riding four years ago.

This election set an historical low water mark for voter turnout in the province. The overall turnout in the eight Ottawa and area ridings clocked in at roughly 45%, a double digit drop from the 2018 campaign, but still two percent higher than the overall Ontario voter turnout which was 43%. Prior to this campaign, the lowest voter turnout in provincial history was 48% in 2011.

In Ottawa Centre, where electors have historically tended to alternate in their selection of NDP and Liberal candidates, and where the Liberals invested considerable time and energy

this campaign in support of their candidate Katie Gibbs, NDP incumbent Joel Harden won handily, netting 30,022 votes or 54.4% of the votes cast in the riding. Gibbs finished second behind Harden with 12,446 votes or 22.5% of the votes cast, followed by Progressive Conservative candidate Scott Healey (8,685 votes/15.7% of votes cast) and fourth place finisher Shelby Bertrand of the Green Party (2,676 votes/4.8% of votes cast). Six other candidates running for smaller parties or as independents split the remaining 2.6% of votes cast in Ottawa Centre.

Despite the low overall voter turnout, several election day officials that *The Mainstreeter* spoke to inside the Saint Paul University polling station in Old Ottawa East (OOE) stated that voter traffic was quite steady throughout the day, and heavy at times. Brief malfunctions of the new electronic ballot boxes several times during voting day at the OOE poll caused back-ups and queues of voters waiting to deposit their completed ballots.

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2021-2022 Annual General Meeting

June 29, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Assemblée générale annuelle 2021-2022

Le 29 juin 2022 à 18 h

You are invited to our virtual Annual General Meeting!

We invite our members and community partners to virtually join our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

The business meeting will include the election of the Board of Directors, presentation and approval of the Board Chair's and Treasurer's reports, By-law review and appointment of auditors for the next fiscal year. More information will be posted on our website at www.shchc.ca, and sent by e-mail to our members and community partners at least 30 days before the meeting.

Get involved in our Community Health Centre and become a member! Only members in good standing may vote at the AGM. Membership comes into effect 30 days after the application is approved by the Board of Directors. If you're interested, send an email to Cristina Coiciu at ccoiciu@sandyhillchc.on.ca. Thank you for your continuous support!

Vous êtes invité à notre assemblée générale annuelle virtuelle !

Nous invitons nos membres et nos partenaires de la collectivité à participer virtuellement à notre assemblée générale annuelle mercredi, le 29 juin 2022 à 18 h.

À l'ordre du jour seront inscrits l'élection de membres du Conseil d'administration, la présentation et l'approbation des rapports de la présidente du Conseil et de la trésorière, l'examen des règlements administratifs et la désignation des vérificateurs pour le prochain exercice financier. De plus amples renseignements seront affichés sur notre site Web à www.shchc.ca, et envoyés par courriel à nos membres et à nos partenaires communautaires au moins 30 jours avant la réunion.

Engagez-vous dans notre Centre de santé communautaire et devenez membre ! Seuls les membres en règle ont droit de vote à l'AGA. Le statut de membre en règle prend effet 30 jours après l'approbation de la demande d'adhésion par le Conseil d'administration. Si vous êtes intéressé, envoyez un courriel à Cristina à ccoiciu@sandyhillchc.on.ca. Merci de votre collaboration soutenue !

Adoptive parents badly needed...for trees!

MAINSTREETER STAFF

We know Old Ottawa East (OOE) residents love their trees, so here's your chance to add more green to your property and improve OOE's tree canopy at the same time.

Over the past two months, Sustainable Living Ottawa East (or SLOE, the environment committee of the Old Ottawa East Community Association) has been carrying out an Adopt-a-Tree program in the community. Residents can get a free seedling along with advice and guidance from SLOE's tree team on tree planting on their property.

"It's been great," said Jayson MacLean, chair of SLOE. "Aside from getting more trees in the ground, we've also been raising awareness of the importance of our tree canopy in Old Ottawa East and encouraging residents to think long-term about their trees and the important role they play in our lives, even in an urban setting."

SLOE has a number of tree species available through its Adopt-a-Tree program and the group has been going door-to-door to speak with residents

about their trees and where there might be room to plant more. SLOE has also been directing residents to the City of Ottawa's Trees in Trust program through which residents can get good-sized trees planted for free within the City-owned right-of-way adjacent to their property.

At last count, OOE's tree canopy coverage stands at about 24 per cent, which is low compared to some other areas like Blackburn Hamlet at 33 per cent coverage or Alta Vista at 28 per cent. The City of Ottawa's new Official Plan has put up the target of 40 per cent canopy coverage city-wide but that goal aims for an average across the city rather than hitting 40 per cent in each and every neighbourhood.

Raising OOE's tree coverage will be a difficult task when considering the scale of development currently taking place in the area. MacLean says the problem isn't just development but also the loss of trees to disease, old age and storms, like the "derecho" thunderstorm in May, all of which have put a strain on our neighbourhood's canopy.

"We've spoken to lots of residents

who care passionately about their trees. Very naturally, we develop deep personal connections to trees and seeing them come down is really heartbreaking for a lot of residents," he said.



OOE residents interested in learning more or helping out in SLOE's Adopt-a-Tree program can contact Jayson MacLean at sloe@ottawaeast.ca.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Members of SLOE's Adopt-A-Tree program gather at a "potting party".

THE OLD OTTAWA EAST ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM

Why plant a tree?

- Trees give you shade in summer and lower air conditioning costs
- Trees clean the air and fight climate change
- Trees on your property and in your area add value to your home
- Trees are naturally beautiful and they enhance our wellbeing

But the tree canopy in Old Ottawa East is in decline...

We need to care for the trees we have and replace those we have lost due to disease, end of life or new housing development. Old Ottawa East currently has a tree canopy of 24 per cent, while the City of Ottawa has a goal of 40 per cent tree coverage across the city. We'd like to get to 40 per cent in our community and we need your help!

We are Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE) which is the environment committee of the Old Ottawa East Community Association. To volunteer with SLOE's Tree Team or to find out about SLOE's other projects, contact us at: sloe@ottawa.ca or visit us at facebook.com/ottawaeast.ca.




