

The Haunted Forest

Hawthorne Avenue's family-friendly spook-out!

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Getting ready to run

OOE is running territory, and now is the time to start training, reports Theresa Wallace

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OOE's next Olympian?

Just 19 years of age, Noah Porter MacLennan wins silver in world cup freestyle skiing.

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Our Community Association says...

Doug Ford's Bill 23 is a "gift to the developers"

DIANNE CALDBICK

In mid-November, the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) wrote to the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy to protest the government's proposed Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*. While acknowledging the need to house Ontario's growing population and address the challenge of affordability, OOECA called for a re-think of the Bill to ensure that local residents have a voice in shaping our communities, that environmental safeguards are protected, and that 'growth pays for growth'.

"We had to step up to protest this Bill," says OOECA President Bob Gordon, "because it stifles local voices and gives too much influence and power to developers." The City of Ottawa's planning and development policies and parameters — outlined in the Official Plan, Zoning By-laws, and community-level plans such as the OOE Secondary Plan — have long been the result of consultations and collaboration between the City and interested citizens and groups, including OOECA and other community associations. This consultative process has allowed Ottawa residents to help shape the built and natural character of our communities and neighbourhoods.

Bill 23 limits the City's latitude to establish planning and development policies specific to the Ottawa context, and it denies citizens the right to appeal planning and development decisions that affect them. In so



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Bill 23 will allow three dwelling units on any lot, so that these two McNaughton Avenue houses could be replaced "as of right" with new structures that have a total of six units.

doing, Gordon says, "the Bill will make it much more difficult for local groups such as OOECA to help shape the fabric of our communities and to ensure respect for the built heritage and character of our Old Ottawa East neighbourhoods."

John Dance, Chair of OOECA's Planning Committee, echoes Gordon's concern: "The way that new housing and developments relate to existing neighbourhoods and to the public realm is a subject of legitimate interest to all in the community, given their impact on livability and well-being. As local residents, we should not be denied the right to influence decisions around issues such as community design, site design, sustainable design, and landscapes, and to appeal decisions that do not meet our needs and interests."

In its correspondence, OOECA also echoed the concerns of environmental groups about Bill 23's reduced oversight of the environmental impacts of development. Like others, OOECA decried proposed measures such as gutting the role of Ontario's 36 regional conservation authorities, limiting municipalities' ability to promote green building standards, and reducing parkland requirements for new developments.

Experts warn that these measures will increase the risks of flooding, erosion and drought, while contributing to more greenhouse gas emissions and reducing residents' access to green space. Gordon notes, "Bill 23's attack on environmental standards is regressive and short-sighted, at a time when we need bold action to address the climate crisis and the increasing threats to natural habitats and biodiversity."

In its correspondence, OOECA also took issue with the Bill's provisions to discount some and outrightly eliminate other development charges. This will shift the financial burden of infrastructure and services for new developments from developers to the City of Ottawa. Dance notes, "What this means in practice is that either property taxes for existing homeowners will increase substantially, or the quality and reliability of municipal amenities and benefits for new communities will suffer. The new Bill will force one or both of these outcomes, while providing no guarantees that developers will pass their savings on to new home buyers and renters."

OOECA will continue to engage with the provincial government and work with Ottawa City Council and staff and Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard to fight for more time for substantive public consultation on Bill 23 and for major amendments to its provisions to address issues of concern. Old Ottawa East residents can find OOECA's submission to the Standing Committee, as well as letters from other concerned groups, on Councillor Menard's website, at the following link: <https://www.shawnmenard.ca/stopbill23>.

Editor's Note: Dianne Caldbick is a member of the Old Ottawa East Community Association's Planning Committee. On November 28th, the Ford government passed Bill 23 into law, with minor amendments. The Mainstreeter will continue to analyze this issue and report to residents on the new law's implications for Old Ottawa East.

Hawthorne Avenue's Haunted Forest

Throughout Old Ottawa East, young and old alike love Halloween. Some of the folks on Hawthorne Avenue wanted to share their passion for all things spooky with the community, and there's no better time to do so than on Halloween night. Thus, Hawthorne Avenue's Haunted Forest was born. Each year, the group of mad organizers concocts a different scary theme, and they invite all to their family friendly spook-out. Last year's theme was Baba Yaga. This year, trick or treaters of all ages were greeted by the Pumpkin King and entertained by the Mad Scientist.

1. *The five brave souls who dared to enter Hawthorne's Haunted Forest; 2. Every neighbourhood has a house...different from the rest; 3. "What great big eyes you have, Grandma," said Little Red Riding Hood; 4. The undead await....welcome one and welcome all; 5. "I just need a little piece of your brain. I'm not crazy...I'm just mad...muahahahaha!!*



PHOTOS BY MACIEJ KARPINSKI, HOLLAN MISFEIR, AND SYLVAIN BRIAND

A floating education adventure for youth

Aboard the Polar Prince, the Students on Ice Foundation opens a world of possibility, inspiration and curiosity

PETER CROAL

Have you ever heard the expression “Don’t let school get in the way of your education?” While formal teaching has a critical role in education, there are other forms of learning that can motivate, stimulate and engage young people in dynamic ways. One such method has been perfected over the last 23 years by the Gatineau-based and award-winning organization called Students on Ice Foundation (SOI), which places youth aged 14 to 24 on board a ship that will sail in any number of polar and maritime regions of the world.

Also onboard the SOI ship are volunteer educators, artists, musicians, Indigenous Elders and specialists who spend two weeks with the youngsters exploring a range of topics in a fluid and free-ranging way. SOI believes that youth have power in their voices and their actions to bring about positive change in the world. By connecting youth with the knowledge, people and resources that enable them to be part of the solution, SOI can succeed in helping build a future that benefits people and the planet.

During June of this year, I had the unique opportunity to serve with SOI as one of the 10 volunteer educators to help students with their discoveries, conversations and questions. Our route was the circumnavigation of Cape Breton and Sable Island that allowed us to explore and learn about proposed protected and conserved areas, National Parks, First Nations, National Wildlife Areas, Marine Protected Areas and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The themes addressed on the voyage included climate change, biodiversity, ocean literacy, reconciliation, culture and conversation.



Working closely with educators helps students unlock the power to create positive global change.

Old Ottawa East resident Peter Croal volunteered as an educator for 24 youth on a two-week-long voyage of discovery circling Sable Island and Cape Breton. This is his story of the transformational experience.



PETER CROAL PHOTOS

The students and educators sailed on the Polar Prince, a “working ship” devoid of swimming pools, hot tubs and fancy dining rooms. As Peter Croal discovered, it is a ship designed for tough sea and ice conditions where all hands on deck pitched in to serve meals and clean the galley.

My focus was on mining, geology and Indigenous issues. Our ship for this voyage of discovery was the Polar Prince, a small Indigenous-owned icebreaker belonging to the Miawpukek-Horizon Maritime Services. For two weeks, we all engaged in Etuaptmumk, otherwise called two-eyed seeing, to help show how we can incorporate culture and traditional knowledge into science and policy. This was particularly important on this voyage since, of the 24 youth on the expedition, 18 were First Nation, Métis and Inuit from small communities across Canada.

After meeting in Halifax at Dalhousie University, we had two days to get to know each other, enjoy ice breaker fun and review ship and Covid safety requirements. The excitement started to build when we boarded our bus to Musgrave where Polar Prince was docked, provisioned and ready to sail. Climbing the gangway with our gear, we all realized that the expedition was real, and that the ship would be our home and learning platform for two weeks. A sense of the unknown loomed, which added a sharp sense of wonder and excitement. When the crew shouted, “cast off the lines,” the powerful engines came to life and the ship slowly edged away from the wharf, leaving the small town of Musgrave to our stern. We knew this expedition had truly begun.

The Polar Prince is a “working ship.” It has no swimming pools, hot tubs or fancy dining rooms. Rather, it is a ship designed for tough sea and ice conditions, one where all available space is used for long sea voyages. For all of us aboard, youth and educators alike, it was necessary to pitch in to serve meals and clean up the

galley. And we got to eat with and get to know the incredible crew of the Polar Prince. An ice breaker has a hull design that helps it roll when in the ice. As a result, the ship also rolls in rough seas - and there were several days when many of the students had not yet found their sea legs and were mildly seasick, but this soon passed for most.

Our journey was filled with experiences that will not be forgotten. We spent two days visiting Sable Island, passing time with Elders of the Eskasoni First Nation. We experienced wildlife sightings, including encounters with seals and puffins as we explored the shores of Bird Island, and we spent a day with descendants of Sir Alexander Graham Bell

on their Cape Breton ancestral home.

The magic of SOI is that deep learning happens when questions are asked and curiosity is aroused while hiking, observing nature and wildlife, engaging with Elders or just gazing at the horizon from the ship’s rail. Perhaps it was July 1 that epitomized this form of learning. Since many of the students were Indigenous, most did not wish to celebrate Canada Day. Instead, we all gathered in the evening in the helicopter hanger at the back of the ship and had a wide-ranging conversation about residential schools and reconciliation. All the Indigenous youth were from families who had traumatic experiences from the residential school system. There were many tears, hugs and difficult stories shared in an atmosphere of respect and compassion. All non-Indigenous youth and staff came away with a more profound understanding of how residential school trauma can affect many generations.

SOI participant Erica Jacque, of Postville, Newfoundland and Labrador, says it best: “SOI has opened up a whole new world of possibility, inspiration and curiosity in me that will be present in my life as long as I live”.



Applications for the 2023 SOI expedition season are now being accepted. Over 85% of successful applicants

are fully funded through the generosity of SOI’s many partners. Should you wish to know more about SOI, please look at <https://soifoundation.org/en/>. Your son or daughter will be forever transformed from this experience.



Questions are asked and curiosity is aroused while hiking and observing the nature and wildlife of Cape Breton and Sable Island.

SHARING LUNCH WITH... OOE'S NOAH PORTER MACLENNAN

Meet Canada's newest star in the Big Air skies

To say that Noah Porter MacLennan's recent World Cup silver medal at the opening Big Air freestyle skiing competition in Chur, Switzerland was a shocker is to drastically understate the facts. One international freestyle blogger reported Porter MacLennan's medal-winning result with the comment "me neither," as in "I've never heard of him, either." For the 19-year-old Old Ottawa East resident who is primed to be our community's next Olympic athlete, the breakthrough World Cup result was more "surreal" than surprising.

We conducted this Sharing Lunch With interview with Porter MacLennan seated at his kitchen table at the family home on Rideau Garden Drive, the Rideau River just steps away. It was a setting that the young member of Canada's men's national freestyle skiing team described as one that keeps his life in balance, particularly these days as he adjusts to his first recent brush with international sports super-stardom.

The Mainstreeter: Noah, your breakout silver medal performance in late October at the opening World Cup competition in Chur, Switzerland, left many people asking "Who is Noah Porter MacLennan and where did he come from?" Part of the answer is Old Ottawa East, the community where you grew up and still reside. So, let's begin by answering the question in full: Who is Noah Porter MacLennan?

Porter MacLennan: Well, I was born in 2003, so I'm 19-years-old. I went to Hopewell Avenue Public School from junior kindergarten right up until grade eight, and from there I went to high school at Glebe Collegiate Institute. I have indeed lived my entire life in Old Ottawa East. Our home on Rideau Garden Drive backs on the river, so I was really an outdoors kid. When I was young, I would climb the neighbourhood trees and go down to the river from our backyard to hunt for frogs. I grew up playing recreational football. I skied at Mont Tremblant on the weekends, starting from when I was very young at the age of 2. I began branching off from your average downhill skiing to serious freestyle skiing when I was around nine years old, and I kept progressing. By the time I was in high school, I was already on the Ontario provincial team. By the end of grade 10, I had made the Canadian men's national freestyle skiing team.

The Mainstreeter: For those who may never have witnessed freestyle skiing, how does your sport differ from conventional downhill skiing?

Porter MacLennan: Downhill skiing for the average person means just putting on your skis and making turns as you ski your way down the run. Then you get on the chairlift, go back up to the top and do it again. With freestyle skiing, by comparison, you ski in what we call a terrain park, where there are multiple different features, rails that you can slide along with your skis or a box that you can slide on and off with your skis, and there's also jumps mixed in along the way.

The Mainstreeter: What was it that caused you to branch out into freestyle

skiing at such an early age?

Porter MacLennan: Oddly enough, it really happened on one specific run. Our family was on a ski vacation at Panorama, B.C. I was probably six years old at the time. My dad thought I was good enough to take me through a terrain park. I remember taking one run through the park and I didn't want to stop or do any other kind of ski run after that. It just stuck with me for some reason, and I got hooked. I pretty much started doing jumps and tricks as a six-year-old, just having a lot of fun. I kept getting better and by the time I turned seven, I was enrolled in a freestyle program at Mont Tremblant with a coach and a bunch of other freestyle skiers, and we would spend all day skiing in the terrain park.

I learned slowly at the start with just 180 degree turns, then 360s and 540s, and then front flips and back flips and a bunch of other aerial tricks - it just kind of built from there. I started competing at a young age, doing local competitions. I did well at those, and I just kept competing at slightly higher-level competitions, regional and then provincial level events. Once I started dominating the provincial circuit,



GARY YEE PHOTOS

OOE resident Noah Porter MacLennan, 19, is a World Cup freestyle skiing sensation who is already on track to compete for Canada at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy.

I moved on to national level competitions, and from there to North American competitions and finally to where I am now at international and World Cup competitions.

"By the end of grade 10, I had made the Canadian men's national freestyle skiing team..."

The Mainstreeter: And you have reached a pinnacle of sorts as a member of Canada's national freestyle skiing team. What's that been like for you?

Porter MacLennan: The Canadian national freestyle skiing team is a very cool and a very professional team. We have about 15 members on the team, men and women, from all over the country. This is my third season on the Canadian national team. Each of the other two

seasons have been cut short by injury. My first season was 2019, and I got about halfway through it. I think I did three World Cup events that year, and then I tore the ACL in my knee, and I was out for about a year. I managed to get back on skis for the rest of the 2020 season. I had a good preseason in 2021, and I then did my first competition since the ACL tear. It was at Steamboat Springs, Colorado. But then I broke my wrist in a non-skiing accident, and by the time I was healed up and ready to go again, the season was over. So I continued to train and then pretty much did that whole cycle again for the upcoming 2022 season. I went to the first competition of this year last weekend in Chur, Switzerland, and I did really well.

The Mainstreeter: Tell us a little more about that amazing competition in Chur. How did it feel to reach the podium and break into the top ranks of World Cup competition?

