

## Crazy for Croissants

Food & drink editor Jill Wherrett taste tests the best of local croissants.

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## Public to get a say on Rideau Canal Bridge replacement

After months of delay by the Ministry of Transport, residents can now comment on proposed 90-week Canal traffic detour.

Pages 5 & 16



## Growth spurt for girls' hockey

Dianne Wing checks in with the local organizers for competitive and house-league girls hockey.

Page 24

### A first peek at Regional's "Forecourt Collection"

# Up for grabs: Final phase of Greystone Village now under active review

## JOHN DANCE

The plan for the fourth and final phase of Greystone Village is now under review and, while largely conforming to current zoning, the proposed 30 units differ significantly in form from what was originally proposed in 2015.

The Regional Group proposes to build eight clusters with a total of 30 dwelling units, some semi-detached and some townhomes, on the semi-circular property between the planned Forecourt Park and the new Grande Allée Park. Regional is already advertising the new phase and describes it as "The Forecourt Collection, an exclusive enclave of townhomes and semi-townhomes in the heart of Greystone Village located in Old Ottawa East."

In the original concept plan, Regional had proposed continuous row housing on each side of the Grande Allée but

Regional now says this would require underground parking which, according to Regional, is not economically viable. Instead of underground parking, surface parking will be created, with single-car garages in 22 of the units and double-car garages with the other eight.

The Old Ottawa East Community Association Planning Committee objects to one aspect of the plan. A key concern raised by the Planning Committee at the initial consultation in November was the protection of the two heritage trees that are in line with the other trees of the recently opened Grande Allée Park. In response to this concern, which was also expressed by City staff, the units near the tree have been moved farther away so that the "critical root zones" will not be affected.

*Continued on Page 10*



THE REGIONAL GROUP/HOBIN ARCHITECTS IMAGES

**The Regional Group proposes to build four clusters of townhomes on each side of the Grande Allée and in front of the planned Forecourt Park. These images show the architectural rendering of the four clusters, with the new Spencer and Terraces buildings and the Deschâtelets Building in the background.**







# LOUISE ELLIOTT'S IMAGES OF OUR COMMUNITY

This is the second time that Louise Elliott's artwork of everyday scenes in and around Old Ottawa East has graced the pages of *The Mainstreeter*. In our June 2023 issue, readers enjoyed her painting, *Springtime on Main Street*.

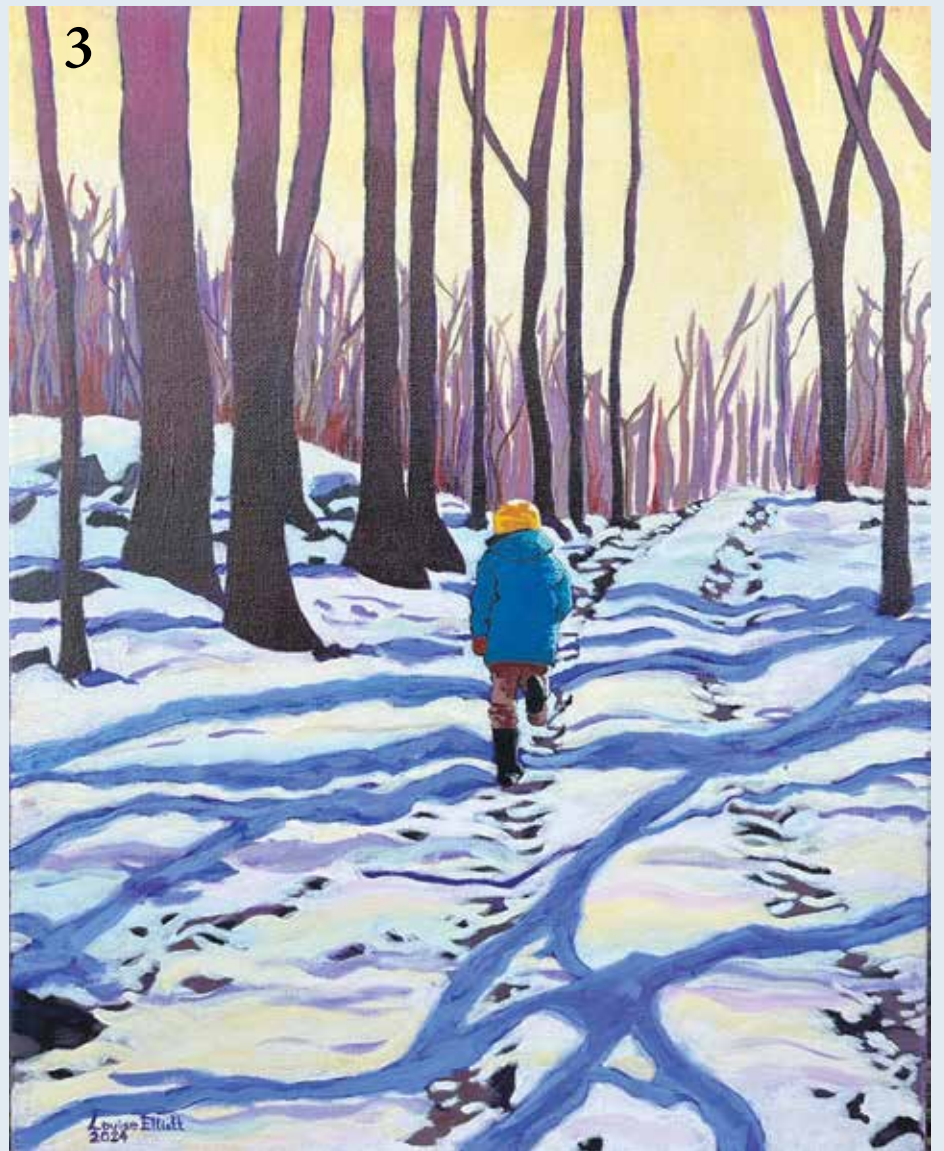
Louise's community artwork will be on exhibit during the upcoming *A Walk of Art 2024* outdoor art tour. Her paintings displayed here are numbered as follows: 1. "Movie Night"; 2. "Submerged Chairs, Brantwood Beach"; 3. "Into the Woods"; 4. "Hope"; 5. "Under the Flora Footbridge."



1



2



3



4



5





JILL WHERRETT PHOTO/CORDON BLEU PHOTO

ABOVE: The croissant line-up from left to right; Bridgehead; Café Qui Pense; Dessert First; Life of Pie; and Tartelette. INSET: Yann Le Coz, Head Pastry Chef Instructor at Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa, says "...there's no shortcut that makes the difference."

*A tough job - but someone has to do it!*

## Oo-la-la: We sample our community's top croissants

### JILL WHERRETT

The perfect croissant: a glossy golden-brown exterior, a crunchy, flaky crust, the rich aroma of creamy butter, and inside, a honeycomb of soft, airy layers. What makes a great croissant? And how do the offerings in some of our neighbourhood bakeries and coffee shops stack up?

First, to get some insight into what's beneath all those layers, I sat down with Yann Le Coz, Head Pastry Chef Instructor at Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa, who took me through the exacting process of making croissants.

"What is most important for croissants is definitely the quality of the flour and the quality of the butter," Chef Le Coz said, explaining that butter with a high fat content has richer flavour and greater "plasticity," so it can bend when cold without breaking, allowing it to roll out more easily. "It's best to have a minimum of water. The more water you have in the butter the more difficult it is going to be to make a croissant."

Controlling temperature of the ingredients and environment, kneading the dough properly to give it good structure, giving the dough time to rest, and following a precise process of lamination (the technique of folding and rolling butter into the dough to create many very thin layers)

are also key. "You follow specific steps and process... There's no shortcut that makes the difference."

And at the end? "What's the bottom line for a good croissant? Its butteriness, its flakiness, its consistency in terms of layering," Chef Le Coz said.

I couldn't resist asking the chef for his view on the wave of croissant fads and internet sensations over the past decade. "I think it's great," he said, noting that all the attention has enhanced public perception of the baking profession. As well, more small shops making traditional products are opening up. "Today we find that in Canada, in Ottawa. The trend is moving forward."

Then I set out to sample some of the croissants available in and around Old Ottawa East. For purposes of comparison, I chose classic plain croissants, although several of the shops offer a variety of flavours, including an almond and chocolate, as well as more exotic fare like the gooey, chocolatey crookie (do not attempt to eat this decadent treat on your own!) and the stunning pistachio rose croissant at Tartelette.

### Bridgehead, 1172 Bank Street

To be fair, I didn't expect Bridgehead's croissant (\$3.95) to measure up to one produced by a bakery or pastry shop. (Bridgehead's baked goods come from Bytown Catering.) But I didn't expect it to be so disappointing. A pallid straw colour, this pastry had little aroma and no buttery flavour. What flavour it did have was faintly bitter, tasting as if the croissant had absorbed the aromas of the shop. It lacked a crunchy crust and had few flaky layers, and a dry, chewy interior.

### Café Qui Pense, 204 Main Street

This pastry (\$3.65), sourced from Rudolph (a baking wholesaler), was on the smaller side. A tad over-browned, the croissant had good crispness and flake when pulled apart, and a lovely aroma and appealing sweet buttery flavour with a hint of yeast. The interior was soft with some moistness at the centre.

### Dessert First, 1071 Bank Street

I had higher expectations for Dessert First's croissant (\$3.16, the lowest priced of the five I tasted), given that it is a bakery.

However, while not unpleasant, it was merely fair. It had some crunch, but not much flake, and was a little short on distinctive aroma and flavour. While the longest, it was the lightest in weight, lacking in substance and with a texture that was a little too chewy and elastic.

### Life of Pie, 1134 Bank Street

Life of Pie's croissant (\$4.50) had a home-baked look with a slightly uneven shape. Fresh out of the oven when sampled, it had a crisp shell with a satisfying audible crunch when I bit into the ends, and a strong buttery scent and appealing taste. While the shortest of the five I sampled, it weighed the most and had a denser, squishier centre (in part because it was freshly baked).

### Tartelette, 175 Main Street

The largest and most expensive (\$5.80) of the five, Tartelette's croissant was the most visually appealing, with a uniform shape and beautiful glossy bands of gold and bronze on the exterior. Its very flaky outer layers shattered when touched, and revealed a light, airy, well-layered interior. It featured a rich, sweet butter flavour and aroma.



### At Colonel By & Clegg

## New road markings address safety concerns

JOHN DANCE

The City of Ottawa, acting on recommendations of the National Capital Commission (NCC), has made an improvement to the Colonel By Drive – Clegg Street intersection to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Specifically, “green thermoplastic pavement markings have recently been implemented at Colonel By Drive and Clegg Street to highlight the conflict zones/crossings,” says Cathy Kourouma, the City’s program manager of road safety.

The improvement addresses a concern flagged by the NCC and a number of users of the Flora Footbridge who have noticed that cyclists and pedestrians going southbound from the end of the footbridge ramp and proceeding across Clegg Street are sometimes threatened by vehicles turning from Colonel By Drive onto Clegg Street. Cyclist in particular may be going faster than motorists appreciate. The approximate cost of the work is \$15,300.

A related issue raised by one Old Ottawa East (OOE) cyclist is that some cyclists go too fast on the bridge and without regard for slower users, making it uncomfortable for pedestrians and other cyclists also using the ramp. This particular cyclist was injured and shaken as several cyclists on road bikes rode up the OOE-side ramp abreast each other and forced her into the railing. The speeding cyclists did



CITY OF OTTAWA IMAGE

**New** New road markings have improved the safety of pedestrians and cyclists crossing at the Colonel By Drive - Clegg Street inter

not stop to check the slower cyclist’s well-being.

Although the City has installed signage advising cyclists to yield to slower footbridge users, some cyclists totally ignore the signs and fail to respect slower users of the bridge.

As will be reported in a subsequent issue of *The Mainstreeter*, there is virtually no enforcement of safe cycling on the footbridge or connecting pathways.



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## Community appeal of Lansdowne 2.0 decision

# Ford Government squanders community funds and volunteer efforts

**JOHN DANCE**

It's now law in Ontario: community associations and most other third parties can no longer appeal municipal zoning changes. And Bill 185's retroactive application means that more than \$10,000 that the three local community associations spent on appealing the Lansdowne 2.0 rezoning decision has been totally wasted as are the countless hours volunteers spent on preparing the appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

Bill 185, *The Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act*, has eliminated a longstanding check on municipal and private developer plans to build whatever they want. Although it was often difficult and costly, community associations and other third parties previously had the option to challenge municipal zoning and official plan decisions by appealing to the OLT, formerly known as the Ontario

Municipal Board.

The previous Liberal government strengthened third parties' ability to appeal decisions but this has all been thrown out the window by the Ford government in the rush to expedite developers' planning approvals and get houses built.

In the case of the Lansdowne rezoning, the Glebe Community Association (GCA), with the support of the community associations in Old Ottawa East and Old Ottawa South, appealed the City's Lansdowne 2.0 decision last December. The OLT accepted the appeal (the tribunal could have deemed it frivolous) and scheduled a hearing date in October. But, this June, with the passage of Bill 185, the OLT cancelled the appeal.

Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard has asked City staff if GCA would be reimbursed for incurred expenses and staff responded that their opinion was there would not be any

likelihood of the province reimbursing any person whose appeal has been ended by Bill 185.

Ottawa Centre MPP Joel Harden and Menard are jointly seeking redress from Ontario's Housing Minister Paul Calandra but, at this writing, there has been no response from the Minister.

"Minister, some might claim the GCA's decision to appeal the Lansdowne 2.0 development confirms why third-party OLT appeals are a problem," Harden and Menard wrote to Calandra. "Such advocates may, mistakenly, suggest that OLT appeals of this nature thwart the expansion of homes in a housing crisis. However, the GCA has supported the suspension of third party appeals to the OLT over affordable housing projects. Their concern with Lansdowne 2.0 (which has zero affordable housing units) was the loss of city-owned urban greenspace in a high-density residential area."

Harden and Menard go on to say that the Government's target of 1.5 million new homes in the next 10 years

is "a worthy and important goal [but] that cannot come at the expense of democratic planning at a local level. As we ramp up efforts to create affordable and accessible homes, we must ensure residents are included in the design of our communities. Their voices matter."

"At a minimum, we would ask your government to compensate community groups for their costs with OLT appeals that had been incurred while following due process, yet now have been retroactively denied in the weeks after Bill 185 came into force," they conclude.

To the Government of Ontario, the \$10,000 that GCA incurred may be a pittance but the reality is that this amount is approximately the total expenditure of the community association in an average year. Similarly, the \$500 contribution of the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) is about a quarter of the funds raised annually through the membership campaign so that the cancelled appeal

*Continued on Page 16*

## Alert: MTO's Highway 417 Rideau Canal Bridge replacement recommendations - at long last!

### MAINSTREETER STAFF

Residents in Old Ottawa East and neighbouring communities should have the opportunity to see if the recommendations for the replacement of the Highway 417 bridge over the Rideau Canal still include 90-week canal parkway and pathway detours that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications of Ontario (MTO) supported in their revised plan of 2022.

As *The Mainstreeter* was being prepared this month, it learned that the "transportation environmental assessment report" for the replacement of "downtown" 417 bridges - including the Canal, Elgin Street and Main Street structures - would be available later in the month with September 11 as the deadline for public comments.

The original MTO plans for the replacement of the Canal bridge did not involve lengthy detours but, in 2022, after five years of consultation, MTO released a revised plan

requiring lengthy detours. OOECA and many others strenuously pushed back but there has been no indication that MTO has taken community input into account.

Meanwhile, as the Canal bridge continues to deteriorate, MTO will begin a project later this fall that involves installing a temporary support system for the two exterior girders at the centre span of the eastern-most pier below the westbound lane.

"Drivers can expect some shoulder and lane reductions on Highway 417 westbound during off-peak hours," MTO says of the repair work. "On Colonel By Drive southbound, off-peak short duration lane closures will occur, with two-way traffic maintained with use of flagging and/or police control. Detours will ensure one of the multi-use pathways remains open throughout construction."

