

More food & drink coverage

Our new food & drink editor Jill Wherrett fills us in on her recent Night Oat experience.

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Eclipse viewing party on Bower Street

Simon Hanmer's passion for astronomy proved contagious for local kids on the block, Lori Gandy reports.

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Homegrown musical icon

Local blues guitarist Tony D credits his Ottawa roots for his 40+ year career in music.

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The Main Farmers' Market gets its forever home!

Festive launch, fine weather draw throngs to the new Grande Allée Park location



NANCY BELL PHOTO

Faces of the Main Farmers' Market: Océane Leclair of Agricola Farms proudly displays several bunches of locally grown asparagus on opening day.

REBECCA AIRD

May 11 was a grand opening day triumph for the Main Farmers' Market (MFM) at its new and "forever" location on the Grande Allée Park in Greystone Village. The weather was fine, the vendors were stoked, the feeling was festive, and the two celebratory cakes were appreciatively consumed to the last crumb.

And along with an estimated 1000-plus visitors, Day 1 also reunited players from the various "eras" of the MFM.

In addition to the launch of the "new" MFM, May 11 was also the official opening of Grande Allée Park itself. This public green space was integral to the vision of both the community and Regional Group from the very early stages of planning for the redevelopment of the Oblates lands. The eventual "crown" of the Grande Allée - to be completed during the final stage of development at Greystone - will be the Forecourt Park at its eastern end, in front of the Deschâtelets Building.

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With a couple of weekends under its belt, the Main Street Farmers' Market in the Grande Allée Park looks to be a community love affair, with large crowds of shoppers greeted by enthusiastic and motivated vendors. While some temporary speed bumps along the path to greatness (read City of Ottawa fencing) have temporarily limited the number of vendors, those who have been able to set up their stalls report brisk business.



It was poetry in motion!

Simon Hanmer helps Bower Street celebrate the Solar Eclipse community-style

LORI GANDY

Residents on Bower Street were given a rare treat during the recent solar eclipse - a street viewing party hosted by Simon Hanmer, a retired geologist with a passion for astronomy.

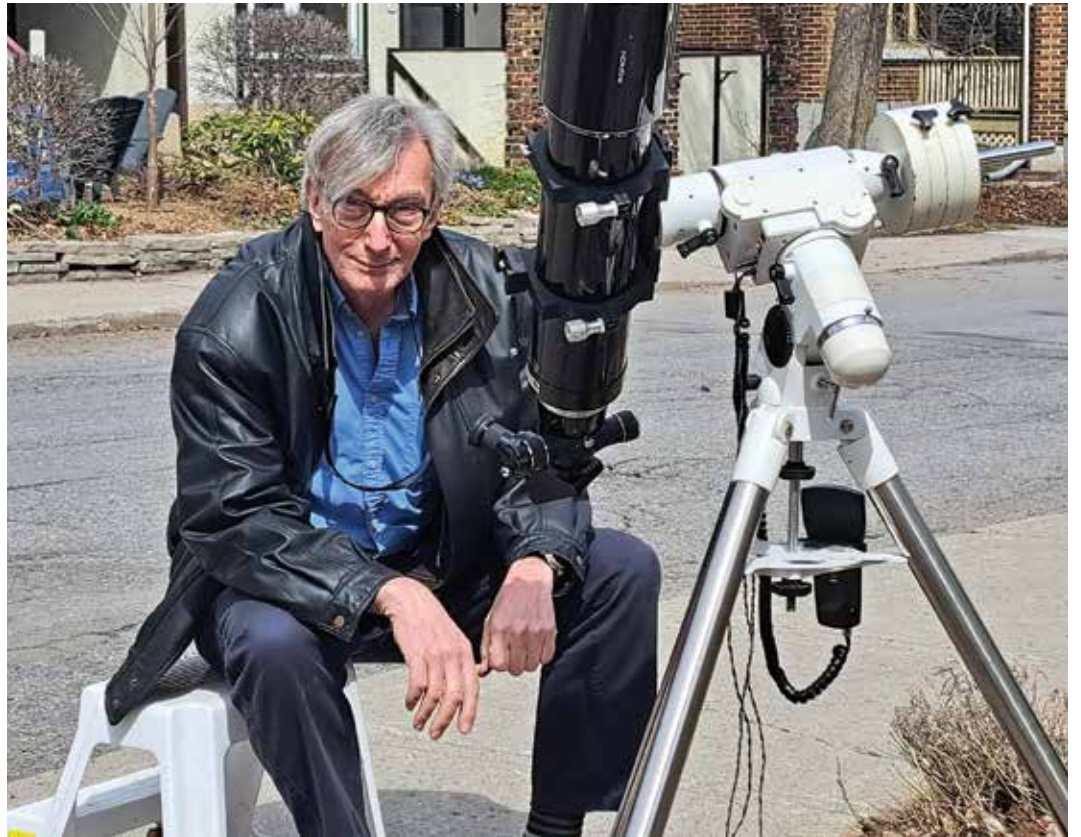
Hanmer, a long-time resident of Old Ottawa East, has been an astronomy buff since he was nine years old, living in East London in the UK.

"I wrote to the Astronomer Royal in red crayon, with my mother looking over my shoulder, offering him I think it was a shilling of my pocket money and asking for some photographs of the sun, the stars and the planets. And I got this wonderful letter back from his executive assistant, returning my shilling and explaining that their telescope didn't actually take pictures. It was a radio telescope. But the letter said there were all these books out there that would make excellent Christmas presents and birthday presents for a child my age," Hanmer recalled.

And thus began a lifelong passion, which Hanmer willingly shares any chance he gets. About six weeks before solar eclipse day, he sent an email to his neighbours, inviting them to a solar eclipse viewing party in his driveway.

Around noon on the day, Hanmer set up his telescope to point to the sun. As he explained: "The telescope is in the sun so it has a shadow. So you look at the shadow and align the telescope until the shadow is minimized. Now you know you are actually looking at the sun." Once set up, the telescope tracked the sun as the earth rotated.

The turnout was terrific; about 50 people showed up, including around 25 to 30 young people. The kids had been well prepared at school for eclipse viewing. They knew the drill: don't look directly at the sun and wear viewing glasses. To ensure everyone's safety, he handed out viewing glasses, certified by the American Astronomical Society.



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

Lifelong astronomer Simon Hanmer and his telescope turned the solar eclipse into a festive street party for neighbours young and old alike on Bower Street.

Hanmer's telescope provided a spectacular view of the eclipse. Some of the older kids were a bit too cool to get too excited - at first. "Once someone showed interest and uttered the first 'wow' they all wanted to see," said Hanmer. "And then everyone was cueing at the telescope." And there was more than just the eclipse to see: "With the telescope, people were able to see a few sun spots as well, not a lot of detail but enough to be a big thrill."

A fellow astronomer at the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada fashioned for Hanmer a simple device attached to a tripod that projected a view of the eclipse. It consisted of a U-shaped contraption. On one end, there was a sheet of paper with a hole with a cheap plastic lens in it to focus. Closer to the ground (the other side of the U-shape), there was a piece of cardboard with a sheet of white paper on it.

"You simply project the image of the sun onto that sheet of paper," he explained. "And you keep moving the tripod as the sun moves." This device was an easy, inexpensive project - about \$15, not counting the tripod.

Hanmer also had on hand a flat-bottomed metal kitchen

colander, which he held over the ground perpendicular to the rays of the sun. The light went through the bottom end and each one of the holes acted like a pin-hole camera. The crowd watched amazed as dozens of crescents appeared on the ground, images of the eclipse taking place. Everyone snapped photos of this spectacular eclipse view.

Some of the kids tried taking photos with cell phones through the telescope (taking a picture directly would result in the phone getting fried). But they found out that it's tricky. "You have to line up the plane of the camera in the phone perfectly through the eyepiece," explained Hanmer.

The most important aspect of this event for Hanmer wasn't the science. "It was the poetry. It was the being together in our community. People were talking to each other as much as they were talking about the eclipse."

As Hanmer explained: "Eclipses are very special in the human psyche - the one celestial event that everybody can see. And when there's someone explaining that these are the heavenly bodies moving, all of a sudden you realize you are looking at the three-dimensional clockwork of the universe. You're actually seeing a body move. The moon itself is moving, the earth is rotating. And that's when the universe suddenly becomes human."

Seeing people - especially kids - getting excited about something as profound as a solar eclipse gave Hanmer a great deal of pleasure. "All these kids were there with their parents. This tells me they went home and over the dinner table, they talked more about it. And that's great."

On a final note, Hanmer said the idea wasn't to turn these kids into astronomers. He wanted to show them that there's lots of fascinating stuff going on in the world. "Want an interesting job where you spend your day looking at the sun or something equally interesting to you? Stay in school and work hard."

Everyone was thrilled by what they'd experienced and thankful to have a neighbour like Hanmer who is so willing to share his knowledge. Hanmer received a precious thank-you card made by one of the little attendees, complete with detailed drawings of what they'd all seen that day.

One of the neighbours, Marta Farsang, attended with her high school daughter and brought cookies to share. "They were delicious," said Hanmer. "They went fast. I got in line for mine right away."

When asked what the best part of the eclipse was for him, he replied as expected: "Sharing it with the street."



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: Hanmer's tripod-mounted contraption was a simple and effective way of projecting the eclipse onto a mounted sheet of white paper.

THE MAINSTREETER'S SPECIAL REPORT ...

Enormous impact of new zoning rules expected for OOE

Massive increases in housing density will change the face of Old Ottawa East

- The new Zoning By-Law (ZBL) would allow greater dwelling unit density across the City, but disproportionately more in older core areas including Old Ottawa East.
- ZBL's guiding principles of equitable treatment for all communities are questioned in relation to dwelling density limits and lot size for suburban and urban builds.
- Existing zoning for parking, streetscape, soft landscaping, and tree canopy will all be scrapped under the new proposed rules.

JOHN DANCE

There is every reason to expect that the City of Ottawa's recently tabled zoning by-law (ZBL) will have enormous potential impact on Old Ottawa East (OOE).

That much seems blatantly evident when one compares the housing density of OOE's recently developed Greystone Village neighbourhood to what would have been possible there and in other neighbourhoods if the new draft ZBL provisions had been in effect when Greystone was constructed.

Had the new proposed ZBL been in place when the institutional lands (Oblates and Sisters) were being redeveloped, more than 50 percent additional "dwelling units" could have been built. With the proposed conversion of the current "R" residential zones to "N" neighbourhood zones, much of the rest of OOE has the potential for a similar degree of intensification.

In 2012, the OOE Secondary Plan (OOESP) set a target (not an upper limit) of 1,000 dwelling units for the approximately 10 hectares of institutional lands upon which Greystone Village has been built. The target has been exceeded with a total of about 1,600 units that have been built, are approved or are planned for construction. Had the proposed ZBL - with its allowable 250 dwelling units per hectare (DUH) - been in force, the institutional lands would have been allowed to have 2,500 DUH.

The crisis in housing supply, the need for more affordable housing and related provincial



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

If draft zoning by-law proposals are approved, Old Ottawa East could see increased residential density throughout the community that would exceed what the completed Greystone Village will have.

and federal requirements are driving radical revision of the ZBL, which, as currently proposed, would basically allow greater density everywhere, but more so in central areas such as OOE, and near transit stations and major corridors like Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue.

Within the draft ZBL, many zoning provisions like building height, setbacks, and parking restrictions are being relaxed in a push to allow larger buildings throughout the City. Specifically, the draft ZBL tabled in April simplifies current zoning and converts the "R" residential zoning to "N" neighbourhood zones. OOE currently has large areas of R1 (lowest density), including most of the area south of Clegg Street, and considerable R3 (medium density) north of Clegg. Under the draft ZBL, OOE's R1 zone would become N3 for buildings within 150 metres of Main, Hawthorne or Lees Avenue, and N2 for buildings farther away.

OOE's R3 zone would become N4 for buildings near the major streets and N3 elsewhere. Those areas of OOE in the Rideau River floodplain will not have changed densities. In the N3 zone, the permitted density would be 250 DUH, whereas current R1 density is 33 DUH and R3 density is 100 DUH.

A key question that remains is whether the policies established in the OOESP will be

Continued on Page 5

LEGEND



- High Density Residential / Quartier résidentiel de densité élevée
- Mid Density Missing Middle (8-12+ units per lot) / Logements intermédiaires manquants – densité moyenne (8 bâtiments de 12 logements et plus par lot)
- Low Density Missing Middle (4-6 units per lot) / Logements intermédiaires manquants – faible densité (4 bâtiments de 6 logements par lot)
- Neighbourhood Transition Areas / Secteurs de densification supplémentaire
- Major Transit Stations and Lines / Principales gares et lignes de transport en commun
- Corridor - Minor / Couloir - Rue principale mineure
- Corridor - Mainstreet / Couloir - Rue principale
- Hub and Transit Centre / Carrefour et Centre de contrôle des opérations du transport en commun

OTTAWA'S PROPOSED NEW ZONING BY-LAW



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Had the new proposed ZBL been in place when the institutional lands (Oblates and Sisters) were being redeveloped, more than 50 percent additional “dwelling units” could have been built in the Greystone Village neighbourhood.

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maintained. The OOESP provides key height and density restrictions throughout the community and has several provisions to preserve neighbourhood characteristics.

Details on the specific proposed new zoning for OOE had not been provided to *The Mainstreeter* by the City at the time of this writing. The draft ZBL may have provisions that ignore both the OOESP and other City policies that benefit neighbourhoods. For instance, the City proposes to scrap the “streetscape character analysis” that limited the negative impacts of new buildings on existing streetscapes.

Equitable?

“The guiding principles of the new ZBL are that it will be efficient, effective and equitable,” notes the City report that makes the case for changes. “An equitable zoning by-law ensures the intent of the Official Plan is implemented equally and consistently across the City, that certain neighbourhoods are not treated differently or affected disproportionately than other neighbourhoods.”

Yet the proposed new densities do not appear to be “equitable” across the City. Most of the R1 properties of OOE are proposed to become N3, with a maximum dwelling unit density of 250 DUH while in the suburbs the R1 properties become N2 with a proposed maximum density of only 150 DUH.

A related aspect of equity pertains to lot size. In general, lots in the core are smaller than those in the suburbs yet both may have up to four dwelling units per lot regardless of lot

size. Assuming the lot cost is roughly the same, then a developer would be able to create a four-unit building more readily on a suburban lot and have more spacious units on a larger suburban lot.