Porter MacLennan: This one was a Big Air competition with jumps at a big hill built right in the middle of the city of Chur, Switzerland. We had two days of practice prior to qualifications, and we roughly got around 10 jumps each day, so 20 practice jumps in total. Then we all moved on to the day of qualification to get into the finals. We had about an hour of practice, and I did five jumps. Then, during qualifications, you get only two jumps, and you must land one of them, and they take your best jump score. So, I did my two jumps, and they both earned the exact same score, which is kind of rare, but it was cool at the same time. There were 25 competitors in each of the two heats, so 50 people in total all trying to qualify. They took the top five scores from each of the two heats, so 10 jumpers make the finals later that evening. I qualified

Porter MacLennan is pictured here riding the rails up at Mont Tremblant.

Continued on Page 5

WORLD CUP SILVER MEDALIST IN FREESTYLE SKIING

Continued from Page 4

fourth in my heat, which got me into the finals. For the finals, we had about an hour of training, and then we got three tries to land two jumps cleanly.

The Mainstreeter: According to the news reports, you landed all three of your jumps and you moved into second place overall on your third and final jump just edging out American and Swiss competitors who placed third and fourth. In fact, the only competitor who placed ahead of you was the Olympic gold medal winner from the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, Burk Ruud of Norway. Even you must have been shocked by what you had done!

Porter MacLennan: Really, it was pretty surreal. There were around 35,000 people attending on the Friday night that we competed. It was a first for me - never have I ever competed in front of that many people. It was definitely a very cool experience to say the least. It was like a big party over there.

Because of my injuries, it was only my second World Cup competition over the past two years. My expectations were higher than usual because of how much I had trained and what I knew I was capable of. But I definitely didn't have any expectations that I would get onto the podium. So, I was incredibly happy to do that.

The Mainstreeter: And now with a World Cup silver medal already in your back pocket, you must really be looking forward to the rest of the season and maybe even beyond to the Winter Olympics in 2026, since Slopestyle and Big Air skiing are both Olympic events.

Porter MacLennan: For sure, I am most definitely looking forward to this coming season, because I had such a good finish in Switzerland. I'm a little nervous because of how good of a finish it really was, since it kind of changes your expectations a bit, and those of others as well. But then you don't want to be too hard on yourself. I am really looking forward, for sure, to competing in the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy - that's definitely a major goal for me down the road.

My main goal this season is to upgrade my own ranking within the Canadian national team. We're all considered Team Canada, but internal to the team we have three rankings, A, B and C. The men rated A and B are the official World Cup team, while those ranked C, like me, are the Next Gen team for Canada. For me to qualify for our World Cup team, I have to get three good results, like the one I got in Switzerland. The way it works is that for every World Cup sanctioned competition, Canada gets a number of designated entry spots. For the competition in Switzerland, I believe Canada was given five spots. The spots go to the World Cup team first, and it depends on whether those athletes can go, if they're not injured, or whatnot. And if there's leftover spots, they pick whoever is strongest in training from the Next Gen group to get the remaining spot. That's how I got my chance in Switzerland.

The Mainstreeter: Who were the

Canadian or international freestyle skiers that you looked up to as a teenager? What was it like meeting and competing with them as a teenager when you started out on the national team?

Porter MacLennan: Yes, that was the case when I made the Canadian team, and there were a bunch of big names that I had looked up to my whole life, and now they're just considered my teammates. It was a pretty crazy feeling for sure. Now it's gotten to the point where they're just friends, which is pretty cool. I looked up to Evan McEachran and Teale Harle and Alex Bilodeau. They were a huge inspiration for me. And everyone on the national team was very accepting of me and very inclusive. And even though it's a solo person sport, it still feels like a team environment because everyone wants you to do as well as you can - it's always so supportive, and everyone is so proud of you for anything you've accomplished during the journey.

"...every time that I learn something new, it's a very scary experience."

The Mainstreeter: Your sport is one where you're always pushing the envelope to do that one extra rotation or that one extra flip - to the point where you're getting into some pretty dangerous stuff. How do you deal with that? Do you worry about getting hurt or is that something you don't even think about in your sport?

Porter MacLennan: Well, we do have tools that we can use that aid us in not getting hurt. We have these big plastic ramps that you jump off and you land on a huge airbag that's on an incline down the mountain. We go down the ramp with our skis and we do our tricks, and we can land on our sides or on our backs, no matter what position, you won't get hurt. That's where we learn a lot of our tricks, so when we get on snow, we have managed to minimize a lot of the risk of hurting ourselves.

But every time I learn something new, it's a very scary experience. I'm not sure what the difference is between experiencing a light degree of fear and feeling nervous in competition. I feel like both feelings kind of go hand in hand, and that they are pretty similar. And I definitely have a mixture of both. Because no matter how many times you practice a trick on a plastic ramp and an airbag, when you do it on snow and ice for the first time, you're still gonna be super, super nervous and scared.

The Mainstreeter: Noah, by the time this interview is published you will have completed your next World Cup competition in Austria. Tell me about what the next few weeks will hold for you?

Porter MacLennan: This competition coming up is actually a Slopestyle event in Austria. The hill is called Stubai Glacier and it's about an hour outside of Innsbruck. It's my first time going there. I believe Canada was sanctioned for six



GARY YEE PHOTO

A first-ever World Cup podium finish for Porter MacLennan (left), along with Olympic gold medalist Burk Ruud of Norway and 3rd place finisher Troy Podmilsak of the USA.

spots for this competition. There are four guys on the World Cup team who are going, which left two spots open for the Next Gen group and I was fortunate enough to get one of them. We're going there about a week before the competition, then competing and staying a week after to train. There are five to six Slopestyle World Cup competitions this year and two Big Air competitions. A couple of them are in North America, a Slopestyle event at Mammoth Mountain in California and a Big Air competition at Copper Mountain in Colorado.

The Mainstreeter: Let's go from Austria and California back to this community of Old Ottawa East for a moment. After making headlines in Switzerland, here you are back at your kitchen table in Old Ottawa East. What does spending time in this community mean to you in the middle of a World Cup season?

Porter MacLennan: There's nothing more that I would want to do than come home after being in Europe for two or three weeks of training and an intense time competing. Just being able to come back to the comfort of my own home, with my boat in the garage that I take out on the Rideau River all the time - it gives me back my balance. It's like normal life again, for a bit. It's so beautiful to come back to a home that's so comforting in a neighborhood that's so beautiful.

The Mainstreeter: And you get to reunite with your parents and your sister. Obviously, since you started at two years of age, they must have had a big role to play in your skiing.

Porter MacLennan: You bet. My mom's the ski nut of the family, for sure. She loves downhill skiing. We have a condo at Mont Tremblant, and we would go up there every weekend to ski. That's how my sister Jessie and I got introduced to skiing. Jessie is two years older than me, and she has become a snowboard instructor. I still think my mom likes skiing more than I do. No matter how cold it is, she'll be up there skiing on the weekends. My dad was

there every weekend as well when I was growing up. He would always push me to try new stuff, tricks and stuff, and give me little rewards when I succeeded, which was motivation for me.


The Mainstreeter: And when you are back home in Old Ottawa East, what kind of stuff do you like to do when you're not doing the stuff you have to do? For example, you mentioned that you have your own boat.

Porter MacLennan: That's an easy one - fishing! It's hard for me to compare freestyle skiing and fishing together because one has turned into my job and the other one is my hobby. But there's no question - a key passion is definitely fishing. I have also fished since I was six years old. I love fishing more than almost anything else in the world because I just get out there alone in my boat. My mind is clear. I'm focused on only one goal, which is trying to catch fish. I love to cast my line and target small-mouth bass in the Rideau River. There's nothing else like it.




SUPPLIED PHOTO

Porter MacLennan at ease on the Rideau River with a catch and release walleye.



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CITY OF OTTAWA IMAGE

This aerial photo shows how poorly the Colonel By Drive side of the Rideau Canal (top) is treed compared to the Queen Elizabeth Driveway side. The NCC and MP Yasir Naqvi agree with the Old Ottawa East Community Association that more trees should be planted on the Colonel By side.

The greening of Colonel By Drive

NCC will address lopsided Canal tree coverage

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Improvements to the tree-barren stretches of Colonel By Drive will be made, MP Yasir Naqvi told Old Ottawa East (OOE) residents at the recent OOE Community Association (OOECA) annual general meeting.

OOECA President Bob Gordon had earlier written to National Capital Commission CEO Tobi Nussbaum that “(t)he Colonel By Drive (CBD) side of the Canal has always been less treed than the Queen Elizabeth Driveway side, but the impact of the emerald ash borer and severe weather events like the recent derecho has made the contrast starker.”

“[T]here are now few trees between the Canal pathway and CBD north of Highway 417,” noted Gordon. “Indeed, it’s almost bleak at certain spots and grass rather than trees dominates. South of Highway 417, there are limited and anemic trees between the parkway and the pathway. There’s lots of room for additional trees that would enhance the beauty and contribute to more comfortable cycling and walking.”

Naqvi, who meets regularly with Nussbaum, commented that Nussbaum had also noticed the problem. Naqvi says the addition of new trees will provide an opportunity for OOECA to be involved.

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Next issue of *The Mainstreeter*...

**Content and advertising
submissions are due on:**

JANUARY 30, 2023

Nervous times at the Greenfield Avenue crosswalk

Pedestrian safety at risk yet again as traffic lights knocked out

TARA HOGETERP

The pedestrian lights have been knocked out again along Greenfield Avenue - a frustrating and dangerous situation that needs to be resolved quickly. The culprits appear to be trucks turning around after getting lost. The last time this happened, the lights were rendered inoperable for months before finally being reinstalled on October 4th, only to be knocked out yet again on November 16th - a span of just 43 days in operation.

The crosswalk design itself is not ideal as many drivers fail to see the flashing lights, particularly during the day, but the pedestrian lights still make for safer crossing than when there are no lights at all. Without the flashing lights, one needs to be an aggressive pedestrian to get drivers to stop, by stepping out onto the road to be seen standing waiting to cross. This is not an acceptable situation and certainly not a step that anyone -especially the elementary, middle and high school

students trying to get to school - should have to take in order to cross the busy street.

When asked what impact the lights being knocked out yet again has on him, local elementary student Jackson Hughes said, "I just stand there looking at drivers as they carry on with their day. I have to stand there and wait until someone sees that I am trying to cross because I can't just walk onto the street - it's just too dangerous."

Residents of the Greenfield Annex neighbourhood have long been advocating for a safe crossing on Greenfield. In August 2017, a crosswalk was installed (with no lights) which drivers rarely stopped at during the day (and almost never at night). Then, in July 2018, lights were installed, and the crosswalk became safer, but sadly the lights were knocked down twice by April 2019.

Carol Hall, the City's Associate

Director of Public Works, informed *The Mainstreeter* that "There are occasional instances of flashers malfunctioning due to technical issues, as well as occurrences of large vehicles hitting the flashers.

"Following each occurrence, staff are deployed to ensure the prompt repair of the pedestrian crossover (PXO). Depending on the damage and the nature of the repair, it is sometimes necessary to send the unit to a third-party vendor, which can take several weeks before the unit is returned. Staff are actively working to resolve the current flasher malfunction at Greenfield Avenue and Concord Street, and it is expected to be repaired in the coming weeks," Hall stated.

Given the amount of time it takes to repair the lights and the cost of doing so, members of the community have given a lot of thought to how best to solve the safety concerns, and some good ideas have emerged.

Area resident Jim Strang believes the best solution would be to 1) reduce the southern tip of the island on Greenfield to provide more space for trucks and other vehicles to turn around, 2) encase the light in concrete to make it more difficult for vehicles to knock it over, and 3) erect "No Truck" signs at the Greenfield entrances to Concord (both sides), Havelock, and Montcalm streets.

However, others in the community are frustrated by prior delays and concerned about the time it would take to implement

a solution this comprehensive, leaving pedestrians vulnerable to inattentive drivers in the interim.

Hughes has his own ideas - "I think a good solution would be to just put a stop sign there. That would be fine and the simplest thing. I think then most of the people that drive past would stop."

For his part, Strang expressed concerns with the suggestion to add stop signs on Greenfield, worrying that they "will dramatically increase both the pollution level and the noise level in the vicinity of the intersection as cars, trucks and large buses brake and then accelerate after making a full stop. [It will] back up traffic in both directions on Greenfield and result in even more impatient horn honking."

Speaking for the City, Hall indicated that, "This intersection will ultimately be redesigned and upgraded to a pedestrian signal as part of the Greenfield-Main-Hawthorne Project. The City is currently reviewing the contractor's proposed schedule for construction. Once the project schedule is finalized, staff will be able to communicate the proposed timing of the pedestrian signal installation as part of the larger capital project."

But with the lights currently out of operation, residents are hoping that a solution can be implemented quickly. City Councillor Shawn Menard shared residents' frustrations with the outage and advised *The Mainstreeter* that leading up to the construction "staff have agreed to review the placement of the poles to get them out of the way of trucks, and . . . are also inquiring about other barriers to protect the pedestrian crossover (PXO). Further, when the PXO has been knocked out of commission, we have asked that temporary traffic calming be implemented to provide a safer crossing for pedestrians."



ISABELLA HOGETERP PHOTO

LEFT: With no operational traffic light at the dangerous Greenfield-Concord North intersection, residents are once again left to fend for themselves to cross the busy street. RIGHT: Neighbour Gisèle St-Hilaire was happy earlier this year when *The Mainstreeter* reported on new lights at the corner, but residents are now very concerned for their safety.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

VOLUNTEERING

A volunteer-from-home success story

The Sandwich Club: Canadian Martyrs Church, Centre 507 team up to feed the needy

ADELE CASUGA

The Canadian Martyrs Parish - Centre 507 Sandwich Club had about 4000 reasons to celebrate on October 22. Leslie Walker, member of District 27 Council, presented a \$4,000 Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTOERO) Foundation Community Grant cheque to the club in support of their community initiative.

With a mandate to provide community-based services and resources to adults who experience social, emotional, and financial challenges, Centre 507 has provided drop-in services and meals to the good people of Centretown since 1983. The Canadian Martyrs Church Sandwich Club, in partnership with Centre 507, has been in operation since 2020. From the darkest and most isolating days of the pandemic, parishioners banded together to create

a unique solution for the increasing demand for fresh, healthy foods for people in need.

On a weekly basis, home based parishioners of Canadian Martyrs Church in Old Ottawa East prepare a variety of nutritious sandwiches for Centre 507. Funding for this project supports the purchase of fresh, healthy ingredients to make the sandwiches. The ingredient kits are delivered to the homes of parishioners and the assembled and wrapped sandwiches are picked up the next day and delivered to Centre 507. The RTOERO Foundation is a registered Canadian charity that invests in initiatives that promote healthy, active aging. With an emphasis on making a difference in the community, providing community connection, and inclusion, the CMP-507 Sandwich Club embodies the values and goals of the RTOERO Foundation. The \$4,000 RTOERO

Foundation Grant will go a long way in helping the Sandwich Club purchase sandwich ingredients.