The work may give a small taste of what could be ahead should MTO's full replacement recommendations include the 90-week detours.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Reader agrees: Turn the Rideau River Corridor into an Urban National Park

I read with interest J. Brougham's recent article proposing that the Rideau River Corridor be designated as an Urban National Park. I totally agree. The Rideau is a natural treasure running through the heart of the city.

For the last 10 years, the Rideau River has been animated as a recreational opportunity with the availability of the rentals of standup paddle boards and kayaks. A locally owned company, Ottawa SUP, had established a small rental outlet just at Billings Bridge and Bank Street, renting a small piece of property from C.A. Paradis and utilizing part of the Linda Thom Park. Earlier this year, C.A Paradis was bought by Doyon Depres, which made the decision



JAMIE BROUGHAM PHOTO

that they needed the space previously rented by Ottawa SUP for other business purposes. As a result, residents of Old Ottawa East, Old Ottawa South and beyond have less access to enjoy the beauty, nature and recreation that the Rideau River has to offer.

Designating the Rideau River Corridor as an Urban National Park would attract more interest in its possibilities and hopefully provide an opportunity for businesses like Ottawa SUP to help residents and visitors enjoy being on the river, not just beside the river.

*Gerald Bailie  
Southern Drive*

### Chernushenko: A man of his word

David Chernushenko's article in the June issue of *The Mainstreeter* nudged me to thank him for fulfilling the promise he made to me in 2019 when preparations got underway for the construction of the Flora Footbridge. I was heartbroken when my favourite tree below my balcony was cut down! It was a source of so much pleasure to me, its leaves fluttering and twinkling in the morning or afternoon sun.

Mr. Chernushenko assured me that it would be replaced, but I was skeptical as I watched the activities at the construction

site. I was resigned to accept the inevitable. But there are now two trees where the original was and I am happy to report that they are doing very well. Their shapes are quite different from the original, and they need to fill out a bit more, but their leaves do flutter and twinkle and do give me (and others) much pleasure.

So thank you, David Chernushenko, for being a man of your word.

*Maria Calderisi  
Queen Elizabeth  
Driveway*



MARIA CALDERISI PHOTOS

A series of before and after photos taken by reader Maria Calderisi between 2019 and today details the transformation of her Canal view plane and confirms a promise made and kept by former Councillor David Chernushenko to replace a beloved tree cut down during the construction of the Flora Footbridge. Photos 1, 2 and 3 were taken before, during and after construction, respectively.



*MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 7*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Time to get serious about speeding

In your June edition you posed a yes or no question about installing speed cameras. I sincerely hope you got a resounding "yes." A "no" indicates people want to have licence to speed with two serious consequences. First is creating a dangerous environment leading to injury and death of pedestrians and cyclists. Second, faster driving leads to an increase of CO2 emissions in getting from A to B.

Years ago, speed cameras were installed along Highway 401. The result was a 10 km per hour decrease in average speed. Safer, environmentally friendly. Then the Conservatives came into power and, citing cameras as a greedy grab on motorists' wallets, took out the cameras. And up went the speed.

We need to get serious about both safety and the environment.

*Tony Bull,  
Granville Avenue*

*(Editor's note: Mr. Bull's fervent hopes notwithstanding, the results of our Yes or No? poll below reflect a community deeply divided on the issue of speed cameras.)*



### Over to you, readers...

I really enjoyed Laura McLeod's Heritage Ottawa walking tour of Old Ottawa East in the August 2023 issue. I am particularly interested in a building at the northeast corner of Herridge and Drummond that I believe is broken up into a number of apartments but might once have been a local grocery. The building is an oddity architecturally, of no great significance probably, but its construction is unlike any other in the neighbourhood. I'm working on a project in which that building may figure and would like to learn what I can about its history.

*Chris Faulkner,  
Professor, Carleton University*

*(Editor's note: Anyone with information on this building can email it to editor@mainstreeter.ca.)*

## YES OR NO?

In our June issue, we pointed out that local motorists are experiencing a barrage of speeding tickets, the result of Ottawa's accelerated campaign to install automated speed enforcement cameras throughout the City. The 40 photo radar cameras already in place have issued 154,341 speeding tickets in the first five months of 2024, and the City plans to have installed 60 cameras by the end of the year, including one in Old Ottawa East on Main Street between Springhurst and Evelyn avenues.

So, we asked our readers if you approve of Ottawa's plans to aggressively deploy automated speed enforcement cameras across the City. The result from the voting by 71 respondents was a razor-thin approval vote of 50.7%, reflecting a community that values safe streets on the one hand, but harbours concerns about low-speed traffic gridlock and hefty traffic fines on the other hand.

*YES – I approve of more speed cameras*

**50.7%**

*NO– I oppose deploying more speed cameras*

**49.3%**

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

Since the start of COVID-19, an increasing number of pets have taken up residence in Old Ottawa East, especially dogs. The nearest fenced-in, off-leash dog parks are at Lansdowne and off of Elgin Street.

According to the City, dogs are not allowed off-leash in Brantwood and Springhurst parks. Nevertheless, off-leash dogs are regularly observed in both parks engaged in spirited

playtime with their owners, and on nearby pathways enjoying leisurely strolls, contrary to City by-laws. Encountering an off-leash dog is often a positive or neutral experience but it can result in negative interactions with other park and pathway users.

Do you support establishing a fenced-in, off-leash dog park in Old Ottawa East? Yes or No? Scan the QR Code below to cast your vote.



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# City's new study weakens the case to construct Alta Vista Transportation Corridor

## JOHN DANCE

A recently released study conducted for the City's new transportation master plan (TMP) weakens the case for construction of the long-planned Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC), a four-lane roadway that would obliterate People's Park between the Lees Avenue apartment towers and Springhurst Park.

The case for the AVTC has steadily eroded over the five decades since it was first proposed. The proposed north-south link is currently in the City's "ultimate road network" to link Conroy Road from Walkley Road to Nicholas Street and Highway 417.

However, as *The Mainstreeter* has often noted, the AVTC would eliminate much-needed central greenspaces that serve many core communities; dump traffic into established communities; undermine the use of the new LRT system; and stymie efforts to fight climate change and support biodiversity.

The City's "origin-destination" (OD)

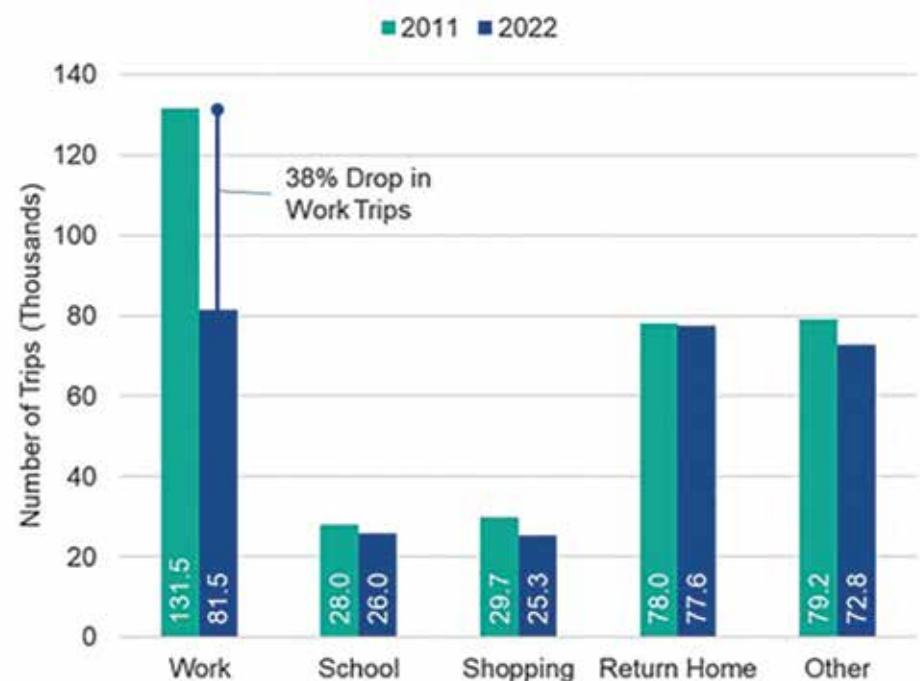
study, conducted in 2022, shows the profound effect that the pandemic had on the amount of vehicular traffic going downtown from elsewhere. Compared to the previous OD study in 2011, there was a 38 percent drop in "daily downtown-oriented work trips."

"Daily commuting trips to the downtown core coming from Kanata/Stittsville, Orleans, South Gloucester/Leitrim or Riverside South/Findlay Creek decreased by over 51 percent between 2011 and 2022. Daily transit commuting trips from the same areas dropped by almost 70 percent," the report notes.

The report goes on to say "[T]here is evidence that travel to the downtown is continuing to rebound since the 2022 data was collected, as more people return to the office."

However, other key findings in the OD report show how transportation patterns and "modes" are shifting. For instance, in the decade between studies, the proportion of trips made by walking and cycling increased from six to 15 percent.

Exhibit 3.9: Daily Downtown-Oriented Trips by Purpose (2011-2022)



Source: 2011 and 2022 Origin-Destination Survey.

CITY OF OTTAWA GRAPH

The City's origin-destination study showed a 38 percent drop in daily downtown work trips over a decade.

Similarly, as the City supports the concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods, fewer car trips should be required. Indeed, the average daily "passenger kilometres travelled" decreased from 15.8 in 2005 to 11.7 in 2022. "People are making fewer and shorter trips and [are making] more walking and cycling trips," the report concludes.

When *The Mainstreeter* asked the City to comment on whether it still would be supporting the construction of AVTC in light of the OD data, staff responded ambiguously noting: "For some candidate [roadway] projects, different options for the same corridor may be evaluated. In the case of the AVTC, this could include different cross-sections and lane arrangements, or breaking the corridor into segments. A 'do nothing' option will also be considered. Criteria for identifying and screening projects can be found in the Council-approved Transit and Road Project Prioritization Framework."

Unfortunately, as noted previously in *The Mainstreeter*, the assessment criteria are biased towards more development and increased roadway and they give only marginal weight to the impact on neighbourhoods and greenspace.

In the coming months, the TMP project team will finalize its travel

forecasting model, assess future travel demand, identify a detailed set of transportation needs and then identify, screen and evaluate transit and road projects, update the City's transportation networks, prioritize projects, and develop investment scenarios considering affordability as well as the City's mode shift and climate change targets.

The final public consultations on the TMP are scheduled for late fall. At this point, Old Ottawa East (OOE) residents will see what the City is proposing to do about the AVTC, which has hung like a black cloud over the community's future for half a century. The OOE Community Association (OOECA) seeks residents' comments for inclusion in its response to the City, and requests that any comments submitted be forwarded to [info@ottawaeast.ca](mailto:info@ottawaeast.ca).

During the City's lengthy consultation process for the new TMP, the community association has on three occasions asked that the AVTC be removed from the master plan as a vehicular commuter route. "AVTC has been a longstanding campaign, even with support from a former mayor [Jim Watson] when he was in office, but the last battle is yet to be won," notes Tom Scott, OOECA's transportation chair.

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**Other distributors:** Chuck Bain, Nancy McDonald, Melinda Newman, William and Charlotte Duchesne, Whitney Bond, Phil Legault, Lesley Barrenger, Alexis McKenzie

High school volunteers should submit papers for signature to Daniel Racicot at [distribution@mainstreeter.ca](mailto:distribution@mainstreeter.ca)

## OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

**Councillor Shawn Menard:** [Shawn.Menard@ottawa.ca](mailto:Shawn.Menard@ottawa.ca)

**Community Activities Group:** Call Old Town Hall at 613-564-1078 and leave a message for Lee Jacobs or email [LeeJ@ottawaeastcag.ca](mailto:LeeJ@ottawaeastcag.ca)

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

**Old Town Hall:** 613.627.0062

## OPINION



CITY OF OTTAWA IMAGE

The “preliminary exterior concept” rendering of the proposed Lansdowne Park event centre, viewed from the northeast, shows how the toboggan hill would be greatly reduced and how a large portion of the wall would be essentially a blank face.

## Community associations condemn Lansdowne event centre plan

### JOHN DANCE

Local community associations have severely criticized the City’s draft plan for a new event centre on the green space to the east of the Lansdowne stadium because of its poor user accessibility, inadequate transit linkage, diminution of green parkland, and poor design features.

Further, they and others have noted that the new event centre will be too small for Ottawa’s Professional Women’s Hockey League team and large events that currently can be accommodated by the existing event centre/arena below the northside stands.

The City proposes to build a new event centre on most of the area now occupied by the toboggan hill “berm” and on some of the adjacent Great Lawn, a key feature of the award-winning urban park built just 10 years ago. The toboggan hill will be reduced to “a bit of a berm,” as one of the consultants put it, and will have a total descent of about five metres, about a third of what it is now.

During the discussions at the “pre-application consultations” to which community associations were invited, City consultants repeatedly spoke of the difficulty, complexity and challenges of the site in terms of fitting in a new event centre.

### Poor Access

One of the biggest challenges has been figuring out how to provide access to the new event centre. As the proposal now stands, everybody will have to enter just to the east of where the north stands now end. This 15 metre-wide “pinch point” is adjacent to the loading dock ramp that will serve both the event centre

and the stadium and the access will be split into vehicular and pedestrian lanes.

Community associations have argued for years that vehicular access through the park should be limited to only essential functions but Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG), the City’s Lansdowne partner, has successfully pushed back, claiming, amongst other things, that restrictions would be detrimental to the various businesses within the commercial part of the park. With the proposed relocation of the event centre deeper within the park, more vehicles will be in conflict with pedestrian and cyclist use of the park.

“The City and OSEG have argued that the event centre will have improved accessibility compared to the current facilities but that will be the case only once you get inside the new facility,” notes the Old Ottawa East (OOECA) response to the draft plan. “All people – whether they travel by ParaTranspo, private vehicle, or other means – must go half way through the park to actually get to the new facility. There is no justification for increasing the distance that all event centre users will encounter.”

“The other reality is that virtually all users will take longer to get to the event centre than would be the case if a new event centre was built at or near an LRT station,” says OOECA. “City staff should have quantified the travel time for new event centre users and compared that to what would have been the case if the event centre was built at an LRT station. The City and OSEG have used ‘improved accessibility’ as a primary justification for a new event centre at Lansdowne but

they have done so with complete disregard for what improved accessibility would be if the new event centre were at or near an LRT station.”

The City’s independent Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) also has questioned the proposed access and vehicular provisions of the plan. “The Panel has serious concerns with the prospects of an award-winning park design being reconfigured for vehicular access,” its report says. “The amount of park space being dedicated to vehicular circulation is problematic and should be reconsidered.”

UDRP has specifically asked whether “[T]here are possibilities to have servicing access from within the future building podium or from the west side beneath the stadium stands? This would be much better both from an urban design perspective and functionally as well.” OOECA also raised this question but the City dismissed it with a “Noted” comment.

### Inadequate Design

“Being adjacent to a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Panel believes that this proposal needs to ensure strong attention to details and be of an elevated caliber,” the UDRP notes. “The materiality and architectural details of the building and landscape need to thoughtfully enhance the surrounding context.”

The UDRP has also made many recommendations so that the new event centre becomes compatible with the existing urban park, including the historic Aberdeen Pavilion. The UDRP also objects to the City’s removal of the originally proposed “planted green roof.” This

*Continued on Page 13*



# Some changes are proposed to Greystone Village's final construction phase

*Continued from Page 1*

The other major concern of the Planning Committee relates to the setback of the proposed homes facing the Grande Allée being no less than that of the Milieu and Ballantyne apartment buildings on the northern side of the Grande Allée. The most recent plans show that the planned homes would be closer to the Grande Allée than the apartment buildings so that the view of the Deschâtelets Building from Main Street will be lessened.

While some minor rezoning will be sought by Regional, the current height limitations will be respected and the proposed number of units will be less than what was originally proposed. The relationship of the new units to the new Forecourt Park is under discussion. The only public passage through the units will be along the Grande Allée.

