



Team Canada comes calling

The Girgis sisters of Bower Street are named to Canada's national field hockey teams.

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Deep roots in Old Ottawa East

Barbara Rockburn reflects back on cherished memories growing up in OOE in the 50s and 60s.

Pages 4 & 5

Sula Wok celebrates 5th anniversary

Joe Paraskevas reports that OOE's spot for Asian take-out has plans to expand!

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FOTENN PLANNING + DESIGN IMAGE

Pictured here is a 'precedent-setting' six-storey, 57-unit apartment building slated for the south side of Hawthorne Avenue east of Echo Drive.

The shape of things to come

Major Hawthorne Avenue development proposed, and roundly opposed

Residents object to planned height and mass of 57-unit apartment building

JOHN DANCE

A major new development proposed for the south side of Hawthorne Avenue was the focus of a January consultation session when neighbouring residents expressed their displeasure with the developer's proposed zoning bylaw amendments.

JBPA Developments Inc. proposes a 57-unit, six-storey apartment building on the south side of Hawthorne on the lots currently numbered 12 - 24. The requested zoning bylaw amendments

would allow two extra storeys of height, reduced street and rear setbacks, no commercial facilities on the ground floor rather than the 50 percent required, and stepping-back the front face at the sixth floor rather than at the fifth floor.

"It's really important to get this development right because it will set the precedent for what will follow on Hawthorne and the parts of Main Street that haven't yet been redeveloped," says Ron Rose, past chair of the Old Ottawa East Community Association planning

committee (OOEPC). Councillor Shawn Menard concurred, noting, "It's really important to get this right."

While the redevelopment of Hawthorne west of Main is a key part of the Old Ottawa East approved community design plan, a number of the specific details of the first major Hawthorne proposal are contrary to what was envisioned.

At the urging of the community association, Hawthorne between Echo Drive and Main Street became a

"traditional main street" in 2011. The idea was that it would be like Main Street with one important difference: the height of buildings on the south side of Hawthorne would be limited to four storeys while those on the north side would be six storeys as would those on much of Main Street.

At the consultation organized by Councillor Menard, a number of

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Take it from our newsbox: It's no fun getting dumped!!



MAINSTREETER STAFF

Newspapers report the news, they don't make the news. But on the evening of December 22nd, that old chestnut of the newspaper business got turned on its head – and so did *The Mainstreeter's* Flora Footbridge newspaper box, hand-painted by our resident sketch artist Tim Hunt.

That evening, just three days before Christmas, vandals, for reasons known only to them, uprooted our familiar newsbox from its accustomed resting spot near the corner of Clegg Street and Colonel By Drive (see photo to the left), carted it to the middle of the Flora Footbridge and proceeded to dump it over the footbridge's top railing. It plummeted far below to the frozen Canal and crashed on its belly, spilling newly placed copies of the December issue of the newspaper (see photo to the left below) onto the pock-marked ice surface.



By-passers noticed the desolate little newsbox the next morning in the cold light of day. As can be seen from the photo to the right, our beloved newsbox sustained considerable damage - a crumpled side panel, a dislodged front panel, a smashed plexiglass window and, worst of all, some serious paint flaking and cracking, marring Tim Hunt's wonderful artistic handiwork.



TIM HUNT AND ALICIA BEAZLEY PHOTOS

Armed with a ladder, our intrepid news reporter, John Dance, scaled the Canal railings and began dragging the newsbox off the ice, whereupon three other residents, Alicia Beazley, Andrew Valencik, and Tim Jordan thankfully joined in to help. Together, they raised the damaged box from the Canal and returned it to its home by the big oak tree near the foot of Flora's staircase.

That's when artist Tim Hunt stepped in. He had noticed that the newsbox had gone missing from its normal perch and reached out to *The Mainstreeter* to learn of its fate. Once informed, he offered to transport the damaged newsbox back to his home and vowed to return it to its former glory. The goal he set was to return the newsbox back to its rightful home, fully repaired and freshly repainted, by no later than February 9th, the date on which the new issue of *The Mainstreeter* that you are now reading was scheduled to be published. Check to see how Tim did – at page 20 of this issue!

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HANNES GIRGIS PHOTOS

Younger sister Kenzie Girgis (left) has made the Canadian junior women's outdoor field hockey team that will be travelling to Barbados in April for the PanAm Games, while big sister Abrie Girgis (right) is currently playing for Canada's senior women's indoor field hockey team which is in Pretoria, South Africa competing at the FIH Indoor World Cup

Bower Street sisters named to Team Canada

Abrie and Kenzie Girgis fulfill their dreams with call-ups to Canada's national field hockey teams

LORNE ABUGOV

Back in April 2019, *The Mainstreeter* profiled three sets of identical twin sisters residing as neighbours on one city block in Old Ottawa East. The headline to that story read: Something in the water on Bower Street.

Now, a fourth set of Bower Street sisters – albeit not identical twins – are making headlines once again in these pages. Both Abrie Girgis (senior indoors) and her younger sister, Kenzie (U-21 outdoors) were named over the holidays to the Canadian women's national field hockey teams, and both young women will represent Canada at the highest level of field hockey competition in world-class events over the next few months.

Indeed, for Abrie, 25, her Team Canada international odyssey has already begun, as she is currently competing at the 2023 FIH Indoor World Cup, held every four years and taking place this year between February 5th and 11th in Pretoria, South Africa.

Her sister Kenzie, 18, is on a different Team Canada trajectory, having survived gruelling tryouts to be added to the roster of the Canadian Women's Junior Field Hockey Team that will be competing in the U-21 age bracket at the PanAm games in Barbados from April 10th to 18th.

Abrie's Team Canada indoor team has been in South Africa since the start of February, and as this issue went to press, the team was off to a tremendous start, gaining a win and three ties in its first four World Cup round robin games.

Since indoor field hockey is not an Olympic sport (though outdoor field hockey is), the current Indoor World Cup

is the most important event for the sport and for Abrie and her teammates. Team Canada's Women's Indoor National Team has attended the Indoor World Cup only twice before, finishing ninth in 2007 and 10th in 2015. Canada qualified for the South Africa World Cup by virtue of its recent success at the 2021 Pan American Indoor Championships, where the team earned a second-place finish in pool

play before losing to the USA in the championship final.

Although a newcomer to Team Canada, Abrie got to meet and play with the team at a pre-World Cup tournament and tryout in Vienna, Austria at the beginning of January, where she showed well. "I hadn't yet been selected for the Canadian World Cup team. They announced the team roster for the

Austria tournament and then, a couple of weeks later, they announced the official Team Canada roster for South Africa. The Austria tournament was my first time playing internationally, and I got to see other teams and other countries play field hockey. So it was a really great experience for me," she told *The Mainstreeter* in late January prior to leaving for the World Cup.

"I played four years of outdoor field hockey for the Queen's University varsity team, and prior to that at Glebe Collegiate here in Ottawa. But this is indoor field hockey, and it's a different game from outdoor, a much faster-paced game, hosted in a gym and only six players on each team instead of 11 players for the outdoor game," says Abrie, who has a Life Sciences undergrad and recently completed her Master's in Biomedical Engineering at UOttawa.

Team Canada made cuts following the Austria tournament, but Abrie survived the tryout and was thrilled to get the Team Canada invite. "The hockey in Austria was very fast with a lot of different concepts and systems of play that I wasn't used to," she explains. "But I was really happy with how I played in Austria. I got a lot of instruction from the coach, and he must have been happy with how I played since I got selected for the World Cup."

Ditto for younger sister, Kenzie, who has impressed the Team Canada coaching staff across Canada.

A first-year student athlete at the University of British Columbia in the Engineering program, Kenzie



The Girgis/Scoggan Family are a close-knit and supportive bunch who pride themselves on their active lifestyle. From left to right: Hannes, Kylie, Karver, Abrie, and Kenzie.

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REFLECTIONS ON GROWING UP..

The Rockburns of Old Ottawa East

50 Years, 4 Homes, 3 Generations, and 1 Family

It was a simpler time back then, and for young Barbara Rockburn, life was an unending cavalcade of adventures. In this the first of two installments, she recounts her memories of life as a youngster growing up in an Old Ottawa East family in the 50s and 60s.

"We were all free-range kids then, and parents didn't hover. There was no need. It was the 50s. It was Old Ottawa East."



1958: The author playing in front of 172 Glenora Street with view of houses across the street towards Herridge Street.

BARBARA ROCKBURN

The newlyweds returned from Niagara Falls in the fall of 1952 to take up residence on the third floor of his parents' home at 124 Glenora Street. With no plumbing or privacy, the two rooms - one with a hot plate and one with a hide-a-bed - would serve as their honeymoon suite until they could afford a place of their own. That day, my parents put down their roots in Ottawa East and never looked back.

In 1950, my grandparents had moved from Ottawa South with seven of their eight children (their eldest had already married and moved on), upsizing to the four-bedroom rental with a kitchen large enough for all. My Grandpa, a glazier by trade, had trained at Pilkington Glass, but was now self-employed and supported their family by installing new panes in wood-framed windows with putty and knife, and by salvaging scrapyard windshields to replace the shattered glass

of not-quite-scrapyard-ready autos.

As their eight children grew and married and (usually) moved out, Grandma found her idle hands more of a chore than her housework. So, in the 60s, she joined "Sitters Unlimited," a company that matched homemakers with local families who could afford to hire outside help with their children and chores. Grandma loved children of all ages, and sorely missed their presence in her home. Through Sitters Unlimited, she helped raise a generation of Old Ottawa East kids, and in her later years volunteered at CHEO where she continued to comfort and care for children.

Monday: Wash Day

But while her own children were young my Grandma had plenty to keep her busy; raising the kids, serving up three squares a day, perfecting her recipes for Nanaimo Bars and butter tarts, and keeping house according to the old maxim "Monday, Wash day; Tuesday, Ironing; Wednesday, Mending; Thursday, Market; Friday, Baking; Saturday, Cleaning; Sunday, Church."

By the time I was old enough to notice, I decided Sundays were the best. Our branch of the Rockburn clan all attended the Church of the Ascension on Echo Drive, and after Sunday service we would walk back to my grandparents' and crowd into their kitchen for a huge family breakfast: bacon and eggs, English breakfast sausages with golden syrup, thick slices of blood pudding (don't ask!), tomato chow-chow, pancakes with maple syrup, toast and jam, fresh squeezed orange juice, and percolated coffee for the adults.

The enormous gas stove dominated the kitchen - white enamel polished to perfection, complete with proofing drawers and warming shelves. The oven and burners were lit with wooden matches stored in an open tin box hung on the wall by the stove. You had to time the lighting of the match carefully to catch and ignite the released gas at just the right moment, or else you'd have to shut off the gas, open



Family photo taken outside 124 Glenora Street on the day of my sister's 1958 baptism.

the windows and air the room of the fumes before trying again.

By the end of 1957, after a brief sojourn in Sandy Hill, our little family of four was living at 172 Glenora in a house rented from Mr. Williams who ran his plumbing business from the cinder block structure behind our house. Although we were short a backyard, we had a generous side yard, where my father built a fabulous sandbox for me, complete with four triangular corner seats. There, the neighbourhood boys and girls would socialize and plot our many adventures.

Among my favorite memories of those years are of the birthday parties. The neighborhood kids, along with my many cousins, would come over to play the fun games: pin the tail on the donkey, toss the penny in the muffin tin, and musical

chairs. Mom made the best birthday cake ever - Chocolate Miracle Whip Cake with vanilla icing. And the cake would always come complete with prizes - a penny, nickel or dime wrapped in wax paper was baked into every slice, with the lone quarter being the most coveted prize of every boy and girl.

High Tea with the Queen

At that time, a few of us on the block were enrolled in kindergarten at Lady Evelyn Public School, while most of the others were going to the neighbourhood's Separate Schools; Canadian Martyrs or Mazenod. Happy as clams, we were oblivious to our religious and linguistic differences. Though there were cross-Main rivalries between our schools,

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ROCKBURN FAMILY PHOTOS

Grandma and Grandpa Rockburn's 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1976.

... IN THE 50'S AND 60'S IN OLD OTTAWA EAST



Life is good! My fourth birthday party in 1958 - Chocolate Miracle Whip Cake with vanilla icing.

Continued from Page 4

they never presented any obstacles at playtime. We girls loved to dress up in our mothers' fancy clothes: stumbling around in oversized high heels, a wee smear of lipstick completed our regal ensembles, and we were off to High Tea with the Queen.

And being only 2½ blocks from my Grandma's, little four-year-old Barbara took every opportunity to sneak out of the house before dawn and scamper down the street for a visit. We were all free-range kids then, and parents didn't hover. There was no need. It was the 50s. It was Old Ottawa East.

Between 1952 and 2000, my parents rented four different homes in Old Ottawa East: the "OMG-we're-adults-now" era at 124 Glenora; the "OMG-we-have-two-kids" years at 172 Glenora; the "OMG-the-girls-are-teenagers" crises at 121 Glenora; and finally, the "OMG-our-daughters-are-getting-married" frenzy at 55 Hazel Street.

We left 172 Glenora for the wilds of Ottawa South in 1960 for reasons unknown to a little girl who had just finished five-year-old Kindergarten. I would sorely miss the joy of being so close to my grandparents, but soon discovered the new joy of now being only blocks away from my mother's family home.

