

MAINSTREETER

OLD OTTAWA EAST'S COMMUNITY VOICE | LA VOIX COMMUNAUTAIRE DU VIEUX OTTAWA-EST | OCTOBER | OCTOBRE 2024

A Walk of Art

OOE artist *Claude Latour* and 19 others put on quite a show at the 3rd annual outdoor art tour.

Pages 2,3,5, 17 & 39



The days of wine and chocolate

Food & Drink editor *Jill Wherrett* takes to the road to sample award-winning dark chocolate and flavourful offerings from emerging local wineries.

Pages 26 & 28

OOE's fallen war heroes



Dave O'Malley & Don Fugler honour families of the residents of our community who made the supreme sacrifice for Canada in the wars of the 20th Century.

Pages 21 - 23

As utilities and provincial government turn a deaf ear to OOE residents' concerns, it seems like...

There's no room for the public in the public interest

Anger erupts as Hydro One proposes to eliminate almost 50% of the mature trees on Centennial Boulevard

MAINSTREETER STAFF

Hydro One (Hydro), the provincial electricity corporation, has met with strenuous opposition to its initial plan to remove approximately half of the existing trees under the transmission lines of Centennial Boulevard this coming fall. As a consequence, Hydro promised to come up with a new plan, but residents of the street have yet to see anything from the utility more than a month after Hydro made the commitment.

Hydro's initial plan was to remove 18 trees this fall. In their place, next spring, Hydro planned to plant "approximately 30 new shrubs/bushes in the boulevard using species that don't grow as high as the existing trees, making them more compatible with the overhead lines." Further removals and replacements would be planned in future years based on tree growth.

Upon receiving the initial plan, Councillor Shawn Menard pushed back and, together with Hydro staff, met with about 20 Centennial Boulevard and other Old Ottawa East residents on August 20th. Hydro explained that its plan was based on the need to ensure a safe distance is maintained between high-voltage power lines, trees and other vegetation.

Hydro staff emphasized that change is required to save costs, noting that all ratepayers would have to cover ongoing costs of regular maintenance of the trees. This argument did not sit well with residents, especially given that Hydro has been maintaining the trees for decades, the last time being in 2020.

"This important work keeps the corridor safe for public use and gives our crews

Hydro One: Continued on Page 13

Ministry of Transportation (Ont.) ignores widespread opposition to two-year detours in its Canal Bridge replacement plan

JOHN DANCE

In its recently released final environmental study report of options for replacing the deteriorating Queensway Bridge over the Rideau Canal, the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) maintains its recommendation that requires two-year detours of the Canal parkways and pathways for their under-the-bridge portions. Local residents, community associations, businesses and Councillor Shawn Menard are not happy.

After almost seven years of effort – but with little consultation with residents and local businesses – MTO is trying to push ahead with a recommended option that has been vigorously opposed by those most affected since it was proposed by MTO two years ago.

This option replaced an earlier one that didn't require two-year detours. MTO came up with the revised option to save two non-heritage buildings and to avoid possible damage to a large watermain under the Canal. However, MTO did not attempt to assess the community's support of trading off the demolition of the two buildings for two-year detours, nor did it consider other means of ensuring protection of the watermain.

"The final solution we acknowledge has some less desirable effects but these are short term," Steve Taylor, project manager of BT Engineering, MTO's consultants for the project, wrote in an email responding to one resident who criticized the recommendations. But most residents who have reviewed the final recommendations do not consider the two-year detours to be a "short-term effect."

"Although individual communities were not involved in the public outreach, we believe that the City transportation staff and Council members involved have provided input on their behalf," Taylor noted in his response.

Again, communities and businesses who have commented do not share the view

MTO: Continued on Page 4

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ABOVE: *The Mainstreeter's* Lori Gandy sports a message on her t-shirt that put local artists Sarah Lacy (left) and Tim Hunt in a happy frame of mind.



CARMEN CONNOLLY



BRIAN BELL

A Walk of Art 2024

September 28th proved to be a glorious day to stroll Old Ottawa East and see the handiwork of the community's finest artists and artisans, many of whom are pictured on these two pages.



VICTORIA SUTHERLAND



LUCIANNE POOLE & ROSE BRONSKILL



JO JO CADIEUX



PAUL & BEN SCOTT



JORDAN CRAIG



BESS FRASER

Continued on Page 3

A Walk of Art 2024

The 5th annual stroll around the community confirms the depth of talent of the artists and artisans of Old Ottawa East

Continued from Page 2

PHOTOGRAPHER: DIANNE WING



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ALL IN



Vigorous objections to MTO's stand pat recommendation for Queensway Canal Bridge replacement

Two-year detours will have a massive impact on Old Ottawa East

MTO: Continued from Page 1

that “the City transportation staff and Council members” should be providing input on their behalf, especially when transportation staff and councillors – with the exception of Councillor Menard – never consulted with communities and businesses.

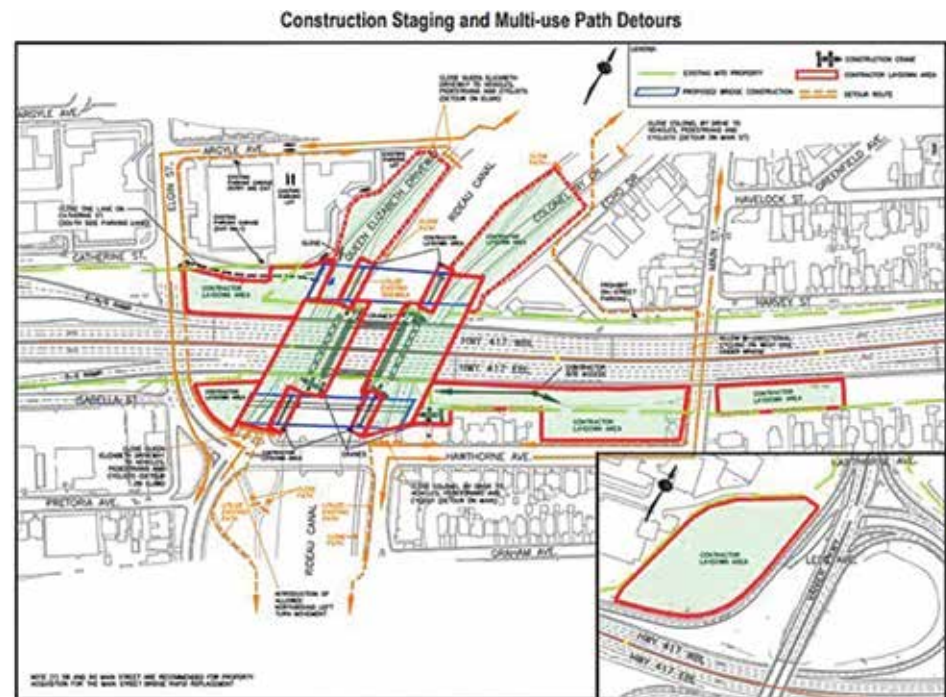
In response to the final environmental study, Councillor Menard provided MTO a detailed 11-page critique of the recommended two-year detour option and other aspects of the report, including some comments pertaining to the other three Queensway bridges (Metcalf, Elgin and Main) that are part of the “downtown” bridge replacement project.

The Mainstreeter specifically asked MTO why the final report does not comment on the “societal delay costs” for Canal parkway users, residents and businesses

living with the two-year detour. Instead, the report notes that the recommended option will result in just a four-day detour over an extended long weekend for Queensway users, thus avoiding “high societal delay cost for freeway lane closures.” In short, “freeway users” are treated with care while local residents are ignored. MTO did not provide a response to the related question.

Similarly, the Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) has opposed the recommended option and has written to the Minister of the Environment asking him to “direct the MTO to reassess its Transportation Environmental Study Report before it is finalized.”

With the support of the Glebe and Old Ottawa South community associations, OOECA cites a variety of failings with the final recommendation including the detours, the destruction



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION OF ONTARIO IMAGE

This image from the MTO's final environmental assessment report for the replacement of the Queensway bridge over the Canal gives a sense of the enormous impact the work will have on Old Ottawa East, including detours of Colonel By parkway and pathway traffic onto Main and Hawthorne and the use of Ballantyne Park for at least two years.

of Ballantyne Park which is to be used as a bridge staging area, dangerous detour routes for pedestrians and cyclists, the environmental assessment giving no evaluation weight to socio-economic impacts on the neighbouring and surrounding communities, and not recognizing the cumulative adverse impacts of major municipal and provincial construction projects along Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue.


In a brief survey of local businesses conducted by *The Mainstreeter*, none of those contacted had been consulted by MTO or asked for their perspectives on the recommended option. As Gordon Martin of Cyco's Sports on Hawthorne says, “Never heard anything. We've been hung out to dry.”

This lack of consultation with business owners contradicts MTO's response to a related question posed by *The Mainstreeter* to which they answered, “MTO completes a thorough review of impacts to local

businesses and works to minimize these impacts [and] wherever possible staff work directly with local businesses to provide support and assistance during construction.”


Parks Canada and the NCC have ensured that neither the boating nor the skating season would be adversely affected by the work, but they did not request reductions to the recommended two-year detours of the pathways and roadways.

In posing questions to MTO, one slight glimmer of hope emerged that the detours might not last a full two years, as Taylor responded, “The length of time the detours will be utilized will [be] subject to a subsequent detail design process and may be less than the timeline in the Transportation Environmental Assessment Report. However, the TESR has provided an estimate [two years] and this is based on a reasonable estimate of construction activities.” We'll see.




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A super comeback for The Main Event

It ranks as Old Ottawa East's Comeback of the Year! On September 20 & 21, the Community Activities Group (CAG) brought back The Main Event after an absence of several years. And this festive community event was all about the kids! There were movies in the park, a dunk tank, a mini ball hockey rink, and lots of bouncy castles. Adults loved it too - from the community garage sale to the community association bar-b-q and Councillor Shawn Menard's bike ride. All told, The Main Event was a fun way to mark the end of summer! Kudos to Lee Jacobs of CAG and his volunteer team on a job well done!



Next issue of *The Mainstreeter*..

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Main and Hawthorne's southwest corner – an ongoing saga of safety issues and chaos

JOHN DANCE

Finally, the question of whether there will be a solid bollard protecting pedestrians and cyclists at the constrained southwest corner of Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue has been answered by City of Ottawa staff: there won't be a solid bollard, but a flexpost will be reinstalled.

"After a full review, City staff confirmed that the location of the existing hydro ducts prevents the installation of an additional permanent bollard at this location," Bruce Kenny, the City's manager of design and construction told *The Mainstreeter*. "To address the concern identified, staff will be installing a flex stake in that location that will be maintained and monitored post-construction by the City of Ottawa."

"The concern identified" that Kenny refers to is the Old Ottawa East Community Association's (OOECA) contention that the space for pedestrians and cyclists is substandard. Before the current Greenfield, Main, Hawthorne (GMH) project began, the flexpost at this location was regularly obliterated by large vehicles turning from Hawthorne onto Main southbound (see photo right).

The new design of Hawthorne will, however, have bollards just back from the corner and the turning lane will be shifted to the north so that there is less likelihood of vehicles encroaching on the sidewalk.

Normally, flex stakes are removed for winter plowing but Councillor Shawn Menard, who has sought improvements at this dangerous, acute-angled corner, sees merit in having the flex stake installed year-round.

Meanwhile, Jim Flinter, the owner of the building at the contentious corner, continues to experience grief with the ongoing GMH project. The building is home to Main Hair Cutters and Habibi Pizza on the ground floor with apartments above.