Regional's plan is still progressing through the City's pre-application consultation process and formal applications have yet to be completed. In fact, the community association's planning committee was invited to participate in the pre-app consultations and Regional, as usual and unlike many developers including the City of Ottawa itself, waived the non-disclosure restrictions for the planning committee.

"We appreciate that we have had the opportunity to have two initial informal meetings with the Old Ottawa East Community Association to discuss the project," Evan Garfinkel, Regional's manager of land development told *The Mainstreeter*.

All necessary approvals have been received for Regional's Phase 3, which consists of two large residential buildings immediately to the south and east of the Deschâtelets Building. Construction will begin once financing and market conditions permit.

If the Forecourt plan is approved, Regional's Greystone Village will have a total of 948 units, excluding the Greystone retirement residence, proposed seniors' residential units in the Deschâtelets Building, Domicile's The Corners on

**The chart on the right shows the number of units of each phase of Regional's Greystone Village as well as the units of adjacent properties. The only units not included in the table are the proposed 30 affordable seniors' units on the top two floors of the Deschâtelets Building.**

Main and the 15 des Oblats developments. As was originally proposed, the variety of units is considerable: everything from small condos to large penthouses and single-family detached homes.

Greystone Village Unit Count - Current and Planned		
Phase 1 - Build-out Complete		
	Singles	38 units
	Towns	48 units
Phase 2 - Build-out Complete		
	Singles	13 units
	Towns	36 units
Terraces 1 - Complete		
		101 units
Terraces 2 - Complete		
		97 units
Building 2A (Milieu) - Complete		
		125 units
Building 2B (Ballantyne) - Complete		
		110 units
Building 1C (Spencer Condo) - Under construction		
		79 units
Phase 3 - Site Plan Approved (August 2023)		
	North Building	153 units
	South Building	118 units
Forecourt Towns - Current Application Concept		
		30 units
<b>Greystone Village Total (Complete and Planned)</b>		<b>948 units</b>
CDP/Secondary Plan Area - Greystone + Sacre Coeur		
Retirement Residence (Greystone Phase 3)		146 units
Domicile		
	Building A	72 units
	Building B	70 units
Sisters Building - Smart Living - Site Plan (On-going)		
		284 units
<b>Current Secondary Plan Area Total</b>		<b>1520 units</b>
Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan		
2.4 Intensification Target (Minimum)		
Policy Area 3: Oblate Lands & Sacre Coeur		1000 units

Date Updated: March 18, 2024

THE REGIONAL GROUP CHART

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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.*



CYNTHIA DWYER PHOTO

## GRANDE ALLÉE PARK DE-FENCED

It took 61 days, many emails, and some fine grass-growing weather, but finally on July 11 the fences around the seeded and sodded parts of Grande Allée Park were taken down and the park was fully open.

“The fences were in place until City staff determined the grass was established enough to withstand community use and the City could take over maintenance from the contractor,” says Dan Chenier, the City’s general manager of recreational, cultural and facility services.

“All of the vendors at the Main Farmers' Market that I spoke to were very happy with their sales, and they had definitely increased since the park became more open,” noted Cynthia Dwyer, a long-time volunteer with the Market, which now uses Grande Allée. “They had noticed that there seem to be more people just kind of wandering by, which makes sense because now anybody passing by would no longer see what looked like a closed-off area. Instead, they see a bountiful market.”

Once the fences came down, the benches along the Grande Allée became usable and musicians had new areas to perform on market Saturday mornings. Furthermore, the recycling bins behind the fences became available.

And there appears to be a positive spillover effect from the market thriving in the new and fully open park. As Nu Grocery owner Valerie Leloup observed, “Having the Main Farmers' Market along the Grande Allée makes it more of a destination. The market is now at the centre of the Main Street neighbourhood and closer to all the other stores. We’ve definitely seen an uptick in the number of people visiting our store after going to the Market. It adds life and character to the neighbourhood and there’s more foot traffic, which benefits everyone!”

## CANAL LIGHTING PROGRESS

Work on the Rideau Canal lighting rehabilitation project is progressing well and is on schedule, according to the National Capital Commission (NCC). Lights are being installed on the Glebe portion of Queen Elizabeth Driveway and the directional drilling for the underground wiring is 98 percent complete.

The longstanding need to fix Canal pathway and roadway lighting will result in 50 percent more lights and stretches where there have been gaps in lighting fixtures will be filled. The NCC is targeting project completion for 2025 but, as sections are

completed, they will be activated.

The second phase of the Colonel By Drive retaining wall rehabilitation project will not begin until next year. *The Mainstreeter* had previously reported that this work would begin later this year. The second phase is all in Old Ottawa South between Bank Street and Rosedale Avenue. The work will be similar in appearance to what was done two years ago with the Old Ottawa East section of Colonel By Drive.

## RIVERDALE SUBSTATION – TOBOGGANING “NOT RECOMMENDED”

The good news is that the upgrading of Hydro Ottawa’s Riverdale substation is on schedule, but the bad news is that Hydro really does not want anybody tobogganing on the hill just to the east of the existing building.

For many years, children have enjoyed sliding down the modest hill on the site at the corner of Riverdale Avenue and Main Street but, asked about this, Hydro says, “For safety reasons, Hydro Ottawa does not recommend residents use our properties for recreational use such as sledding. Most of our properties house electrical equipment that is dangerous to the public. We strongly recommend that residents follow all safety signs on our properties and use public parks for outdoor activities.”

The design for the new building that is to be constructed to the east of the existing heritage building will be completed by the end of August and, previously, Hydro said that the design would be shared with the community before construction begins near the end of the year.

So far, Hydro has relocated the duct banks and infrastructure for underground chambers and it is relocating the cables from the old ducts, work that may involve some detours for pedestrians and cyclists.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

## LANSDOWNE – LESS ESCAPADE NOISE

This June’s Escapade Music Festival at Lansdowne Park was less noisy than last year - or at least fewer people complained about the noise. Old Ottawa East residents near the Canal are particularly aware of the noise because, unlike many Glebe residents, there are no obstructions to the sound.

*Continued on Page 12*



# OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY UPDATES

*Continued from Page 11*

Poor weather resulted in the cancellation of the final night and made for chilly attendance earlier. Escapade is an annual electronic dance music festival held at Lansdowne that hosts some of the biggest names in the electronic dance music industry. Despite the poor weather, enthusiastic concert-goers thronged Bank Street in the Glebe, many of them uniquely dressed for the event.

“By-law and Regulatory Services issued one ticket and one court summons to the organizers of Escapade for violations under the noise by-law,” says Roger Chapman, the City’s director of by-law and regulatory services.

This year, according to CTV News, City By-Law Enforcement received 38 complaints about Escapade. Last year, there were 152 complaints.

According to CTV News, “Some people on social media claimed they heard music from the event more than seven kilometres from Lansdowne, including in Orleans and Cumberland. One person responded to a tweet from Ottawa Public Health saying, ‘How about Ottawa Public Health looks at the excessive bass at this event for the second year in a row and how that affects people’s health.’”

As a result of complaints last year, the event coordinator of Escapade was charged with nine counts of violations of the City’s noise by-law. The result was one conviction with an associated fine of \$490.

## 15 DES OBLATS PROGRESS

Work on the approved 284-unit redevelopment of the convent at 15 des Oblats has begun in earnest. Forum Asset Management has taken over sole ownership of the project.

Proper construction hoarding fencing with artwork has been constructed around the site. The demolition of the interior of the existing building and “soil work” have begun. Approval of the project’s site plan is not expected until next year.

## LEES - HAWTHORNE WESTBOUND CYCLING

Westbound Lees Avenue - Hawthorne Avenue cyclists will have a safer route sometime in the future. The Greenfield/Main/Hawthorne project now underway includes a westbound cycling lane between Main Street and Echo Drive. According to City staff, “The 2023 Transportation Master Plan includes a project to add a westbound contra-flow bike lane on Hawthorne Avenue, specifically the segment east of Main Street.” This will connect Concord Street South to the westbound cycling lane on Lees extending east beyond Concord.

“The timing of this project has not yet been determined,” says Kalle Halaka, program manager of active transportation planning. “The City will share its priorities for the active transportation projects as part of the next round of public engagement on Part 2 of the Transportation Master Plan, which is expected in late fall of 2024.”

## BRANTWOOD BASKETBALL COURT GRASS

Grass continues to grow in the cracks of the Brantwood Park basketball court but the City has determined that immediate replacement of the base and asphalt surface is not required. Last year, the City removed vegetation from the sides of the court, and the area was regraded to improve drainage away from the playing surface. Also, as had been requested by community members, lines were painted on the court to enhance playability.

“Courts in municipal parks are evaluated periodically for necessary repairs and, if needed, eventual replacement to ensure they remain safe and functional for all users,” says Dan Chenier, the City’s general manager of recreation, cultural and facility services. “Residents are encouraged to call 3-1-1 if they have any concerns or notice issues that require attention.”

## PATHWAY BETWEEN BRANTWOOD PARK AND SMYTH BRIDGE

Aside from a new mowing schedule, the City has no plans for additional changes to the Rideau River Western Pathway (RRWP)/nature trail running from the southern end of Brantwood Park to the Smyth Bridge.

During the pandemic, and as the pathway to the north was much improved through Greystone Village, use of the Brantwood-Smyth RRWP section dramatically increased with resulting widening of the area used by pedestrians and cyclists.

“The City of Ottawa listened to feedback from the community on the maintenance

of the Rideau River Western Pathway,” says Allyson Downs, director of parks maintenance and forestry services. “In consultation with the community, the City’s parks maintenance staff determined that an appropriate mowing schedule for the section of the pathway by Brantwood Park and Rideau Garden Drive would be five to six times a year.”

“Due to the tree canopy in the area and its susceptibility to varying degrees of flooding during the spring freshet, there are challenges with grass growth and as such, reseeding in the area would not be an effective option,” says Downs.

“In consultation with the ward councillor and community, the pathway was established as a paved multi-use pathway in some sections and, by Brantwood Park and Rideau Garden Drive, as an unpaved nature trail,” says Downs.



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

## DOORS OPEN: HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING AND AIDS CENTRE

Two Old Ottawa East buildings – the University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Health Sciences building on Lees Avenue and the AIDS Committee of Ottawa at 19 Main Street - were featured in June’s Doors Open Ottawa, an annual event that gives the public access to many of the City’s unique and often historically significant sites.

The new Health Sciences building had over 360 visitors. Laboratories in nutrition, occupational therapy and nursing were open to welcome visitors. Faculty members made presentations on head trauma in sport, motion analysis to understand locomotor disorders in Parkinson’s disease, and the anthropometry room (for the study of the measurements and proportions of the human body). Nine guided tours were given during the course of the event, held a few days before the first anniversary of the opening of the building.

During the guided tours, visitors saw: the modern classrooms and nursing simulation labs where students master a wide range of clinical skills; a metabolic chamber that monitors energy expenditure to better prevent and treat obesity; a hypoxia chamber that simulates altitude; a music and health studio where researchers study the effects of instrumental and choral practice on rehabilitation and well-being; and a neurotraumatology impact laboratory where researchers study brain and nervous system injuries in sport, to name but a few highlights.

The Health Services building is home to more than 45 classrooms and teaching labs, as well as 20 research labs located at key points to promote organic collaboration across disciplines.

“We had 50 visitors that day, and it went really well,” says Khaled Salam, Executive Director of the AIDS Committee of Ottawa. His staff gave guided tours throughout the day and provided information on the support, education and harm reduction services offered by the agency.



# Main Street speed board back after 10 years, but some have lingering concerns about enforcement, location

## JOHN DANCE

Residents' reaction to the new speed board on northbound Main Street has generally been positive but some argue that it should have been further north along Main and most are of the view that more needs to be done – including more enforcement - to reduce speeding on Main. The new speed board has been placed on Main at a location just where drivers come off the Smyth/McIlraith Bridge, the same spot it was situated 10 years ago, before that speed board was taken down.

The reactions of the community's residents were gathered from the responses of 27 people who commented on the Old Ottawa East Grapevine Facebook page.

"[The speed board] helps me be conscious of my speed and I have noticed others tend to adjust as well, however, I think using it in conjunction with a speed camera and/or a couple of speed bumps would be much more effective," commented Brenda Dee.

Similarly, Jennifer Drew posted, "I am thrilled to see this speed board as an initial mitigation. I am not confident that it will have significant impact in the long run." She went on to note "the ultimate solution will be red light and speed cameras."

"We have one on Lees outside our house," noted Wendy McRae. "People at first slowed down a bit, but three years later, almost nobody even sees it, or if they do, it does not register. Some even speed up as they approach it. Of course, the limit on Lees is 30 km/hr which nobody can believe anyhow. To my knowledge, we have had no enforcement."

The need for additional and continuing enforcement is key for many respondents. One post noted, "The police were there last week by the bridge pulling many speeders over. However, as usual, when there is no police presence, people are easily going 60 or more across the bridge until the Riverdale Avenue lights."

"I pushed (years ago) to get a speed sign like this in this location, and am glad to see it is finally in place," says Steve Konkle. "On my few trips over the bridge, I feel like I have already noticed an impact. I think these speed boards give an immediate feedback to people that they are going over the speed limit, and may cause them to slow down, and be more aware of the limit on future trips."

"Of note, these signs also collect data," notes Konkle. "The data can be used to determine what percent of traffic is over the limit, and by how much. The data

should also be able to identify specific days/times enforcement is particularly needed." *The Mainstreeter* will follow-up to see what data is collected over the first few months of the speed board and how much enforcement has been done.

Various questions have been raised about the speed board, including its location. Some suggest that it should be farther along Main, at Centennial Boulevard, closer to Riverdale, or between Riverdale and Bower Street/Beckwith Road, the latter to deter motorists from speeding through red lights there.

A few residents noted that the speed board needs to be reconfigured so that it doesn't flash a "frown" for drivers going between 30 and 40 km/hr. Others have noted that serious speeding continues to happen in non-peak periods.

Although later this year a speed camera will be installed on Main Street near Immaculata High School, City policy does not permit speed cameras in any locations other than those by schools or frequented by seniors and children. It seems local residents would like to see this policy changed so that speed limits are "camera" enforced all along Main Street.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Residents such as Roopa Dolvane of Main Street say the speed board should be relocated closer to Centennial Blvd. to stop speeders.

## OPINION

**"..an ill-conceived plan that will reduce the quality of the experience at Lansdowne Park."**

**- Shawn Menard**

*Continued from Page 9*

was eliminated for budgetary reasons.

Meanwhile the estimated cost of the Lansdowne 2.0 project has gone from \$332.6 million to \$419 million, although the City's Auditor General says it may be \$77 million more. Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, OOECA's Lansdowne Committee Chair, notes that the figure doesn't include another \$19 million of proposed work in the City's estimates. The total cost of the renovations to the City, including the original project of \$210 million may be close to \$700 million and, so far, the City has yet to see a dollar of profit.

### Unresolved Fundamental Issue

The fundamental issue of whether Lansdowne Park is the best location for a new entertainment centre continues to be ignored by Mayor Sutcliffe and most City Councillors. As a result of the success of Ottawa's PWHL team with average attendance of 7,500 fans at Lansdowne's existing entertainment centre, many people questioned why the proposed new entertainment centre will have seating for just 5,500 fans. But Sutcliffe has dismissed this concern, telling TSN: "This arena is going to serve a multitude of purposes; we're not just building an arena for PWHL Ottawa."

He went on to explain that there would be many other uses of the new facility and noted that the PWHL team would only use the arena 15 times a year. Meanwhile, as another part of the Lansdowne 2.0 plan, the northside stands are to

be demolished and replaced – also with reduced capacity - even though both sides of the stadium are primarily required for just a dozen Redblacks games a year.

Capital Ward Councillor Shawn Menard, who has been leading the effort to make substantial and affordable changes to the Lansdowne plan, commented: "Lansdowne 2.0 is an ill-conceived plan that will reduce the quality of the experience at Lansdowne Park. Consider for a moment that with this plan we lose a roof over the north side stands, fewer seats means higher ticket costs, drastically less green space and no hill for casual far-away event viewing or sledding in the winter."