SLOE POST CARD

SLOE volunteers have gone door-to-door in OOE with program details.

OOE-Glebe cross-town cycling route sought

Continued from Page 13

that of the OOECAs, has allowed the City to expand the cycling and pedestrian network significantly over the last decade. We endeavour to do more, as funding permits."

In his letter, Scott reiterated OOECAs' steadfast opposition to the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor remaining in the Transportation Master Plan.

"[W]e remain dismayed to see that building of a roadway in the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor remains under active consideration in the TMP," said Scott. "It never made much sense and now, with an announced Climate Change Emergency, a renewed stress on "Big Moves" of the Official Plan for active transportation, and the ongoing massive investment in LRT, it makes no sense at all."



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Deteriorated heritage footbridge may be replaced



JOHN DANCE PHOTOS

ABOVE: The old railway footbridge over the Rideau River could be replaced by a new footbridge just upstream from the current location; BELOW: The steel support structure under the footbridge has corroded badly over the last few decades leading City staff to recommend its replacement.

JOHN DANCE

The old railway bridge that runs parallel to the Queensway and is currently a footbridge serving four wards may be demolished and replaced by a new bridge 100 metres to the south.

The news caught many community associations, heritage buffs and four City councillors off guard. However, keen interest by the various parties led to a recent meeting and the commitment that the affected communities will be invited to join an advisory committee to consider what may become of the old bridge and the planning of a replacement.

City staff explained that four years ago they'd conducted a "condition assessment and renewal scoping study" of the bridge. Local communities were unaware of this work. According to staff, the bridge is in an "advanced stage of deterioration." However, it is inspected each year to ensure safety until the bridge is replaced.

Major structural deficiencies include severe corrosion of structural steel elements below the bridge's deck and medium corrosion of steel elements above the deck. Further, there is failure of the "steel coating system" and the "abutments and piers exhibit severe to very severe delamination and disintegration of concrete encasement."



Originally built in 1898 as the Canadian Pacific Railway Rideau River Bridge, the bridge is Old Ottawa East's oldest bridge and is the only remaining railway bridge of the three that used to cross the Rideau River from Old Ottawa East and Sandy Hill.

CPR stopped using the bridge in 1966 and thirty years later the City acquired it, although during the intervening decades it became a key walking and cycling link. Over the years there has been considerable rehabilitation including concrete encasement of the masonry piers and abutments in 1952 and replacement of timber deck and

wearing surface in 1999.

Local architect and heritage expert Barry Padolsky regularly visits the bridge and, in an article for the Sandy Hill Image, noted, "On my morning walks along the Rideau River, I discovered the fact that the bridge possesses an extraordinarily beautiful curve. I always assumed that it was straight. Yet when you squint along its axis, a most subtle curve is revealed, creating a visual liveliness that Ictinus and Callicrates, the architects of the Parthenon, well understood in 438 BC."

When *The Mainstreeter* first contacted the City about the bridge, the City advised that it was in the process of procuring engineering design services and that construction was planned for 2024. In light of heritage and community interests, the schedule was revised to include an environmental assessment and consultation this year and next, with the detailed design beginning next year and finishing in 2023. Actual construction will tentatively be over the 2025-2026 period.

Depending on the heritage assessment, the new bridge would be constructed first and then the old bridge would be demolished so that pedestrians and cyclists would have continuous passage over the river.

Padolsky, who is a member of the City's Built Heritage Sub-Committee has asked that the bridge be considered at the upcoming meeting of the sub-committee. He recommends that the City heritage staff undertake an assessment of the heritage value of the bridge with the objective of designating the structure under the Ontario Heritage Act "as a step towards preserving and rehabilitating this historic landmark." He also is of the view that City staff should "evaluate the feasibility, relative costs and benefits of preserving and rehabilitating this historic landmark."

"It seems that eventually City staff will have erased any notion of the central role of the railways in Bytown's and Ottawa's development and any physical reminders to be among the key reasons why the City currently is structured the way it is," notes Tom Scott, OOECA's transportation director. "It's heritage demolition by neglect."

Preliminary recommendations for a new footbridge would result in a four-metre-wide deck - about twice as wide as that of the old railway bridge. Also, staff are suggesting a new bridge alignment would be better located if it were about 100 metres upstream of the existing bridge so that it would give "the most direct alignment for someone on the LRT pathway travelling over Riverside Drive to downtown." The downside of such a realignment would be a detour for users who proceed along the Rideau River Eastern Pathway to and from Overbrook.