During the current and the previous Main Street construction projects, Flinter's building has been flooded, his hydro service broken, parking spots have been removed, a huge construction hole interfered with tenants getting into their apartments, and the pizza restaurant had to close for a day because nobody could enter. And that's not all - the "ugly hydro pole" remains in front of the building near the middle of the sidewalk, trucks hit the building as they turn the corner, the stores fill with dust that people track in from the construction, and one of the big front windows had to be replaced because of vibrations from the construction work.

The City says that when the lot is redeveloped there will then be an opportunity to provide more space for pedestrians and cyclists. According to Flinter, who has owned the property since 2006, the City has never asked him if he would be willing to sell the property so that the City could create a corner that meets current sidewalk design criteria..



JIM FLINTER PHOTOS

The chaos at the constrained southwest corner of Main Street and Hawthorne Avenue has been an ongoing headache for Jim Flinter, the owner of the corner property. The photo of the broken flexpost lying at the street corner (left) underscores the inadequacy of prior safety measures taken by the City at the dangerous intersection.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



LeClerc, E. D. (Ottawa, Ottawa East)

circa 1914



Edmond LeClerc was born in 1892. Period directories usually identify him as a carpenter and give no indication that he ever distributed milk. LeClerc and his family took up residence at 155 Drummond Street in Ottawa East in 1908. He remained at the family home until 1917 and, after a two-year hiatus, returned to Ottawa but to a different location. Given that the token bears the Drummond Street address, it was probably issued in the early years of World War I. Edmond's father, François X. LeClerc, operated a grocery business and later a dry goods and confectionery store at 43 Herridge Street, which was located next to the Drummond Street residence. The token may have been used there.

LILA MUNGER PHOTO PHOTO / BANK OF CANADA MUSEUM

East seem to have long memories about our special community. Does anyone out there have anything else that they can add to this discussion? We'd love to hear from you!

Big wheels keep on rolling...

I wanted to flag an issue that is affecting my property, and one that I assume impacts others on the street. When heavy trucks drive by - sometimes at high speed coming off either Smyth Road or the Queensway, each time my house shakes. This happens only when heavy trucks roll by my home. There should be a weight and speed limit for heavy trucks rolling down the street.

I'm not sure if this is related to the construction happening on other streets. In any case, please let me know if a poll could be conducted in your newspaper.

*Tomohisa Yokoyama
Main Street*

Editor's note: With much of Old Ottawa East entangled in orange construction flagging or barricade tape, we thought this reader's situation might not be an isolated case.

So, in our YES OR NO? poll at page 8 of this issue, we've asked our readers whether they agree that weight and speed limits should be established for heavy trucks rolling down the streets of our community.

A dairy, a cheese factory, an apartment building? The past history of this unique concrete bunker-like building at 157 Drummond Street may have included all of these uses. Carleton University's Professor Chris Faulkner asked our readers for background information on the building, and several of them were quick to respond.

Unlocking the mystery of 157 Drummond Street

I'm writing in response to Professor Chris Faulkner's letter to the editor entitled "Over to you, readers..." on page 7 of the August issue of *The Mainstreeter*.

I was the previous owner of the building at 157 Drummond Street and sold it in June of this year. The previous owner informed me that the owner prior to her (who owned it for 60 years) informed her that the building was built to be a dairy at the turn of the century. However, it was never used as a dairy but has instead always been a rental property with five rental units.

The building is built entirely out of concrete, like a bunker, so it is quite unique for the area.

K.P.

I lived in one of the apartments at the corner of Herridge and Drummond (45 Herridge) for the last 7 years. It used to be a cheese factory at one time. There is a dairy coin with the Drummond address on it that is in the collection at the Royal Canadian Mint.

Alicia Beazley

I came across the information above by accident while looking for details on another coin some years ago. It comes from a PDF document published by The Bank of Canada Museum called Ottawa Dairy Tokens - An Overview of the Dairy Tokens of Ottawa, and Their Issuers.

*Anthony Lenzo,
McNaughton Avenue*

Professor Faulkner responds

A story is gradually being built up here. I believe K.P. is correct to say that the building was never a dairy. But the milk tokens to which Anthony Lenzo drew attention do suggest to me that Edmond Leclerc was probably a grocer and may have been a neighbourhood milk delivery man. Otherwise, there would have been no need for the dairy tokens.

Back in LeClerc's time, people put these tokens in their clean milk bottles on the front step over night so when the milk man came by in the morning with his horse and cart (or van) he knew what fresh milk to leave in its place. The tokens meant not having to put money outside and thereby avoid the possibility of theft.

*Professor Chris Faulkner,
Carleton University*

Editor's note: Whenever we publish historical information about our community it often begets additional fascinating information, as this discussion of the historical mystery surrounding the concrete apartment building at 157 Drummond Street demonstrates.

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YES OR NO?

In our August issue, we observed that since the start of COVID-19, an increasing number of pets have taken up residence in Old Ottawa East, especially dogs. And we pointed out that the nearest fenced-in, off-leash dog parks are at Lansdowne and off of Elgin Street. City by-laws prohibit off-leash dogs in Brantwood and Springhurst parks. But nevertheless, off-leash dogs are regularly observed in both parks engaged in spirited playtime with their owners, and on nearby pathways enjoying leisurely strolls. 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.

So, we asked our readers if you supported establishing a fenced-in, off-leash dog park in Old Ottawa East, or conversely, if you thought there were enough available options for our Old Ottawa East dogs? We were not surprised by the large volume of responses we got from our readers – 130 in total. But we didn't quite expect the overwhelming vote in favour of the YES option. Almost 81% of readers who responded to our poll favoured the creation of a new off-leash dog park in Old Ottawa East. Are you listening Councillor Shawn Menard?

YES – We need a fenced-in, off-leash dog park in Old Ottawa East.

80.75%

NO – We have enough available options for our Old Ottawa East dogs.

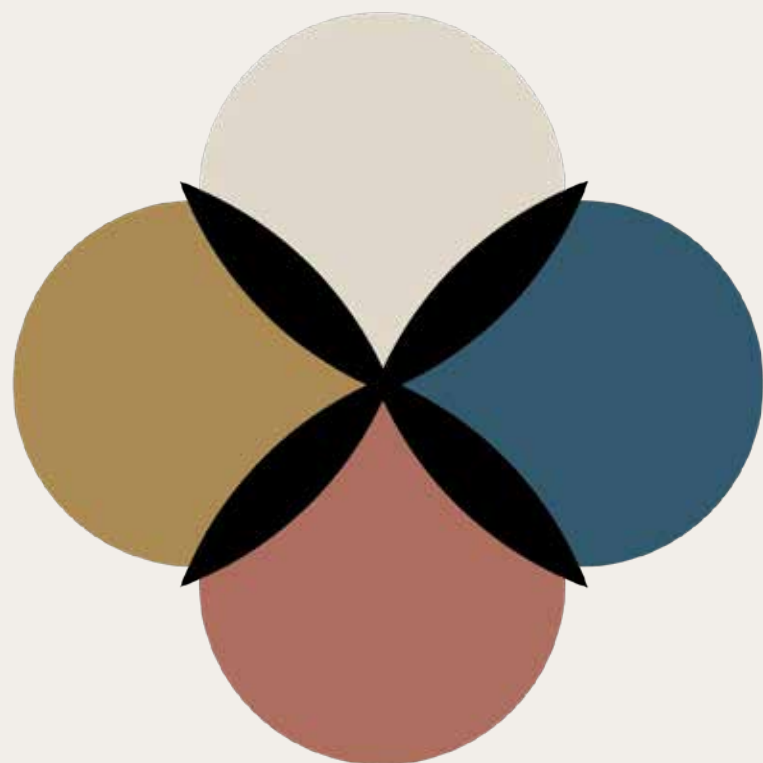
19.25%

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

A reader of *The Mainstreeter* has told us that his walls shake every time a heavy truck rolls by his house on Main Street at high speed (see Letters at page 7). He believes that with construction activities in the community at an all-time high, the time has come for a crackdown on either or both of the speed and the weight of heavy trucks travelling on residential streets within Old Ottawa East. There is also anecdotal evidence to

suggest that other residents in the community, including those living in the Greenfield Avenue and Havelock Street construction zone, are experiencing similar shakedowns in their houses due to the ingress and egress of heavy construction vehicles in their neighbourhood. When do the benefits of construction renewal become burdensome and even hazardous?

Do you support establishing speed and/or weight limits on heavy trucks travelling on residential streets in Old Ottawa East? Yes or No? Scan the QR Code below to cast your vote.



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Community Activities Group: Call Old Town Hall at 613-564-1078 and leave a message for Lee Jacobs or email LeeJ@ottawaeastcg.ca

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

Old Town Hall: 613.627.0062

OPINION

Old Ottawa East residents need to assess their aspirations for the Rideau River nature trail and path

KATHRYN NELSON

Many of us enjoy strolling along the west bank of the Rideau River appreciating the trees, vegetation and wildlife and connecting our feet to the earth rather than a paved surface. That is why the path is not paved. Further on, the paved bike path from Lees Station diverts at Clegg Street west onto existing community roads to rejoin the river's edge at Smyth Bridge, at the boundary of Old Ottawa East.

The Rideau River Nature Trail - from Clegg Street to Rideau Garden Drive and including Brantwood Park - floods in some areas as frequently as every two years. During flooding, and when conditions are wet, such as in spring and fall when vegetation is less established, the path is muddy.

Between Centennial Boulevard and Rideau Garden Drive, for example, the muddy trail did not seem to be a problem for many years. The distance between the river's edge and the back of the Rideau Garden Drive properties is about 20-25 metres and the path remained about 2 metres wide situated close to the river's edge.

But for the past several years, the path has been overused by walkers, their dogs, and bicyclists. There is loss of vegetation, soil compaction, and erosion of the floodplain, especially right along the river's edge. A second, smaller trail has developed uphill - on the flood control berm where users escape the mud. Bikes are using both the main and secondary trails. As a result, soil is compacted, we cannot see native vegetation or shrubs, and both the trees and tree roots are being damaged. This could ultimately lead to the loss of trees that we all enjoy and that hold the soil along the river and behind the properties on Rideau Garden Drive.

For example, just north of Rideau Garden Drive there are almost no shrubs along the river's edge, and the river is eroding the bank between large Silver Maples, which are the sentinels holding back the river's erosion. A "C" shaped eroded area can be seen between the Silver Maples. Unfortunately, even these large trees are starting to fall in the river. This is less evident in the summer when some greenery grows along the river's edge, but in the winter it is clear that, in some areas, there are no shrubs to speak of between the Silver Maples, although there are some small trees such as Manitoba Maples. In a less eroded environment, we could expect to see dogwoods, willows, chokeberries and similar shrubs that are suited to floodplains and which put out suckers that ultimately hold the soil against river flow and floods.

It seems COVID - and our desire to "get out of the house" - combined with the increased population related to Greystone development, the City of Ottawa's use of heavy equipment to remove a number of large White Ash trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer and to mow the area a number of times a year contribute to overuse of the pathway and its current and future deterioration.

This overuse may be understandable but the residents of the Old Ottawa East community will need to look at ways to prevent deterioration of the trail area and related problems. Ideas to be discussed could include:

- Plant native shrubs and native perennials along the river bank and under the existing trees, along the main and secondary path to reduce bank erosion and soil compaction and encourage users to stay on the main path. This could prevent the cost of City mowing and potential need for rock on the river bank (as has been installed under the Smyth Bridge and near Greystone Village.
- Ask people to change their habits relating to their use of the trail;
- Control bicycle use and limit dog urination on trees.
- Consider a boardwalk to take foot traffic, that could withstand flooding.