"The plan will result in more cars circulating through the park, and buildings that will be exceptionally expensive with no affordable housing and with 90 percent of their property taxes siphoned off to help make a dent in the over \$500 million in debt repayments over 40 years," concludes Menard. "From a sports fan, park-goer, and taxpayer perspective, this plan is not an improvement. We remain concerned with the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal for all of the reasons raised by the community and by the UDRP and will be encouraging Council to reconsider it as a whole at the next decision point."

On September 10th, the City will be holding a "virtual" public meeting on the draft plan and it will then be reviewed by the City's Accessibility Committee before it is finalized by staff.

**Editor's Note:** John Dance is on OOECA's Lansdowne and Planning committees and has participated in Lansdowne-related consultations with the City.







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**Greenfield/Main/Hawthorne Project –****Some progress reported, some safety issues not yet resolved**

JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The City has agreed to install bollards on Hawthorne Avenue but no decision has been taken yet for a bollard right at the southwest corner of Main Street and Hawthorne.

**JOHN DANCE**

Several Old Ottawa East residents almost sustained serious injury and are profoundly concerned after a number of motorists recently ignored the no-southbound restriction on Main Street north of Hawthorne Avenue as the massive Greenfield/Main/Hawthorne (GMH) project continues.

Asked about this, the City responded that the “contractor has adjusted the traffic control layout to improve overall safety and limit drivers from travelling in the restricted areas on Main Street. Additionally, a concrete jersey barrier on the south side of Main Street at the Greenfield Avenue intersection has been installed to further assist with traffic control.”

“The contractor and the construction team continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary to optimize the temporary traffic set up,” says Bruce Kenny, the City’s manager of design and construction. “The project team has also discussed these traffic concerns with the Councillor’s office, who has reached out to Police Services regarding potential enforcement.”

The City still has not made a decision on whether a safety bollard will be installed right at the substandard sidewalk at the southwest corner of Main and Hawthorne. It has agreed to install several bollards on the Hawthorne side of the corner but not right at the corner.

“The project team is committed to reviewing the feasibility of positioning and installing the additional bollard once all the underground infrastructure has been established and the physical constraints relating to winter maintenance are more fully understood,” reports Kenny.

Meanwhile the large GMH project “is generally progressing as planned,” says Kenny. “Utility work on Hawthorne Avenue and on the section of Greenfield Avenue between King Edward Avenue and the Highway 417 on-ramp is proceeding slightly slower than anticipated, which is affecting final road reinstatements.”

Details on work accomplished include the installation of the deep storm sewer manholes on Main Street, with connections into sewers on Harvey Street and Greenfield Avenue. On Greenfield, sections of storm sewer, sanitary sewer and watermain have been installed and are ongoing. The relocation of hydro ducts, construction of the retaining wall, sidewalk installation and some soft landscaping has also been completed.

On Hawthorne, underground infrastructure related to Hydro Ottawa and Rogers Cable is progressing well and remains ongoing. Installation of road base and base course asphalt has been completed.

On Echo, streetlights have been installed and soft landscaping has begun.

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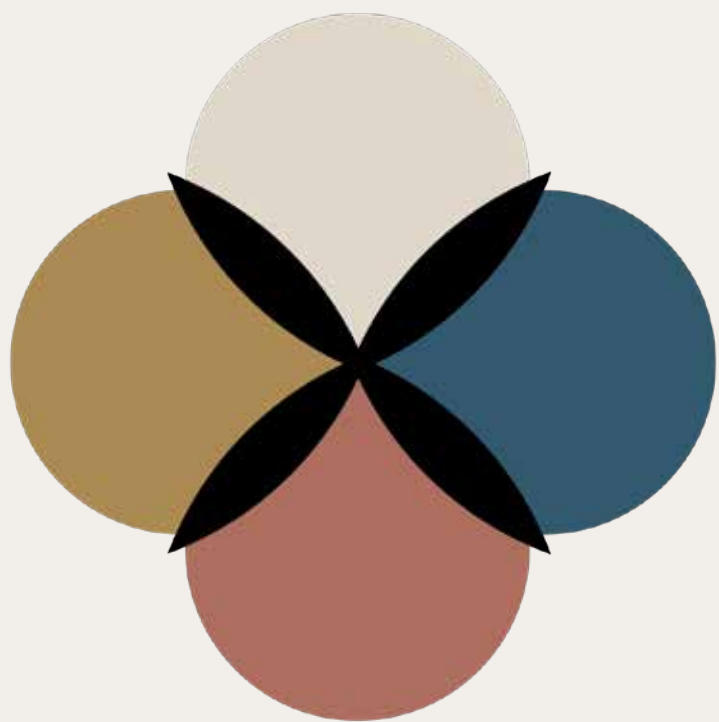
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## Lansdowne 2.0 appeals quashed

*Continued from Page 5*

constitutes a real financial blow.

“The GCA followed due process in good faith,” says Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, chair of OOECA’s

Lansdowne committee. “It is not simply a matter of ‘community voices’ not being heard, but that appeals functioned as a check and balance on possible corrupt practices.”



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The Ford Government’s retroactive cancellation of Glebe Community Association’s appeal of Lansdowne Park rezoning means the loss of much of the park’s greenspace and the waste of the funding and volunteer effort that local communities expended in preparing the appeal.

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## OUR NEIGHBOURS

Graham Avenue residents for 48 years

# PEI-bound Barbara and Ian Kirk bid a fond farewell to Old Ottawa East

LOUISE RACHLIS

Graham Avenue won't be the same after the recent departure for Prince Edward Island (PEI) of Barbara and Ian Kirk. The longtime Old Ottawa East (OOE) residents and community volunteers had lived on Graham Avenue for 48 years, and on Glencairn Avenue before that.

The week before they embarked for the East Coast, their neighbours Francine Leduc and David Goulding organized a backyard farewell gathering of their Graham Street friends and neighbours. Graham is a one-way street that runs between Main Street and Echo Drive.

Ian was an avid rider, collector and restorer of vintage bicycles, so he bade a reluctant goodbye to his immaculate workshop garage. Specializing in flat bar resto-mods of vintage European bicycles, he's proud to describe himself as a "huge bike snob." There will be five bicycles going to PEI with him.

Barbara is an avid gardener who tends her own beautiful property as well as the overflowing floral barrels across the street at the adult high school. She'll have lots of room to use her skills on her large acreage in Charlottetown.

Barbara's father was in the Air Force and after ending the war in a POW camp, got an engineering degree and moved around, including stops at Cold Lake and White Horse. His first posting was to Charlottetown. Her parents lived

there when she moved to Ottawa and met Ian, who had moved to Ottawa from Georgian Bay to work for the federal government.

The couple moved to Graham Avenue in 1976. "I was the youngest woman on the street," recalls Barbara, who worked for the departments of Agriculture, Health and Welfare, Treasury Board, the Privy Council Office and the Prime Minister's Office.

She says she'll miss the people of OOE whom she has known for decades. She and her two brothers attended Lady Evelyn School and, in the summers, "we spent our whole time at Brighton Beach. This has been a lovely community," she says.

Barbara's mother died two years ago, leaving the family house in PEI. Barbara and Ian decided it was time to leave Graham Avenue "and buy the house and go."

At the farewell party, their friends and neighbours took turns voicing what came to mind when hearing the names Barbara and Ian Kirk - "your wisdom," "you've done great things for our community," "your generous souls," "being very welcoming," "very kind," "you're the grandma of the street." *The Mainstreeter's* John Dance, who dropped by the party, will miss their community association emails and involvement and concern about life in OOE.

Ian recalled that when they moved into



LOUISE RACHLIS PHOTOS

**Longtime Old Ottawa East residents Ian and Barbara Kirk were guests of honour at a recent backyard bon voyage party to toast the couple who are heading east to live in PEI after 48 years residing on Graham Avenue.**

their house on Graham Avenue "before anybody got here, there was a community of elderly ladies. They just loved Barbara. Barbara's community spirit is driving the street."

"I'm very grateful you were here to make my parents feel welcome," Francine and David's son Justin Goulding told the much-loved couple at their farewell party.

A long-time neighbour of the Kirk's, Louise Rachlis took over Ian Kirk's delivery route for *The Mainstreeter*. A prolific local artist, Louise will be exhibiting her artwork at *A Walk of Art* 2024 on September 28th.



Friends of the Kirk's enjoyed an afternoon farewell gathering held for the couple at the home of Francine Leduc and David Goulding.

## Old Ottawa East Community Association seeks volunteers

JAYSON MACLEAN

The Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) will be holding its annual membership drive this September and October, with plenty of ways for you to participate.

OOECA is your voice in Ottawa! It serves as a bridge between residents and government and allows residents to connect with their neighbours and to help support our community.

OOECA has a number of committees that focus on various topics like planning, transportation and environment, all aimed at supporting the interests and well-being of our community. Membership is just \$5 per household!

You can help with the membership drive by:

- Delivering membership notices door-to-door on your street
- Coordinating our volunteer delivery heroes in your area
- Organizing membership drive materials and communications

Your volunteer time commitment can be as little as a few hours, and we could really use your help! Contact Jayson MacLean, OOECA Membership Chair, at [membership@ottawaeast.ca](mailto:membership@ottawaeast.ca).



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Setting our course to 2027...

## "In Our Next Issue": The Mainstreeter's new strategic plan

### MAINSTREETER STAFF

It has been said that the place of newspapers is to report the news, and not to make it. On occasion though, the place where other people's news stories are told may also have a story of its own to tell.

For the first time in its 39-year history, *The Mainstreeter* has undertaken a strategic planning exercise that sets out a governance framework for the community newspaper, a



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

*The Mainstreeter's* Board Chairperson Dianne Wing

mission statement, an organization-wide vision and a lengthy list of strategic objectives for its volunteer Board of Directors and editorial team to pursue over the next three years.

Entitled "*In Our Next Issue*," the new strategic plan for the community newspaper of Old Ottawa East (OOE) builds upon foundational work done by the previous Board, the recent editorial success of the paper and some ground-breaking community-building initiatives that have helped OOE and its residents transition through significant changes brought on by COVID, intensive development and explosive growth, says Dianne Wing, Chairperson of *The Mainstreeter*.

"I became Chair this February at the same time that four new directors joined the Board. It was a time of change for the paper after the steady leadership of our past Chair, Ron Rose. All of us believed that *The Mainstreeter* was a fine community newspaper, and that we had done well to champion *A Walk of Art*, our outdoor exhibit of local artists, and the annual OOE Community Calendar featuring Tim Hunt's fantastic sketches of Old Ottawa East," Wing recalls.

"But there was no consensus on what we should and should not be doing going forward. *The Mainstreeter* was founded in 1985 and incorporated in 2016, so we had a constitution and bylaws, but we had no strategic plan. It made sense for this new

## "In Our Next Issue" The Mainstreeter's new strategic plan 2024 - 2027

### OUR VISION:

To be the trusted and independent source for the ideas, information, news and events that affect the Old Ottawa East community.

### OUR MISSION:

To provide access to the most important and relevant ideas, information, news, events and initiatives that engage the people of Old Ottawa East through the development of sources, resources and delivery mechanisms.

### OUR CORE VALUES:

1. We earn our community's trust through professionalism, fairness and integrity.
2. We are independent and impartial.
3. We strive to reflect, enhance and build our Old Ottawa East community.
4. We seek to engage all members of our community.
5. We commit to responsible and sustainable stewardship of our finances and resources.

*The Mainstreeter's* new Mission and Vision statements and Core Values will guide the governance and editorial operations of the organization into the future, according to Dianne Wing, Chairperson of *The Mainstreeter*.

board to take some time to figure out our Mission and our Vision. We needed to ensure that all of us were on the same page, and a strategic plan was the clear path we had to take."

For the Chairperson, her fellow board members and *The Mainstreeter's* key volunteer staffers, the strategic planning experience kicked into high gear at a Saturday afternoon session in June at the Atelier Mauril-Bélanger that was facilitated by governance consultant, Claudia Newman.

Wing credits Newman's extensive experience helping non-profit organizations develop strategic planning and governance policies for much of the success of *The Mainstreeter's* recent planning initiative. "Claudia's north star is striving to set a solid governance and policy foundation that supports excellence in the work the organization undertakes.

"In the case of *The Mainstreeter*, she helped us envision an organization that was respectful, trustworthy, transparent and accountable to the community we serve. And we all agreed that was exactly what we needed to be."

During the meeting, Wing outlined

some of the objectives that she and the rest of the board will pursue to improve the organization's governance. First and foremost, the board will undertake a review of all of its governance documents, and update or develop a range of key policies.

Likewise, Lorne Abugov, the editor of *The Mainstreeter*, briefed attendees at the planning session on the strategic objectives that will shape editorial operations between now and 2027. In an effort to reach a broader and younger readership demographic, Abugov plans to work with the board to revamp *The Mainstreeter's* website with a mobile format, introduce an e-newsletter and recruit a cadre of younger reporters.

Also at the planning session, *The Mainstreeter* board pledged to continue developing and promoting community-building events and initiatives like *A Walk of Art* to enhance the newspaper's visibility and credibility within OOE.

"It is an exciting time to live in Old Ottawa East," Wing noted. Our overriding objective over the next three years is to do whatever we can to reflect, enhance and build this community."

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# Saint Paul University inks partnership agreement with Université Catholique de L'Ouest in Angers, France

**JULIE BOURASSA & MAINSTREETER STAFF**

Saint Paul University (SPU) has entered into an international partnership that links its School of Conflict Studies with the Department of Political Science at Université Catholique de L'Ouest (UCO) in Angers, France. SPU announced the partnership agreement in a media release on June 24th, noting that the new accord would “provide more academic and research opportunities for the students and faculty members of both institutions.”

On the research front, the new partnership facilitates collaboration between UCO's research group Stratégie, État et Recherche de la paix (SERP) and SPU's Conflict Research Centre.

“We are proud to be collaborating with UCO and we look forward to the possibilities that this partnership presents,” said Dr. Louis Patrick Leroux, Rector of Saint Paul

University. “This partnership not only expands our international network, it also provides new opportunities for collaboration, innovation and cultural exchange – all of which are essential in the field of diplomacy and peacebuilding.”

Over 1,550 foreign students study at UCO each year, either to learn French as a foreign language, to obtain a French bachelor's or master's degree or as exchange students for a semester or a whole year. UCO boasts eight different campuses, students from 81 different nations and 100 different fields of study.

For students of both universities, a highlight of the partnership is the joint diploma from both institutions: a university diploma in global diplomacy from UCO with an M.A. in Conflict Studies from SPU. The joint-diploma program allows students to study abroad and to gain diverse, complementary perspectives as the program combines the academic expertise of each institution.

SPU will begin offering this program to students in the 2024-2025 academic year.

## *New collective agreement with professors*

Earlier this summer, the union representing full-time professors at SPU announced that it had entered into a new three-year collective agreement, successfully concluding two-month-long negotiations with the university's administration. The new agreement has a retroactive start date of May 1, 2024 and will end on April 30, 2027.


“Our professors are essential to the student experience and are all valued members of the university community. This agreement reflects our shared commitment to fostering a positive working relationship,” said Carole Audet, Associate SPU Vice Rector, Talent, Diversity, Culture. “I want to thank the Professors' Association of Saint Paul University (PASPU) for their openness and collaboration throughout the bargaining process. We look forward to continuing our collaboration to advance the university's academic mission of research and education excellence.”

“I want to thank our negotiation team for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the bargaining process,” said Amanda Wilson, President of PASPU “We are proud to have reached a new collective agreement that addresses the needs and concerns of our members, and which will contribute to the increased well-being of our academic community.”




UCO WEBSITE PHOTO

Starting this September, Saint Paul University students will be able to study in France under a new joint diploma program with Université Catholique de L'Ouest (UCO).