Currently, the volunteer roster at the parish includes seniors, RTOERO members and their families, as well as high school students in need of volunteer hours (with parents acting as quality control). Their innovative drop-off and delivery system allowed parishioners, especially seniors, to contribute to the community in a meaningful way while maintaining safe social distancing. Without a doubt, their participation and dedication is highly valued by Centre 507.

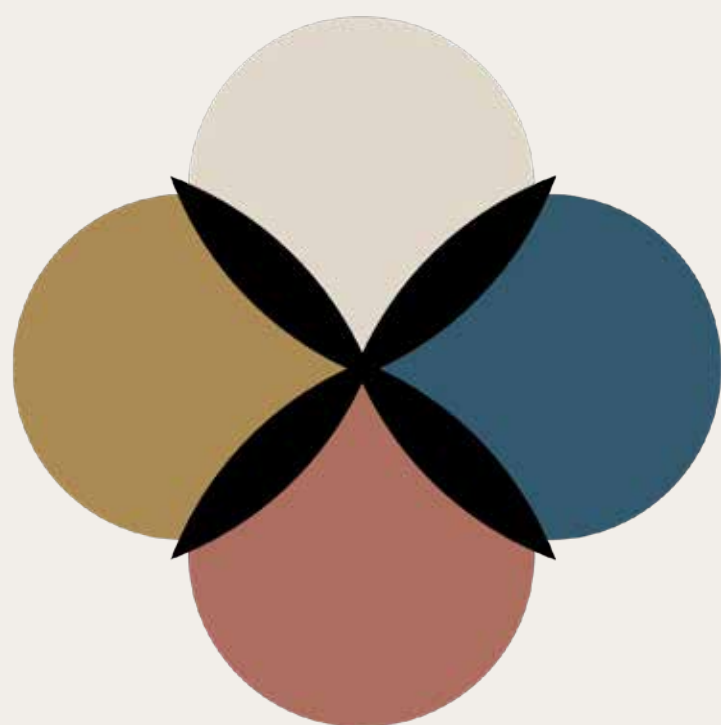
Richard LeBlanc, Executive Director of the Centre, says "Sharing good food with others can break down barriers and be the first step in many journeys. When you connect with people over a good meal, you can start

to share culture, experiences, beliefs, and build meaningful relationships. Your sandwiches are much more than sandwiches. They help break down barriers."

This community home-based project is an excellent example of how a small local project can make a difference in the lives of those who give and those who receive.



If you are looking for an opportunity to give back to the community in a work-from-home format, or would like to donate to the Sandwich Club, please call the parish office at 613-232-5347 or email CMPSandwich507@gmail.com.



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Community Activities Group: Call Old Town Hall at 613.627.0062 and leave a message for Lee Jacobs or email LeeJ@ottawaeastcag.ca

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

Old Town Hall & OOE Community Association: Call and leave a message at 613.627.0062

OPINION

Ontario's Bill 23 is regressive taxation that picks the pockets of taxpayers

RON ROSE

On October 25th, the Province of Ontario introduced Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act 2022*. This Bill represents a major interference by the Province in the planning activities of municipalities. Those of us who have examined the proposed legislation have major concerns about the implications Bill 23 has for taxpayers. My principal concern is that the reduction in Development Charges (DCs) proposed in Bill 23, if enacted, will result in a massive transfer of costs from those directly benefiting from new development to taxpayers.

The assumption of the Bill seems to be that developers pay the cost of DCs. However, developers pass those costs on to the buyers of units in the developments. Consequently, the DCs, which are now paid by new homeowners, the very people who will benefit from the new infrastructure

(roads, water, sewers, etc.), required to enable those units to be built, will be shifted to the taxpayer. These charges will be shifted from a small number of buyers of newly developed units (which we can assume to have middle to higher incomes) to all existing property owners, which includes lower, middle-and higher-income residents.

Bill 23 also mandates a reduction in the Community Benefits Charges (CBC) used to pay for community assets such as parks, playground equipment, basketball courts and community centres. These CBC charges are also proposed in Bill 23 to be passed along to the buyers of residential units in new developments. So, part of the cost of supplying community benefits is also shifted from middle- and higher-income buyers of new units to the general taxpayer.

Furthermore, the total elimination of the CBC for “affordable and attainable” housing, also currently

paid by developers and passed on to buyers, reduces the ability of the City to provide these community benefits in low-income areas, where these affordable and attainable units would be located. This also represents a burden shift to lower income residents, who, according to the City, typically are the majority users of these community benefits in these areas.

The idea that “growth should pay for growth” is founded upon concepts of equity, that is, those enjoying the direct benefits of municipal expenditures should be the ones to pay for them. Bill 23 changes the philosophy to “the taxpayer should pay for growth,” which is regressive taxation at its worst.

The City of Ottawa has estimated its costs of Bill 23 to be approximately \$28.2 million, a figure that's almost twice what the City spends on affordable and supportive housing annually.

Truth and reconciliation: deep listening leads to learning and growth

PAMELA DIXON

I am from Saskatchewan. I grew up in small rural towns that had reservations around them. I had Indigenous children in my classes at school. Usually, there was no structured interaction between the reservation and the town; the peoples of these communities did not invite a relationship between each other.

When I became an adult, the truth of Canada's history began to unfold. The reality of Indian Residential Schools was told around 2015 and re-examined in the finding of mass graves throughout Canada in 2021. As a federal government employee, a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a Catholic and a member of a religious order, it has been challenging times for me to hear of the methodical erasure of Indigenous cultures and the involvement of various organizations with which I identify. However, it's been important for me to listen to these hard truths. There is an opportunity to learn more about the Indigenous peoples who are courageously sharing and, in the process, to learn more about myself. What are my biases and privileges? Have I discovered a new self-awareness?

The purpose of Truth and Reconciliation is to bring us back in right relationship. Truth and

Reconciliation is about listening, opening our hearts and minds – transforming ourselves as we grow. In this deep listening, we are invited to learn and to continue to expand on the relationships we are building. Learning is also a lifelong journey of continued unfolding, awareness, understanding and nuance. We must invest ourselves and our time and grow to new stages of understanding. Our personal histories may make listening and learning hard, but this is where an open heart and mind can help us find the way to participate and even change. We can explore the many books on Truth and Reconciliation, Decolonization, Orange Shirt Day and Indian Residential Schools that will allow a reader to encounter the Indigenous voice. The Gord Downie and the Chanie Wenjack Fund sponsors a Day of Listening, where public radio stations share Indian Residential School Survivor stories and allow the Canadian public to hear these experiences and reflect on their meaning.

A next step in our learning may be to explore Indigenous-led business in Ottawa and research supporting them. You might also learn about and support the services of the local community centres that focus on some of Ottawa's Indigenous communities: a few examples are the Odawa Native Friendship Centre or Tungasuvvingat Inuit or Minwaashin Lodge.

We can also learn through experiences: the National Arts Centre has showcased many Indigenous voices with their programming of theatrical productions, dance ensembles, art and celebration of Pathfinders. The National Capital Region has Mādahōki Farm which focuses on Indigenous experiences and includes an Indigenous market, seasonal activities/workshops and the Ojibwe Spirit ponies. Kateri Native Ministries provides learning opportunities with a Kaandosowin retreat where participants can experience a sharing circle with Elders who foster relationships between Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. Another area of learning to explore could be Saint Paul University which provides courses, events and other opportunities that focus on Truth and Reconciliation.

Our listening leads to our learning, which leads in turn to our walking with the Indigenous communities around us and ultimately transforming us. Keep an open mind and heart in this process and allow for the invitation to learn more to be your guide. As former Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Chair, The Honourable Murray Sinclair observed, “Education is what got us into this mess and education is key to getting us out of it.”

Following the news in brief

Old Ottawa East community updates

JOHN DANCE

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. From his unique vantage point, he keeps our readers informed of a wide range of community developments.

Motorists on Colonel By Drive should see the light – but when?

Night-time users of Colonel By Drive may once again see the light. Persistent malfunctioning of the streetlights along the parkway north of the Flora Footbridge will be fixed, although no specific timelines have been provided.

“The City is working with the National Capital Commission (NCC) to upgrade the lighting systems,” Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard reported in his November newsletter. “Various options are being evaluated. In the meantime, we have asked staff to work with the NCC to install temporary lighting.”

At the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) annual general meeting, MP Yasir Naqvi also raised the issue and said the workplan for the upgrades will be shared with the community.

The problem with the lights is “an antiquated wiring system,” according to Menard. Repairing or replacing the buried cables for the streetlights will require some temporary road closures.

As part of the upgrading project, the NCC says it will: “respect the historical character of the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, install new energy-efficient lamps, consistent with the NCC's 2017 Capital Illumination Plan, and improve safety and comfort by reorganizing pathway spacing.”

The upgrading project will begin next year but won't be completed until 2025.

Delay 1: Grande Allée Park construction delays are slow to Market

The anticipated timeline for the start of construction of the Grande Allée Park is spring 2023, with the targeted completion of the project by the end of 2023, says Kevin Wherry, Manager of the City's Parks and Facilities Planning Department. Currently, the City is working with Regional Group and their design team to finalize the tender for the park's construction. The linear park will run from Main Street to the proposed Forecourt Park in front of the Deschâtelets Building.

The Grande Allée Park will be the new site for the Main Farmers' Market. Although the market had expected the park to be completed for next year's market season, the project has been delayed because of “industry cost acceleration and labour shortages,” says Wherry. “The City and Regional Group are committed to the completion of the Grande Allée Park project as soon as possible.

Delay 2: Greenfield, Main, Hawthorne project is, you guessed it, delayed

The massive Greenfield, Main Hawthorne project will not begin in earnest until next year and it's going to cost more than the \$34 million that was originally approved. Given that the project will take three years, completion won't be until 2025.

“The City is currently awaiting a full, itemized construction schedule from [contract winner] Aecon,” says Bruce Kenny, the City's Manager of Design and Construction. “Further details on the project will be shared with the community once the schedule has been received and reviewed by staff.”

In answer to the question of why the work has been delayed, Kenny says, “The tender period was extended due to the level of interest from bidders. Prospective bidders had many questions during the tendering process and the City required additional time to adequately review and respond to those questions.

“The City is planning to hold a public information session later this year which will include information about the contractor's anticipated schedule and expected disruptions to traffic, drinking water, hydro and more,” says Kenny. “This information will allow residents to assess the proposed work and possible impacts to properties and businesses. A date for the session will be shared with the community once details are finalized.”

Canal parkway closure consultation now underway

The NCC is surveying parkway users for their views on the various parkway closures this year and will meet with partners and stakeholders to discuss and help shape the future of the active use programming.

To date, OOECA has not been approached to discuss the issue. MP Yasir Naqvi told attendees of the community association's recent AGM that the NCC now has data on the parkway usage. He also made a commitment to continue to engage with the community, noting that it is the NCC that must make any decision pertaining to the closure of either of the canal parkways.

During the last federal election, Naqvi proposed closing a portion of Colonel By Drive in order to promote more active transportation. While the idea is embraced by many, there is also strong opposition because of the traffic impacts on Old Ottawa East.

In related news, the NCC plans to build “segregated pathways and to segregate existing pathways where necessary, whenever possible.” An example of a “segregated pathway” is the NCC pathway through LeBreton Flats. Segregation separates cycling and pedestrian users to improve the safety of the pathways.

“We are prioritizing the segregation of pathways in areas where the proportion of pedestrians is higher, specifically near ... densely populated areas,” the NCC's website says. In light of this new policy, users of the Colonel By pathway between Clegg and Bank streets will be interested to learn how pedestrian and cyclist safety will be improved on this narrow and dangerous stretch. OOECA has advocated for the creation of a pedestrian-only widening of the pathway over the edge of the Canal to improve safety.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Sisters Convent development on a pathway to approval

The detailed applications for the redevelopment of the Sisters property at 15-17 des Oblats have been made to the City of Ottawa. The proposal is similar to what the community previously saw. One notable change, however, is that the applicants - Smart Living Properties and Forum Asset Management - seek a rezoning provision that would allow five storeys on the Springhurst Avenue side of the building.

“The proposal seeks to modify the former convent building into residential units and build a 4-storey addition on the northwest part of the property, which together will provide 284 residential units,” the City's summary of the applications states. In fact, with the new proposal, there would be a fifth storey above part of the new residual units to provide interior amenity space for all of the new residents.

A key concern of many neighbours and OOECA is the applicants' request to have 20 visitor parking spaces with no parking spaces for the residents of the repurposed building. Another concern is that the extent of the proposed density exceeds what was targeted in the Old Ottawa East community design plan.

A number of residents of The Corners on Main oppose the proposed creation of a public pathway between the eastern face of the Corners condominium and the repurposed Sisters convent. The OOECA Board supports the idea in order to give greater pedestrian connectivity. Opponents say the pathway wouldn't be useful and it would create security, noise and privacy problems for residents in Corners.

Continued on Page 11

Part of the City's 'long term vision'

Plan to build a Rideau River footbridge gains endorsements, but issues remain

JOHN DANCE

The idea of a simple footbridge over the Rideau River near the foot of Clegg Street received support from several parties over the last two months. During the election campaign, Councillor Shawn Menard committed to “advocate for a pedestrian/bike bridge over the Rideau River from Clegg to the Rideau River Eastern Pathway and connecting with the hospital.”

Tom Scott, OOECA transportation and infrastructure chair, also made the request that the bridge be included in the City’s new active transportation plan.

“An active transportation bridge in this location [near the foot of Clegg] could play a role in the City’s ultimate pedestrian and cycling networks, as illustrated in the Hurdman transit-oriented development plan and as described in your submission,” responded Vivi Chi, associate general manager of the City’s planning, infrastructure and economic development branch.

“Within the Transportation Master Plan Part 2, we plan to update the ‘ultimate’ map of active transportation structures,” she

continued. “We expect to show the proposed Rideau River Footbridge on this map as you have suggested – it would be shown as an unfunded project that is part of the long-term vision for the network. This keeps the

concept and desire line visible as the plan is updated in the years to come.”

Further possible support may come from newly elected Alta Vista Councillor Marty Carr. Carr was formerly the president of the

Alta Vista Community Association and in this capacity supported the idea of a new footbridge over the Rideau River.

Despite such support, there are many issues that would have to be resolved before such a footbridge is built. An environmental assessment will be required along with lots of consultation. And with tighter municipal financial capacity, it may be years before this footbridge becomes a reality. The Flora Footbridge’s \$19 million price tag was borne primarily by the federal and provincial governments. However, the cost of a footbridge over the river could be much less as evidenced by the \$5 million cost of the new footbridge over the river at Carleton University.