By 1963, we had moved back to Old Ottawa East and into apartment #3 at 121 Glenora, down the hill on the dead end block and right across the street from Grandma and Grandpa Rockburn. My sister and I had returned to Lady Evelyn and every school day at 7:00am Mom roused us from bed and ensured we were washed, dressed and fed by 8:30am, when CFRA's Ken "The General" Grant would march us off to school. And every day we'd hope Mom and Dad didn't notice we were taking the illicit shortcut through the hole in the fence at the bottom of the hill into St. Pat's College (now Immaculata High School) football field, then wriggling out through the gate onto Main Street. We imagined we were the first kids to discover

it; never giving much thought to the fact that the hole in the fence was regularly repaired, and just as regularly re-opened.

That year I was in grade four, and my teacher was the wondrous Mrs. Poff. I thought she was the kindest, sweetest, most understanding teacher the world had ever known. One day just before the summer break, she took us all to Granby Zoo, east of Montreal. It was quite an adventure, and a long day for her, no doubt, but she endured it all with a smile.

The first day of school, Mrs. Poff introduced me to my first BFF, Debbie. She and I were inseparable through our three years at Lady Evelyn and the following two years at Glashan. We parted ways when she chose Lisgar and I chose Glebe, but until then, our camaraderie was pure joy.

Oddly oblivious to my charms

Another close friendship was forged with Susan, who also joined us at Glashan. Her mother worked at the Bank of Nova Scotia and was, therefore, a Very Important Person. Susan lived on the north side of the train tracks, while Lady Evelyn was on the south. This was 1963; the railroad tracks wouldn't be replaced by the Ottawa East stretch of the Queensway until 1966. I would cross those tracks with her whenever we went to play at her house after school. Sue would have crossed them four times a day, every school day. No traffic barriers that I recall, we just looked both ways with a little added caution, listened carefully for whistles or bells, and hurriedly crossed.

It was that same year that I met my first crush, Ricky. He was dreamy but oddly oblivious to my charms. His Mom was a nurse and a few years later -- with my Mom's permission -- she pierced my ears in her Marlowe Crescent kitchen with a darning needle and ice cubes. Ricky also introduced me to my first guy pal, Billy. Billy and I shared a love of long bicycle rides that took us far from Old Ottawa East. Between 1964 and '66 we biked up to Hog's Back via Colonel By Drive more



It's 1957 and that's me and my maternal grandfather in front of 172 Glenora Street, looking south towards Clegg Street.

than once, occasionally joined by Ricky. Another time, Billy and I cycled all the way to the Canadian Tire on McArthur in Eastview (now Vanier).

Lady Evelyn had two schoolyards -- the one on the west side was the girls' and on the east side was the boys'. In the boys' yard there was a softball diamond painted onto the pavement, which made for nasty scrapes when sliding into home. In the girls' yard a hopscotch grid was painted, and a sand-filled trench had been dug into the pavement for practicing our long jumps. You really didn't want to jump outside the lines. An alley behind the school linked the two yards and occasionally shenanigans ensued, but it was all innocent enough.

By the time we got to Grade Six we were a very different group of kids than those Mrs. Poff had nurtured. We had hit puberty, and things got serious. Girls sang "Yesterday" and "Unchained Melody" in the girls' schoolyard with tears running

down their cheeks -- some tears stained with mascara. Boys compared biceps in the boys' schoolyard. I was a School Patrol, working the corner of Main and Lees with my friend George, and I distinctly recall him lecturing me on how The Beatles were a superior band to The Monkees because they wrote their own songs and played their own instruments. He was particularly fond of "Ticket to Ride."

But everything changed in the fall of 1966, when the arbitrary boundary line of Clegg Street separated my classmates forever. Those who lived to the south of Clegg went off to Hopewell Avenue Public School for grades 7 and 8; we on the north side of Clegg went to Glashan. For the next seven years -- including the five spent at Glebe Collegiate Institute -- I walked across Pretoria Bridge twice (and occasionally, four) times a day.

I discovered a whole new world on the other side of the Canal!

Next issue: The Neighbourhood Stores



A neighbour girl sliding down from the balcony of 121 Glenora, apartment 3, circa 1968. Notice our clothesline mounted on the left frame of our kitchen door.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are pleased to present, at pages 4 and 5 of this issue, the first of two installments of the childhood memories of Barbara Rockburn, who grew up in Ottawa East in the 50s and 60s. Here, the author explains how Tim Hunt's community calendar sparked a flood of cherished recollections...

We lived in Old Ottawa East before it was "Old"

My journey to telling the story of my childhood growing up in Old Ottawa East is one of serendipity and happy coincidence. During a recent visit to Ottawa, we made a stop at the Bank of Nova Scotia at Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue. My parents had started banking at that branch shortly after their wedding, and I opened my very first bank account there in 1964 when I was in the fourth grade at Lady Evelyn Public School.

While in the bank we picked up the latest copy of *The Mainstreeter* and opened it to find an ad for the 2023 community calendar featuring sketches of Old Ottawa East (OOE) by Tim Hunt. We knew right away we had to get one – our whole family history is tied up in memories of Ottawa East (we lived here before it was “Old”), and we were sure it would make a great holiday present for any local Rockburn.

Well, it turned out to be the best present I ever got. Because right there, on the very first page, was a picture of the last home our family shared in OOE – 55 Hazel Street. I immediately ordered every remaining copy – all four of them. We had stumbled upon this treasure just before it had sold out. Coincidence? I don't know, but it was just too good to be true. And it sparked a flood of memories that I felt I had to record.



The year is 1965 and Barbara Rockburn is seen here in her grandparents' backyard at 124 Glenora preparing to set off on a long bike ride with pal, Billy.

I should stress that many of the accounts in my stories of my childhood in Old Ottawa East are the memories of a very young girl and should not be taken as fact. And the earliest stories are not really mine at all, but rather, my recollections of oft-repeated family lore. I cannot speak to how the years may have altered those recollections and memories; all I can say is that they are mine, and I cherish them.

*Barbara Blackburn,
Sidney, B.C.*

Convent pathway not without its risks

I do not object to the redevelopment plan for the former Convent building. Rather, I object to the proposed pathway between the building and the condo at 11 des Oblats Avenue because it creates a dangerous condition in winter and a flooding issue in summer.

Why would this pathway between the former convent and 11 des Oblats be dangerous?

I live at the southeast corner of 11 des Oblats. We have a large terrace on the east side, which has a natural gas BBQ that we had intended to use all year long. There is also a buffer zone garden that extends six feet past our terrace. The garden wall is topped with large stones that overhang the garden support wall.

In winter, we cannot use our terrace due to large falling chunks of snow and ice. In our first year here, the outside light and BBQ were damaged by the falling snow and ice. Every year since, we have observed punctures in the snow surrounding the small bush at the southwest corner of 15 des Oblats. They range in size from a softball to

larger than a basketball. Imagine the injuries this would cause to a person using the pathway!

In summer, when it rains, the area where the pathway would be located floods, as it is lower than the streets. We have observed people jumping up and walking along the slippery wet stones of the garden wall to avoid getting wet. If they slip or dislodge one of the stones, they could be severely injured.

I note that the developers of 11 des Oblats, Domicile, did have initial discussions with the Old Ottawa East Community Association about this pathway. However, David Chick, Domicile's Vice President, assured the 11 des Oblats condo board that there was never a final commitment to create the pathway. He did not state a reason for abandoning the pathway plan, but I suspect the possibility of potential liability dissuaded Domicile, as they were well aware of the damage on our terrace.

I wanted to share my concerns and ensure that, in the event the pathway is built, no one can claim they were unaware of potential dangers. Ignoring this information could open the developers, elected officials and our community association, which supports this proposal, to civil and possible criminal liability should anyone be injured by ice on the pathway. I hope that in discussions going forward with this proposal, the potential dangers of this pathway will be taken into account.

*Jim Nordin
des Oblats Avenue*

This was received by the Editor from an OOE resident, who wished to remain anonymous. We agree with the author that the sentiments expressed herein are universal, heart-warming and transcend individual identities.

On role reversal and filial love

Here's the scene: My wife and I are about to head out in a snowstorm. Destination? Christmas at the Moulin Inn Mill and Spa in Wakefield, Quebec. Surprised son - now a father of two, and far from keen on hearing his parents are going ahead in spite of road warnings - advises caution. The texts start coming in furiously.

Text # 1. Smooth and easy on the roads, Pop. I know you aren't a lead-foot but take it extra careful, and especially, you need to be hyper-alert about the traffic around you and the condition of the pavement at any given moment.

Text # 2. The roads are crazy-slippery after the wet snow and flash freeze, and now the current snowfall on top has made them treacherous.

Text # 3. Hate to sound like a preachy worrywart, but it's just nutty out there right now. Please text me when leaving, and again when you arrive at le Moulin.

Text # 4. If you like, you're welcome to take my RAV. The AWD might be beneficial.

Text # 5. Smooth is the order of the day . . . Smooth on the gas. Smooth on the steering. Smooth on the brakes. Smoooooooooooooth. xoxoxo

We chuckled at the role reversal and basked in the love. Oh, yes, we arrived safely. As expected, the roads weren't as bad as predicted, and fellow travelers more cautious than expected.

*Anonymous,
Old Ottawa East*

OC Transpo buses create safety hazard in Greystone Village

For the second time this winter OC Transpo chose to dispatch articulated buses into the narrow streets of Greystone Village despite a significant snowstorm warning.

During the mid-January storm, an OC Transpo tow truck had to be called four different times to extricate a bus stuck in the snow at the Deschatelets and des Oblats intersection. Even in good weather this intersection is a bit difficult. It's by no means a hairpin turn but it is well beyond 90 degrees. Any large dump of snow and chaos can ensue.

The January 25/26 storm again saw four buses floundering at that turn, the front half of each on des Oblats and the trailing back half angled awkwardly on Deschatelets. For the most part, smaller vehicles were able to negotiate their way around the blockage. It is doubtful however whether a fire truck could make the same manoeuvre.

Ironically, one bus switched off its 16 Westboro electronic signage to a notice that read “We are hiring.” One wonders whether that's for bus drivers or tow truck drivers.

*Peter Tobin
des Oblats Avenue*

THE MAINSTREETER

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Editor: editor@mainstreeter.ca Lorne Abugov

Content Contributors: John Dance, Tanis Browning-Shelp, Joe Paraskevas, Barbara Rockburn, Ali Adwan, Jim Nordin, Peter Tobin, Terry West, John Goldsmith, Robert Macdermid, Lori Gandy, Tim Hunt, Theresa Wallace, Lorne Abugov, Dianne Breton, Noémie Ipou, Dianne Wing, Joel Harden, Shawn Menard, Yasir Naqvi, Dr. Nili Kaplan-Myrth.

Copy Editors: Lorne Abugov, Lori Gandy.

Photo Editor: Peter Fowler

Rédactrice (pour le français): Jocelyne Caloz

Advertising Manager: advertising@mainstreeter.ca

Ron Rose (Acting)

Accounts Manager: Cynthia Dwyer

Layout Designer: Bess Fraser

Photographers/Sketch Artist: John Dance, Lorne Abugov, Tim Hunt, Fotenn Planning & Design, Alicia Beazley, Hannes Girgis, The Rockburn Family, Shawn Kenny, Ali Adwan, Joe Paraskevas, Denise Inglis, Terry West, Blair T. Paul, Lauren Weber, Committee of Adjustment Ottawa, Anthony Lenzo, Art Lending of Ottawa, Bess Fraser.

Web Editor: B.J. Siekierski

Social Media & Technology Editor: Anthony Lenzo

Instagram Editor: Bess Fraser

Board of Directors: Ron Rose, Cynthia Dwyer, BJ Siekierski; Dianne Wing, Dwayne Beattie, Whitney Bond, Lorne Abugov (ex-officio)

Distribution Manager: Daniel Racicot

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Councillor Shawn Menard: Shawn.Menard@ottawa.ca

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

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OPINION

One of a kind OOE community calendar made for a miraculous holiday season

LORI GANDY &
MAINSTREETER STAFF

It was the lead-up to the Christmas season, after all, when miracles are supposed to happen. Well, for one very happy newcomer to Old Ottawa East (OOE) and for one long-time OOE resident now re-located to B.C., that is exactly what happened.

It began with a last-minute email to *The Mainstreeter's* editor, from a reader expressing a desire to get her hands on a copy of the magnificent Old Ottawa East 2023 community calendar featuring our resident artist Tim Hunt's heart-warming sketches. In a special fundraising collaboration between Tim and *The Mainstreeter*, only 200 copies of the calendar were printed, and they sold like hot-cakes.

But back to our reader, who had been in hot pursuit of one of the calendars for quite some time and had been unsuccessful in obtaining one, noting as she did that Singing Pebble Books had long since sold out. She pleaded in her email for any leads to getting just one copy of the calendar.

Our editor sadly informed her that all copies had indeed been sold. He then revealed (and here's the miracle bit) that he had in his possession one copy that contained a printing error, resulting in the calendar missing both the months of January and November 2023. Given the error, this copy could not be sold. In conversation with the reader, the editor referred to the misprinted calendar as “the runt of the litter.” The editor happily offered it to our intrepid calendar-seeker for free, an offer that was received with rapturous joy.

As she stated in her return email: “What an extraordinary Christmas surprise & gift. I would ABSOLUTELY love to have this misprinted copy. In fact ... it'll be what makes it that much more special - one of a kind! Thank you for making my Christmas a very memorable one.”