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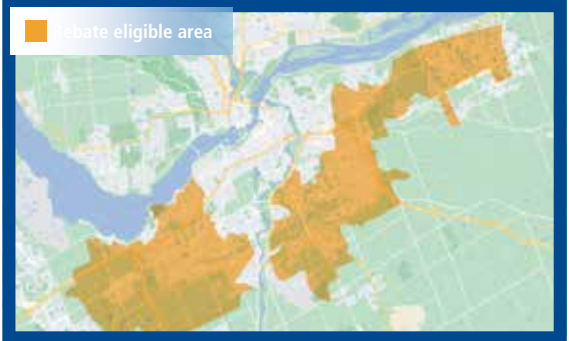


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# New women's pro team is helping to fuel local growth of girls hockey

*About 400 girls ranging in age from five to 18 are now taking to the ice in central Ottawa each season to play competitive and house league hockey on teams operated by the Ottawa Girls Hockey Association.*

## DIANNE WING

Just minutes from TD Place and the Rideau Canal, Old Ottawa East is by its very location a hockey friendly neighbourhood. Several international players from Ottawa's new Professional Women's Hockey Team have recently chosen to live right here. So it makes sense that girls in Old Ottawa East can find their introduction to hockey nearby.

The Ottawa Girls Hockey Association (OGHA) operates programs for girls ages five to 18. Approximately 400 girls play hockey each season on both house league and competitive teams. There are also a few senior divisions which include competitive and house league players who are over 18 and who wish to continue playing the sport they love alongside their friends and teammates.

Katie Curran, President of OGHA explains that "the overarching goals of the association are to offer a supportive, encouraging and fun environment for girls to enjoy hockey." Playing hockey provides a lot of benefits to girls. It fosters team building, develops

leadership skills, builds social connections outside their normal school community and encourages an active lifestyle."

Curran speaks from personal experience. Her daughter began playing hockey with a co-ed association. "While she was a great skater, she hesitated to go after the puck and often allowed other kids to take it." Curran wondered if her daughter would have more confidence in a girls-only league so she was signed up with OGHA the following year and has been playing with the association ever since (she is now 11). "She plays with her best friends and has made new friends along the way. The team has an incredible bond and it's been an amazing experience for her and a lot of fun for us as parents."

And fun is what it's all about. The FUNdamentals program is a great way to start. It's for girls aged four to six and offers a friendly environment for youngsters who just want to try the sport. It runs twice a week, Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. In addition to a dedicated coach, older players often join in to support the new players. Seven and eight year olds are also welcome to enroll at the U9 level.

House league is open to all who want to play hockey and includes ages seven to 18. During the season, house league generally plays one game per week plus an additional one to two practices. The focus remains on having fun, building a positive environment and supporting all levels of play. Registration for the FUNdamentals program and house league is ongoing through September.

OGHA serves central Ottawa, including Old Ottawa East, Old Ottawa South, Sandy Hill and Westboro. One of the primary arenas for the association is nearby Sandy Hill, while other arenas include Jim Durrell, Carleton University, Brian Kilrea, Richcraft Sensplex, St. Laurent and McNabb.

OGHA's competitive program has had success in supporting players who eventually go on to play past secondary school. Last year, 10 players committed to playing university-level hockey, including one player at a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 school in the United States.

The impact of the new Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL) on women and girls who enjoy playing hockey has been incredible to witness. Curran has heard from countless players who now say they



OGHA LOGO AND PHOTOS

**ABOVE:** The team mascot joins the Arctic Foxes during their warmup. **BELOW:** The OGHA league's dynamic logo. **BELOW LEFT:** The Arctic Foxes and the Tasmanian Tigers join forces at their first game.



actually see a future for themselves in women's hockey that they couldn't see before. One player told Curran that "I can actually play a sport I love, as my job, AND get paid for it."

Ottawa's inaugural PWHL team led the league in attendance. Not a surprise for a city where toddlers wobble on skates, girls play on their own teams and women continue to play as adults.



# Ottawa Girls Hockey

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*Abbotsford Centre Garden Tour showcases three Old Ottawa East gardens*

# Those gorgeous gardens of Glenora Street!



**BEVERLY FOX**

On a Saturday in late June, three gardens on Glenora Street in Old Ottawa East were featured in 'How Does THEIR Garden Grow,' an inspired inaugural fundraising garden tour in support of the Abbotsford Seniors Centre (Abbotsford). The tour included nine gardens in total, several from each of Old Ottawa East, Old Ottawa South, and the Glebe, and the participating gardeners were generous in sharing their knowledge and expertise with close to 150 eager tour visitors.

The inaugural fundraiser netted approximately \$7,750 for Abbotsford. Organizers are hopeful that the event will evolve into an annual affair to help support the financial sustainability of Abbotsford - a vital community service for seniors in the city.

If the reaction of tour visitors is any indication, a repeat of the event next year appears likely. According to one Old Ottawa East resident who took in the tour, the event was a huge success. "It's a fantastic idea, and there was a varied and interesting selection of gardens. I live off of Main Street, and this is my second year creating a downsized garden, so it was great getting ideas from other gardens."



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTOS



A delightful cluster of vibrant gardens on Glenora Street have helped to put Old Ottawa East front and centre on the local gardening map. Pictured here are well-tended gardens at 142 Glenora (top right), 140 Glenora (top left) and 139 Glenora (left).

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*A community-wide thank you to Tim Poirier*

# Urban guerilla gardener builds a tranquil oasis one shovelful at a time



PETER CROAL PHOTOS

**Tim Poirier has single-handedly created a veritable oasis of calm at the east end of Springhurst Park by the Rideau River. His creative solution to a problem has resulted in a better living space for all of us in Old Ottawa East.**

## PETER CROAL

There are many delightful aspects about walking, one of which is that you can notice subtle changes on your route should you walk it many times. One example would be my walks at the east end of Springhurst Park, just by the Rideau River. During and after COVID, I walked this route many times and started to notice something very interesting unfolding in a forested space just off the walking trail, close to one of the parking areas of the Lees Avenue apartments. Slowly, the land was being transformed into a welcoming garden complete with sitting areas, two BBQs, views, drainage, and clever outdoor furniture, well made from wooden pallets. Lately, a small bridge was added along with more places to enjoy a rest or to read a book.

Every time I walked by this space, I asked myself, “Who is doing this? I need to meet this person!”

Through contacts at *The Mainstreeter*, I learned that the secretive but effective agent of change for this garden area is Tim Poirier, a native of Ottawa who has been one of the superintendents of the Lees Avenue apartments for the

past seven years. I met with him this summer and came away with all sorts of interesting stories about how he created such a welcoming outdoor space.

Poirier has always enjoyed gardening. He felt that by improving this corner of the small forest, he might lower the incidence of drug use and informal camping by the Rideau River. Prior to the creation of his garden, he would find needles and other substance-use paraphernalia that were obviously a hazard for people and animals traversing the area. Inspired, Poirier worked alone when time permitted to transform wooden pallets into very comfortable chairs, benches, lounges and even bridges and boardwalks. Without any help, he has created this space one shovelful at a time, and by getting good ideas from the Internet on how to use pallet wood to create outdoor structures.

Poirier is pleased that the response from the community has been extremely positive, and he has noticed that informal camping as well as drug use in this area has declined markedly. He hopes to perhaps add a swing in the area so children of all ages could have a bit of fun. When asked what his message to the community is about his work, Poirier said, “Just do it. If you see a problem in your community, do something about it.” He is very proud of what he has accomplished over the last couple of years, creating real community space from pre-used materials at almost no cost. Illegal activities of the past have been reduced and a beautiful place to rest and meet friends or family has emerged. Poirier’s actions are an excellent example of “guerilla gardening,” which is doing gardening activities without asking permission.

People like Tim Poirier are the unsung champions of change in Old Ottawa

East (OOE). He saw a problem, thought about it and responded with direct action resulting in a better living space for residents of the Lees Avenue apartments and a safer and more welcoming community for all of OOE.

There are many issues that citizens and politicians at all levels confront today. Perhaps through habit, we collectively default to saying, “the government should do something about this.” Poirier has shown residents of OOE that there is another path to problem solving, namely, “just do it.” Of course, while issues pertaining to liability and public safety need to be respected, there are always things residents can do to make our community more liveable, enjoyable and safe for all without waiting for the City to act. We can get involved with our local community groups, volunteer more and even take direct action such as installing wire mesh to protect trees along the river from beavers. It is these small unselfish acts that make OOE a unique community to live in.

Perhaps when you are next walking on the path near the Lees Avenue apartments and you see Tim Poirier doing more creative things in his green oasis, take a moment and say thanks. Who knows how you may become inspired to act by meeting him and enjoying his tranquil space.



**For more information on volunteering please see: <https://www.ottawaeastcag.org/get-involved>; <https://ottawaeast.ca/sloe/>; and <https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/volunteering>. Information on guerilla gardening can be found at: <https://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/gardening-across-the-city/> as well as at: <https://guerrilla-gardening.ca>.**





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## FOOD & DRINK

# A truly grand opening for Xing Fu Tang as business bubbles over



TERRY WEST PHOTOS

**Business is bubbling as Xing Fu Tang, the new bubble tea destination, opens on Main Street.**

**PETER TOBIN**

A shame if you missed the parade on Main Street last month. Not one with bands and floats mind you but one with a mountain of balloons, a singer strumming his guitar and a woman in a flamboyant purple dress who welcomed you in for a round of bubble tea.

The occasion was the July 20/21 Grand Opening of Xing Fu Tang Bubble Tea. For hours, happy customers, about five hundred strong each day, gathered in a line that snaked along Main outside the Milieu shops, then stretched well down Avenue des Oblats. The happy crowd consisted of a mix of youngsters to seniors, often clustered together with family or friends. A big draw was the offer of a free bubble tea to the first 100 customers on each day of the weekend.

Xing Fu Tang (translation: House of Happiness) is a chain of bubble tea restaurants founded in Taiwan in 2018. Currently it has over 150 locations throughout the world. The first Canadian franchise opened in Vancouver in 2018.

The major stakeholder in our Old Ottawa East bubble tea franchise and the outlet's manager is Rose Nguyen, a young woman with an engaging personality and an interesting background. Born and raised in Vietnam and with family still there, Nguyen had an early passion for sweet desserts and bubble tea. On visits to nearby countries Taiwan, South Korea

and Thailand, she searched out dessert and bubble tea shops.

Leaving home at age 22, she moved to the United Kingdom with Jack Vu, the man who was soon to become not only her business partner but also her husband. Both spent their UK years studying management issues and working full time before coming to Ottawa just a few years ago. They are also both recent Algonquin College graduates of business programs. The young couple currently reside in Barrhaven but are planning to relocate to Old Ottawa East in the near future.

In an email exchange with *The Mainstreeter*, Nguyen explained the roots of her business interest. "My journey into the bubble tea business began with my passion for bubble tea and dessert. Choosing bubble tea was a natural decision because I had worked as a manager for a bubble tea chain for years before deciding to start my own. Additionally, I wanted to bring the quality of freshly made tapioca pearls to Ottawa, so everyone can taste the difference. We use high quality ingredients and strive to create a welcoming experience for all."

Without exception, the customers this writer spoke to were very positive about their individual selections of bubble tea. Twenty-somethings Shireen from Centretown and Nadine from Nepean were particularly enthusiastic about their choices. A man I spoke to recently called the tapioca pearls amazing.

Opening day reviews on social media are also in for Xing Fu Tang, and here's a representative sample from one happy customer:

"Finally, I found the bubble tea shop of my heart here in Ottawa. The rich tea flavour mixed with the fragrant milk and not-too-sweet taste combined with the sweetness of the brown sugar pearls is truly perfect. And for the first time, I drank fresh milk with brown sugar pearls topped with a rich vanilla-scented cream (I guess) that was very delicious.

"I went on the grand opening day in the afternoon; although there was still a long line, the drinks were served very quickly!!! The second time I came back, they already had tables and chairs to sit down and a few small tables outside in the yard. Love it !!!"



Line-up counts on opening weekend at Xing Fu Tang numbered about 1,000, buoyed by a giveaway promotion. But location manager Rose Nguyen believes quality ingredients will keep customers coming back.



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## FOOD & DRINK



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

Old Ottawa East businessman Kareem Maroufi, who owns and operates Kouzina Pizza on Lees Avenue, is the man behind MrBeast Burger in Ottawa. Maroufi, and his wife Gohar, operate the MrBeast Burger "ghost kitchen" in Ottawa from their pizzeria, creating Beast style and Chandler style burgers and crinkle fries that are especially popular with youngsters.

## Meet OOE's MrBeast Burger

The main man in Ottawa behind the MrBeast Burger line of online fast food - the renowned virtual brand that's hugely popular with youngsters - is Old Ottawa East businessman Kareem Maroufi, who has owned and operated Kouzina Pizza at Unit 106-180 Lees Avenue for two decades.

Maroufi and his wife, Gohar, both of whom came to Canada from Kurdistan in 1993, connected with MrBeast Burger two years ago, with the help of their son, and the partnership has been a positive one since then. The U.S.-based chain runs its business out of existing "ghost kitchens" in restaurant chains, like Kouzina Pizza, and its burgers and fries are available for pick-up and delivery only via food delivery services.

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## FOOD & DRINK

### New owners inject dynamism, changes at Happy Goat Coffee

TERRY WEST

Some small but subtle changes have been unfolding at Happy Goat Coffee on Main Street.

Several months ago, the Happy Goat chain began weighing the advantages of franchising over direct management. To test the waters, ownership of the Main Street location was turned over to two young entrepreneurs, Kristal Felea and Grant Giberson. The switch appears to have been a wise choice for all concerned - for the mother company, for the new owners, and for Old Ottawa East (OOE). Indeed, the experiment has been so successful that Felea and Giberson have since purchased a second Happy Goat location in Sandy Hill.

Because Felea and Giberson took over a successful operation, they were not looking to make drastic changes. Nevertheless, new features have crept in, including the later closing hours, the 5-7 pm Happy Hour, the beer on tap (sourced from Ottawa's Kitchissippi Brewing Co.), and the off-licence wine and beer sales at moderate prices. As for food, the new proprietors continue to make subtle experiments and are open to suggestion from customers.

Felea and Giberson hope these and others touches make their Happy Goat

locations relaxing places to meet friends for daytime coffee, a beer or glass of wine later in the day, or a place to sit down with family over one of their board games. According to the couple, a very popular offering is the Espresso Martini: "Sweet enough to substitute for dessert and decaffeinated on demand."

Felea and Giberson (they're a couple) are outgoing, and community-minded. Both bring special expertise to the business— Felea in public relations and marketing, Giberson in hospitality and brewing. In an interview with *The Mainstreeter*, Felea explained the close, working arrangement with the mother company, under which the new owners continue to source their coffee from Happy Goat's master roasters, while the founders make periodic recommendations on food and drink offerings, as well as sundry other management items.

The new owners expressed an interest in the community, which they claim to be fueled by the dynamism they see unfolding around them in OOE. When informed about the Main Event (September 21st) and *A Walk of Art 2024* (September 28th), the couple were anxious to know what role Happy Goat might play.



TERRY WEST PHOTO

Happy Goat's new owners, Grant Giberson and Kristal Felea, have already introduced some customer- and community-friendly changes.



LORNE ABUGOV PHOTOS

The owners of the venerable Mexican restaurant Taco de Oro on St. Patrick Street have opened up a well-stocked Latin American grocery store at 217 Dalhousie Street that has shelves brimming with items from most South and Central American countries.

*First in a series of 5*

## Holy molé: Sampling South America at La Latina Groceries

*Ottawa's international grocery stores near you*

MAINSTREETER STAFF

When residents of Old Ottawa East (OOE) are quizzed about the one business they would most like to add to the community, invariably, the answer you'll hear is a neighbourhood supermarket. Of course, there are options within OOE such as NU Grocery and the Main Farmers' Market. But since most of us travel to Cedars on Bank Street or Pretoria Bridge or Billings Bridge for one-stop grocery shopping, why not extend the trip a wee bit and experiment with international groceries from the four corners of the Earth, available just minutes away. Over the next five issues of *The Mainstreeter*, we will showcase some of Ottawa's favourite international grocery stores, beginning with the best of South and Central American food products from La Latina Groceries at 217 Dalhousie Street.

