

Take the OOE Walking Tour

Learn the history of many familiar sites in your community with our self-guided tour.

Pages 4, 5 & 7



The Gardens of Old Ottawa East

It's been a splendid growing season for local gardeners, and Lori Gandy has strolled the neighbourhood and chosen six stunning gardens sure to please.

Page 13



4th Annual Outdoor Art Tour

A Walk of Art, OOE's local artist showcase, set for September 23rd!

Pages 24, 25 & 26



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Today's Saint Paul University boasts a diverse student body and faculty, innovative educational partnerships and course offerings and several surprises (see page 8 inside, for example). Poised to celebrate its 175th birthday, the university has come a long way since its humble beginnings as a small religious college founded by the Bishop of Bytown in 1848.

The little college that could...

Launched in 1848, Saint Paul University poised to celebrate its 175th birthday

It was on September 26, 1848, that Joseph-Bruno Eugene Guigues, an Oblate priest and the first Bishop of the Diocese of Bytown, established a bilingual Roman Catholic college in a small and unassuming wooden building beside the Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive. That institution, known back then as the College of Bytown, has evolved over time to become Saint Paul University, a vibrant place of learning and a focal point of the daily life and times of Old Ottawa East.

In this issue of *The Mainstreeter*, at page 30, we provide a brief historical timeline in photos of some of the major milestones in the evolution of Saint Paul. Also, at page 8, reporter Audrey Pridham uncovers a surprising facet of operations at the university that few in the community are aware of. In our October issue of *The Mainstreeter*, we will cover 175th anniversary events at Saint Paul, and bring to light some of the other aspects that make the university an innovative leader in the field of higher education.

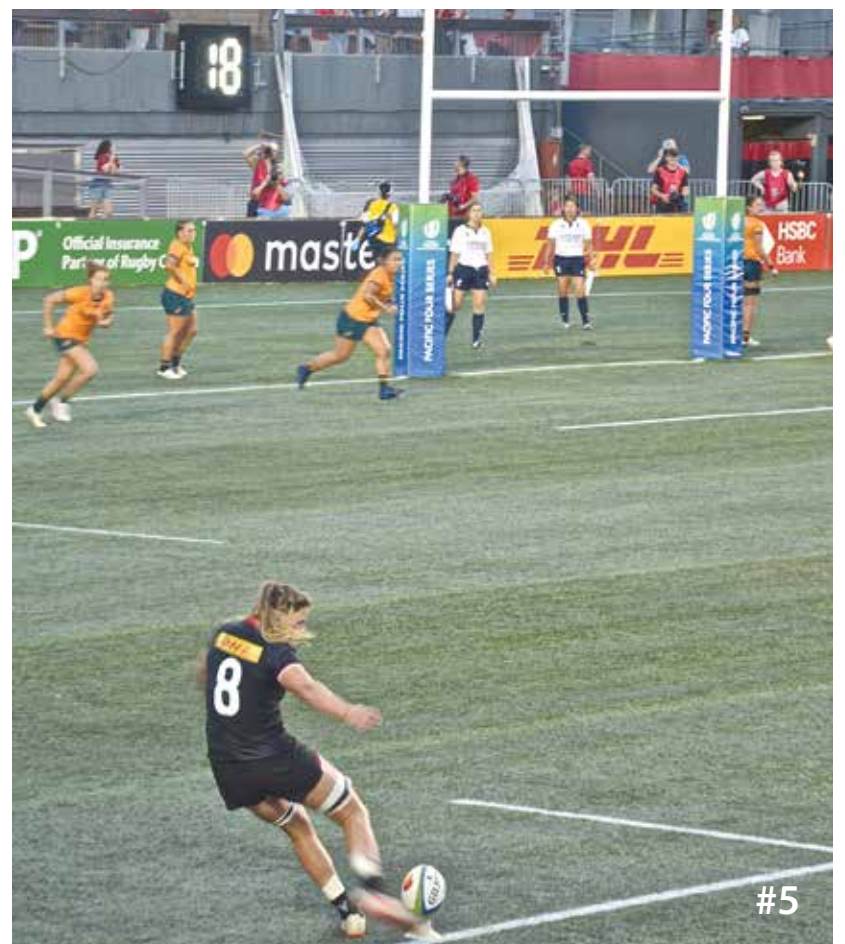
It's a hard knocks life - international rugby 15s comes to TD Place Stadium



PHOTOS BY PETER FOWLER



The Mainstreeter's photo editor Peter Fowler delighted in his recent assignment to capture the action in the Pacific Four International Rugby Series at TD Place Stadium in July. Clockwise from above: 1. The Aberdeen Pavilion and Canadian flag offer a dramatic background to the Canada - Australia 15s rugby match; 2. The Canadian women dressed in black uniforms hunt down an airborne ball; 3. The Aussies lock horns with the home side in one of many scrums that typify the physical nature of the sport; 4. Canada prevailed over the Australians on this day, winning the match 45-7 before almost 5,000 fans; 5. Some elements of CFL football are similar to rugby, including the conversion kick following a try, which is worth two points instead of one - this one is kicked by Canada's team captain, Sophie de Goede.





PETER CROAL PHOTOS

It's nose to the grindstone for Carlo, now 83 years-of-age, as he continues to sharpen the garden tools and lawnmower blades of OOE residents.

Serving Old Ottawa East customers for 57 years!

For Carlo, working hard was never a grind

PETER CROAL

Sometimes there are sounds we hear that can immediately take one back to another time when technology and rushing around was not as prevalent as

today. There is one such sound that is distinctive and has been heard in Old Ottawa East (OOE) every summer for countless years.

"DING DING...DING DING."

Children who hear this sound often get excited thinking it is an ice cream truck. But no, that sound, as it gets louder and louder, is the unmistakable clue that Carlo's blue tool sharpening truck is slowly making its way up your street.

One may have to make a quick decision about whether to flag Carlo down. Maybe all your tools are sharp, or perhaps you sharpen them yourselves. Regardless, inviting Carlo to stop in front of your home will become a treasured memory.

And so it was this summer that I waved to Carlo to stop his truck at our home to sharpen some garden tools. Our conversation proved to be fascinating. Carlo has been coming to OOE for 57 years. He is 83 years-of-age now and he has some mobility issues, but as he said to me: "What are you going to do? A man has to work." He is troubled by so many young people not taking up the trades, and he fears that he is the last of a generation of Italian tool sharpeners.

Carlo's wife died six years ago. But he still comes to Ottawa each summer to work. "Why not?" he said. "The people in Old Ottawa East are kind and I like to talk to them."

While Carlo sharpened and oiled our tools with a well practiced hand, I scanned the insides of his van. It proved to be a cultural museum on wheels. Ancient, well-worn tools, humorous signs, old plush toys hanging from the

ceiling, burnished wood from years of use - and not a piece of modern technology in sight.

His is a business that runs on direct eye contact, cash, and a handshake. When I gave him the tools to sharpen, I apologized and said that I had only \$20. He smiled, shrugged his shoulders and said "What are you going to do? Give me the tools, I'll do it anyway. No problem." By this time, my wife Judith found another \$20, and I gave it to him. With a smile, a twinkle in his eye, and a firm handshake he said: "Grazie!"

Carlo, and those like him, represent a generation of people who know the value of hard work and getting on with it. Carlo's truck harkens back to a time when life was simpler, and more time was spent on interaction rather than the transaction. Carlo has grit and character, that is without question.

So when you next hear the familiar "DING DING... DING DING" coming up your OOE street, take time to talk to Carlo. You will not be disappointed, and you'll help to keep Carlo and his unique business trade going for a while longer.

As he pulled away, I asked him if he will be back again soon. "I don't know. My back has had three operations. Anyway, what are you going to do?" Indeed Carlo. Thank you and good luck.



The work done, Carlo takes time to talk to the many loyal OOE customers he has served for the last 57 years.

TAKE THE HERITAGE OTTAWA

Back in 2020, Laura McLeod and Julie Harris of Heritage Ottawa conducted extensive research on the historical roots of Old Ottawa East (OOE) which they used to conduct a half-day walking tour of the community. The tour proved popular with those fortunate OOE residents who accompanied the researchers on the fact-filled walk around our neighbourhoods. In the following pages, The Mainstreeter reprints a shortened version of the walking tour relying on McLeod's research notes and invites readers to stroll the community on a loop that begins and ends at the Children's Garden.

An Introduction to the Community

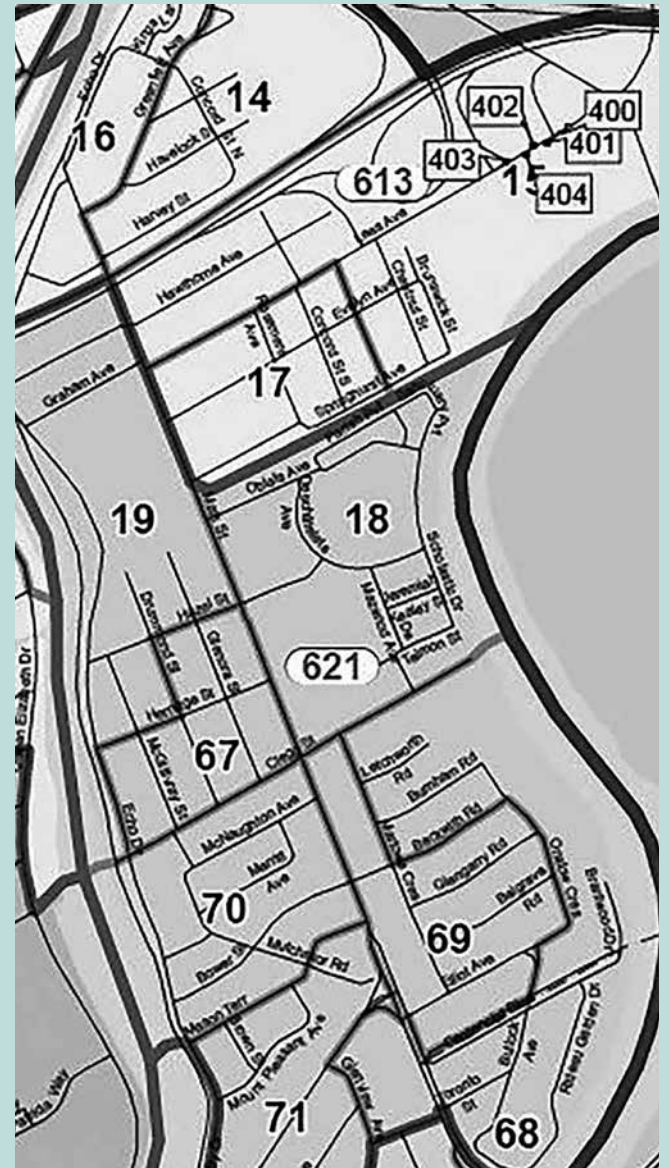
Before embarking on the walking tour, it's helpful to review the boundaries of Old Ottawa East. The community's primary east and west boundaries are the Rideau River and the Rideau Canal. The north boundary has fluctuated over time, and now includes the small triangle of land north of the Queensway and east of Colonel By Drive to Lees Avenue. The southern boundary is formed by the alignment of Riverside Drive and Main Street to the river. An interesting historical question mark is the southern boundary extension triangle of residential land formed by Avenue Road, Main Street and Riverdale Avenue. The land is mentioned in the official constitutions of both of the communities of Old Ottawa East and Old Ottawa South – and these days, residents enjoy both *The Mainstreeter* and the OSCAR community newspapers!

The entire community of Old Ottawa East is bound together by Main Street today, but historically, it had four distinct parts – Archville, Spenceville, Riverdale and Rideau Gardens. This historic walking trip will be focused on the Archville and Spenceville neighbourhoods. The northern part (Archville, 1873) extended from the Rideau Canal to Harvey Street and was predominantly settled by workers for the railway and building trades. The Village of Spenceville (1868) to the south extended from Hazel Street to Clegg Street along the Canal.

The largest institutional property is Saint Paul University, which was part of a larger assembly of land owned by the Oblates of St. Mary Immaculate. There are several other Catholic properties in the neighbourhood, as well as the old campus of Algonquin College that is largely hidden from view but visible from the Queensway and now forms the Lees Avenue campus of the University of Ottawa. Old Ottawa East has two parks, Brantwood and Springhurst, as well as linear green spaces along the river and the Canal. A new park is planned in the forecourt of the Deschâtelets Building off of Main Street. The main schools are Immaculata High School, Lady Evelyn Alternative School and Au Coeur d'Ottawa.

According to the 2021 Census, 8,580 people live in Old Ottawa East, but the number is growing with the development of the former Oblates property and the planning of Main Street as a true 'main street' with mixed-use development and commercial frontages. The community centre is the Old Town Hall, built in 1895 by architect Henry Ballantyne, and soon to be replaced by a new community centre currently under construction within the Deschâtelets Building. And, of course, one of the hubs of Old Ottawa East is The Green Door restaurant, which has been in operation since 1988.

With that background in mind, we begin our historic stroll at the Children's Garden at the corner of Main and Clegg streets.



LAURA MCLEOD & MAINSTREETER STAFF



The Children's Garden

The idea to establish a dedicated children's garden was inspired by the High Park Children's Garden in Toronto, and with the involvement of a number of community volunteers and partner organizations, Ottawa's first dedicated children's garden came into being in 2008. The space that the garden occupies was an underutilized park, named after Robert F. Legget, founding President of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and director of the National Research Council of Canada's Division of Building Research.

After he retired, Dr. Legget wrote many books on the history of transportation in Canada including *Ottawa Waterway: Gateway to A Continent*, *Rideau Waterway*, *Canals of Canada*, and *The Seaway*, so it's fitting that the park named in his honour is situated between the Rideau River and the Rideau Canal.

Leaving the Children's Garden, we now head south along Main Street to the stone gates on Main Street and Beckwith Road, which most residents call the Brantwood Gates.

The Brantwood Gates

The expansion of Ottawa through annexation had one goal – to increase development and make it possible to improve the City. Each annexation was accompanied by residential development; industrial development of the City occurred principally through annexation. The agricultural and estate lands of Old Ottawa East, with large properties owned by the Ballantyne, Bower, Paterson and other prosperous and established families, were considered ripe for subdivision and development.

Following annexation of Old Ottawa East, Robert Sibbitt and Nepean Realty purchased most of the land on either side of Main Street, praying (unsuccessfully) that a streetcar line would be extended from Elgin Street across a never-built fixed bridge across the Canal where the Pretoria Bridge, which opens and cannot sustain a streetcar line, was constructed, and a second bridge across the Canal joining Fifth Avenue in the

Continued on Page 5



WALKING TOUR OF OLD OTTAWA EAST

Continued from Page 4

Glebe with what became Clegg Street. Sibbitt's visionary residential subdivision was registered in late 1913. To promote his development, which he called Brantwood Place, he built grand river-stone gates on Main Street.

The lack of bridges, flooding along the Rideau River, and competition from other developments in the fast-growing City of Ottawa caught up with Sibbitt. By 1922, only a handful of houses had been built, including three houses to the north of the gates.

The gates were poorly built but they were well-loved by the community. In the 1940s, the City planned to demolish the gates, but the community rallied to have them repaired, rebuilt and dedicated as memorial gates. In 1949, the stone gates were dedicated "to the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice and to the honour and glory of those men and women of this community who served in the armed forces, 1914-1918/1939-1945."