Scott suggests that a feasibility study and an environmental assessment should be done as soon as possible so that the project would be “shovel ready” in the event that either the provincial or the federal government announced a new capital infrastructure grant program. As with Flora, both the provincial and federal governments could play a key role in getting this proposal off the ground.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The footbridge under construction at Carleton University will cost about \$5 million. A comparable bridge could be built over the Rideau River near the foot of Clegg Street.

NOTICE OF THE MAINSTREETER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 2023

The AGM will start at 7:00 pm and is open to all Members of *The Mainstreeter* in good standing (see below) as of January 21st. The meeting will be held via zoom and Members can register to attend by contacting the Secretary at info@mainstreeter.ca.

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Do you support *The Mainstreeter*, and want to have a say in decisions of the paper? Any person 18 years of age or older residing in Old Ottawa East, or who carries on a business or owns property in Old Ottawa East, is eligible for membership in the newspaper. And it costs nothing to join.

To become a Member, contact the Secretary at info@mainstreeter.ca. Any Member joining by January 21st, 2023 is eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting on February 21st, 2023.

Old Ottawa East community updates

Continued from Page 10

Bridge over the Rideau River will need a heritage assessment

The future of the historic CPR bridge over the Rideau River just south of Highway 417 looks better thanks to the efforts of Barry Padolsky, Sandy Hill architect and heritage expert.

Padolsky convinced the City’s Built Heritage Sub-Committee to request a formal assessment of the heritage value of the 124-year-old bridge that now serves as a key part of the City’s active transportation network.

City staff had earlier proposed replacing the bridge but Padolsky, supported by OOECA, Action Sandy Hill and a number of heritage advocates, opposed replacement. If the heritage assessment shows key heritage values of the structure then there is a greater likelihood that the bridge will be restored rather than replaced. The assessment is expected to be completed by April.

Federal boundary change for Ottawa Centre constituency affects OOE

The new recommended electoral boundary for Ottawa Centre will affect Old Ottawa East, but none of its voters. The change shows a slight shift of the boundary just north of the Kings Landing neighbourhood.

According to Paula Puddy, secretary of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario, “This change was made to move the boundary further away from the residences at the end of Kings Landing Private. This removes any potential confusion relating to interpreting the respective district’s legal descriptions and/or any alignment issues with satellite imagery.”

Elsewhere in Ontario, there are major recommended changes to achieve relatively equal populations in all constituencies.

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BUSINESS BEAT

Gray Jay Hospitality takes flight, but the Tartellete Bakery set to rise in February

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The community's flirtation with gourmet dining has proven to be a brief one, as Gray Jay Hospitality restaurant at Colonel By Drive and Hawthorne Avenue announced early this month that it will close its doors for good on December 23rd.

Since opening in late 2021 at the former site of the Royal Oak Pub, the Gray Jay has been sideswiped by the impacts of Covid, the Ottawa convoy and the shifting Queensway bridge replacement plans of the Ministry of Transport (Ontario)(MTO).

Owner-Chef Dominique Dufour recently told *The Mainstreeter* that the latest MTO plans to detour Colonel By traffic for up to two years and to use the Gray Jay's parking lot for bridge staging were, for her, "the last nail in the coffin."

In a restaurant review in the April 2022 issue of *The Mainstreeter*, the Gray Jay was referred to as a "culinary



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Rumours of a new bakery and café for Old Ottawa East were confirmed recently when Regional Group unveiled the opening in February 2023 of Tartellette Bakery & Café in The Shops at Milieu on Main Street.

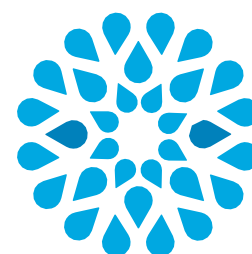
gem" for its innovative menu featuring some of the city's finest Canadian gastronomy.

For local foodies, the news is not all bad. Regional Group, the developers of the new Milieu Modern apartments on

Main Street, announced this month that Tartellette Bakery & Café will launch its French bakery in February 2023 in The Shops at Milieu. Regional says that fit up of the new bakery is now underway, and a hiring search of specialized baking staff has begun.

The Regional announcement coincided with a spate of Instagram posts picturing a wide range of delectable items that will be served at the bakery, including French pastries, cakes, tarts, croissants, cheesecakes, scones and sandwiches on specialty bread.

A major draw at Tartellette will be high quality coffee brewed using the bakery's customized Kees Van Der Westen machine, an iconic brewing system within the gourmet coffee industry that is found in many of the world's finest coffee shops.



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Traffic would be shifted to Hawthorne and Main

Highway 417 bridge replacement proposal calls for two-year detour of Colonel By Drive

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario developed its new proposal without consulting local community associations or addressing concerns voiced during prior public sessions.

JOHN DANCE

After five years of study and limited consultation, the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) now proposes that, beginning in 2028 and for almost two years, both Colonel By Drive (CBD) and the Queen Elizabeth Driveway (QED) would be closed beneath Highway 417's Rideau Canal bridge as a replacement bridge is assembled to the north.

The proposed lengthy closure was not part of previous proposals, and it has not been well-received by area residents. The closures would require all users of the Canal parkways to detour around the construction site. On the CBD side, the detour would be Hawthorne-Main and on the QED side users would take Elgin-Arlyle.

"MTO is continuing an ongoing environmental assessment and preliminary design study to establish bridge management plans for seven bridges at four sites on the Ottawa Queensway," the recently released documentation says. In addition to the Canal bridge, the Main, Elgin and Metcalfe bridges will also be rehabilitated

or replaced as many others along the Queensway already have been as the ministry deals with the deterioration of the 50-year-old bridges.

The Canal bridge presents many more challenges than the other bridges because of its length, contaminated soil, the Canal's status as a world heritage site, two parkways running underneath, major buried utilities and the need to ensure the Rideau Canal Skateway and Canal boating are not impeded.

The recommended new proposal would not require demolition of 221 Echo, now the Gray Jay Restaurant, nor the adjacent building on Hawthorne Avenue. Demolition was proposed during the 2019 consultation and residents objected to this. However, the plans show that the parking lot of the Gray Jay and the backyard of the adjacent Hawthorne building would be required during the two-year construction process.

When contacted by *The Mainstreeter*, Dominique Dufour, chef-owner of the Gray Jay, was surprised to hear of the proposal. MTO had not reached out to her to discuss the new proposal requiring the detour and use of her parking lot.

Dufour described the plan as "the last nail in the coffin." Several days after learning of MTO's plans, she announced that her restaurant would be permanently closing at its Echo location. The MTO plans, coupled with the adverse financial impacts of the trucker convoy and several other factors including the pandemic, led Dufour to take the decision. The restaurant had been open for about a year at the Echo location.

Although *The Mainstreeter* was told by MTO that the work wouldn't start until 2028, Dufour contacted the ministry and was told that the work may begin as early as 2026. "This, compounded with the announced work repaving all of CBD to replace the main water line this coming summer, contributed to our decision," said Dufour. "We cannot confidently plan to continue doing business against all these odds and closure. Accessibility is a big issue for us."

Under the new proposal, rather than having piers in the Canal, as is the case with the old bridge, new piers will be integrated into the Canal walls. This will avoid the "underground hydro plant on both sides of the Canal." Similarly, moving the construction staging to the

north of the existing bridge reduces risks to the buried watermain and the hydro plant. Also, the documentation says the proposed detouring of traffic will improve the safety of the construction area.

However, it's not clear how the safety of pedestrians and cyclists will be improved with the proposed detours. Indeed, the detouring of northbound cyclists will require them to take eastbound Hawthorne which, even after its upcoming reconstruction, will not have an eastbound cycling lane but will have a lot more motorized traffic because of the detour. Then, at Main Street, cyclists would have to turn left at a very crowded and busy intersection and then continue north, at times without cycling lanes.

Although there will be two-year detours for parkway users, the only inconvenience to Highway 417 motorists will be a four-day detour through Old Ottawa East (OOE) when the old bridge is demolished, and the new bridge structures are "jacked and slid" into place.

"Parks Canada, the NCC and the City have all endorsed Alternative 3 [requiring the parkway closures]," MTO spokesperson Patrick Helferty told *The Mainstreeter*. In a response that was a week after the information was requested, MTO declined to give answers to a number of the questions that had been posed. "The construction staging will be defined in greater detail during the subsequent detail design phase," notes Helferty.

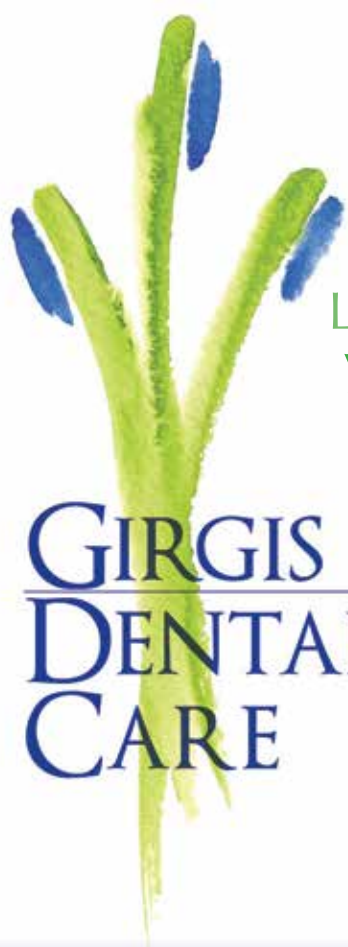
MTO announced the new proposal and a two-week on-line consultation period that ended on November 30th in the *Ottawa Citizen*. There was no effort to inform local community associations or community newspapers despite *The Mainstreeter* having raised many questions during the two previous consultations. Tom Scott, chair of the OOE Community Association's transportation and infrastructure committee, has requested that MTO hold "a face-to-face" meeting with the community.

"They really didn't deliver on concerns expressed in the last-previous public session and they have now shifted gears to a new approach with no reflection on what was said in that last iteration," says Scott.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Replacement of the deteriorated Queensway bridge over the Rideau Canal could require the two-year closure of both Canal parkways running under the bridge.



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OUR COMMUNITY REMEMBERS

Citizens rally to preserve Brantwood Gates tradition

JOHN DANCE

The important and longstanding tradition of honouring Canadian veterans at Old Ottawa East's Brantwood Gates was continued this year thanks to the efforts of many community members, several Royal Canadian Legion members, and our elected officials rallying at the last moment to make it happen.

Every year on the Sunday morning before November 11, the Strathcona Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion had organized the Remembrance Day event. But this year, with the dissolution of the Branch and other circumstances, the Legion was unable to stage the memorial.

The community learned of the situation about a week before the event would normally have been held through a posting on the OOE Grapevine Facebook site. Jessica Jepp of Kings Landing read the post and decided that the tradition had to be continued, so she promptly recruited community volunteers to make it happen. The entire family of Lieutenant Colonel Edward Jun and his wife Kathleen Holloway Jun participated, with their daughter Andrea reciting the Commitment to Remember, and their son Daniel laying one of the wreaths.

Avra Gibbs Lamey opened the service noting, "Today's ceremony was organized by a group of dedicated neighbours, who wished to see the tradition of a community gathering at the Brantwood Gates continue. We ask for your patience and understanding as we come together for a brief time to honour those who have made personal sacrifices on behalf of

Canada."

But no patience was required: all went flawlessly, complete with trumpeter Renée Lavoie playing hauntingly beautiful and stirring renditions of the Last Post and Reveille. "In Flanders Fields" was recited by Canadian Forces Veteran Colonel Retired Michel Duhamel. Georges Winters, the Legion member who lived for many years in Old Ottawa East and who had organized the event for almost two decades, and his wife Katherine and fellow Legionnaire Ron Oakley, prepared the site the day before.

Federal MP Yasir Naqvi, Provincial MPP Joel Harden, and Councillor Shawn Menard all laid wreaths at the end of the service. On very short notice, Councillor Menard arranged for the Ottawa Police Services and City staff to detour traffic, a measure that contributed to the solemnity of the event and allowed space for the crowd of about 70 people to gather in front of the Gates.

A number of other community members also helped make the event happen. Nick Masciantonio provided an excellent sound system and a speaker's podium. As he always does, nearby neighbour Bernie Teklenburg provided an extension cord with electricity. Linda Pollock found the trumpeter and the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) provided funding for the various expenses. OOECA has offered to help the Legion organize the event in future years and, if the Legion is unable to take the lead, OOECA has volunteered to do so.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Community volunteers continued the long tradition of the Remembrance ceremony at the Brantwood Gates. From left: Jim Strang, Georges Winters, Renée Lavoie, Andrea Jun, Avra Gibbs Lamey, Daniel Jun, Michel Duhamel, Christine Duhamel, Colonel Edward Jun and Kathleen Holloway Jun.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

At its Remembrance Day assembly, Lady Evelyn Alternative School students were presented with a painting honouring Corporal Nathan Cirillo. From left: Stella Kager, Saralyn Sheppard, Mollie Giesbrecht, Bethlehem Wondimagnehu, Comrade Wanda Riddell, Principal Kimberly Esdaile, Raya Duncan, Comrade Robin Brown, Rawan El-Barghoti, Calliope Carroll.

At Lady Evelyn School

History of local WW2 heroes brought home to students

JOHN DANCE

The astounding contributions of Lady Evelyn School's students to Canada's Second World War "Fighting Forces" were literally brought home to the school's current students at their Remembrance Day assembly, an event attracting about a hundred guests. The highlight of the warm and emotional service was Royal Canadian Legion comrades - and brother and sister - Wanda Riddell and Robin Brown presenting the school with the honour roll listing the 279 former students who volunteered for active service in WW2.

The beautiful and large framed work had been with the Strathcona branch of the Royal Canadian Legion which was located in a now-demolished building on Greenfield Avenue. As a result of declining membership, the branch has been disbanded and, in the words of Riddell, "The time has come for this magnificent piece of local history to return home."

Riddell and Brown grew up in Old Ottawa East on Redmond Place, a lane just off of Concord Street, and both were students at Lady Evelyn. Their membership in the Legion stemmed primarily from their family's military history, well evidenced by three of their uncles named on the honour roll. A picture of the three uncles taken on the day they left for overseas was also presented to the school. Unlike many, they all returned safely.

Almost all of the 123 students currently enrolled at the school participated in the assembly, the first since the Covid pandemic began. They sang, they recited poetry, they read tributes and they laid their own wreaths honouring those who have served our country. The walls of the gymnasium were covered with students' artwork paying tribute to Canada's veterans and ensuring their efforts will not be forgotten and that peace and democracy must be ensured.

The provenance of Lady Evelyn's honour roll isn't perfectly clear but, as described by a Macleans article of several years ago, "In the aftermath of WW2, [Group of Seven artist A.J.] Casson took it upon himself to design a template for an honour roll scroll that could be filled out with veterans' names from particular schools, congregations and other organizations."