There's a wonderful message in all of this - besides just how fabulous the calendar is and what great joy and pleasure it brings and will continue to bring to all of us who now have one or more displayed in our homes. Go that extra mile to help someone if you can, never give up hope, and remember that just because something isn't exactly like the others, that doesn't mean it can't also have value.

Had that been the only example of Christmas cheer created by Tim Hunt's 2023 community calendar, that would have sufficed - but as this issue of *The Mainstreeter* demonstrates, there was considerably more calendar-based joy, generosity and community-building that resulted from this inspired initiative.

On pages 5 and 6 of this issue, Barbara Rockburn, a former resident of Old Ottawa East who now lives in B.C., recounts some of her most cherished memories of growing up in this community during the 1950s and 1960s. As she explains in a letter to the editor, on page 4 of this issue, it was by pure chance that she picked up a copy of the December issue of *The Mainstreeter* at the Bank of Nova Scotia on Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue during her holiday visit back to the community. Spotting the ad for the Tim Hunt calendar triggered a series of events that unlocked childhood recollections and inspired her to submit them for publication in *The Mainstreeter*.

In her words, the calendar “... turned out to be the best present I ever got. Because right there, on the very first page, was a pic-

ture of the last home our family shared in OOE - 55 Hazel Street. I immediately ordered every copy *The Mainstreeter* had left - all four of them. We had stumbled upon this treasure just before it had sold out. Coincidence? I don't know, but it was just too good to be true. And it sparked a flood of memories that I felt I had to record.”

Yes, Barbara, it may have been a coincidence, but all things considered, it's just as likely that it was another of those little Christmas miracles.

And miracles don't just happen - they require miracle workers to get the job done. In the case of the community calendar, there are too many to name them all here, but special recognition goes out to: the calendar planning committee comprised of sketch artist Tim Hunt, along with Dianne Wing, Tanis Browning-Shelp and Bess Fraser of *The Mainstreeter*; “unofficial marketing agent” Theresa Wallace who believed in the concept and made sure others knew about it; our helpful printer, Ja at Merriam Print and Mika, Laura and the rest of the fantastic staff at Singing Pebble Books who, in a whirlwind of community spirit, collectively sold 115 of the 200 calendars printed, and did so without accepting any mark-up or commissions for their efforts.

Tim Hunt's little “calendar that could” is indeed a symbol of the warmth and generosity of those of us who call Old Ottawa East home, and a keepsake for those who have memories of growing up here as well as those who are only just discovering the many charms of this wonderful community.

Intern with *The Mainstreeter*

CONTACT: Lorne Abugov
editor@mainstreeter.ca

Girgis sisters the latest OOE young athletes to take on the world

Continued from Page 3

explained how she got the good news from Team Canada. "I was in my dorm room. I had gotten an email from the head coach and then I saw my name on the team roster list and I got very excited. It wasn't a total shock, but I wasn't fully expecting it either. I really wasn't sure."

"The selection process actually started back in June of last year," she recalls. "The national junior team had a tryout camp in Toronto, and a second one out in BC. A bunch of girls got to try out at each camp and from there they cut it down to about 21 players from the east and the same number from the west. Then in July, our group from the east went out west and we played east versus west training games, which led to more cuts and the selection of a team of about 24 girls to go to Mexico."

In Mexico for 10 days, Kenzie got to play against the Mexican national team as well as some Mexican club teams. "It gave me the chance to meet all the other girls and play with them as well. And from that group of 24 players, 18 of us made the Pan Am team that competes in Barbados in April," she explained.

Like her sister, Kenzie plays in the centre midfield position, but unlike Abrie,

Kenzie's international debut with the U-21 national team in April will be playing 11-a-side outdoor field hockey, which is an Olympic event. So, is she thinking about competing for Canada in the upcoming Olympics in Paris in 2024? "Umm, 2024, that would be great. But that's also very soon, and I'm still quite young. So if anything, I think 2028 in Los Angeles might be more realistic."

For now, Kenzie is playing outdoor field hockey in a Vancouver league before heading to train with Team Canada, following a successful rookie season on the UBC field hockey team and a selection to the Canada West all-star team. She helped her UBC team to a second-place finish in the Canada West conference behind the national champions. Her four years at Glebe Collegiate, where her sister Abrie helped coach her and her teammates, and on club teams with the Outaouais Field Hockey Club and the Gloucester Tigers Field Hockey Club, provided Kenzie with a solid base in field hockey.

But the 2024 Paris Olympics could entice older sister Abrie, although the Team Canada senior women's outdoor national team is based in British Columbia. "There are a lot of strong athletes on that team, but there are quite a



HANNES GIRGIS PHOTO

Sisters Abrie and Kenzie put their backyard turf practice patch to good use during the COVID pandemic.

few who are retiring which leaves a couple of spots open. If there's an opportunity, I would definitely be interested in playing for the outdoor national team. It's definitely a possibility that I go out there and try out, though I'd probably have to move to Vancouver," Abrie says, a prospect which prompted sister Kenzie to point out that "there's lots of space in my dorm room at UBC!"

The girls have the strong support of their parents, Hannes Girgis, a Bank Street dentist and Kylie Scoggan, a scientist at Health Canada, as well as their brother, Karver, a finance graduate from UOttawa who is training to become an accountant. When he is not attending to the teeth of his patients, Hannes doubles as the unofficial photographer for the girls' teams and both he and Karver laid artificial turf in their backyard during COVID times so that the sisters could have a place to practice their stickwork.

The close-knit family has been watching all of Abrie's World Cup games from South Africa using a streaming video service, but they all plan to travel to Barbados in April to take in Kenzie's games in person. "It was a very tough decision for us to make,

not going to South Africa with Abrie, but we got notice about her making Team Canada and the World Cup only two weeks before she had to leave, and we just couldn't pull everything together in such a short period of time," laments Kylie. "But we did manage to get to Vienna to watch her in the Austria tournament, which was terrific, and we're super excited to be going to Barbados to cheer on Kenzie."



The costs of Kenzie's participation on the Canadian women's junior national team are largely self-funded, so

she has started an Adopt-an-Athlete fundraising program to help her defray the costs of team fees, training camps, tours, and competitions. Anyone wishing to help Kenzie fulfill her dreams on Team Canada can do so at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/field-hockey-canada/p2p/adoptanathlete22-23/team/womens-next-gen-program/member/kenzie-girgis/>.





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Hawthorne development to set precedent for the future

Continued from Page 1

residents of Graham Avenue, which is immediately to the south of the proposed development, strongly opposed the requested height provision. To add insult to their injury, the additional two storeys are not proposed to conform to the 45° angular plane that is supposed to set back the fifth and sixth floors at the rear.

An added concern of neighbouring residents is that the developer proposes to build a two-level underground parking garage that would go right to the southern property line. Such a parking garage would prevent the growth of large trees and could be injurious to existing trees and shrubs near the lot line. One related issue is that the developer has requested a reduction of about a meter in the depth of some of the rear yard.

In terms of parking, 18 Hawthorne would have 50 parking spaces rather than the required 34. During the consultation, OOEP members expressed the view that the amount of proposed parking should be reduced but the cycling parking should be increased.

Another key OOEP concern is that the Hawthorne frontage should conform to the two-meter setback which has been required and respected with the completed Main Street developments. In addition, the Official Plan requires that the road right of way (ROW) be increased by a metre in front of the new development. The developers propose to provide the increased ROW by reducing the rear-yard setback and having a 0.7 metre front setback rather than the required two-metre setback. “The reduced rear yard setback is a function of the right of way dedication but still allows for significant rear yard landscaping, and the amenity requirements for the overall building are nonetheless exceeded,” the developer’s project rationale says.

Residents are also concerned with the increased traffic that will be generated, particularly at the proposed parking garage access at the western end of the building. OOEP is of the view that if there are fewer underground parking spaces there will be less traffic and less danger to pedestrians walking along Hawthorne.

The developers argue in their project rationale that the City’s new Official Plan contains the provision that on “Mainstreets in the Inner Urban Transect, mid-rise buildings (up to 9 storeys) are permitted on sites with a right of way narrower than 30m, such as Hawthorne Avenue, subject to appropriate height transitions, setbacks, and angular planes.” They also cite the provision within the OOE Secondary Plan which states, “Notwithstanding the provision for greater

building heights set out in the Official Plan, no buildings will be allowed higher than six storeys and 20 metres within the area of this secondary plan.

John Bassi, president of JBPA Development, participated in the public consultation and noted that “We are here to make it work.” His property management firm already owns several

other Old Ottawa East properties including 441-443 Echo Drive and the Scotiabank building at the corner of Hawthorne and Main. His firm built the new 28 Pretoria Avenue apartments and he worked with the City to preserve the large maple tree in front of this six-storey building.

Bassi also responded to Dan Byrne, a

resident of one of the dwellings that will be torn down for the new development, assuring him that he will have “ample” notice to find a new residence. Bassi also noted that the development “will get more product into the system.”

Editor’s Note: John Dance is chair of the OOECA planning committee

Ontario refuses to alter planned two-year closure of Colonel By Drive, Queen Elizabeth Driveway for bridge replacement

JOHN DANCE

Despite considerable opposition from local residents, the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) will not alter its plans to close both Colonel By Drive (CBD) and Queen Elizabeth Driveway (QED) for two years as the Highway 417 Rideau Canal bridge is replaced.

As reported in the December issue of *The Mainstreeter*, MTO claims that their current plans are to “mitigate the permanent property impacts on 221 Echo and 3/5 Hawthorne Avenue [the buildings at the corner of Echo and Hawthorne and one up from the corner].” But the businesses in the two buildings in question have already closed, in part because of the anticipation of the disruptions caused by the bridge project.

A number of residents objected to MTO’s previous plan that would have required the demolition of the two buildings, but they could never have imagined that the price for saving the two buildings would be a two-year closure of the parkways and their pathways.

It appears that after five years of study, MTO will not deviate from this new plan. “A Federal Advisory Committee (FAC), including Parks Canada, the National Capital Commission (NCC) and Transport Canada, has been consulted throughout the project,” Steve Taylor, the president of MTO’s engineering consultants recently wrote to Tom Scott, the chair of the transportation and infrastructure committee of the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA). “The proposed recommendations were presented to the FAC and the City of Ottawa and they endorsed the Technically Preferred Plan, including parkway closures, before this information was presented to the public.”

While the recommendations were discussed and endorsed by various bureaucratic parties, there was only “in-

formation sharing” and no real consultation with the residents who will be most affected. “OOECA asked for a ‘live’ Public Information Session to which both City of Ottawa and NCC staffers would be invited, but MTO backed out,” notes Scott. “There was still no good answer to our question as to what communities were ‘consulted’ and when, regarding these significant shifts from the previously public environmental assessment presentations.”

“So your current option is to close the two parkways for two years to avoid impacts on empty buildings,” OOECA board member Don Fugler has responded to Taylor. “Old Ottawa East only has two ways to travel north. Closing Colonel By at the Queensway leaves it only one north/south route. This morning [January 30], I passed all the cars on Main Street on my bicycle because vehicular traffic was not moving. Now you plan to add all those vehicles using Colonel By to this congestion, plus you’re detouring cyclists. This makes no sense.”

“The new bridges must be constructed on temporary piers and abutments (ends of the bridge) that will be in place for the duration of the construction period (90

weeks),” Taylor explained to Scott. “The temporary piers are directly within the travel lanes of the two parkways and they cannot be relocated. In addition, the temporary piers and abutments are one of the first construction activities and must be in place for the entire duration of the Rideau Canal construction phase.”

While parkway users will be greatly inconvenienced and traffic congestion will be aggravated in Old Ottawa East, the engineers’ new plan is designed to avoid lengthy detours or disruptions for Highway 417 motorists, Canal boaters or Skateway users. When Scott questioned this imbalance, Taylor responded, “Impacts to the municipal streets and federal parkways are as important as impacts to the Highway 417; however, the construction works have different impacts.”

Given the importance of this issue to daily life in Old Ottawa East, *The Mainstreeter* will follow up on this issue with Councillor Shawn Menard and MPP Joel Harden. The MTO site with relevant information is: https://queenswaydowntownbridges.com/en_CA/.

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Engineers seek solutions for earlier Rideau Skateway opening



SHAWN KENNY PHOTOS

The special weather station for the ice research is located just across the Canal from the end of Mutchmor Road and is at the 3.4KM marker of the Skateway.

JOHN DANCE

As is painfully obvious to all, and as a result of climate change, the Rideau Skateway has increasingly shorter seasons with later openings, but Carleton University engineering professors and students are exploring new techniques to open the Skateway earlier.

National Capital Commission (NCC) records show that in the 1970s and 1980s the Skateway often opened before New Year's Day. Now it's rare if the opening is before mid-January, and this year it won't open until February, if at all.

This grim scenario prompted the NCC to form a partnership with Carleton University to better understand why ice wasn't forming and what would be needed to promote early formation of ice strong enough to support the vehicles required to maintain the Skateway.

A key part of the project is gathering better weather data and analysing it to understand how it relates to ice formation. To that end, last December, the Carleton team installed a specially built weather station in the Rideau Canal just across from the end of Mutchmor Road.

The station makes the standard measurements like air temperature, wind speed, humidity, and precipitation but, in order to fully understand what may influence ice formation and retention, it also measures the temperature of a "column" of the water under the ice and the temperature at the "mudline." In addition, the amount and intensity of solar radiation are recorded.

In order to open the Canal, the ice must be at least 30 centimetres thick so that vehicles and masses of skaters can be safely supported. This season there have not been 10 consecutive days of cold weather which is necessary to achieve the required ice thickness. Instead, there has been lots of temperature fluctuation and lots of snow.