Continued degradation of this area of the floodplain poses ecosystem, financial, geotechnical, water quality, and aesthetic risks, could cause traffic noise to be more evident as trees are lost, and may result in erosion of the fill/berm adjacent to the back of properties on Rideau Garden Drive. Hopefully, OOE residents will take interest in this issue and join together to develop further suggestions for change.



KATHRYN NELSON PHOTO

This March 2024 photo shows that there are no shrubs to protect the riverbank.

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.

Brantwood Gates Remembrance Ceremony

Old Ottawa East's 2024 Remembrance ceremony at the Brantwood Gates will take place at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, November 10th. All are invited to this annual community-organized event that honours those who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Organizers hope those in neighbouring communities will also attend this solemn and important event that, although on a different scale from the Remembrance Day ceremony the next day at the National War memorial, is a less formal event right here in our community. Members of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Canadian Armed Forces will be participating in the Brantwood Gates ceremony.

The Mainstreeter is proud to publish a three-page Special Report at pages 21 to 23 of this issue on the Fallen Heroes of Old Ottawa East, an important piece of historical community research - conducted and written by Dave O'Malley and Don Fugler - on all the members of our community who sacrificed their lives in the Great Wars of the 20th Century.



On-Street parking problems in Greystone Village

One Greystone Village resident - who prefers not to be named - says the on-street parking chaos in the new development "is out of control and is causing unsafe situations." In correspondence with Councillor Shawn Menard and the Old Ottawa East Community Association, the resident cites the many parking problems she has observed.

"Densification in this neighbourhood is definitely a good thing, but it is a shame that the City has allowed the developers to overload Greystone Village, compared to the original approved plan, and even more disappointing the City has been backing up these decisions with outdated traffic studies, especially when there is a hospital, and soon to be an elementary school and community centre in the area," the resident wrote.

Specifically, the resident notes that some condo owners bought units with no parking yet they have cars, which they then park on the street; some condo units do have parking spaces but their owners have two cars, thus they, too, park on the street; some residents in the Ballantyne and Milieu apartment buildings do not rent parking spaces in their building so they also park on the street; and the Bruyère Hospital facility in the Greystone Retirement building provides parking for neither staff nor visitors.

"The common denominator here is that the residents who are abusing the street parking are choosing to bring more cars into the neighbourhood, and these same residents are choosing not to pay for parking," she says. The resident points out that there is available pay parking "but residents and hospital visitors are choosing not to use it because they don't want to pay."

The resident's proposed solution is four-fold: limit on-street parking to one hour; greatly increase enforcement; install metered parking in certain areas; and have enforcement officers use licence plate scanners rather than chalk on tires to determine if cars have exceeded time restrictions.

When asked about the Greystone on-street parking problem, Scott Caldwell, the City's manager of parking services, responded, "The current parking issues are a result of the development and pressures that have been created within Greystone Village. To better understand the parking impacts from this development while considering the context of the broader area, Parking Services will assess and consider a Local Area Parking Study once the development is further progressed, which could be as early as next year."

Also, Roger Chapman, the City's director of by-law and regulatory services, responded, "We recognize that as development at Greystone Village continues there are going to be challenges and adjustments to the parking routines of neighbours, both new and old. We encourage residents to report parking violations to 3-1-1 so that a parking control officer can be dispatched to address the specific issue promptly and ensure the community's needs are met."

The on-street parking challenges within Greystone Village may give a taste of what may occur with the 15 des Oblats development, which will have no parking for residents of the 284 unit-building.

Main Street speed board update

Following the installation of the speed board on northbound Main Street at the end of the Smyth Bridge, The Mainstreeter had hoped to report on what impact the community's speed boards actually had on drivers' speed, but unfortunately, the City of Ottawa doesn't have the data to share.

"Due to the considerable time and cost of retrieving data from more than 900 speed boards, data is now only collected as needed in order to inform localized traffic decisions," Heidi Cousineau, the City's manager of traffic, safety and mobility says.

"Speed boards are primarily used to educate drivers and mitigate driver behaviour, such as speeding," she says. "On average, speed boards can yield a 27 per cent increase in compliance with the legal speed limit." This decrease may only be temporary, after a new speed board is installed. Thereafter, drivers may tend to ignore the signs, as was noted by one Lees Avenue resident.

However, next year City staff will begin work to provide a solution that will allow data to be published on Open Data Ottawa.

The new Main Street speed board had a glitch: it showed a frown when drivers were going less than the 40 km/hour speed limit. Cousineau says this has been corrected.

The newly installed automated speed enforcement camera near Immaculata High School will not be operational until December, Cousineau reported.

No to crossing guards at Evelyn Avenue/Main Street intersection

Once again, City staff have turned down the community's request for school crossing guards at Main Street and Evelyn Avenue. Parents of children attending Lady Evelyn Alternative School and Immaculata High School are not happy with this decision, especially when they observe crossing guards at less busy locations in neighbouring Old Ottawa South and the Glebe.

"The intersection of Evelyn and Main was reviewed on May 22 using the Council-approved criteria to determine the implementation of an adult school crossing guard," says Cousineau. "The criteria measure multiple factors including traffic volumes, road width, and school age (grade six and below) pedestrian usage."

"The study found that the criteria to consider a crossing guard were significantly below the requirements. In contrast, the required criteria at Bank and Fifth, particularly around school-age pedestrian traffic, resulted in maintaining two crossing guards at that location."

Update Continued on Page 11

OLD OTTAWA EAST COMMUNITY UPDATES

Updates Continued from Page 10

National Capital Commission parkway studies

“The National Capital Commission (NCC) is creating new planning and design guidelines to better protect and enhance the parkways in the National Capital Region to guide future decisions and projects and to ensure that the parkways remain beautiful, functional and safe for everyone to enjoy,” says a recent NCC press release.

According to the Centretown Buzz, “among the six proposed guiding principles are: sustainable mobility and active use including prioritizing walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable mobility; ecosystem preservation, rehabilitation and urban resiliency, including protecting the Capital greenspace network; and connections to surroundings and placemaking, including offering meaningful placemaking in harmony with their urban, waterfront or natural context.”

The project was initiated in the wake of the NCC’s recent experiment to close a portion of Queen Elizabeth Driveway during the summer and open its use to a variety of recreational activities. The parkway policy study with its draft guidelines will be released next spring.

The NCC is also conducting a feasibility study of installing bike lanes along the length of the Rideau Canal parkways. The objective is “to determine the most effective way to potentially provide permanent, segregated cycling space to ease the pressure on the Canal pathways and enhance pedestrian safety while separating faster-moving cyclists from the limited pathway space.” The NCC says the consultant’s report on the bike lanes will be finished soon, and “the outcome will be communicated to the public afterwards.”

Red maple tree saved at 15 des Oblats Avenue

Good news on the development front: the large red maple near the southwestern corner of 15 Des Oblats Avenue will be saved.

Adriana Beaman, who has led the community effort for improvements in the plan for the repurposing of the former Sisters’ convent, pushed hard for the retention of this tree. It is particularly beautiful in fall, residents say.

The developer, Forum Asset Management, has relocated the required car-sharing spots to preserve the tree. In related news, Forum’s Dayna Gilbert reports that the demolition dust from the old convent “is fully contained within the site.”

Forum has resubmitted the site plan for the project and has addressed all remaining comments, says Gilbert. Final comments from City staff were expected by the end of September.

A new Old Ottawa East location for the Madonna statue has tentatively been found, but final approval has not yet been given by the possible recipient, so details are not yet public.

Long-awaited cycling improvements by Riverside Hospital

The City is now implementing numerous changes to improve cycling and pedestrian safety and connectivity at the southern end of the Main Street / McIlraith Bridge bike lanes. Motorists may experience delays while this work is underway.

The existing cycling facilities are being extended from the eastern end of Smyth Bridge towards the next intersection. The changes will, according to City staff, introduce safer interactions with motor vehicles turning to and from Riverside Drive via the on- and off-ramps, a situation that currently can be harrowing for cyclists and pedestrians.

Specifically, an eastbound dedicated cycling facility will be created from the existing cycling lane west of the Riverside Drive south on/off ramp to approximately 60 metres east of the signalized intersection of Smyth Road at the former access to the Ottawa Hospital Riverside Campus access. Also, a westbound dedicated cycling facility will go across the Riverside Drive north off-ramp to the existing cycling lane west of the Riverside Drive north ramp.

“Super sharrows” will be painted on the roadway to indicate a shared-use lane westbound between the Riverside Drive north on-ramp and the intersection of Smyth Road at the former access to the Riverside Hospital (the motorized vehicle access is now off Riverside Drive).

In addition, there will be various signage and pavement markings on Smyth Road, including curb radii reductions, a raised crossing for eastbound cyclists and



pedestrians at the Riverside Drive south on-ramp, traffic island modifications, and narrowing of the eastbound lane widths.

The cycling route through the Riverside Campus was recently changed to accommodate the development of a long-term care home and a large retirement home. Cyclists now enter from Smyth Road and travel south of the professional building then connect to the existing roadway that leads to the pedestrian and cycling path that goes across the railway tracks and on to Rodney, Billings and Pleasant Park.

Plans for improved cycling on Smyth Road beyond the hospital remain under review. The addition of cycling facilities to Smyth Road between the hospital and Alta Vista Drive is, according to City staff, “challenging within the current layout, given the widths between the existing curbs (including the centre median) and the constraints of the rail overpass abutments.”

Immaculata High building improvements

Over the summer, several new projects were completed to improve Immaculata High School. The north building had a \$435,000 upgrade of its heating and cooling system along with the replacement of a rooftop unit that provides fresh air ventilation to the classrooms. This building also had an LED lighting retrofit in the lower level, costing \$289,000, resulting in improved lighting and less energy use.

Renovations in the south building costing \$114,000 provide modernized space in the hospitality and technical classrooms. The fourth improvement was the replacement of “designated substance containing insulation” in the attic of the central and south buildings at a cost of \$116,000.



Better accessibility sought for new Springhurst Park dock

JOHN DANCE

After 12 years of waiting for a dock at Springhurst Park, it's finally built although, at this writing, it's not yet open. Having this dock should be a source of some pleasure for many people who will use it as a paddle craft launching site and others who just want to have a great view up and down the Rideau River. But, primarily because of accessibility issues, the pleasure just isn't going to be there for some.

The fundamental accessibility problem is that the ramp is too steep when river levels are low. When last measured by City staff, the ramp slope was about 14 percent, substantially steeper than the five percent maximum allowed by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. A second issue is that the actual floating dock at the end of the ramp is small so that it would be difficult for a person using a wheelchair to easily manoeuvre.

Christine Honsl, who has lived nearby for decades, uses a wheelchair and was very much looking forward to being able to use the dock but the steep slope makes this impossible for her. Rick Burrowes, the unofficial steward of Springhurst Park, launched a petition to have the design modified to be fully accessible and succeeded in getting 200 signatures and the attention of CBC radio who interviewed him and Honsl.

It is not just wheelchair users who won't be able to use the new dock. "Anyone with restricted mobility would

not be safe," Honsl points out. "Anyone wanting to take small children in a stroller won't be able to safely use it. It is particularly galling as close neighborhood housing contains populations, like those living at the Greystone transitional residence, who will have difficulty using the new infrastructure."