City staff have continued to make the point that the much greater densities promoted by the new ZBL provisions will be gradually implemented. That said, the changes may turn communities like OOE into permanent large construction zones, if indeed there is gradual implementation or “gentle intensification,” as City staff tends to describe it.

Parking and Trees

The draft ZBL proposes that residential parking for new builds will no longer be required, although large developments will still require some visitor parking, albeit less than in current zoning provisions. Similarly, a maximum number of parking spaces will be permitted for developments within 600 metres of “existing and funded rapid transit stations.”

A report prepared by City staff for councillors downplays the impact of eliminating the need for parking spaces, basically arguing that street parking will accommodate new parking requirements. One new proposed parking provision would permit front-yard parking where a driveway leading to a garage would otherwise have been permitted.

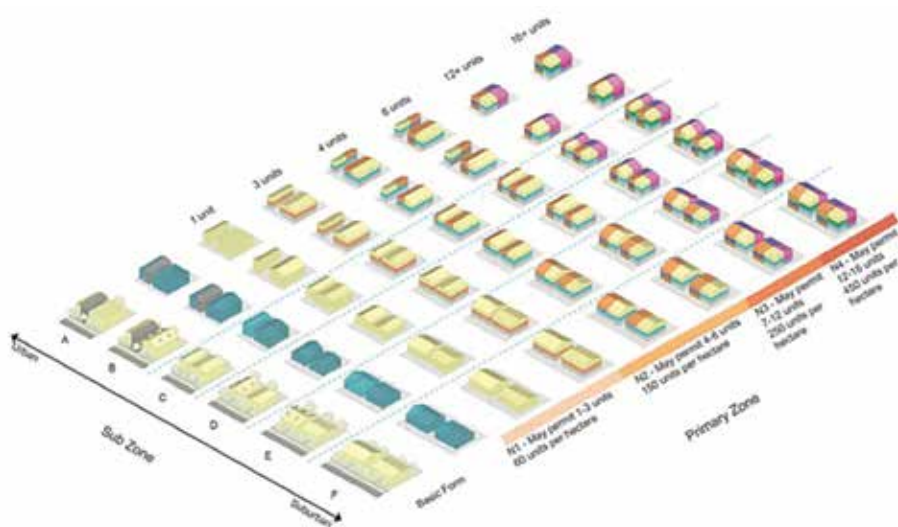
The impact of greater density on the tree canopy is not clear. A number of provisions, such as prescribed “soft landscaping,” are proposed to support trees. The Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) “welcomes” the City’s willingness to “regulate space for trees,” through the new bylaw but argues that the draft provisions are inadequate. CAFES recommends that a “minimum contiguous 25 square metres of the total rear yard be soft landscaped,” and a “required minimum six-metre front yard setback wherever possible in urban transects [to] allow for a medium canopy tree.”

The City is proposing to limit the extent to which underground parking structures can extend to the lot line “to preserve enough soil volume for a tree to grow to maturity.” Last year, OOECA strongly but unsuccessfully objected to the proposed underground parking garage of the 18 Hawthorne Avenue development because it would extend to the rear lot line and result in the removal of several large canopy trees and, further, it would prevent large canopy trees from growing along the lot line. The objection was largely ignored and the City originally told the community association it couldn’t regulate underground structures. Now, the draft ZBL indicates there has been a change of heart.

Engagement

Most of the consultation on the proposed ZBL has been virtual with few in-person sessions, and it seems this pattern will continue. “Open houses will occur by ward in coordination with the local councillor,” says the staff documentation. The City is targeting final approval of the new ZBL by the end of 2025.

The OOECA Planning Committee is closely following the development of the new ZBL, welcomes residents’ comments (email: planning.committee@ottawaeast.ca), and will be submitting comments to the City throughout the consultation process. Details about the ZBL are at <https://engage.ottawa.ca/zoning> and news and updates are available by emailing newzoning@ottawa.ca.



CITY OF OTTAWA IMAGE

This schematic from the draft ZBL gives a sense of how neighbourhoods would have greater housing density. The current situation in older neighbourhoods of OOE allows 100 or fewer dwelling units per hectare. The draft ZBL proposes an upper limit of 250 dwelling units per hectare.

YES OR NO ?

In our April issue, we noted that over the past few summers, the National Capital Commission has gone back and forth on the closure of Colonel By Drive (CBD) to vehicular traffic to allow for active transportation uses (cycling, jogging, walking). We asked our readers to vote “yes” or “no” on whether they agreed in principle with closing CBD to vehicular traffic during temperate months to promote active use along this busy parkway.

Another large batch of responses proved to us that the topic is one that matters to our residents. A total of 118 readers chose to express their opinion and cast their vote for or against.

So, do the majority of poll respondents favour closing Colonel By Drive to vehicular traffic during the summer months to promote active use along the parkway? Overwhelmingly, the answer you gave us was NO - by a wide margin. Here are the results:

YES – close Colonel By Drive to cars

15.3%

NO– don't close Colonel By Drive to cars

84.7%

Now here's our next Y or N? survey question for your response:

Ottawa motorists are experiencing a barrage of speeding tickets as the City's campaign to install automated speed enforcement cameras goes into hyperdrive. The photo radar cameras already in place issued 84,367 speeding tickets in the first three months of 2024 with the number of tickets nearly doubling from 22,467 in February to

43,416 in March. Old Ottawa East will see a new radar camera installed on Main Street between Springhurst and Evelyn avenues. Do you approve of the City of Ottawa's plans to continue to aggressively expand the number of automated speed enforcement cameras in place in communities across the City? Yes or No?



Crime in Old Ottawa East - have you been a recent victim?

The Mainstreeter is preparing a special report on criminal activity in Old Ottawa East (OOE). This community has historically been a low-incident haven from crime, but there is statistical and anecdotal

evidence beginning to pile up indicating that crime is on the rise in OOE.

Thus far, we have interviewed several OOE residents who have been recent victims of crime, principally

related to auto theft. If you or your property have experienced a criminal act, we would value knowing of it. Kindly email editor@mainstreeter.ca with brief details and your contact information.

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THE MAINSTREETER

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Please see www.mainstreeter.ca for online versions of *The Mainstreeter* plus full-length interviews, archives, and other content about Old Ottawa East.

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

Old Town Hall: 613.627.0062

OPINION

Ottawa's social evolution can be traced through its sports history

DAVID CHERNUSHENKO

If you love sport, or just want to be active, what's to stop you? Plenty, as it turns out. Your decision to hop on a bike, take your skates for a glide, or throw your soccer cleats into a backpack can be encouraged or discouraged by many things.

Since our beginnings as a City and a community, what people do for fun, fitness, camaraderie or maybe a shot at fame, has always been influenced by who they are and who we are.

Am I male, white and wealthy in 1895? If yes, I get to do almost anything, although it might not be proper to mix it up with the rougher characters in certain neighbourhoods. Best to join other gentlemen at the yacht, tennis or curling club.

Am I female with an independent streak in 1925? I could meet up with friends on the "ski train" departing Ottawa's Union Station for an outing in the Gatineau Hills. Or we could take our skates to a local park for some spins and jumps. The braver among us would bring a stick and enjoy a little ice time before the boys take over. The bravest of all will stay and mix it up.

Am I Black and motivated to make the school team in the 1950s and 1960s? With some trepidation, the team I try out for would probably be football, basketball or track. Not many black hockey players back then, so this would only be an option if I'm prepared for abuse from opposing players, teammates and some parents in the stands. If I'm Indigenous, I can expect similar treatment. I'll ask myself: 'Is it worth it?'

The sports I choose will be affected by more than my gender, race or religion, of course. Do I have the money for equipment and fees? Or for special coaching if I show real potential at, say, figure skating or tennis? But before that happens, have I been drawn to that activity because of a hero or role model—who looks like me?

There's another side to this history, however. Many leagues and local fields used to be a mixing place for Ottawa's residents. Some clubs went to extra lengths to be open to all, including offering financial assistance. What mattered was passion and commitment: showing up and giving your best. If you displayed special talent, the community would step up to help. When Barbara Ann Scott traveled to the world figure skating championships in Europe in 1947, it was only possible because supporters helped pay. Their belief in her was well placed: she became world champion and then an Olympic gold medalist in 1948.

You can learn a lot about Ottawa's evolution as a society through our sports history. I went on a fascinating journey through Ottawa's archives, our Sports Hall of Fame, and our parks and streets while designing a sport-themed bicycle tour. From growing up in this City, engaged in various sports, I knew stories a visitor, and even local residents, might find fascinating. But there was more.

Each tale of a person, team or event is interesting in its own right. Together, they build a compelling narrative about us as participants, coaches, volunteers and cheering/jeering spectators. For instance:

- Two of Lord Stanley's sons loved hockey so much they formed a team in the early 1890s. The Rideau Hall Rebels traveled in the Governor General's rail car. Privileged rebels?
- Equally passionate, Lord Stanley's sister, Lady Isobel Stanley, played in the first organized women's match in 1889.
- Harvey Pulford was a national champion in six sports. He won several Stanley Cups with the Ottawa Senators/Silver Seven, yet his favourite sport was rowing.
- The Minto Skating Club was once a world leader. Starting outdoors at Rideau Hall, it would spend several decades on Henderson Avenue on the fringes of Old Ottawa East. Famous champions included Don Jackson, Lynn Nightingale and the Duchesnay brother-sister pair. An infamous member was Joachim von Ribbentrop.



- The Ottawa Wolves Rugby Football Club was founded in 2008 to encourage participation in rugby among those who have been under-represented. Team members are predominantly part of the LGBTQA community, but everyone is welcome. The Wolves practice at Springhurst Park.
- Ottawa City Council voted against maintaining the Rideau Canal for skating in 1970, because it was "not likely to be used by many." The National Capital Commission went ahead anyway.
- Winterlude has hosted some zany races on the Canal, many in the wide section near Clegg Street. Horse races, hospital bed races, a slalom event for bar servers carrying trays... what next?
- How did the Flora Footbridge get its name? Flora MacDonald was a bridge-building parliamentarian who lived next to the Canal for 40 years. And, as many locals will confirm, she loved to speed skate and would gladly chat with us regular skaters.

David Chernushenko leads local cycling tours as a guide with Escape Bicycle Tours & Rentals.

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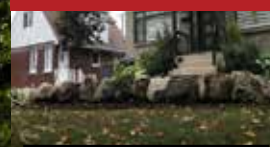
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National Capital Commission to explore whether Rideau Canal parkways might include bike lanes

JOHN DANCE

The National Capital Commission (NCC) “will explore the feasibility of installing bike lanes along the length of the Rideau Canal parkways.” The proposition has generated a variety of reactions from Old Ottawa East (OOE) residents.

The announcement of the study in April was in the context of the NCC providing details on active transportation along the Rideau Canal roadways this summer. In response to opposition from Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group and others regarding last summer’s closure of Queen Elizabeth Drive (QED) between Pretoria Avenue and Fifth Avenue, the NCC has decided that this stretch of QED will be open on weekdays and during weekends when there are major events at Lansdowne.

However, in July and August, QED between Pretoria Bridge and Somerset Street will be car-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week. “This will allow the NCC to provide animation opportunities along this corridor, creating an ‘open street’ concept,” the NCC press release stated.

Colonel By Drive (CBD) will not be closed for active transportation use this summer. This determination seems to be consistent with the views of OOE residents based upon the results of *The Mainstreeter’s* Yes or No? survey poll (see page 6 of this issue) which found that almost 85% of survey respondents favoured keeping CBD open to cars.

Asked for details on the bike lane feasibility study, the NCC responded to *The Mainstreeter*, “We do not have any more details. We will explore the feasibility of that option in the upcoming months.” The study is being conducted “to further enhance the safety of the multi-use pathways along the Rideau Canal, the busiest in the National Capital Region,” says the NCC.

The OOE Community Association has repeatedly requested that the NCC make active transportation improvements for pedestrians and cyclists who now share the sub-standard portions of the CBD pathway between Clegg and Bank streets. Some residents have argued that CBD should be car-free, others are of the view that CBD is an essential car route, especially given the

major construction project at the northern end of Main Street and the reality that Main and CBD are OOE’s only north-south routes.

Bike lanes on CBD and QED could result in cyclists using these lanes rather than the pathways so that pedestrian-cyclist crowding would be lessened. Indeed, other major cities like Vancouver have separated bike and pedestrian routes.

In a lively discussion of the matter on the OOE Grapevine Facebook page, reactions to the idea of bike lanes on the roadway varied dramatically. A number of people were concerned that the bike lanes would replace the car lanes but the initial understanding of the idea is that the bike lanes would be at the edges of the roadways. While the NCC has not provided clarification on this, it intends to consult with community associations, stakeholders and the public.

One Facebook comment observed that the bike lanes would be “safer and more convenient for everyone. I for one hate dodging pedestrians on my bike and dodging bikes while running.” On the

other hand, a respondent wrote, “The current situation on the CBD seems adequate. Cyclists and pedestrians happily share the sidewalk and cyclists going faster speeds use the roadway. It seems like an unnecessary expense to me.”

Others said that Echo Drive already provides a good alternative route for cyclists whereupon cyclists noted that using Echo Drive does not readily link to the pathway.

“With all the new ebikes, scooters, Segways, eskateboards, and eunicycles, it’s getting dangerous to walk on the paths,” noted one post. “And as a driver, I find it hard to maintain 40 km/h on the parkway without speeding up. A bike lane would rein me in. If this keeps both parkway QED and CBD open, I’m all for it.”

One fundamental problem in creating bike lanes on CBD is that the existing roadway may not be wide enough to accommodate the lanes that meet road standards.

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OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY UPDATES



JOHN DANCE

John Dance is The Mainstreeter's chief reporter and the former Chair of the Old Ottawa East Community Association's Planning Committee. With his extensive experience, he keeps our readers informed of a wide range of community developments.

NEW CANDIDATES FOR NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION

Although it's likely to be at least another year before the next federal election, two sort-of-new faces may be seeking the Ottawa Centre nomination for the New Democratic Party.

Joel Harden, currently the MPP for Ottawa Centre, has confirmed that he's filed papers to run federally.

And, according to a CTV report, another possible contender for the NDP nomination is Catherine McKenney who had been city councillor for Somerset Ward and then was defeated by Mark Sutcliffe in the last mayoral election.

Yasir Naqvi, the MP for Ottawa Centre since 2021, will "re-offer" as the Liberal Party candidate in the next federal election.