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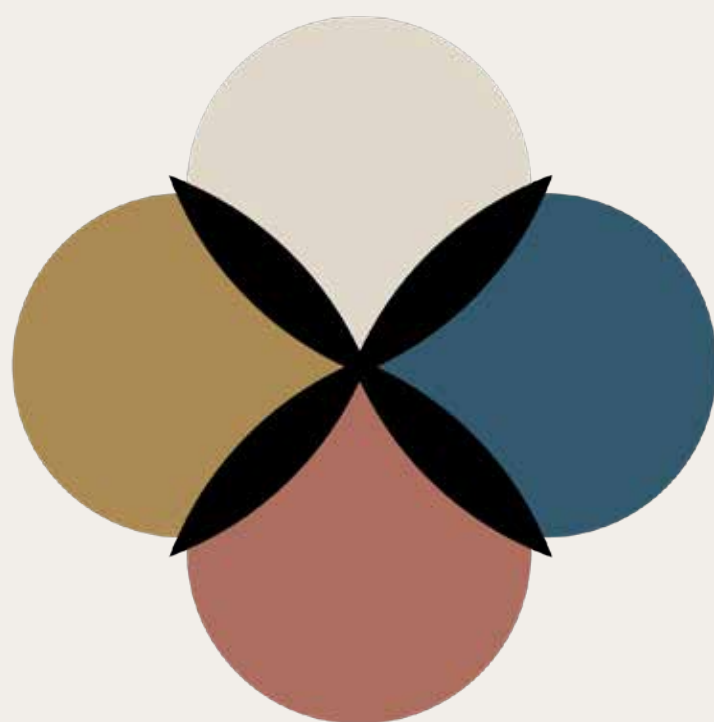
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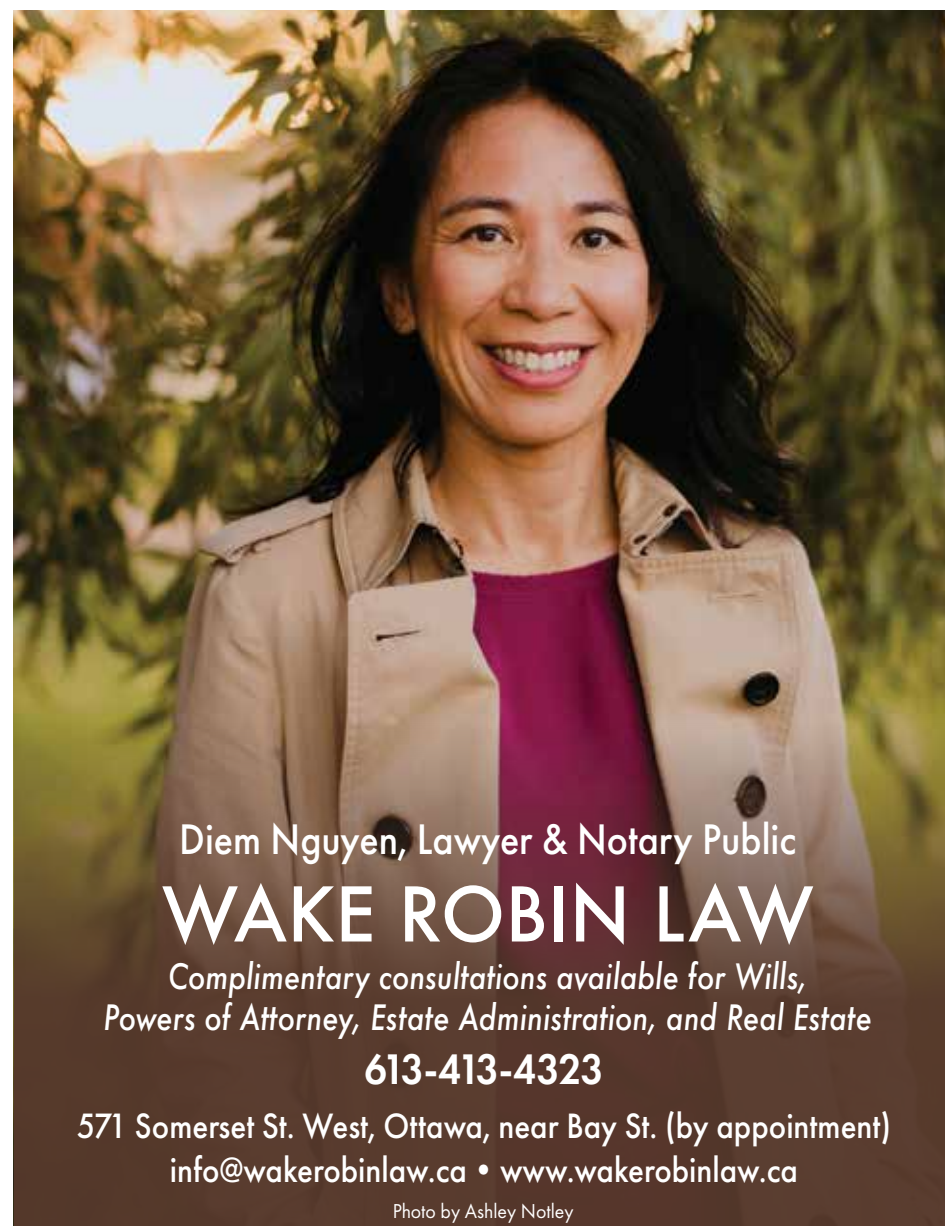
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Note: This research study has been approved by the Ottawa Health Sciences Network Research Ethics Board



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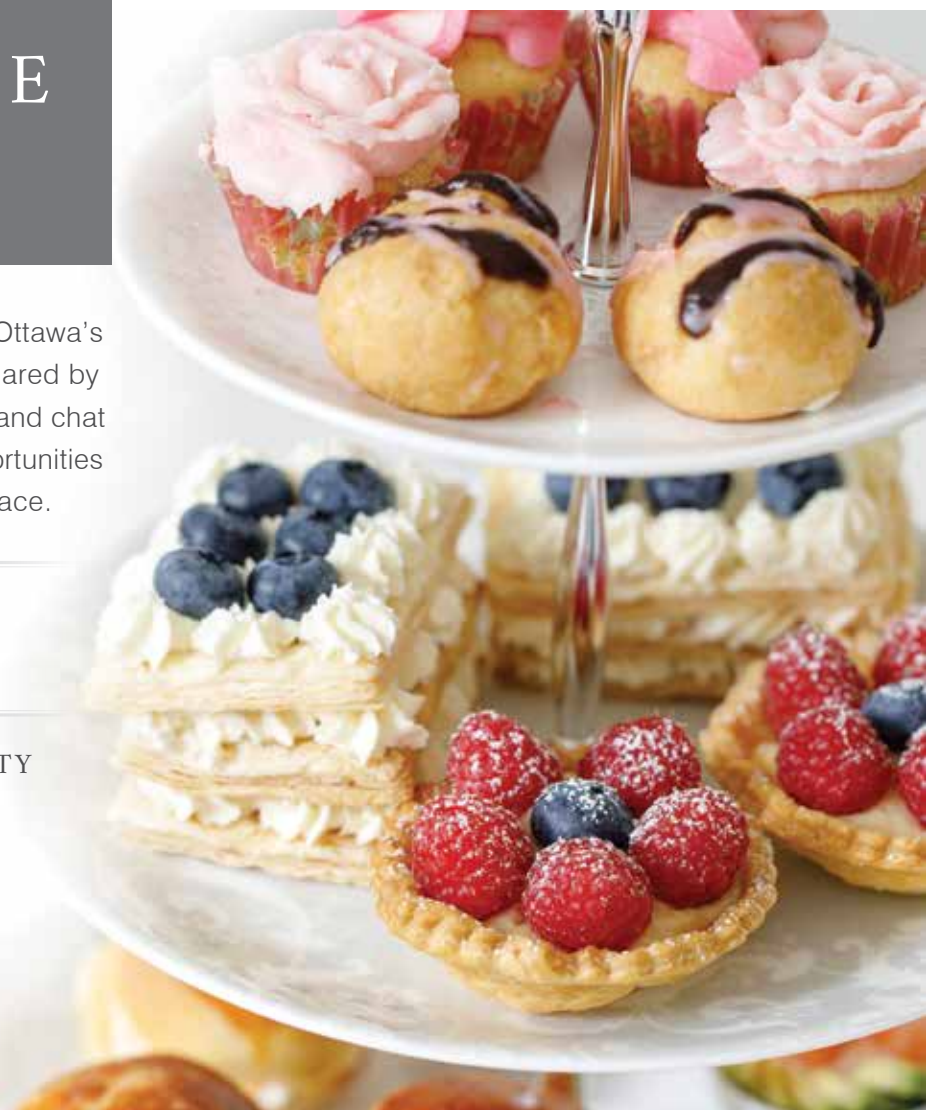
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ECLECTIC EVENTS