Snow cover greatly impedes ice formation and that's why the NCC has a small army of snow blowers and also uses high-volume pumps that effectively turn large snowfalls into slush which then builds up the thickness of the ice. The downside of the slush-to-ice approach is that the resulting ice is half as strong as ice that has formed without snow.

In December, the Carleton team, led by Professor Shawn Kenny of the Faculty of Engineering and Design, tested what's dubbed a "snow cannon" but is really a conventional snow-making machine like those found at ski hills. The large piece of equipment was positioned to the side of the Canal and blew snow crystals into the water near the

National Arts Centre. The crystals indeed had the effect of accelerating the growth of ice cover and the resulting ice endured through the subsequent warm weather.

The researchers are now modifying the equipment so that it will be even more effective. Challenges to this technique are that the equipment requires an electricity source and water supply, so the technique could only be employed at certain parts of the Skateway.

A second approach that is being investigated is designing a snow blower that is lighter than standard models and, more significantly, can be operated remotely, without a person behind it. By operating the snow blower remotely, snow removal can begin earlier which, in turn, results in earlier ice formation.

Other ideas will also be pursued, including the use of "thermosyphons." According to the NCC blog on the project, "A thermosyphon is a passive heat exchange system. This technology allows cold air to get beneath the foundation of a structure (like a building or a road embankment) and redistributes heat into the air, above the surface. If applied to the Skateway, this technology would promote ice growth by cooling the water beneath the ice."

"Tackling climate change on the Rideau Canal Skateway" is a four-year project. The NCC's blog says, "We're excited to see what the future holds for this iconic destination."

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Pictured here conducting Canal ice studies are Dr. Derek Mueller (front orange vest) and Dr. Murray Richardson (front yellow jacket) - both professors from Carleton University's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (DGES) - along with Adam Garbo, a DGES researcher and Anneka Petersen (orange suit), an undergrad student in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department at Carleton.

At Saint Paul University

Professors undertake ground-breaking research on EDI implementation in the settlement sector workplace

ALI ADWAN

Research examining the principles of equity, inclusion and diversity (EDI) and their implementation in workplaces across all sectors has begun at St. Paul's University under the stewardship of assistant professors Dr. Michaël Séguin and Dr. Bianca Briciu.

Both professors teach in the school of transformative leadership and spirituality with Dr. Séguin teaching classes in leadership and leadership theory, amongst others. His background and first doctoral research were about EDI so previous research projects included learning about the experience of business managers.

Likewise, Dr. Briciu's current research focuses generally on emotional intelligence and more particularly on the possibilities for the spiritual development of leaders. Some of her research relates to how people can develop themselves and what methods they might use to become more compassionate and courageous, and to better understand their reality.

Researching racialized employees

This research began with Dr. Séguin and discussions he had with people working in the settlement sector and professors teaching in the settlement sector. Later, he brought on Dr. Briciu to join the team.

"When you look at it, the settlement sector is already very diverse with people from all around the world. However, while settlement agencies cater their services to newcomers pretty well, it's unclear as to what they do for their employees," Dr. Séguin said. "We wanted to see whether it's possible for racialized employees to get ahead and get better positions, or even be heard in the workplace."

"Right now, there is no research specifically focusing on the racialized employees at these agencies. The research that is out there is all about how the agencies are treating the people who come here," Dr. Séguin said.

Regarding their research that has already taken place, Dr. Séguin has confirmed that there are people who feel like they don't really have a place in their work, and this has prompted some to leave the industry as a whole.



ALI ADWAN PHOTO

Seated here (left to right) are members of the Saint Paul university research study team: Michael Okunola (project coordinator), Dr. Bianca Briciu (co-investigator) and Dr. Michaël Séguin (project director).

The settlement sector is a vast one and, due to its nature, an extremely diverse one. In a big city, there are many organisations trying their best to do what's right but unfortunately there are those that have lagged behind.

The point of all this, according to Dr. Séguin, is to "open the box" and allow for a healthy dialogue to take place since there are still organisations where that isn't an option.

Main focus on inclusion

While diversity is a focal point, the main goal of the research is about inclusion because diversity is already evident in the sector. There is no need to convince people that we need diversity because foreign workers are constantly being recruited, but Drs. Séguin and Briciu want to see if the inclusion aspect is there.

"One of the concerns for this research is to see whether these settlement agencies are actually implementing policies that align with their values. Usually, the values are to

support newcomers and help them get integrated, but we don't know if the same can be said for the employees," Dr. Briciu said.

A major factor in conducting the research is the networking and connections within the sector that the professors have discovered or established and put to use. In collaboration with hospitals, settlement agencies and even universities, which are all part of the Pan-Canadian National Newcomer Navigation Network, the research is extremely important.

"The network holds this research in high regard because there are already growing voices within the sector that believe more needs to be done and that recognize that some organisations don't have the necessary tools to handle it," Dr. Séguin said. Thus far, the research has been a rewarding experience for both professors, as well as a chance to learn more about other people and possibly even dispel some assumptions that have been made.

"The experience has been very good in the sense that it has allowed me to get my feet on the ground and learn to have the patience and curiosity for the

living experiences of other people. It fits in well with my interest regarding the experiences of refugees, newcomers and immigrants so I think it will be an opportunity for me to learn more," Dr. Briciu said.

Awareness of worker issues

One of the prime objectives of this research is to enlighten organisations to be more aware of the issues and hardships their workers are going through. A prime example would be conflicts in the workplace that can happen when you have people from many nations working together, each with their own view of the world and understanding of how to manage it.

Another goal moving forward and eventually down the line, according to Dr. Séguin, is to examine what works in a sector that is not as affluent as some of the others. He hopes the project will enable researchers to sit with partner organisations and share with them what's making a difference in the lives of their frontline workers.

BUSINESS BEAT

Sula Wok celebrates 5th anniversary with expansion plans

Mo' momos on Main

JOE PARASKEVAS

Life goes on. The craziness of life keeps coming back.

That's how Andrew Lay sees things.

"Everything we do is crazy," says the co-owner of Sula Wok. "When we built this place, we totally built on sweat equity."

Lay, 52, is sitting at the front of Sula Wok, the restaurant he and his wife Xin Hui Su, or Sula, as everyone calls her, have made a fixture of the new Main Street.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, all is quiet. Pass by the shop later –maybe as late as 11 p.m. – and you might find Sula at the back, hand-making momos, the beef, pork, chicken and vegetarian Tibetan dumplings for which the restaurant is known.

"We take our business very personally," the 44-year-old businesswoman says.

In January, Sula Wok marked five years since its opening; five years Lay and Sula remember for the struggle to invest in the place and build it while living in a one-bedroom apartment next door with their three sons, Kai Su, now 15, Hang Su, 12 and Yué Su, nine, until the restaurant was ready.

Lay recalls the day he stood in the hole that would become the restaurant's foundation after part of the wall that had been dug collapsed. He had raced madly to maintain the Blueskin protective membrane in place before contractors arrived to pour the concrete.

"A race against the clock," he says, shaking his head.

"It was a desert," Lay adds, when asked what a small business owner faced on Main Street before the arrival of the Greystone development that brought new residents and commerce.

"By setting up your tent in the desert, you have to have a vision," Lay says. "You have to have a hope. You have to know you can see yourself through a dark time."

After the restaurant went up came years of actually putting out product: The family was running Sula Wok virtually by themselves because, as Lay says, "there's a fine line (between) not being busy and being busy."

That means it was difficult to hire and train staff when workdays sometimes went from virtual silence to scrambling to meet demand.

The Covid pandemic forced Lay and Sula to adapt, but it was also an unexpected boost to the restaurant's reputation. The small customer tables at the back of their restaurant were forgotten. Sula Wok turned to pick-up and delivery only.

"The pandemic really clouds so much," Lay says. "Honestly, I wonder where we would be if the pandemic hadn't happened."

The Sula Wok story is special

Ask Sula how she sees the five-year milestone.

"It's very mixed," she says. "Mixed with challenge, emotion and excitement."

The kind of dedication to business Lay and Sula express is not unique. Plenty of restaurant owners could tell similar stories of late nights and early mornings.

The Sula Wok story is special for several reasons.

First, the restaurant could be considered emblematic of Main Street renewal.

Ten years ago, Ottawa city council voted to convert Old Ottawa East's primary thoroughfare into a 'complete street' with a more traditional balance between vehicle and pedestrian use.

Farewell, narrow sidewalks and racing

cars. Hello wide sidewalks, bicycle tracks and a civilized approach to community life.

That transition didn't happen overnight. Main Street had to grow.

The Regional Group fueled that growth with a massive infusion of housing at Greystone. In its own way, Sula Wok added fuel too.

"Sula Wok has become a considerable success," says John Dance, former president of the Old Ottawa East Community Association and currently the person in charge of planning on the OOECA board. "That's what we wanted from the traditional Main Street."

"Sula Wok is a fantastic independent restaurant," says Capital Ward Coun. Shawn Menard, who counts himself among its many customers.

Do it all over again

And yet, the most compelling part of the Sula Wok story isn't the battle of one family to make their small business survive.

It's this: Lay and Sula want to do it all over again.

They have purchased 180 Main, the house next door to Sula Wok where they lived in cramped quarters half a decade ago. Their plan?

To turn that building into an even bigger Sula Wok: more elaborate, with a proper seating area in the depths, a pick-up window or two to greet sidewalk passers-by and a colorfully decorated alley - reminiscent of passageways common in China - between the existing Sula Wok restaurant and the one they want to build, linking the front of the new store to the back.

"The back of the restaurant we hope will have an eclectic feel," Lay says. He wants to offer people a chance to sit down, have a meal or evening drink, perhaps stop by outside dinner hours.

"Call it a bar-like atmosphere," he adds. "There will be ambiance. There will be character."



JOE PARASKEVAS PHOTO

Andrew Lay (second from right) and his wife Xin Hui Su (or Sula) (right) with their sons, from left: Kai Su, Hang Su and Yué Su, in the kitchen of their restaurant Sula Wok. In January, Sula Wok celebrated five years on Main Street. The family plans to open a new expanded restaurant adjacent to the existing one.

Home for Asian pick-up food

Not that the new Sula will neglect its reputation as the home for Asian pick-up food customers have grown to love these last five years.

"I don't think the take-out is going to go away," Lay says.

Lay and Sula plan to lease or sell the existing restaurant space to another business.

Five residential units, two of them with rather impressive rooftop views would occupy the upper floors of the new structure. The combination of business and residential takes Lay and Sula back to the place and time when they met a decade and a half ago. He was traveling in China. She was running the Yak Café in the southern city of Yangshuo.

It was the same formula the couple employed when they built the existing Sula Wok.

Lay and Sula hope plans for the new restaurant can receive City Hall approval by summer. Not surprisingly, challenges loom.

They have requested a number of by-law amendments, not the least of which is a reduction to the rear setback of the 180 Main Street property from 7.5 meters to four to allow more room for restaurant seating.

At a recent public meeting organized by Menard's office, the OOECA, while generally supportive of plans for the new restaurant, raised concerns about the reduced setback and asked for greater tree cover as a buffer between the building and its neighbors.

The continuity of life

Lay and Sula's application is expected to go before the city's planning committee soon. Menard's office is in favor of the development.

"Business development on Main Street is growing fast and has an exciting future," Menard said in an e-mail.

It is a sentiment shared by some of the neighborhood's most astute observers. At The Green Door, OOEC's flagship restaurant that will celebrate 30 years of business in 2023, co-owner Ross Farmer has a broader view of trends than almost anybody in the community.

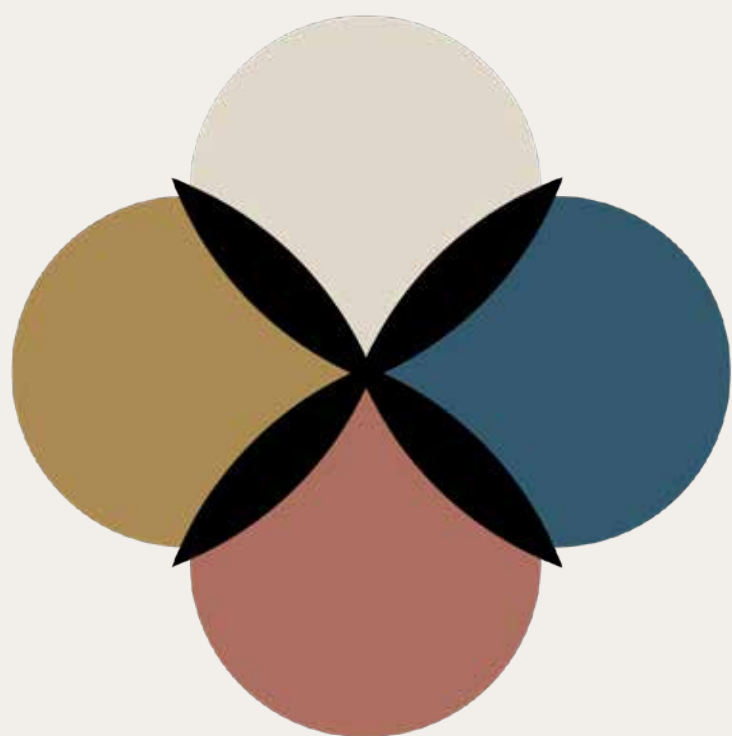
"Especially with the new condo developments over the past half-decade, everyone in the neighborhood has noticed the increase in not only population but also general wealth and status," he says, in an e-mail.