Carol Clemenhagen, who was the Conservative candidate last election, does not plan on seeking the party's nomination again and Angela Keller-Herzog had "no comment" on whether she would again seek the nomination of the Green Party.

Asked if he would seek the provincial NDP nomination should Harden become the federal NDP candidate, Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard responded, "My commitment has been to residents of Capital Ward, where I feel I can best improve quality of life for people and bring more accountability to Ottawa city hall."

STILL NO DATE FOR 417 BRIDGE STUDY

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario says the much-delayed transportation environmental study (TESR) for the replacement of the obsolete downtown Highway 417 bridges "is being finalized and we expect it will be posted for public review and comment later this year."

The project's recommended proposal for replacement of the Highway 417 bridge over the Rideau Canal was tabled in November 2022 and involved potential 90-week detours of the Canal parkways and pathways. Residents asked that a less disruptive method be designed to reduce the impacts on parkway users and local residents but there has been no indication that the Ministry has done this.

MTO reports that the required cultural heritage assessment report has now been completed, and the details are being added to the TESR. *The Mainstreeter* is unaware of any community associations or other local parties being consulted on the heritage assessment report. A cultural heritage impact assessment determines if any cultural heritage resources may be adversely impacted by a specific proposed development or site alteration.

FLORA FOOTBRIDGE PROTECTIVE PANELS PERMANENT

The plexiglass panels on the lower part of the Flora Footbridge railing structure are "permanent," says the City. This is contrary to what the City told *The Mainstreeter* two years ago when it said, "Staff are currently working to repair the panels on the Flora Footbridge that were damaged in the winter. At this time, due to the City's extended storm response, some operations have been delayed, therefore an exact timeline of the complete removal of the panels is not determined."

"The City of Ottawa has decided to keep the panels in place, largely due to cost replacement," says Jake Gravelle, the City's manager of road services. "Furthermore, the panels were being damaged when attempting to remove them."

Unlike the Flora Bridge, other bridges in the City that have snow-blocking panels to protect those passing beneath will continue to have their panels in place only during the winter.

Asked the annual cost of removing the graffiti on the "permanent" Flora panels, the City responded \$1,956 in 2023 and \$165 in 2024 to date. The graffiti cleaning tends to dull the plexiglass panels.

SPRINGHURST PARK DOCK

Installation of the Springhurst Park dock and site works will begin in early July and be completed in August. The project is valued at \$203K. With its completion, Old Ottawa East will have docks at both Brantwood and Springhurst parks. The Brantwood dock has been well used by paddlers, fishers, and casual walkers who want to get a lovely view up and down the river.

NEW PARKS, AU COEUR AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

As noted in Rebecca Aird's article on the Main Farmers' Market moving to its new Grande Allée Park location, the new park is at last open. Grande Allée Park is 0.325 hectares/0.803 acres in size and the estimated combined capital investment between the City and Regional Group to deliver the park is approximately \$1.2 million.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Councillor Shawn Menard, school board officials, and community representatives recently reviewed progress on the new school and community centre in the Deschâtelets Building.

Works completed include new hardscape asphalt and concrete construction, electrical and lighting, an irrigation system, site furnishings, a custom heritage entrance feature, signage, grass and tree planting.

The timelines for delivery of the Forecourt Park at the eastern end of the Grande Allée have not been determined yet. City staff say, "It is anticipated that the design process will begin in Fall 2024, however, no formal timelines have been confirmed. The community will be notified and invited to participate in the public consultation for the Forecourt Park design process."

Meanwhile, Councillor Shawn Menard organized a meeting of school board officials, City staff, Ottawa Community Housing, CAG and OOECA to review the status of the Deschâtelets Community Centre project which will create a new home for the elementary school Au Coeur d'Ottawa, a new community centre, and affordable housing for seniors.

Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (Center East Catholic School Board) has completed essential work on the building but, according to the Councillor's office, it is waiting for approval of funding from the province to complete the renovations, which will take from 12 to 14 months. After that, the City will begin the design and construction of the Forecourt Park.

OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY UPDATES

Continued from Page 10

MINOR VARIANCES: A RESIDENT'S GUIDE

The OOECA has prepared a guide to help residents respond to applications for minor variances. Minor variances are a key means for property owners to get permission to make structural changes to their property that aren't allowed by the applicable zoning by-law.

That is, a property owner may want to build higher, wider, deeper, closer to the street or to adjacent properties than what current zoning allows. When an application is filed, property owners within a 60-metre radius of the subject property are notified. Often, a requested minor variance has little or no impact on neighbouring properties. However, other requests may pose difficulties for neighbours.

Minor variances are adjudicated by the Committee of Adjustment, a quasi-judicial body with members appointed by City Council. For certain requests that have broad impacts or appear to set an undesired precedent, the community association may oppose the request. Please go to <https://ottawaeast.ca/> to review the residents' guide.

NICK MASCIANTONIO DAY

Nick Masciantonio, a long-time Old Ottawa East resident, volunteer and former leader of both the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) and the Community Activities Group (CAG), had May 10 officially named for him by Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe.

Masciantonio was specifically honoured for the 20 years he served on the board of directors of Ottawa Children's Festival and currently as past president of the organization.

The Ottawa Children's Festival is entering its 40th year and is the last professional performing arts festival for children and families in Ontario. Programming always includes performers and performing companies from across Canada and all over the world. Mayor Sutcliffe noted that the "festival generates vital economic and cultural value to our city, greatly

supported by Nick Masciantonio's efforts."

In addition to his OOECA and CAG contributions, Masciantonio has volunteered audio-visual assistance for such community events as the Brantwood Gates memorial ceremony and the sesquicentennial prime ministers series.



KAITLYNN STEELE PHOTO

Nick Masciantonio was recently honoured by Mayor Mark Sutcliffe for his contributions to the Ottawa Children's Festival.

A legacy of soil contamination continues to hinder development of OOE lands

JOHN DANCE

Ever wonder what those square pipes are that pop out of the ground, particularly near the Lees Avenue LRT station? They're for monitoring groundwater quality in areas where extensive industrial activity or waste disposal was conducted for many years.

The steel protective casings are the visible parts of groundwater management wells which, as the name suggests, allow for the testing of the quality of groundwater in areas where contaminants are known to exist.

In the case of Old Ottawa East, there were many contaminants produced from intensive industrial and waste management facilities that existed near Lees Avenue in the Springhurst Park to University of Ottawa area.

As well described in Rick Wallace's *A History of Ottawa East*, "[A] lasting legacy still lurks just beneath the surface and it will be centuries before this material completely dissipates."

The "industrial and waste complex at the end of Lees Avenue," as described by Wallace, included the Ottawa Gas Works, a tar plant, a mammoth garbage incinerator and garbage dumps.

"[T]he city wanted this land to be the centre of future commercial development

that connected to the railways adjacent," Wallace writes. "Another advantage of this location was the prevailing winds that blew from west to east of the city proper. Any pungent odours would simply blow away from the city."

The essential ingredient for the gas works was the coal delivered by nearby railways. The plant opened in 1920 and converted coal into fuel gas with many by-products including tar which was used by the nearby tar plant which produced roofing and road tar. The gas works, with its 10-storey gas storage tank, dominated the OOE skyline until about 1960 by which time natural gas became available and displaced the more expensive coal gas.

The garbage incinerator was created to be Ottawa's primary means of waste disposal and operated from 1912 to 1930. While it's not clear why the incinerator was closed, in its absence, new waste disposal sites had to be found for the garbage. A number of these were in Old Ottawa East or just across the river.

"There was plenty of vacant land, good roads and liquid that oozed out of the dump would simply be washed away by the river," Wallace comments. "Out of sight - out of mind - excellent solution!"

Ever since, the City, developers and others have been trying to cope with the "excellent solution." When the transitway



RICK WALLACE, "THE HISTORY OF OTTAWA EAST"

The Ottawa Gas Works on the south side of Lees Avenue was a major contributor to groundwater pollution.

was built with the Lees station in the middle of the contaminated area, soil had to be removed and a "groundwater collection and treatment system" was built to collect contaminated groundwater and treat it before discharge to the sanitary sewer system. The pumping and treatment station is just to the northeast of the LRT station.

More work was required when the transitway was converted to LRT. "In constructing the O-Train Line 1 Lees Station, approximately 8,000 metric tonnes of impacted soil was removed from the Lees Station area and disposed at a licensed landfill," says Erin Tait, the City's program manager of environmental remediation.

"The [contamination] studies have indicated that coal tar impacts remain in the soil and groundwater from the historical industrial use of the site, however the impacts are currently stable and managed in conjunction with the groundwater collection and treatment system," says Tait.

"Other City lands in the vicinity of the Lees Station have also been assessed by the City's environmental review unit, with remediation and/or mitigation measures implemented based on the nature of the impacts identified at the site, such as the clean soil cap that was installed over Springhurst Park in 2016," Tait notes.

Continued on Page 15

OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY UPDATES

The big reveal!

So what's the big mystery surrounding 11 Mutchmor Road?

In our April issue, at page 21, we chronicled the final days of a majestic 100-year-old Norway Maple tree located on the front lawn of 11 Mutchmor Road that had recently met its match in a 30-minute tussle with a City of Ottawa woodchipper. Beneath a 1920's photo of the stately home, which has been owned by Doug and Gayle Singer since 1988, we pointed out to readers that 11 Mutchmor "was well known to Ottawans of the time for a reason other than the maple", and we promised a big reveal in our June issue.

Well here it is...

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The year was 1930, with Christmas in the offing, but as an article in the Ottawa Journal noted, the unseasonably warm weather and scarcity of snow was threatening to put a damper on the festive season in Ottawa.

However, there was one bright light on the holiday horizon, and that was the collective glow emanating from the outdoor Christmas lighting display bedecking the Old Ottawa East home of Mr. & Mrs. Stephen R. Waggoner – that being the house at 11 Mutchmor Road.

According to the Journal, Mr. Waggoner's entry in the newspaper's popular Light Up for Christmas contest, had just captured the fancy of Ottawans across the city, and had been awarded first prize overall as the Best All-around Christmas Outdoor Lighting Display in Ottawa.

A previous contest winner, Mr. Waggoner and the house at 11 Mutchmor were the unanimous choice of the contest judges in 1930, the display earning their praise as "a design of distinction," and "a very novel effect."

"People came from miles around to see his display of Christmas lighting," crowed the Journal, which summed up the impact of Mr. Waggoner's bright lights on an otherwise sombre Xmas season in Ottawa, as follows: "One thing making the judges' task much harder was the unseasonal lack of snow. Christmas lighting is at its best when snow covers the trees and ground. All were agreed, however, that Christmas lighting had given the necessary and practically sole holiday effect to the city."

The photos of the Waggoners Christmas lighting display, featured on this page, came into the possession of the current owners of 11 Mutchmor, the Singers, in an interesting and roundabout manner.

Several years ago, the Singers received a letter from Doug and Jane Fitzgibbons of Kitchener, Waterloo, enclosing photos they had discovered when going through the belongings of past relatives of theirs – Joseph Little and his wife Irene (nee Ninninger) who resided at 11 Mutchmor in Ottawa from the 1950's until their deaths within a month of one another in 1979/1980. The photos then passed on to Mr. Little's surviving brother and sister, where they were found by the Fitzgibbons, who then passed them on to the Singers.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

It was Christmastime 1930, and the talk of the town was the brilliant Xmas lights adorning Stephen R. Waggoner's home at 11 Mutchmor Road, winner of the City's best all-around Christmas lighting display.

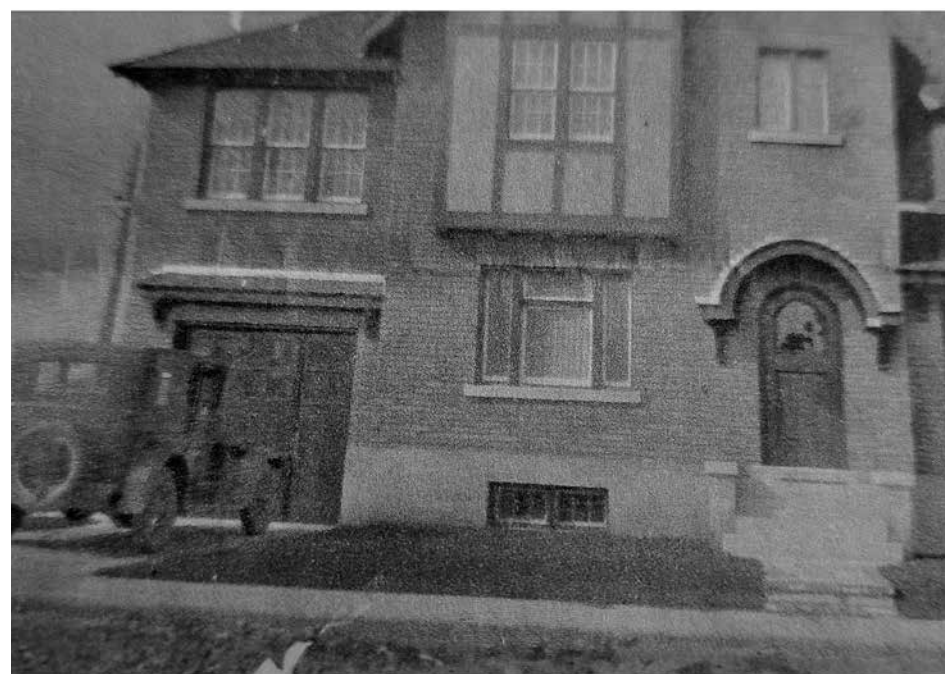
The photos appear to have been taken days apart, as one shows the house dusted with a sprinkle of snow, while the other seems to follow afterwards with a more substantial fall of snow on the house roof and on the surrounding lawns and streets.

Another photo featured on this page, this one taken on May 28, 1928, shows off a Model T Ford parked in the driveway of the home, as well as cobblestone paving on Mutchmor Road. The photo also came to the Singers from a previously unknown source, a woman named Judy Bell of Port Sanilac, Michigan on the shores of Lake Huron across from Bayfield, Ontario. Bell's mother, Sarah Elizabeth (Bess) Clarke was born and raised in Kars, outside of Ottawa, and married Thomas E. Johnson, of Port

Sanilac. The photo was found by Bell in June 2020 while she and her son were combing through her father's photo albums, and a Google search eventually confirmed the location of the home as Ottawa, and not Port Sanilac.

The Singers are not aware of the connection between the late Bess Clarke and their historic home at 11 Mutchmor, a mystery that dates back almost 100 years, nor do they know how the photo came to find its way into a photo album belonging to Clarke's husband.