Brantwood Park

Down the hill from the Brantwood Gates we head towards the Rideau River. An important recreational space in the community is Brantwood Park. The park now includes tennis and pickleball courts, a baseball diamond, play structures, a launch area for canoes and kayaks, and a skating rink in the winter. While swimming at the park now primarily takes place in the form of kids splashing in the City-run wading pool, the park used to boast a sandy beach along the Rideau River, making it a very popular watering hole. The park's popularity grew following the Second World War, as Brantwood Park, along with nearby Windsor Park in Old Ottawa South were part of the City's 5-year plan to improve its parks, an effort that started in 1948. Many Ottawans recall spending languid summer days bathing and sunning at Brantwood Beach.

History 101 - Rounded Doors

We amble back up the hill and through the Brantwood Gates to cross Main Street and head west along Bower Street, where we begin to notice a number of brick residences with unusual round-top front doors. Local researcher Christopher Ryan has investigated the history of the round-headed doors that you will see in this area south of Clegg Street and west of Main Street in Old Ottawa East.

Many of the houses in this area were built by developer Rupert McClelland between 1939 and 1949, during the Second World War and immediately afterwards. McClelland had built other homes and duplexes in other parts of the City, often using round-headed doors for the main entrance. Like the houses that we are seeing here, his projects were normally wood-framed houses with brick cladding.

Until 1939, however, McClelland's construction projects were limited to a handful of houses. In 1942, he purchased a large property known as the Whitcomb property from the Public School Board. He laid out a subdivision in a typical City Beautiful pattern - Bower Street, Mason Terrace (named after McClelland's brother Mason),

Mount Pleasant Avenue and Mutchmor Road.

McClelland advertised the bungalows and two-storey homes for sale for \$5,000-\$7,000. The round-headed doors, as well as all the woodwork inside the houses framing the doors and windows, were built at his own factory on land that is now Tunney's Pasture. The factory burned in 1949 as part of a large fire that destroyed many lumberyards in the area and, with it, the production of round-headed doors and accompanying door frames.



An example of the round doorways typical of Rupert McClelland's design.

17 Mason Terrace

From Bower we turn left at Mutchmor Road for one block and then turn right onto Mason Terrace, heading toward Echo Drive and the Canal. Two houses in from Echo sits 17 Mason Terrace, a red brick house with yellow garage and vestibule. This house is the third oldest in the neighbourhood. Only the houses one block north at 3 Bower Street and 2 blocks north at 555 Mutchmor Road are older.

17 Mason Terrace was built in 1891 by the George W. Paterson family. The last family members to own the house - sisters Yule and Anna Paterson - sold it in 1971 to Ottawa architect Edward Cuhaci and his wife, Sylvia, who together built the house next door at 7 Mason Terrace on the west part of the property.

Inside the house, 17 Mason Terrace has most of its original woodwork. It's a solid brick house, which means that the window wells are very deep. The original building was two storeys with a hip or gable roof; it was converted into a false mansard roof

some time after 1922. In 1971, an exterior vestibule was added, and the front door of the house was re-oriented to face Mason Terrace. Prior to this the main door faced towards Echo Drive and the Rideau Canal.

The house sits on top of a hillock created from fill excavated for the Rideau Canal in the 1820s.

One of the elements that connects this house to the Old Ottawa East neighbourhood is a former arched window that was said to have been the inspiration for McClelland's rounded doorways that are found through the McClelland development of about 300 homes, described above, some of which we passed on our walk already.

The Cuhaci home at 7 Mason Terrace is a great example of modern architecture. Designed and built by Cuhaci in 1973, it remains the couple's residence to this day. Capitalizing on perhaps one of the best views of the Rideau Canal, the home was designed as three off-set cubes with floor-to-ceiling windows to flood the interior with light.

From here we head around the corner walking north on Echo Drive and turn left a block later at Bower Street.



The houses at 17 Mason Terrace (above) and 3 Bower Street (right) are among the oldest in Old Ottawa East.



The Bower House - 3 Bower Street

This enchanting house was built between 1865 and 1867. It is the oldest building in the area.

The house was built by businessman-entrepreneur John Conrad Bower, a farmer, councillor and postmaster who also had a sawmill and general store in Osgoode. The property originally extended from the "Canal Road" along the Rideau Canal (just below Echo Drive) to Main Street and was later sub-divided for residential development during the early 1920s. The house was passed on to Bower's son, dentist Ira Bower, who died in 1911. John Conrad had willed half of the property to his daughter, Sarah Bower, and the other half to Ira Bower. The father felt that he had already given enough to his third child at the time of that son's marriage.

The house is one of Ottawa's best and most intact examples of dichromatic Victorian brick architecture. It retains its steep gothic appearance with bargeboards and sits on a lovely and arresting piece of property nearby the Canal, next to another historically important property, the Harry Hodder House on the corner of Bower and Echo.

Harry Hodder House

This home, built in 1968, was one of Hart Massey's last projects before he closed his internationally acclaimed architecture firm. This home is not only notable as a great example of mid-century modern architecture with Japanese influence (he had a large Japanese art collection), with three separate buildings with pyramidal roofs connected by a central entranceway, but also because of its notable residents. The first owner, Harry Hodder, lived here on his own. He is a former Deputy Chief Statistician of Canada. Barney Danson, former Minister of Defence resided here, as well as a certain Little Guy from Shawinigan. Yes, former Prime Minister Jean Chretien and his recently passed wife, Aline, lived here for 11 years.

History 101 - Early Land Division and Rideau Canal Value

Here, we take a moment to reflect on the profound impact of the Rideau Canal on land use in the community. During and following the construction of the Canal, workers essentially squatted on the ordnance land bordering the waterway, but this practice was brought into order when registered plans for subdividing the land came into effect. Around this same time, financial pressures resulted in absentee speculators selling off their granted land, opening the area up for more development.

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LETTERS TO (AND FROM) THE EDITOR

ON THE JOYS OF WRITING

Just a quick note to thank you for the wonderful experience of writing for *The Mainstreeter*.

Reliving some of the joys of my youth was more than fulfilling and resulted in renewed relationships with many long lost cousins.

This whole experience has been a real treat. I have enjoyed the reminiscing/writing/editing process so

very much and am inspired to make writing part of my day-to-day life.

Thanks so much for this opportunity, and for the kickstart to my interest in the histories of my community and my family!

*Barbara Rockburn,
Former OOE resident*

Editor's note: The two part series of Barbara Rockburn's reminiscences of her childhood growing up in Old Ottawa East in the 1950's and '60s was published in the February and April 2023 issues of The Mainstreeter. They can be viewed in the Archived Papers section of our website at www.mainstreeter.ca.



SOME JUNE MEA CULPAS

Our June issue of *The Mainstreeter* was marred by a black cloud of avoidable typographical and editing errors – a number of them pointed out to us by you, our readers. Here's a list of some of the whoppers that you brought to our attention, for which corrections (and apologies) are most definitely in order:

First, our article at page 8 introducing Old Ottawa East to the team of financial investment and management experts at the new Edward Jones office in the Shops at Millieu mistakenly identified Financial Advisor Marty St. Denis. We regret the erroneous reference. It was an unfortunate introduction to Old Ottawa East for Mr. St. Denis; we sincerely apologize to him and to his colleagues at the new Edward Jones office. One thing we did get correct in the article was the reference to Mr. St. Denis as a highly experienced financial expert on the Edward Jones team.

Second, our article at page 21 on the many successful upgrades of the iconic high-rise apartment building at 170 Lees Avenue, built in 1971, incorrectly stated that the building underwent an ownership change in 2007. In fact, the building has been owned continuously for the past 52 years by current owner Hama Investment Limited. Many of the new changes and upgrades at the building have resulted from the addition in July 2017 of a new management team of Carolyn Cloutier, the Regional/Office/Leasing Manager and Doug Maclean, the Facility Manager. Our regrets go out to Hama Investments and to the formidable duo of Ms. Cloutier and Mr. MacLean.

Third, we managed to self-inflict a grievous wound upon our many dedicated teams of volunteer distributors of *The Mainstreeter*. An unfortunate failure to correct a template in our layout draft of the June issue resulted in publication of an outdated and incorrect list of distributors on page 9 of the paper. All of the good souls who bring every issue of the newspaper to your doorstep, rain or shine, do not get enough of our thanks and attention, so it is doubly galling when, as happened in the June issue, we mix up the names of those of our residents who comprise our distribution teams. Our apologies go out to Dan Racicot and to his army of volunteer distributors of *The Mainstreeter*.

As our June issue amply demonstrated, producing a vibrant and informative community newspaper like *The Mainstreeter* is not without its challenges. But as one of our distribution team captains noted in pointing out one of our June "flubs": "The newspaper is so good, that I hate to criticize, but the goal is perfection!"

Our thanks to all of you for reading – and to our volunteers, for distributing – *The Mainstreeter*.

Perfection remains an elusive but worthwhile target for all of us here at the community newspaper.

*Lorne Abugov
Editor, The Mainstreeter*

EGGSZACTLY!

The article about 170 Lees Avenue by Quinn Abugov in the June 2023 issue prompted me to send a short story from my book, *Leap Turkey* and other stories, published in 2000, about a tennis match I had with my late friend Simon Rosenblum. The story is as follows:

Before I saw the light and took up croquet, I used to play tennis. My main playing companion was Simon Rosenblum who lived in Ottawa at the time.

One of our favourite places to play was on the courts at his apartment complex on Lees Avenue in Ottawa. It was very convenient for him and only a short distance from my home as well.

Three large apartment buildings stood together, one of which looked directly down on the courts. One day, as Simon was on the service line preparing to serve, with his back to the big apartment building, someone threw an egg from their tenth-floor balcony. The egg splatted on the court about six feet from Simon. He was startled and not happy, and of the opinion that it would be very unpleasant, not to say painful, to be hit on the head by an egg coming from such a height.

I had a different perspective—I thought it would be worth it for the entertainment value alone, but Simon did not warm to the idea. I thought it might even make his service more "eggzact," but he said this was no time for bad puns. I said, just because there was a danger that he might be reduced to a mere ingredient in some guy's omelet, was no reason to lose his sense of humour.


He then had the nerve to ask me, each time he prepared to serve from that end of the court, to keep an eye on the upper balconies in case more eggs were thrown. I didn't fall for it—everything I had learned about tennis to that point involved keeping your eye on the ball, not the egg. My return of serve could already be described as less than brilliant. If I had to start off by watching the sky for falling eggs, I would have had even more difficulty hitting a return.


Simon and I ended that day's play with different views on the incident: I was disappointed that the tenth-floor chap had apparently run out of eggs so quickly, while Simon went home muttering that he certainly wasn't about to have eggs for dinner.

*Ken Shipley,
Avenue Road*



SUPPLIED PHOTO





RENOVATIONS

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DESIGNS BUILDS REPAIRS RESTORES RENOVATES

Take the Heritage Ottawa Walking Tour

Continued from Page 5



Land values of real estate fronting the Rideau Canal have never been higher as older homes are being sold, demolished and replaced by modern homes.

The area remained a rural neighbourhood, primarily populated by farmers and labourers. However, in the coming years, more people would come to the area, as a result of the land boom generated by the expanding lumber trade and the growing civil service. During this time, more plans for subdivision were registered in the area, with landowners looking to capitalize on the increased value of their large holdings. As the community grew through the next century, the process of subdividing the agricultural land in what is now Old Ottawa East continued well into the 1950s.

We can see more recent examples of continued development through infill and increased densification at a few properties along Echo Drive, where the larger older homes set further back from the canal have split the lots to allow more modern homes to be built on the now highly valuable land closer to the canal.

The Rideau Canal has played an important role in the development of Old Ottawa East, from early temporary settlements along its banks by Canal workers, to the use of the waterway to transport goods, to its current state as a well-used linear parkway that connects the neighbourhood to downtown Ottawa.

555 Echo Drive

The second oldest house in the community was built in 1874 with an addition in 1910 and an extension in 2007. Restoration of the exterior of the house won a heritage award in 2014. Old coats of exterior paint were removed, and the brickwork was restored. The front door arch was reconstructed, and the garden was restored to former glory.

555 Echo Drive was said to have been built by John Conrad Bower, who resided in the adjoining property at 3 Bower Street, for his daughter, Sarah Bower, as a way of trying to ensure her continued residence in the village of Ottawa East.

Clegg Street and Echo Drive

One block further north, where Echo Drive meets Clegg Street, the majestic new Flora Footbridge slices across the Canal joining Old Ottawa East and the Glebe. Lesser known but important to the history of the neighbourhood is another footbridge that allowed residents of both communities to cross the Canal.

From the early 1900s (likely, sometime after 1907 when Old Ottawa East was amalgamated into the City of Ottawa) right up to the 1960s, residents could take advantage of a wooden trestle footbridge that crossed the Canal from Herridge Avenue in Old Ottawa East to Second Avenue in the Glebe. The footbridge was only in place during winter when it was stabilized on the ice. Students could use the winter bridge to make a quicker journey across the Canal to get to Glebe Collegiate, the public high school or to Immaculata, the Catholic high school. For some years, during this period, some residents also took advantage of a private rowing service across the Canal run by a woman from Old Ottawa East.

We head next along Clegg Street towards Main Street and pass by Drummond and Glenora streets – with some interesting sights to see.

Glenora and Drummond Streets - Noffke Homes & Co-Housing

Werner Ernst Noffke was born in Stolp, Germany on April 9th, 1877. His family left Germany in 1884 along with 84 other Germans, all of whom headed to Ottawa, where Noffke's family settled on 25 Third Street (now Montcalm Street).

In Old Ottawa East, Noffke designed and built the home at 182 Glenora Street – it is worth a look. Noffke designed this house in 1933 for his nephew Richard. Noffke's many other Ottawa buildings include the Old Ottawa South Firehall on Sunnyside

Avenue, the Champagne Bath on King Edward Street, the Medical Arts Building on Metcalfe Street, and numerous residential buildings, many of them in the Glebe.

Noffke never received formal training in architecture, instead learning his trade on the job and in night classes. In fact, during Noffke's time, there existed no formal structured training program for architects anywhere in Canada. He trained through an applied apprenticeship. He was among the most prominent and prolific of Ottawa architects in the early to mid 20th century, in part because he had one of the longest careers, from his training period in the 1890s to his retirement in 1961. He died in 1964.

Noffke was drawn to the Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture and used it very frequently on some of the residential buildings he was commissioned to build, including the home at 182 Glenora. Early in his career, Noffke took a trip to California where he fell in love with this Mediterranean style. Noffke was drawn to the charm and romance associated with the style, characterized by stark stucco exterior walls, semi-enclosed porches and warm red or orange tiled roofing.

Throughout this walk, you will see several examples of infill housing. One that you don't want to miss is located

further north on Drummond Street and is an example of an environmental and social basis to living. Terra Firma is a small co-housing project that was started in 1997, when the founders bought and subsequently renovated two three-door townhouses. The community has since built an infill between the two buildings which houses a seventh residential unit and common space. The 12 families that currently live at Terra Firma engage in communal activities such as two shared meals a week and provide other forms of support for their community members.

On our way along Clegg Street to return to our starting point at the Children's Garden at Main Street, stop for a moment at Glenora Street, and consider life in the village of Ottawa East on this corner back in 1888.



182 Glenora Street is an example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style favoured by famed architect W.E. Noffke.



This photo taken in 1900 of a pedestrian walking along Fifth Street in Ottawa East (now Harvey Street) clearly shows that grazing cows were a common sight in many areas of the village before annexation with the City of Ottawa in 1907.

History 101 - Old Ottawa East 1888 to 1907

What was life like here in Old Ottawa East back in 1888 before the village was annexed as part of the City of Ottawa? For starters, there was a strong political movement in 1888, when prominent community members petitioned the provincial government to incorporate Ottawa East as a village and to avoid annexation with the City of Ottawa. However, the pressure for annexation from the City in 1907 overcame the desire of the villagers to remain distinct. An offer from the City to freeze tax rates meant that there was less opposition and the community finally relented to annexation in 1907, when Ottawa East officially became part of the City of Ottawa.