JEAN-DENIS LABELLE PHOTO

Alison Smyth and Scott Clarkson in the Classic Theatre Festival's production of the thriller *Wait Until Dark*.

***THE FOURPOSTER*, a Tony Award-Winning Marital Comedy, Presented by the Classic Theatre Festival, Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa - August 5 to 28, from Wednesday to Sunday at 1:30 pm, and on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 7:30 pm.**

For thousands of Ottawa residents, no summer calendar is complete without a visit to the Classic Theatre Festival, which had been staged for the past decade in Perth. That journey just got easier with the Festival's highly anticipated re-launch this August at Arts Court Theatre (2 Daly Ave.) in Ottawa.

This award-winning professional company – which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2019 before the pandemic – hosts some of Canada's top theatrical talent performing timeless hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London stage. The company's Board of Directors recently decided that a move to Ottawa, where over half of its audience already lives, made the most sense as the Festival emerged from two years of shutdown.

A LEGENDARY MARITAL COMEDY

For those who have been missing that special summer theatre feeling of gathering with family and friends to share in the journey of a story well told, the Festival has chosen to stage a Tony Award winner for Best Play. Jan de Hartog's *The Fourposter* is an enduring, comedic chronicle of a marriage during an era of world-shaking social changes. This beloved Broadway classic follows a couple through 35 years of marriage, from a nervous wedding night through to childbirth and parenting, mid-life crisis, empty nesting,

and the realities of aging. In the words of Artistic Producer Laurel Smith, it is "both a tender and at times incredibly funny exploration of an institution that most of us participate in and complain about a lot, but which ultimately represents the foundation for so many adult lives."

The smash-hit original Broadway production, starring real-life couple Jessica Tandy and husband (and Canadian) Hume Cronyn, was described by a New York Times reviewer as "the most civilized comedy we have had on marriage for years." A musical version of the play, *I Do, I Do*, played on Broadway in the 1960s.

"The plays of the Festival's mandate period have a special feeling - like many of us get watching Turner Classic Movies," explains Smith.

"There's a universal quality to them that speaks to our hopes, dreams, and common humanity. They remind us of our species' remarkable capacity to overcome seemingly impossible barriers with good storytelling, fantastic humour, and characters you just want to embrace and take home after the show." The Festival promises a "Summer Theatre in the Capital" experience that recreates the milieu that made it a popular Perth destination. An entertaining and informative pre-show talk beginning half an hour before the curtain rises situates audiences in the play's period, exploring social and cultural references not familiar

to everyone. The lobby hosts a loonie-toonie book sale boasting rare finds. Sale proceeds fund the Festival's Save-a-Seat program, which partners with social services agencies to provide free tickets to low-income community members, allowing them to attend the theatre in dignity.

"Live theatre is an unforgettable experience, and should be accessible to all," Smith says of Save-a-Seat, which distributed 2,500 free tickets in the Festival's first decade. "It shows how the arts can contribute to community cohesion."



To order tickets, visit classictheatre.ca or call (613) 695-9330. Readers of *The Mainstreeter* will enjoy a 10% discount on ticket purchases when ordering by phone and mentioning this article.



TANIS BROWNING-SHELP

TANIS@BROWNING-SHELP.COM

This issue of *The Mainstreeter* finds Tanis Browning-Shelp taking a well-deserved pause from her duties as Art Beat Editor, having produced interesting community arts feature stories and interviews in the last 24 consecutive issues of our newspaper.

In place of her popular Art Beat column this issue, we feature several eclectic events that our readers may enjoy attending this month.

We look forward to welcoming Tanis and her Art Beat column back to the pages of *The Mainstreeter* in our August 2022 issue.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

This colourful armadillo was among many one-of-a-kind carved stone artworks created at the 2021 Canadian Stone Carving Festival.

CANADIAN STONE CARVING FESTIVAL, a Non-Profit Fundraising Event Celebrating Stone Craftsmanship, at 190 Sparks Street Mall, Ottawa - June 24th to 26th

Ottawa has a rich history in the craft of stone carving, and some of the finest examples anywhere in the country can be seen on Parliament Hill. That's why organizers of this non-profit festival are inviting stone carvers from across Canada to exhibit carvings created at the site using chisels, mallets and other hand tools of the trade.

The festival was created in 2010 to promote craft fellowship amongst carvers, to build public awareness about the craft and to raise money for charity.

Visitors to the festival will have the opportunity to try their hand at stone carving in a special demonstration area.

Works of art created during the festival will be available for purchase at a special public auction on Sunday June 26th at 2:00pm at the Sparks Street site of the festival.