"Prior to the Main Street redevelopment and construction boom, the neighborhood felt as though it remained relatively status quo year-to-year. But since the redesign and the new condos of course, it feels a fair bit more bustling, with some increase in traffic and a general more upscale and polished ambiance."

Into that dynamic atmosphere comes the new version of Sula Wok, a business whose idea emerged out of the old 'status quo' Main Street to be a torchbearer of the 'upscale and polished' version of today.

For Lay and Sula, who first imagined a community hub restaurant in their earliest days together on the other side of the world, the new restaurant represents the continuity of life ... and perhaps the craziness.

"It fulfills a dream," Lay says. "We dreamed of this in China. It's a way to slow the traffic down when there's animation in your streets. I think we've really created an animation that we didn't have before."



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Following the news in brief

Old Ottawa East community news updates

*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.*

JOHN DANCE

Snow removal 1: Flora vs Max (Max Wins)

Unless you are an intrepid student, use of the Flora Footbridge stairs in the winter is a challenge because they are not shoveled and there are barricades at the top and bottom.

It's distinctly different with the less-used stairs of the Max Keeping footbridge over Highway 417 by the train station where the stairs are heated so the snow is melted away.

"If there is a ramp or an alternative access to a pathway, the City of Ottawa's standard practice is to winter maintain those features instead," says Bryden Denyes, the City's manager of roads services. Although the City does not clear the snow from Flora's stairs, it assiduously shovels and salts the sidewalk leading to the door of the seldom-used storage and electrical room under the stairs.

The use of barricades means that when the snow melts away the stairs remain unusable until City staff get around to removing the barricades. In some other locations, including the stairs from the Rideau River Western Pathway to the LRT bridge, a simple chain with a warning sign is used so that pedestrians can readily use the stairs when they are clear.

Design plan for Forecourt Park have for now been parked

Although the Grand Allée Park of Greystone Village is to be built this year, it is not clear when the Forecourt Park at the eastern end of the Grand Allée will be designed, let alone built. Initial consultations for the Forecourt Park were held in 2015 but plans have been put on hold.

"The design process for Forecourt Park has not been reinitiated and is subject to the confirmation of partnership details regarding the future Old Ottawa East Community Centre," says Kevin Wherry, the City's manager of parks and facilities planning. "The City will continue to communicate updates for Forecourt Park and a full public consultation process will be undertaken once the design process is reinitiated."

Snow removal 2: Clearing on Rideau River Western Pathway now extended

The City will now clear the snow on the Rideau River Western Pathway from the Lees LRT station into Greystone Village. Previously, the clearing went only to Springhurst Park. Pedestrians and cyclists will now be able to walk all along the Greystone Village's river frontage by using the multiuse pathway (MUP) and Scholastic Drive.

Asked whether the MUP switchback from Greystone Village to Clegg Street will be cleared, the City responded "At this time, there are no plans to maintain the switchback section of the trail during winter. We will review the area again as new development is completed."

City replaces traffic light at dangerous Greenfield Crossing

Two months after the pedestrian lights at Greenfield and Concord were again destroyed by a large truck, the City of Ottawa has now replaced them.

As Tara Hogeterp thoroughly reported in the December issue of *The Mainstreeter*, the frustrating quest for a safe pedestrian crossing at the dangerous intersection is more than six years old. The City is proposing an improved permanent solution in late 2024 as part of the massive Greenfield, Main, Hawthorne reconstruction project.

Jim Strang, who lives across the street from the crossing, recommends that the post of the pedestrian lights be suitably protected but the City refuses to do this because of "concerns from a sidewalk accessibility and roadside safety perspective."

Meanwhile, Tom Scott, the Old Ottawa East Community Association's director of transportation and infrastructure, is campaigning to keep big trucks off residential streets in the first place. He suggests that better signage, improved education and communication with drivers, and better enforcement are required.

Lighten up – but not yet on Colonel By Drive

There's still no progress on a temporary solution to the longstanding problem of broken streetlights on Colonel By Drive north of Clegg Street.

The National Capital Commission's (NCC) Rideau Canal Lighting Rehabilitation project will replace or repair the lights "now past their useful life" all along the Rideau Canal, but this project will not be completed until 2025.

Meanwhile, drivers and pathway users must proceed in dangerous darkness along much of Colonel By's Old Ottawa East passage. Councillor Shawn Menard has asked that a temporary solution be found. "Staff will work with the NCC to assess opportunities for temporary repairs to some of the existing lighting," says Chris Brinkmann, the City's manager of traffic operations.

Although the NCC owns the parkways and their streetlights, the City has responsibility for "replacing and maintaining the streetlights," the NCC told *The Mainstreeter*.




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Can you find the sign?



The new Rideau Winter Trail sign started out atop Hurdman hill. Near the end of January, Theresa Wallace (L) and Vanier resident Rose Anne Leonard found this amazing work of art close to the river. That's Old Ottawa East (OOE) in the background across the water. OOE resident and volunteer trail groomer Stuart Inglis spent many hours making this beauty out of salvaged old skis. Inglis hasn't said where he'll move it next but watch for the stylish RWT the next time you're out cross-country skiing on the Rideau Winter Trail.

DENISE INGLIS PHOTO

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2022-052

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.

BECOME A MEMBER OF *THE MAINSTREETER*

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.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Hosers ice the OOS Moose 2-1 to bring the Capital Ward Cup back to OOE!

The Capital Ward Cup was a hotly contested struggle again this winter, pitting the visiting Old Ottawa East Hosers against defending champions, the Old Ottawa South Moose in the Cup final at Windsor Park on February 5th. The annual community shinny tournament has become a local tradition, as the two communities, along with a team from the Glebe, have vied for the prized trophy since 2008. The Glebe squad went missing in action this year, but expectations are high for their return in 2024. Their place was taken by an expansion team from Heron Park which put up a good showing in round robin play.

The birds of Old Ottawa East



Local artist Bess Fraser's painting of the Junco, also known as the Slate Coloured Junco or Dark Eyed Junco, is the first of a series she has produced on the birds of our community. Unsung heroes that brave the cold and dark all winter long, Juncos catch the bird-watcher's eye with a flash of white under-feathers when they quickly take flight from beneath a bird feeder.

Text - Stephen Ayres

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Ears on Main's Angie O'Connor

Skilled audiologist brings her enthusiasm, experience to our expanding business community

TERRY WEST

Meet the woman at the helm

There's something uplifting about Angie O'Connor, the owner of Ears on Main, a recent and vibrant addition to the commercial core of Old Ottawa East. It could be the enthusiasm and commitment she exudes, buoyed by the excitement of finally, after 16 years as a practicing audiologist, opening her own clinic. Add in the prospect of crossing the Flora Footbridge to work every day, accompanied by two of her children who attend Au Coeur d'Ottawa elementary school, and you've got a pretty happy camper. It shows, and it's infectious. In her own words: "For three years I've had my eye on the commercial space in The Corners on Main, and at last I'm able to launch my own hearing clinic."

Training and services offered

So, what training and skills does O'Connor bring to the Old Ottawa East community? For starters, an honours degree in biology (BSc), a three-year master's degree in science (MSc Audiology - U. Western Ontario), and 16 years in the field - including two years practicing in Australia. In short, she comes well trained, experienced and committed.

Is there a need for an audiologist in our community? As O'Connor puts it, "people tend to take hearing for granted." Thinking about it, she's right. We go to the dentist twice a year, have our eyes checked regularly, monitor our bodies for heart and other irregularities, work out in the gym, and watch what we eat. As to our hearing, well, we tend to be

neglectful until nudged by those dear to us.

To quote O'Connor, "Aural rehabilitation is more successful if hearing loss is tended to in the early stages. Also, progression of dementia is slowed if hearing loss is caught in the early stages." The final product of a hearing checkup is an easily-understandable audiological printout. According to O'Connor, having one or more printouts on file allows the patient to assess the trend, and state of their hearing. Should there be deterioration, it can be caught early on. In the bulk of cases, hearing loss is incremental. Most people are not aware that they have been operating at a disadvantage.

Ears On Main is geared for adults of all ages, as well as children three and up. Prevention, of course, is the paramount objective. Hence the array of plugs in stock to combat a myriad of situations - swimming, mild noise, extreme noise. Where necessary, patients can be measured for customized plugs. Should hearing aids prove necessary, they are professionally fitted and adjusted, as well as serviced on an ongoing basis - cleaning, further adjustments, repairs.

Pocketbook considerations

Hearing aids are not cheap. One of Ears on Main's services is to guide patients through a variety of ways to mitigate the financials. These include one or more of the following: private health insurance plans; the Ontario Assisted Devices Programme (\$500 per ear); Veteran's Affairs (100% coverage); and the Ontario Disability Services for patients under 65. If, in O'Connor's assessment, hearing loss was due to



TERRY WEST PHOTO

Ears on Main's Angie O'Connor is pictured here at the reception area of her new hearing clinic. In her experience, people tend to take their hearing for granted, and many are unaware that their hearing deteriorates incrementally. Early stage testing is recommended.

workplace environment, she will assist the patient in applying to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

Pop in for a visit

Got a minute? Drop in and introduce yourself. You won't have to talk ears. Most likely, the subject will be children, hiking, biking, horses, travel, or the community.

Chances are, you peeked in the window while Ears On Main was being set up. If you had, you would have seen O'Connor's husband, mom, dad, and kids, pitching in with the drywalling, painting, and decorating. That's all finished now, and she's settled into The Corners on Main.

Time to stop by and say hello.

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LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

Brilliant sunshine on February 6th marked the fitting finale of Tim Hunt's loving restoration of *The Mainstreeter's* familiar newsbox which vandals dumped off the Flora Footbridge in late December.

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17 Voyces Choir

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For the 17 Voyces Choir, if it's not one thing, then it's another. Known for the success of its large multidisciplinary productions; the ensemble has staged rarely performed operas such as John Blow's Venus and Adonis, Telemann's Don Quixote, and Ager's Casanova.

Under the direction of founder Kevin Reeves, what began as a choir specializing in Renaissance and Baroque music, eventually expanded to encompass works from all eras – including pop and jazz.

The small size, the clarity and quality of the choir, and the repertoire, much of it lesser known because of its difficulty, are what make Seventeen Voyces unique to music lovers. The composition of 17 Voyces Choir (you'll not be surprised to learn) is approximately 17 voices - the number is variable. For the last 25 years, the choir has presented concerts of an

unusual mix of repertoire.

But there's more to the choir than meets the ear. Reeves is (also) an award-winning filmmaker, so the Voyces have annually presented a highly popular series of silent movie classics, accompanying them with an imaginative and improvised blend of live music - vocal, instrumental and in recent years, with the incomparable Matthew Larkin on organ.

These really popular evenings have included such classics as The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Phantom of the Opera, and Ben Hur. This season, the Voyces presented the film classic, Peter Pan at Southminster Church in the fall, sang a Christmas concert with 13 Strings at Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre, and a special Christmas concert at Lord Lansdowne.

The Voyces next concert - Nonsense and Nursery Rhymes, will feature the choir, a wind quintet and guest soprano Whitney Sloan, in a series of songs featuring well-known ditties and contemporary compositions, with several composed by Kevin Reeves, and New Opera Lyra Artistic Director, Andrew Ager. Sloan, who has moved to Ottawa recently from Edmonton, has been praised for her clear,



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

(L) The Owl and The Pussycat are among the nursery rhyme characters sharing the stage with guest soprano, Whitney Sloan (R).

lyrical voice and ability to take full advantage of both the light and shade in a score (Opera Canada). She is an avid performer with a passion for communicating the narratives of the operatic and concert genres as well as the musical intimacy of art song and small ensembles. She will sing a Reeves composition entitled As Soon as Fred Gets Out of Bed, The Ragwort by Sir Arthur Bliss, and Aaron Copland's I Bought Me a Cat.

According to choir member Robert Macdermid, "this is not your normal voice choir concert. Think Dr Seuss or

Jabberwocky, trumpery, or balderdash. Music too can be nonsensical, harmony and form upended and distended with humorous and perplexing results."

"The main work is called My Briefcase, by English composer John Kilpatrick, written for choir and wind quintet. It is autobiographical because the composer actually had his briefcase stolen and decided to write about it."

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ART BEAT



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OOE ARTIST FEATURE

BLAIR T. PAUL AND THE UKRAINE PAINTINGS

February 24, 2023 will mark one year since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Canadian artist Blair T. Paul wants us to reignite the flames of our anger and take action in any way that we can.

In 2022, Paul wanted to make his art "do something" for Ukraine. He launched his first Ukraine initiative: a fundraiser through which he sold his selected paintings to collectors for half market value in exchange for their direct donation to the Red Cross,

Ukraine, raising \$12,000.

The Mainstreeter generally features artists who reside in OOE. However, Paul's second Ukraine initiative crosses neighbourhood boundaries and reaches out to all Canadians in a provocative and moving series of 19 works titled: Perceived Consequences of War—The Ukraine Paintings.

"In my opinion, these paintings are powerful depictions of the Ukraine tragedy and hugely impactful to the eye and to the mind," says Lorne Abugov, *Mainstreeter* Editor. "They evoke the desolation and senseless destruction of war and the need-less and brutal campaign against the people and cities of Ukraine."