The original design of the dock would have met accessibility requirements, but the City's operational requirements led to design changes. "The proposed ramp was too long and heavy, complicating installation, removal, and seasonal storage," says Dan Chenier, the City's general manager of recreation, cultural and facility services. "Additionally, other site factors, including the riverbank height, contaminated soils, and sewer infrastructure below the site, limited design options."

"The City of Ottawa recognizes the importance of enhancing accessibility at the Springhurst Park dock. The site's unique constraints have made full accessibility challenging and the City has made every effort to adapt the project accordingly," he explained to *The Mainstreeter*.

Unfortunately, the changed design did not come to the attention of community members and Councillor Shawn Menard until after it was built so that they were not able to persuade City staff to make improvements. The \$203,000 project has been funded from Capital Ward's share of "cash in lieu of parkland" account generated by new development in the ward.

The original dock in Old Ottawa East (OOE) at



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Christine Honsl is disappointed with the City's decision not to make the new Springhurst Park dock fully accessible.

Brantwood Park was built in 2011, and the following year the OOE Community Association (OOECA) and the Community Activities Group requested a second dock at Springhurst Park, but the project was not then supported by the parks and recreation department.

Dock: Continued on Page 14

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Residents demand a revised plan from the utility

Hydro One proposes elimination of many of Centennial Boulevard's distinctive trees

Hydro One: Continued from Page 1

access to the power lines for routine and/or emergency repairs," Hydro's Josh Vandezande noted in his email to Menard.

Hydro was subsequently asked by *The Mainstreeter* what the costs have been in previous years. Hydro's media relations person responded that the utility does not cost specific projects, nor could it estimate the cost.

In Hydro's initial proposal, the existing crab apple trees and other types were to have been replaced by mock orange shrubs and dwarf lilac trees, the former with a maximum 12-foot height and the latter six feet. Again, residents were not enthused about this proposal and requested more substantial trees if, indeed, trees really need to be replaced.

The power cables over Centennial supply Hydro's Ottawa substation at the corner of Main Street and Riverdale Avenue but, unlike most of Hydro's transmission lines, these cables are very visible within an urban environment. The rest of the line runs through a lengthy utility corridor, most of it on Hydro lands, roadway allowances, or industrial areas. So elsewhere, elimination of trees by Hydro goes relatively unnoticed.

The exceptional nature of the Centennial portion of the transmission towers is very much valued by residents. Indeed, the existing medium-sized trees almost camouflage the transmission lines and their towers. And, in the spring, the crab apples provide a unique flowering display that the street's residents much enjoy.

Residents asked why Hydro couldn't simply continue with its regular maintenance program. "[M]any of the trees have developed fast-growing 'suckers' at the top of the trees that quickly increase the risk of contact with the lines overhead," Vandezande noted in his email to Menard. To this response, residents suggested that there be more frequent pruning but Hydro staff resisted this again citing the cost issue and noting that if too much of a tree is pruned, it will die.

Most of the trees were planted about 50 years ago and some were removed – and, to the chagrin of residents, not replaced – in previous years. As Jayson

MacLean, former chair of Sustainable Living Ottawa East, noted: "It seems that they just don't want to do proper, regular maintenance any more. Their forester said that the costs for that would be coming out of our pockets."

"I would advocate for skilled 'heroic intervention' to rejuvenate whatever trees can be saved," commented Ian McRae, Old Ottawa East's "go-to" tree devotee. "I would elect to replace the ones that must be cut with small tree species like the amur maples that are there already and apparently have been there for many years. Restorative pruning may be tried on others. I would not advocate shrubs like the mock orange or dwarf lilacs that Hydro One proposes."

Now, it is the turn of Centennial Boulevard residents to wait and see if Hydro One proposes something heroic.

RIGHT: Trees have been growing under the Centennial Boulevard lines for more than 50 years but now Hydro One wants to replace them with shrubs and smaller trees; BELOW: Centennial Boulevard residents do not like Hydro One's initial plan to remove many of the trees under the transmission lines.



PETER CROAL PHOTOS



Active transportation becomes a little less risky downtown

City of Ottawa installs Secure Public Bike Parking lockers

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The City of Ottawa has installed new secure bicycle lockers in three busy downtown core locations in an attempt to encourage and promote cycling in the nation's capital.

City officials believe the new public bike lockers will provide residents and visitors with a high quality, secure option for bike storage while they are enjoying all that Ottawa has to offer.

The Secure Public Bike Parking lockers, as they are called, are available at the following core Ottawa destinations:

- Byward Market: 141 Clarence Street, along the west wall inside the parking garage close to the Murray Street exit.
- The Glebe: 170 Second Avenue, outside the Glebe parking garage near the entrance/exit on Second Avenue.
- Centretown: 234-250 Slater Street, at the surface parking lot adjacent to the sidewalk.

According to the City's website, the three new locker locations are just the first of many more in the future: "This

initial phase of bike locker installations will be monitored to determine potential next steps to adjust and expand the program."

The City's announcement noted that "This is an important part of implementing the [...] Public Bike Parking Strategy," which was approved by City Council in April 2021. The bike parking strategy was developed with considerable resident feedback and with neighbourhood parking studies dating back to 2011 in order to allow the City to meet current and future demands for bike parking for a growing number of active transportation devotees.

Each of the three new public bike lockers can hold six bicycles, and the lockers are available on a "first come, first served" basis. Users can access, rent and pay for the secure bike lockers using their mobile devices and the Vélo-Transit application. The first 2 hours of the rental are free of charge and each additional hour costs \$0.50/. The rental period continues until the user ends their session through the Vélo-Transit application.

Instructions on creating an account



CITY OF OTTAWA PHOTO

Three new public secure bike lockers have been added to busy downtown locations in a bid to promote cycling in the City.

and using the Vélo-Transit application to lock and unlock the lockers and the bicycles within the lockers are available on the City's website.

According to a CTV News report, more than 700 bicycles were reported stolen across the City this year, as of August. There were 1,320 reported bike thefts in all of last year, the report added. But that only includes what's been reported to police. More than 200 bikes have been recovered so far this year.

For more information about the new lockers and a video from the City of Ottawa, scan the QR Code to the right.



Docks offer unique vantage point to enjoy the Rideau river

Continued from Page 12

City Councillors and the community continued to seek reversal of the park's department position but they were unsuccessful until Menard was pushed for it.

Although the new Springhurst dock does not have an accessible ramp, a new accessible pathway has been built to reach the ramp. This contrasts with the Brantwood dock situation which does not currently have an accessible pathway connecting it to the paved multi-use pathway nearby. However, at the October OOECA meeting, Councillor Menard's staff advised that a new, accessible paved pathway connecting the Brantwood Park dock and the nearby parking lot will be constructed next year.

Burrowes is of the view the Windsor

Park dock should have accessibility features that are currently missing. Honsl also suggests that the Springhurst dock should have a viewing area with seating farther up along the path to the dock.

Despite the accessibility challenge posed by the docks, they have provided unique vantage points for most residents to enjoy the Rideau River. Although some paddlers prefer to launch from a beach shoreline, many prefer the dock launching. In a raucous Facebook discussion of the new dock, some decried it a waste of money while others saw it as "a great new resource to the community."

As was the case with the Grande Allée Park, City staff are not going to remove the barriers to allow any access to the dock until the sod is established. Hopefully, this occurs before the dock must be removed before winter arrives.



Old Ottawa East
Community Association
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 7 p.m.



The Old Ottawa East Community Association (OOECA) is hosting its hybrid Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Social in person (The Atelier, 95 Clegg Street, Ottawa ON) and online.

- Visit OttawaEast.ca/events/2024-agm/ to add the November 12th AGM to your calendar and view AGM details including invited guests, agenda, and online meeting link.

Everyone is welcome but only members can vote.

To become a member of OOECA, you must be a resident, business, or property owner in Old Ottawa East, and be 18 years of age or older. Memberships are \$5 per household.

- Purchase your membership in person at The Atelier 30 minutes before the AGM start, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Visit OttawaEast.ca/membership/ for other ways to purchase your membership, including online with e-transfer.

Email Info@OttawaEast.ca for more information or to submit an accessibility request to support your participation in the AGM, whether you choose to attend in person or online.

SENIOR PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH STUDIES

The University of Ottawa's SCOPE laboratory is recruiting persons 65 years+ to participate in studies on face perception. Compensation (\$20+ depending on duration) will be provided and bus tickets/parking will be covered. Contact Dr. I.

Boutet at 613-562-5800 ext. 2612 or SCOPElab@uottawa.ca for more information.

OUR NEIGHBOURS



Myleeta Kuske beams with pleasure at being able to reside once again in her childhood community of Old Ottawa East.

DIANNE WING

“I was so excited. It was like coming home!”

Myleeta Kuske couldn't believe her luck when she was transferred to Transitional Care at Greystone Village Retirement. “Everybody here - we love it. The building is beautiful and the staff are very kind. We had mock cocktails and snacks the other day outside on the patio.” “The view from her bright, spacious room is spectacular! Looking south, your eyes follow the Rideau River all the way to Brantwood Park. And it was on Marlowe Crescent, just a few blocks from the park where Kuske grew up.

Her memories of growing up in Old Ottawa East during the 40's, 50's and 60's remain vivid. She recalls walking along Main Street to Lady Evelyn School when it was just a small brick building, and later to Hopewell Avenue School which, despite its renovation, “still looks the same.” Her high school years were spent at Commerce which, at that time, was attached to Glebe Collegiate on the Bronson Avenue side.

Kuske's happy memories are deeply rooted in three houses with architectural charm. Her great uncle was the renowned architect Werner Ernst Noffke who

For Myleeta Kuske, transitional care offers a return to her OOE roots

designed not only houses, but churches and public buildings throughout Ottawa. Noffke was perhaps best known though for his residential work, designed in a colonial California-inspired Mediterranean style with stucco exteriors and warm red or orange tiled roofing.

Noffke designed Kuske's family home at 84 Marlowe Crescent. “It still looks the same; leaded windows and a two-storey tower with circular stairs. A lot of wedding photos were taken there,” Kuske remembers. Her aunt's home, a whitewashed bungalow at 182 Glenora Street was also designed by Noffke. Kuske's grandparents came to Ottawa from Eastern Germany and they too lived in Old Ottawa East, at 54 Havelock Street. Although this house was not designed by her famous great uncle, Kuske recalls fondly her grandparents' house with its two interior staircases and large summer kitchen.

Many childhood memories revolve around her illustrious great uncle. “He sent back one of the four lions that came from Montreal for the Central Post Office because it didn't have the right look,” she laughs. Kuske recalls Sunday dinners at Noffke's home on Harmer Avenue. There was a wine cellar and a dumb waiter to bring up the food from the kitchen. She and her three siblings were instructed to be on their best behaviour, and a buzzer under the table was used to alert the maid for the next serving.

Kuske loved swimming at Brantwood Beach, picking pussywillows in the bush where Marlowe now meets Elliott Avenue, dog races on the Canal and businesses such as Matier's along Main Street. These are all good memories, and she is delighting in exploring her old neighbourhood once again, this time by wheelchair. In July and August, she enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs on offer during Thursday night BBQs at Brantwood Park. Recently, Kuske, who is 83 years young, had a craving for fresh corn. The close proximity of Main Street Farmers' Market to Greystone Village Retirement proved to be ideal as she was able to buy a few cobs of corn there to microwave later for a summer treat back at Greystone. She beams with pleasure at being able to be



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Two of the houses in Old Ottawa East that figured prominently in Kuske's childhood are the family home on Marlowe Crescent (top) and her Aunt Elinor's home on Glenora Street (bottom left). Kuske's great uncle, Werner Ernst Noffke, who designed both of the homes, is widely regarded as Ottawa's most famous and prolific architect of his day. Another of Noffke's notable buildings is the Old Ottawa South Community Centre, better known as the Old Firehall on Sunnyside Avenue.

part of her old community again.