With annexation, the village of Ottawa East ceased to exist, but the change had little immediate effect on the the daily lives of its residents. One change dating to the time of annexation that we still see today is the Glenora Street sign. Pre-annexation, Glenora was known as Bronson Street but this and other streets in the neighbourhood had to change names to avoid confusion with streets with the same name in the larger City of Ottawa.

In terms of the people who lived here at the time, Ottawa East had a modest population of 1,800, and featured amenities including two schools, a town hall, sidewalks, and a relatively recent water system. The community was blue-collar, with most residents employed by the railways, brickyards, and lumber industry. Directories from the time show us that many of the residents near the corner of Glenora and Clegg, where the houses date to around 1906/1907, were general labourers, watchmen, and carpenters. The ethnic composition was made up from five main groups: French (Quebec), English, Irish, German and Scots.

Hollywood North?

Saint Paul University quietly becomes a choice location for international TV and movie production

U.S. TV hit series "CSI" is the latest international production to select the Old Ottawa East campus as an ideal location to "shoot" an episode.

AUDREY PRIDHAM

A little-known fact about Old Ottawa East is that the community is home to domestic and international movie and TV "shoots" that tend to be kept under wraps. Most recently, at Saint Paul University back in June, the well-known US crime drama "CSI" used the campus' interior to film some scenes in a future episode.

And this isn't the first time that the Saint Paul campus has been scouted out and used as a filming location. The university campus has been used for shoots for nearly 10-15 years, according to Yann-Alexandre Girard, Saint Paul's coordinator for events and reservation office.

Girard explains that Saint Paul is involved with the Ottawa Film Office, which helps filmmakers find locations across the nation's capital to shoot their productions. On a weekly basis, Girard works with production scouts, who are given tours of the potential sites and spaces that can be used for scene shooting on the campus. Girard said that filming on campus doesn't affect class schedules at Saint Paul, and that production teams try to schedule filming times during the weekends or overnight.

"You have to balance the space requirements, production needs, and ensuring that whatever access we provide, everything is returned to normal the very next day."

Girard says that for shows like "CSI" that have scenes set in labs, Saint Paul's library is normally the prime location that is used, as it contains a 360 degree glass bubble that really attracts production scouts. For other productions, the campus has rooms that are ideal for hospital scenes and for TV shows or movies that are set in different time periods.

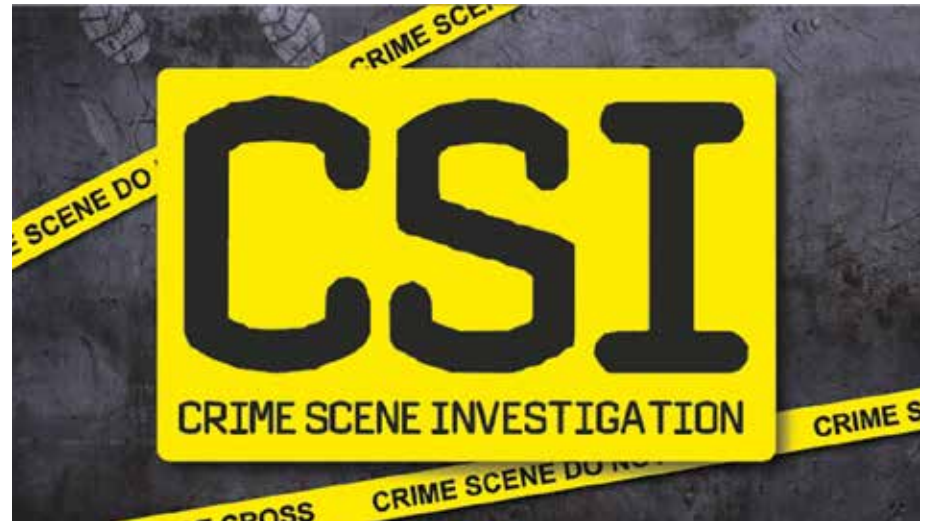
"Saint Paul has a little bit of the 'old' and the 'new.' They like the convenience, look and feel. If you have movies [set] in the '70s or '80s, some people like the [blend]," says Girard.

The latest "CSI" film shoot was the most extensive one the campus has seen, with nearly 80 to 100 people on site, including the cast, technical team, chefs, and more. Girard told *The Mainstreeter* that international or American based shows like "CSI" want to choose smaller communities to film in because they rely a lot on local production members and extras. It's a win-win situation because it fosters local job creation within the community, Girard explained.

However, filming at the campus isn't widely publicized or known about. "I think people are not aware, and people within the vicinity were a bit surprised. That's why [the production team] loves it, people can come in and out without attracting too much attention," Girard said.

Girard also believes that Ottawa is beginning to develop its own niche for movies compared to larger cities such as Toronto or Vancouver which are used more regularly for filming. One good reason for this is that filming in Ottawa is more affordable than other larger centres.

While TV and film production is a somewhat new and growing cultural offering at Saint Paul, it is a natural by-product of the university's longer-standing interest in international and cultural cinema generally. For example, Saint Paul continues to co-host the Annual Peruvian Film Festival as part of a cultural partnership with the Embassy of Peru in Ottawa. In addition, the university has been the site of many screenings of innovative religious,



SUPPLIED IMAGE

The popular U.S. TV series, CSI, recently filmed an episode on campus at Saint Paul University

cultural and social innovation themes.

So, the next time you happen to tune into the newest episode of "CSI," be on

the lookout for the backdrop of Saint Paul's state-of-the-art library or one of its many retro-styled classrooms.



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613-236-1222 x5287 or huntmr@ottawapolice.ca

Old Town Hall: 613.627.0062

OPINION

Old Ottawa East's test for 'vibrant public spaces'

JAMIE BROUGHAM

The editorial comment in the *Globe and Mail* (July 15/2023) entitled 'Vibrant Public Spaces Make for a Great City' referenced the increasing number of people congregating in high-priced downtown condominiums and apartments. The editorial goes on to note that, from a quality of life standpoint, these expensive inner-city living spaces must serve as "a launch pad" into vibrant local communities full of people.

Within the densified inner city, there is a key role for public spaces which, according to the *Globe and Mail*, should offer places for "residents to clear their head, get exercise, meet friends, or relax in the sun." Absent investment in social amenities for urban public spaces, densely packed downtown condos and apartments are reduced to 'human resources storage units' providing mere proximity to office-buildings or shops, facilitating little more than economic survival for the residents.

The principal point of the editorial is that communities of all types must take into consideration the quality of life of its residents, with a goal of improving it when possible. While the high-density development model does not represent the only economic, social, and environmentally sustainable way for city-dwellers to enjoy good quality of life, contemporary wisdom has embraced densification, and for better or worse, it is upon us.

In order for this urban model to succeed, society must define what facilitates 'good quality of life' within very densely populated communities. For those of us with gardens and backyards, we have what those in dense high rises don't – a private space that affords quality of life benefits. For the rest of us, access to a "public space" with "good quality of life" is about having a place to meet our family, neighbours and friends, where we can enjoy a managed natural environment that's good for one's health.

Boat storage and a bistro at Brantwood

In Old Ottawa East, our parks provide green public spaces, to be sure. However, they can also benefit from new, creative thinking to enhance our community's quality of life. For example, a 'good public space', as per the *Globe and Mail* editorial, could be satisfied by the placement of a field house at Springhurst Park and some kind of meaningful waterfront for the thousands of near-by residents in the neighbouring high rise buildings. At Brantwood Park, a deck added to the back of the field house could double as an ideal spot for a small canteen or mini bistro. Boat storage under the deck could house our new, community-owned canoes, and offer area residents water access without the need to drive to a cottage or resort.

A good place to begin defining a vision that supports quality of life in Old Ottawa East would be an examination of plans for the new Forecourt Park in the heart of our much-densified Greystone community. It is no understatement that the Forecourt Park will constitute the front lawn and garden of the many high rise dwellers living in this potentially vibrant centre of our community.

By rights, the Forecourt Park should feature a statue, a gazebo, a water feature, Muskoka chairs, and spaces for activities for people of all ages. Instead, sadly, the 'vision' for the Forecourt Park that we've seen published by the French-Catholic School Board consists of a road for buses (because routing them behind the new elementary school would scuttle plans for even more housing yet to be built). The urban plan that the City has approved contains a transportation design flaw since it provides nowhere for buses to drop off and pick up other than in the heart of the new public park. And the rest of this important new public space seems to offer nothing more than flat fields, presumably for school kids' sports activities.

Needed: A well-planned Forecourt Park

In an ideal world, all affected stakeholders should be rallying together to ensure the new Forecourt Park becomes a public space that maximizes the quality of life for all of us, and especially for those living in the densified urban environment that Greystone has become. Sadly, that hasn't happened thus far. Our City planners are told that budgets are too limited and that amenities are frills that can't be afforded. Condo boards continue to view an exercise room, a reservation based social-room, and a spacious lobby as appropriate and sufficient quality-of-life amenities for their residents. With most of the building projects now completed, the building developers' relationship with residents has, for all intents and purposes, run its course, and they cannot be looked upon to engage in meaningful "community-building" or to inject new quality of life amenities at this stage of the game.

Someone needs to step up and lead our community in advocating for enhanced quality of life through a well-planned Forecourt Park. If the community wants vibrancy in that important public space, we must be stepping up with creativity and vision and telling the City and the school board what it is that our nearby residents want and need.

It would be idyllic to sit in the Forecourt Park, or for that matter, by Brantwood Beach or in Springhurst Park, and enjoy a coffee with neighbours and friends, but the City seems to think smaller initiatives of this kind harbour too much risk and potential liability, entail too much work, or are too expensive. If the City is afraid of its own shadow, or just can't do the work, then we need someone with courage to take charge - our elected officials, for example, spurred on by our community association.

Our elected representatives are our leaders, but they get handed so many 'more important' construction mega-projects like Lansdowne 2.0, that smaller, quality-of-life initiatives all too often become afterthoughts, and 'good enough' will do. This has to change.

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Old Ottawa East community updates

JOHN DANCE

*In addition to his role as *The Mainstreeter's* chief reporter, John Dance is the Chair of the Old Ottawa East Community Association's Planning Committee. From his unique vantage point, he keeps our readers informed on a wide range of community developments.*

ACTIVE USE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH DRIVE

The National Capital Commission's (NCC) summer closure of Queen Elizabeth Drive (QED) to motorists so that active use (pedestrians and cyclists) is more attractive has provoked strongly opposing opinions in the Glebe and elsewhere, just as the closure of Colonel By Drive to motorists two summers ago was met by different perspectives of Old Ottawa East residents and others.

The QED closure from Fifth Avenue to Somerset Street is opposed by Mayor Mark Sutcliffe and a number of City Councillors. But others have welcomed the safe and enjoyable use of the roadway by pedestrians and cyclists.

In response to related questions from *The Mainstreeter*, an NCC spokesperson said, "The NCC is working to make our capital a leader in creating the kind of livable and sustainable urban experience we can all enjoy and that other cities might wish to emulate... Our active use program on Queen Elizabeth Drive helps alleviate the pressure on the capital pathway network, which is used to capacity during the summer. This is a very popular program, with nearly 50,000 visits since May."

The Lansdowne 2.0 proposal also raises questions concerning the active use of QED. Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group wants an additional one million visitors to Lansdowne each year and its proposal, as endorsed by the previous City Council, would have more than 2,000 new residents living in three new towers on the site.

While City planners have not raised concerns about the related additional traffic that would be generated by the new Lansdowne proposal, many residents speaking at the various Lansdowne 2.0 consultations have questioned how the QED and the already congested Bank Street will be able to cope with the increased park usage by motorists.

In July, the NCC launched a survey (ncc-ccn.gc.ca/events/queen-elizabeth-driveway-active-use) to get opinions on the pilot project to temporarily close the QED to motor vehicle traffic.

LEES AVENUE GETS A FACELIFT

The deteriorated portion of Lees Avenue between Chestnut Street and the LRT station will be resurfaced this summer with the added bonus of new cycling lanes on both sides. Pinned curbs and delineators will be added to the cycling lanes next spring.

Councillor Shawn Menard notes that the changes will provide "a more comfortable walking environment with the separation from vehicles and a safer 30 kilometres per hour street to drive on. Lees is a major connection for the whole City and these changes will help benefit the community that lives nearby."

BRANTWOOD BASKETBALL COURT NEGLECT CONTINUES

Although the Springhurst Park basketball court thrives, the other Old Ottawa East (OOE) court remains in a state of City neglect.

As far back as 11 years ago, the OOE Community Association and the OOE Community Activities Group requested that "cash-in-lieu of parkland" (CILP) funding be used to resurface both the Springhurst Park and Brantwood Park courts. Eventually, Springhurst was improved but, in the case of Brantwood, City staff said the needed resurfacing work constituted life-cycle expenditures that were not eligible for CILP funding.

Fast forward to today, the Brantwood court has deteriorated further and no "life-cycle expenditures" have been made. The court doesn't even have foul-shooting lines, let alone the other standard markings.

All of the courts in other Capital Ward parks have lines and are larger than Brantwood's.

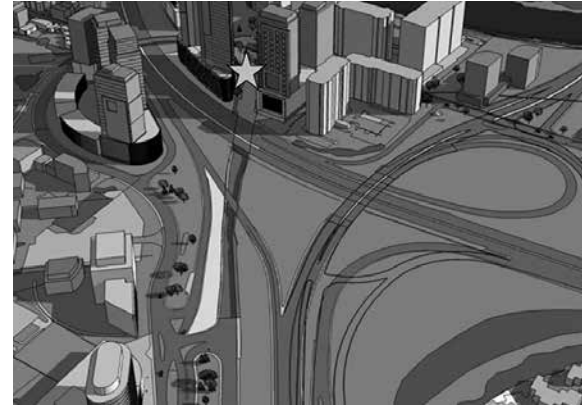
"The City has reviewed the condition of the basketball court at Brantwood Park and has determined that it is in good condition," says Dan Chenier. "As such, the court is not currently forecasted for lifecycle replacement."

The only bit of good news pertains to the court's lack of lines. "There is a limited budget for line painting on outdoor courts, which necessitates that the City focus on sites with basketball camps and organized events," says Chenier. "The court at

Brantwood Park is not scheduled for line painting as it does not currently fall under either of those categories. There is however a request for line painting in this location which is under review for future funding."

But don't plan on knowing where to take foul shots any time soon.

USE OF VACANT CITY PROPERTY FOR HOUSING



CITY OF OTTAWA IMAGE

The 2013 transit-oriented development plan proposed mid-rise, multi-use development on the northeast portion of the AVTC lands, just to the right of the 170 Lees Avenue apartment building in the top centre of the image above.

During the municipal election last year, now-Mayor Mark Sutcliffe promised to "deploy available City lands and air rights for new housing units," but it appears the City has no plans to use vacant municipal property in Old Ottawa East for much-needed housing. Indeed, there is little acknowledgment by the City that any such land exists in or near Old Ottawa East.

"The City does not currently own any development land at Hurdman Station [on the other side of the Rideau River] or along the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC)," responded Robin Souchen, the City's Manager of Realty Services.

"The holdings owned by the City in that area are currently for transportation and underground infrastructure purposes, as per the Council-approved Alta Vista Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment Study," says Souchen. "The National Capital Commission is the prime land holder in the vicinity of Hurdman Station."