Christmas lighting, Norway Maples and a Model T Ford – they all have a place in the century-old historical tapestry woven out of bricks and mortar at 11 Mutchmor Road!



LEFT: While snow was at a premium in December 1930, this photo of 11 Mutchmor Road and surrounding homes shows enough of the white stuff to provide a magical holiday glow to the neighbourhood; ABOVE: This May 1928 photo of the home features a Model T Ford parked in the driveway and cobblestone paving on Mutchmor Road.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

If not amended, Bill 185 would retroactively kill the Glebe Community Association's appeal of the City's decision to build a new arena on Lansdowne's limited parkland.

Lansdowne 2.0 decisions would be unassailable

Bill 185: Province proposes to kill community associations' appeals

JOHN DANCE

To the dismay of the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) and other community associations, the Ontario government's Bill 185 proposes to eliminate the right of community associations and most other third parties to appeal municipal zoning decisions.

"This proposal is "neither democratic nor good for building sustainable and vibrant communities," OOECA president Bob Gordon recently wrote to Paul Calandra, Ontario's Minister of Housing.

"To make matters worse, the bill proposes to make the appeal limitations retroactive, something that fails the test of fairness," Gordon wrote.

Bill 185, the "Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act," proposes numerous measures to speed up the approval process so that more residential units can be built faster.

Making the bill retroactive would kill the appeal of City Council's decision to build a new arena on greenspace in Lansdowne Park brought by the Glebe Community Association (GCA). Not only would the new arena reduce greenspace in the City's major central park, but the City has waived the requirement for new parkland to accommodate the new residents of the two 40-storey towers to be built on the site currently occupied by the Goodlife Fitness facility and other commercial establishments on the southern side of Exhibition Way. The commercial buildings were constructed just a decade ago but will be demolished to pave

the way for skyscrapers.

OOECA has contributed \$500 to the appeal and the GCA has already spent thousands of dollars. All of this money and the considerable efforts of volunteers will be for naught unless Bill 185 is amended.

Another proposed measure within the bill is the removal of the requirement for a developer to pre-consult with the

municipality before an application is made. "The pre-consultation process can actually expedite a project by ensuring that a developer is aware of key concerns so that these can be addressed within the application rather than after its submission," Gordon wrote to Minister Calandra. "In Ottawa, the pre-consultation process can also provide community

associations and others with the opportunity to make suggestions that contribute to a new development better fitting into a community's fabric."

The removal of the right to appeal comes on the heels of earlier legislation that eliminated community associations' right to appeal minor variance decisions.

Coming to grips with the spread of plastic pollution

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Many in Old Ottawa East will have seen the striking sculpture in front of the Shaw Centre during the last week of April and wondered why it was there. Between April 23rd and 29th, the United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution was in Ottawa with representatives from over 170 countries present to negotiate a treaty on curbing plastic waste.

Like climate change and biodiversity, plastic pollution and the widespread infiltration of microplastics and nanoplastics in the environment, and within our own bodies, have become major societal concerns the world over. A recent research study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) has determined that people consume on average about a credit cards worth of microplastic every week from the air they breathe and the water and food they ingest.

While plastic is fully integrated into our daily lives, attempts are being made by those in Old Ottawa East to limit its proliferation through various initiatives. Many residents of the community



SHAW CENTRE LINKEDIN POST

The striking sculpture installation entitled "Turn Off the Plastic Tap" situated outside the Shaw Centre during the United Nation's INC4 conference on plastic pollution in April was created by Canadian artist Benjamin Von Wong.

Continued on Page 23

Pour l'année scolaire 2024-2025

Implications du renouvellement du bail du 61 rue Main (Old Town Hall) et de Mazenod (88 rue Main) pour les élèves de l'école élémentaire catholique Au Cœur d'Ottawa

JOCELYNE CALOZ

Quoi qu'il y ait quelques avancements vis-à-vis le projet de l'École élémentaire catholique Au Cœur d'Ottawa, il y a de nouveau un retard pour que l'administration puisse accueillir les élèves dans le nouveau bâtiment à la rentrée scolaire 2024-2025. Celle-ci avait débordé été envisagée pour l'année 2022-23 et ensuite pour l'année 2023-2024.

Encore une fois, il y a eu un renouvellement du bail du 88 Main (De Mazenod) et 61 Main (Old Town Hall) afin d'assurer la continuité des apprentissages dans les lieux actuels de l'école pour l'année scolaire 2024-2025. On vous rappelle que le bâtiment Deschâtelets accueillera non seulement l'école, mais aussi des logements résidentiels et un centre communautaire de la Ville d'Ottawa. Cette collaboration implique divers partenaires et nécessite plusieurs actions.

Le renouvellement du bail l'année dernière a permis aux élèves de la maternelle à la 6e année de poursuivre leurs études à De Mazenod au 88 rue Main avec l'exception des 19 élèves de la 3e année qui bénéficient du 61 rue Main. En tout, Au Cœur d'Ottawa compte 152 élèves cette année.

Chloe et Lauren, deux sœurs qui fréquentent l'école, ont toutes les deux profité d'une année au 61 rue Main, Chloe, cette année en 3e et Lauren l'année passée

en 4e. Chloe trouve qu'elle peut mieux se concentrer car il y a moins de bruit autour et profiter de plus d'études dehors avec la proximité de la cour. Lauren indique qu'elle aimait beaucoup être en plus petit groupe avec ses collègues de classe qu'elle connaît depuis son arrivée à l'école. Les sœurs indiquent qu'elles adorent jouer sur les structures au 61 ; on voit leur talent dans la photo.

Les deux se trouvent chanceuses de faire partie d'une école qui renforce des sorties à des endroits stratégiques, tel que le Parlement, la bibliothèque Sunnyside, les églises proches, les visites en forêt qui offrent des leçons intéressantes. Elles sont toutes les deux ravies d'avoir maintenant l'occasion d'aller au gymnase d'une école avoisinante et de profiter des compétitions sportives et même de participer à des matchs des Ottawa 67s.

Pour l'année prochaine, afin d'accommoder une croissance d'élèves, le Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE) a prévu d'ajouter trois locaux supplémentaires au 88 rue Main, permettant d'accueillir près de 200 élèves au total. Donc, l'école continuera à localiser une seule classe au 61 rue Main. Le choix de la classe qui y siègera sera encore une fois déterminé par la direction.

Au niveau du fonctionnement quotidien, l'accueil et le départ en fin de journée continueront à se faire pour tous les élèves à partir du 88 rue Main comme

c'est le cas cette année. Par ailleurs, les élèves des 61 et 88 rue Main continueront à profiter d'activités communes telles que les récréations, le carnaval d'école et d'autres événements spéciaux. De plus, les rassemblements et spectacles continueront à avoir lieu dans des lieux communs.

Pour ce qui est du maintien du 61 rue Main, le CECCE, en tant que locataire, reste responsable du loyer, tandis que la Ville d'Ottawa s'occupe de l'entretien et de la réfection de la structure. La cour du bâtiment Old Town Hall étant publique, elle est utilisée pour l'apprentissage extérieur et communautaire. Le personnel scolaire continuera à assurer la supervision des élèves alors qu'ils utilisent la cour.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Chloe et Lauren, deux sœurs, qui ont profité des classes au 61 rue Main.

For some Au Coeur d'Ottawa students, delays in new building opening are not a cause for concern

Leases are renewed at 88 Main Street and the Old Town Hall for the 2024-2025 school year

JOCELYNE CALOZ

Although some progress has been made on the French Catholic elementary school, Au Coeur d'Ottawa, there is once again a delay before the administration can welcome students into the new building for the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Opening of the new school was originally planned for 2022-23 and then 2023-2024.

Once again, the leases on 88 Main Street (De Mazenod) and 61 Main Street (Old Town Hall) have been renewed to ensure continued operations in the school's current locations for the 2024-2025 school year. Recall that the Deschâtelets building will house not only the school, but also residential housing and a City of Ottawa community centre for Old Ottawa East. This collaboration involves a number of partners and requires a number of actions.

Last year's lease renewal allowed students from kindergarten to grade six to continue classes at De Mazenod, with the exception of the 19 grade three students who were located at the Old Town Hall. In all, Au Coeur d'Ottawa has 152 students this year.

Chloe and Lauren, two sisters who attend the school, have both enjoyed a year at 61 Main: for Chloe, this year in grade three and for Lauren, last year in grade four. Chloe finds that she can concentrate better because there's less noise around and she enjoys

Continued on Page 15



Au Coeur d'Ottawa students, Chloe and Lauren, have enjoyed their time spent at the temporary classroom at the Old Town Hall, and especially at the play structure in the courtyard.

No new school building, no worries for Au Coeur students

Continued from Page 14

more outdoor study because of the proximity of the courtyard. Lauren says she really enjoyed being in a smaller group with her classmates, whom she has known since she arrived at the school. The sisters say they love playing on the structures at 61 Main; their talent is evident in the accompanying photo.

Both sisters feel fortunate to be part of a school that reinforces outings to strategic locations, such as Parliament Hill, the Sunnyside Library, nearby churches, and forest tours that offer interesting lessons. They're both delighted to now have the opportunity to go to the gym at a nearby school and enjoy sports competitions and even attend Ottawa 67s games.

For next year, in anticipation of student growth, the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE) has planned to add three additional rooms at 88 Main Street, which will accommodate a total of nearly 200 students. As a result, the school will continue to have only one grade at 61 Main. The choice of grade will once again be determined by management.

In terms of day-to-day operations, all students will continue to meet at and leave from 88 Main, as is the case this year. In addition, students at both 61 and 88 will continue to share activities such as recess, the school carnival and other special events. In addition, gatherings and performances will continue to take place in common areas.

As for the maintenance of 61 Main, the CECCE, as tenant, remains responsible for the rent, while the City of Ottawa is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the play structure. As the courtyard of the Old Town Hall is public, it is available to the community for play and learning. School staff will continue to supervise students as they use the courtyard.

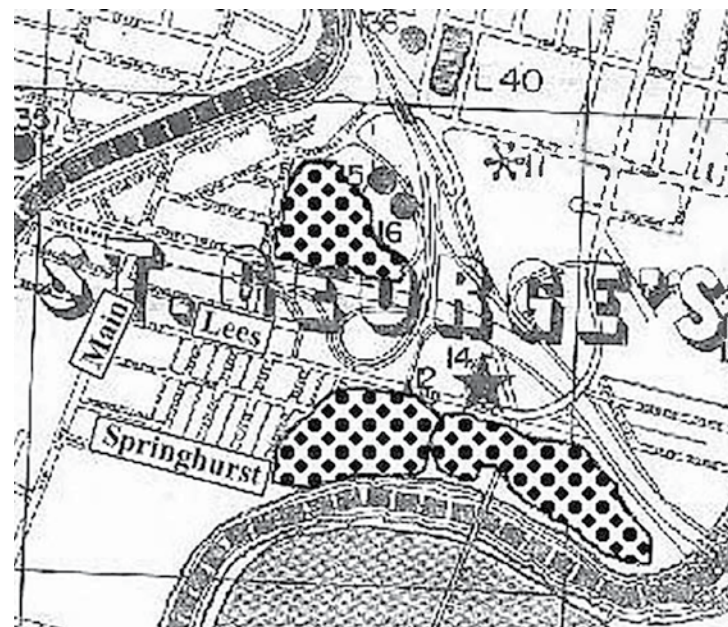
Managing pollution in OOE

Continued from Page 11

The Old Ottawa East Community Association has been prevented from planting trees in the Springhurst Park area because of the City's concern about disturbing contaminated soil.

On the other side of the Rideau River, a methane venting system was constructed to manage the methane generated by the landfill that was on the location of the Hurdman Station LRT station.

One other recent case of dealing with the legacy of contamination is the new Faculty of Health Sciences building on the uOttawa Lees campus. The university required Ministry of the Environment approval of its plan for dealing with contaminants.



The dotted areas in the above map show the extensive land fills that were at the end of Lees Avenue.



To learn more about the industrial activity in Old Ottawa

East read Rick Wallace's "History of Ottawa East" chapter on "Lees Avenue - Gas, Tar and Garbage," http://history.ottawaeast.ca/HTML%20Documents/Modern_History_after_1907/Lees%20Avenue.htm

Joel Harden

MPP, Ottawa Centre



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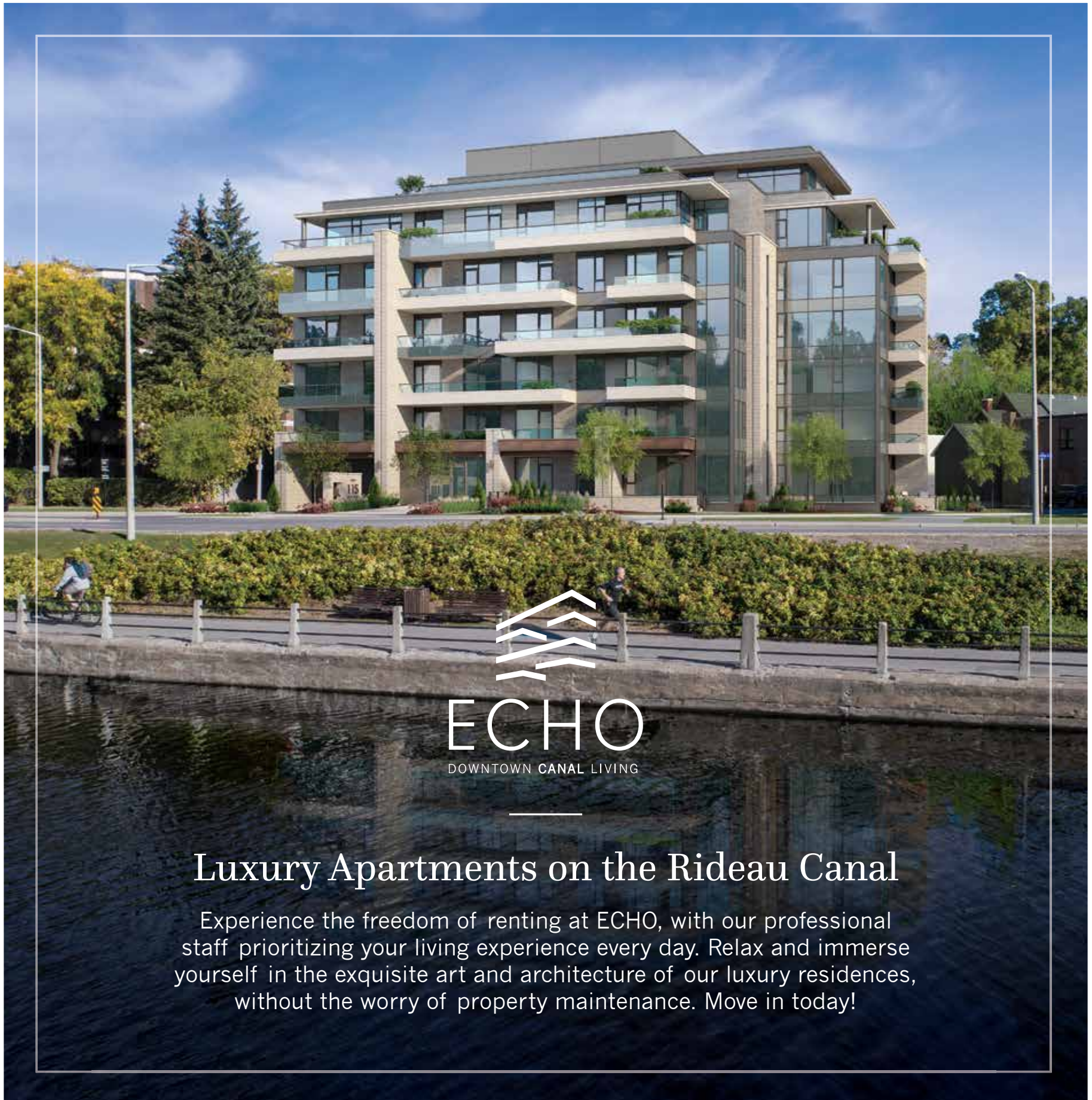
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FOOD AND DRINK