Shortly after her move to Transitional Care, Kuske stopped in front of her beloved family home on Marlowe Crescent. She was pleased to chat with the current owners and to hear how much they love the area and how they really wanted to live here. “How do people know about Old Ottawa East?” Kuske wondered.

I guess it's just hard to keep a hidden gem hidden forever.

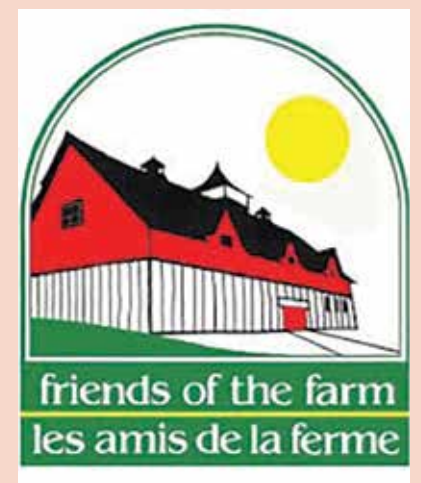


WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are newly retired or have time on your hands, the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm are urgently seeking a volunteer Treasurer. As a member of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer is responsible for and advises the Board on financial and budgetary matters.

This position also involves accounting responsibilities for our day-to-day operations, supported by a volunteer bookkeeper. Experience/knowledge in managing the financial affairs of a business or not-for-profit charitable organization; accounting experience, preferably with a knowledge of QuickBooks; and professional designation are desired.

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TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY & NIGHT MARKET
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22
5 PM - 9 PM

Work on enhanced Canal lighting making progress

But OOE is still waiting for the lights to come on

JOHN DANCE

Although Old Ottawa East residents have yet to “see the light” on their stretch of Colonel By Drive, the massive project of the National Capital Commission (NCC) to improve the deteriorated roadway and pathway lights along the Rideau Canal is proceeding well and one section, notably north of Hog’s Back, is aglow with “new cut-off style” lights.

About 20 percent of the light installation is completed. However, there is little evidence of new lights on the Old Ottawa East side of the Canal. But the NCC assured *The Mainstreeter* that this will be remedied.

“There will be continuous roadway and pathway lighting on Colonel By Drive (CBD) between the Pretoria Bridge and the Corktown Footbridge,” an NCC spokesperson reported. “The new layout and density of the upgraded lighting system will provide much

improved visibility and security to the pathways and parkways adjacent to the Rideau Canal.”

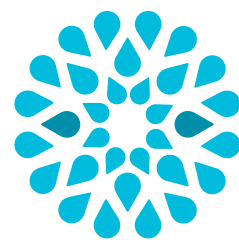
“Based on the proposed design drawings, this stretch of CBD will see its number of light fixtures go from seven to a total of 74 upon project completion,” the NCC noted.

Lights with a new design are being used at the southern end of Colonel By Drive. However, in the established communities, including Old Ottawa East, the NCC is retaining the same two lamp designs that have always graced the parkways and pathways.

“They contribute to some of the most significant views of this UNESCO World Heritage Site,” says the NCC. “For this reason, the NCC decided to keep the same design for the newly installed light posts to preserve this distinctive character of the Rideau Canal.”



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45 local artists turn fifth anniversary art tour into a community celebration

Everything came up sunshine and poses for A Walk of Art 2024

MAINSTREETER STAFF

No matter the direction you strolled on September 28th, glorious artwork was just around the corner. That's the day that Old Ottawa East artists put their top canvasses on display at the fifth anniversary edition of *A Walk of Art*.

For this year's event, 35 adult artists and 10 child artists exhibited their best work outdoors in front of their homes or, in the case of the child artists, at the Children's Garden on Main Street. And more areas of Old Ottawa East were covered on the tour than in prior years, with first time exhibitors setting up displays on Rosemere Avenue and Concord Street. In addition, several "pods" of artists exhibited in groups of five to eight on Drummond Street and in the Courtyard at Corners on Main.

Lorne Abugov, editor of *The Mainstreeter*, has been involved in all five editions of the annual outdoor art tour through the streets of Old Ottawa East, and he was delighted by this year's event. "The wonderful weather, the talent level of our artists, and the good vibes generally. *A Walk of Art* has really grown over the past five years to play a major role in community building in Old Ottawa East."

The reports from exhibiting artists in every corner of Old Ottawa East were favourable, and

all concerned enjoyed their afternoon exhibiting their artwork in the sunshine. Most agreed that there were many passersby at their exhibits, and that sales of smaller paintings and sketches and specialty greeting cards were generally brisk. A number of artists were thrilled to report that they had sold some larger works to local residents looking to adorn their walls.

Helping to promote this year's event, two of the community's most prolific and talented artists, Louise Rachlis and Louise Elliott, demonstrated their painting talents outdoors at The Main Event, a week before the art tour. Their "plein-aire" sessions proved popular with visitors and allowed the artists to meet a number of Old Ottawa East art lovers.

Many of the OOE artists exhibiting at *A Walk of Art 2024* accepted *The Mainstreeter's* invitation to meet and greet their fellow artists at a post-exhibit volunteer appreciation gathering on October 5th at the Atelier Mauril-Belanger in Saint Paul University.

Organizers of the event are already planning for next year and hope to increase the number of participating local artists, including very young artists in the Kids Art exhibit at the Children's Garden.

RIGHT: Well known Glebe artist Bhat Boy drops in on *A Walk of Art* outdoor exhibit; **BELOW:** Young painter Claire Holton made her debut at the Kid's Exhibit at the Children's Garden.





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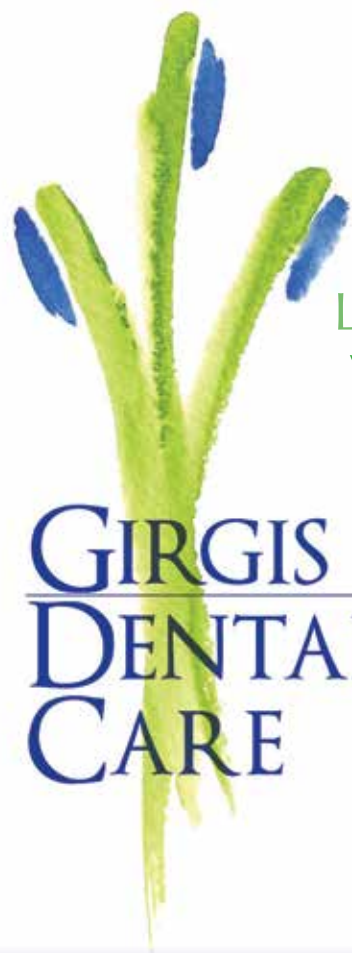
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OUR NEIGHBOURS

Nation-wide decrease in mail demand cited

Post office at Watson's Pharmacy closing

MAINSTREETER STAFF

As a result of an overall decrease in Canada Post business, the postal outlet within Watson's Pharmacy and Compounding Centre at the corner of Main and Hazel will close November 1. After November 1, OOE residents needing postal services have three locations to visit: the Glebe post office at Third Avenue, the Glebe Shoppers Drug Mart on Bank between Glebe and First Avenue, and at the Old Ottawa South Quickie, 1166 Bank, although this one may also close given plans for constructing a six-storey mixed-use development there.

In 2008, two years after opening the pharmacy, owners Katie Lafferty and Scott Watson, opened the postal outlet as an "authorized dealer." As such, they incurred the operating costs of the new facility including the fixtures, inventory, and staff, who are the pharmacy's staff, not Canada Post's.

Over the last few years, the outlet experienced a decrease in demand, something very evident nation-wide. As per a Canada Post news release in May when a \$748 million loss was announced, "Canada Post's estimated parcel delivery market

share has eroded from 62 per cent prior to the pandemic to 29 per cent in 2023. At the same time, transaction mail continues to decline in both volume and as a revenue source."

The revenue was no longer covering the operating costs, so the owners had to take the "tough decision" to close it. On the positive side, the closure will free up space for expanded services that the provincial government now allows pharmacies to provide, including the Minor Ailments program.

The pharmacy is also hoping to use the space to expand its health-related product offerings in home care, wound care, and customized products such as compression stockings.

"We're fully committed to this community," say Watson and Lafferty "and we look forward to offering our customers these enhanced services and products." As further evidence of the couple's commitment to OOE, Watson's recently sponsored *A Walk of Art 2024* and the pharmacy has been an anchor sponsor of *The Mainstreeter* for more than a decade.



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

Mary Mutton (left) and Watson's co-owner Katie Lafferty are sad to see the closure of OOE's postal outlet but the closure will allow Watson's to offer a greater range of services.

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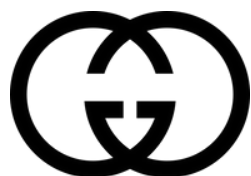
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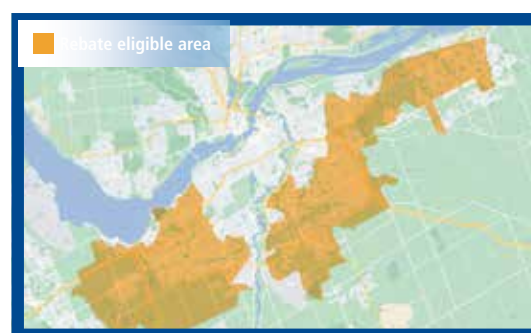


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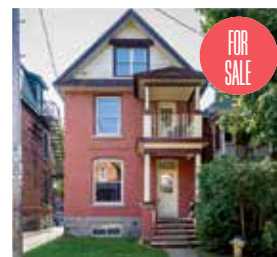
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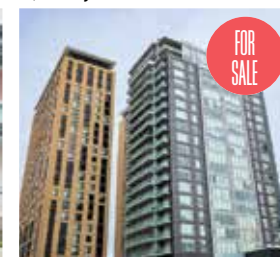
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REMEMBERING THE FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN IN OTTAWA EAST

And the Loss of Their Fathers, Sons, Husbands and Brothers in the World Wars



DAVE O'MALLEY AND DON FUGLER

Young men and women who are killed on active service are said to have paid the “supreme sacrifice.” There’s not much more that you can give than your life, but we posit that the greatest sacrifice of all is borne by the families of those killed in the line of duty. Airmen, soldiers and sailors who die in battle are lionized, and rightly so, but it’s their mothers, fathers, wives and families who are conscripted to carry the burden of that sacrifice to the end of their days. This project is dedicated to those families of Ottawa East who lost a loved one in the great wars of the 20th Century.

The neighbourhoods of Ottawa East are truly perfect places to raise a family, build a business or live out a life, but in the years during and after the two world wars it must have felt like the saddest place on earth for many families. Behind every drawn curtain hid anxious families, broken parents, heartbroken wives, memories of summers past and lost, the promises of futures destroyed and children who would never know their fathers. These were the years of the world wars.

There was nothing particularly special about Ottawa East that brought this plague of anguish, nothing it deserved, nothing that warranted a special attention from death. Indeed, it was not singled out at all, though it may have felt like it was to its citizens. Every community in Canada took the same punishment, felt the endless blows to its heart, felt its life blood seeping away. Parents stood by while their sons and daughters left home, the routines that gave comfort, the futures that beckoned, and began arduous journeys that would lead most to war and great risk of death.