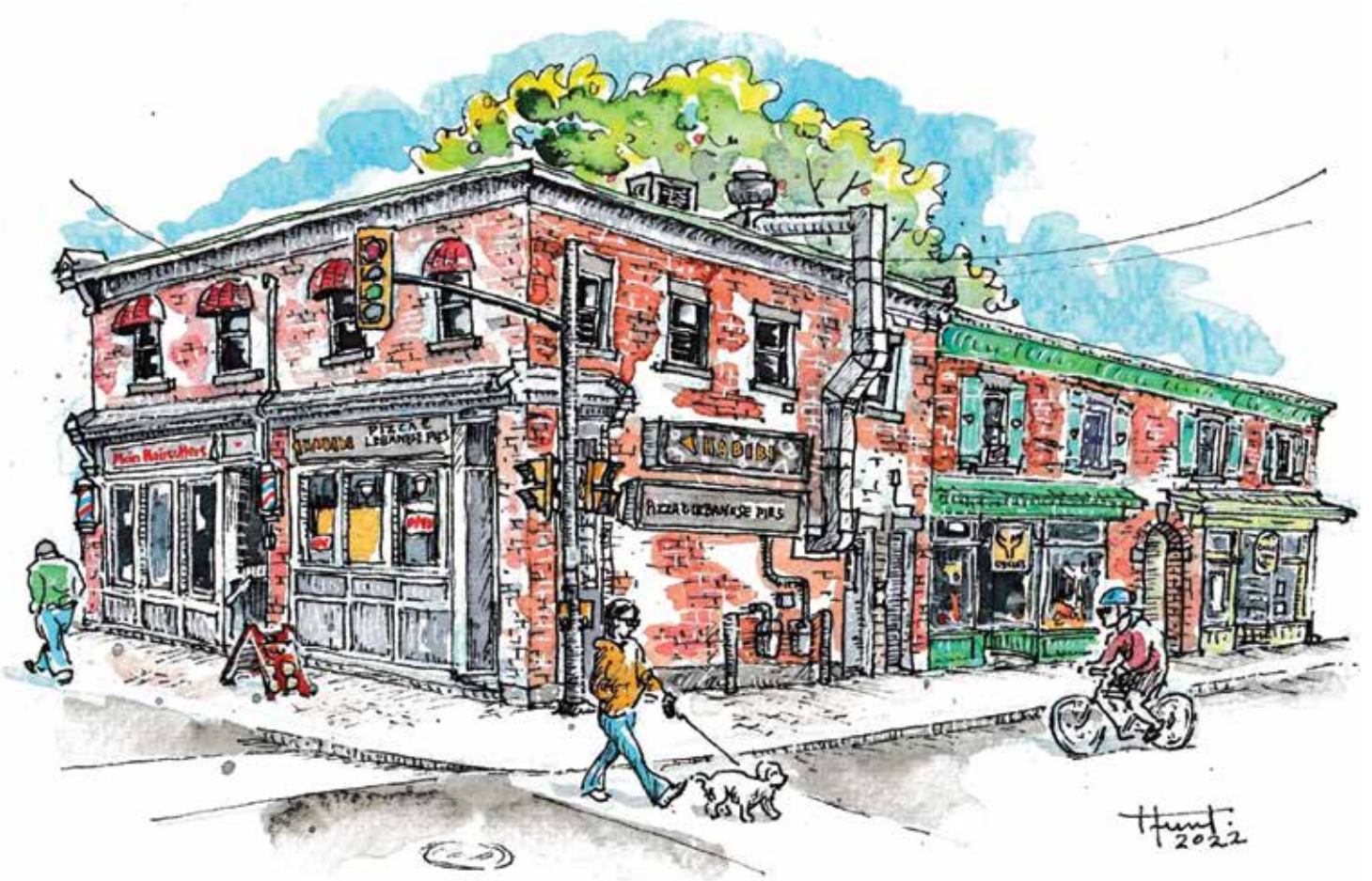
FOR MORE ECLECTIC EVENTS, SEE PAGE 26...



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: Looking back at my urban sketches from the past two years, I've noticed that many include only one person, and sometimes no people at all. This lends the pictures a lonely, after-hours mood, echoing the street atmosphere, especially early in the pandemic. Adding characters to the scene can give it a bit of life, a sense of



scale and a dash of colour. As pandemic restrictions ease and people emerge from what feels like a long winter, so too are more people appearing in my drawings.

The sketch for this drawing was done

on a Thursday evening, from the picnic table outside the Old Town Hall, where this bustling corner was alive with a wide variety of models to draw from.

When sketching on the street, I like to situate myself in a quiet, comfortable

(if possible) spot, and fade into the woodwork. As a friend of mine used to say when choosing a restaurant table, "I like to keep my back to the cave".