Casson's name appears in small letters at the bottom of the scroll which is "brightly coloured [with] an intricate coat of arms and emblazoned with the phrase, 'For King and Country.'" Exactly who went to the painstaking effort to determine which Lady Evelyn students volunteered is unknown. Ottawa East must have been a tight-knit community, given how multiple members of many families are named. One surname, Dale, appears seven times, while a few others are listed five times.

Riddell and Brown also presented the school with a painting entitled "Soldiers Tears," by Ottawa artist Julie Daigle. The painting is of a field of poppies, and it honours Nathan Cirillo who was murdered while standing guard at the National War Memorial.



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The Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend:

Old Ottawa East is running territory, and the journey to the start line begins soon

THERESA WALLACE

If you have always wanted to take up running but need a goal to keep motivated, you live in a city with what Canadian Running Magazine has called one of the best race weekends anywhere. Local runners agree.

“Race weekend is a great celebration of running and spring in Ottawa. After everyone has trained all winter through the bad weather and the snow, they come together in what feels like a big community event one weekend in May,” explains Jesse Arnup Blondin, who has participated in Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend since 2007 and is signed up for the half-marathon in 2023.

“One year at mile 22 of the marathon, I passed my former high school math teacher watching the race and she recognized me. Every year I run into people I haven’t seen in months or years. I love the atmosphere, and the boost you get on race weekend when you see someone you know running or cheering you on.”

Arnup Blondin, a 40-year-old Boston marathon veteran, federal public servant and mother of two, moved to Old Ottawa East (OOE) in 2015 partly so she could run to work. Another big attraction was that OOE is between the Rideau Canal and the Rideau River. Her canal run might take her on a loop over the locks at Carleton University, through the Central Experimental Farm, around Dow’s Lake on the Queen Elizabeth Driveway side, over one of the bridges to Quebec and back. “Another favourite route,” she explains, “is along the Rideau River path through Brantwood Park to Strathcona Park, over the Adawe Crossing toward New Edinburgh and then along the bike path parallel to the Rockcliffe Parkway.” Arnup Blondin is fast—she has run a half-marathon, which is 21 kilometers, in 1:32, and a full marathon in 3:17.

Race weekend, Arnup Blondin’s favourite running event, was started in 1975 because local runners got tired of bumping into each other at out-of-town marathons and wanted a race of their own. In the almost half a century since those 159 marathon runners surged off the starting line at Carleton University on a humid morning in May and headed out along Colonel By Drive, the one race has expanded into the Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend with many thousands of runners participating in two kids/family runs, a 5k, 10k, half-marathon and marathon.

Over the decades, the OOE section of Colonel By Drive has remained an

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it’s that we should pursue our dreams when we can. As Theresa Wallace explains, if your body is good to go and you have always wanted to enter a 5k, 10k, half-marathon or marathon, each May our city hosts one of the best race weekends anywhere, Old Ottawa East has great running routes, and now is a perfect time to plan your training.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSE ARNUP BLONDIN

Jesse Arnup Blondin and her daughter with their Virtual 5k medals from Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend in 2020.

important race weekend arterial and currently offers local residents front-row spectating opportunities within walking distance for the 10k race on Saturday evening, which is also the Canadian 10k championships.

So OOE is an ideal neighbourhood for running in a city with a great race weekend. More good news: if your medical practitioner says you’re good to go, now is the time to buy those running shoes.

Ian Fraser, executive director of Run Ottawa, the non-profit organization that puts on race weekend, says January is the perfect time to start training. “However you celebrate the holidays, that calendar turns over onto January 1st and everyone starts to think about spring and what they want to accomplish in the coming year. You go through that thrilling moment of pushing the button on your screen and you have registered. Now what? Part of the race weekend experience is the journey to get there, and we are here to support that journey.”

Fraser, a former runner, triathlete and coach, says the technological innovations that have made the biggest difference in race weekend over its almost half a century are the internet social media

platforms that allow participants to be in daily touch from the moment they sign up. “We have amazing complimentary training programs available through ASICS Runkeeper and lots of nutritional and other support through partners we bring in.”

If you do sign up, you won’t be the only newbie. Fraser says last year, the first in-person race weekend after two years of going virtual due to the pandemic, 34

percent of registrants were new, with the biggest concentration of new registrants in the 10k and half-marathon.

If you don’t feel ready for 2023, there’s always the year after. The little race that grew up to nurture generations of runners and become the heartbeat of the Ottawa running scene will mark its 50th anniversary in 2024. For generations of past, present and future Ottawa runners, it’s going to be a celebration.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUN OTTAWA

Ian Fraser, executive director of Run Ottawa, which organizes the race weekend, is pictured here in his race announcer role.

ELECTIONS 2022

OTTAWA VOTES

OOE preferred McKenney

Sutcliffe voted new Ottawa Mayor

JOHN DANCE

It's not the result that most Old Ottawa East voters wanted, but much of the rest of the City felt otherwise and they elected novice politician Mark Sutcliffe as Ottawa's new mayor.

Catherine McKenney won more than twice the number of votes that Sutcliffe received from OOE voters but that didn't matter as rural and suburban residents strongly supported him with an overall result of 51 percent of the vote versus 38 percent for McKenney. Former mayor Bob Chiarelli ran a distant third, receiving about five percent of cast ballots.

Nevertheless, it was "the most exciting mayoral race in 15 years," CBC reporter Joanne Chianello noted at the community association sponsored mayoral candidates' debate. Indeed, initially opinion polls gave McKenney a large lead, but this shrank as the campaign proceeded.

In Capital Ward, 62 percent of Old Ottawa East voters supported McKenney. Glebe and Old Ottawa South voters were even more supportive with, respectively, 65 and 70 percent for McKenney. Re-elected Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard was a strong supporter of McKenney but to no avail beyond the boundaries of urban wards.

"The 54-year-old campaigned on fiscal frugality, promising to cap property tax increases at 2.5 per cent in 2023 and 2024 and continue to



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Mark Sutcliffe (foreground) is Ottawa's new mayor winning with 51 of percent votes cast. Catherine McKenney (background) was the runner-up with 38 percent.

keep them low in 2025 and 2026," CBC reported on Sutcliffe's victory. McKenney committed to three percent annual tax increases, however, Sutcliffe criticized McKenney's plan to greatly accelerate the construction of cycling infrastructure and to cover the expenditure with debentures.

As reported in the October issue of *The Mainstreeter*, McKenney was opposed to the building of a roadway through the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor of OOE's Peoples Park. Sutcliffe didn't respond to *The Mainstreeter's* request for his position on AVTC and other OOE issues.

At the mayoral debate, the future of Lansdowne Park was a key issue and Sutcliffe commented that the initial renovation has been "a great success." In terms of consideration of OSEG's Lansdowne 2.0 proposal, he said "There's room for a lot of consultation." He also commented the park "needs a north-south transit solution." Asked if the proposal's new entertainment centre should be built elsewhere, he did not answer directly.

Like the other mayoral candidates, Sutcliffe spoke of the need for more affordable housing and his key means of achieving this would be to build it on public land.

Voter turnout was low

Overall, just 44 percent of eligible municipal voters showed up in Ottawa. Although this is low relative to federal and provincial elections here, it's much better than Toronto's 29 percent turnout and it's one percent better than last election. Capital Ward was somewhat better than the city-wide turnout with 51 percent of voters casting a ballot, although this is down marginally from the previous election's 52 percent.



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ELECTIONS 2022

OTTAWA VOTES

Menard resoundingly re-elected to City Council



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Shawn Menard easily triumphed in his bid for a second term as Councillor for Capital Ward.

JOHN DANCE

In November's municipal election, Shawn Menard trounced his two opponents to retain the position of Councillor for Capital Ward.

The margin of victory was far greater than four years ago when he narrowly beat his rivals. Overall, Menard took 77 percent of the votes cast, compared to 13 percent for Rebecca Bromwich and 7 percent for Dan Rogers. In the previous election, Menard won with 28 percent of the vote compared to second place finisher Christine McAllister with 25 percent, incumbent David Chernushenko with 23 percent, and Anthony Carricato with 19 percent.

Menard's victory stemmed from his running on a solid record of accomplishments, his platform, and a lack of rivals who had well and widely established Capital Ward credentials.

"We worked really hard this last term to make sure that we have been responsive to residents regardless of political stripe and keeping our focus on the City as well as the ward," Menard told the Ottawa Citizen on election night. "I just want to thank them for putting their trust in me to represent them at the council table."

Voters in Old Ottawa East supported Menard more strongly than those in the Glebe but less strongly than in Old Ottawa South where Menard lives, but the differences were minor. Within OOE itself, Menard did better in the southern parts of the community than in the northern part.

In the previous election, Menard's success with Carleton students was key to his victory. This time, Menard again took most of the student votes (70 percent) but Bromwich, a professor at Carleton, did somewhat better than she did elsewhere. Rogers did better in the central Glebe polling stations than did Bromwich, perhaps attributable to Rogers running the

popular Glebe Central Pub.

One of Menard's key positions of relevance to OOE residents is his commitment to "stop the four-lane roadway (AVTC) taking over the greenspace by Lees Towers," as he noted in the October issue of *The Mainstreeter*. Rogers said, "As a Councillor, I would recommend this proposal go back for further review." In her response to *The Mainstreeter*, Bromwich did not comment on the proposed roadway. One of Menard's other platform commitments is to "advocate for a pedestrian/bike bridge over the Rideau River from Clegg to the Rideau River Eastern Pathway and connecting with the hospital."

At the recent community association annual general meeting, Menard spoke of his hope for a "more balanced, fair and collaborative City Council." He also said, "The renewal of Lansdowne Park should prioritize the creation of affordable housing, the retention of public green space, and a consultation process informed by residents."

Victorious School Board Trustees

The school board trustees elected for Capital Ward and their vote shares are:

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board:

Nili Kaplan-Myrth (51 percent)

Ottawa Catholic School Board:

Shelley Lawrence (55 percent)

Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario:

Joël Beddows (48 percent)

Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est:

Denis Forget (82 percent)



ART KAPLAN-MYRTH PHOTO

Newly elected OCDSB school trustee Dr. Nili Kaplan-Myrth

An open letter on our schools:

Many issues to address... a great deal to celebrate

It is an honour to write to you as Trustee-elect for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) in Zone 9 (Capital and Alta Vista wards). On November 15, 2022, each of the newly elected school board trustees across Ottawa will be sworn in. Throughout the month of November, leading up to the first OCDSB Meeting on December 6, I will join my colleagues in orientation sessions to learn more about our roles and responsibilities. I am excited to get to know the other rookie trustees, and to be mentored by those who already have years of experience.

You may wonder what a school board trustee does. Trustees are community advocates for public education. We make decisions about policies, procedures, and strategic plans. We balance budgets, ensure that boards of education and the Director of Education fulfil their duties and responsibilities under the Education Act. Trustees are called upon to determine school boundaries and decide which specialized programs should be offered at which schools. Trustees identify the needs and priorities of children, youth, and families, and address systemic inequalities within schools and across the board, from discrimination against students with disabilities, to racism, transphobia, and sexist school policies. Trustees are accountable to the province (the Ontario Ministry of Education) and to you.

During the election campaign, I met with a local student who transferred out of high school because students were chanting antisemitic slogans. I've spoken with students who experienced Islamophobic, anti-Black, anti-Indigenous, and anti-trans hate and violence outside and inside schools. We've seen reports of children with physical and developmental disabilities who have been neglected, physically restrained, and abused by educators. I've met with non-binary and neuro-diverse students who have told me about the discrimination they face in

school. I've met with parents of children with learning disabilities who are falling through the cracks. I've met with families who cannot afford private psycho-educational assessments to determine whether their child is eligible for a gifted program. I've met with library technicians who do not have the funds to order books for their students. I've met with parents who are worried about traffic safety as their children try to walk, cycle, or scoot to school.

There are many issues to address. There is also a great deal to celebrate: I love to walk by schools in the mornings as parents chat with each other and with teachers, as children and youth greet their teachers and their friends. There are so many happy events, extracurricular activities, incredible annual book fairs, science fairs, concerts, sports events, fun fairs. There is passion and commitment at parent council meetings. Education is about so much more than what happens in a classroom; schools help to make neighbourhoods into communities. They inspire civic responsibility, empathy, connection.

I begin my tenure as trustee by reiterating my commitment to listen to you and to advocate for you. Capital ward includes First Avenue PS, Mutchmor PS, Hopewell PS, Lady Evelyn Alternative School, and Glebe Collegiate Institute. I want to know about your concerns and to learn what's working well. I am here to ensure that your voices are heard around the board's decision-making table.

I will be available via monthly virtual meetings, on a drop-in basis. The link to those meetings will be on my web site (nilikm.ca). I am also setting aside weekly "office hours" (by appointment) for one-on-one virtual or in-person meetings with community members.

I can't wait to get to work as a trustee.

Dr. Nili Kaplan-Myrth

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Nearly 20 years ago they created their CHEO endowment fund and included a gift in their Will for CHEO. This was done with a sincere belief in the importance of acceptance and community. Keenly aware of the connection between teen suicide and identifying as LGBTQ2S+, they directed their fund to youth mental health and suicide prevention. Anyone may join Jean-Louis and George in this work to champion young lives by contributing to their fund.

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BLAKE PROUDFOOT PHOTO

A pot luck dinner party on the Boulevard!

Ever wonder why you waited so long? Well, it all started with a few neighbours on Centennial Boulevard sharing a drink one night. The next thing you know, invitations were printed, and the first annual Centennial Boulevard Pot-luck Supper was held on September 17th.

The main dish was a sumptuous seafood chowder cooked by Jeremy, accompanied by a variety of rolls, salads, and desserts. Tags were provided to the attendees to indicate their name, street number, and the year they purchased their home. A great turnout was had, and the outdoor venue was perfect; so, expansion is planned for next year as the whole boulevard will be invited (only the west end was invited this year).

Organizers say : Merci à tous pour votre participation, et on se revoit l'an prochain.



*“Christmas waves a magic wand over this
world, and behold, everything is softer and
more beautiful.”*

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

We, along with our staff and contractors, would like to thank all our clients for their support over the past year. That support contributes greatly to our continued success and allows us to continue doing what we love best: beautifying and enhancing Ottawa-area living spaces. During this holiday season, let us cherish our family and friends, both near and far. From our family to yours, we send our warmest wishes for a happy Holiday Season, a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous and safe New Year.

Catherine Pulcine

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OUR NEIGHBOURS

Meet Dave Longbottom & Carrie Colton

For this Echo Drive couple, collaboration is the essence of community



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dave Longbottom and Carrie Colton first met at Maxwell's on Elgin Street, just a short jaunt from Longbottom's current "community", Flora Hall Brewing. The couple's move to Old Ottawa East in 2019 was a perfect choice and a homecoming of sorts.