Some would die in training, others in transit. Some of disease and even murder. Some in accidents close to home, others would fall from the sky deep in enemy lands. Some by “friendly” fire, others by great malice. Many would simply disappear with no known grave, lost to the sea, a cloud covered mountain, a blinding flash, a trackless jungle. Some would die in an instant, others with prolonged fear and pain. An extraordinarily high number of those who survived the war would not come home in one piece.

Having written many stories about airmen from Ottawa in the Second World War, Dave wondered just how many men and women had been lost in Ottawa’s neighbourhoods. How many families were

affected? Where did they live? What did they look like? Where are they buried now?

In the age of the “infographic,” Dave set out to demonstrate visually what that number of fallen meant to each community in Ottawa by mapping death’s footprints. Over lunch last year, we got together to begin a quest to find and map the homes of the loved ones of the fallen soldiers, airmen and sailors of Ottawa East, where Don has spent the last four decades.

Here, as in most urban neighbourhoods at the time, the grim reaper took the form of the telegram boy who had the duty to deliver both good and bad news. Mothers, looking out from their front porches, fathers from their parlours, wives from their washings, must have cringed to see the young man from the Canadian National Telegram and Cable Company pedal or drive down their street, and willed them to move on.

Each pin on the map represents the home of the fallen’s next-of-kin. For the most part, this meant the parental home, the marital home or residence where a wife was living with her parents. In some cases a sibling, grandparent or even a friend was all a soldier could muster as next-of-kin. We used only addresses that were mentioned in casualty lists, service files or as reported in the daily broadsheet newspapers and cross-checked these sources for accuracy.

Of the 63 men we were able to pin to this map, 19 simply vanished — vapourized by artillery or their own bomb loads, buried in the mud, lost on some nameless jungle track. Others disappeared into the depths of the sea. Their mothers and fathers would have no answers, no headstone, no closure as we call it today. Simply a name on a wall in a place they would never visit, a picture of a boy in a uniform on the mantle and memories to haunt them until their dying days.

Of the 33 Ottawa East men who died in the First World War, a full 29 were mere privates. This reflects the realities of that war and our status as a colony. By and large they were cannon fodder for a British-led army, recruited through patriotic suasion and fed into the Imperial meat grinder. However, of the 30 men who died in the Second World War, only three were privates. Things had changed mightily. Canadians were now commanded by Canadians and the

length and complexity of their training meant that many airmen would become officers. There was only one Ottawa East officer on this list from the First World War, but by the Second World War there were 17—an extraordinary jump from 3% to 57%!

By the start of the Second World War, the nature of warfare had changed drastically. Technology, specifically aviation, was in the ascendant. In the First World War, every one of the fallen from Ottawa East were infantry soldiers, destined to die in the horrors of the trenches. In the Second World War, however, young men in the community signed up for the Royal Canadian Air Force by the hundreds, enamoured of the glamour of aviation and aggressively recruited by the RCAF. Of the 30 deaths recorded in that war in Ottawa East, 17 were aircrew — pilots, gunners, bomb aimers, navigators, flight engineers and wireless operators. The high levels of education they achieved in Ottawa’s excellent high schools like Lisgar and Glebe Collegiate Institutes meant that many would qualify and succeed in this higher level of training.

If this map included a pin for every family in Ottawa East that had a son or daughter at risk during these wars, the underlying streets would not be visible. As it is, it reveals the toll paid by these families. Families just like yours and ours.

When the Second World War started, many Ottawa East families were still recovering from “The War to End All Wars” — parents still shattered by the loss of their children, veterans coping with the effects of amputations, gas poisoning or “shell shock” or as we now call it, PTSD. The marks of that trauma were everywhere here in 1939 when the worry and pain of a new paroxysm of violence shook it once again.

This map is not about the dead per se. It is a map of the addresses of the next-of-kin of those who died. It is a map of sorrow, a geographic depiction of the carnage on the home front and a way to change the abstraction of remembrance into a visceral understanding of the emotional damage done in Ottawa East over that 30-year period.

We have made no judgment on the manner of death. If they were on a casualty list or in the Canadian Virtual War Memorial, they were included. The vast majority died in action or on military service.

In the last two years of the First World War, we discovered more deaths from disease — influenza and pneumonia were sweeping the trenches and accomplishing what artillery and mustard gas had not yet done. In the Second World War, there were fewer deaths by disease, but far more deaths caused by aerial combat.

It puts things into perspective when we reflect on the challenges we face today — homelessness, employment, healthcare, child care or work-life balance. Our stresses are real, but we don’t live in fear that our sons and daughters will be killed in a war. We live in a self-centred and entitled world, and it’s important to know that other families have survived far worse pressures and tragedies; that others postponed their happiness or even forfeited it for a collective cause. In the First World War it was for “King and Empire” (as misguided as that was) and in the Second it was to fight absolute tyranny, cruelty and oppression.

Time, as it always does, heals all, or perhaps obscures all. It has put temporal distance between these events and our own lives. New families have replaced these families in those Ottawa East houses, and in turn they have been replaced. Today, there is likely no one in the now “old” Ottawa East left to remember them, so we will. We will tell their story. Though these men are now long dead, Ottawa East is still home to their ghosts and we should acknowledge their presence, should remember them in the name of their families.

This project began as a result of curiosity and then became an homage to the parents, brothers, sisters, wives and grandparents, some of whom carried the terrible weight of sacrifice well into the 21st Century. An homage to the Silver Cross Mothers, the broken fathers, the shattered families and the solitary wives. God bless them.

Dave O’Malley, a graphic designer, has lived in the Glebe for more than 50 years. He is an aviation writer, military history researcher and sits on the board of the Canadian Research and Mapping Association.

Don Fugler is a retired researcher for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. He is an advocate for sustainable transportation and cycling. He has lived in Old Ottawa East for 39 years, where he raised his family.

Neighbours and sons of Ottawa East

DON FUGLER AND DAVE O'MALLEY

Old Ottawa East is a diverse community, a collective of beautiful, welcoming smaller neighbourhoods. It has been a pleasure to call it home for decades.

At the start of the 20th century, this neighbourhood was a much different place. For starters, it was not called "Old" Ottawa East. It was much less populated back then and, for the most part, was a blue-collar neighbourhood. While it certainly was not the culturally rich, upscale, socially diverse, mixed-use Old Ottawa East we know today, 100 years ago its citizens were not much different than us.

Though we live in a time of accelerating technological change unimaginable in 1914 and 1939 when the world wars were touched off, families were much the same. Parents hoped to find good work and a steady pay cheque, and to offer their children a stable household and a love-filled life with the opportunity to better themselves.

This map can also be seen as a demographic indicator reflecting the physical development of Ottawa East in the first half of the 20th century. Readers may wonder why there are many streets on this map where, it seems, no residents died in either war. For the most part, the reason is that these neighbourhoods did not exist at that time and were built up only after the Second World War. These post-war neighbourhoods are:

1. West of Concord Street (north and south of the Queensway/417),
2. Most of the houses south of Clegg Street and west of Main Street,
3. Most of the Brantwood neighbourhood, and
4. Greystone Village, a very recent development.

On the other hand, there are curiously tight concentrations of fallen soldiers who resided on single blocks, such as those who lived on Glenora Street north of Hazel Street. Here, over the course of the two wars, five young men died — four infantry soldiers in the First World War alone. All four of those men simply vanished — either subsumed by the foul smelling mud of the Western Front or vaporised by enemy artillery. Two soldiers vanished in Flanders and have their names chiselled into the panels of the Menin Gate along with more than 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers who also vanished in the battles of the Ypres salient. Two others are counted among the 11,285 Canadian soldiers on the Vimy Memorial who died in the battles of France but have no known grave. Four men, four neighbours, four mysteries to haunt their families until the end of their days.

Another tight grouping can be found at the west end of Hawthorne Avenue where there were four Second World War deaths of Old Ottawa East soldiers who resided in houses in close proximity to each other. Two of these men were the Heeney brothers, the only children of Robert and Margaret Heeney. They both died on operations with the Royal Canadian Air Force. Cecil Heeney was lost somewhere over the Atlantic near Newfoundland, and has no known grave and Robert Heeney, a Spitfire pilot with 421 Squadron, was shot down over Boulogne, France, where he lies today. Their mother, the former Margaret MacFarlane, would be asked to be the Silver Cross Mother — the woman who would lay a wreath at the National War Memorial on Remembrance Day, 1954 on behalf of every Canadian woman who lost a child to the wars of the 20th century. We can only imagine what memories were held in her mind's eye when she walked up those Cenotaph steps in front of the silent nation. Those losses would be hard to absorb for a small, tight neighbourhood like west Hawthorne Avenue.

The map illustrates the local character of war. We encourage you, as you walk down your own street, to consider the fact that a young man may have died in one particular house or perhaps the one next to it, and that there was another loss around the corner. If a map was to be created after a future war, it quite possibly would now depict the addresses of young women as well as men, since women are now in the ranks of combat troops. There were no known deaths of men from Old Ottawa East in either the Korean War or the Afghan War, but if we were to include those who lost their lives in the service of this country—in the Cold War, in training or in aircraft accidents or in the course of their duties—then there are likely more houses that could be pinned on this map.

Remembrance Day reminds us that we, the living, are the lucky ones and that we owe so much to those who died for us, but above all to their families whose suffering would continue for decades.

We do not know this community well enough to ascertain whether families of the deceased still reside in Old Ottawa East. If you recognize any of the soldiers/airmen listed on this map or if you are related, please contact us at *The Mainstreeter* (editor@mainstreeter.ca) and we can follow up. In such case, *The Mainstreeter* would hope to publish in future editions the memories or anecdotes about those from Ottawa East who died in the defence of our freedom.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

Mapping the Losses of Ottawa East Families



Map Pins

- 1 FIRST WORLD WAR — ARMY
- 2 SECOND WORLD WAR — ARMY
- 3 SECOND WORLD WAR — RCAF

Rank Abbreviations

Pte. — Infantry Private
 Spr. — Engineers Private
 Dvr. — Artillery Private (Gun Carriage Teamster)
 L/Cpl. — Lance Corporal
 Cpl. — Corporal
 L/Sgt. — Lance Sergeant
 Sgt. — Sergeant
 QMS — Quartermaster Sergeant

Next-of-kin Abbreviations

(F) Familial Home (mother, father)
 (M) Matrimonial Home (wife, children)
 (S) Sibling, Next-of-kin noted as brother, sister
 (XF) Extended Family, Next-of-kin is aunt, uncle, grandparent etc.