Old Ottawa East's secret gem

Tartelette Café and Bakery named Ottawa's Best Bakery at the 2024 Ottawa Awards gala

LORNE ABUGOV

It seems like the rest of Ottawa has now discovered the little secret that we here in Old Ottawa East (OOE) have known about since June 2023. Based on city-wide voting conducted by *FACES Magazine*, OOE's very own Tartelette Bakery & Café has been crowned as Ottawa's Best Bakery at the 2024 Ottawa Awards gala held recently at the Brookstreet Hotel in Kanata.

As one of five bakeries nominated for the award this past February, Tartelette's owner and head chef, Sanaz Homa, was among more than 500 guests in attendance at the *FACES* gala in March, billed as the National Capital Region's largest networking event of the year.

"I wasn't expecting to win an award," Homa admits in a recent interview. "It's been less than a year since we opened Tartelette last June. I just wanted to enjoy the gala because I was there with my friends, and because I had already been nominated as one of the top five bakeries, so for me, it was like I had already won."

"But when I saw our name up on the giant board at the gala, once I knew that we had won, I was so happy, it was amazing - certainly one of the very best moments of my life!"

For Homa, merely being nominated was a stunning surprise, one that provoked an emotional response. "It was this past February, sometime in the evening that I checked my email inbox. There was an email from *FACES Magazine* saying that Tartelette had been nominated for the best bakery in town."

"I had just finished a very long, very tiring and very bad day. So the moment I received and read that email, I burst out crying. I think it is the most surprising thing that has happened to me since I opened up this bakery," Homa recalls.

But awards are nothing new to the personable head chef at Tartelette, who was decorated prior to opening her bakery as the gold medal winner of her student class in the pastry division at Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa culinary school. Homa is a third generation chef and restaurateur, continuing a legacy of gourmet baking and dining that began with her grandfather who operated one of the most famous bakeries in his native Iran.

And while Tartelette is poised to celebrate its 1st anniversary at its location off of Main Street fronting the



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

Tartelette Café and Bakery owner and head chef Sanaz Homa pictured inside her bakery proudly displaying her award as Ottawa's Best Bakery 2024.

new Grande Allée Park, its reputation continues to grow with discerning pastry and coffee fans around Ottawa. According to Homa: "We have a long lineup of customers outside our bakery every Saturday and Sunday and, especially on Saturdays, it's non-stop from 8am until 6pm."

And she and her staff - which has now grown to 17, including seven pastry chefs - are gearing up for an even busier summer as the new and expanded OOE Farmers' Market opens up just outside her front patio at the Grande Allée.

Homa keeps careful track of the popularity of her tarts, cheesecakes and bread products. Likewise, Tartelette customers have also made clear their preferences from among the delectable baked items on display each day. "Our

most popular items are our chef's specialty, the Shirazi Tart and the favourite new item is the "crookie", which we introduced here in Ottawa two or three weeks ago," Homa says.

"The Shirazi Tart is one of around 11 tarts we offer, and it's the combination of pistachios and saffron that give the tart such an unusual and exotic taste. The "crookie" is a combination of chocolate chip cookies and a croissant, and it's very trendy and popular in Europe right now. Other bakeries in town are now starting to make crookies. I'm really happy to introduce trendy things to Ottawa for the first time, and when I see other bakeries start to pick up on our lead it makes me even happier."

Homa smiles as she discusses the support that Old Ottawa East residents

have given to Tartelette. "Really, I think I found the best community in Ottawa. From the very start, I really liked this location, this neighborhood and the lovely people here in Old Ottawa East. They have always supported me, and I just can't thank them enough for that support."

Homa is far too busy as a chef, working up to 60 hours a week - and as a wife and a mother to her teenage son - to allow her latest award and the success of Tartelette go to her head. As she noted in an interview with *The Mainstreeter* in early 2023, opening up her own bakery was the dream of her lifetime and now, that's a dream that has come true.

So, what's next for Tartelette? For Homa, her next goal is growth. "My goal is to have lots of branches for Tartelette in Canada, and maybe even in the United States. I'm thinking to open a location next, maybe in Toronto or Montreal, or maybe here in Ottawa. But I will wait until at least the summer so that we pass one year in business. And then, I definitely will be thinking about that second location, and maybe franchising."

"It's going to be a difficult challenge, but I am very good at finding solutions. My staff laughs at me. They say I have a solution for every problem. And they're correct - but I have no choice, right?" her smile provides the answer to her question, as she excuses herself and heads back to the kitchen.

Expanded dining and cooking coverage in *The Mainstreeter*

You spoke, and we listened! Through responses to our recent readership survey, we learned that 70% of our reader respondents wanted to see more food, cooking and dining out content in the pages of *The Mainstreeter*.

Beginning this issue, we are introducing expanded Food and Drink coverage under the direction of our new Food Editor Jill Wherrett. In coming issues, you will find an array of new content with an Old Ottawa East focus that "foodies" in the community will surely savour. Bon Appetit!

FOOD AND DRINK

My night out at Night Oat

Oat Couture's new persona is a mix of cosy wine bar and late-night café

JILL WHERRETT

Oat Couture on Bank Street has a new alter ego, Night Oat, transforming the casual daytime oatmeal bowl and coffee shop into a wine and cocktail bar by night.

This isn't the first time Oat Couture has donned a different identity. Following the café's opening in April 2018, owner Brian Montgomery launched Montgomery Scotch Lounge in early 2019, converting the space into a scotch bar in the evenings. Not long after, pandemic restrictions required its closure. When Montgomery expanded to a second Oat Couture location on Gladstone Street in 2021, he relocated the scotch lounge there, leaving the Bank Street space idle after dark.



Four crispy bacon-wrapped dates accompanied by a lemony feta dip proved to be a hit on Night Oat's small plates menu.

With no wine bar or late night café in the neighbourhood, Montgomery spotted an opportunity for a new night-time venue at his Bank Street location. "We were kicking people out of the café at 5 pm," he quipped. Montgomery envisioned a relaxed space where patrons could enjoy bar snacks, pre-dinner drinks or nightcaps – a place where "the community can have great wines" and "you never know who you'll meet."

In line with this vision, Night Oat, which opened on May 1, offers a concise menu of snacks and small plates that will change seasonally, complemented by a rotating selection of wines chosen by a wine merchant, cocktails, local beers, and the full Oat Couture coffee lineup.

During several visits to Night Oat, my companions and I were greeted promptly with water and a bowl of "mingle mix," reminiscent of classic Chex Mix. Service was friendly and relaxed, in keeping with the laid-back ambiance. The current menu features six simple items, five savoury and one sweet. We sampled three nibbles, all of which pleased us. Bacon-wrapped dates (\$12) showcased four plump dates swathed in well-crisped bacon and accompanied by a lemony feta dip that offset the richness of the dates. A red pepper dip (\$14) served with oat chips had bright flavours that struck a balance of sweetness and spice. Smoked sausage bites (\$12) were simply slices of sausage but were nicely grilled and paired with a tangy honey mustard sauce and sauerkraut.

The sole sweet item – boozy brownies (\$10) – was a checkerboard of warm Fireball-spiked blondies and rum-laced brownies, topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Best to be a fan of cinnamon if you try these, as the Fireball flavour comes through in the blondie. Although I found the gooey texture more preferable in the brownie than the blondie, the dessert was a satisfying treat.

From the list of six cocktails (\$12-\$17), I opted for the Bad Blood (\$12). This pretty gin and blood orange concoction topped with foamy egg white had a vibrant sweet citrus flavour with a hint of bitterness. We also sampled the alcohol-free Apple Crisp, a fresh-tasting blend of apple cider infused with vanilla syrup and garnished with nutmeg – a sophisticated mocktail, not a dressed-up kid cocktail.

Six wines were on offer: a prosecco, a rosé, two whites and two reds, priced from \$16 to \$19 per glass, along with a variety of local beers by the can. While servers were still familiarizing themselves with the cocktail and wine details on our visits, they readily provided written descriptions.

With its attractive brick walls, exposed ceiling beams and pendant lights casting a glow over the bar, the venue is a cosy space well-suited to its evening persona. To complete the twilight transformation, further enhancements, including live music and a patio liquor licence, are in the works.

Night Oat is located at 1154 Bank St and is open seven evenings a week, from 5-11 pm Sunday to Thursday and 5 pm – 12 am Friday and Saturday.



JILL WHERRETT PHOTOS

The Bad Blood cocktail of gin, blood orange and foamy egg white featured a sweet citrus flavour and a hint of bitterness.

FOOD AND DRINK

JFUSE opens at last, much delayed, much anticipated

Paying the price for top-notch sushi, premium sake

PETER TOBIN

The announcement that the JFUSE aburi & bar was opening at last resembled the style of its chef/owner James Park - quiet, low-key efficiency. A small white sheet of paper was posted on the restaurant window mid-week in late April stating only that “We are open Friday at 5:00 pm.”

That Friday was April 26, about six weeks ago now. The soft opening was a surprisingly inauspicious Day One for the restaurant so long awaited by residents and passersby who for months had been teased by the ‘Coming Soon’ banner hanging outside the premises at Units 3 & 4 of the Shops at Millieu at 175 Main Street.

While not originally from Vancouver, Park spent his teenage and young adult years there. After marriage, Park and his wife decided to move to Ottawa for family reasons. His wife’s cousins lived here and she often talked about wanting to be closer to her family. The Parks arrived in Ottawa in May 2018 and by late fall they had opened their small sushi restaurant, J:UNIQUE on Cooper Street. That venture

was and still is successful and very popular, but the Parks had a grander vision in mind.

The couple had enjoyed dining in casual but upscale Japanese restaurants in other Canadian cities but found nothing in Ottawa that replicated that style. In an email exchange with *The Mainstreeter*, Park wrote, “We wanted to create a restaurant where people of all ages, from young adults to seniors, could enjoy premium sake along with delicious food.” Hence, the new aburi and bar. Aburi, translated from Japanese means ‘flame seared.’ The restaurant’s Instagram page describes JFUSE as a “Japanese culinary experience.”

Word on the street from neighbours who have already frequented Old Ottawa East’s newest restaurant focused without exception on the high quality of the food. “You can’t find sushi like that anywhere else in Ottawa,” one satisfied diner told me. He noted however, as did others, that the delicious fare was expensive.

With the delay caused by supply chain issues and a technical problem well behind them, the JFUSE team is planning on a grand opening with a significant menu



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Well-lit and spacious, the interior of JFUSE aburi & bar invites diners into the new Japanese cuisine restaurant where signature sushi and sake await.

update and price adjustments. There is no fixed date yet for the grand opening but the team is working diligently to make it

happen.

JFUSE aburi & bar is open 6 days a week from 5 to 10 pm. It is closed on Tuesdays.



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OLD OTTAWA EAST'S FARMERS' MARKET



A history of tenacity, triumphs and trials

Continued from Page 1

JOHN DANCE PHOTO

But back to the Market - here's a brief timeline of the tenacity, triumphs and trials that led to the current moment. After successful "pilot testing" in August 2007, the MFM saw its first full season of operation in 2008 under the stewardship of Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE). Founding contributors were many, but notably included Sean Whittaker, Akua Shatz and Sarah Rowe. Chantal Beauvais, Vice-Rector at Saint Paul University (SPU) at the time, did some heroic track-clearing to enable the community to use the main parking lot at SPU.

Range of hosts for MFM

For seven seasons, SPU served as the home for MFM, at which point the reconstruction of Main Street necessitated a move. The Museum of Nature was the unlikely but greatly appreciated "bridge" location for the subsequent two years until the move back to OOE. Unfortunately, the return timing coincided with work by SPU to resurface its parking lot. Happily, Green Door co-founder Ron Farmer, an ardent supporter of the Market from its inception, came to the rescue by offering the parking lot beside Singing Pebble Books.

The range of hosts of the MFM - a university, a national museum, a commercial proprietor, and a developer - is testimony to both the perseverance of community organizers, and the broadly recognized value and appeal of local farmers markets.

At the time of its founding, the MFM was purportedly the only community-run farmers market in Ontario; and OOE volunteers continued to operate the MFM until this year, when it was happily merged into the Ottawa Farmers Market family. In its initial few years, the MFM even functioned as a social enterprise for SLOE, in the sense that it generated some modest revenues in excess of expenses that were used to support other projects like the Children's Garden.

Fencing woes mar opening

Literally hundreds of volunteers saw the MFM through its many years, and all

deserve appreciation. But Sue Cavanaugh and Cynthia Dwyer in particular were steady hands at the tiller through its numerous challenging transitions. Their drive to keep the market alive was given a huge boost in 2016, when Regional Group, the new owners of the Oblate lands that were to become Greystone Village, committed to hosting the Market in the Grande Allée when it was ready to open. The initial estimate pegged that timing as 2020!