DIANNE WING

Dave Longbottom and Carrie Colton believe in collaboration and that collaboration is community. While his first career as a technology executive and entrepreneur saw him travel the world, Longbottom calls Ottawa "home sweet home." Colton was born up the line in Arnprior. It was her passion for art and design, by way of Montreal, that brought her to Ottawa. The two met at Maxwell's on Elgin Street, just a few blocks from the location of Longbottom's newest community, Flora Hall Brewing.

While they are relative newcomers to Old Ottawa East, having moved here in 2019, it was a bit of a homecoming. They raised their son Zak in Old

Ottawa South in the 1990's and moved to the Glebe a decade later. Then, after a little time out of the core, they returned downtown. Old Ottawa East was the perfect choice, close to water and nature, beautiful, full of life and sitting between the two neighbourhoods of their earlier days. Now they walk or cycle to their respective places of work; Longbottom to Flora Hall and Colton to Studio Sixty Six in the Glebe.

Flora Hall was created to provide a gathering place for the communities in and around Flora Street in Centretown, a place for neighbours to meet and share food and drink, joys and sorrows. Longbottom took meticulous care in restoring the heritage industrial structure, a former garage and repair shop that dates to the

1920's. In collaboration with Colton and Studio Sixty Six he has added original works of art from such artists as Guillermo Trejo, Amy Barker, Christian Chapman, Troy Moth and Andrew Morrow to continuously enrich the space. The Moth and Morrow pieces were true collaborations in that they were commissioned specifically for Flora Hall.

Longbottom and Colton worked directly with the artists to realize the works. Collaboration comes in many forms. Sometimes it is as simple as familiarity. Christopher Griffon's gorgeous Northern Right Whale comes directly from Griffon's patronage of Flora Hall and his suggestion when sitting around the bar. It hovers in a place of honour over the taps.

Like Flora Hall, Studio Sixty Six is a labour of love for Colton. The gallery originally featured the best emerging contemporary artists in the area, and over time the roster has evolved to include several accomplished, well-established career artists sought after by private collectors and institutions alike. First-time buyers can feel comfortable that the gallery and artists are approachable and welcoming and will help buyers, as they helped Longbottom, fall in love with original art works.

Longbottom and Colton share a collective vision of life. They work together on beers and art projects and whether it be a gathering place for neighbours or a hub for artists and art collectors, it all comes down to community.

ART BEAT



**TANIS
BROWNING-
SHELP**

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OOE ARTIST FEATURE: ACTIVISM THROUGH ART- PHOTOGRAPHERS JAKE MORRISON AND JIM LAMONT

Photographer Jake Morrison and his partner Jane Keeler care deeply about Ottawa's green space. In Old Ottawa East (OOE), Morrison curated the rotating photographic gallery at The Green Door Restaurant for several months leading up to the pandemic. Two of Morrison's landscape photographs now grace the walls of the restaurant's permanent gallery. When Morrison and Keeler learned that hundreds of trees were to be cut down for the new Civic Hospital development, they resolved to act. Keeler came up with the idea of reaching people through Morrison's art.

Artistic Activism combines the creative power of the arts to move people emotionally with the strategic planning of activism required to bring about social change. Morrison and Keeler began by distributing notices inviting people to get their portraits taken with an endangered tree at an endangered park. Sittings were available by appointment.

"In late 2021, 50 Ottawa citizens showed up to have their portraits taken with the endangered trees in Queen Juliana Park and the Campus portion of the Central Experimental Farm," Morrison says. "Some

were from ReImagine Ottawa, some were connected to the Botanica condos across from the Farm, and some were from other parts of the city."

The result was the political portrait book *We Stand With The Trees: Portraits of Trees and Their Defenders*. Released in May of 2022, the book calls for Ottawa to protect its green space. "Ottawa is losing its urban old growth to a lack of green-space planning and protection, exacerbated by the lack of coordination between the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal urban planners," Morrison says. "Many OOE and OOS residents visit and appreciate these 53 acres of park in the heart of Ottawa's green leisure space."

"Jane and I set out hoping to save these parks, but we also wanted to organize to save and expand the green space in Ottawa. Climate change is here. We want to make sure we have vibrant community knowledge and appreciation of our green space so that the next edition of this book doesn't read like a eulogy.

"In the last century, environmental portraits became a thing. 'Environmental,' in that case, didn't mean natural environment but, rather, the subject's working or living environment and how it added to the story of the portrait. I think of 'protest portraiture' as being an environmental portrait in which the story is about the subject's passion for the thing pictured with them. Each page of *We Stand With The Trees* includes a portrait of a heritage tree; a 'protest portrait' of individuals, couples, or families standing with that tree; and peoples' personal reflections. This project taught me a lot about portraiture, and I'm glad I did it."

Four of the trees featured in Morrison and Keeler's book have already come down, one in storms, and three due to construction. *We Stand With The Trees* is available from publisher With Flare Press (www.withflare.ca) and at independent Ottawa bookstores, including Singing Pebble Books.

WE STAND WITH THE TREES

by Jane Keeler and Jake Morrison



JAKE MORRISON PHOTOS

Cover of the political portrait book *We Stand With The Trees: Portraits of Trees and Their Defenders*, released in May of 2022.

For decades, OOE resident Jim Lamont has used his photography to bring climate change to peoples' attention. "Glaciers are an early-warning system," he says. "I have been travelling on glaciers for 50 years. Recently I have been seeing changes that should take hundreds or thousands of years happening in five or ten. My photographs are a chance to make the impacts of climate change real for people who don't see them every day."

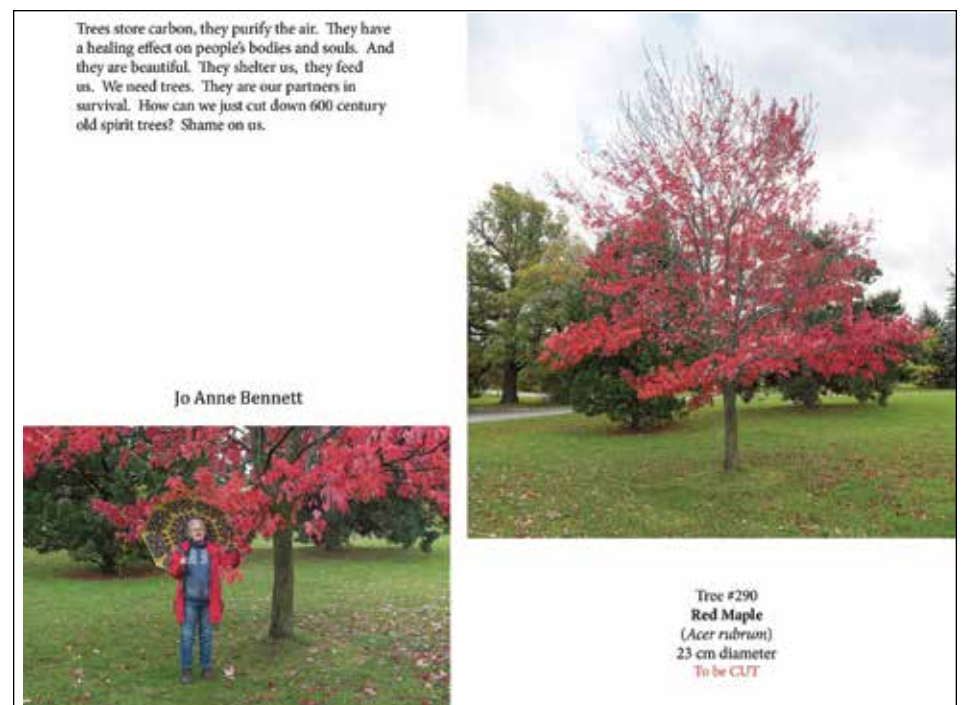
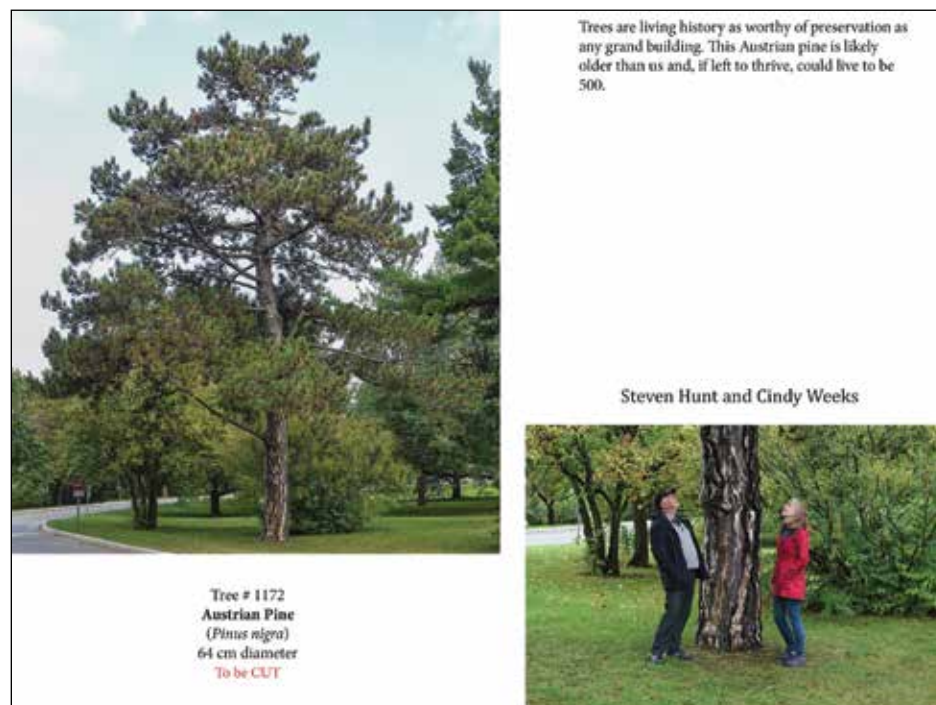
Lamont admires the philosophy of stoicism. "I think that my photos of glaciers are important. But stoicism is partially about doing your best on things that matter to you, and not worrying too much about what you cannot control, that is, other people's reactions," he says.

Stoicism aside, one of Lamont's photographs, "A shadow falls on the Lowell Glacier," recently won the Natural Landscape Photograph of the Year for 2022. It tied with a photograph from Austria. Ten thousand

seven hundred photographs were submitted to the competition by 1179 photographers from 55 countries. Lamont's winning photo shows the shadow cast by peaks on the surface of the Lowell Glacier, in Kluane National Park, Yukon. It was taken on a July morning in 2022 from a Cessna 172 as part of a decades-long project on glaciers. "The image is intended to suggest the wave of destruction that will overwhelm us unless we stop dumping carbon into the atmosphere," Lamont explains.

"The Cessna 172 was very small, and, unfortunately, I was unable to prop the side window open. I didn't want to shoot through plexiglass. So, with the help of the photographer who travelled with me, we devised a system where I would push the window open when I thought I could get the shot. Then he would hold it there for a short time from the back seat. We had to

Continued on Page 25



The pages of Jake Morrison's book, *We Stand With The Trees*, feature 50 Ottawa citizens who offered to have their photos taken with the endangered trees in Queen Juliana Park and the Campus portion of the Experimental Farm. Some of the trees pictured in the book have already been cut down for the new Civic Hospital project.



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: On a crisp Saturday morning in November, I found myself tucked behind the vintage gas station at the corner of Main and Hawthorne lining up a good three-quarter vantage point of the Old Town Hall. After two years of contributing sketches to *The Mainstreeter*, it seemed about time I considered

this subject—both a physical and a symbolic cornerstone of this community.

According to the Ottawa East Archives, this modestly elegant building survived a fire and possibly a decade of vacancy and has served, among other things, as a baby clinic,

dance hall, kindergarten, Carnegie Library, and jail. Archival photos by James Ballantyne (his nephew Henry was the architect) show the building under construction when Main Street was still a dirt road.

While working on the sketch I watched locals coming and going with

yoga mats in tow and wondered how many people had walked through the doors of 61 Main over the past 127 years. With the community centre relocating in the next few years, what new chapter will be written for the storied Old Town Hall?

Activism through the lens of the photographer

Continued from Page 24

coordinate and practise. When I saw the shadow on the glacier, I knew immediately that it was going to be a good shot, but flying at over 100 miles per hour, it was hard to get into the right place with the window open in time. It took three 'go-arounds.' I felt a bit like a Hollywood director giving the pilot directions over headphones and a mic. Exciting.

"You know immediately if a photograph has impact or not. I felt this picture was sombre and consequential. Within myself, I noticed an immediate impact, but I



JIM LAMONT PHOTO

Old Ottawa East photographer Jim Lamont's "A shadow falls on the Lowell Glacier" was selected co-photo of the year in an international competition that judged 10,700 photos submitted by photographers from 55 countries.

wondered if sombre was okay. Ultimately, I hoped it would remind people about the damage we are inflicting on the world and the importance of changing our collective behaviour."

Lamont's winning photograph was covered in November by The Ottawa Citizen's Bruce Deachman and CNN's Travel journalist Jacopo Prisco. The CNN article had the heading: "Award-winning landscape photographs show fragility of the natural world."

"Winning that award was gratifying, but I do not judge myself by other's recognition," Lamont says. "I know I am a very small voice in the fight against global climate change. I hope it helps a little. Regardless, I will continue working for what I love and think important."

Lamont firmly believes that as a society, we can solve this problem. "We just have to decide to solve it," he says. "We did that when we created vaccines in the pandemic; similarly, we did that when we transformed our economy overnight during and again after WWII."

This year, the Public Art Program purchased two large prints from Lamont's "Communion" series of photographs of the Donjek Glacier (also with the theme of climate change) for Ottawa's permanent art collection. The exhibition, "Metamorphosis: 2022 Additions to the City of Ottawa Art Collection," is scheduled to run between December 8 to February 3, 2023, with the formal opening December 15, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Art Gallery.

"I think of my photography as a small hand helping to push our society toward action. I am hopeful things will change. Hope is essential if we are to act. We must have hope, if only for the children of the world. But this will require concerted effort, societal, and political action, and not just personal lifestyle changes."

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



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LIVING FAITH IN OUR COMMUNITY



The Kairos Blanket Exercise: Discovering the history we are never taught

JANICE CAMERON-CALUORI

It is frankly difficult to summarize the Kairos Blanket Exercise Experience with any exactitude. You could say it's a lesson on Canada's colonial history. But it isn't really. It's much more than mere information to hear and take note of. It's an immersive experience as all participants join together upon the blankets which represent "Turtle Island" or the land. Everything is connected to the land. The land which colonialism slowly but surely eroded out from under the Indigenous peoples of our country. According to Kairos Canada, an ecumenical movement for ecological justice and human rights, the Blanket Exercise "...is an interactive way of learning the history most Canadians are never taught."