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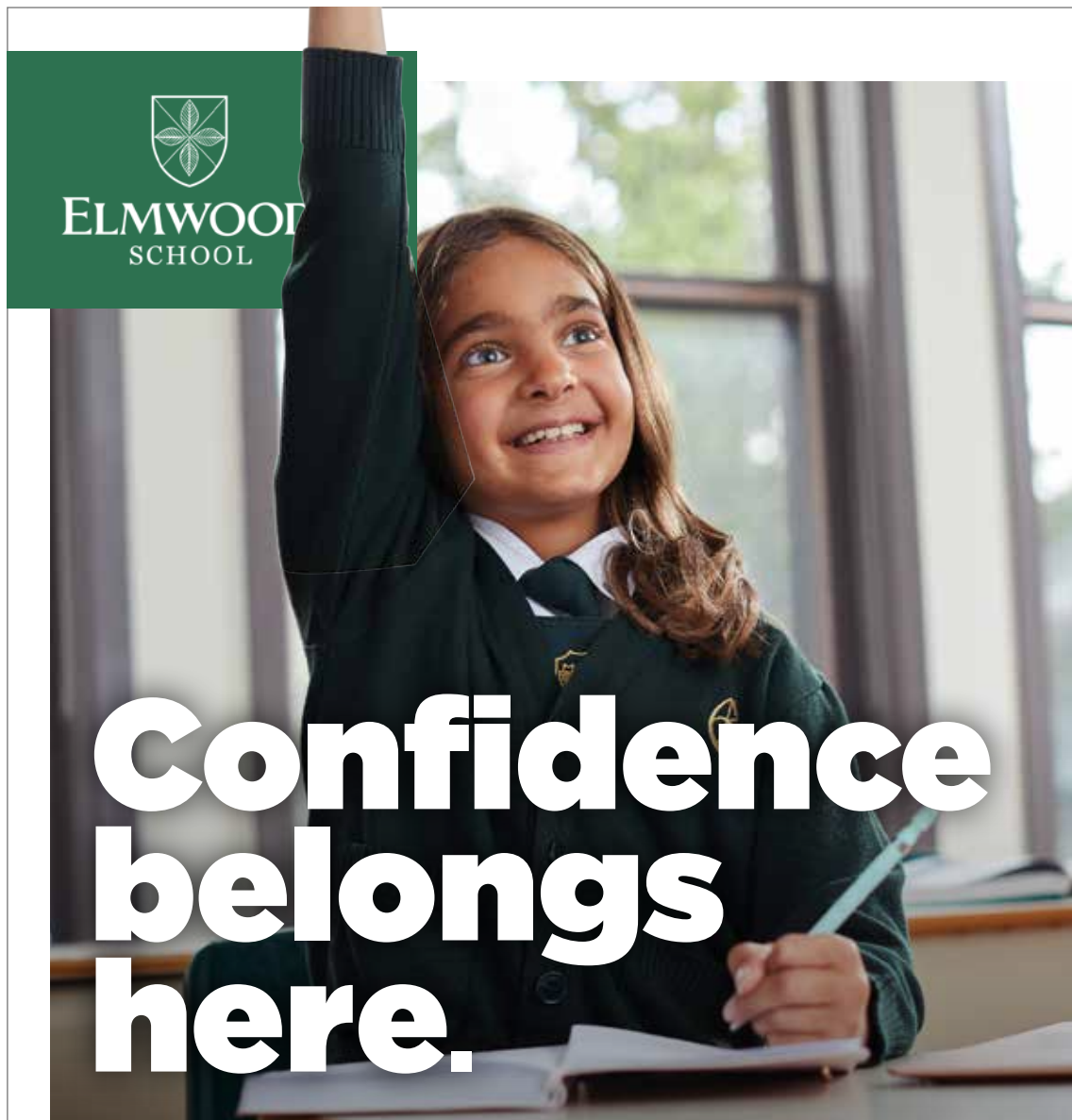


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LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

A downed tree on Mutchmor Road beside the Cuban Embassy was testimony to the derecho windstorm that struck Ottawa and surrounding area with gale-force intensity on Saturday, May 21st. Old Ottawa East largely escaped much of the power outages and tree loss that paralysed neighbouring communities like Old Ottawa South and Alta Vista.

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ECLECTIC EVENTS

THE POWER OF PLAY, a Free Family Event, Parent Resource Centre, Strathcona Park, 25 Range Road, Ottawa - Saturday, June 18 from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

The Parent Resource Centre (PRC) believes that play is a critical component of getting back to our lives after lockdowns and restrictions. The organization has invited families from all over Ottawa to enjoy a fun StoryWalk® with a themed play/activity area, creating art in the park, two super fun Selfie Stations, Farm Hopper race track, music & instruments to make your own music, oversized games to play (Jenga, Checkers and Connect4), Giant Soccer ball, Giant Beach Ball, Parachute Games, and much more.



Register your family at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2022-power-of-play-connect-explore-learn-registration-339631315407>.

'whY!', a Musical Cabaret Play, Performed at the Ottawa Fringe Festival on June 17, 18, 19, 22, 24 and 26, at the LabO Theatre, University of Ottawa

The cutting of 750 trees on heritage land at the Experimental Farm to build a 2500 car parking garage and mega campus for the new Civic Hospital has inspired the musical cabaret play, 'whY!', to be performed six times this month at the Ottawa Fringe Festival.

When Heather White, producer of 'whY!', contacted Old Ottawa East filmmaker, journalist and environmentalist, Damian Piper to help with the production of the play, Piper was already working on a variety of environment-related issues in Ottawa, including protests about the cutting of hundreds of trees at the Experimental Farm. And in another of his roles, as podcast producer for the Fulcrum, The University of Ottawa's English-language newspaper, Piper chronicled tree loss throughout the city and featured special investigative pieces such as "Save The Hunt Club Forest and the Ottawa Beaver Killings".



HEATHER WHITE PHOTO

OOE resident and filmmaker Damian Piper is heavily committed to addressing environmental issues in his work, including his latest contribution to the production of 'whY!'.

Piper was eager to use his creative skills in support of 'whY!', a production that gives voice to the protests and frustration of concerned citizens who ask, "Why are they making this decision? There are other more desirable locations, better situated to building a mega hospital and huge parking lot, building sites which would not infringe on existing green environments." 'whY!' asks. "Why is this happening?"

Piper champions the message and the energy of 'whY!'. In the fall of 2021, Chris White, active in the Ottawa arts scene and concerned about environmental issues, put out a call to musicians to write songs about their connection to trees. Artists responded from all over Canada and more than 40 "Tree Songs" were written. Their themes celebrate personal connection to the forest. Now, 'whY!' resonates with the music of these newly-written works performed by local musicians. It is a testament to the love of forest and the power of art.

Piper is one of 50 Ottawa artists and environmentalists who have contributed to the creation 'whY!'. He encourages everyone to join the call to action!

Tickets to attend 'whY!' are \$12.00 and more details can be found at ottawafringe.com.



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LANDSOWNE HERITAGE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE ABERDEEN PAVILLION

Yes, the old Ottawa Ex is being revived for one day this summer!

After decades of being nothing more than a parking lot surrounded by crumbling infrastructure, we revitalized Lansdowne Park and made it a real people place with new sports teams, retail, restaurants – not to mention a tremendous amount of greenspace, trees, gardens – and even an apple orchard.

Lansdowne is a jewel in Ottawa's crown – and it's in no small part because of the wonderful heritage buildings we have preserved on that site and once again made available to the public. Both the Aberdeen Pavilion and the Horticulture Building have become very popular venues.

The Aberdeen Pavilion is a one-of-a-kind structure that dates back to 1898, when it was built to welcome the Central Canada Agricultural Exhibition. In the following years, it also served as a meeting point for soldiers heading to combat in the Boer War and World War I – but also as an ice pad where the original Ottawa Senators won the

Stanley Cup in 1904. That building has seen it all – and it remains today the only unsupported building of its kind in North America.