This response is at variance with the City's 2013 transit-oriented development plan which shows mid-rise, mixed-use development in the northeast quadrant of the AVTC lands. This proposal was in the context of the AVTC being built right beside the development.

"The broader context for these questions is that many residents seek conversion of the OOE - AVTC lands to parkland and also the reality that the City needs more deeply affordable housing," says Councillor Shawn Menard.

GREENFIELD, MAIN, HAWTHORNE PROJECT RAMPS UP - TRAFFIC SLOWS DOWN

This summer the Greenfield, Main and Hawthorne reconstruction project for upgrading the roadways and underground infrastructure in much of the northern part of Old Ottawa East resulted in considerable traffic congestion throughout the community.

In July, the closure of the Colonel By Drive (CBD) northbound lane between Clegg Street and the northern end of Main Street detoured all of the northbound CBD traffic on to Clegg and then Main. During the initial days of the detour, northbound traffic on Main backed up to the Smyth Road/McIlraith

Bridge. Traffic on Greenfield Avenue was also subject to delays. A lane reduction on Main under the Highway 417 bridge also contributed to traffic back-ups.

Asked by *The Mainstreeter* what is being done to mitigate impacts on residents and businesses, Bruce Kenny, the City's Manager of Design and Construction responded: "We are committed to closely monitoring the traffic situation and making necessary adjustments to minimize public impacts. As for businesses, the most significant impact will likely be felt when active construction affects building access, water supply and deliveries. To mitigate these effects, the City will work directly with businesses and employ successful strategies used on other streets, such as Bronson, Elgin, and Main, to lessen disruptions caused by construction."

He also noted that the City is "maximizing the volume of construction during the summer months, when traffic flows are reduced," and "sequencing ... the work in such a way as to avoid compounding traffic congestion resulting from construction in



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Continued on Page 12

OOE community updates

Continued from Page 11

nearby areas.”

“Your understanding and patience is appreciated as this important rehabilitation of critical infrastructure is performed,” the project team emailed members of the project’s public advisory committee. “Please note Main Street lane reduction is expected to be removed by the end of August 2023. Colonel By Drive northbound is expected to be reopened by early September.”

And, on a positive note, the project team said, “Major traffic impacts in the 2024 phase of construction are expected to be more confined.”

SPRINGHURST DOCK - NEXT YEAR

The City of Ottawa now says a dock at Springhurst Park will be installed next spring. The original plan for the Springhurst dock was designed to meet current provincial accessibility regulations and guidelines. However, upon further review of the design, the ramp proved to be too long and heavy for the required seasonal installation and removal.

The consequence is that City staff needed to consult with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to determine if an exception to the accessibility design standards was acceptable. This work was delayed until a new committee was formed this spring following the municipal election last fall.

“The Committee recently advised the City it could proceed with a shorter, feasibly operational ramp understanding that the slope would be steeper and therefore would not meet accessibility regulations and guidelines,” reports Dan Chenier, the City’s General Manager of Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services.

“A revised plan and drawings are being prepared and it is anticipated that the project will be tendered, and construction initiated this year, with final installation to occur in spring 2024,” he reports.

“Our office is pleased to support the installation of a dock at Springhurst Park through cash in lieu of parkland funds,” Councillor Shawn Menard commented. “Having parks in our ward that border the Rideau River is such a source of joy, in terms of the access they provide to the natural world and activities like boating, fishing, and wading. We look forward to having it installed at the earliest possible opportunity.”

COLONEL BY DRIVE: WHO’S IN CHARGE?

It’s common knowledge that the Rideau Canal parkways are a key asset of the National Capital Commission (NCC) but it’s not the NCC that is responsible for maintaining them.

In fact, according to Quentin Levesque, Director of the City’s Roads and Parking Services, it’s the City of Ottawa that is responsible for the bulk of maintenance activities on Colonel By Drive and Queen Elizabeth Driveway, notably for snow clearing; application of salt and grit; street sweeping; asphalt, sidewalk and ironworks repairs; litter and debris pick up; emergency repairs to signs that are damaged or fallen (the City installs a temporary sign and the NCC will replace it with a permanent one) street lighting on the road but not on pathways; and pavement markings.

The NCC has responsibility for landscaping maintenance, including tree planting and for the infrastructure such as the retaining walls between Echo Drive and Colonel By Drive.

“The Colonel By Drive and Queen Elizabeth Driveway agreement is the result of numerous land and services exchanges between the City and National Capital Commission dating back several decades,” says Paul Kerluke, the City’s Program Manager of Leasing. An example of one of these exchanges was the City’s acquisition of NCC land for the Coventry Road baseball stadium.

If a resident has a complaint about conditions on the parkways they should make a 311 call or send a 311@ottawa.ca email to the City.

NO ESCAPING ESCAPADE NOISE

Escapade, the three-day music festival at Lansdowne Park at the end of June, made a big impression on many who didn’t even attend. They objected to what they and City’s by-law enforcement staff viewed as excessive noise.

The City received 152 complaints from local residents and nine charges were issued to the event coordinator for violations of the City’s noise by-law. The charges include causing “bass noise that disturbs the inhabitants of the City.”

Old Ottawa East resident Balou Anita, who lives about half a block east of Echo Drive across the Canal from the festival site, told CBC Radio, “You could feel the bass through our bodies.”

According to a CBC report, the festival director said that the festival had applied for a “noise exemption but only learned that its application had been denied when an on-site bylaw officer informed organizers an hour before doors opened.”

“The process for noise exemption permits relating to special events is reviewed and approved through a multi-level approval process which ensures that all factors that

could impact the event are considered,” says Roger Chapman, the City’s Director of By-law and Regulatory Services. “A noise exemption was not granted to the Escapade Music Festival event organizers, and the festival was therefore bound by the restrictions within the Noise By-law, which limits bass noise and sets a maximum noise level of 55 dB(A) when measured outside of nearby businesses and dwellings.”

“By-law officers met with festival organizers and sound engineers on Saturday to mitigate the noise issues relating to Friday night,” says Chapman. However, on Sunday more complaints were received and by-law officers took multiple noise readings throughout the neighbourhood and confirmed multiple violations under the Noise By-law.

“As an immediate response to reduce the bass and noise levels, staff contacted the event organizers listed on the special event permit and did not receive a response,” says Chapman. “City staff will continue to work closely with event organizers for future events at Lansdowne to ensure their thorough understanding of the Noise By-law and mitigate excessive noise.”

“I’d like to ensure By-law officers are available each evening around 7:30 pm next year to take measurements and follow-up accordingly,” says Anita.

LIGHT SHED ON CANAL LIGHTING

Work to rehabilitate the lights along the Rideau Canal and its parkways will begin in this “summer-fall and will be completed in 2025,” says the National Capital Commission (NCC). This work has been sought by residents because sections of the lighting in Old Ottawa East’s Canal frontage haven’t worked for years.

“The project’s goals are to repair or replace all outdated and broken pathway and parkway lights,” says the NCC. “This includes light heads, arms and bases. We will also replace and upgrade underground conduits and infrastructure.”

“This important project will greatly improve safety along the multi-use pathways along the Rideau Canal and on Colonel-By Drive and Queen Elizabeth Driveway, with increased lighting to reflect modern health and safety standards,” the NCC says. “The new lighting will be energy efficient (LED), consistent with the NCC’s Capital Illumination Plan.”

No details on the staging of the project



NCC IMAGE

Some of the existing globe light fixtures along the Rideau Canal pathway will be replaced with this new design as the NCC repairs the lighting system.

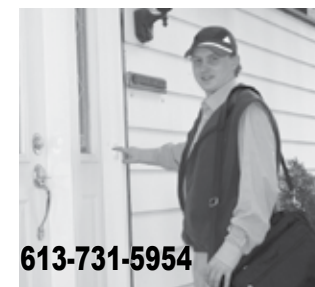
are available from the NCC but details are expected to be available by the end of the summer.

In terms of the appearance of the new system, the NCC says, “The parkway light fixtures will appear similar to the existing ones. The majority of light fixtures will also look similar for the pathway. At selected locations, the existing globe light fixtures will be replaced... This new light fixture provides a consistent experience while on the pathway, just like the existing globe light fixture.”

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The gardens of Old Ottawa East – a feast for the eyes, the nose and the soul

Residents of Old Ottawa East (OOE) love their gardens. A stroll through our community is a feast for the eyes. And the nose. And the soul. With the cooler August days and evenings upon us, take a stroll around your neighbourhood and enjoy the beauty these gardens, and others along the way, offer to the passerby.

LORI GANDY

Gardening on a hill on Mutchmor Road – Motivated by a desire to replace an unsightly grassy slope, Mike and Gleny have curated a gorgeous and continuous display of blooms and textured greens in their garden, a labour of love they've enjoyed over the past 10 years. The 1.5-metre elevation inspired the use of rocks and stones (garden art in themselves) to enhance the display of perennial bushes and annuals. Stones also help to minimize soil erosion. And the butterflies and bees flock to the garden all season long, making it a perfect pollinator garden.



Cool blue on Beckwith – On the corner of Marlowe at Beckwith is a lush floral display in assorted hues of blue and purple. Spires of purple liatris complement blue phlox blooms, beautifully offset by white hydrangea bushes and false dragon heads. Pots and planters brimming with torenia and million bells complete the lovely picture. Wendy has indulged her love of blue in her choice of plants for her garden, creating a cool oasis that rewards stopping by for a look.



LORI GANDY PHOTOS

Blooms on a balcony at The Corners on Main – If you walk down des Oblats Avenue, towards Main Street, and look up to the 4th floor of The Corners on Main condominium building, your eye will be drawn to a sprightly display of yellow and blue plant pots and orange furniture. This delightful show is the passion of Linda, who brought her love of gardening with her when she moved to the Corners in 2019. Just visible at the back is a small container garden filled with vegetables and herbs. Linda is also one of the team of three green thumbs responsible for the beautiful planters at the entrance to the building on Springhurst Avenue.



Hostas on Hazel...and much more - Wander down Hazel towards the Canal and you will find Hilde's garden. The eye-catching centerpiece - a miniature crabapple - is just the beginning of the feast for the eyes. The garden is resplendent with its gorgeous collection of green and variegated hostas, along with an assortment of astilbes and painted ferns and many other plants she brought from her former garden. Shaded by two huge lilac trees on the side, the meticulous care is obvious. The effect - stunning.

Lush greens on Springhurst – Against a backdrop of cool grey stone, Fran and Sue have created a garden of luscious green and variegated foliage, accented with pops of yellow and blue from the hostas and lilies scattered throughout. The striking purple sand cherries are resplendent in contrast. Look closely and you will see a few choice pieces of garden art that are sure to put a smile on your face.



Pretty in Pink on Lees Avenue – At the corner of Rosemere and Lees Avenue, Carol and Andris have created a bright display in shades of pink, including eye-popping geraniums and phlox, along with roses and clematis trailing up the banister to their side porch. The various greens surrounding this riot of pink act as a rich backdrop for these vibrant blooms. And...off to the side, a quiet, lovely seating area they enjoy throughout the season.



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All of the zoning by-law amendments sought by the developers of 15-17 des Oblats were approved by City Council in June despite concerns expressed by a number of City Councillors and local residents.

City Council okays Sisters' Convent repurposing

Rezoning approved despite community skepticism

JOHN DANCE

Despite many questions raised by City Councillors, local residents and the local community association, Ottawa City Council recently approved the zoning bylaw amendments sought for the conversion of the Sisters' Convent at 15-17 des Oblats Avenue to a fully furnished, 284-unit apartment building.

During the course of a two-hour discussion at the June 21st meeting of the City's Planning and Housing Committee (PHC), a number of Councillors questioned a contentious and unique rezoning provision that allows the developer to provide no parking spaces for new residents despite the zoning bylaw requiring a minimum of 136 parking spaces.

Both PHC chair Jeff Leiper and Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard strongly supported the provision, and City staff noted that the developer has provided a "very comprehensive transportation demand strategy that includes a number of elements that will encourage these active and supportive modes."

This strategy includes more bicycle parking than is required, 28 parking spaces for visitors and car-sharing spots, "pre-loaded presto cards" for the initial batch of tenants, 10 rental bikes, and a notice in each lease agreement that parking is not available on-site and that on-street parking is not a viable option.

The no-resident-parking provision "supports the shift towards more sustainable modes of transportation," lead City planner Andrew McCreight told the committee. He subsequently was asked if the City had previously supported a no-resident-parking provision and he responded that it hadn't.

The City-stated planning rationale for the project notes: "When a site is located within an 800-metre walking distance to a transportation hub, we are to consider reductions in minimum parking rates." However, as critics noted, the 15-17 des Oblats development is more than this distance from the Lees Avenue LRT station. While the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) agreed that some reduction in the resident parking requirement was reasonable, the proposed "zero" provision was not.

No resident parking a concern

PHC members raised a raft of other concerns pertaining to the no-resident-parking provision. Councillor Riley Brockington asked what the offset for tenants would be as a result of the parking provision, given that the developer would realize substantial saving not being required to construct costly underground parking spaces. Specifically, he asked whether there would be "affordable" units (less than 30 percent of a household's before-tax income units). The response was that "(a)ffordable units are not contemplated," because the "all-inclusive" units are fully furnished and include utilities.

Councillor Clarke Kelly noted that the no-resident-parking provision would mean the development would exclude those people in the trades who need vehicles every day for their jobs. "Where are these people supposed to live?" he asked. In response, McCreight said residents will have access to vehicles through car-sharing and he concluded that the proposal was a "model example of what a developer should do."

Greystone Village resident Jim McPhee spoke at the committee and argued that the "reality is that new residents will still be looking for parking spaces" and commented on the limited capacity of the streets around the new development.

Other concerns raised by Councillors pertained to the nature of the new units. Councillor Cathy Curry questioned whether the development would be "family friendly" and Councillor Ariel Troster questioned the likelihood of there being long-term tenants, deeming the development "hotel style" and noting, "I cannot imagine people wanting to live there for more than a year when they can't choose a single item."

In addition to objecting to the no-resident-parking provision, Ron Rose, former chair of the OOECA Planning Committee, said that the proposed density was much more than what the Old Ottawa East Community design plan and secondary plan targeted. He similarly argued that the developer should be required to seek an Official Plan amendment because the proposal was contrary to provisions of the secondary plan.

Adriana Beaman, a resident of The Corners on Main, was concerned about the total elimination of residential parking spaces, the development's impact on local traffic and the addition with its fifth storey amenity space that required a zoning by-law amendment.

Three years to complete

But despite the various concerns of committee members, only Kelly voted against it. When the proposal went on to full City Council a week later, Kelly was joined by Councillors Andrew Luloff and David Brown in opposing the proposal. However, a strong majority approved it. At the Council meeting, Menard noted he has asked City staff to work with the developer to seek a voluntary contribution for affordable housing in Old Ottawa East and to extend the "pre-loaded" Presto card provision for new tenants from one year to five.

Despite the disagreement on the no-resident-parking provision, OOECA commended the developer for the creation of a new parkette with its large trees at the northeast corner of the lot, the repurposing of the Sisters' building, the mid-block pedestrian connection between Springhurst and des Oblats avenues, and the geothermal heating of the building.

Actual construction will not proceed until the City has approved the site plan control application. It will be a minimum of three years before the development is completed. There are numerous details to be worked out, including the relocation of the Mary statue, the design of the parkette and of the pathway between The Corners on Main condominium and the Sisters' building.

Editor's note: John Dance is chair of the OOECA planning committee.