The Truth and Reconciliation Committee of the Canadian Martyrs Church hosted a Blanket Exercise at Immaculata High School on November 26th. The Kateri Native Ministry facilitated the workshop for the 25 participants. This experience in living Indigenous history walks participants through pre-contact to the present. I was particularly struck by how

much of this history has happened during my lifetime, a history of which I was blissfully unaware. While I was a young child growing up in the 1960's, the "60's Scoop" happened - it was a coordinated removal of Indigenous children from their homes and families. The last residential school was finally closed in 1996. I find all of this horrifying. This is not ancient history to me, born in 1958.



The Kairos Blanket Exercise is for everyone's participation. We all need to put on Indigenous shoes and walk in them. This experience provides you with that opportunity. Please take this walk if you can. For information you can visit these two sites: The Kateri Native Ministry: <https://www.katerinativeministry.ca> and The Kairos Blanket Exercise: <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise>



JANICE CAMERON-CALUORI PHOTOS



LEFT: The blankets arrayed within the circle of chairs at the start of the Blanket Exercise represent Turtle Island, the land occupied by the Indigenous people before contact; **RIGHT:** By the end of the exercise, the patchwork of blankets remaining illustrates how little of the land remains.

Reverend Victoria Scott

New Priest announced at Ascension Church

MARY CRAWFORD

The Church of the Ascension has announced that Reverend Victoria Scott is the new priest of the Echo Drive Anglican church. Her appointment as the spiritual head of Ascension took effect in August 2022.

Most recently, Reverend Scott served as Incumbent of St. Luke's Anglican Church on Somerset Street from 2018-2022. During her time at St. Luke's, parish presence increased in the neighbourhood. In addition to traditional Anglican worship Sunday morning, St. Luke's also served as a "Spiritual Hub" for arts, music, and poetry events while under Reverend Scott's stewardship.

She has been described as a gifted pastor, priest, and teacher. Parishioners advise that Reverend Scott will bring much intelligence, sensitivity, and creativity to the ministry at Ascension.

The church has scheduled a full slate of Advent and Christmas services, as follows, at which worshipers are invited to meet Reverend Scott in person:

- Sundays at 10am, Holy Eucharist with Sunday School.
- Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom, "Pausing for Prayer in Advent."
- Sunday December 11 at 3pm, "Words and Music" (45 minutes of readings, music and silence for reflection).
- Sunday, December 18 at 5pm, "Blue Christmas" (for those who find

Christmas difficult).

- Wednesday, December 21, 5-7pm, Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk.
- Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24: 4pm Children's Service, 7:30pm Carol Singing, 8pm Eucharist.
- Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 10am, Holy Eucharist



For more information about Ascension and their services contact victoria@churchoftheascension.ca for the Zoom link and check the website at www.churchoftheascension.ca.



Reverend Victoria Scott

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Controversy surfaces over Brantwood Park tennis and pickleball courts

DAVID HENDERSON

Tennis and pickleball players who make use of the Brantwood Park courts are well aware of the work the City of Ottawa has undertaken this fall to lay-in a new court surface and install a fence. The court surface at Brantwood, according to the City, was nearing its 40th year. The cracks and bumps had been repaired many times, and frustrated users began taking self-help steps, filling in the ever-increasing cracks to reduce the chance of tripping.

There are approximately 200 City-managed courts in Ottawa, the conditions of which range from very poor to excellent.

With assistance of the office of Shawn Menard, City funds were set aside to refurbish the degraded court surface at Brantwood. First scheduled for summer 2022, the work was delayed, and October finally saw ‘shovels in the ground.’ As the work ended in late October, however, it became evident to users that the new playing surface was uncoated asphalt, without the application of any acrylic protective covering.

Early users of the newly resurfaced court have observed that the asphalt surface shows high potential for damaging water infiltration (see photo). According to the City’s Asset Management Branch (the Branch), “(t)he new asphalt is a finer grade granular which produces a smooth surface finish with a similar if not better finish than courts with acrylic coating.” The Branch believes acrylic coating does not extend the life of the asphalt court surface, which it estimates to be typically between 20 and 30 years, without protective treatment. The Branch maintains that the main purpose of the acrylic layer is to improve

aesthetics and provide a smoother finish.

A quick survey of other City-managed municipal courts reveals that the application of some sort of surface protective covering has been consistent. The three courts in St. Germain Park (adjacent to the University of Ottawa Minto Centre) include protective covering, and they are deemed to be in good condition. Other examples of courts with the protective surface in good condition include, among others, Windsor Park (four courts), and Canterbury Park (two courts).

More recently, the four courts at Riverain Park (behind Rideau Sports Centre) were resurfaced with a protective covering. These courts were included as part of an entire park redevelopment which was funded by the Cash in Lieu of Parkland, as was the recent work completed at Brantwood Park. According to the City, the work at Riverain was done with the community’s understanding that the acrylic coating is not something the City will be required to maintain.

By contrast, the surface of the court at Playfair Park is asphalt, and it is considered to be in fair to poor condition.

A knowledgeable local sport court contractor, Chris Smith Canada Court, promotes the use of colour coating or products like DecoTurf (registered trademark) for low-maintenance court surfaces at a variety of prices. According to the company’s website, a quality, low-maintenance court surface should begin with concrete or asphalt, followed by an acrylic resurfacer, a texture course providing a uniform surface texture. Finally, a finish course is applied creating a durable finish, and resistant to weather and ultraviolet degradation.

Sergio Carraro, an analyst with the Branch, told *The Mainstreeter* that,



ALIYA HENDERSON PHOTOS

ABOVE: Racquet sport enthusiasts can rejoice over the newly resurfaced tennis and pickleball courts at Brantwood Park. BELOW: But users can legitimately question why the new court surface hasn't been protected with an acrylic overlay coating to seal the permeable asphalt.

in relation to the Brantwood renewal project, “(t)he cost to renew a tennis court varies year to year. The cost of asphalt greatly fluctuates with the cost of crude oil. Recent labor challenges and demand also drives the cost. The total cost for this resurfacing project was close to \$300,000.” Project costs, however, included the cost of “removals, a new accessible pathway and benches, new fencing, new tennis post and nets, larger asphalt area extending past the fencing in order to prevent the grass from creeping onto the courts, as well as design fees,” Carraro noted.

The obvious question to ask is why would the City, in undertaking the costly work to resurface the Brantwood courts, not take the added step to apply a protective acrylic covering atop the asphalt, a step which experts in the field suggest serves to extend the life of the court surface? The City explains that it decided about six years ago to no longer apply the coloured acrylic coating to new tennis courts as it cannot maintain the cost of the recommended re-application cycle of every seven to ten years. The cost of applying the coloured acrylic coating is estimated to be close to \$10K per court.

According to the City, the new asphalt used at Brantwood is expected to provide a smooth surface while maintaining its colour longer than the type of asphalt used for road resurfacing. City staff noted

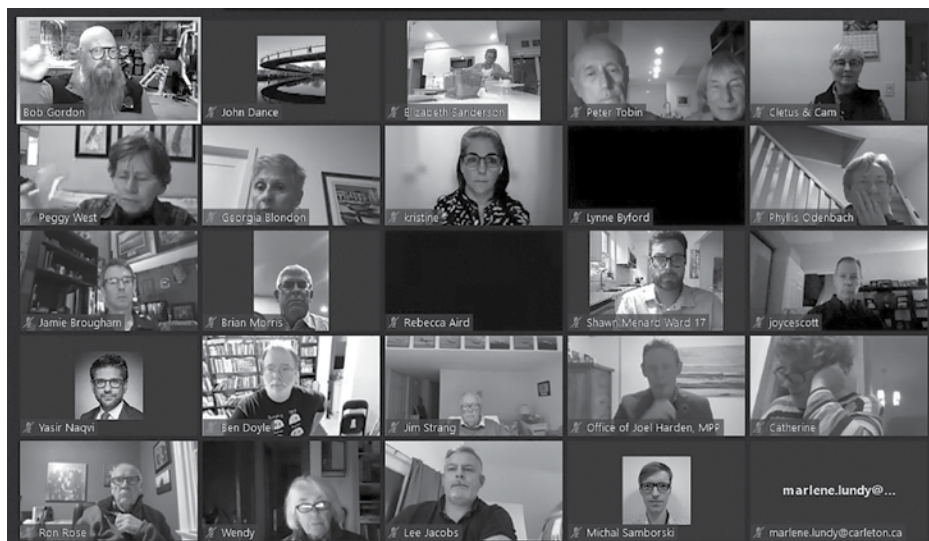
that they are always looking for new ways to provide appropriate service without sacrificing the playability of the tennis and pickleball courts.

The Mainstreeter asked the Branch whether the City had ever done a comparative costing study to base its current policy of not applying acrylic protective coating to asphalt courts. In response, the Branch advised: “No study has been performed since [the policy was put in place] nor is one planned. The acrylic coating applied is not an alternative to covering up old asphalt. There will always be a need to have complete re-builds of the courts even if the acrylic coating was placed. Over time, the asphalt dries out and cracks, larger cracks form and vegetation starts to grow in the cracks.

“The reason the acrylic coating is no longer applied to courts is that we have found it was not extending the life of the asphalt. It is (...) considered a premium playing surface, which is an increased cost to the City, times 200+ courts citywide. To close, since the City is no longer applying the acrylic coating, the type of asphalt mix has been changed in order to provide that desirable smoother surface the acrylic once provided,” Carraro said.

But for active users of the Brantwood courts, the jury is still out on the new unprotected asphalt surface, and on the City’s six-year-old cost-saving policy.





SCREENSHOT OF ZOOM MEETING

OOECA hopes to shift to combined in-person and Zoom meetings in the new year rather than just conducting meetings on Zoom as was the case with the recent Annual General Meeting.

Community Association holds AGM

Successes noted and challenges identified

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The many accomplishments of the committees of the Old Ottawa East (OOE) Community Association (OOECA) were outlined by President Bob Gordon at the recent annual general meeting attended by a Zoom crowd of about 60 members. Elected representatives Yasir Naqvi, Joel Harden and Shawn Menard also attended.

Among these accomplishments were: influencing the impacts of major City projects and plans such as the Greenfield, Main, Hawthorne reconstruction project and the new transportation master plan; supporting the establishment of Peoples Park on the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor property; pushing back on the Province's now-enacted Bill 23 which is predicted to curtail community and municipal involvement with new development while simultaneously increasing taxes and ignoring environmental and heritage impacts; and introducing programs to protect and augment the OOE tree canopy.

In 2023, in addition to monitoring the progress of new City initiatives affecting OOE, the community association will also revitalize its website and return to in-person meetings with the option for people to attend virtually.

Also, as the Deschâtelets Building renovations proceed, OOECA and the OOE Community Activities Group will work with the City to ensure that the two organizations' programs can successfully operate within the new community centre. Also, addressing the need for Indigenous reconciliation on the former Oblates lands will be pursued.

During the open forum part of the annual meeting, questions were raised about the proposed closure of Colonel By Drive; the prohibition of left-turns by northbound Main Street vehicles at the Colonel By Drive intersection; the need to support local businesses by walking and cycling rather than by driving; and the desirability for a committee to support local businesses.



The OOECA committees are: Transportation and Infrastructure; Parks and Greenspace; Environment (Sustainable Living Ottawa East); Planning; Lees Apartments, Greystone Village - The Corners on Main; Lansdowne; Membership; and Health and Safety. All of these committees are looking for new members. Contact info@ottawaeast.ca if you are interested.

POLITICAL PAGES

JOEL HARDEN MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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613-722-6414
109 CATHERINE ST, OTTAWA, ON, K2P 0P4



OUR DEMOCRACY IS ALWAYS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

For the second time in recent memory, the Ford government has identified our democratic rights as a barrier to progress.

You will recall the first time with Bill 28, when education workers – members of CUPE-OSBCU – had a collective agreement imposed on them and were threatened with thousands of dollars in fines if they dared to strike.

These workers defied the government and stood up for constitutionally protected rights to bargain and withdraw their labour. They also stood up for our kids and schools. The Ford government blinked and repealed Bill 28. It was a win for democracy.

With Bill 39, the Ford government once again treads the same dangerous ground. This legislation extends the “strong mayors” precedent of Bill 3, empowering the Mayors of Toronto and Ottawa to pass legislation with only the support of a third of elected City Councillors.

That should give us all pause, as this is an open case for minority rule.

Our first-past-the-post voting system is bad enough – allowing the Ford Conservatives to form a majority government with 41% of the popular vote, and support of only 18% of eligible Ontario voters.

But now, we hear that majority rule itself is an obstacle in municipalities.

In debate on this legislation, Conservatives said that Bill 39 will address Ontario's housing crisis. It would thwart “NIMBYism” and empower decision-makers to “get shovels in the ground.” There are too many impediments to building housing, they insist, and these must be removed.

John Tory, Toronto's Mayor, supports Bill 39. He has pledged to only use the new powers when they are necessary to move housing and transit priorities forward. He cites NIMBYism and local reluctance to more urban density as key issues. Minority rule circumvents that problem.

Previous Toronto Mayors have written Tory, insisting he oppose Bill 39. They are “...appalled at this attack on one of the essential tenets of our local democracy and a fundamental democratic mechanism: majority rule.”

Sadly, that's where we're at with the housing debate in Ontario. The government believes it must thwart democratic rights and silence its critics to build the homes we need. These are terrible precedents, and one assumes the government thinks the end justifies the means.

I've heard from hundreds of constituents telling me otherwise. You've told me our democracy is always worth fighting for, and I wholeheartedly agree.

What do you think about Bill 39? Send your thoughts to JHarden-CO@ndp.on.ca, I would love to hear from you.

POLITICAL PAGES

SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR, CAPITAL WARD

SHAWN.MENARD@OTTAWA.CA
SHAWNMENARD.CA



A RENEWED FOCUS FOR THE NEW TERM OF CITY COUNCIL

The new term of City Council officially begins this month, and I am incredibly honoured to continue to represent the residents of Capital Ward for the next four years. I think this Council will be more independent than the previous one and I am hopeful that collaboration will improve all regions of the City of Ottawa.

I look forward to advancing the interests of our community. In Old Ottawa East, there are a number of issues we will continue to work on to maintain the livability and vibrancy of the neighbourhood.

We will keep making improvements to street safety, collaborating with residents on new traffic calming measures on community streets, and putting an emphasis on road and sidewalk repairs. We will work directly with community and small businesses to enhance the streetscape, including more patio options, and better walking and bicycling access to shops and amenities. To help people get around our community, we will prioritize a new pedestrian crossing on Lees Avenue near Springhurst Park, and advocate for a new pedestrian/bicycling bridge over the Rideau River from Clegg to the Rideau River Eastern Pathway and connecting to the hospital.