Paul hopes that this article will stimulate interest in exhibiting these paintings and heighten public awareness of the dire circumstances under which the Ukrainian people live. "I hope it will encourage more people to help," he says. "This is a David and Goliath battle that was supposed to end in a week but look at how things have gone!"

Paul, who worked on the paintings for hundreds of hours from February to August of 2022, wants the series to be shown this year in public venues in Ottawa and in other Canadian cities. "The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) has a copy of my exhibition

A finger on the pulse of the arts in OOE



BLAIR T. PAUL PAINTINGS

Escape, by Blair T. Paul, 30" x 30" - acrylic on canvas, 2022

proposal and is firmly behind it. I received a strong letter of support from the UCC Ottawa Branch of the Ukraine Crisis Committee which states: 'We appreciate the way you have captured the physical and psychological consequences of conflict experienced by civilians and soldiers in your paintings. Your artwork serves as a powerful reminder of the human cost of war, and we believe that it has the power to enlighten and motivate people to take action.' Several other venues including the Canadian War Museum, the Canadian Museum of History, and the Carleton University Art Gallery have been made aware of the project and I plan to bring it to the attention of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg.

"Canada has a notable history of twentieth century war artists whose works portrayed visceral scenes of wartime carnage and its aftermath. My own art practice has been inspired by two such artists, Alex Colville and Aba Bayefsky. As the son of a veteran of World War II, I acknowledge the legacies of these and other distinguished Canadian war artists and feel a sense of duty and privilege to contribute to this important genre of Canadian art."

Artists from Rubens to Picasso have evoked the brutal consequences of war in their work to make a political statement. "Picasso said that painting is 'seeing,' and that he could use his art, in particular the painting titled *Guernica*, as a political weapon," Paul says. *Guernica* was a Spanish town bombed by Germany in 1937. "With that painting, Picasso fought Fascism. I feel precisely as Picasso did, and the Ukraine paintings are my visual expressions of outrage." In 2006, Paul

was Artist-in-Residence in Vallauris, France, where Picasso lived and worked from 1947 to 1955.

With nearly 50 years in the visual arts and education field, Paul was well suited to take on this latest project. He graduated from the Ontario College of Art & Design University in 1974 and continued his studies at both Queen's and Carleton universities, becoming a member of The Ontario Society of Artists in 1986. In the ensuing years, he has worked as a professional artist and fine art educator. Paul began teaching at Algonquin College in 2003 and started the Introduction to Fine Art Program in 2007.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, Paul taught painting classes for adult students at community centres in Greenboro and Nepean. In the nearly three years since COVID-19 struck, Paul has been offering weekly drawing, watercolour, and acrylic painting classes online, and he now hosts a once monthly, in-person painting workshop at the Royal Canadian Legion in Manotick. His works may be found in the Canada Council Art Bank, Carleton University, and The Corporation of the City of Ottawa as well as in public and private Canadian and international collections.

Paul used black and white acrylic paint in his Ukrainian series to create an archival look. "I felt that there was no other approach but to produce monochromatic pieces with no colour to influence the viewers, and to convey a sense of despair, and timelessness.



Combat, by Blair T. Paul, 48" x 36" - acrylic on canvas, 2022

Continued on Page 23

ART BEAT



TIM HUNT'S MAIN STREET SKETCHES

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

Tim Hunt: Meandering along Harvey Street in early January, I stumbled upon this charming little house in an unsuspecting corner of Old Ottawa East. Had I not strayed from my usual beaten path looking for a subject to sketch, I might have overlooked what turns out to be one of our community's oldest houses. Facing the grey stone facade, it is easy to forget its almost alarming proximity to the Queen-sway sound barrier. A small plaque on the outside of the house reads:

**Laurel Cottage,
Built in 1875
for Edward Daughtry,
Post Office Messenger.**



Archives from history.ottawaeast.ca indicate that this house was a part of the new subdivision of Archville West registered in 1873 when Harvey Street (named for Ottawa's mayor in 1849) was still known as Fifth Street. Instead of the welcoming vista of Highway 417, the cottage would have enjoyed a front row seat

to the expanding Grand Trunk Railway!

Finally, what first drew my attention to this house, something that I did not include in my drawing, was the For Sale sign out front...an invitation to prospective homeowners with an interest in community history.

THE UKRAINE PAINTINGS

Continued from Page 22

I chose this approach to evoke strong, unflinching images that border on the surreal and nightmarish," he says. "We can turn off the news but what I'm saying is that we can't just turn off this conflict. In the series, I show what Ukraine looks like now, and illustrate that it could become even more devastated without our help...without the world's help.

"I studied news reports and tried to imagine what these people must be feeling. The individuals in my paintings are fictional, but I show the effects on various groups in Ukraine society—families, the military, young, old, displaced, alone. They are what inspired me to paint. This is undoubtedly my most important series of paintings and represents the best work of my career."

Next, Paul describes the three paintings from *Perceived Consequences of War—The Ukraine Paintings* that he selected to accompany this article and illustrate what he was thinking at the time of creation.

Escape: "As the Russian onslaught began upon Ukrainian towns and villages on their eastern boundary, citizens became terrified of what had already happened and of what might yet happen, resulting in mass evacuations. Gathering their family members and a few belongings, they started their escape, some to safer Ukrainian towns, and some to countries to the west, including Canada. As they made their way on foot, they encountered dead bodies and burned-out buildings, and faced the real danger of being attacked from the air. This terror is reminiscent of news reel footage from World War II, where refugees struggled to escape the Nazis."

Combat: "The Ukrainian soldiers have fought heroically from the first days of the invasion and continue to do so relentlessly. Fortunately, western allies have supported their efforts with much-needed military equipment. As President Zelenskyy has stated: 'We are not asking you to fight, just give us what we need, and we will do the fighting and take back our country.' For the outnumbered Ukrainian forces, surrender is not a word in their vocabulary. The soldiers pictured in this painting are possibly surrounded, and despite injury and loss they courageously fight on."



Dignity and Destruction, by Blair T. Paul, 48" x 36" - acrylic on canvas, 2022

Dignity and Destruction: "Here we can see a family huddling together under a makeshift shelter amidst total destruction. Their home and belongings are gone, but, together, their dignity and determination pull them through the horror. They are like



an island in a river of destruction. Are other family members safe? Are their children injured and possibly dying? Will there be any rescue effort to take them away from this nightmare? We just don't know. They are facing us—not cowering—but demanding that we not look away. 'This is our country!' they seem to say."

"We all live on this planet. Canadians have been strongly behind Ukraine. Together, we can continue to help the Ukrainian people."

"I commend Blair T. Paul for his artistic vision and for his service to the people of Ukraine," says Abugov. To see more of Paul's work, and to find out how you can help support an exhibition of *Perceived Consequences of War—The Ukraine Paintings* go to: www.blairpaul.com.


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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Community Activities Group of Old Ottawa East

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Making Old Ottawa East an even better place to live, work, and play!

Winter-Spring 2023 Programs

All programming and events are subject to change.

Register @ www.ottawaeastcag.ca

Youth Programs

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- Camp Brantwood - Summer Camps 2023
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- March Break Camp (Feb 13-26, 2023)
- 2022-23 PA Day Camps
- Cooperative Playgroup Drop-In - Tue & Thu 9:30am to 12:30pm
@ Brantwood Park Fieldhouse
- OOE Homeschool Meet-Ups - Tuesdays

2022-2023 After-School Programs

@ Old Town Hall and Brantwood Park Fieldhouse - Spots Available Now!



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Community Partners



www.OttawaEastCAG.ca

Adult Fitness Programming

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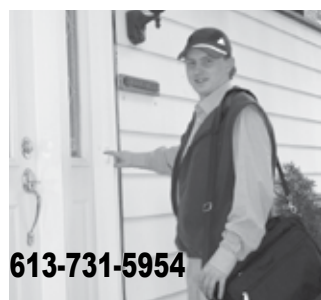
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The 2023 Snow Mole campaign

Adopt-a-City-Bench to help weary travelers

DIANNE BRETON

This is the sixth successive winter that Council on Aging Snow Moles from across Ottawa will answer survey questions with the goal of improving the safety of winter walking in their own neighbourhoods. One of those survey questions reads: Is bench seating cleared of snow and ice and available to rest?

For the last five years, the Snow Moles' collected data have shown that, while there is City bench seating on many routes, most of these benches are not cleared of snow and ice and are therefore not accessible for winter-walking pedestrians who would like to rest on their walk.

This year, Snow Mole volunteers are invited to make a positive change by Adopting a City Bench during the Snow Mole campaign from January to March, and to clear off the ice and snow to make the seats safe and accessible.

The adopted bench can be on a regular walking route. Those that are near medical buildings, senior residences, libraries, pharmacies, senior centres, public transit and shopping routes are especially needed in wintertime.

Snow can be brushed off with an extra mitt or a small brush, and ice can be removed with an ice-scraper like those used for a car windshield. These simple tools can be carried in your jacket pocket, backpack or shopping bag.

The City of Ottawa lists 2,600 pedestrian seating benches located on City-owned sidewalks, pathways and parks. With so many benches to choose from, why not adopt a bench this winter? Make it safe and accessible for winter-weary pedestrians throughout the 2023 winter.



Join the 2023 Snow Mole campaign. "If you see something – Say something". The Council on Aging Snow Mole questionnaire is available online at www.coaottawa.ca/snowmoles. The Snow Mole team would like to know the location of your adopted bench. Send an email and photo

to snowmoles@coaottawa.ca so that it can be included in the 2023 Snow Mole data.



The Council on Aging of Ottawa
Le Conseil sur le vieillissement d'Ottawa

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Good Morning Creative Arts & Preschool

Glebe preschool considers Old Ottawa East a possible location for its forever home

MAINSTREETER STAFF

For over 40 years, Good Morning Creative Arts & Preschool has operated licensed, arts-based childcare programs at its current location in the Logan-Veneta Hall at the corner of First Avenue and Bank Street in the Glebe. But while the school has been an important fixture in the Glebe for over 40 years, its tenure in that community may be coming to an end given a sequence of recent events that have left the organization scrambling to relocate in time for the next school year.

According to Katherine Liston, President of Good Morning Preschool's Board of Directors, "time is running out for us to find a new location in time for September." She notes that since the sale of their current Logan-Veneta Hall location in the Glebe, "Good Morning has been engaged in discussions with a local institution and had been looking forward to moving nearby in time for next school year. Unfortunately, we recently learned that the institution is no longer interested in renting to a long-term tenant, so we are once again looking for a new home."

The timing of this latest news was "heartbreaking" says Karen Cameron, Director of Good Morning Preschool, coming as it did only two days before Christmas. "Obviously, we are gutted as we have been working for the past 10 months on this project without any indication that we would not be able to move forward with our tenancy." She says that the preschool's relocation plans are now about a year behind schedule, a setback that comes at the end of three difficult years, which have included low registration due to COVID-19, COVID-related closures, and the sale of the Logan-Veneta Hall building Good Morning Preschool occupied for more than four decades.

For her part, Liston suggests Good Morning would be open to moving to other neighbourhoods in central Ottawa, including Old Ottawa East, in order to serve

young families. "As many of our alumni have lived in Old Ottawa East, this would likely be an ideal location for us! We are a well-established, not-for-profit cooperative committed to educating and enriching young people, and we would work hard to be a good fit for any organization interested in renting space to us."



Good Morning's Board of Directors is reaching out to the public to assist in locating a new forever home for the preschool. Anyone knowing of a location that might be suitable for the preschool or interested in joining Good Morning's relocation committee is asked to contact the preschool by email at goodmorningpreschool@gmail.com.



LAUREN WEBER PHOTO

Karen Cameron, Director of Good Morning Preschool, poses with brothers Alexis and Gabriel in this 2022 photo.

POLITICAL PAGES

DR. NILI KAPLAN-MYRTH OCDSB SCHOOL TRUSTEE, CAPITAL WARD

NILI.KAPLAN-MYRTH@OCDSB.CA



TOUGH ISSUES AND DISTURBING INCIDENTS

Two months ago, a friend and outgoing trustee warned me that work on the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) would begin with a firehose of information coming at each of the new trustees, with everything to learn about regulatory processes, provincial policies, and work within a large bureaucracy. Most of November and December were, indeed, dedicated to orientation sessions, on everything from our roles and responsibilities as trustees, to a primer on the Education Act, to basics about educational programs and finances.

As your trustee, I got right to work. Here's a summary of what our board has addressed, to date, and what is on the horizon:

November, 2022, I moved to temporarily reinstate masks in our classrooms to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, in response to the triple threat of Covid-19, influenza, and RSV. Unfortunately, in the weeks prior to the meeting, organized anti-mask and anti-vaccine protesters targeted our board, bombarding us with emails espousing disinformation about the efficacy of masks. Then, sadly, the OCDSB boardroom filled with disruptive protesters on the day of our meeting. The vote on our mask motion resulted in a tie, and therefore did not pass. That process was followed by harassment, threats, and antisemitic hate.

Sadly, not an isolated occurrence. Ottawa, and OCDSB schools, have seen a sharp increase in antisemitism in the last few years. Students have reported horrific incidents, repeatedly. Most recently, students at Sir Robert Borden High School were charged with acts of hate. Our existing staff and resources to support Jewish students and staff were deemed to be inadequate. Fast forward to January 17, 2023: At the Committee of the Whole, I moved for the OCDSB to hire a Jewish Equity Coach. More than 1000 Jewish community members, representatives of Jewish organizations, and Jewish leaders from across the political spectrum came together to consider the motion. After thoughtful discussion, the OCDSB expressed unanimous support for the motion.