Important passages seldom if ever happen without setbacks and glitches. And so it was that those involved in planning for the first Grande Allée season were exasperated to discover just weeks before opening that the Market would not initially be permitted to operate at full capacity due to the vulnerability of the new sod and grass seed on the south side of the Grande Allée, where tall fencing remains in place.

Vendors, shoppers enthusiastic

As noted by Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard, who joined in at the opening day festivities: "The community has been waiting a long time for this green space, and we want to see it fully utilized." His office had already received many complaints about the fencing and is working with staff to hasten its removal, which will coincide with the transfer of ownership of the Park from Regional Group to the City. The goal is for vendors to be lining both sides of the Grande Allée - as originally intended - by early summer.

Meanwhile, though, opening day did accommodate 30 of the total 45 confirmed vendors for this season, and marketgoers were enthusiastic. John Reilly-Roe and his young family, who made the trip over from the Glebe, expressed the widely shared view that "the new location is awesome." Others noted that the set-up is intimate in feeling, yet spacious, easy to navigate, and appealingly shade dappled. Rebecca Grace and Gerry Grace, who moved into Greystone three years ago, love that they can "leave the door and be here in two minutes." They enjoyed both the pleasure of getting to know the vendors, and the satisfaction

of using their buying power to support the hard work and unique offerings of local producers. Yolande Mennie, a market goer since the very first year of the MFM, was happy to see the opportunity for expansion afforded by the new location, and optimistic that expanded choice will attract more customers.

The opening day vendors were also very pleased. For Steve Roberts, proprietor and chief beekeeper of The Barking Bee, this first year as a MFM vendor is off to a great start with good sales and good conversations with market-goers curious to know more about who makes the honey (the bees, not Steve)! Nate Hevvel of Kings Lock Distillery is also a first timer but already enthusiastic about the

location and the clients.

For Sue Cavanaugh, outgoing MFM chair, and Steph Kittmer, general manager of the Ottawa Farmers Market, this day was the sweet reward of their collaborative efforts to bring the MFM under OFM's management, and to establish a flourishing future for the Market at the Grande Allée. For Kittmer, "Taking on the Main Farmers' Market was a natural given that our producer-only mandate and even our vendor selection have overlapped for many years. It's been a rewarding experience to help the Main Street Farmers' Market get settled in its forever home."



NANCY BELL PHOTO

Main Farmers' Market volunteers celebrate a successful launch at Grande Allée Park. FRONT ROW (l to r): Ian McDonald, David Coyne, Cynthia Dwyer, Greer Knox, Brett Weddle; BACK ROW (l to r): Jamie Brougham, Sue Cavanaugh, Susan Young, Rebecca Aird, Christine MacIntyre.



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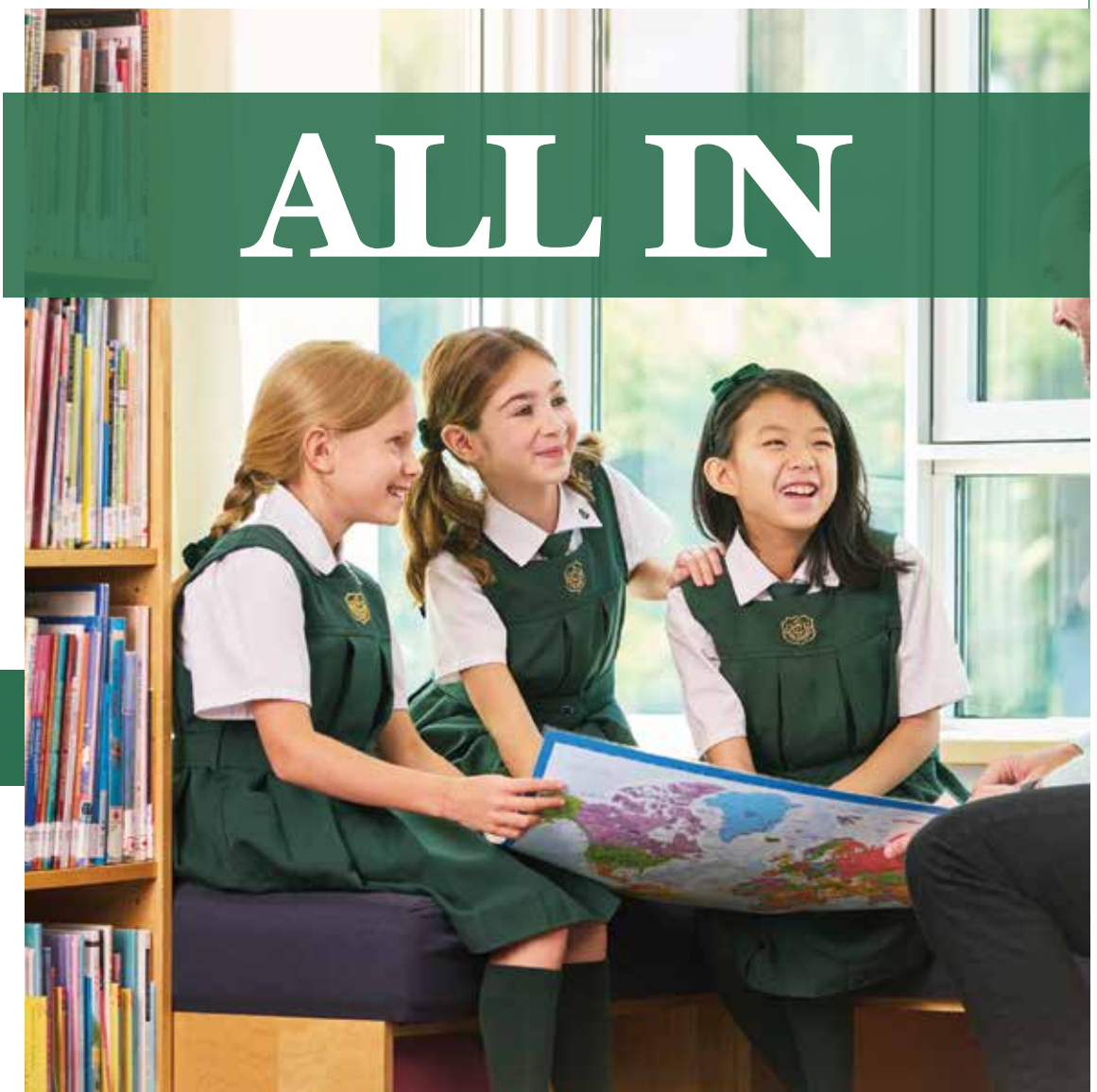
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Efforts underway in OOE to combat plastic pollution

Continued from Page 13

make use of refillable and reusable containers where possible. OOE businesses such as Nu Grocery, Sula Wok and The Green Door work hard to limit plastic pollution and other waste in their daily operations.



You can get involved in clean-up efforts in our community, from spring and fall clean-up of our parks to the Rideau River annual shoreline clean-up, which results in a great deal of plastic waste disposal. News about these events and how to volunteer for them can be found at the Old Ottawa East

Community Association's website (<https://ottawaeast.ca/>) and Facebook groups like Old Ottawa East Grapevine (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/418476431651845>) and Sustainable Living Ottawa East (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1715001208694810>). More information on plastic pollution is at: <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-4>.



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ART BEAT



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OOE ARTIST FEATURE: OTTAWA'S GUITAR HERO TONY D MUSES ON HOME- TOWN IMPACT AND ARTISTIC EVOLUTION

Whether Tony Diteodoro's influences rise from the delta or the desert, he is devoted to music and acknowledges that his Ottawa roots have had a meaningful impact on his 40+ year career. Diteodoro (Tony D) is guitarist, writer, and producer for the Juno-award winning band Monkey Junk and guitarist, writer, producer, band leader, and vocalist for The Tony D Band. His first love is the blues, but he has explored various music forms, including flamenco. Reviewers have called him "guitar hero" and described his sets as "rip-roaring."

He was born in Pescara, Italy. "In 1968, we crossed the Atlantic, moving to Canada for a better life. We knew nothing about winter. My uncle had come to Ottawa for work opportunities and healthcare." Ottawa has been home for Diteodoro ever since. "I attended Elgin Street public school, Glashan, and Lisgar. I continued at Glebe Collegiate after being kicked out of Lisgar, but missed a final exam because I had a gig that day."

Diteodoro considers whether he would

have developed in the same way as a musician if he had stayed in Italy or ended up in Toronto. "I believe that we all have a calling, but I'm not sure that I would have had the same opportunities in those other places."

When Diteodoro was 12, his brother would bring home the rock and blues records he still listens to today. "We were always saving money to buy music and listened to Chez 106 and CHOM FM (out

of Montreal) constantly. Blues/jazz radio programs and Don Kirshner's live TV rock shows were my early musical education. I started learning guitar at 13."

One day Diteodoro realized that blues music was the foundation of everything he'd been listening to. "It hit me like a jolt and struck with such a force! I loved the repetitive form with its improvisational component. I took six months of guitar lessons before my teacher left. Then my dad

A finger on the pulse of the arts in OOE



PETER FOWLER PHOTOS

Hometown guitar guru Tony D has done it all in the music industry in Ottawa and has played together with the likes of Buddy Guy and Stevie Ray Vaughan over a storied career.

said: 'Listen to the music. You've got those notes on your guitar. Figure them out.'

At 15, Diteodoro started a band called High Society. "We made \$11 at our first show. At 16, I played in an Italian wedding band, but that wasn't for me. Larry Mootham from The Downstairs Club on Rideau hired me shortly after that, and we soon became the house band. When they brought in blues guitarist/singer Buddy Guy I got to play rhythm guitar for him at 19! I played with drummer Ross Murray, the sound engineer for Happy Rock Studios. Ross eventually moved his studio to Lees Avenue (OOE). I recorded three albums there. And when I played with Stevie Ray Vaughan at the NAC it changed my life."

Diteodoro taught OOE students instrumental blues at the Ottawa Folklore Centre. "I may not have been a great teacher, but I learned a lot. I got into different styles of music and developed better technique because of my work with the musicians/coaches there."

Diteodoro met Monkey Junk's Steve Marriner in Ottawa when Marriner was just 13. "He was 22 years younger than me and a great harmonica player. His dad would drive him over to play with me. When Steve eventually got a house gig at Irene's Pub on Sundays he asked if I would play with him. We both played guitar along with drummer Matt Sobb. The name Monkey Junk came from hearing an old-timey blues musician use the term as meaning 'nonsense.' Soon we had line-ups out the door. Eventually, we thought, why not record something!"

In 2012, Monkey Junk won a Juno. "The ceremony was right here in our hometown. We even presented two awards during

Continued on Page 25



SUPPLIED PHOTOS



LEFT: Tony D began honing his guitar skills as a 13-year-old and wonders whether he would have had as many opportunities in music had he not spent his career in Ottawa; RIGHT: Meeting a young Steve Marriner paved the way for collaboration and huge success with their Juno award winning trio, Monkey Junk.

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: Behind a cluster of local shops, down an alley, past a parking area, adjacent to a dumpster and a pile of wooden pallets, a playful floral mural emerges from beneath a fire escape brightening the corner of an otherwise unremarkable scene.

I spotted it by accident on an evening walk, the spray of colour catching my eye for the first time, though I walk right by this lane on a regular basis. From an Urban Sketcher's point of view, I often find the back of a building as interesting (sometimes more) to draw as the front and further



investigation gave me a pleasant surprise. It turns out that this is the tail end of the lively mural featuring the bright red cardinal on the parking lot wall of the Singing Pebble Book Store. It was painted in 2019 by 25 young people as part of the Public Works-funded and Community and Social Services-administered "Paint it up!" initiative.

I am charmed that the mural wraps around the building to beautify this seldom-seen corner, like a hearty plant fighting

its way through a crack in the asphalt to blossom in the sun.

Tony D's career marked by musical evolutions and maturity

Continued from Page 24

the live TV show. Lots of doors opened up for us after that: interviews, tours, and funding for recording. We won another Juno in 2018 and have had three nominations."

Performing live continues to be Diteodoro's life force. "As people age, their drive to work sometimes diminishes. For me, at 61, it seems to have gone the opposite way. I love playing. I've had all kinds of time in the arts, musical evolutions, and musical maturity."

Diteodoro believes that when playing music, age dissolves. "One of the best shows I've seen was Robert Plant and Alison Krauss. Plant is not doing a tribute to himself; he has evolved, and their music together is sophisticated and lovely. He seems to enjoy being his age, jowls and all, and plays genuinely new material."

Diteodoro has played Ottawa's Rainbow Bistro more than any other artist. "I'm still playing at the Rainbow and Irene's; I

love house concerts and the people who come out to them; I play festivals here; I recently toured three towns in Italy; and Monkey Junk is playing festivals all over the world."

Diteodoro finds recording stressful. "If I'm not convinced it's good, I keep trying to fix it." Despite that, he has recorded five records with Monkey Junk (Stony Plain Records) and will be releasing another Tony D Band album called Electric Delta this November (Cordova Bay Records). "We're putting the finishing touches on it now." For more on Tony D, go to: www.tonyguitarro.com.

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

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OOE residents extend a helping hand to Cornerstone Women's Housing in a time of need

LORI GANDY

More than 1200 women in Ottawa are homeless or living in precarious, often dangerous situations, according to an executive with Cornerstone Women's Housing, an Ottawa-based shelter.

Sadie Kotze, the Communications and Development Officer for the women's shelter, told a group of Old Ottawa East (OOE) supporters of Cornerstone in late May that the organization has recently moved its emergency shelter to a larger, more modern facility, thereby increasing its capacity from 61 to 150 beds. The enlarged emergency shelter will provide vulnerable women with a safe place to stay, and what Kotze described as "wrap around" care to help them in the very personalized ways they need.

Cornerstone finds itself in great need of many household items for the expanded emergency shelter, including towels, face cloths and pillows. Support from the group of OOE residents at the May gathering on Mutchmor Road

proved to be overwhelming. At the end of the meeting, two carloads of pillows, towels, face cloths and gift cards were delivered for the women housed at the new emergency shelter.