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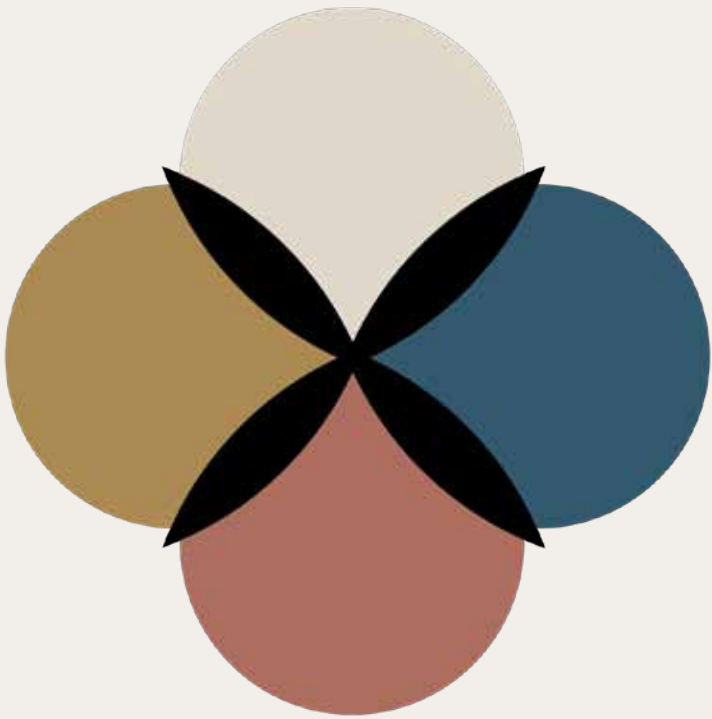


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JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Construction is now underway on the new Grande Allée Park with completion targeted for late fall.

Seven years in the works

Grande Allée Park construction begins

JOHN DANCE

After consultation that began more than seven years ago, construction on the Grande Allée Park began in early July with expected completion in late fall of this year, subject to possible weather and supply chain or delivery schedule delays.

The park will run east from Main Street to the adjoining planned Forecourt Park in front of the Deschâtelets Building and it will provide a tailored home for the Old Ottawa East Farmers' Market. The Allée itself is flanked by two rows of tall heritage maples and, where there are gaps, a total of three new trees will be planted.

The entrance features at Main Street will, according to a City email, "reference the stain-glass windows of the [now-demolished] Deschâtelets Building Chapel." The features will be fabricated with acrylic panels, metal frames on a wood and concrete base. Several residents opined that the actual windows from the chapel should be used but the City decided against this because the facsimile windows will be durable.

Only pedestrians, cyclists and park maintenance and market vehicles will be

allowed to use the Allée. Benches with surrounding paved areas, waste bins, and bollards will be added along with some landscaping.

"The capital investment from the City and the partnership for the project have made it possible for the design vision, which started in 2015 and was refined in 2021, to be realized with only minor modifications to reduce potential impact on the critical root zones of existing trees," says Kevin Wherry, the City's General Manager of Parks and Facilities Planning. "The construction costs are budgeted at \$1.2 million."

"We are pleased to see construction starting on the Grande Allée Park," notes Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard. "These plans have been in the works for a long time now, and the park should offer a place of respite and recreation for residents in the Old Ottawa East Community and the expanding Greystone development."

One issue raised by the community association is whether additional trees could be planted to ensure the larger gaps at the Main Street end of the Allée are better filled and to provide "succession" trees for several of the deteriorating trees

closer to the Deschâtelets Building.

"There are no current plans to add more trees during the implementation phase of Grand Allée Park," says Wherry. But he went on to say, "After the park is completed and taken over by the City, we are open to working with the community on planting additional trees."

No date has been set for further consultation on the adjoining Forecourt Park and its relationship with the under-construction Au Coeur d'Ottawa school in the Deschâtelets Building and the semi-circle of new dwellings that have yet to be designed to border Forecourt Park.

Two year road closures loom *Final MTO report on Highway 417 Canal bridge replacements delayed*

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The completed "transportation environmental study report" for the replacement of the deteriorated Highway 417 Rideau Canal bridge has been delayed.

Previously, the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) said the report would be finalized in the spring and there would be a 30-day public review period once the report was released in the summer, but at press time there still was no clarity from MTO as to when the report would be available.

"Generally speaking, the time needed for a review is tied to the number of comments that were received during the public posting period -- and the complexity of the questions that are asked," MTO responded to *The Mainstreeter*. "The Project Team works to develop responses to all the questions received before the final report can be finalized."

The fundamental question from local residents on both sides of the Canal is why - after five years of consultation - the plans released late last fall had proposed a new strategy that would result in 90-week detours of both Colonel By Drive and Queen Elizabeth Driveway. The previous strategies that were consulted on required no significant detours.

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OUR NEIGHBOURS

"Canada is very cold, but the people are very warm"

Afghanistan's former Child Rights Commissioner at the Independent Human Rights Commission settles into her new life in Old Ottawa East

KATHY WHITTAKER

The quote above is from Canadian newcomer from Afghanistan, Razia Sayad, who lives happily with her family here in Old Ottawa East. She is a delightful, reserved lady, very warm and intelligent. In her former life in Afghanistan, she practiced as a lawyer and served as the former Child Rights Commissioner at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Razia and her family arrived in Toronto in October 2021, where they stayed for three months. Thereafter, they moved to Ottawa where they had more family and friends. Razia emphasizes that the Catholic Centre for Immigrants has been of great help to her family since they arrived, as have the academic communities of both Toronto and Ottawa.

Her family consists of her husband, who was a journalist in Afghanistan, and who is currently working on his English proficiency, as well as three children who are doing very well in schools here, not only learning English quickly, but also aspiring to learn French. Her elderly parents are now in Germany, having spent time in Pakistan initially after the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban.

Razia spent her early life in Parwan province in Afghanistan in the small village of Gulbahar, which was an agricultural community with formerly happy, productive people. She was able to complete her grade nine schooling there but was without any education at all for three years afterwards. She eventually became a lawyer after returning to Kabul for her studies and then worked for seven years for the Ministry of Justice. She was studying for her PhD when the Taliban's arrival put an end to this project.

She spent three days at the Kabul airport attempting to flee Afghanistan with her family, returned home and then asked to emigrate to Canada, as it is known to her as 'the Queen of Human Rights.' When she arrived, after having to travel through Albania and Italy, she took a one year specialized English course at Algonquin College in order to find work. She was one of six activists accepted into the Placement, Preservation and Perseverance: Afghan at Risk Scholar and Activist Project Program at Carleton University. While

studying at Carleton, she was encouraged to apply for the PhD program there, even as she was attempting to pass her English proficiency tests for program admission, a task she is currently working on.

Since her arrival in Canada, Razia has been completely engaged with colleagues in helping to settle 250 Afghani families in a variety of countries, including Canada. She continues with this volunteer work, and as her family no longer receives financial support from the Canadian government as refugees, Razia earns some income consulting to the United Nations Women Afghanistan program. She has also written articles for international journals on the topic of the current status of human rights in Afghanistan.

As an advocate, and as a woman, Razia has received harmful threats over the past 15 years in Afghanistan. When asked if she receives negative comments from people in Ottawa, she answers not at all, and she is grateful simply not to be ridiculed when in public, contrary to what happens in Afghanistan.

Another great joy of hers, she recounts, is being able to swim for the first time in her life here in Ottawa. Girls are forbidden to swim in Afghanistan. A great sadness to her is having to grieve the dream she had of her country becoming a democracy. As well, arriving in Canada as an immigrant, she comments on how "one loses one's identity, who you are and who you have been elsewhere, like you are starting everything from scratch from the beginning." This does not stop Razia from moving forward with her many plans for integrating into Canadian life for herself and for her family.

Razia Sayad is a hard-working newcomer who pushes daily to integrate herself and her family into her new country and her community, and to continue her extensive education and offer to others the wealth of her experiences.

Kathy Whittaker is a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), a group of university women helping Afghanistan women. This article is one of a series of articles written by C.F.U.W. volunteers on Afghanistan women now residing throughout the Ottawa area.



KATHY WHITTAKER PHOTO

Newcomer to Old Ottawa East, Razia Sayad is focused on integrating herself and her family into her new life in Canada.



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The Mainstreeter's 1st Annual Public Consultation Report Card

Our local governments aren't listening to our views on many major Old Ottawa East project initiatives

The June issue of *The Mainstreeter* featured the first of a two-part “Report Card” series prepared by reporter John Dance in which he reviewed and graded the quality of public consultation associated with community-changing projects in and around Old Ottawa East (OOE). Of three such projects reviewed by Dance, two of them – Lansdowne Park and the Highway 417 Bridge Replacement Project – drew failing grades, while the third project – the Flora Footbridge – received top marks for the extent of meaningful public consultation in the realization of the successful project.

In Part 1 of his report, Dance introduced the “Gunning Principles,” a framework of principles designed to assess the degree and effectiveness of public consultation afforded by our local decision-making authorities in connection with major initiatives in and around Old Ottawa East. According to the Gunning Principles, public consultation by our levels of local government tends to be meaningful and legitimate only when:

1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (that is when the decision has not already been made and the so-called consultation is simply an opportunity for the proponent to say they shared information and sought input);
2. There is sufficient information to give “intelligent consideration.” The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response;
3. There is adequate time for those consulted to consider and respond; and
4. “Conscientious consideration” must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made.

In addition to these principles, successful community consultation depends on a variety of other factors including the capacity of those consulted to assess and respond; the context for the consultation; and the inclusiveness of who is able to participate.

In the second and final part of his series, Dance reviews seven more recent or ongoing OOE initiatives and reports on whether and to what extent our local governments and decision-making authorities are allowing Old Ottawa East citizens a meaningful opportunity to exercise their democratic rights to influence outcomes on major community-changing projects.

JOHN DANCE

1. Greenfield, Main, Hawthorne (GMH) Reconstruction

Like the initial phase of Main Street reconstruction, this ongoing project is driven by the need to replace deteriorated underground services and replace combined sewer with separate storm and sanitary pipes. But it also provides, as former Councillor David Chernushenko used to say, a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to make major improvements to the roadway and pedestrian and cycling facilities.

Consultation for the GMH project was substantially affected by the pandemic, as consultation sessions had to become virtual. The “public information sessions” and the public advisory committee meetings were of a different nature than what was experienced for the first Main Street project. Fewer people were involved, fewer meetings were held, and discussions were primarily by email. The City of Ottawa’s shifting of its consultation model to a much more on-line approach seems, so far, to be inferior to the in-person “town hall” form of public consultation that had dominated before COVID.

The interventions of Councillor Shawn Menard assisted considerably to ensure that a number of improvements were made to the initial plans. Most notably, unlike in the previous project, the electrical cables are being buried on the major streets. Secondly, a new safe pedestrian crossing at the Main Street-Colonel By Drive intersection has already been built. And numerous improvements have been made to the initial plans to provide for greater pedestrian and cyclist safety. However, efforts to save more trees or at least have more trees planted to replace those that are removed to facilitate construction have not been successful.

The Gunning principles have generally been satisfied regarding public consultation on this project. However, partly because of the pandemic, there has been substantially less engagement of residents than there was with the first Main Street project.

Public Consultation grade: B

2. Alta Vista Transportation Corridor

No other initiative affecting Old Ottawa East (OOE) has taken so much advocacy effort on the part of residents. For decades, OOE, neighbouring communities and other parties have fought against the proposal to build a four-lane roadway running north from the intersection of Conroy and Walkley roads all the way to westbound Highway 417, and Nicholas Street. From Conroy and Walkley, the proposed Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC) route would knife through reserved lands going around the Ottawa Hospital, then over the Rideau River, across the People’s Park

greenspace just to the east of Springhurst Park, and finally meeting Lees Avenue before connecting to Highway 417.

A short stretch of the roadway - the Hospital Link - has already been built at a cost of \$62 million. While then-Mayor Jim Watson pledged not to build any other parts of the roadway, it’s still under consideration in the new transportation master plan development and it was included in the new Official Plan as a “future arterial.” Also, many people predicted that the construction of the Hospital Link would - pardon the pun - pave the way for constructing the rest of the roadway.

As Councillor Shawn Menard has said, “It’s an antiquated scheme to funnel vehicles from outlying areas to the core. In the decades since, the City has evolved. We have declared a climate emergency. We understand the value of 15-minute neighbourhoods. And we are investing heavily in transit and intensification downtown.”

Through environmental assessment work that has been done on the AVTC, residents have had opportunities to comment on proposals and they also have appeared at numerous City committee hearings to fight against the project. While they have been successful so far, in that funding has yet to be approved, there remain many

Continued on Page 20



2. Alta Vista Transportation Corridor

Continued from Page 19

parties who want AVTC built to provide a new north-south road to the City core.

The consultation on AVTC certainly has provided “adequate time to consider and respond,” but the City has failed to give “conscientious consideration” to the consultation responses before decisions are made. The case against AVTC has been greatly strengthened because of the climate emergency, the focus on 15-minute communities, the new LRT system and the increased need for greenspace in the core. Its removal from the transportation master plan should be a no-brainer.

Public Consultation grade: D

3. Immaculata High School Playing Field

In 2018, the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) leased the Immaculata High School playing field to Footy Sevens, a private soccer enterprise. The school board viewed the arrangement as a means of acquiring a more usable field for Immaculata students. However, the OCSB gave no consideration to the impact that the after-school-hours use of the field would have on adjacent property owners or on the community.

The field certainly became more usable for the school because Footy Sevens rebuilt it with artificial turf, new drainage and a surrounding fence.

However, the negative consequences for the neighbouring community included noise from referee whistles, yelling from spectators, players, and coaching staff until 11PM; light pollution; strong, long-term, odour from the artificial turf; and removal of a natural greenspace from the public realm where the public could play for free when school was out.

Despite opposition from the Old Ottawa East community and City of Ottawa staff’s attempt to impose reductions to the hours of the field’s use, the school board was unwavering and unresponsive, offering only an “information session” on the new arrangement that was held months after the private contract was signed.

In no way did consultation on this project satisfy any of the Gunning principles and, indeed, the OCSB gave no indication that they had any reason to discuss - let alone modify - the deal with Footy Sevens.

Public Consultation grade: F



4. Main Street Reconstruction - First Phase

Community organizations and residents from Old Ottawa East (OOE) and neighbouring communities were heavily involved over the three years of City of Ottawa planning for the reconstruction of Main Street and the refurbishment of the Smyth Road Bridge. A total of 20 working group meetings were held. The OOE Community Association (OOECA) had five members on the working group, and businesses, schools, churches, cycling and pedestrian advocacy groups and representatives of neighbouring communities regularly participated.

In addition, a series of open houses were held so that all residents could see what was being proposed and how it might affect them. Indeed, one open house was held at the Greenboro Community Centre so that commuters in the southern part of the City could provide their opinions on the various options for re-constructing Main Street.

Public consultation on this project readily satisfied all four Gunning Principles. Although several of the changes OOECA argued for were not accommodated (e.g., burying the electrical cables), a number of changes exceeded initial expectations. For instance, the Brantwood Gates were totally rebuilt and repositioned. Also, the cycle tracks and wider sidewalks turned out to be superior to what had been sought in previous years.

Public Consultation grade: A

5. Capital Ward Boundary Change

After about a year of planning, the City proposed new ward boundaries that included the recommendation to transfer the Lees Avenue campus of the University of Ottawa from Capital Ward to Rideau-Vanier Ward. OOECA objected to this because it would split the community into two wards. The City would not divulge who made the request and the community association only became aware of it at the last moment.

The community association appealed the decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal and through the appeal process the City agreed to reverse its decision. But the whole fiasco could have been avoided had the City properly consulted.