Unfortunately, after decades of neglect in the second half of the 20th century, the Aberdeen Pavilion was abandoned and taken over by thousands of pigeons before being condemned for demolition.

On July 2nd, 1992, Council voted to reverse that decision and to invest the funds required to save the building and to restore it to its former glory. I was pleased to work with councillors Peter Hume and Joan O'Neill to put together a package to save and restore the pavilion.

I am proud that we've worked with the Central Canada Exhibition Association and a number of key partners to mark the 30th anniversary of that important day on July 2nd this summer. For the occasion, we will host an old-fashioned exhibition at Lansdowne that will undoubtedly bring back some good memories for many residents who enjoyed the Ex – and probably create some new ones for those who weren't around at the time.

This one-day event promises to be a great time for guests of all ages, with a number of attractions that will be available free of charge. These include an Ottawa Archives exhibit on the Ex, live entertainment in English and French throughout the day, buskers, local fair booths and food vendors, a classic automobile demo, a farmers' market, a petting zoo, and a TD Place "fun zone" that involves locker room visits with local athletes and mascots... and much more!

I hope to see many of you out on July 2nd to celebrate the history of Lansdowne Park and the Aberdeen Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., beginning with a Freedom of the City ceremony at 9:30 a.m. featuring various dignitaries.

Please visit www.Ottawa.ca/AberdeenHeritageFair for more details ahead of this fun exhibition!

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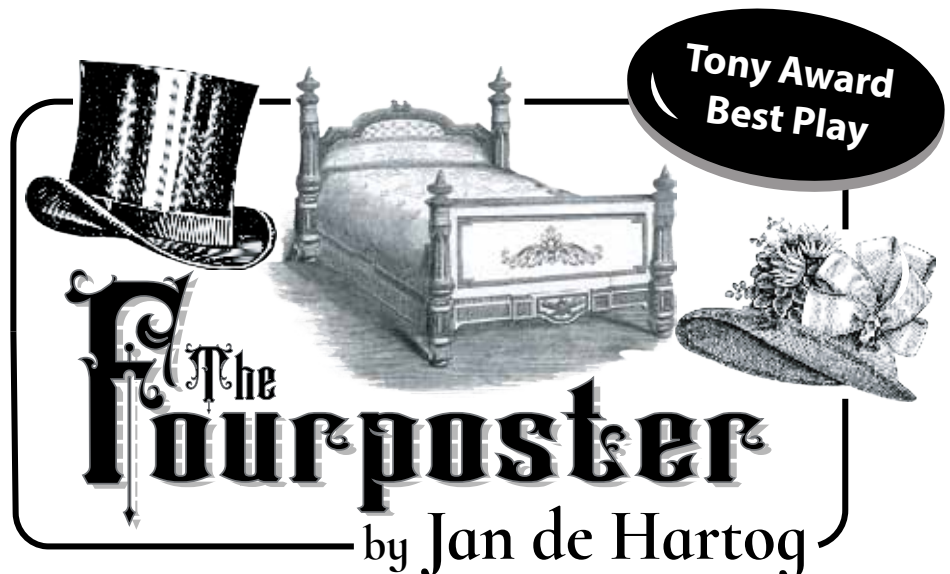
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POLITICAL PAGES

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IN TIMES OF DISASTER, WE SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY

Like many of you, my family and I experienced days without power after the storm last month. In fact, as I write this, it's the Thursday after the storm, and power still isn't restored to my street. Many areas in our ward were severely affected by the storm, and I spent the days after the storm on the impacted streets, checking on those without power and providing information and assistance as I could.

Hydro Ottawa crews, assisted by workers from other cities and regions, have been working 24/7 to restore power as quickly as possible. I am incredibly grateful for the dedication and professionalism of these crews, working tirelessly for a week and counting.

It was a difficult time for many residents, and the effects were not felt equally. On Tuesday, my team and I headed to 507 Riverdale - an Ottawa Community Housing building. They were without power, and many residents have mobility issues that make it difficult for them to leave their apartment, especially when power is out, since there's no lighting in the hallways and the elevator isn't working.

In recent years, we've had many extreme weather events, including tornadoes, record flooding, massive snow storms, extreme heat waves and significant dry spells. Right now, the primary job is to get help to people who need it, but there are also some lessons we can learn from this.

As climate change continues and worsens, we will become more susceptible to these types of events, and we need to make sure that our city is resilient, that we are prepared. We will need to ensure that we have the money and resources to bring help to people: providing food, shelter and power. And we will need to enact and enforce city policies to mitigate the effects of climate change to the best of our abilities.

But there is another lesson, and it's one that I have learned and re-learned multiple times during my time as councillor: we have a strong and caring community.

At the beginning of the week, when things were at their worst for many people, we had residents step up and share food and power sources. People contacted our office asking to help, and we were able to connect them with those in need.

When we went to 507 Riverdale, we brought some food and supplies, but our office could only do so much, so we put a call out for help. Other residents showed up with more food and coffee and power supplies. I was so glad that I am able to be a part of a community like this.

We've seen this before, recently. At the worst moments of the pandemic, residents would check up on each other and bring them food and groceries. During the occupation, we provided safe walks downtown to help people feel comfortable when they left their homes, and we came together at the Billings Bridge to stop members of the convoy and send them back.

When we come together, we don't just provide food or support; we provide community and camaraderie, and that can be just as important.

New safe intersection at Colonel By and Main Street

By the time you read this, the new signalized intersection at Colonel By and Main should have been activated. We had heard it was scheduled to go live on Wednesday June 1, weather permitting. This is an exciting project that will provide another safe access to the canal and multi-user path from Old Ottawa East. In the coming years, there will be more work happening on Main Street to improve that intersection.

We're very happy we were able to work with community members, City staff, the National Capital Commission and other levels of government to bring this safe intersection to Capital Ward.

YASIR NAQVI MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

EMAIL: YASIR.NAQVI@PARL.GC.CA

PHONE: 613-946-8682

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404 - 1066 SOMERSET STREET WEST



HIRING NOW: APPLY FOR CANADA SUMMER JOBS

Finally, summer is here! I look forward to a summer of meeting with constituents, joining community events, and hosting a few of my own! We all deserve a break after a difficult start to the year and I look forward to connecting with you over the coming weeks.