RSM — Regimental Sergeant Major
 F/S — Flight Sergeant
 Lt. — Lieutenant
 Capt. — Captain
 WO2 — Warrant Officer Second Class
 P/O — Pilot Officer
 F/O — Flying Officer
 F/L — Flight Lieutenant

D OF SACRIFICE

families in the 20th Century Wars

FIRST WORLD WAR

- 1: Pte. Charles Alexander, 77 Lees Ave. (F)
- 2: Pte. William Armstrong, 127 Hawthorne Ave. (F)
- 3: Spr. Arthur Bigras, 183 McGillivray Ave. (M)
- 4: QMS William Egbert Browne, 26 Havelock St. (M)
- 5: Pte. Wilfred W. Derwah, 125 Glenora St. (F)
- 6: Pte. George Henry Egan, 117 Glenora St. (F)
- 7: Pte. Frederick M. Emond, 122 Drummond St. (M)
- 9: Pte. Ernest F. F. Hoelke, 165 Drummond St. (S)
- 10: Pte. Albert Victor Hooper, 87 Lees Ave. (F)
- 11: Pte. Thomas Humble, 81 Evelyn Ave. (F)
- 12: Pte. Edgar Labrie, 123 Drummond St. (F)
- 13: Pte. Eugène Lalonde, 375 Echo Dr. (F)
- 14: Pte. John McCracken, 195 Concord St. (M)
- 15: Pte. Matthew Martin Moran, 363 Echo Dr. (XF)
- 16: Pte. George Newton, 68 Springhurst Ave. (M)
- 17: Lt. John Henry Patton, 28 Concord St. (F)
- 18: Pte. William Albert Plaxton, 70 Clegg St. (F)
- 19: Pte. Arthur Carl Plet, 151 Drummond St. (F)
- 20: Pte. Edward A. Roberts, 68 Wildwood Ave. (F)
- 21: Pte. Frederick Romhild, 165 Drummond St. (S)
- 22: Dvr. John Henry Schelletter 6 Hazel Ave. (F)
- 23: Pte. George Selley, 189 McGillivray St. (M)
- 24: Pte Thomas Forgie, 21 Riverdale Ave. (M)
- 25: Pte. Fred Lacelle, 150 Glenora St. (F)
- 26: Pte. Thomas Edwin Lazenby, 130 Glenora St. (M)
- 27: Spr. Ernest Boxall, 128 Glenora St. (M)
- 28: Pte. William Joseph Meister, 144 Concord St. (F)
- 29: Pte. Douglas A. Beaton, 188 McGillivray St. (F)
- 30: Cpl. William James Lowson, 69 Harvey St. (M)
- 31: Pte. Edward L. Farrell, 50 Springhurst Ave (M)
- 32: L/Cpl. John Patrick Kiggins, 165 McGillivray St. (F)
- 33: Pte. Albert Edward Himes, 187 McGillivray (F)

SECOND WORLD WAR

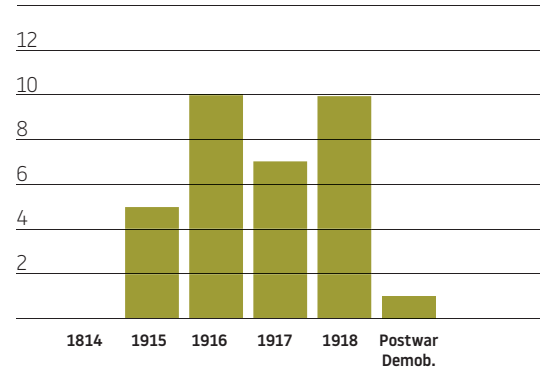
- 1: L/Sgt. Ray Beaton, 21 Echo Dr. (M)
- 2: RSM Wendell James Clark, 151 Glenora (F)
- 3: Spr. Edwin Cowley, 53 Bower Ave. (F)
- 4: Capt. Milton E. Crouch, 112 Hawthorne Ave. (M)
- 5: WO2 Kenneth Lyle Dale, 137 Concord St. (F)
- 6: Pte. James Davidson, 197 Concord St. (F)
- 7: P/O Gordon Robert Day, 70 Rosemere Ave. (F)
- 8: L/Cpl Lucien Decarie, 110 Main Street, (M)
- 9: Cpl. Lloyd Reid Fry, 31 Simcoe St. (F),
- 10: Sgt. Charles W. Haddleton, 12 Herridge St. (M)
- 11: F/O Harold Garfield Handley 168 Concorde St. (F)
- 12: P/O Gordon D. Hay, 117 Springhurst. Ave. (F)
- 13: Cpl. Cecil George Heeney, 7 Hawthorne Ave. (F)
- 14: F/O Robert Tilton Heeney, 7 Hawthorne Ave. (F)
- 15: F/O Donaldson R. Holloway, 173 Drummond St. (F)
- 16: Pte. Archie Lavergne 163 Echo Dr. (F)
- 17: WO2 Angus D. MacDonald, 11 Havelock St. (S)
- 18: F/O Lynden Arnold McIntyre, 133 Echo Dr. (M)
- 19: F/Sgt. James G. MacKay, 16 Hawthorne Ave. (F)
- 20: L/Sgt. Donald Norman MacLeod, 51 Lees Ave, (S)
- 21: F/Sgt. Charles McKerns, 127 Concord St. (F)
- 22: P/O Kenneth R. G. Millar, 172 Hawthorne Ave. (F)
- 23: WO2 Lawrence Robert Moffatt, 67 Harvey St. (F)
- 24: Lt. John Lawrence Morgan, 51 Bower St. (F)
- 25: Sgt. Robert Michael Morley, 19 Hawthorne Ave. (M)
- 26: P/O Wincell H. D. Spence, 133 Greenfield Ave. (F)
- 27: F/O William Hector Thompson, 72 Marlowe Cres. (F)
- 28: WO2 Harold Jason Thurston, 131 Main St. (F)
- 29: F/L Leonard Edgar Turtle, 26 Hazel St. (M)
- 30: F/O Allen Garnett Wright, 130 Hawthorne Ave. (F)

FIRST WORLD WAR

Photos of fallen where available



When they died



Where they now lie

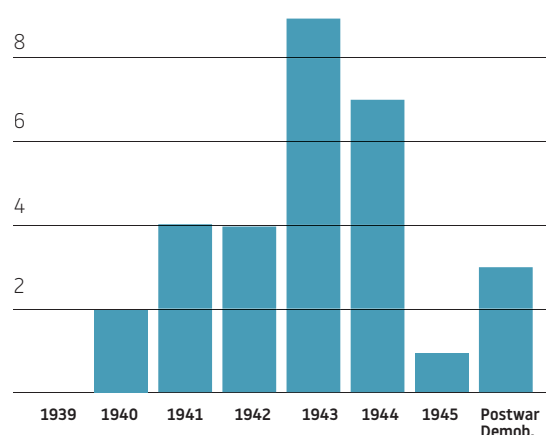


SECOND WORLD WAR

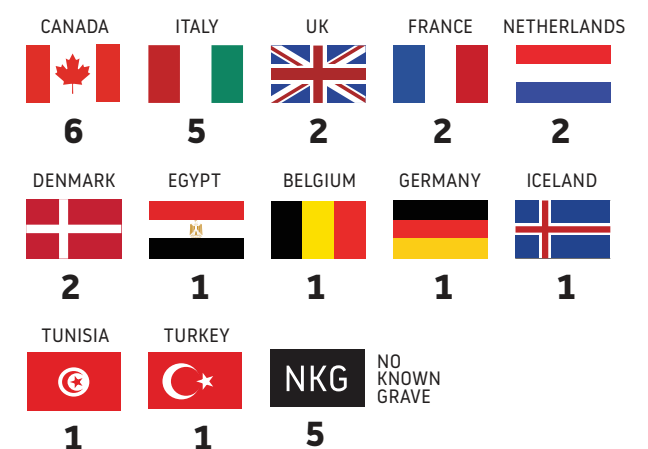
Photos of fallen where available



When they died



When they now lie



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OOE ARTIST FEATURE: LUCIANNE POOLE AND ROSE BRONSKILL - A MOTHER AND DAUGHTER DUO OF EMERGING ARTISTS

As the author Edith Wharton once said: “Mothers and daughters are part of each other’s consciousness, in different degrees and in a different way, but still with the mutual sense of something which has always been there.”

Lucianne Poole and Rose Bronskill both presented their artworks in September’s *A Walk of Art 2024*. Lucianne is a painter, and her daughter Rose (nine) is a ceramicist. Aside from our coverage of Bess Fraser and her daughter Grace Ayres, who collaborated on a design for *The Mainstreeter’s* newspaper box at Echo Drive and Avenue Road, Art Beat has not yet featured a team of mother/daughter artists.

Lucianne grew up in a creative household. Her mother, Mary Poole is President of the Swedish Weaving Guild



LUCIANNE AND JIM POOLE PHOTOS

LEFT: Mother and daughter artists Lucianne Poole and Rose Bronskill; RIGHT: A painting Lucianne created during a class with Bhat Boy—the oversized flowers being a staple of his spring paintings. Lucianne chose the buildings from different locations and selected the types of flowers. (The yellow house is on Mutchmor in Old Ottawa East.)

of South Glengarry and Area. Mary and Lucianne recently showed their works at a local Christmas market. Despite their artistic abilities, Mary became a mathematician and Lucianne became a writer.

“In high school, I studied art, and at Queens, I did a double major in history/art history and took an introduction to fine arts,” Lucianne says. “I considered art school, but I was encouraged to be practical. The same day that I signed Rose up for her first pottery class in 2022, I started classes with painter and author, Bhat Boy. At first, I struggled with getting the effects I wanted, so I started adding bits of paper - candy wrappers, soap wrappers, etc. - to my paintings.

“I have continued taking classes with Bhat Boy, encouraged by my artist friends (and classmates) Louise Elliot and Louise Rachlis. Sometimes I feel frustrated with my technical skills, but I have a gifted teacher, and his classes are interesting and fun! I

don’t want to copy Bhat Boy, but students have always learned by copying the masters. I am interested in architecture. I have started creating my own works between classes and I am finding my way as an artist in my own right.”

Rose’s artistry emerged through her own extracurricular programs. She attends Corpus Christi Elementary School and chose to take pottery classes through The Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group (GNAG). “I thought

it would only be for one season,” Rose says. “But I loved it!” Her hand building teachers have been Clare Rogers and Monty Rogers.

“Rose is always creating something!” Lucianne says. “Our dining room floor is her studio, and our home is filled with her artworks. She works with clay, Play Dough, felt, and more.”

“Our teacher shows us how to make something, but we add our own stuff to it,” Rose says. “We were making a fairy house in the shape of a mushroom, and I added a tiny frog. On my way home from school, either riding on the bus or walking, I think about my next projects. Once I get home, I am ready to go.”

One of Rose’s favourite pieces is an orange cat. “It is about the size of a kitten, with big eyes. I was inspired by a ginger cat who lives on our street. He has a great personality, nice and sweet! I got to make an extra piece in class, so I made a baby cat to go with him.”

In June, Rose displayed a piece called *Bugs for Breakfast* at the GNAG Arts show and sale for emerging artists. “It was her first sale,” Lucianne says. “During the *Walk of Art* tour, a little boy who might have been about six shouted: ‘Look! A house for only \$20!’ Although, the boy didn’t buy Rose’s house, Rose almost sold out her entire show. She had more than 20 pieces and sold all but three of them.”

To see more of Lucianne’s work go to: www.LuciannePoole.ca. Her printed art cards are available at Singing Pebble Books.

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



ABOVE TOP: Nine-year-old ceramicist Rose Bronskill displaying her works at A Walk of Art; ABOVE BOTTOM: A painting Lucianne created for her parents’ 60th wedding anniversary of their cottage on Seymour Lake, Vermont. The little dog on the right, Dulcie, belonged to their long-time friend and neighbour. The painting is particularly poignant as Lucianne’s parents will be selling the cottage soon; LEFT: Orange Cat and Baby, by Rose Bronskill.

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: The inviting gates and colourful picket fence surrounding The Children's Garden can barely contain the lush growth of the season. It seems like not too long ago that Robert Leggett Park was an unremarkable corner lot; however, both my kids (now adults) painted a picket of the original fence alongside their classmates from Lady Evelyn Alternative School a decade and a half ago. The




project was a unique opportunity that gave each of the students bragging rights to a piece of a prominent and enduring landmark, right in their own neighbourhood.

Even in its early stages, the garden

became a brilliant outdoor classroom where the students eagerly got their hands dirty, planned, planted, and harvested along with teachers, parents, and community volunteers.