If you would like to learn more about Cornerstone, and/or contribute with nearly new household items or a donation, go to

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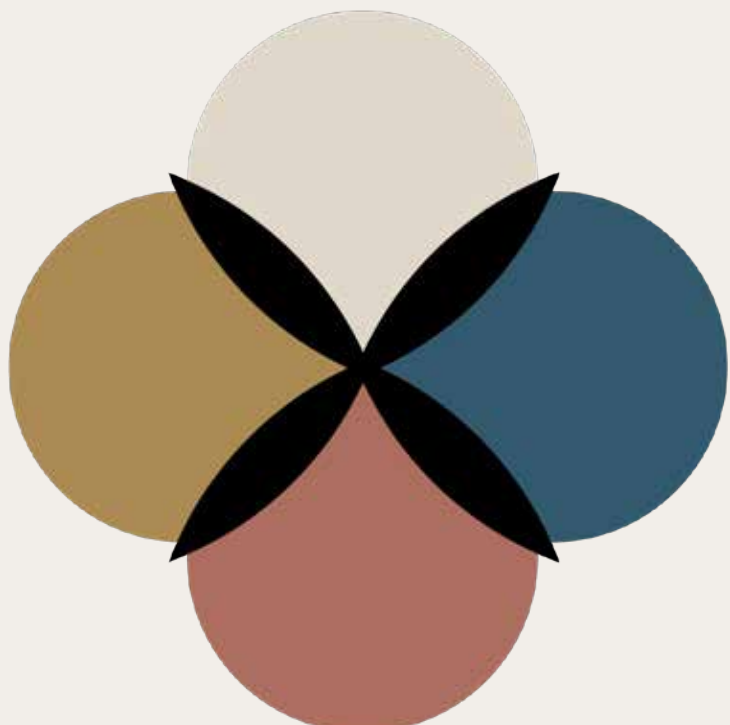
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OPINION

Let's make the Rideau River Corridor an Urban National Park

JAMIE BROUGHAM

I remember back in the 1980's, when I lived on Glen Avenue, I hardly knew that the Rideau River existed. I did not engage with it, in part because it was not as clean as it is now and all of the public attention was focused on the Rideau Canal, with its skating and boat parades - even the Pope had a ride on it. There was little interest in the Rideau River.

By contrast today, for the growing numbers of people in the know, the river is every bit as interesting as the Canal. From Mooney's Bay to the Ottawa River, the river corridor is mostly green with interesting vegetation, wildlife, and geographical features. There are bull rushes, flowers, turtles, fish, hunting birds, and so many more plants and animals. Parts of the river are fast moving, while other parts are more still, like lakes; some parts are deep, while in other spots you can walk across.

In the middle of our City of a million inhabitants, it's astounding that one can still be completely alone on the water, in an absorbing, wide-open space. Want a little drama in your life? Get out on the river when the ice is breaking up, or when the clouds are menacingly low, or when there's a misty haze early on a summer morning.

To facilitate some access, the City now put docks in on the west side of the Rideau. With more people paddling, the waterway starts to have that cottagey island feel, as it should, since the land between the river and the Canal is actually an island. It is unique and its engagement should be facilitated.

Most remain unaware

But like me in the 1980s, most area residents remain unaware of the great environmental, sustainable social resource that is the Rideau River, and that needs to change.

If our governments want to do Ottawa a favour, they might designate the whole Rideau River corridor an urban park, particularly on the East side where there's less shoreline development. For its part, Parks Canada has declared that it wants to create National Urban Parks across the country. Sadly, though, the NCC, which controls most of the eastern shoreline, says that its official plan includes nothing with respect to the urban Rideau River corridor.

So it is that, with the support of several community associations, lovers of the river corridor are advocating for the eastern shore of the Rideau from Mooney's Bay to the Ottawa River to be Ottawa's Urban National Park. The NCC says it's willing to work with local communities and partners who may wish to do something with its lands in the Capital Region. I would argue that Parks Canada is a suitable partner, and an NCC/Parks Canada collaboration would provide a great opportunity to involve local communities in the planning as well.

Achieving a healthy balance

With a national park to enhance our urban natural environment, we can take a huge stride forward to create a better social resource, to help mitigate our City's heat island effect and to offset the effects of global warming. Residents needn't travel out of the City to escape the heat - they could enjoy the great outdoors right in the heart of town. Visitors to the Capital can enjoy quick access to a naturalized, waterfront park displaying a little of what makes Canada so special. Hurdman "Park", a reasonably large, forested area in the middle of the corridor, is only a couple of LRT stops from downtown and is easily accessed by bike or on foot. A proposed footbridge that would span Clegg Avenue and the park would facilitate a short ride to the Rideau Canal, Flora Footbridge, Lansdowne Park, and historic Bank Street.

The pandemic and its aftermath have shown us the importance of achieving a healthy balance between economic, social, and natural resources in our communities. Working together to develop a beautiful Urban National Park in the heart of Ottawa is a proposal worthy of backing by all of us in this community.

You can show your support by writing your elected representatives to let them know that a national urban park along the Rideau River Corridor is an idea that you support. Share with them your thoughts on what could make it great and, hopefully, in the not too distant future, we can all build a bridge for others to follow.

Jamie Brougham is an Old Ottawa East Resident and a Rideau River enthusiast - on it, in it, and down both of its sides!



OOE resident Jamie Brougham believes the year-round beauty of the Rideau River Corridor makes the lands a natural choice for a new Urban National Park.



JAMIE BROUGHAM PHOTOS

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POLITICAL PAGES

SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR, CAPITAL WARD

SHAWN.MENARD@OTTAWA.CA
SHAWNMENARD.CA



CITY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONTINUES, AND A POTENTIALLY BIG IMPACT ON SPRINGHURST PARK

In Capital Ward, we're lucky to have a number of inviting public spaces that can be enjoyed all year round. Recently, I had a meeting at Springhurst Park, and I was able to enjoy the river path on my way there and back.

My team and I were at Springhurst to chat with City transportation staff. Over the course of the next 12 months, the City will be updating and finalizing our new Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The last TMP was passed in 2013, so it's certainly time for an update, especially as travel patterns, modes of transportation and remote work have changed people's transportation needs.

Alta Vista Transportation Corridor

The field beside Springhurst Park has been dubbed (unofficially) the "People's Park," and we chose to meet staff there because, under the old TMP, that field—that park—is supposed to be paved over to create the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC).

The AVTC is a plan that stretches back to the middle of the last century. It would see a freeway cut through neighbourhoods between Conroy Road and the Nicholas Street on-ramp.

The rationale for the AVTC has become outdated. We know that building more roads for cars does nothing to improve congestion. It just leads to more driving, more traffic, more noise and more pollution.

We also know that parks are incredibly important in our urban areas. They provide space for activity and community, combat the heat island effect, help provide cleaner air, and improve people's mental health.

As part of the TMP, we are working to get the AVTC out of Old Ottawa East and to save the People's Park. Perhaps the AVTC could serve as a useful transit corridor connecting to Hurdman Station, but there's no value in having it cross the river and cut through to Lees Avenue.

At the time of writing this, City staff are expecting to release the results of Ottawa's Origin-Destination study sometime in early June. This study is exactly what it sounds like: an examination of where residents need to travel to and from. Results of the study will help Councillors figure out what we need out of our transportation network and transit.

From there, the City will begin doing public consultations as they work towards a first draft of the new TMP. We expect that draft to come closer to the end of the year, and staff should begin another round of public consultations in early 2025.

Our office will also be holding public consultations on the TMP and the AVTC. It's important that you make your voice heard to save Springhurst Park and keep a freeway from carving up the neighbourhood.

We will keep residents up-to-date on public consultations through our newsletter. You can email us at CapitalWard@ottawa.ca to subscribe.

Grande Allée Park Opening

On Mother's Day weekend, I had a great time at the opening of Grande Allée Park, and the return of the Main Farmers' Market to Old Ottawa East. It was great to see so many people come out and enjoy their neighbourhood. I know this park will be well used and well loved by the community.

Unfortunately, there was a little disappointment at the event, too. One part of the park was fenced off to protect newly planted grass that was still growing. This section of the park is still owned by the developer, but we are pushing to have them switch from seeding the lawn to laying sod, so that the City can take over the park as quickly as possible this summer and get it open to the public.

JOEL HARDEN MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

COMMUNITY OFFICE
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SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE ARE DENIED THEIR DAY IN COURT, AND THEIR DAY AT QUEEN'S PARK

We are nearing the end of the spring session at Queen's Park. It's a time when patience is low, and emotions run high. Unfortunate things are bound to take place.

But even with that caveat, something happened recently that was truly disappointing.

Advocates had come to support Bill 198 (or Lydia's Law), an initiative from MPP Catherine Fife to address the shocking amount of sexual assault cases thrown out of court, given current backlogs.

Survivors, MPP Fife noted, are doubly harmed when this happens. Local lawyers tell me the Ottawa Courthouse is now quadruple-booked, giving survivors grim prospects for justice. 1,326 sexual assault trials were withdrawn or stayed across Ontario in 2022 alone.

MPP Fife had proposed Bill 198 to shift in a different direction. The legislation was based on an assessment from Ontario's Auditor General five years ago; it would require the Attorney General to provide statistics to the Legislative Assembly on the progress of sexual assault cases that have been in the system for eight months and not heard, and report on why. Bill 198 was named after a young sexual assault survivor who endured two years of court delays.

Survivors from across Ontario had planned to watch the debate on Bill 198 this week in person, but that moment was taken away when the government used its majority to send Lydia's Law to committee without debate at Second Reading. MPP Fife was incensed, and that was a sentiment that was widely shared in all opposition caucuses.

"This is a slap in the face," MPP Fife said, "to the hundreds of survivors and advocates we are expecting in attendance for this incredibly important debate. This Bill will introduce measures to help the survivors of sexual assault seek justice. And the PCs don't want to hear it? If they think they can silence the voices of survivors – they need to think again."

The government insisted they had different motives, and wanted to send Lydia's Law to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy committee right away so it could be studied in tandem with Bill 173, the Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act that I have discussed before. They claimed this was a way to "expedite" the legislation.

But the only thing expedited was the government's exposure to debate on Bill 198, and the throngs of advocates poised to fill the galleries. This is what happened for Bill 173, which was among the most powerful days I have seen at Queen's Park. Survivors of violence are fed up and are organizing for change. It is our responsibility as elected officials to respond.

It is unacceptable that survivors of violence are denied their day in court, and for Bill 198, their day at Queen's Park. But we will keep mobilizing for justice. Stay tuned here for updates.

POLITICAL PAGES

YASIR NAQVI MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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



WORKING HARD TO DELIVER PHARMACARE

It's springtime in Ottawa! Our community of Ottawa Centre — the home of the Canadian Tulip Festival — is such a special place for all Canadians to visit during this season. Since 1953, hundreds of thousands of people have enjoyed this remarkable spring tradition - for free. I am grateful for the \$130,000 grant from the federal government to keep the festival affordable and accessible for everyone. I hope, just like me, you got the chance to visit the beautiful tulips that bloomed all across our neighbourhoods.

This spring has also seen the continuation of our annual Mother's

Day tree giveaway! This initiative is part of my commitment to help restore and enhance our community's urban tree canopy. Planting more trees in the downtown core will improve air quality as well as provide shade to cool our City through the hot summer months. It's one of the most effective ways to counter the impact of climate change. I am grateful to CAFES Ottawa and volunteers from the Mechanicsville Community Association for partnering in this important project.

In the House of Commons, as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, I have been focussed on

passing Bill C-64, historic legislation that establishes a framework for national universal pharmacare in Canada, including free coverage for contraception and diabetes medications. Last February, I was thrilled to join the Minister of Health, Hon. Mark Holland, at the Centretown Community Health Centre to announce the creation of the pharmacare program.

The Bill also mandates the Canadian Drug Agency to work towards the development of a national formulary, develop a national bulk purchasing strategy, and support the publication of a pan-Canadian strategy regarding the appropriate use of prescription medications.

This legislation is an important step forward to improve health equity, affordability, and outcomes, and has the potential of long-term savings to the health care system. In Budget 2024, the federal government announced \$1.5 billion over five years to support the launch of the national pharmacare framework, specifically covering contraception and diabetes medications.

In particular, Bill C-64 lays out our plan for universal, single-payer coverage for contraception and diabetes medications. This will mean nine million women and gender diverse Canadians all

across the country can get access to the contraception and reproductive autonomy they deserve. It will also help more than three and half million Canadians living with diabetes get the medication and resources they need.

In addition, in 2023, the federal government announced measures in support the first-ever National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases, with an investment of up to \$1.5 billion over three years to help increase access to, and affordability of, effective drugs for rare diseases. Bill C-64 commits to providing a model for long-term funding through bilateral agreements with provinces and territories.

All this important work builds on the Canadian Dental Care Plan that, since May 1st, has allowed hundreds of seniors in our community to get access to oral care. Please visit www.canada.ca/dental to check eligibility and register for the first-in-kind program in Canada.

As we wind our way into the hot summer months, please stay safe and enjoy all that our wonderful capital city has to offer. If you need any information or assistance, please contact my Community Office at 613-946-8682 or email Yasir.Naqvi@parl.gc.ca.