When we visited La Latina, a friendly and helpful staffer, Rodrigo, toured us around the shelves and lined up a variety of the store's most popular products, including yellow Inca Kola from Peru, exquisite Santo Domingo coffee from Dominican Republic, dulce de leche from Colombia, Cruz de Malta Yerba Mate from Argentina and Mole sauce paste with almonds from Mexico.

Also available are a variety of prepared meals as well as frozen and fresh-made arepas, enchiladas, empanadas, tamales and tortillas, some of them cooked down the street at Taco de Oro on St. Patrick Street, a popular Mexican restaurant also operated by the owners of La Latina, Valeria Oropeza and her family.

La Latina Groceries is open six days per week from 11 am to 7 pm, closed on Mondays.



Rodrigo was more than pleased to describe many of the products that La Latina stocked, like molé sauce, dulce du leche and a novel wooden tortilla press.



## ART BEAT



**TANIS  
BROWNING-  
SHELP**

TANIS@BROWNING-SHELP.COM

### THE OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION'S LOGO REDESIGN BEGINS WITH YOU!

The Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) needs your help in creating a new logo that is distinct, relevant, simple, graphically appealing, high quality, and ready-for-use! The new logo will replace the decades-old image of our Old Town Hall.

“Although we appreciate the traditional aspect of our original logo, we hope that the new one will identify today’s (and the future’s) Old Ottawa East (OOE) and OOECA by highlighting tangible defining features of our neighbourhood,” says Kristine Houde, one of the logo team members. “We also hope that a new tagline will capture the essence of our wonderful community.”

But what ARE the defining tangible features of OOE? A few community members have already waded in to come up with an initial list of features and taglines to be reviewed here, at upcoming community events, and through social media.

#### Calling on readers & local artists

We invite readers of *The Mainstreeter* to take a moment or two to complete a survey (found at <https://forms.gle/hxjdG26xsq9JoC128> or by using the QR code on this page) in which we ask you to rank key features, propose taglines, and share any other comments you may have about the logo redesign.

To turn these features into an actual design, OOE’s local artists will be invited to gather to brainstorm/sketch while enjoying some light refreshments with the goal of coming up with several graphic options. These sketches should combine selected features in simple, compelling, and unique images. Afterwards, the community at large and the OOECA Board will consider these designs/taglines to identify the best.

## A finger on the pulse of the arts in OOE

The final step will be to hire a professional graphic artist to convert the selected design into a high quality, ready-for-use logo that is readily adaptable for our OOECA letterhead and a display at our new community centre.

“Ultimately, we want residents to view the new logo as a fine statement that Old Ottawa East is a distinct and excellent community within the City of Ottawa, not to be confused with the Glebe, Old Ottawa South, Sandy Hill, Centretown, East Ottawa or anywhere else in the city,” says John Dance, another logo team member.

#### Which features best reflect Old Ottawa East?

Please complete our electronic survey to add to the following list if your preferences aren’t included - and then rank your top three:

- Brantwood Gates
- Brantwood Park
- Children’s Garden
- Colonel By Drive
- Deschâtelets Building
- Echo Drive
- Flora Footbridge
- Grande Allée
- Green Door Restaurant
- Hawthorne Avenue
- Lees Avenue
- Main Street
- Main Farmers’ Market
- Rideau Canal
- Rideau River
- Rideau Island (the land between the Canal and the river – like OOS and Sandy Hill)
- Old Town Hall
- Pretoria Bridge
- Pathways through community
- Saint Paul University
- Snapping Turtles
- Springhurst Park
- University of Ottawa (Lees campus)

*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](mailto:tanis@browning-shelp.com) if you have information about artists or art events that you believe would enrich our community members’ lives.*

Ottawa East  
Community  
Association



Old Town Hall



The Old Ottawa East Community Association seeks community suggestions for a new logo that will replace the original Old Town Hall logo to the left. To complete the OOE logo redesign survey, scan the QR code above.

### ART BEAT FOLLOW-UP: BLAIR T. PAUL'S UKRAINE SERIES CONTINUES ITS IMPACT THROUGH THE UKRAINE EMBASSY IN OTTAWA

#### TANIS BROWNING-SHELP

In the February 2023 issue of *The Mainstreeter*, Art Beat featured Blair T. Paul’s series of 19 works titled: *Perceived Consequences of War—The Ukraine Paintings* ([mainstreeter.ca](http://mainstreeter.ca)). At that time, the war in Ukraine had been going on for one year. The war is now approaching its two-and-a-half-year mark.

Art Beat readers may recall Paul’s powerful depictions of the Ukraine tragedy, which Editor Lorne Abugov described as evoking the desolation and senseless destruction of war and the needless and brutal campaign against the people and cities of Ukraine.

Paul had wanted to make his art “do something” for Ukraine and reached out to all Canadians to heighten public awareness of the dire circumstances under which the Ukrainian people live and to encourage people to help. He used black and white acrylics to create an archival look and to convey a sense of despair, and timelessness.

Recently, Paul reached out to *The Mainstreeter* to follow up about the series and its impact. He had approached the Embassy of Ukraine, Ottawa, with the proposal of donating



Blair T. Paul's Ukraine Series

the entire series. “Much to my great joy, and theirs, they have graciously accepted my offer,” Paul says. “The work that I felt so driven and obligated to create is now the property of Ukraine.” According to Paul, the story of this work is just beginning. “I refer to each painting as a child and now my children have gone out into the world to be seen and to make their own story. I am proud of this.”

Staff from the Ukraine Embassy picked up all of the works at Paul’s home/studio on June 14. “I watched with mixed emotion as the black SUV drove away with my gift to the strong, brave, and determined people of Ukraine.”

*Continued on Page 30*



## 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:** On a Saturday morning in early July, I popped over to the new home of the Main Farmers' Market on the Grande Allée to snap a few reference photos for this drawing.

I thought I was being somewhat covert, taking pictures from my bicycle on the opposite side of Main Street. But my



cover was blown when three women chatting at the entrance started waving at me from across the street. It turns out that they were neighbours of mine who guessed right away what I was up to!

Such is the way with a community farmers' market, where after a busy week, people stroll at leisure and catch up with friends while supporting local vendors.

The stained glass window replicas act

as a gateway to a flourish of vendors' tents along the pathway leading to the historic stone building, which provides a splendid backdrop for this charming market.

### A Walk of Art 2024: Calling all young artists

## It's time to register for the Kids' Art Exhibit in The Children's Garden

LORI GANDY

*A Walk of Art 2024*, Old Ottawa East's outdoor art tour taking place on Saturday, September 28th (rain date September 29th), will once again feature a Kids' Art Exhibit in the Children's Garden showcasing work by young artists in our community.

Last year's Kids' Exhibit, the first one to take place in the Garden, was a huge success. Five talented artists exhibited their art and had a great time meeting people, talking about their creative processes and inspirations, and selling their art to appreciative buyers. They all especially enjoyed sharing the spotlight with each other and supporting each other through purchases. There was a great variety of art on display, wonderful energy from the talented young artists, and such an enthusiastic response from everyone who attended.

This year's Kids' Art Exhibit will build

on the success of last year, while keeping the familiar formula - artists under the age of 16 (accompanied by a parent or two) will bring their art and anything needed to display it (easels, tables etc.). The Exhibit will take place from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be access to potable water and a washroom across the street at the Atelier.

If you or someone you know would like to be part of this wonderful opportunity, please send an email to Whitney Bond at [ooe.awalkofart@gmail.com](mailto:ooe.awalkofart@gmail.com) to register and provide the following information:

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

A familiar place to many in our community, the Children's Garden is an ideal location to showcase the creativity



LORI GANDY PHOTO

**The Group of Five pictured here were the first cohort of young artists to participate in *A Walk of Art* last year at the Children's Garden. A second group of kids exhibited their artwork in front of a private home on McNaughton Street. Great fun was had by all!**

and imagination of young artists, as many young people frequent the Garden and enjoy its bounty and learning opportunities. The Garden is located at the corner of Main and Clegg streets and is ideally positioned along the route of *A Walk of Art 2024* to capture art enthusiasts and passers-by alike.

There is plenty of room in the Garden to welcome more artists, to make this event even more fun and successful. The organizers are hoping that more young artists will join in the fun this year at the Garden. As last year's participants all agreed, it was a fabulous event.



## ART BEAT

# A Walk of Art 2024 is just around the corner!

Get your walking shoes out and get ready to explore the 'hood this September 28th (rain date September 29th) for "A Walk of Art 2024," our fifth annual Old Ottawa East (OOE) local artist tour!

This popular event, in which local artists display and sell their works outside their homes throughout OOE, has featured steady growth since its inception, including an exhibition of kids' artworks (see article on page 29) in the Children's Garden at Main and Clegg streets.

As our diverse and talented artists prepare for the big day, organizers are working to group artists in clusters at various locations throughout the community. This will help with the efficiency of the tour and will also foster connections within our local artist network.

Mark your calendars for the best neighbourhood stroll of the year on September 28th!

## Blair T. Paul series donated to Ukraine Embassy

*Continued from Page 28*

As the artist said to the Ambassador: "I hope that someday, when the war ends and Ukrainian victory has been achieved, these 19 paintings will be seen in an exhibition in Ukraine for the people who witnessed the war firsthand." For now, they will be housed and seen at the Ukraine Embassy here.

Paul recently received the following message from Ambassador Yulia Kovaliv: "On behalf of the Embassy of Ukraine, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous offer to donate your paintings depicting the war in Ukraine.

"We are honoured to accept this meaningful gift, which not only captures the profound and complex emotions of this tragic war but also serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience and strength of the Ukrainian people.

"Your paintings will hold a special place in our collection, helping to raise awareness and foster understanding about the ongoing struggles of Ukraine.

"We deeply appreciate your support, and the message conveyed through your art. We thank you once again for your kindness and solidarity."

Paul is now considering creating a small book or catalogue about the works, which would contain photographs of the paintings, as well as his comments about each of them in English and Ukrainian. He believes that this new chapter in the lives of his 19 paintings is the best possible outcome.

To view the series in video format, go to: <https://www.blairpaul.com/perceived-consequences-of-war--the-ukraine-paintings>. To see more of Blair T. Paul's work go to: [www.blairpaul.com](http://www.blairpaul.com).

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## POLITICAL PAGES

### JOEL HARDEN MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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### CELEBRATING LINDA THOM'S GOLD MEDAL

We are living a moment of Olympic fever. But on July 29th, we celebrated one of our own Olympians in Ottawa Centre. Why?

Because on July 29th, at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Ottawa's Linda Thom won a gold medal in Women's 25m Pistol. She was the first Canadian woman to win gold in the Summer Olympics since 1928 and she was chosen by her peers to carry the Canadian flag into the closing ceremonies.

We gathered at Linda Thom Park near the intersection of Bank and Riverdale, and we heard from Linda who reflected on her remarkable life. For those who couldn't make it, what follows is a brief outline of Linda's athletic career. Please share it with any aspiring athletes you know.

Linda's commitment to excellence began at age eight, when she made a personal vow to be an Olympian. Her original choice was high jump, but she later revised that to shooting.

Linda's father first taught his children lessons in the importance of safe gun handling, then showed them how to shoot a BB gun. It was always "safety first." Linda has fond early memories of target shooting with her brother. For targets they would shoot empty cans and sometimes labels taken from her mother's cupboard of canned goods.

Once Linda learned the mechanics of shooting, she progressed quickly. She enrolled in competitions and did well. At age 16, she tied Vic Boisvert, a local legend, in a rifle competition at the RA Centre. Her obvious talent was supported by leading shooters.

Bill Hare, an Ottawa Olympic Team shooter, drove Linda to the 1970 National Championships in Winnipeg where she won the first of her six titles. When Linda's husband Don was transferred by his employer to France, she continued shooting in Europe, and trained as a Cordon Bleu Chef.

Linda returned to Ottawa in 1975 and hoped to represent Canada at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal. When that didn't happen, she retired from shooting. That all changed in 1981 when Women's 25m Pistol was announced as a 1984 Olympic event.

Don encouraged Linda to come out of retirement and take a shot (literally) at her dreams.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**At the park named after her near the corner of Bank Street and Riverdale Avenue, Ottawa's Linda Thom sports the gold medal she won in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.**

She trained with coaches Joe Liota, and Ed Kelly and embraced sports psychology for a competitive edge. It was an investment that would pay off at the Olympics in Los Angeles in 1984.

Linda was in fifth place in the precision course, half-way through the Women's 25m Pistol, but after the second half, rapid fire, she was tied for first. That forced a rapid fire shoot-off, which she won.

Linda broke the final moments down in an interview with John Hancock from CBC Ottawa shortly after her victory. "When they announced there would be a shoot-off," she said, "I knew I was going to win."

"There was no nervous tension or anything?" Hancock questioned.

"Oh sure," Linda said. "I was walking two or three feet off the floor, and my heart was beating like a trip hammer. But I maintained mental control, because I know that's what you have to have. I just knew I was going to put 'em [bullets] in the centre, and that's what I did."

Linda Thom's gold medal inspired us then, and it still inspires us now. It is a testament to the power of the human spirit. Linda, your city, province and country are forever grateful.

### YASIR NAQVI MP, OTTAWA CENTRE

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



### CANADA'S ECONOMY IS GROWING, BUT THERE'S MORE TO DO

Summer is in full swing, with many events big and small in our community! I hope you have had the chance to enjoy the Jazzfest, Bluesfest, Lebanese and Greek festivals, and many other neighbourhood activities. These have been amazing opportunities for me to connect with so many of you.

In my conversations with constituents, I sense real anxiety about jobs, wages, mortgages, rent and food prices. It is totally understandable, as we know that the global economic uncertainty is caused by the pandemic and exacerbated by conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. These events have a direct impact on our lives.

As we recover from the pandemic, the cost of housing has skyrocketed, making the dream of owning a home more elusive for younger Canadians and the economically disadvantaged. In terms of everyday life, the cost of purchasing essential goods; everything from fuel to groceries, rose dramatically. Inflation hit 8.1% mid-way through 2022 and household debt in Canada continues to surpass the

G7 average of 125% related to the disposable income households can access. The corresponding rise in interest rates to combat inflation increased the challenges for those seeking financing or renewing their mortgages.

The good news is that the Canadian economy is outperforming expectations. In the face of higher interest rates, Canada has avoided the recession that some had predicted. Inflation has fallen from its June 2022 peak of 8.1% to 2.7% in July 2024. As such, the Bank of Canada has lowered the interest rate from 5% to 4.75%, making Canada the first G7 country to initiate a rate cut.

The labour market remains solid. Over 1.1 million more Canadians are employed today than before the pandemic, marking the fastest jobs recovery in the G7. Real wages (that is, wages adjusted for inflation) have gone up, meaning Canadians, on average, have more purchasing power.

Private sector forecasters expect that the year ahead should bring further progress. By the end of the year, they expect economic growth will pick up, interest rates will be lower, and inflation will decline to about 2%. Both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) project that Canada will see the strongest economic growth in the G7 in 2025.

But there's more to do. Through Budget 2024, the federal government is making significant investments in health care, early learning and child care, better integration of newcomers, boosting housing supply, and fostering historic investments for the net-zero transition.

These investments ensure people are healthy and able to contribute to their full potential in the labour force. For instance, affordable childcare has helped women in their prime working years to reach a record high employment rate of 85.7% in September 2023, compared to just 77.4% in the United States!

All in all, Canada's economic fundamentals are strong. However, we need to ensure the economy works for you, with a good job, higher pay, and more money in your pocket. That is the important work ahead of us, and as your MP it is my focus.



## POLITICAL PAGES

### SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR, CAPITAL WARD

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SHAWNMENARD.CA



### CITY MOVING TOWARD A PROACTIVE APPROACH ON TREE-PLANTING

Trees are an integral part of our urban landscape. We all know the trees in our neighbourhood, their individual burls, the nuts or fruits they make in the summer, and the colours they turn in the fall. With hotter and wetter summers, wildfire smoke and increasing development, we are grateful for what trees do to cool down sidewalks, filter the air and increase stormwater infiltration. That's why a promise to plant one million trees made it into the Mayor's campaign platform, and every day, we hear from residents who want more trees planted on their street, or are upset to see large, old trees coming down.