Public Consultation grade: F

6. Greystone Village “2B” Proposal

Although for the most part, development of the institutional lands has respected the OOE Secondary Plan and related zoning, one particular proposal of the developers - The Regional Group (Regional) - sought increased heights that residents and the community association did not consider allowable.

Regional had engaged - and continues to engage - with the community in a proactive and transparent way. Indeed, while many developers require community representatives to sign a non-disclosure agreement when they are involved with proposals in a “pre-application” stage, Regional has not and has had open community consultations before applications are made to the City.

However, in the case of proposed building “2B,” 10 des Oblats Avenue, nine storeys were sought by Regional, and the City approved the proposed height. OOECA appealed this decision and argued that the secondary plan limited the height to six storeys. In a negotiated settlement approved by the Ontario Land Tribunal, the building was limited to eight storeys plus permitted projections, rather than the nine storeys approved by the City. Further, permission to build up to nine storeys in the area surrounding the Deschâtelets building was eliminated and replaced with specific height restrictions, and buildings immediately in front of the Deschâtelets building are

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Public Consultation Report Card

Continued from Page 20

limited to four storeys.

“The 10 Oblats opposition received financial and vocal support from every corner of Old Ottawa East, including from some of the merchants, even though the physical impact of the additional storey would only have been felt along Oblats,” says Heather Jarrett, an OOE activist who has played a key role in many of OOE’s major projects. “Residents realized the real impact was how Regional was attempting to exceed the Secondary Plan and Community Design Plan, and how that precedent would affect later development.”

The City and Regional considered what they heard in the early consultation, and they went ahead with the application anyway. The community association appealed and achieved a reasonable settlement - but it was through an adversarial appeal process rather than by consultation. All parties spent time, money and energy that could have been saved had the City and the developer better respected the community position.

Public Consultation grade: F

7. OOE Community Design Plan (CDP)/ Secondary Plan

The four-year-long development of the OOE community design plan and the secondary plan, which gave the CDP “teeth,” was a result of ongoing and concerted consultation with the community, the institutional landowners, and the City of Ottawa which funded the process. The OOE Community Association (OOECA) was particularly well-represented by Anthony Leaning and Stephen Pope, two local architects who volunteered their expertise.

A variety of open houses and workshops led to consensus on how to increase the inevitable development of the institutional lands and OOE’s main streets while also ensuring that the adjacent neighbourhoods would be respected. Sustainable Living Ottawa East also played an important role in ensuring that development should build community and environmental sustainability.

The process was not without hiccups. When the proposal went for City Council approval, OOECA was still objecting to several provisions, including one that was supportive of the building of the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor. As a result of OOECA’s protest, there were further revisions to reflect community concerns.

So, consultation very much began at a “formative stage,” there was “sufficient

information” for residents to understand and respond and there was lots of time for response. Finally, the completed documentation did reflect the considerable community and institutional land-owner input. Fortunately, the Oblates and the Sisters who owned much of the land were supportive of restrictions that constrained the height of new developments even though these restrictions meant that the value of their properties was less than what it could have been.

Public Consultation grade: A

Other Issues / Projects

Several other projects warrant mention. Before the construction of the LRT, the City unilaterally decided to build a large parking lot on what’s now called People’s Park beside Springhurst Park. The community reaction was immediate and effective: a meeting was held at Old Town Hall and residents expressed their frustration and questioned the actual need for the parking lot that was supposed to serve Lees campus uOttawa students and faculty whose parking lots were going to be taken over for LRT construction purposes.

Community members demonstrated that there were better options for providing parking. In the end, additional City land was found adjacent to the campus that was given to the University and has become permanent parking. However, the crisis could easily have been avoided had there been up-front public consultation and a rigorous examination of options.

Throughout the community, development applications continue to be filed. Often, the proposals involve requests for exceptions to existing zoning - and they are made without substantive consultation with neighbouring residents or with the community association. The consequence is that there are often raised emotions and decisions that are unresponsive to concerns of neighbours and the community association.

Conclusion

Some public consultation on OOE issues has been exemplary and some has been atrocious. When it’s been exemplary, the outcomes generally have been beneficial for the community. Conversely, when it’s been atrocious, the outcomes have been unsatisfactory.

The move to increased on-line consultation has advantages - such as ease of accessing information for some - but it also is more difficult and less effective for others. “The most important aspect of public consultations is communications,” says Jarrett. “For some of us, the use of social media is a challenge and I remain yet to be convinced of its effectiveness at actually involving residents of a community.”



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OOECA, Menard joint efforts pay off

Progress made towards a cleaner Main Street

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Efforts of the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) and Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard should lead to less garbage on Main Street.

"In June, the City installed four new three-stream waste bins on Main Street for a total of 11 between Hawthorne Avenue and Clegg Street," says Jonathan Hamilton, the City of Ottawa's Program Manager of Waste Collection and Customer Services.

The shortage of waste bins on Main Street had been raised several times at OOECA meetings and Councillor Menard convinced City staff to install the recycling and garbage units. "This area is heavily used by pedestrians, and we need to make it easy and convenient for folks to get rid of their trash and recycle," says Menard. "In the future we'd like to see more of the three stream bins installed, particularly in parks."

The new bins are part of a larger waste and recycling basket collection contract at approximately 630 locations valued at \$5.7 million over a two-year period with four optional one-year periods.

The Main Street three-stream waste bins are collected seven days/week in the summer and 4 days/week in the winter.

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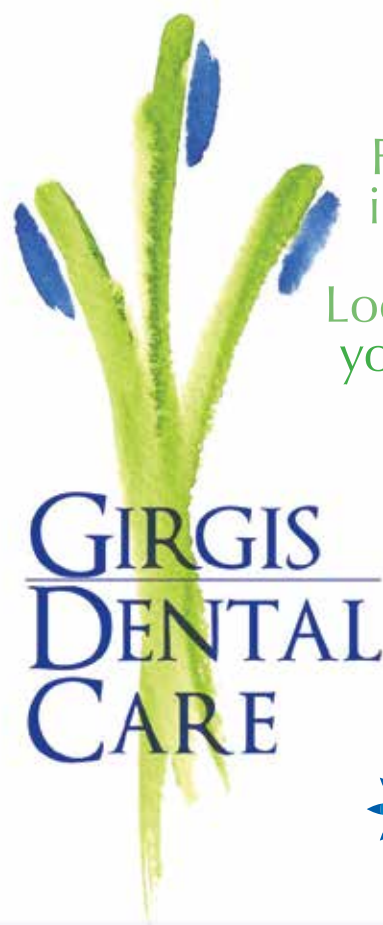
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ART BEAT



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THE 4TH ANNUAL OOE ART TOUR WILL BE THE BIGGEST EVER

On the morning of Saturday, September 23, the streets of Old Ottawa East (OOE) will once again be teeming with local artwork. From 11:00am to 3:00pm, many of our community's gifted artists and photographers will display and sell their work in the front yards of their homes. The rain date for the event will be September 24, also from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

"A *Walk of Art* is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon and a chance to meet neighbours and friends and discover their talents," says long-time OOE resident Patsy Royer. "I have visited several artists and learned about their inspiration and their techniques. I always look forward to opportunities to see art outside of gallery walls and just wish I had more wall space in my home for these lovely works!"

A *Walk of Art 2023* is presented by *The Mainstreeter* and designed to expose local artists to residents of OOE and other nearby communities. "We want strollers to cover as much of OOE as possible," says Lorne Abugov, Editor of *The Mainstreeter*. "Besides the growth in the number of participating artists, which was 26 by press time, the art tour's footprint has also grown, with exhibits planned from Graham to Riverdale avenues (north to south), and from Echo Drive to the Rideau River (west to east). Cartographer and artist Steve Fick, one of the event's founding exhibitors, has once again created the fantastic event map that allows strollers to plan their browsing route throughout the community.

"In addition to the support of *The Mainstreeter*, the costs of staging the

Experience "A Walk of Art" on September 23rd

event are fully covered by business sponsorships. This year's sponsors include AOV Surveying, Ears on Main, Merriam Print, Ottawa Physiotherapy & Sports Clinic, Oat Couture and Montgomery's Scotch Lounge, and Watson's Pharmacy & Compounding Centre.

Angie O'Connor, owner of hearing health clinic and event sponsor Ears on Main at 139 Main Street, will host A *Walk of Art 2023* Preview Gallery on her clinic's wall space during the month of September (see sidebar article on this page).

According to co-organizer Whitney Bond, this year's tour will include more group displays, including new locations at The Corners on Main and Bower Street. "I am also thrilled to report that young artists will exhibit their art this year at the Children's Garden on Main and Clegg streets on the day of the tour! We also have a young artist, Hanna Hagbin, who will be participating with some friends at her parents' home on McNaughton Ave," says Bond.

Steve Fick, a Drummond Street resident who will exhibit again this year, reminisces about how the art tour began. "Artist and neighbour Rosie Cusson was over visiting outdoors at the height of the pandemic. I was bemoaning how long it had been since I'd had an art show. Rosie suggested we exhibit in our front yards. We contacted our mutual friend/artist Kathleen McCrea about joining us," Fick recalls. "We didn't have a whole lot of energy to do something bigger, so we kept it small. People loved it! It brought some semblance of normalcy and human connection through art to an otherwise troubled time."

Fick also singled out *The Mainstreeter* for praise, noting that the newspaper has placed a very high priority on promoting the artwork of OOE's many talented artists. Fick's view is shared by the newspaper's Main Street Sketches columnist Tim Hunt, who will be participating in A *Walk of Art* for the first time this year.

"I started my Main Street Sketches



A long list of talented local artists and photographers have confirmed their participation in A Walk of Art, OOE's 4th annual outdoor art tour.

column during the pandemic, so it was more than a year before I met the Editor, Lorne Abugov in person. But I had already been impressed by the amount of space *The Mainstreeter* dedicated to local art," Hunt says. "When we met for the first time, we chatted about the prospect of a calendar showcasing the sketches of Old Ottawa East from my column. But it was through the support I received from Lorne and others at the newspaper, connecting the right people and pre-selling the idea at last year's art tour event, that the project snowballed and became a successful fundraiser and a springboard for a number of great stories featured in *The Mainstreeter*.

"*The Mainstreeter's* newspaper box art project has also been a real connector between community members and the artists who painted them," says Hunt. "From the cold winter night when volunteers dropped off the unpainted newsbox at my back door to meeting up with me to return the box to its appointed spot after its storied fall from the Flora Footbridge and its dramatic rescue from the Canal ice, the behind-the-scenes support from everyone at *The Mainstreeter* has really elevated the profile of the arts in OOE."

The paper's focus on the arts has also benefitted young and emerging local artists. "I was given the opportunity to design and paint a newspaper box for *The Mainstreeter*," says artist, student, and OOE resident Sydney Shelp. "Despite these boxes being an emblem of *The Mainstreeter* and our neighbourhood, there was never any hesitation from anyone at the newspaper in placing their trust in the artists, giving us complete artistic control, without any restrictions on our designs or any attempt to impose a cohesive colour scheme. Instead, everyone was excited that each artist could take the project in a direction that was unique to them. I felt assured that whatever I made would be accepted. As a

young artist, I was really grateful to have been included in this project."

"Artists in Old Ottawa East are lucky to have *The Mainstreeter* help champion their cause," says portrait artist Sarah Lacey, who will be a returning exhibitor at A *Walk of Art* this September. "It's one thing to say that you support the arts, but the local paper goes above and beyond. Not only does the newspaper's staff and the board of directors create wonderful opportunities for artists to have their work seen, but *The Mainstreeter* volunteers generously take on the dozens of administrative tasks that need to happen behind the scenes to pull these events off. It is such a gift."

Ears on Main offers a Preview Gallery for OOE artists

Thanks to the support for our local artists demonstrated by an OOE businessperson, residents will have a chance to preview artworks from exhibitors of A *Walk of Art* weeks prior to the September 23rd tour date.

Angie O'Connor, owner of hearing health clinic and event sponsor Ears on Main at 139 Main Street (613-234-9889 - info@earsonmain.ca), will host A *Walk of Art 2023* Preview Gallery on her clinic's wall space beginning on September 1st.

The Ears on Main Preview Gallery will exhibit works by six different Old Ottawa East visual artists who have agreed to participate in A *Walk of Art 2023*.

"I feel that many of my clients will enjoy viewing the artwork as much as I will enjoy seeing it on my walls," O'Connor explained. The local artwork on display at the Ears on Main Preview Gallery is available for purchase directly from the artists.



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: This sketch of my canoe on the river at Brantwood Park is a throwback to 2021. During that summer my kids and I paddled the section on the Rideau between the old train bridge by the Queensway and Carleton University on a regular basis. With COVID still affecting our daily routines, this was an easy escape, wheeling our lumbering



16-footer on a hand-built cart to the base of Clegg Street. We followed the changes of season; the appearance of frogs and turtles, beaver, muskrat, and mink; and noted the arrival of different types of birds. Canoeing in the snow became a bucket-list item that we realized

on December 13 of that year with our paddles breaking ice along the shore and propelling us through the slush on the frosty shoreline.

I managed to avoid COVID for three and a half years, until this July. Lacking

the energy to get out and about afforded a good opportunity to look back at the canoe journal I kept during that time, from where this sketch was taken.

Calling all young artists!

Kids can exhibit their art too in *A Walk of Art* at the Children's Garden

A special Kids' Art exhibit will help the Children's Garden reach its fundraising goals

LORI GANDY

Are you a young artist, or do you have young artists in your home? If so, you're invited to participate in the Kids' Art section of *A Walk of Art 2023*, the outdoor art tour of Old Ottawa East taking place on September 23rd (rain date September 24th) from 11am to 3pm.

There are two ways to participate. You can set up your own Kids Art exhibit at your own home, in which case the tour organizers ask that you contact Whitney Bond at whitneyb@sympatico.ca in order to register.

The other option is to join with other young artists at the Children's Garden located on the corner of Main and Clegg streets. If you've ever been to the Children's Garden, you will have seen that it is an ideal space to display children's art.

If you wish to pursue this option and

exhibit in the Children's Garden, send an email to info@mainstreeter.ca - with the subject line Children's Garden Art Exhibit - and provide the following information:

- the young artist's name;
- a telephone number where you can be reached on the morning of the exhibit.

Young artists wishing to exhibit in the Kids' Art section of *A Walk of Art 2023* at the Children's Garden will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis, as participation is limited to 20 artists due to space.

Important information:

- Parents of children 12 and under must be present with their child(ren) throughout the event;
- Teens from 13 to 15 can exhibit at the Children's Garden without parental supervision;
- Artists 16 and over should contact

Whitney Bond at whitneyb@sympatico.ca to register for the Adult Art section of the art tour;

- Artists exhibiting at the Children's Garden are responsible for bringing everything they need to display their art (table, easel etc.);
- Potable water will be available in the Garden;
- There will be access to washrooms at the Atelier across Clegg Street, thanks to Amélie Neault, Administrative Coordinator for the Atelier (Social Innovation Workshop).
- Young artists may keep all their sales proceeds, but if they so desire, they can donate a portion to one of the projects the Children's Garden has designated as a priority. Visitors to the exhibit can also donate to help offset the costs of keeping the Children's Garden thriving. A fundraising goal has been set to



LORI GANDY PHOTO

Donations made at the Kids' Art exhibit will help the Children's Garden to purchase needed arches.

raise \$600 this summer to purchase three more arches for the Garden like the one pictured to the above. The donation box, which is in the Garden when the manager or other committee members are present, will be available during the Kids' Art exhibit for donations. Those wishing to donate can also e-transfer funds to ottawachildrengardeninfo@gmail.com. Please note that the Children's Garden is not able to provide tax receipts.