At this time of year, the OCDSB has an opportunity to submit questions to OPSBA (Ontario Public School Boards' Association), from which some questions are then forwarded to the Ministry of Education. I asked OCDSB to ask the following question, on behalf of the families and educators: What is going to be done to address the issue of insufficient funds and resources for students with disabilities, neurodiversity, and other special education needs? With inadequate funding for EAs and other supports, students with disabilities are struggling, and in some cases excluded from learning. That is an equity issue. Also, for students in classrooms with executive dysregulation, there is also a safety issue; an increasing number of students and staff are learning/working in environments in which physical violence is a daily occurrence.

The OCDSB is now embarking on community consultations to prepare its strategic plan for 2023-2027. You are invited to participate in the OCDSB's strategic planning process, to give your input on what matters most to support student learning and well-being. The OCDSB website has information on how to join individual or small group conversations and provide feedback.

In addition to the strategic planning consultations, I hope we will have many opportunities to get to know each other. I am happy to join parent council meetings. I also welcome families to reach out if you have questions or concerns that require my attention or support. I am also a trustee representative to the Advisory Committee on Equity and to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR, CAPITAL WARD

SHAWN.MENARD@OTTAWA.CA
SHAWNMENARD.CA



BUDGET TIME IS A TIME TO RE-EVALUATE OUR PRIORITIES

A few years ago, renowned Canadian urban planner Brent Toderian noted that "the truth about a city's aspirations isn't found in its vision. It's found in its budget." Since Ottawa is currently in the middle of budget discussions, we should take a closer look at some issues to see if they really reflect our values and priorities.

What I want, more than anything in Ottawa, is a new sustainable, community-oriented vision for the City that is reflected in our budget. Many budget discussions focus on big-ticket items, and understandably so, but those discussions can overshadow many smaller issues that greatly impact the quality of our daily lives. If we're aspiring to be a city for all residents—one that prioritizes equity and quality of life—then we must also look at these smaller issues.

Let's take housing. The City only allocates \$15 million annually on building new affordable housing. To put that in perspective, we recently spent \$113 million on one road widening and track separation on a 3km stretch of road in Barrhaven. If you asked residents, I don't think this spending would line up with their priorities.

Small, relatively inexpensive quality-of-life changes can make a big difference for residents. I'll use parks as an example. We need to improve our parks so that they are available and usable to everyone. We need to ensure that people using wheelchairs, people with mobility challenges, parents with strollers and everyone else get into the park and fully enjoys it.

Outdoor pools close too early in the summer, often draining the pool just as parents get home from work and are able to take the kids for a dip. We should expand the daily hours—and the length of the pool season—to give more people somewhere to cool off during our hot summers.

Our parks need more public washrooms, and the ones that do have them should be open but are often found locked. Ottawa, in general, needs more public washrooms. We can't rely on coffee shops or restaurants to meet this need; we should help supply this essential service—and we need to make sure there is proper signage so that people know that it is available.

This would not be a large strain on our budget, but it would open up the city for more residents who require these facilities as they move about our community.

Then there's public libraries. Libraries are far more than just book depositories. They are community gathering places, offering various programs, providing computer and internet access to those who need it, and simply offering a place to visit for individuals and families. Providing a space and activities for free is an important part of creating a community for all. These hours can be extended, on Sundays for example, using a surplus in the library budget that was realized last fiscal year.

Many transportation projects can be expensive, but there's much we can do on limited budgets. We saw this during the pandemic on the Bank Street Bridge. For the costs of some traffic barrels (and the labour to set them up), we created more space for people—better connecting them to different services and neighbourhoods—leading to a permanent change on the bridge.

These are the types of small changes that can make a big impact on our quality of life.

To learn more about the 2023 budget and the budget process, we're co-hosting a public information session on the evening of Wednesday February 15. Details and registration can be found at www.shawnmenard.ca. If you're unable to attend, you can view the session at www.shawnmenard.ca/youtube.

POLITICAL PAGES

JOEL HARDEN MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

COMMUNITY OFFICE
JHARDEN-CO@NDP.ON.CA
613-722-6414
109 CATHERINE ST, OTTAWA, ON, K2P 0P4



BUILDING A MOVEMENT TO SAVE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

On January 19th we sent a message to Premier Doug Ford: our health care is not for sale.

That's the day over a hundred people met in Confederation Park, with less than 48 hours notice, to demand better for health care staff, better for patients, and better for our cherished public health care system. We heard powerful testimonials making this case.

We also did an outside tour of two fully private clinics operating in Centretown that give "fast lane" health care to those who can pay thousands in private fees.

ExecHealth and La Vie Executive Health promise access to crucial medical services in days, while public system lineups can take months or longer given funding cuts. This will only get worse if we allow public funds to subsidize the Ford government's privatization plans.

Just a few days before our protest, Premier Ford had announced permanent changes to use private, for-profit clinics to clear Ontario's surgical backlog. When questioned about his decision the Premier went so far as to say that critics of this move "... are the ones that created hallway health care for many years."

That's a curious view divorced from reality, but I've come to expect that from this Premier. He likes to blame others, avoid responsibility, and reward friends seeking to profit from services usually performed by the public sector.

The Herzig Eye Institute is a case in point. Herzig executives are major Tory donors, and stand to benefit handsomely from the 5000 cataract surgeries in Ottawa they will absorb per year from the current surgical backlog if the Ford government's plan goes ahead.

But, as Elizabeth Payne from the Ottawa Citizen noted in an article she wrote on January 17, most cataract patients in Ottawa are able to access corrective surgery within six months through our public system (though wait times for complex care cataract patients can be different).

Payne noted that "...Dr. Kashif Baig, [a local] cornea, anterior segment and refractive surgeon ... [has] the longest wait times, possibly because he treats more complex cases. His patients can wait up to 1,402 days" for treatment at University of Ottawa's Eye Institute - but Dr. Baig is also the Medical Director for the Herzig Eye Institute in Ottawa.

How long will cataract patients wait for Dr. Baig's services rendered at Herzig? And how much will OHIP be billed for surgical procedures done there? These are important questions that, as I write these words, have no answers.

We are also at risk of losing staff from an overburdened and underfunded public health care system to private care. Upselling and price gouging in private health care is common. These trends are great for private health care executives, but terrible for everyone else.

So let's build a movement to save public health care. It's time to get organized and make good trouble.

Ontario's education workers showed us how to do that in 2022; inspired by their example, we can save public health care in 2023.

YASIR NAQVI MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

EMAIL: YASIR.NAQVI@PARL.GC.CA
PHONE: 613-946-8682
COMMUNITY OFFICE:
404 - 1066 SOMERSET STREET WEST



SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH THE DOWNTOWN OTTAWA REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE

We have settled into the new year, and my team and I have been pleased to meet with residents and hear about the issues that resonate with our community.

Downtown Ottawa Revitalization Task Force

Downtown Ottawa has changed significantly over the past three years. With hybrid work here to stay and affordability challenges driving up home prices and the cost of doing business, our downtown is facing serious challenges.

But there is also reason for hope. In the summer of 2022, I brought The Downtown Ottawa Revitalization Task Force together, comprised of representatives of not-for-profit and for-profit housing developers, local business improvement area representatives, tourism stakeholders, Indigenous leaders and affordable social housing advocates. The main objective of the Downtown Ottawa Revitalization Task Force is to explore ideas and create recommendations that will assist policy-makers in reimagining the future of downtown Ottawa.

To assist us in this effort, the Task Force is opening up the conversation to hear from a variety of different voices and groups across our community. We are hard at work developing our recommendations, and now, we want to hear from you! Interested individuals can provide their feedback through this link: <https://downtown-ottawa.in.howspace.com/home-page>. Let's reimagine downtown for people to live, work, visit, and play!

Childcare fees reduced by 50%

We are off to a great start with reduced childcare fees. Now that Ontario has signed on to Canada's Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, Ottawa Centre residents are seeing a 50% reduction in their childcare expenses. I've heard from many families in our community how much of a difference this has made. Parents should not have to choose between working and raising a family. Furthermore, this means, having more flexibility as to how Canadians spend their earnings. Whether it's to buy more groceries, to enrol children in more after-school activities or to afford to pay rent with greater ease. This is part of our overall plan to make life more affordable for Canadians, and one step closer to ensuring families can access \$10 per day childcare. Additionally, on December 8, 2022, our federal government introduced Bill C-35 to further reinforce and protect Canada's Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. If passed, the bill would enshrine the principles of a Canada-wide early learning and the childcare system into federal law.

Protecting our environment by banning single-use plastics

In addition to affordability, our community cares greatly about our environment and tackling climate change. Our federal government made a commitment to ban single-use plastics to protect our environment and our waters. Over the next decade, this world-leading ban on harmful single-use plastics will result in the estimated elimination of over 1.3 million tonnes of hard-to-recycle plastic waste and more than 22,000 tonnes of plastic pollution, which is equivalent to over a million garbage bags full of litter. As of December 20, 2022, the manufacture and import for sale in Canada of checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware, stir sticks and straws, as defined in the Regulations, is prohibited. This bold action will result in cleaner parks and hiking trails for residents to enjoy, and a cleaner shoreline for our kids to play. I have been a strong advocate for climate action in our community and I am pleased to share this important news with residents.

As always, don't hesitate to contact my community office if you have any questions on these federal government initiatives, or if you need assistance. My team and I are here to help.

L'apprentissage du Français chez les enfants

L'utilisation de la langue française à la maison poursuit son déclin alarmant à Ottawa

NOÉMIE IPOU

A Ottawa, le pourcentage de Canadiens qui parlaient principalement français à la maison est passé de 10 % en 2016 à 8,4 % en 2021 selon Ottawa Citizen. Plusieurs raisons sont à l'origine de ce déclin alarmant.

1. Le rôle des parents dans l'apprentissage de la langue maternelle

En 2021, l'anglais est la langue la plus parlée dans les foyers à Ottawa. D'après un article du journal le Droit (2013) à partir des données du Recensement de 2011, plus des deux-tiers des familles franco-ontariennes seraient exogames (1 seul parent est de langue maternelle française). Depuis 1970, les couples exogames ne font que croître avec une accélération depuis 1996. De plus, selon Statistiques Canada le sexe du parent francophone peut faire toute la différence en ce qui a trait à la transmission de la langue. Dans 90% des cas, les enfants ayant deux parents francophones conserveront leurs langues. Mère francophone, père non francophone ? 40,8%. L'inverse ? On tombe à 19%.

2. L'impact des médias sur l'apprentissage

Malheureusement, même si les parents font l'effort de transmettre le français à leurs enfants en les inscrivant dans des écoles francophones, ces derniers acceptent peu de parler le français dans la cour de récréation, au profit de l'anglais. En effet, L'Enquête sur la vitalité des minorités de langue officielle (EVMLO) permet de jeter un éclairage sur la langue utilisée lors de la pratique de cinq activités quotidiennes : l'écoute de la télévision, la navigation sur Internet, les activités sportives et non sportives organisées et la lecture. L'anglais reste la langue dominante : la plupart de leurs séries, films, émissions, jeux, livres ou médias sociaux préférés sont majoritairement anglophones.

3. Comment la communauté influence l'envie d'apprendre une langue ?

De plus, l'utilisation du français par les enfants est liée à la dynamique linguistique de la communauté. Parmi les enfants de parents francophones qui vivaient dans un milieu francophone minoritaire en 2006, 33 % utilisaient exclusivement ou principalement le français en lecture, et 12 % utilisaient exclusivement ou principalement le français pour l'écoute de la télévision. Plus de la moitié des enfants de parents francophones vivant dans des communautés où moins de 2 % des enfants ont le français comme première langue officielle parlée n'utilisaient que l'anglais pour lire ou pour écouter la télévision.

4. L'importance des structures d'apprentissage francophone



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Lorsqu'on pense à l'apprentissage du français, la difficulté réelle ou imaginée de la grammaire ou de la conjugaison peut parfois faire peur. Pourtant le français ne se résume pas qu'à ça. Toute la culture, l'histoire et les valeurs qui y sont liés sont des aspects importants de l'apprentissage du français qui demeurent importants à transmettre aux enfants. Il s'agit d'un héritage qui donne accès à une culture riche universelle.

Pour Anne-Marie Guévin, Adjointe à la coordination au Centre pour l'enfant et la famille ON y va-Grandir ensemble, « L'apprentissage du français dès le plus jeune âge favorise non seulement son acquisition mais également la construction identitaire de l'enfant grâce à laquelle

il pourra se définir et se reconnaître à travers la francophonie durant toute sa vie. Il lui offre aussi la confiance et le désir de s'exprimer dans cette langue, un élément-clé pour renforcer la vitalité des communautés francophones et ce, particulièrement en milieu minoritaire. C'est pourquoi il est important d'offrir des structures permettant d'encadrer les enfants dans leur apprentissage du français dès leur plus jeune âge. Le développement de savoirs et de compétences dans la langue française chez l'enfant lui permettra, à son tour, de s'engager et de contribuer pleinement à l'essor de la communauté francophone. » Le Centre Grandir Ensemble propose des groupes de jeux en français pour tous petits partout en ville,

dont une fois par semaine à l'Alliance Française Ottawa.

Avec vingt et une écoles primaires et 14 écoles secondaires francophones, le nombre d'élèves qui étudient en français dans la ville d'Ottawa est de 11 000. Ce nombre démontre la continuité de l'intérêt pour le français. Mais les écoles ne sont pas la seule façon de favoriser l'apprentissage du français.