But there is some good news. On June 18, at the Environment and Climate Change Committee (which I chair), City staff presented two important components of the emerging tree planting strategy. The first is a commitment to move toward a proactive approach to planting in the City right-of-way. Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) have been calling for this approach, which Montreal has pursued with excellent results. Currently, only one third of the trees in the right-of-way that get taken down in Ottawa—whether because of age, storm damage or street reconstruction—are replaced. And under the current program, residents must request a replacement tree and then water it during the establishment period.

Under the new proposed approach, trees would be automatically replaced where space

and conditions permit. This would result in approximately 2000 new trees being planted along public roadways each year, through a phased-in approach. While this comprises a small percentage of the total trees planted annually, it is still a significant contribution toward Ottawa's canopy cover target of 40% that was approved in the Official Plan. Residents would be informed of the plans to plant a new tree in front of their house and would have the opportunity to veto the planting, if they oppose it.

From an equity perspective, we know that certain areas of the City feel hemmed in by concrete, while other neighbourhoods are green, cool and pleasant to walk around. The reasons for this are usually based on income and economic drivers like industry. Community members in Old Ottawa East and across Capital Ward have been calling for neighbourhood-specific targets for tree canopy cover, so that planting can be targeted toward the areas that need it most.

Staff are proposing to use the American Forests' Tree Equity Score methodology to assess tree canopy cover data in conjunction with socio-economic and health measures of inequality, and report back by the end of this year with an action plan. We have been waiting for some time for this granular data, which uses aerial photographs and geospatial technology. The American Forests' methodology is widely used, which will allow Ottawa to take best practices from other cities and learn from their mistakes.

Other important changes include greater flexibility in the Commemorative Tree Program to allow for plantings in honour of significant events or community leaders, and increased costs to cover staff labour, maintenance and plaque or geotag installation. Lastly, staff are recommending a new program to support tree planting on private lands. Through this program, they plan to distribute 50 trees across each of the 24 wards, in priority areas, with support to ensure that they thrive.

From a climate resilience perspective, the Tree Planting Strategy is also trying to increase the diversity of species in Ottawa's urban forests. Hidden Harvest has been calling for more fruit and nut trees to supplement local food production. With more frequent, violent storms, we need varieties that can withstand the wind, rain and freeze-thaw cycles. Our communities form an invaluable resource in identifying potential tree planting locations, monitoring tree health and advocating for the retention of trees in our parks and public spaces. While the creation of an Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator position is a great first step to support these relationships, there is potential to go further in partnering with community associations and other environmental groups.

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## SIGNBOARD

### All Pets Nail Trims Main Street Farmers' Market

**Saturday, September 14, 2024**

10:00 am. to 2:00 p.m.

*Rain? Event Cancelled.*

Adjacent Grande Alle Park  
(under the big shady tree)  
All pets must be leashed.



pawsolutionsblog.wordpress.com

Joignez-vous au groupe Facebook : Francophones d'origine et d'adoption du Glebe/Vieil Ottawa Est et Sud : Francophones d'origine et d'adoption du Glebe/Vieil Ottawa Est et Sud | Facebook

Ce groupe souhaite servir de pont entre les francophones d'origine et d'adoption de nos trois quartiers via des rencontres planifiées ou spontanées organisées par les membres, afin de garder la francophonie vivante et présente à Ottawa.

Alors si vous êtes francophone et vivez dans le Glebe, OOE ou OOS, vous souhaitez rencontrer d'autres francophones, organiser/participer à des activités en français, ou être tenu au courant et discuter d'enjeux importants pour les francophones, c'est le groupe qu'il vous faut.

Nous avons déjà démarré un club-ciné et un club de lecture, nous organisons 2 rencontres annuelles, et d'autres activités sont à venir selon les besoins et envies du groupe. Nous tenons également un répertoire sur les commerces et professionnels qui offrent des services en français dans nos 3 quartiers.

Nous avons hâte de vous rencontrer. Et nous comptons sur votre participation pour faire rayonner le français dans nos quartiers. À bientôt!



# SPECIAL REPORT - CRIME IN THE COMMUNITY

Canada's auto theft epidemic

Old Ottawa East is not immune

## Residents offer eyewitness accounts of two brazen late-night OOE car thefts

On May 17th, Ottawa Police Services issued a news release entitled: "Organized vehicle theft involving a tow truck – three men arrested, a fourth suspect wanted." The release stated that criminal charges had been laid against four province of Quebec residents comprising an organized theft gang that used an unmarked white tow truck to steal vehicles from public locations. The release added that five separate auto theft investigations in Ottawa have been linked to the arrested men, and that there could be other incidents involving the White Tow Truck Gang.

Alan Zurakowski is an Old Ottawa East resident who came face-to-face last February with the criminal antics of the White Tow Truck Gang. But for a fortunate stroke of luck and some quick-thinking by his neighbour across the street on Mason Terrace, Zurakowski's late model truck would have been stolen and likely shipped overseas from the Port of Montreal.

Indeed, as the following paragraphs make clear, what happened that night comes straight out of a Netflix drama - and the events are best described in Zurakowski's own words.

### ALAN ZURAKOWSKI AS TOLD TO THE MAINSTREETER

So it's Monday morning, February 26th. It was 2:00 o'clock in the morning, and my neighbour across the street, Mike, calls us at home. My wife, Joanne, answers and wakes me up, saying, "there's a tow truck going to tow your truck away."

I'm only half awake. But I run downstairs with my phone. I have the winter parking rules in my head. I run outside and, sure enough, there's a white tow truck that's backed up to my truck and the front tires of my truck are off the ground. There's a guy by the car putting straps over my tires.

I say to him: 'Hey, if it's winter parking, I'll move it no problem at all. Just save you the hassle of towing it away.' That's what's in my mind. And he says to me: 'Okay, let me just call my boss and check.' So, he calls someone on his cell phone and says to me: 'Okay, yeah, I'll drop it.'

He then lowers my truck and takes the strap off and starts putting all his stuff away in the tow truck. Meanwhile, I'm starting to wake up at this point, and I notice that there are vehicles parked all around mine. I'm thinking that I'm gonna have to start calling up all the neighbours because I don't want anyone else getting towed for winter parking rules. That's what I'm thinking, because it's all happening quickly.

Anyway, the guy pulls away in his tow truck, and I'm thinking he's going to go across the street, and tow other cars. But instead, he just pulls away slowly, like 25 kilometres an hour, and kind of dawdles his way down Mason Terrace.

*(Editor's Note: What happens next is the stuff of Hollywood, right here in Old Ottawa East. Back to Zurakowski, who tells it best):*

I'm starting to clear my head of sleep a little more, and I begin to think this is weird. So, I decide next to get into my car

and I basically started to follow him. I'm curious what's going on.

The tow truck turns right at the end of my block and pulls into the little cul de sac at the end of Mutchmor. And I think: 'Oh, okay,' because sometimes tow trucks park there, and I decide to circle the block. Remember, it's 2:15 in the morning.

I circle back and I see that he's moving again - now he's on McGillivray Street and he pulls in front of another parked car there. I'm thinking he's going to talk to someone on the phone again, so I pass the truck and circle the block again.

By this point, I'm wide awake and I realize that there's no markings on this white tow truck, whatsoever. Like, there's no Al's Tow Truck or anything written on the side. And there's no license plates either.

So I circle back to McGillivray, and he's not there. I drive up to Clegg Street, and there he is turning onto Colonel By Drive. He heads north on Colonel By at about 35 kilometres an hour, not speeding away or anything like that. I'm thinking that he didn't tow any cars away in my neighbourhood. Clearly, I got the winter parking thing wrong.

At that point, as we're both heading north on Colonel By, I decide to call 9-1-1. I tell them that I'm following a white tow truck that just tried to hook up to my vehicle, and that the guy left, and that there's no markings on this tow truck. They asked me where we were and I told them that we were just turning left over Pretoria Bridge and starting to travel up Elgin Street.

Now, it's 2:30 am, there's nobody in sight, and the tow truck turns left on Gladstone Avenue. The guy's a couple of blocks ahead of me, but he's dawdling. He's going really slow, which kind of threw me off, because I'm thinking, if you're stealing something you're likely to be zipping out of there. But he didn't do that.

Now we're both on Gladstone, and I have the police on 9-1-1 on the line. Then, I get a red light. It was almost funny - the 9-1-1 guy, it was like he was in the car with me. He says: 'By the way, don't do any traffic violations following this guy, just keep your distance.' So, in the middle of this low speed chase, there I am stopped at a red light. He's two or three blocks ahead of me heading west towards Bank Street.

He then turns south down Bank Street, heading into the Glebe, on the other side of the Queensway. Now, he's four or five blocks ahead of me and he turns left on Strathcona Avenue and he's heading east now towards Queen Elizabeth Drive. Just as I turn onto Bank Street, no cars anywhere in sight, two police cars pull up right beside me on the right side. I lower my window and tell them: 'I'm the guy following the tow truck.'

The 9-1-1 guy is talking to me in the

car. He tells me to drive up to Strathcona and when I get there, pull over and wait for the police who are going to want to talk to me. I do that and there are four police cars there that came the other way. Boom. The tow truck's stopped further down Strathcona and I'm right at the corner of Strathcona and Bank.

Down at the end of Strathcona, the police are arresting the driver and impounding that tow truck. The police are very nice to me. They were very appreciative. They tell me: 'We've known about this white tow truck for a while. And thank you very much for following him and calling us up.'

The detective says they've arrested the guy, they have the tow truck, and they have a cell phone that has phone numbers that he was calling. All very helpful to their investigation. And my job is done.

## OOE auto theft statistics (YTD)

There are a number of reasons why auto theft has been termed a "national crisis" in Canada by the Insurance Bureau of Canada, whose member companies paid out more than C\$1.5 billion in auto theft claims in 2023. A global vehicle shortage brought on by COVID, coupled with the growing international value of certain types of vehicles that create huge illicit profit opportunities for car thieves. In Canada, in 2022, a car was stolen every five minutes.

Canada-wide data for 2024 shows that the number of car thefts nationwide is approximately 28,000, a figure that has dropped by 17% compared to the same timeframe in 2023. Here in Ottawa, according to the Ottawa Police Service's on-line Crime Map (see QR Code below), there has been a total of 1,016 auto thefts reported across the City between January 1st of this year and mid-August. Ottawa's projected year-end figures for 2024 should be slightly lower than the levels recorded in 2023 (1,854) and 2022 (2,108).

Locally, during the first eight months of 2024, there were 31 car thefts reported across Capital Ward, of which 26 have occurred in the core neighbourhoods of Glebe-Dow's Lake (14); Old Ottawa East (7); and Old Ottawa South (5).

Of the seven auto thefts reported in Old Ottawa East this year, two were committed as recently as June and July. And these seven thefts were evenly dispersed within the community, with three in the Lees Avenue northern sector, two in the central sector between Lees and Clegg Street, and two in the southern sector south of Clegg.

By comparison, over the same time period, other core urban wards experienced even higher incidences of auto theft. For example, Somerset Ward, which includes Centretown and Chinatown, reported 48 car thefts; Kitchissippi Ward, which includes Hintonburg, Wellington Village and Wesboro, reported 28 car thefts, and the sprawling Alta Vista Ward, which includes Alta Vista, Vanier and Heron Gate/Ledbury, reported 53 car thefts.





# SPECIAL REPORT - CRIME IN THE COMMUNITY

*Old Ottawa East resident Mike Power was the proud owner of a late-model truck, a 2024 Toyota Tundra Sport. Past tense. In the early morning hours of June 7th, thieves stole the truck from directly in front of his Springhurst Avenue home. A mere 15 days after Power purchased the truck, it disappeared without a trace. As told to The Mainstreeter, Power rushed to his front door after hearing car alarm beeps at 3:20 am, but unlike Alan Zurakowski, he was seconds too late to thwart the theft. Of the 96 vehicles stolen in Ottawa in the month of June, more than half have been recovered by the police – but not Mike Power's truck. He tells the following story*

## MIKE POWER AS TOLD TO THE MAINSTREETER

I got up at three o'clock in the morning for a drink of water. I'm back in bed, and it's exactly 20 after three. I'm trying to get back to sleep, and I hear six beeps on a car alarm. I wasn't sure whose car it was because there are a few cars around here that I think would be fair game to be stolen. Anyway, I ran down the stairs and by the time I got to my front porch, which was a couple of minutes, there was nothing on the street. I didn't even see any taillights. They took my truck in a flash.

It was a brand spanking new black Toyota Tundra Sport. I had it for 15 days

and it got stolen from right in front of my house. The beeps I heard was the alarm on my truck. They have an alarm system on them that comes from the factory. I am assuming that they were already in the truck when I got down the stairs. It happened so quickly and they were gone. The street was clean, there was no broken glass. There's a streetlight on every pole. Everything was number one. There was absolutely no sign of any disturbance at all.

So I called the police and they showed up very quickly. An officer came into the house and I gave him a long written statement that I wrote out. He told me that there's young guys dealing these cars – 15, 16 and 17 - and they're getting

anywhere from \$300 to \$800 per car. They steal them and then they park them not too far away, usually somewhere in the city and leave them for a cooldown period. Then they take them probably by trailer out to Montreal.

I really had no idea how rampant this auto theft is. It's just gotten out of hand. And you know, many people you talk to in this community still believe that Old Ottawa East is a safe haven. They think auto theft is going on somewhere else, but they don't understand how much crime – and not just auto theft - is taking place in this community. So I think it's helpful in a

way to let people know about crime right here. I wish it wasn't the case, but it is.

So now, I've got a welder making a gate that I can padlock on the front corner of my house. I have a garage, but it's full of everything so I'm cleaning that out. I put a motion sensor right on the corner of my house now that activates when people walk on the sidewalk. There's a wheel disc that you can buy online. It's like a whole slipcover that goes over the steering wheel with a bar. It's supposed to be a pretty good thing. There's no end to what you can do, and what you can spend.



Pictured here is a 2024 Toyota Tundra truck of the kind that was stolen under cover of darkness from in front of Mike Power's house on Springhurst Avenue. According to Ottawa Police, "Toyota Tundras and Land Rovers are being targeted at significant rates over the past year, which appears to be a developing trend."

## Police tips to prevent auto theft

According to the Ottawa Police Force (OPF), vehicle thefts generally occur in one of two ways.

In most cases, the driver-side door is mechanically breached – at which point thieves access the vehicle's Engine Control Module (ECM) port to reprogram a new key. This remains the most common type of vehicle theft and it is not deterred using a Radio Frequency Shield (known as a 'Faraday bag/box').

The Signal Amplification Relay Attack (SARA) is a less common technique in Ottawa - however police continue to raise public awareness about this means where thieves use an amplification device to amplify the signal emanating from the key fob inside the house. That signal is then relayed to the car which unlocks the vehicle and allows it to be started. This type of theft will be deterred by the use of a Radio Frequency Shield (Faraday bag/box.)

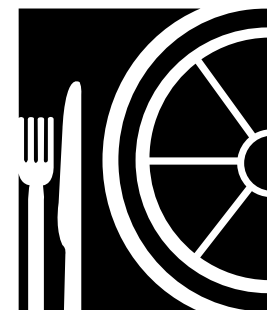
The OPF website provides the following useful list of preventive measures that residents can take to avert auto theft:

- Park inside a garage if available;
- Block your vehicle in tightly against a second less sought-after vehicle;
- If you do not have a garage or second vehicle, one of the most foolproof techniques is to install an after-market vehicle immobilizer and alarm;
- Install after-market tracking devices or "GPS" – many of these have the ability to "fence in your car" notifying the owner's smart phone if the vehicle leaves the established perimeter;
- If you use "Air Tags," be mindful that if the thief has an Apple phone, it will advise them that the vehicle is being tracked so try and hide them within the vehicle;
- If you find an "Air Tag" in your vehicle or receive a message on your smartphone that you are being tracked, please call police, as this is one means that thieves use to find a targeted vehicle. They typically return under cover of darkness to steal it;
- Install an Engine Control Module (ECM) port-lock;
- Install motion detection lights and exterior surveillance cameras at home as these can act as a deterrent;
- Keep in mind that thieves have returned to steal the replacement vehicle when a vehicle has been stolen, so remain vigilant;
- Use a steering wheel lock (i.e. "Club") to deter thieves (keep in mind they can cut the steering wheel to remove it); it works best when combined with a secondary anti-theft device that may not be as visible to the thief;
- Neighbourhood watch is still the best defence – so please report any suspicious activity immediately to police at 613-236-1222. Call 911 to report a crime in progress.