Community art

Nighttime at The Green Door

Last year, Old Ottawa East resident and artist Louise Rachlis exhibited her artwork in front of her Graham Avenue home as a featured local artist in *A Walk of Art*, the annual Old Ottawa East outdoor art tour. Rachlis is delighted to participate once again this year in *A Walk of Art* which is scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd.

One of her newest paintings is of The Green Door restaurant at nighttime. “Ever since moving to Graham Avenue in 1998, The Green Door has been a favourite place to eat, and also a neighbourhood landmark,” she says. “All I have to say is, ‘I live walking distance to The Green Door,’ and there is immediate recognition - and a desire to go out to eat.”

Three of Rachlis’s paintings were recently displayed inside Ears on Main, at 139 Main Street. Owner and registered audiologist Angie O’Connor has made her walls available for the artists of Old Ottawa East to display and sell their work during the month of September.



The Mainstreeter Presents...

A Walk of Art

4th Annual
Old Ottawa East
Outdoor Art Tour

Come meet and support Old Ottawa East’s talented artists and photographers as they exhibit their artwork throughout the community.

Saturday, Sept 23
11 am to 3pm

Rain Date: Sunday, Sept 24



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Fall 2023 Programs and Events

All programming and events are subject to change.

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Saturdays @ Brantwood Park

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DOUG FORD AND OTTAWA'S LRT SYSTEM HAVE A LOT IN COMMON

Guess who found his way to Ottawa last month? Premier Doug Ford!

He was in town for a health care announcement at CHEO, just a week away from a provincial by-election in Kanata-Carleton. I'm sure that was just a coincidence.

(In fairness, Marit Stiles, Leader of Ontario's Official Opposition, was also in town for her own health care announcement at the Queensway Carleton Hospital. Health care is top of mind for everyone in Ontario, that's for sure).

At his CHEO press conference, Ford was asked about Ottawa's struggling LRT system. Local news articles suggested that large Bluesfest crowds or humid weather may have damaged the trains.

LRT trains were regularly used by the large crowds at Bluesfest, which, come to think of it, is kind of the goal for transit systems. But the outcome of heavy usage, officials suggest, may have compromised train axles and bearings - damaging the trains. On a similar note, the Ottawa Police closed the LRT's Pimisi Station on Canada Day this year, citing the "station's design and its inability to handle crowds". Yikes.

Reacting to this news, Ford said the Province may withhold funding for Stage 3 of Ottawa's LRT (which extends service to Barrhaven and Kanata) until serious problems are rectified. He even suggested that Metrolinx, the entity created in 2006 to coordinate and integrate transit in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, could assume control of Ottawa's LRT to improve outcomes.

Hearing this caused a mess in my own lap as I spat out a mouthful of coffee. Why? Because handing Ottawa's LRT system to Metrolinx is like handing one's house keys to a burglar. That's my takeaway as Ontario's Transit Critic.

Metrolinx has become a cabal of consultants who design secretive Public-Private Partnership (P3) transit deals that make insiders rich. The Eglinton Crosstown project stands as a case in point. The project is two years delayed (with no timeline to completion), and a billion dollars over-budget. This has all happened on Metrolinx's watch.

And let's not forget that Brian Guest, a former Metrolinx VP (and key architect in Stage 1 of Ottawa's LRT) earned millions in LRT contracts for his own firm. He was fired, and the Ford Government promised an investigation (which hasn't happened).

That's why I think Premier Ford and Ottawa's LRT have a lot in common. Both are secretive, dysfunctional, and havens for insiders making tidy profits. We don't need Metrolinx worsening our current LRT problems.

We have serious issues with public transit in Ottawa. Thanks to provincial cutbacks, OC Transpo is facing a \$39 million budget shortfall, and is poised to lay off cleaners who keep vehicles sanitized for passengers. We have regular service issues with OC Transpo and ParaTranspo buses. We need provincial investments now.

So enough with the knee-jerk announcements. Enough with the flimsy talk about "accountability". If you can, write Premier Ford and tell him to stop the cuts, fund public transit, and end the profiteering of P3 consultants.

SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR, CAPITAL WARD

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WRAPPING UP WORK IN THE SPRING, ENJOYING THE SUMMER AND GETTING READY FOR FALL

City wading pools are a great way to stay cool and enjoy a hot summer's day. This year, we've been able to keep pools open on statutory holidays. This new policy stems from a motion we passed at Council during the budget approval. During that Council meeting, we also secured two porta-potties per ward to be placed in local parks. This is a significant quality-of-life improvement for residents across the city.

Staff are currently reviewing operating hours for wading pools and for washroom facilities, and we will be looking to further extend hours beginning in the 2024 season.

As we head into the fall, we're finishing up the first year of this new term of Council, and there have been a number of worthwhile achievements we've already seen, including the following important matters.

City Right-of-Way Rule Changes

First, we worked closely with staff and community groups to improve the rules around what residents can do in the City right-of-way (ROW) that falls within their front yard. Our office passed a motion to increase the height of plantings on the ROW from 0.75 metres to 1 metre, in order to allow for a greater diversity of plants which support local pollinators, help sequester carbon and filter stormwater. Other changes included updating the list of invasive species prohibited in the ROW and loosening the rules on little free libraries.

In the interest of food security and community-building, our office passed a direction for staff to consider expanding the inventory of trees allowed in the right of way to include fruit- and nut-producing species.

City Bike Share Program

We also provided direction to City staff to devise a plan to bring back a City bike share program, securing the endorsement of Council for the project.

Implementing a City-owned bike-share program that could provide fast, efficient connections to LRT and transit hubs in both urban and suburban communities would help give Ottawa a more functional transportation system.

Lees Avenue Re-Paving

This month, we will see the re-paving of Lees Avenue (from Chestnut Street to the uOttawa Lees campus). After recent public discussions, staff agreed to implement protected bicycle lanes along this route. This is a significant safety improvement for our ward. Finishing touches on the project should be completed in the coming spring.

LRT Problems

As August winds to a close, City Council and committee meetings will start ramping up again, and there will be a lot that we, as a City, will need to deal with. LRT is down once again (I can only assume it will be back up and running as you read this). While we need to find solutions to LRT, we also need to increase our bus options so that if the train goes down again, people aren't stranded.

Lansdowne 2.0 Consultation

We'll also be focusing on Lansdowne 2.0. There is another public consultation focusing on proposed zoning and Official Plan amendments needed to push through the current proposal. The consultation will be held over Zoom on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 pm. To register, you can visit the City's website at engage.ottawa.ca/lansdowne-2-0.

We still have serious concerns about the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal as a whole, and we do not agree with the plan as it is currently configured. We will continue working for necessary improvements, but without them, we will not be supporting the proposal.

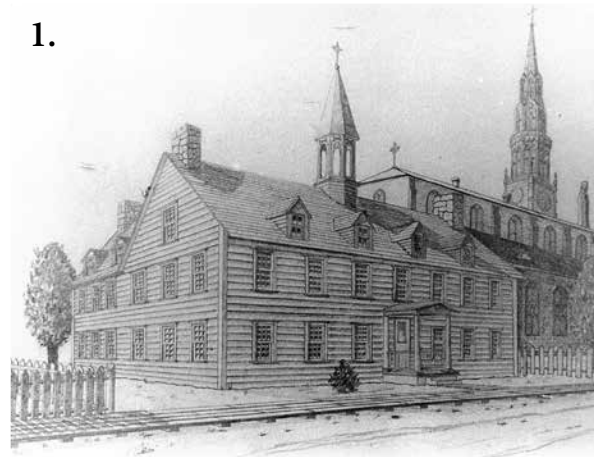
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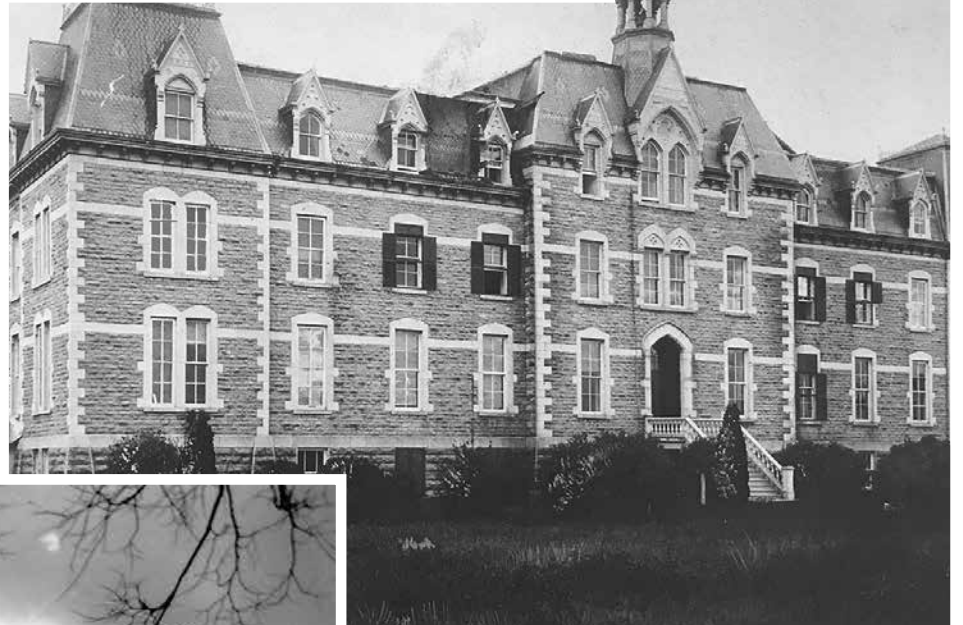
Over time, the small College of Bytown (1848 - 1861) and then the College of Ottawa (1861 - 1889) became the University of Ottawa (1889 - 1965) thanks to a Royal charter and then, in 1965, became Saint Paul University (1965 - present day) by virtue of a pontifical charter. This photographic timeline presents some of the historic milestones of Saint Paul's 175 years as a leading Ottawa educational institution:

1. September 26, 1848, Bishop Joseph-Eugène Bruno Guigues, Bishop of Bytown, inaugurates a small college and entrusts its management to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate; 2. In 1883, construction of a scholasticate began on a 38-acre farm on the banks of the Rideau River in "Archville". The new building opened on September 9, 1885; 3. On December 2, 1903, a fire broke out in the academic hall, destroying the main building and killing three people; 4. On May 23, 1937, the inauguration of the new University Seminary takes place - it becomes the seat of the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Ottawa; 5. Built in 1958-1959 on the playgrounds of the Saint-Paul Seminary, and inaugurated on January 31, 1961, the extension was needed to serve the ever-increasing numbers of seminarians at the Seminary. The name "Saint Paul University" was adopted after the Oblates transferred all ecclesiastical faculties from the University of Ottawa to the Main Street campus in 1965; 6. On March 9, 2006, with Heritage Canada funding, a new Rare Books Room was opened on the 1st floor of the Saint Paul library.

1.



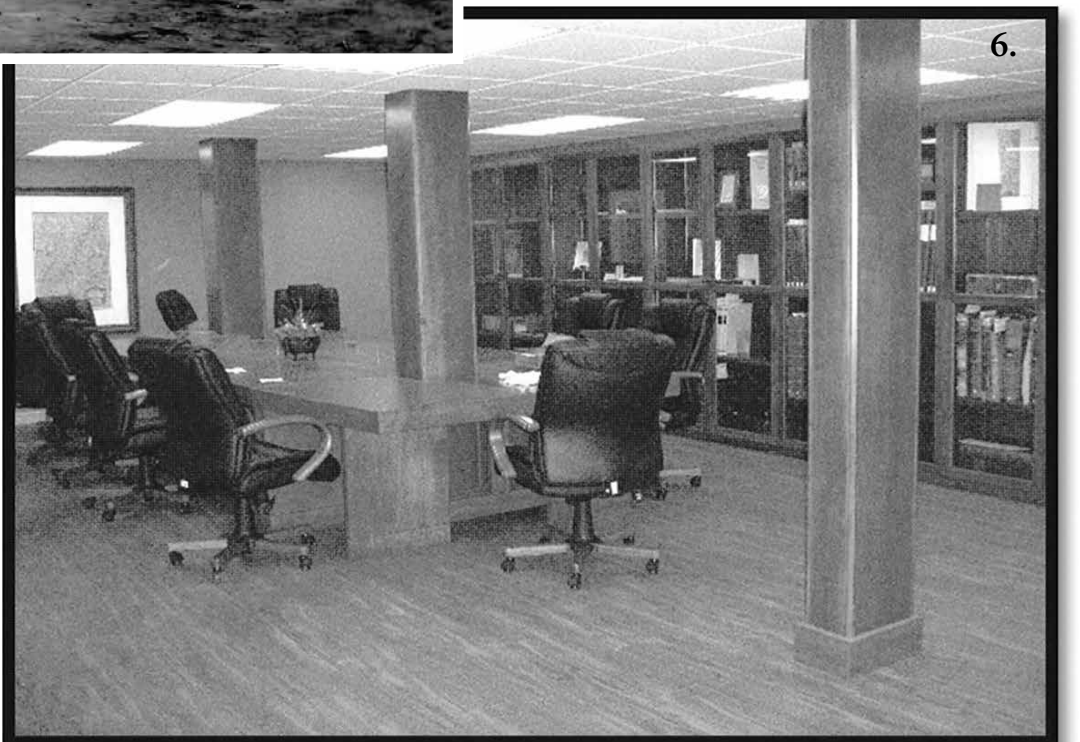
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Meet Nilufer Erdebil

Early designs on Old Ottawa East

MAINSTREETER STAFF

As an entrepreneur, CEO and founder of her own integrated learning company, Nilufer Erdebil thrives on hunting out opportunities and seizing them wherever she finds them.

Back in 2020, the McNaughton Street homeowner had just wrapped up a series of public meetings to promote her company, Spring2 Innovation, when she was struck down by COVID. "I was doing a lot of speaking engagements. I was just around a lot of people, and it was before we fully understood how it was transmitted."

But unperturbed by the illness, she used the downtime from work and the onset of the lockdown as an opportunity to write a book - two books, actually. One of them, *Future Proofing by Design, Creating Better Services and Teams in the Public Sector Through Design Thinking*, has now been published and is available at Singing Pebble Books, Octopus Books and on-line through Amazon. It focuses on thinking she developed in the provision of training and consulting advice to public servants employed mostly in the federal government.

"Actually, I started writing a different book at the start of the pandemic. I had initially wanted to write a book aimed at the private sector. So I did that, and I finished the book. I put it down for a little bit before going back to edit it. And something made me think that it probably wasn't the first book that I should be publishing, even though I had already written it" she says. "I kept thinking that most of our clients are in the public sector, and we've already had such a big impact on them with our design thinking mindset and framework. Our company had just started an on-line platform focused on the public sector for self-led training during the pandemic, and I



SUPPLIED PHOTO

OOE resident, entrepreneur and author Nilufer Erdebil and, below, her new book which was a COVID project.

began to think how these materials could be put into a book format so that people could better understand how design thinking could be used in their organizations. So, that's how I came up with a second book on design thinking, this one geared to the public sector."

Erdebil described design thinking and innovation training in the following way in a recent interview with *The Mainstreeter*: "It's basically helping people working in a business organization to understand the problems they confront from a people perspective, so that they can better articulate what it is that they're trying to do. In most organizations, there's a whole bunch of different problems happening all at the same time. And it's really important to pick the one that's going to have the most impact on the people that you're trying to help. Our training is a really good way to get business teams aligned and better understanding the problem that they need to solve, so that it's a lot easier to come up with solutions and opportunities to move forward," she explained.