Throughout the past month, I was pleased to celebrate great news in our community. I joined Parkways for People to participate in the opening of Queen Elizabeth Driveway for active use, seven days a week! As Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre, it is my priority to take bold action on climate change and help make Ottawa a greener capital. I have been working with the National Capital Commission (NCC) to ensure that we have more active transportation in Ottawa. Whether it is Colonel By Drive or Queen Elizabeth Drive, it is my strong belief that one side of the Rideau Canal should be for active use. This summer's use will help the NCC to obtain the important data needed to assess how we can enhance our parkways and build a greener city. Additionally, from May 13th to October 10th, Weekend Bikedays will be back on Queen Elizabeth Drive. I am actively working with the NCC to seek additional Bikedays on Colonel By Drive as many residents have been advocating for this as well.

I was also pleased to join the Carlington Community Health Centre for the grand opening of their newly renovated facility, which includes 40 affordable homes for seniors through a partnership with Ottawa Community Housing. I had supported their rehabilitation project when I was MPP for Ottawa Centre, and it's incredible to see the result of their hard work and determination. I look forward to continuing to support innovative projects and programs such as this, that offer inclusive and quality services to residents.

Every summer, youth in our community seek summer jobs. This year, 635 jobs were approved through the Canada Summer Jobs program, right here in Ottawa Centre! The Canada Summer Jobs program offers quality and meaningful work experience for youth and provides them with an opportunity to develop and improve their skills. Organizations like the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Meals on Wheels, Parkdale Food Centre, and many more, will be able to hire youth aged 15-30 this summer. For more information on how to apply - visit www.jobbank.gc.ca/youth for a full list of employers.

Lastly, we know how challenging the last few months have been for our local businesses, especially in the downtown core following the 24-day illegal occupation. Our government quickly developed a program, the Downtown Business Relief Fund, administered through Invest Ottawa to provide the much-needed support to these businesses. Since then, I am pleased to share that over 500 businesses in our downtown core were able to access this funding. Our government will continue to support businesses and the tourism sector at large to revitalize our downtown core, restore vibrancy, and promote economic growth in the National Capital Region.

A reminder that my community office is located in Hintonburg at 404-1066 Somerset St. West, and we are here to help. Please do not hesitate to reach out at 613-946-8682 or via email at Yasir.Naqvi@parl.gc.ca. Enjoy the summer with friends, family, and loved ones, and I hope to meet you soon!

OUR NEIGHBOURS

Old Ottawa East artist, Louise Rachlis

Creating art with a sense of fun and place

BRENDA SMALL

Louise Rachlis didn't realize that she had been having an effect on others for many years until she attended a student reunion from her elementary school days: "I remember you," a former classmate exclaimed. "You used to like to paint and write."

She still does.

The long-time resident of Old Ottawa East will be joining members of the larger Ottawa artistic community at the upcoming Art in Our Gardens and Studio Tour on July 9 and 10 that will feature 25 artists and friends throughout the Glebe (glebearttour.ca).

Rachlis will be displaying her acrylic and watercolour paintings and art cards, along with work by fellow artist Victoria Sutherland and photographer Pamela Mackenzie, in Mackenzie's lovely garden on Patterson Avenue that backs on Central Park.

Rachlis has returned to her easel after a lengthy time in the workforce as an Information Officer with the Ontario ministries of Education and Colleges and Universities, and a long career with the

Ottawa Citizen as the Advertising Features Editor.

She took up running when she was fifty and ran two marathons a year. She runs shorter distances now but likes hiking and walking along the Rideau River.

And she is spending far more time painting.



Rachlis and her husband moved to Old Ottawa East in the early 1990s after raising their kids in the suburbs. They liked the excitement of living downtown and being close to the Rideau River and nearby the Canal through all four seasons of the year.

She likes the shops on Main Street and can often be found browsing at Singing



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Old Ottawa East resident and artist, Louise Rachlis, is pictured outside her home. She likes to paint in bold watercolours and acrylics, like the floral composition to the left.

Pebble Books or at Three Trees. When her grandchildren come to visit they head straight to the parks in Old Ottawa East. The paddling pool at Brantwood has been a favourite in the summer, though her grandkids, older now, prefer Springhurst Park with its outdoor ping pong tables.

She's retired now, but Rachlis still freelances for the Ottawa Citizen. And runs. And paints. She likes her art to

have a sense of fun and place, triggering memories of the places she has been and the things she has done. She strives to create something unique with her art that others can relate to and enjoy.

Recently she has shown her art at The Glebe Community Centre and both the Pop-up Art Gallery and the Wall Candy Gallery at Lansdowne.



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NOTRE COMMUNAUTE FRANCOPHONE

Expériences de deux étudiants poursuivant une scolarité francophone

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 lycée 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



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Sebastien Landry, élève à l'École secondaire publique De La Salle.

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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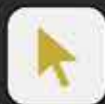


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- New Programs / Events Coming Soon!



Community Events

- Community BBQ Thursday nights at Brantwood Park starting
June 23, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- SAVE THE DATE: The Main Event is Saturday, September 10, 2022.
- Movies in Springhurst Park are Coming Soon!

Thank you to our 2021-22
Community Partners

In Partnership with:



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Compounding 101



In the last 100 years, the practice of pharmacy has moved from the pharmacist preparing medicines to the pharmacist packaging medicines made by pharmaceutical companies. In recent years, more and more doctors are having pharmacists return to traditional practices and to 'compound' medicines that are not commercially made. This practice is a way to customize medicines for individual patients. Compounded medicines are made from scratch in a compounding laboratory.

Compounding can offer some creative methods of treating medical conditions. For example, for those with swallowing difficulties or nausea, creams or gels can be made to carry medicine through the skin. Even pets can benefit from medicines compounded into capsules, flavored liquids and tasty chewy treats.

Most compounded products are medicines and, as such, require a prescription. You should discuss your options with your doctor. A compounding pharmacist will work hand-in-hand with your doctor to develop a solution that is right for your particular needs.

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