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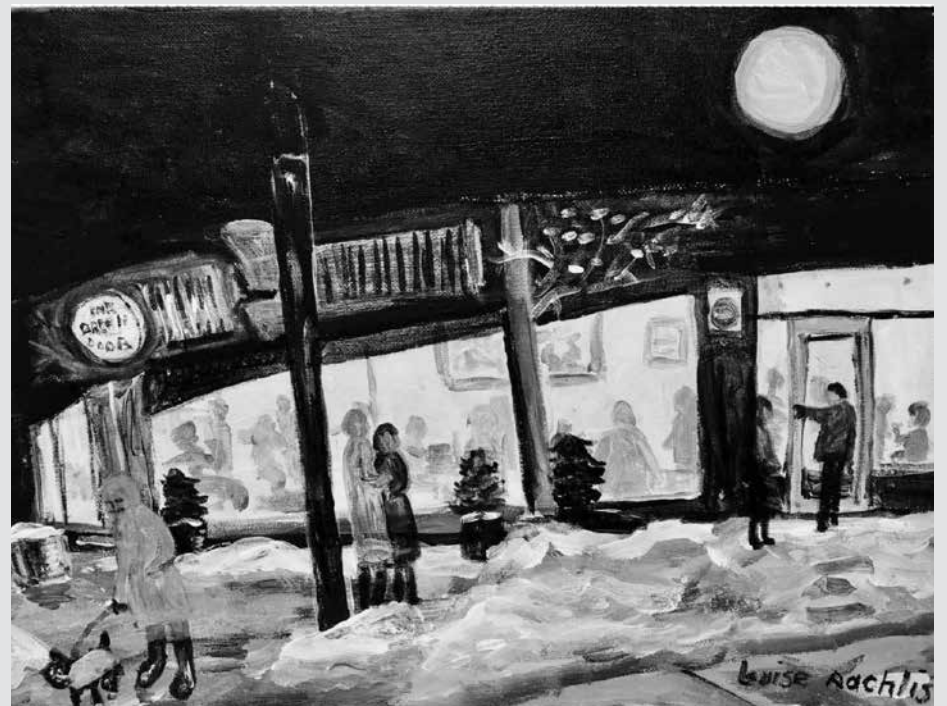
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STEVE FICK



LOUISE RACHLIS

*****Please contact The Mainstreeter at ooe.awalkofart@gmail.com if:***

- You are an artist residing or working in Old Ottawa East and you'd like to exhibit your artwork as part of *A Walk of Art 2024*
- You are a young artist of 16 years of age and under and want to exhibit your artwork as part of the Children's Art Exhibit

*****Please contact The Mainstreeter at editor@mainstreeter.com if:***

- You are interested in volunteering to help us organize *A Walk of Art 2024* or the Children's Art Exhibit
- You are a community member who wants more information about *A Walk of Art 2024* or the Children's Art Exhibit

*****Please contact Ben at bencrks@gmail.com if:***

- You are a business owner who supports local art and would like sponsorship information about *A Walk of Art 2024*

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BE THE CHANGE



MIKE LIZOLA ROCHA PHOTOS

Conservation Award conferred upon local group working to protect endangered turtles

Deserved recognition for The Turtles of Old Ottawa East and South

PHYLLIS ODENBACH SUTTON

Members of The Turtles of Old Ottawa East and South (Turtles) announced in April that the group has been presented with the prestigious 2023 Conservation Award by the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the cause of natural history conservation in the Ottawa Valley, and in particular, for their innovative work in helping to preserve and protect turtles in Ottawa. The Conservation Award announcement was posted on April 20th by François Lavallée (one of the original founders of the Turtles' private Facebook group which now numbers around 925 members).

The Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club (OFNC), which was founded in 1863, is the oldest natural history club in Canada. Its members participate in many aspects of the natural world, from birding to botanizing, investigation to publication, conservation to cooperation.

OFNC awards have been conferred on an (almost) annual basis since 1992, with most of them being presented to club members. But the club's Conservation Award is one dedicated to non-members of OFNC, and normally results from a nomination process. In this case, according to Lavallée, the Turtles organization had no advance warning that it was to receive the 2023 Conservation Award.

Previous recipients of the Conservation Award have been recognized for youth engagement, for the protection of specific natural areas and wet lands, for the preservation of species, for modifying habitats in certain areas to assist endangered species, for championing water resources, and for education efforts. To date, there have been a number of conservation awards presented to individuals and groups for efforts in turtle conservation – in Lanark County, at the Britannia Conservation Area, for turtle crossing signs along highways in southeastern Ontario, and now to this community's own local group.

The Turtles group came into being in 2021 when a group of residents in the Brewer Park to Brantwood Park area along the Rideau River came together to build nest protectors to keep turtle eggs safe from predators. The now-thriving Turtles of Old Ottawa East and South Facebook group was formed to link people together, to share information about turtle nesting sites and to provide hatching updates. A website was subsequently created

[linktr.ee/turtlesOOES], and an email address [turtles.ooes@gmail.com] is now available for non-Facebook users to communicate the location of nests or hatchlings.

The group's efforts have been growing steadily. In their first year, 2021, nesting season had already begun so only about 12 nests were protected by cages. In 2022, approximately 20 nests were located and protected, while last year over 40 protectors were installed. Although the overwhelming majority of nests protected have been for snapping turtles, two to four painted turtles' nests have also been protected over the last several years.

A large part of this growth in efforts can be attributed to the increasing awareness of residents in Old Ottawa East and South; the 30 - 40 Facebook members at inception grew to between 100 and 200 people by the end of the first season. Now at close to 1000 members, the community network has more eyes on the ground to spot egg-laying turtles so that nest protectors can be quickly installed. The sites can also be routinely checked throughout the incubation period. When hatchlings are spotted, the volunteer network puts up signs and writes chalk messages to alert pedestrians and cyclists to watch out as the small turtles start their journey to the river.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Members of Turtles of Old Ottawa East and South from (l) to (r) Mike Lizola Rocha, Greg MacDougall and François Lavallée receive their award certificate from Jakob Mueller, President of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club.

*Phyllis Odenbach Sutton is herself a proud member of the Turtles private Facebook group and a regular contributor to *The Mainstreeter**



*What more can readers of *The Mainstreeter* do to help protect the endangered turtles living in our community? As the biggest predation concerns are when eggs are laid or when they hatch, watching and sharing information on nest locations with the Turtles group is key (either via the Facebook group or the email address listed above). Note that June is typically prime season for egg laying while September is the prime hatching month.*

There is also often a need for additional protectors. This year one of the local Scout groups made five new nest protectors while a concerned high school student made another five. If you have basic wood working skills, you can offer up your talents to the Turtles group as well.

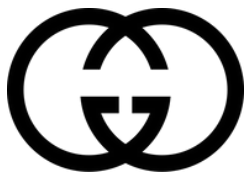
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Tell me a story...

Grannies, StoryTellers join forces to host an enchanted evening of Moon Magic

DIANNE BRETON

“Tell me a story please,” is a common request of children to their parents and grandparents. But today, for older persons living in times of global and personal stress, many of us long for stories that bring wisdom from the past and joy and inspiration to carry on in the present.

“Listeners, sharing the experience of hearing a story told live, become connected to the teller and to each other through the world within the story. It is human communication at its most immediate and intimate,” says Gail Anglin, a well-known storyteller and Co-President of Ottawa StoryTellers, a group that provides tellers and listeners of all ages with opportunities to come together to enjoy stories.

Speaking of... Grandmothers and the Moon

On Wednesday, June 26, 2024, the Ottawa StoryTellers and the One World Grannies and Unitarian GoGos will combine to host a magical evening of stories, music, refreshments, camaraderie and solidarity celebrating grandmothers and the moon. Moon Magic: A Tribute in Stories and Song will be held at the First Unitarian



SUPPLIED IMAGE

The fundraiser will support urgently needed programs that grannies and community-based organizations are leading in sub-Saharan Africa.

Congregation, 30 Cleary Ave. Ottawa. Appetizers and socializing begin at 6:15; the program runs from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

The moon holds significant symbolism and plays a central role in various cultural beliefs in African folklore. Moon Magic will showcase the moon in her many moods—bright and playful, mysterious and romantic. The stories, one haunting, one light fun, and one in which a Canadian grandmother talks under the moon with her African sister—will be underscored by evocative melodies on harp and flute, and insistent rhythms of

guitar and percussion.

Two members of the unique Moon Magic partnership - the One World Grannies and the Unitarian GoGos – are among some 160 voluntary groups across Canada that are part of the Grandmothers Campaign, which was launched by the Stephen Lewis Foundation in 2006 in response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Africa that has orphaned some 17 million children. Many of these young people are cared for and raised by their courageous grandmothers.

Voluntary groups of grandmothers

and grand-thers in Canada raise funds to support the urgently needed programs that grandmothers and community-based organizations are leading in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dianne Breton is a long-time resident of Old Ottawa East, and an active member of the One World Grannies.



All proceeds from the Moon Magic event go directly to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign. The ticket

price of \$35.00 per person, includes a night of entertainment, plus homemade hors d'oeuvres and desserts and door prizes. Tickets are available on EventBrite or call 613-729-0077.

If you are interested in joining a grandmother group in Ottawa, contact rdbreton@rogers.com. To learn more about Ottawa StoryTellers and the events they put on, visit www.ottawastorytellers.ca. See more information on the Grandmothers Campaign at <https://grandmotherscampaign.org>.

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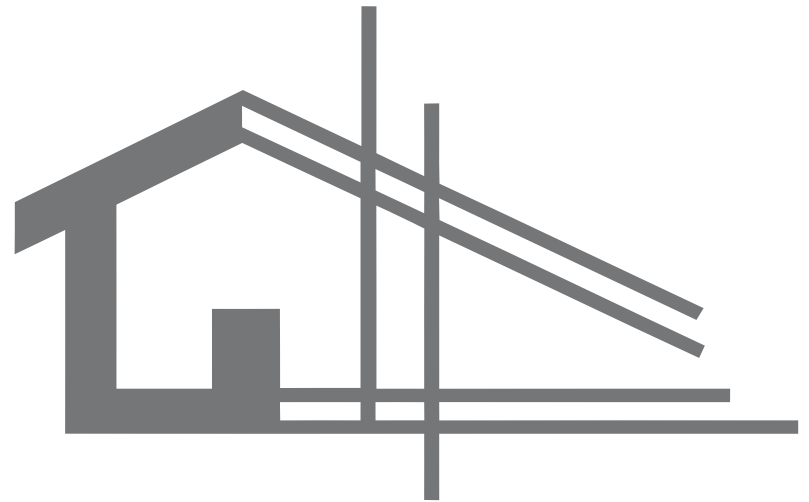
PETER CROAL PHOTO

Oh the things you'll see...

The Mainstreeter's Peter Croal snapped this stunning photo of the Hurdman Bridge recently while out for a walk around our community.

A dedicated nature lover, Croal joined nine other Old Ottawa East residents on May 20th, paddling along the shore of the Rideau River and gathering up a wide array of refuse. Four large bags of plastic debris were picked up from the shoreline and ultimately disposed of by the City of Ottawa.

With plastic now pervasive in all aspects of our lives, small clean-ups like this may not solve the plastic waste problem, but according to Croal, every little bit helps to raise awareness of the growing issues of plastic waste and microplastics.



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ECLECTIC EVENTS

June 13th to 23rd THE OTTAWA FRINGE FESTIVAL, Ottawa Fringe, Arts Court, 2 Daly Avenue.

The 27th Ottawa Fringe Festival returns with a talented line-up of emerging artists and performers. The festival is a hub of creativity and expression, showcasing works of art that push the boundaries of traditional theatre. With over 40 productions across multiple venues at Arts Court, the Fringe Festival has something for everyone. From hilarious comedies to thought-provoking dramas, from dance performances to experimental shows, you're sure to find something that speaks to you.

Fringe Festivals trace their roots to Scotland when in 1947 several theatre companies not invited to participate in the first Edinburgh International Festival staged shows on the fringe of official venues, setting up wherever they could find space, finding audiences by word of mouth, and succeeding (or failing) on the strength of their talents alone.

Ottawa Fringe Festival performers are selected in a non-juried process, and the Festival exercises no control over the artistic content of the performances. In addition, 100% of ticket revenue is returned directly to the artists themselves. Since 1997, the Ottawa Fringe Festival has returned more than \$2 million to independent artists.

Some shows are free to the public, tickets to others are at affordable prices. For show line-ups and tickets, visit <https://ottawafringe.com/>.



June 22nd - 10am to 4pm LOCAL ARTIST SHOWCASE, Art Lending of Ottawa, Jim Durrell Recreation Centre, 1265 Walkley Road.



Plitvice Falls by Doreen Dyet

Since its establishment in 1970, Art Lending of Ottawa (ALO) has been dedicated to supporting local artists by making original art accessible and affordable through innovative rental, lease-to-purchase and sales options.

The ALO Local Artist Showcase is an excellent opportunity to support local talent in an affordable, flexible setting. Attendees can enjoy enhancing their spaces with original art and networking with artists and enthusiasts.

ALO's cooperative approach allows local artists to become members through a jurying process, ensuring all artworks are of high quality. ALO's diverse collection includes various media like acrylics, oils, watercolors, mixed media, woodworking,

mosaics, and photography, ensuring there's something for everyone.

ALO member Doreen Dyet is a well-known artist based in the Ottawa area who began her artistic journey in the 1990s. Following her retirement, Dyet devoted herself fully to the arts, both by painting full-time and serving on the executive boards of various art organizations. Her art, inspired by nature and her international travels, typically features landscapes and floral subjects.

ALO's upcoming art show also features door prizes and is accessible with ample parking and wheelchair access. This event promises to be a celebration of creativity and community spirit, showcasing the rich artistic talent within Ottawa.



CTV NEWS IMAGE

September 8th - National Grandmother's Day - 10am to 2pm BRIDGE CROSSING - Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, Stephen Lewis Foundation, William Commanda Bridge.

On National Grandparents Day, connect with Bridge Crossing, an event presented as part of the "Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign," organized by the Stephen Lewis Foundation, on the newly pedestrian-accessible Chief William Commanda Bridge.

Cross the bridge with Ottawa grandmothers to connect with grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa. You can add to the grandmothers' cross-Canada "Clothesline," raising awareness of this important work and affirming support.

June 6th to 16th ITALIAN WEEK OTTAWA, Ottawa's Little Italy, On and around Preston Street.

Join in the fun in the heart of Ottawa's Little Italy to experience 11 days of immersive programs celebrating Italian culture, cuisine, art, music, and traditions. This lively festival features more than 15 events both in, and around, the heart of Ottawa's Little Italy, with special events highlighting all things Italian from art, music, food, and heritage!

Festival organizers are bringing the most beloved Italian culinary traditions to Preston Street again this year with three highly anticipated (and Nonna approved) Masterclass Series on Italian wines, espresso coffee and pasta!

On June 8th or 9th, participants can join in a free walking tour of Corso Italia, Ottawa's Little Italy, and discover the hidden history of Ottawa's vibrant Italian-Canadian community!

Sala San Marco Event & Conference

Centre hosts several of the Festival's main events, including an exclusive aperitivo reception on June 13th featuring curated food and beverage stations and a meet and greet with TV Celebrity Chef David Rocco.

The following evening, June 14th, get ready to boogie the night away at the hottest disco party in town as Disco Inferno comes to the Sala San Marco.

There's also a free kid's event on Sunday, June 9th at the Tom Brown Arena where youngsters can craft their own Italian ceramic mosaics.

Italian Week Ottawa concludes on June 16th with the Preston Street CRITERIUM, a heart-pumping day of cycling action at Bike Race Ottawa through the streets of Little Italy!



Not your average brick wall!

Ottawa wall muralists Dem & Doll were photographed with their favourite community newspaper in front of their vivid new wall mural commission on the Main Street side wall of a Bower Street residence.

The graphic image offers a bright splash of colourful flowers juxtaposed against a black and charcoal rendering of a young woman's face in profile.


The talented muralists have wall art installations throughout the Ottawa-Gatineau region, including the Michaelangelo relief, one of the largest wall murals in Eastern Ontario, located on Preston Street.




LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO



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