5. Les activités pour enfants à Ottawa pour l'apprentissage du français

La ville d'Ottawa a mis en place plusieurs programmes francophones pour encourager l'apprentissage du français chez les enfants. Il existe de multiples programmes récréatifs, de formation et culturels qui permettent de renforcer les compétences en français des tous petits.

Les ateliers pour enfants sont également un moyen éducatif et amusant pour leur faire découvrir cette belle langue. C'est avec cette idée en tête que l'Alliance Française a créé Les petits penseurs, un atelier d'initiation à la philosophie réservé aux enfants âgés de 6 à 12 ans, francophones, anglophones ou apprenants de FLS, même débutants. Il a pour but d'accompagner les enfants dans leur apprentissage du français mais aussi dans leur développement, cognitif, affectif et social. Ces ateliers sont jumelés au club de lecture de l'Alliance Française Ottawa pour permettre aux parents désirant accompagner leurs enfants de le faire tout en participant eux aussi à des échanges intellectuels en français.

French learning for children

Use of the French language at home continues alarming decline in Ottawa

NOÉMIE IPOU

In Ottawa, the percentage of Canadians who spoke mainly French at home dropped from 10% in 2016 to 8.4% in 2021, according to the Ottawa Citizen. There are several reasons for this alarming decline.

1. The role of parents in learning the mother tongue

In 2021, English was the most spoken language in homes in Ottawa. According to a 2013 article in Le Droit, based on data from the 2011 Census, more than two-thirds of Franco-Ontarian families are exogamous (only one parent is of French mother tongue). Since 1970, the number of exogamous couples have constantly increased, and at an accelerated rate since 1996. In addition, according to

Statistics Canada, the sex of the Francophone parent can make all the difference in terms of language transmission. In 90% of cases, children with two French-speaking parents will retain their languages. French-speaking mother, non-French-speaking father? 40.8%. The reverse? We drop to 19%.

2. The impact of the media on learning

Unfortunately, even if parents make the effort to transmit French to their children by enrolling them in French-speaking schools, the children tend to resist speaking French in the playground, in favour of English. The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) sheds light on the language used during the practice of five daily activities: watching television, surfing the Internet, organized sports, non-sports activities and

reading. English remains the dominant language: most of the children's favorite series, movies, shows, games, books, or social media are English-speaking.

3. How does the community influence the desire to learn a language?

Furthermore, children's use of French is linked to the linguistic dynamics of the community. Among the children of Francophone parents who lived in a Francophone minority environment in 2006, 33% used exclusively or mainly French in reading, and 12% used exclusively or mainly French for watching television. More than half of the children of Francophone parents living in communities where less than two percent of children have French as their first official language

Continued on Page 32

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

A brief introduction...

Minor variances can be a major issue for property owners and neighbours

JOHN DANCE

Minor variances may be difficult, unique, esoteric, costly, time-consuming, required, adversarial, controversial, challenging, frustrating or some combination of all these attributes. They are also a key authorization a property owner needs to make changes to a property that aren't allowed by the applicable zoning by-law.

Oftentimes, a property owner will apply for a minor variance in order to build higher, wider, deeper, or closer to the street or to adjacent properties than what current zoning laws permit. For instance, a homeowner might want to build a garage that extends 0.5 metres beyond the front of the house toward the street, when the zoning by-law doesn't allow any extension beyond the face of the house.

To apply for a minor variance, the applicant must follow the procedures of Ottawa's quasi-judicial, independent Committee of Adjustment (CofA) and pay a fee that currently is about \$2,700.00. CofA is comprised of individuals possessing prescribed qualifications who are selected through the City's public appointments process. Committee members are paid honoraria for each hearing they attend.

When a minor variance application is made, CofA staff notifies all landowners within a 60-metre radius of the subject property so that they may make representations at CofA when the committee considers the application. Those who object or support may provide a written submission for the consideration of the committee, and they may also appear at the hearing. The new procedures to deal with the pandemic have made it easier to "appear," given this is now done on Zoom, rather than having to go to the hearing and wait around in the confines of the office where the hearings were held.

Provincial legislation sets four "tests" for whether or not a minor variance application should be approved. These tests are:

- Is the general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law maintained?
- Is the general intent and purpose of the Official Plan maintained?
- Is the variance desirable for the appropriate use of land, building, or structure?
- Is the variance minor?

What's "minor"?

The definition of "minor" is not precise or mathematical. Last month, CofA approved a minor variance application for

a property in Old Ottawa East, specifically for a total driveway width of 8.19 metres while the applicable zoning by-law permits a total driveway width of only 3.0 metres. In its decision, CofA noted that the variance is "minor because it will not create any unacceptable adverse impact on abutting properties or the neighbourhood in general."

If, however, neighbouring residents or the community association had presented sound evidence at the hearing that there were, in their opinion, adverse impacts, then it's possible that the application would not have been approved as a minor variance.

Whether you are making the case for a minor variance or opposing it, it's essential that the arguments address these four tests listed above. Furthermore, arguments must be based on the details of the City's Official Plan, the Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan, the applicable zoning by-law, and other relevant by-laws and provincial legislation (e.g., Mature Neighbourhoods Overlay, Tree Protection By-Law).

Residents may object to the architectural design of a proposed change, but design-based objections carry no weight in CofA's consideration. Similarly, it's key to note that a property owner may make major "as of right" changes to a property without requiring a minor variance, provided the changes meet the existing zoning by-law. For example a small, one-storey bungalow may be demolished and replaced by a two-storey building with a bigger footprint and smaller yard provisions, provided the new building meets the zoning requirements.

One other wrinkle: Ontario's Planning Act protects pre-existing land uses so that a non-conforming building may be rebuilt "as of right" within the same footprint, height, and mass. That is, no minor variance is required if the property owner gets municipal concurrence on what constitutes pre-existing land use. The consequence is that even if current applicable zoning allows, for example, only two storeys, an owner can rebuild a three-storey building if the building was allowed to be three storeys before the current zoning came into effect.

The province's new More Homes Built Faster Act removes the right of a community association or a neighbour to appeal a CofA decision on a minor variance to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). However, an applicant may appeal the decision or may seek a zoning by-law amendment



A notice with information on a proposed minor variance must be posted in front of the property for which a minor variance is being sought. The pictured notice is for an Old Ottawa South residence where a minor variance was sought to permit a reduced rear yard setback for an addition above the existing garage.

to accommodate the requested variance. This rezoning could be considered to be a major variance, although this is not a formal term. Both OLT appeals and rezoning are difficult, lengthy and often costly propositions.

Old Ottawa East review

The Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) Planning Committee (OOEPC) reviews about a dozen requests for minor variances each year. The experience of OOEPC is that approval of minor variances is expedited when the applicant meets with nearby neighbours to discuss proposed variances, listens to concerns, and, where possible, makes modifications to address concerns. Similarly, OOEPC appreciates an applicant presenting any proposals to OOEPC, preferably before an application is made to CofA.

After reviewing an application, OOEPC will write to CofA and either express "no objection" or provide a specific objection to a requested variance. OOEPC's primary interests are whether the requested minor variance conforms to the Old

Ottawa East Secondary Plan, whether it is consistent with neighbourhood character and/or whether it establishes undesirable precedent for Old Ottawa East neighbourhoods.

The City of Ottawa Planning Department's staff provides written analyses and opinions on requested variances which are useful for all involved parties. Unfortunately, sometimes the City staff's analysis isn't provided until the day before a hearing, rendering it difficult for parties to factor the analysis into their written submissions to CofA, which are supposed to be submitted to the committee two days before the meeting.

Both CofA and the Federation of Citizens' Associations are studying how the minor variance process can be improved.

John Dance is Chairperson of the OOECA Planning Committee.

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SCAN ME



Stemming French-language decline in Ottawa begins with the children

Continued from Page 29

spoken used only English to read or to watch television.

4. *The importance of Francophone learning structures*

When thinking about learning French, the real or imagined difficulty of grammar or conjugation can seem scary at first. However, French is not just about that. All the culture, history and values associated with it are important aspects of learning French that remain important to pass on to children. It is a heritage that gives access to a rich universal culture.

For Anne-Marie Guévin, Coordination Assistant at the Centre for Children and Families, On y va – Grandir Ensemble, "Learning French from an early age promotes not only its acquisition but also the identity-building of the children, which will enable them to define and recognize themselves through the Francophonie throughout their lives. It also gives them the confidence and desire to express themselves in this language, a key element in strengthening the vitality of Francophone communities, particularly in minority settings. Therefore, it is important to offer structures to support children in their learning of French from an early age. The development of knowledge and skills in the French language in children will allow them, in turn, to engage and contribute fully to the development of the Francophone community. That's why Grandir Ensemble offers French playgroups for toddlers all over the city, including once a week at the Alliance Française Ottawa."

With 21 primary schools and 14 secondary schools in French, the number of students studying in French in the City of Ottawa is 11,000. This number demonstrates the continuity of interest in French. But schools are not the only way to promote the learning of French.

5. *Activities for kids in Ottawa to learn French*

The City of Ottawa has put in place several Francophone programs to encourage children to learn French. There are many recreational, training, and cultural programs that help strengthen the French-language skills of young children.

Children's workshops are also a fun and educational way to introduce them to this beautiful language. With this idea in mind, Alliance Française created Les Petits Penseurs, an introductory philosophy workshop for children aged 6 to 12, whether they are French-speaking, English-speaking or FSL learners, even beginners. The workshops aim to support children in their learning of French but also in their cognitive, emotional, and social development. These workshops are held at the same time as the Alliance Française Ottawa book club to allow parents who wish to accompany their children to do so while participating themselves in intellectual exchanges in French.

Noémie Ipou is the Communications and Marketing Manager for Alliance Française Ottawa.

ECLECTIC EVENTS

**Saturday, April 15th @
6:30 PM**

**HAYDN & MOZART
CONCERT**, Rideau Chorale,
Southminster United
Church, 15
Aylmer Avenue, Old Ottawa
South

Mozart and Haydn were reportedly great friends. They might have been tickled to learn their works would be performed together by a choir across the Atlantic more than 200 years after they were written.

Rideau Chorale will perform Haydn's Mass No. 9 in C Major (Mass in the Time of War) along with Mozart's Mass

in F Major, K 192 in mid-April.

The composers met in the 1780s and developed a friendship. Haydn was 24 years older than Mozart and already established. He became a mentor to Mozart, but would, in turn, be influenced by his young friend's work.

Kevin Reeves is the guest Music Director for this concert. The choir will be joined by Matthew Larkin on organ, soloists and a timpanist.

The concert will be performed Saturday, April 15th at Southminster Church in Old Ottawa South. Tickets will be available at Eventbrite.ca.

Information about Rideau Chorale and its virtual and upcoming performances can be found at rideauchorale.com.



**March 13th to 17th:
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**MARCH BREAK
OUTDOOR NATURE
CAMP**, Maison Tucker
House, 1731 Tucker
Road, Rockland, ON

This March Break, register your children ages 9 to 12 for a week of outdoor activities where they will learn about nature, our forest, fire safety and survival skills such as outdoor cooking.

All children are welcome to this bilingual camp - though some portion of

the activities may be English only. A pre-registration \$30 discount is available for bookings prior to 5:00 PM on February 20th. Pre-registration price: \$250 per child; regular price: \$280.00. Early drop-off and late pick-up options are available at extra charge.

The mission of Maison Tucker House is to inspire sustainable living. Staff at Maison Tucker House seek to ignite in campers the spark to live to the fullest and value the importance of caring for self, others and creation. Through learning to work together and act wisely, kids learn to defy boundaries that separate us and to take actions to help achieve a sustainable world.

**March 13th to 17th:
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**
**ART LENDING OF OTTAWA
SPRING SHOW**,
R.A. Centre
2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa

Art Lending of Ottawa is a non-profit cooperative whose sole purpose is to connect local artists with the community of art lovers in Ottawa. The unique aspect of Art Lending is right there in its name. Unlike the case in most galleries where purchase is the only option, Art Lending art (though available for purchase) is also available for rent for a fraction of the cost of purchase.

Unlike most galleries, Art Lending of Ottawa does not have its own commercial space. The organization holds four one-day shows a year at the R.A. Centre, a Saturday in March, June, September and December. Each of the 35 local artists has gone through the jurying process to be accepted into Art Lending and can bring up to five pieces to each show. You will find a wide range of style, subject matter and media on display at each Art Lending show – truly something for everyone.

If you fall in love with the piece you are renting and can't part with it after the three-month rental period, you can re-rent again and again. If you decide to purchase after renting, every dollar invested in the rental will be applied to the purchase price. One of the customers at a recent show had just moved into his first home and was hoping to replace his old posters with original art. Given the costs of a new house, the affordable option of art rental was the perfect solution for him. Another customer has an 'art lending' wall in her house and likes to try out new art there frequently.

Shelly Amor is one of a group of 13 artists new to Art Lending this year. Born and raised in Ottawa, she has had many creative careers that have influenced her art: landscape architect, high school art teacher and wearable design artist. Shelly describes her style as fauvist, depicting the world in vivid bright colours. As she notes "My acrylic paintings depict various locations I have visited in the last few years, as seen through my kaleidoscope eyes. These jeweled colours raised my spirits these past two years, and I hope they raise the spirits of those who view my work."



'Golden hour in Tuscany', acrylic painting by Shelly Amor, one of 35 local artists whose work is on display at the March 18th show.



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