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Nous sommes bilingues!



# A Walk of Art

5th Annual Outdoor  
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Sept 28  
11am-3pm

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

Rain Date:  
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Presentation  
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## Featured Artists

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Brian Bell

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Connolly

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Jessica Duncan

Tim Hunt

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Cynthia Tremills

Karen McRae

Masha  
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# Whither goest the Madonna?

## JOHN DANCE

The trials and tribulations of the statue of the Madonna, once belonging to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, continue.

In 2015, the large, lovely Madonna statue located at the end of the grove of trees very close to the southwestern edge of the convent close to des Oblats Avenue was relocated by Domicile Developments to a specially designed private garden on Springhurst Avenue at the northwest corner of the convent. At the time, Domicile's David Renfroe noted "the new Blessed Virgin Mary park" would "respect the Old Ottawa East (OOE) secondary plan and the Sisters' legacy in Ottawa."

The OOE Secondary Plan requires that "the statue of the Blessed Virgin and associated grove of trees to commemorate the Sisters of the Sacred Heart," be retained. That pledge was somewhat achieved with the 2015 relocation, and the Sisters' endorsement of the relocation and their understanding that it would be there in perpetuity may have contributed to the City's approval of the relocation even though the grove of trees was removed.

Domicile originally bought all of the convent property and the general

community expectation was that, after building the two "Corners" condominium buildings, Domicile would then demolish the convent - which had no heritage protection - and then build additional residential units. The expectation was that the "Blessed Virgin Mary park" would be kept and become public space. Instead, Domicile sold the convent and the new owners decided to re-purpose it and add a new four-storey section, part of which would be on the site of the relocated statue.

Last year, City Council approved the new plans, which included moving the statue to a new public park at the northeast corner of the convent property where there are several heritage trees. The City's planning department recommended this plan to City Council despite the fact that the parks department had advised them that City policy prohibits religious objects within public space unless special approval had been granted.

This second relocation was unsuccessfully opposed by a number of parties, including many Corners on Main residents who had been led to believe that the "private garden" would become a public park when the convent property was developed.

But now, a year later, while the site plan details remain under review, the parks department's original advice - i.e. no religious objects in a City park - has resurfaced and the City has reversed its support for the statue in the new "northeast" park. The developer, Forum Asset Development of Toronto, has been told it is responsible for solving the problem of where the statue will go.

Although some residents would still like the statue to remain where it is, Forum intends to build on the site and relocate the statue. Where the second relocation will be, and whether it respects the secondary plan, are open questions for the time being.

A number of OOE residents have worked hard on this issue, and notably Adriana Beaman, who lives in The Corners on Main, who has single-handedly appealed the City's rezoning of the convent site to the Ontario Land Tribunal and who has rigorously pursued the details of the site plan and the fate of the Madonna.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

The "new" private and tree-shaded garden, and the relocated statue of the Madonna statue that has fallen into disrepair as plans for its relocation remain unclear.

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**September 14th  
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All levels are welcome! From beginners to pros, this event is about creating a welcoming space for everyone. Dive into swing dance lessons, enjoy DJ sets, and dance under the open sky.

**Schedule:**

1:00pm - 1:30pm - Set the Mood: Warm up with Social Dancing

1:30pm - 2:00pm: Drop-in Lesson: Learn to Swing Dance with Us! (Solo)

No partner or previous experience necessary

2:00pm - 3:00pm: Let Loose with our DJ'ed Social Dancing

3:00pm - 4:00pm: Drop-in Lesson: Learn to Swing Dance with Us! (Partner) No partner or previous experience necessary

4:00pm - 5:30pm: Keep the Rhythm Going with DJ'ed Social Dancing with Special Performances and Shim Sham

**What else can you expect? -** Performances, shim sham, and jams - Meet the swing community or relax with a picnic.



**September 7th from  
9am to 4pm**

**BUG DAY! OTTAWA,  
Ottawa Research  
and Development  
Centre on the Central  
Experimental Farm,  
960 Carling Ave.**

Discover the amazing world of insects at Bug Day! Ottawa.

Activities will include insect expeditions, insect cuisine, cockroach races, crafts demos by expert entomologists and more.

This event is held at the location of the largest insect collection in Canada, the Canadian National Collection of Insects Arachnids and Nematodes, in conjunction with the Research Open House at the Central Experimental Farm.

The Open House will feature crop and research displays, horse-drawn wagon rides, soil pits, composting demos, a corn maze and more. This is a FREE event with parking available on site. Secure bike parking is also available by donation.

Come on out and try a free cricket ice cream sample!

Tickets are required for this event. Scan the QR code below for tickets.



**October 5th from  
1pm to 4pm**  
**FALL YOGA OPEN  
HOUSE,  
Pathway Yoga  
Studio,  
Church of the  
Ascension,  
253 Echo Drive,  
Old Ottawa  
East.**

Pathway Yoga is hosting a Fall Open House on Saturday, October 5th. The program will start with a vigorous class from 1 to 2pm followed by a tea social. At 2:30pm, there will be a one-hour beginner class for students new to Iyengar Yoga or looking to build from the foundation. A tea social will follow.

Pathway Yoga is a not-for-profit organization, dedicated



SUPPLIED PHOTO

to promoting the study and practice of Iyengar yoga for health and well-being. Pathway offers a wide range of hybrid and studio classes for students of all levels and backgrounds.

Iyengar yoga can lead toward steadiness and equanimity. The studio's experienced teachers will

guide and challenge participants in a supportive, inclusive environment.

Those interested in attending the Open House are invited to check the details of the event on Pathway's website at [pathwayyoga.ca](http://pathwayyoga.ca)



## U of O study confirms OMRA's effectiveness

# A small local charity is helping to avoid homelessness for newcomers to Ottawa

Several Old Ottawa East residents have helped to guide OMRA's pioneering work

### CAROL BUCKLEY

A recent University of Ottawa evaluation found that a small local charity is helping newcomers maintain stable housing in the face of high and rising rents. OMRA is a small, all-volunteer charity that provides portable rent subsidies to selected newcomers to help them cover their rent. While rising rental costs are causing hardship for scores of families and individuals across Ottawa, they are of special concern for refugees who rely on Government shelter allowances that have not been adjusted since 2018. A monthly shelter allowance of \$756 for a family of 4 is inadequate to cover the current \$2,400 average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment.

The university evaluation, funded by the Catherine Donnelly Foundation, looked at 81 refugee households which received average rental subsidies of \$375/month for families or \$290/month for individuals over 2017-2023. The study found that OMRA contributed to positive education and employment outcomes with 80% of OMRA families attending a school program and 52% of clients starting work while receiving a subsidy. OMRA clients reported improvements in their daily life such as increased connectedness and reduced loneliness.

Maria Rigby of Old Ottawa East, who has volunteered with OMRA since its founding in 2001, is currently the organization's President, joined by fellow OOE resident Carol Buckley, who joined OMRA in 2016, and who currently serves as OMRA's Vice-President. Since 2017, OMRA has helped 81 households



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**This family from Columbia arrived in 2018 and was assisted with an OMRA rental subsidy while they established themselves in Ottawa.**

with rental subsidies and other support to allow newcomer families time to get established in Canada.

OMRA raises funds through direct donations and grocery card sales (Loblaws/No Frills, Metro/Food Basics and Farm Boy). In 2023, OMRA distributed \$126,000 in subsidies, five times more than in 2017. On average, OMRA provides subsidies for 2 years, with a range of 2 months to 5 years.

OMRA families are finding new friends, getting qualifications to work in Canada and getting to know their new city. If you would like to know more about OMRA, please visit [omraottawa.org](http://omraottawa.org). If you would like to purchase grocery cards, please contact: [omrainquiries@gmail.com](mailto:omrainquiries@gmail.com). You can donate to OMRA at Canada Helps.

Sign up for our weekly MPP email updates at [joelhardenmpp.ca](http://joelhardenmpp.ca)!

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## HEALTHY LIVING

*Aging in place...*

# A holistic approach to aging at home in Ottawa

*Ottawa, like many other cities in Canada, is experiencing a demographic shift. According to Statistics Canada, the number of individuals aged 65 and over in Ottawa is expected to rise substantially in the coming years.*

*This trend, coupled with the rising cost of retirement living and scarcity of long-term care-beds highlights the urgent need for effective strategies that support seniors in maintaining their independence at home while ensuring their safety and well-being.*

**MARCELLE THIBEAULT**

### Community Support and Services

Ottawa offers a range of community support services designed to assist seniors in aging in place. These services include home care, meal delivery programs, transportation assistance, and social activities.

Home care services can include medical and non-medical supports such as nursing, personal support services and rehabilitation services including physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Often these services are made available through a doctor's referral or upon discharge from the hospital, but private services are also available. Speak to your doctor to find out what you or your loved one, might be eligible for.

Meal delivery programs, like Meals on Wheels, ensure that seniors receive nutritious meals, which is crucial for maintaining health and preventing malnutrition. In addition, transportation services such as Para Transpo and volunteer driver programs help seniors who may no longer drive to attend medical appointments, go shopping, or participate in social activities, thereby reducing isolation.

There are also supports available to caregivers, such as day programs for people living with dementia, to help them continue to look after a loved one at home as long as possible. To see a full list of community services available in your community, visit the Champlain Healthline at [champlainhealthline.ca](http://champlainhealthline.ca).

### Home Modifications

Adding secondary suites, which allow for multi-generational living or caregiver accommodation, can help keep families together. Home modifications

are also crucial for enabling seniors to age in place. Simple changes, such as installing grab bars in bathrooms, stair lifts, or ramps, can significantly enhance the safety and accessibility of a home. There are municipal and provincial programs which offer financial assistance to help seniors make these necessary modifications.

### Technology

Technology plays a pivotal role in supporting aging in place. Telehealth services allow seniors to consult with healthcare professionals without leaving their homes. Smart home devices, such as voice-activated assistants, security systems, and health monitoring devices, can provide an added layer of safety and convenience.

Moreover, social connectivity platforms help seniors stay connected with family and friends, reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation. Organizations like Connected Canadians offer digital literacy programs specifically tailored for seniors, ensuring they can effectively use these technologies.

Aging in place in Ottawa is more than just a trend; it's a comprehensive approach to senior living that encompasses



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**As a city with an aging population, Ottawa needs to develop strategies to support seniors wishing to maintain their independence and safety in aging at home.**

community support, affordable housing, technology, and inclusive policies. By fostering an environment where seniors can thrive independently, Ottawa is one of the cities across Canada that is working to help people age well at home. There are numerous agencies in Ottawa that

support healthy aging. For example, check out the Council on Aging's resources for aging in place.

*Marcelle Thibeault is the Vice-President, Client Care of Carefor Health & Community Services*

## Bytown Voices seeking new tenors, basses and kids

**MARY FORSTER**

In an effort to balance its sound, the members of the Bytown Voices choir have issued a special appeal for new members with Tenor and Bass voices. The membership is also interested in younger members since opening the choir to youth aged 9 (fourth grade) and up.

Under the artistic directorship of Joan Fearnley, who has led the choir since 2015, Bytown has a "no audition necessary" policy and operates with a soprano, alto, tenor & bass (SATB) format. Fearnley brought with her years of experience conducting both the women's and children's choirs of Notre Dame Basilica and had a noted career



GRAEME CONN PHOTO

as a soprano soloist whose years of voice study informs her teaching.

Parents of a young singer are encouraged to consider joining along with their child. Members benefit from many online learning resources offered in a supportive environment.

Bytown Voices Fall term begins on Tuesday, September 10th. Practices are

held at St Basil's Church on Maitland Avenue just north of the Queensway and start at 7:30pm. Registration is now open online through the website [www.bytownvoices.com](http://www.bytownvoices.com), where visitors can learn more about Bytown Voices and the types of music the choir sings.





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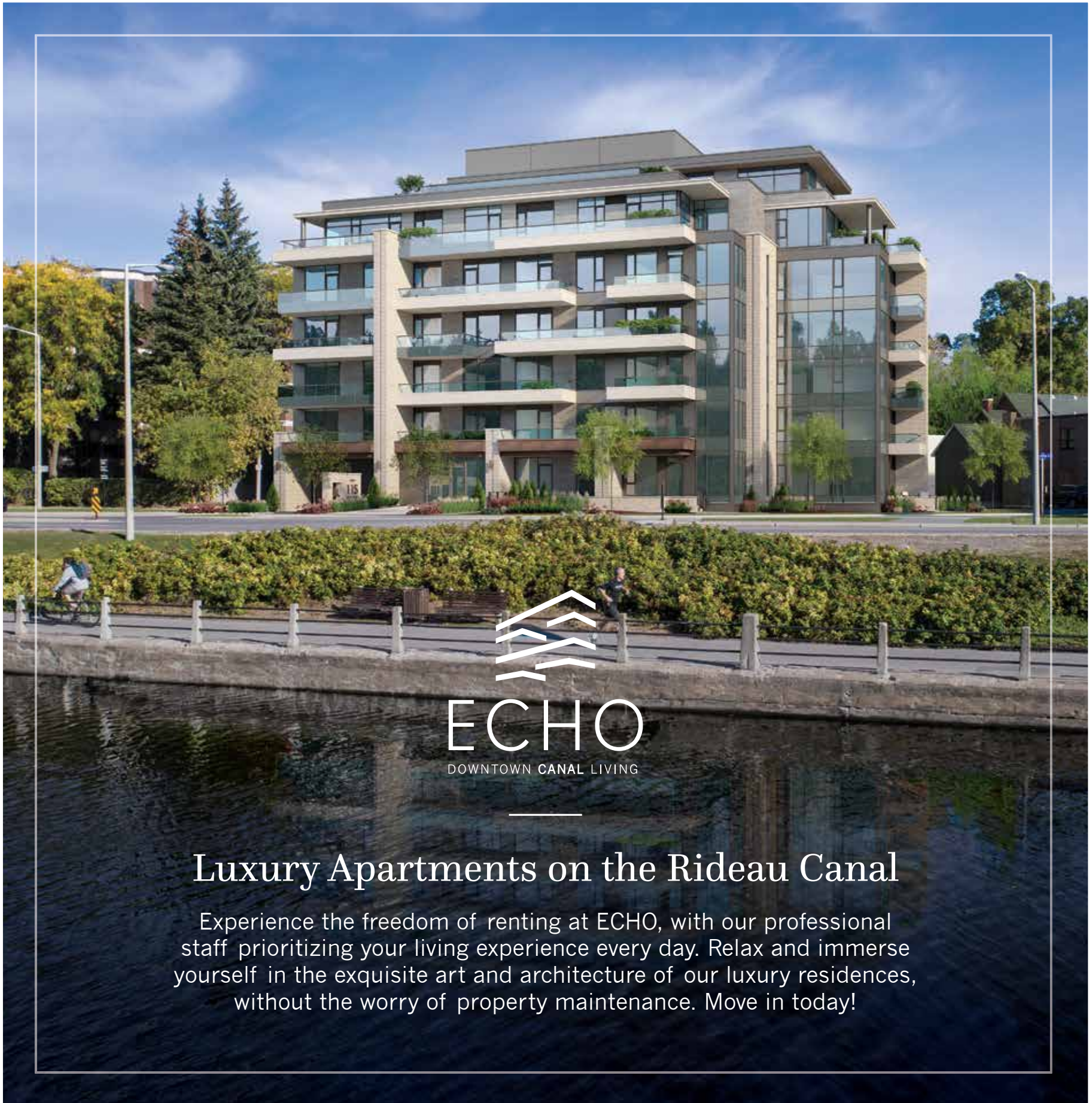


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