We also want to see improvements to everyday livability in the ward. We have many great parks in our community, but enhancements are needed, including a new dock at Springhurst Park. And for those of you who like to get outside in the cold weather, we will work with volunteers to extend the Rideau Winter Trail from Hurdman across Bank Street to Carleton University and through Vincent Massey Park.

And speaking of the importance of parks and greenspace, we will fight to protect the land beside Springhurst Park - the "People's Park." We will vehemently oppose the construction of the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor, a relic of last-century transportation planning. We do not want to see an expensive four-lane thoroughfare running from Conroy Road, through greenspace over the river and then through the People's Park.

This term, Council must continue its work on climate change. This includes reducing urban sprawl, retrofitting both City and residential buildings, and adding new enhanced performance standards for new home construction. We need to protect our tree canopy. It provides much needed shades, combats the "heat-island" effect and helps improve air quality.

Housing and housing affordability is a significant issue for Capital Ward and for the entire City. Last term of council, we were able to work with other governments, public institutions and private organizations to secure more affordable housing in the ward, including setting up a ward fund for affordable housing and ensuring affordable units would be included in the re-development of the Deschâtelets building.

This term, we want the city to invest \$50 million annually to new affordable housing, and to form partnerships with the federal and provincial governments to match funding. We must also reduce subsidies to the development industry, using those funds in a more efficient and effective way.

We need to incentivize "missing middle" housing. The City is growing, and intensification is coming to most every community in Ottawa, but we can do it in a thoughtful way, focusing on density that will integrate with and enhance existing neighbourhoods.

A brief word about Ontario's Bill 23

The *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23) has been enacted in the name of solving the housing affordability crisis. It will not succeed in that regard, and it will come at a great cost to residents. This Bill was introduced without consultation, and the post facto consultations planned do not include a hearing in Ottawa, the second largest city in Ontario.

Bill 23, along with the broader slew of other recent regulatory changes imposed upon municipalities by the province will have negative implications for Ottawa ratepayers, for the provision of truly affordable housing, for the fight against climate change, and for democratic input into local planning decisions. You can read our open letter <https://www.shawnménard.ca/stopbill23a>.

YASIR NAQVI MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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PHONE: 613-946-8682
COMMUNITY OFFICE:
404 - 1066 SOMERSET STREET WEST



'TIS THE SEASON!

We've come to the end of a busy year with lots to celebrate. I've enjoyed spending time across Ottawa Centre speaking with residents and businesses and hearing how we can continue to improve our community. Thank you for sharing your views on how we can increase affordable and social housing, protect greenspaces, and ensure our community is more inclusive. I take all your feedback to heart and work every day to bring forward your ideas and support your initiatives so that we can build a community for everyone.

This past month, I was pleased to join our community members at the Old Ottawa East Community Association Annual General Meeting and share updates on the National Capital Commission's upcoming upgrades to street lighting along the Canal as part of the Rideau Canal Lighting Rehabilitation Project. The project's goals are to repair or replace all outdated and broken pathway and parkway lights. This includes light heads, arms and bases. I was also pleased to hear your thoughts on how we can plant more trees along Colonel By Drive. I also had the pleasure of attending the Debra Dynes Family House Annual General Meeting where the focus of discussion was on how we can continue to combat food insecurity amid the rising cost of living, and ensure residents have access to the resources they need.

Affordability continues to be top of mind for many Ottawa residents. In the Fall Economic Statement, the federal government outlined ways we are continuing to support Ottawa Centre residents through targeted measures aimed at making life more affordable. Notably, helping people buy their first home through the new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account, which will allow prospective first-time home buyers to save up to \$40,000 tax-free toward their first home. Like an RRSP, contributions would be tax-deductible, and withdrawals to purchase a first home - including investment income - would be non-taxable. Our government expects that Canadians will be able to open and begin contributing to an account in mid-2023. We are also eliminating all interest on Federal Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans to reduce the burden of student loans on young people so they can invest in building their futures. Among other initiatives, we intend to lower credit card transaction fees for small businesses in a manner that does not adversely affect other businesses and protects existing reward points for consumers. As we get through the challenges of global economic uncertainty, we will continue to be there for residents as we build an economy that works for all Canadians.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you are seeking more information on the measures outlined through the Fall Economic Statement, or if you need assistance in navigating the federal government. My team and I are here to help. As we head into the holiday season, I hope you get a chance to attend one of the many community events taking place across Ottawa Centre like the Lansdowne Ottawa Christmas Market, or one of the many concerts playing at the National Arts Centre. If you can, consider donating to our local food bank or our charitable community organizations who are serving our most vulnerable. I wish you a very happy holiday season and hope you get a chance to spend time with family, friends and loved ones.

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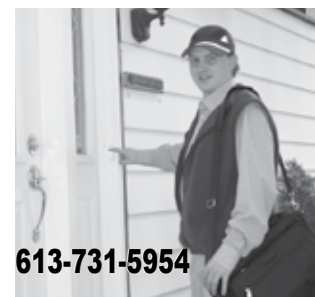
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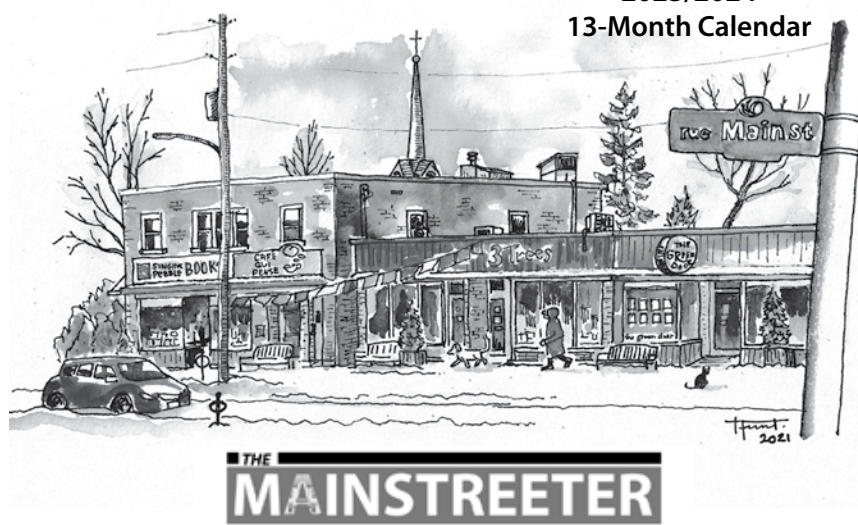
Malcolm and John Harding

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OOE residents sound off on the reduced speed limit

Colonel By Drive and Queen Elizabeth Driveway are now slower, but is that better?

JOHN DANCE

In September, the National Capital Commission (NCC) reduced the speed limit on the Rideau Canal parkways. Residents' reactions to the change vary from strongly opposed to strongly supportive, with many in the middle, saying the speed limit should have been reduced from 60 kilometres/hour (km/h) to 50 rather than to 40. Regardless of residents' opinions, the NCC intends to keep the lower speed limit.

"Overall, the parkway and pathway users have been receptive to the change, [and] the NCC will continue to work towards improving the experience of users as well as to improving safety," says NCC spokesperson Sofia Benjelloun.

"This new change will ensure a uniform speed limit along these corridors, and increase safety on the parkways," the NCC posted on its website. "It will also make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to access the Rideau Canal and surrounding pathways. With this change, the NCC hopes to continue improving the overall experience for all parkway and pathway users by increasing accessibility and safety."

Through the Old Ottawa East (OOE) Grapevine Facebook group, *The Mainstreeter* sought residents' perspectives on the speed limit change. About 100 people took the time to express their opinion and make observations, including that the reduced speed limit has meant fewer squirrels have been run over.

"I can't wrap my head around 40 km/h on Colonel By Drive (CBD) or the Queen Elizabeth Driveway (QED)," wrote Leslie McDermott. "It's hard to drive that slow. It doesn't make sense because Colonel By is not a residential street. It's a way in and out of the City. It's not the Queensway, so 60 was fine."

In contrast, Lorna Kingston wrote, "I really like the 40 km/h speed limit. I can actually enjoy the beauty of this driveway at 40km/h."

"It seems unnecessarily low," commented Jeff Brown. "I thought 60 was fine but, if they were to lower it, 50 makes more sense, unless they want a

We received about 100 comments from residents who expressed strongly held but varying opinions on the reduction of the speed limit on the Rideau Canal parkways from 60 down to 40 kilometres/hour.

limit so low no-one will respect it."

Key reasons many respondents cited for keeping the old speed limit included: the roadway is designed for faster speeds with very few residences along it and few access points; and drivers are going to go fast regardless of the speed limit, particularly because there is, they argued, little police enforcement.

On the "pro" side, Sue Somerset noted that the Australian Academy of Science found that "(r)educing the impact speed from 60 to 50 km/h almost halves the likelihood of death but has relatively little influence on the likelihood of injury, which remains close to 100 per cent. Reducing the speed to 40 km/hr ... reduces the likelihood of death by a factor of four compared with 60 km/h, and of course the likelihood of injury of an impact is also dramatically reduced." Somerset concluded her post, "We've prioritized car driving in city centres far too long."

Susan Redding, a member of the Parkways for People advocacy group, cited the NCC mandate for the parkways as justification for the new speed limit: "Under the Plan for Canada's Capital, the NCC will preserve the intended character of parkways as low-density, low-volume, slow-speed scenic routes in park-type settings, and will create a set of riverfront parks. In some cases, the connectivity of parkways with local roads renders them de facto commuter routes, though this is not their intended function. The NCC will accordingly continue to discuss ways of limiting this unintended use with the relevant authorities."

The RCMP data on speed limit enforcement over the June - November period shows the number of "provincial offences and warnings" has increased since the speed limit was reduced.

Over a five-and-a-half-month period ending November 17, the RCMP issued 34 "notices and warnings" to drivers on the QED and 221 to drivers on CBD. It's not clear whether the far greater number of tickets to Colonel By drivers is a result of more traffic on CBD than on QED, or that drivers are more likely

to speed on CBD, or that there was more enforcement on CBD.

In October, the first full month of the new speed limits, there was a total of 67 "notices and warnings" issued to drivers on the two parkways versus a total of 35 in August, the last full month of the higher speed limit.

use and events, especially during the summer months. Furthermore, there are many variables that affect the number of documented traffic enforcement. The statistics provided are for the whole roadway of CBD and QED and not specific to the 40km/h zone."

In the course of the Facebook debate, a number of respondents noted the



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Former Old Ottawa East resident Leslie McDermott says it doesn't make sense that the Colonel By Drive speed limit has been lowered to 40 kilometres/hour. Others feel it's a real improvement.

The RCMP cautioned *The Mainstreeter* not to draw any conclusions based solely on the statistics they provided. "The QED is often times subject to road closures for active

problem of pedestrian - cyclist - motorist conflicts on the parkways and adjacent pathways. They suggested that other measures are required to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists.



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<u>Advertisement Booking Date</u>	<u>Articles / Advertisement Submission Date</u>	<u>Publishing Date</u>
Issue # 1		
January 13, 2023	January 30, 2023	February 10, 2023
Issue # 2		
March 10, 2023	March 27, 2023	April 11, 2023
Issue # 3		
May 12, 2023	May 29, 2023	June 12, 2023
Issue # 4		
July 14, 2023	July 31, 2023	August 18, 2023
Issue # 5		
September 15, 2023	September 23, 2023	October 16, 2023
Issue # 6		
November 10, 2023	November 27, 2023	December 11, 2023

*Ads or articles received after the submission date will not be accepted

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Thursday, December 15th @ 6:30 PM

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celebration of music and community! Featuring over 100 young musicians, this in-person concert will be a joyful celebration of music and community. It will get you into the Christmas spirit with a wonderful array of classical, jazz, pop, world music, and holiday favourites!

The concert is free. Donations in support of OrKidstra's charitable mission to empower kids and build community through music are welcome (tickets are not required). Concertgoers are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to support the Ottawa Food Bank.

Some street and lot parking is available – the venue is also a short walk from Parliament Station or accessible via the 11 or 14 bus. The concert will be approximately 75-minutes long.

Saturday, December 17th @ 7 PM

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Join Just Voices Choir and special guest Maria Hawkins, Ottawa's Blues Lady, to celebrate the Winter Solstice. Just Voices is a choir with a difference that chooses songs that inspire all of us to fight for our endangered planet, and to work for social change, peace and equality.

Church of the Ascension is excited to offer an in-person concert for the first time in three years! Just Voices Choir Director is Cordon Purcell.

Admission is \$5 to \$15 (pay what you can - cash only please).



Proceeds will support the Ottawa Food Bank.

Masks will be required to attend the concert. Please self-screen for Covid and stay home if you have any symptoms. Food and drink will not be served during the intermission (and it is recommended that those in attendance go outdoors during intermission, weather permitting). In the event of a COVID wave, and in line with public health guidance, the concert may be cancelled. Please check the Just Voices Facebook page for updates: facebook.com/JustVoices.



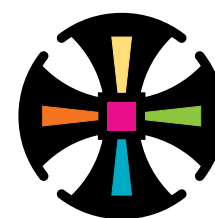
Canadian Martyrs Church Annual Christmas Pageant



FATHER TIM COONEN PHOTO

The annual Christmas pageant of Canadian Martyrs Church brings together many of the congregation's children to celebrate the birth of Christ. Pictured above is last year's pageant. With the elimination of Covid restrictions, Old Ottawa East churches will have more in-person services this Christmas season and singing is once again allowed. Canadian Martyrs will have Mass on Christmas Eve at 5 pm, on Christmas Day at 10 am, and a Zoom liturgy at 11:15 am. Canadian Martyrs extends this Christmas greeting to all: "May the peace and joy and love of Jesus born again this Christmas be in your hearts and in the hearts of those you love."

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ASCENSION

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



December 13th @ 7:30pm
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FUNDRAISER FOR
FIONA RELIEF,
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Members of the national capital's foremost Atlantic Canadian choir are tuning up to prepare for a Christmas concert with a purpose!

On December 13th, members of Atlantic Voices, the Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa, will be hosting an evening of seasonal

music with an East Coast flavour and a humanitarian goal.

All proceeds after concert expenses will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross Hurricane Fiona in Canada Appeal. "We've chosen to donate to the Red Cross to help support our Atlantic Canadian friends and family who were hit so hard by Hurricane Fiona earlier this fall," says Scott Richardson, Atlantic Voices musical director. "The price of admission is whatever you can give but we ask you RSVP using Eventbrite

@tickets.atlanticvoices.ca."

The ceilidh will be the choir's second public performance since early 2020 and is part of the choir's exciting 20th anniversary season. The concert program features seasonal tunes by East Coast composers and arrangers. Atlantic Voices has also invited local musical guests including the Ottawa Celtic Choir to perform their favourite yuletide selections.

For tickets and other information, visit www.atlanticvoices.ca.



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- Valentine's Skate & Chili Cook-Off - Feb 10

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