Erdebil was born in Istanbul, Turkey, and her parents emigrated to Canada when she was seven. She describes her shock when the family arrived at their new home - in Edmonton - in February! "Oh my goodness, I thought. I don't remember ever seeing snow until we got to Edmonton, and all I could think at the time was: 'What is going on here?'"

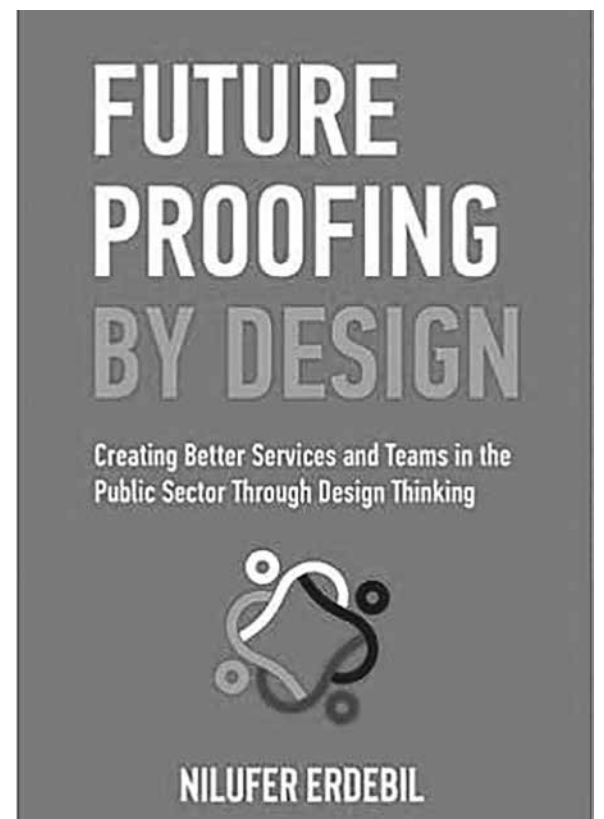
In her last year of high school, the family moved to Ontario when her father, an engineer, took on a position at the Bruce nuclear power plant. Shortly after settling into a new home in a new province, Erdebil was faced with another decision and a further move - this time, to Queen's University in Kingston. "As soon as I looked into university, I really loved Queens," she recalls. "The school had a great reputation, and it was on the water.

So that's how I ended up choosing Queens. I studied electrical engineering there for my undergrad."

What followed then were a few years of back and forth between Kingston and Ottawa, where she followed up her Engineering degree with an MBA from the University of Ottawa. By 1996, she had installed herself in Ottawa on a full-time basis. "I lived in Bell's Corners for awhile and then in the Glebe for a number of years and discovered that I really loved being around the Canal."

She explains that during her first years in Ottawa, she didn't know that OOE existed. "I began looking for a home to buy and I found this community. I couldn't believe how great the location was - close to the canal, close to the river and close to downtown. And there was a lot more space in between homes than in the Glebe. So, it just seemed like the perfect combination of small town feel while being close to everything. I've been here in Old Ottawa East since 2004, and I have no regrets with my choice."

Oddly enough, her time spent in Kingston was one of the factors that eventually attracted her to Old Ottawa East. "It's funny, I went to school in Kingston, and for me, Old Ottawa East has the same feeling that Kingston has - it's beautiful, it has mature trees and there's a community feel to it. And I've noticed that a number of people in this neighborhood had also gone to Queens. So I think there's something that resonates about this area with people who enjoy feeling like they're part of a community that has all these attractions and restaurants nearby. And if anything, I think the trend seems to be getting better and better. We have the footbridge, we've got some development on the commercial side and Greystone Village has totally changed things as well. I feel that as the City changes, this area becomes even more attractive," she concludes.



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Confirmation Preparation at Canadian Martyrs Parish

Confirmation is the sacrament of initiation where we are anointed with oil, and we open ourselves to the gifts that the Holy Spirit can bring to our lives. If your child is in grade 6 or older, please consider having them continue their faith journey with us at Canadian Martyrs Parish on Main Street. Our experiential learning model includes time for reflection, prayer, learning, and sharing faith.

We ask one parent to accompany their child to each class. These classes can become precious family time with your child, and a faith refresher for parents too! Classes will run on Saturdays at 3pm, beginning in October. We will have a parent meeting on September 23rd.

Please contact religioused@canadianmartyrs.org for more details or fill in the form at <https://forms.gle/Qs3rYrFXxi1GYPsm7> if you would like us to contact you when registration opens.

BUSINESS BEAT

Pathway Yoga relocates to Ascension Church studios

PETER TOBIN

In early September, Pathway Yoga, a well-established west-end studio, will vacate its Westboro facility and settle into new space at The Church of The Ascension on Echo Drive near Graham Avenue.

Pathway had been looking for months to find a suitable home after rents in its pricey Westboro location became unsustainable for the non-profit enterprise. The search came to fruition recently when Barbara Young of Pathway contacted Pastor Victoria Scott at Ascension Church. The arrangement has advantages for both the yoga studio and the church - reasonable rent for the former and a source of revenue for the latter.

Pathway teaches the Iyengar method, a style of yoga established by B.K.S. Iyengar. Born in 1918, the famed teacher and innovator died in Pune, India in 2014. According to Wikipedia, Iyengar has been credited with having popularized yoga, first in India and then in the west. The world-renowned violinist, Yehudi Menuhin, called Iyengar his best violin teacher. "He is the first to teach me how to use my body," Menuhin stated.

For many of us, a chance encounter or a seemingly inconsequential event sends us along a journey we could neither have anticipated nor planned. For Barbara Young, founder and lead teacher at Pathway Yoga, it came as a recommendation by her doctor to practise Iyengar Yoga to enhance her rehabilitation from an injury.

In a recent interview with *The Mainstreeter*, Young explained that her discovery of Iyengar felt like she had found 'home'. That sense of being in the right place convinced her to become a yoga teacher, and she began as a student, as all Iyengar teachers do. Young achieved her Level 1 certificate in 2000, and four years later she travelled to Pune, India for advanced practice and learning. It was the first of what was to become seven such study trips to Pune, the most recent in 2018. At the Iyengar Institute, she was taught by various members of the



PETER TOBIN PHOTO

Pathway Yoga will relocate its popular Westboro yoga studio to space within The Church of The Ascension by early September.

Iyengar family including BKS Iyengar himself. After a three-year period of apprenticeship in Canada, Barbara received certification by a panel of senior Canadian teachers. She has taught Iyengar Yoga in Ottawa since moving here in 2001, and she has a close connection to Old Ottawa East as her son Dan and three grandchildren live in the community.

According to Young, Pathway Yoga meets its students where they are at, young or old, flexible or a bit less so. The postures are adapted to fit the individual rather than having the student struggle to perfect a difficult pose. The focus is on bringing balance and well being at all levels - physical, mental and emotional.

Pathway's team of seven instructors plan to offer classes Monday to Saturday with two to three classes offered most days at different times.

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A Tale of Two Planets

OOE resident Mary Trudeau publishes children's book

AUDREY PRIDHAM

Years ago, Old Ottawa East resident Mary Trudeau stashed away drawings she made of strange little creatures and their home planet. Upon finding them last year and deciding that she didn't want to part with them, she then used her concept drawings and knowledge as an engineer specializing in water resources to write and publish her first children's book, entitled *A Tale of Two Planets*.

The delightful and imaginative story follows the Wooshidooz on their home planet of Retha, who are told stories of Earth and of all the wondrous processes the planet goes through to maintain its beauty in comparison to their home on Retha.

The book was released around the beginning of July, and Trudeau is proud to have her story out. "It wasn't a journey I've been planning, it's just something that started with imagination and a few little sketches," she said.

Trudeau's main inspiration for her tale stems from her belief that we have lost the connection with the beauty of our planet. While she didn't necessarily want to scare children or warn them of the dangers that could occur if we don't care for our planet, she did want to inspire them to keep their wonder and appreciation for Earth. Throughout her years as an engineer focussed on water, Trudeau's work and her studies have helped her appreciate the connection that water has with our environment.

As for future plans, Trudeau hopes to write another children's book because of how much she enjoyed doing it, as well as the creative freedom she had. "There's no walls [or] box," she explained. "You can do what you

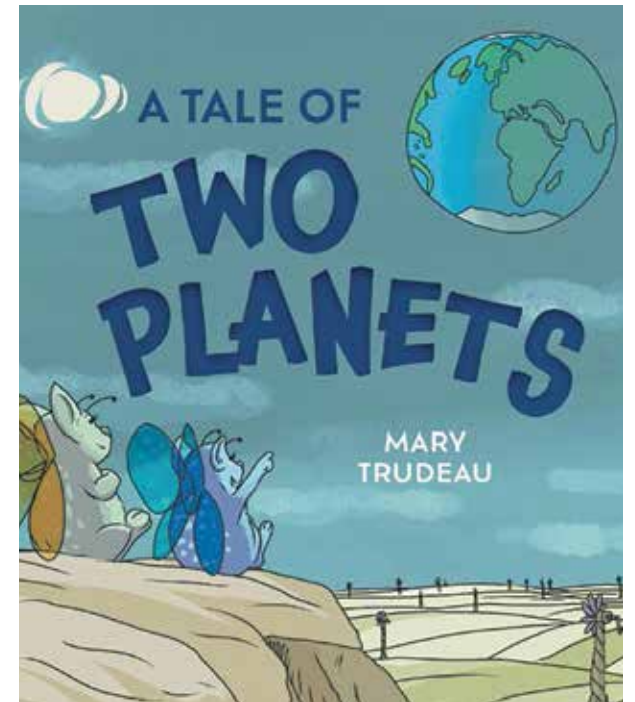


want!"

"The way our planet runs, everything is interconnected and does all of this stuff for us. And I was thinking, 'what if it didn't, [and] how difficult would it be?'"

Although she had already gone through the publishing process, having written scholarly journal articles and reports, this was Trudeau's first time publishing a children's book and partnering with an illustrator. FriesenPress, which published *A Tale of Two Planets*, gave Trudeau three different options for artists who would illustrate the story. Eventually, Trudeau decided on Nicholas Donovan Mueller, whom she was drawn to due to his imagination and the artistic elements that he added to her story. "It just really came to life," she said.

Trudeau also says that her story would not be the same without her family's support. She said that she was given lots of feedback and ideas from them throughout the writing process. In fact, the term "Wooshidooz" was



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

LEFT AND ABOVE: First-time children's book author, Mary Trudeau, wrote *A Tale of Two Planets* based upon her belief that people have lost their connection with the beauty of our planet.

created by her son when he was younger, a term with which he used to describe aliens, and Trudeau knew that it was something she had to incorporate into the story when deciding what to name her creatures.

While *A Tale of Two Planets* is a book aimed at children, Trudeau says that the overall message from the story can apply to readers young and old. "For kids, the message is to continue to be amazed," she said. "For the parents, we really need to love our planet. There [are] all kinds of things we can do. It's the feeling and the intent behind it that will ultimately make the difference."

A Tale of Two Planets is available for purchase online through Friesen Press and can be found at local Ottawa book stores, including Singing Pebble Books.

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L o v e L i f e



ECLECTIC EVENTS



KEITH HARTHORN-WALTON PHOTO

September 12th Fall session begins; online registration opens August 1st

JOIN A NO-AUDITION ADULT AND YOUTH CHOIR,

Bytown Voices Community Choir, St. Basil's Church, 940 Rex Avenue.

For the first time in its 24-year history, the Bytown Voices Community Choir invited children aged nine and older to join their ranks this past year. The experiment has proven a success! Six young choristers have completed a year with the choir, along with three parents.

The choir's Fall 2023 session begins on Tuesday, September 12th. Bytown Voices is a no-audition-necessary choir of Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass voices. Most younger children are grouped with the Soprano section. Previous choir experience is not required, and members benefit from many online learning supports in a nurturing environment.

Joan Fearnley has led the choir for the past three years. She brings to the role her many years of choral experience, including her time with both the children's and women's choirs of Notre Dame Basilica in Lowertown.

On-line registration for the Fall session begins on August 1st at the choir's website - www.bytownvoices.com. There you'll find more information about the leadership, membership costs, and examples of the wide range of music sung by the choir. The Bytown Voices Community Choir meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm at St. Basil's Church off of Maitland Avenue north of the Queensway.

- Mary Forster

September 23rd ADULT LEARN-TO CURL PROGRAM, RA Curling Centre, RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive.

The RA Curling Club, active since 1957, is proud to offer leagues for all ages and skill levels. The Club's offerings include day and evening leagues, fixed, and draw curling, four person and doubles leagues, a stick curling league, and a U20 youth league.

The Membership ranges from novice to recreational to competitive curlers.

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The Club offers a 10- week Adult Learn- to- Curl program, both in the daytime and the evening. Trained instructors are ready to help you

throughout your learning journey.

If you want to try curling out before signing-up for a Learn to Curl Program, you can do that on September 23rd. The Club will hold a Try Curling day for all ages and abilities to drop in and give it a go.

The RA Curling Club is recently renovated, accessible and barrierfree amenities - including washrooms, showers, locker and changing facilities that meet universal and accessibility standards - provide open, safe, and barrier-free spaces for everyone.

For more information or to register please call (613)733-5100 (ext. 360) or visit the Curling page on the RA's website at racentre.com/Curling



October 1st at 2 pm

ANNUAL FALL WALKATHON, Centretown Emergency Food Centre, Ottawa City Hall.

Everyone needs food to eat - even those living in our often comfortable leafy green neighbourhoods.

Once a year, the Centretown Emergency Food Centre stages a major fundraiser in the community that brings families and friends together for an afternoon Fall walk along the beautiful Canal. This year's fundraiser Walkathon starts at the Laurier Avenue entrance of City Hall with the inspiration of bagpipers piping walkers across Laurier into Confederation Square.

Old Ottawa East has been served for many years by the emergency food centre in the basement of Centretown United Church. The Food Centre has

now moved to 315 Catherine Street. Diana Mahaffy, the manager, and the important volunteers make this essential service available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 3 pm.

The food centre tries to supply clients once a month with 3-4 days of groceries which are donated by 22 member churches of the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee, some grocery stores, food drives in schools and apartment buildings, and the personal generosity of people dropping by with food or a financial donation.

Please arrive early to register for the annual Walkathon - registration opens at 1:00 pm - and make your donation (for which tax receipts are provided). Everyone is encouraged to come with friends and colleagues, or members of a church congregation or office to walk together in the Fall sunshine with pets - on leash of course! Photos of your walk are welcome with prizes awarded for the best pictures of nature, walkers, groups of walkers, dogs, and homemade posters created to celebrate this special day of helping those who need your help.

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**Pharmacists can now prescribe for 13 minor ailments,
with 6 more to come in October!**

On **January 1, 2023**, Ontario pharmacists were authorized to prescribe medications for 13 minor ailments that include:

- Allergic rhinitis
- Candidal stomatitis (oral thrush)
- Conjunctivitis (bacterial, allergic and viral)
- Dermatitis (atopic, eczema, allergic and contact)
- Dysmenorrhea
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- Hemorrhoids
- Herpes labialis (cold sores)
- Impetigo
- Insect bites and urticaria (hives)
- Tick bites, post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent Lyme disease
- Musculoskeletal sprains and strains
- Urinary tract infections (uncomplicated)

On **October 1, 2023**, Ontario pharmacists will be authorized to prescribe certain drugs for 6 additional minor ailments that include:

- Acne (mild)
- Aphthous Ulcers (canker sores)
- Diaper dermatitis
- Vulvovaginal candidiasis (yeast infection)
- Pinworms and threadworms
- Nausea and vomiting of pregnancy

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