During this year's *A Walk of Art*,

young artists once again showcased their growing talent and showed and sold their artworks at the garden, sowing future seeds in an already thriving artistic community.





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FOOD & DRINK

Touring Ottawa's emerging wineries is a delightful way to pass an autumn day

JILL WHERRETT

Dreaming of spending a crisp, sunny autumn day sipping wine after a leisurely drive through the countryside? No need to hop on a plane to the south of France; simply head to one of the dozen wineries within an hour or so of Old Ottawa East. Most offer simple snacks or more extensive lunch menus along with wine tastings and tours, making for an ideal day out.

While not formally classified as a viticultural area under the province's VQA system, Wine Country Ontario calls the Ottawa area Ontario's newest "emerging" wine region. You'll find wines made from traditional vitis vinifera grape varieties like Chardonnay and Pinot Noir as well as cold-hardy hybrids such as Frontenac and Marquette.

To get a taste of what the region has to offer, I visited three wineries (not all in one day!). Note: Current hours are listed below. Check the winery websites before visiting, as opening hours may change as the winter season approaches.

Jabulani Vineyard and Winery

Jabulani, which first opened in 2011, was recently purchased by the Van-Helsdingen family, owners of Calamus Estate Winery in the Niagara region. They offer wines made from grapes grown in the Jabulani vineyards as well those harvested from the Calamus vineyards.

A tasting of any four wines is \$10. My sampling included the Blanco Secco (a crisp, dry wine with tropical fruit flavours made from 100% Frontenac Blanc) and the Marquette Cabernet Sauvignon (dark cherry, cassis and chocolate). For a bite to eat, Jabulani's pizza shack serves wood-fired pizzas on weekends. Charcuterie boards can be ordered in advance and cheese and wine pairings are available on Fridays.

In Jabulani's pretty outdoor area, well-spaced tables look out onto wildflower meadows and vineyards. A wander through the property takes you to a quiet pond, one of several sites where wedding ceremonies are held. A large barn-style building houses the tasting room and event space. Bumping

into owner Peter Van-Helsdingen on our visit, he said that they plan to continue the tradition of hosting an annual Christmas open house to raise money for the Richmond Food Bank.

Jabulani Vineyard and Winery, 8005 Jock Trail, Richmond. Open Friday to Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm throughout October.

Kin Vineyard and Winery

Visiting Kin on a sunny Saturday afternoon, the parking lot was bustling. However, the lovely setting on the Carp Ridge, surrounded by acres of farmland, and a large outdoor space with various seating areas made for a relaxing outing. And the crowd provided some good people-(and canine)-watching: young women taking selfies amongst the vines, numerous babies and several dogs happily resting in canopied dog beds provided by Kin.

Kin makes three wines from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes from their own vineyards, sourcing other grape varieties, such as Gamay and Cabernet Franc, from the Niagara region. Tastings are \$4 for a one ounce sample or \$12 for a flight of three wines. I opted for the Carp Ridge Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, Kin's flagship Ottawa wines, and the Rosé du Fermier, a pale salmon wine with strawberry and citrus flavours made from Niagara Pinot Noir.



LEFT: The large, elegant tasting room at River House Vineyard and Winery; **CENTRE:** A flight of three wine samples at Kin Vineyard and Winery is tastefully priced at \$12; **RIGHT:** Jabulani's 2023 Rosé is a nice complement to the winery's Blanco Secco and Marquette Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kin's food menu includes salads, flatbreads and other items. As the tasting and dining area is entirely outdoors (under tents), the venue closes to visitors in mid-fall.

Kin Vineyard and Winery, 2225 Craig's Side Road, Carp. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 8 pm, until October 13. Reservations are not taken for tastings but are required for private vineyard tours and tastings.

River House Vineyard and Winery

River House, which opened its doors in May 2023, is a new arrival on the scene. Its owners, Colleen and John Fournier, established the winery on what was once the site of a farm owned by John's great-grandmother. The couple purchased the land in 2016, planting vines the next year.

Turning from cottage country roads into the laneway to River House, a large,

elegant barn-like structure appears out of the woods. In the attractive ground-floor tasting room, you can sample a flight of four wines for \$12. River House produces a select number of wines, several made from grapes grown on the property, as well as some made from Niagara grapes and Vidal from nearby Scheuermann vineyard. Among those I tried were the Riesling, refreshing with tart lemon and green apple flavours; the Chardonnay, an unoaked style with honey and apple notes; and the Pinot Noir, light-bodied, with strawberry, cherry and spice.

I sipped my wine in the sunny courtyard, equipped with firepits and lawn games. On a summer weekend, you're likely to hear live music. Snacks, including kettle chips, charcuterie and tacos, can be ordered in the tasting room. River House also has a full restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, open for lunch and dinner throughout the summer and lunch in the fall.

River House Vineyard and Winery, 221 Davern Lane, Maberly. Fall hours for the tasting room (no reservations required) and restaurant (by reservation only) are Thursday to Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm.



ASCENSION

Church of the Ascension

253 Echo Dr, Ottawa, ON K1S 1N3

Incumbent: The Reverend Victoria Scott

Holy Eucharist

Sundays 10:00 am

Check our website
for midweek worship and events at
www.churchoftheascension.ca



FOOD & DRINK



CITY IMAGE PHOTO / LORNE ABUGOV PHOTO

Spring 2025 opening slated

Tex-Mex eatery, barBURRITO, coming to Corners on Main

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The “leased” sign on the window of the former location of the Greens and Beans restaurant in Corners on Main on Main Street could just as easily say “alquilado” or “arrendado” because it appears that the community will soon be welcoming a new Mexican eatery.

To which we at *The Mainstreeter* say, Olé!

Leasing agent David Cantor of Cantor Realty has confirmed that negotiations have successfully concluded with franchisees for barBURRITO, a Canadian-owned, Tex-Mex, fast-casual restaurant with multiple locations in Ottawa, Kanata, Orleans and Gatineau, to open a new location at 137 Main Street.

Sophia Rikic, real estate manager for barBURRITO Restaurant’s Inc. has told *The Mainstreeter* that the upcoming location at Corners on Main is expected to open in early Spring 2025. According to Rikic, barBURRITO offers a wide variety of burritos, tacos, bowls, and quesadillas, with a focus on high-quality ingredients and customizable options. She notes that customers can tailor their meals with a choice of proteins, toppings, and sauces, and that the restaurant caters to diverse dietary preferences including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options.

The franchise owners for the new Corners on Main location are Navdeep Sondh and Mandeep Sondh.

Since its inception in 2005 in Toronto, barBURRITO has grown to over 330 stores in



The currently vacant retail unit at Corners on Main that previously housed Greens & Beans (above left) will be filled next spring by barBURRITO, a Tex-Mex eatery with multiple locations in and around Ottawa and Gatineau, *The Mainstreeter* has learned.

Canada, making it the country’s largest and fastest growing Mexican food franchise, according to its website.

In 2020, the company expanded to the United States under the brand BURRITOBAR and has opened or entered into franchise agreements for more than 800 locations throughout the U.S..

Sign up for our weekly MPP email updates at joelhardenmpp.ca!

Joel Harden

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Probus is a seniors’ social club for retired and semi-retired people. We offer monthly meetings with interesting speakers, interest groups and adventures with new friends who will surely become old friends!

Check out our website at probusoav.ca

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month at 91 Pike Street in the Gloucester Presbyterian Church at 10am. Come at 9:30 for a coffee.

Probus Ottawa

Come join us!



FOOD & DRINK

Spoiler alert! It's nothing like that Willy Wonka movie!

A visit to Hummingbird Chocolate's award-winning production facility in Almonte

JILL WHERRETT

I must admit to a little trepidation leading up to my visit to Hummingbird Chocolate's factory. Despite having survived an elementary school trip to the now-defunct Hershey plant in Smiths Falls, I still couldn't get visions of Willy Wonka's fantastical facility out of my mind. Would I be swept into a chocolate river? Turned into a giant blueberry?

But I summoned up my courage and headed to Almonte for the 45-minute tour. Entering Hummingbird's space, my fears were put to rest; there were no garbage chutes or nut-testing squirrels.

guide spoke about how Hummingbird carefully sources their beans, then led us through the initial steps of going from "bean to bar": sorting the cacao beans by hand to remove debris and categorize the beans by size, roasting and cracking the beans, and then re-sorting and winnowing the pieces to separate the shells and nibs. As she spoke, we passed around a giant cacao pod and nibbled on roasted cacao beans.

After grinding the nibs into a paste, they are run through a conche, a machine that liquifies the paste. Sugar is slowly added, along with cocoa butter and flavourings (depending on the final product). To ensure the result is super-smooth, the conche runs for three

days. Then the chocolate rests in a pan for about 30 days for the flavours to meld, before it is tempered to become smooth and shiny, poured into moulds, wrapped and packaged.

Our overview of the process complete, we stepped out to look into the factory area, watching chocolate makers pour enormous scoops of ingredients into the conche and other staff carefully drying moulds for chocolate caramels. Shelves of large slabs of untempered chocolate ageing were on view, as were trays of resting chocolate. Overcome by all that chocolate, my inner Augustus Gloop wanted to dive into the conche, but I managed to resist.

Thank goodness I did, as next up was a guided tasting of the final product, complete with a chocolate flavour wheel to help us identify the aromas and flavours. We sampled two single origin 70% cacao bars, Hispaniola (dark and fruity) and Zorzal (rich and smooth), as well as Maya, a bar with a hint of spice and heat from chili, cinnamon and nutmeg.

After being told by our guide, "Be forewarned: life is different after you've tried it," I had to pick up a Dark Milk bar. If you're hankering for a snack before or after a tour, the café offers a wide range of hot and cold drinks, chocolate treats, gelato and more, with seasonal specialties.

Tours, which can be booked on-line at hummingbirdchocolate.com, are offered every Saturday, at a cost of \$10/person plus tax. Hummingbird Chocolate is located at 476 Ottawa Street, Unit 2, Almonte.

LEFT: The group tour at Hummingbird Chocolate gets underway with a taste of dark, rich drinking chocolate; BELOW: The bright and stylish café and shop in Almonte is an inviting showcase for Hummingbird's single origin dark chocolate.



JAMIE BROUGHAM PHOTOS

Instead, a bright and stylish shop and café, awash with the enticing aroma of chocolate, with large windows providing a view into the production facility.

Hummingbird, a craft chocolate company specializing in single origin dark chocolate, sourced from cacao farms with sustainable and ethical practices, began as a basement hobby for former international development workers Erica and Drew Gilmour. From its start in 2012, Hummingbird has gone on to win numerous awards and distribute its products across Canada and to several U.S. and international locations. After outgrowing its original facility, Hummingbird moved to its current space in 2022.

Our group of about 16 people, all adults save one pre-teen (Hummingbird advises that tours are geared toward adults and not recommended for children under eight), gathered in a small room adorned with large photos of cacao farms and fermenting beans. Arrayed on the table were cacao pods, bowls of roasted and unroasted beans, nibs, and cocoa butter.

After whetting our palates with a sample of rich, dark drinking chocolate, our enthusiastic and knowledgeable



LOCAL AUTHORS & NEW RELEASES

Suzanne Nussey's *Slow Walk Home*

THERESA WALLACE

It's a good thing Thomas Eckert has a strong back and a big heart, as he was mostly responsible on the very warm evening of Friday, September 13 for lugging more and more chairs to the meeting room at Trinity Anglican Church on Bank Street where fans were gathering to honour his mother-in-law, Suzanne Nussey.

"When we set up the room originally, the pastor told us that there were extra chairs available and Suzanne insisted we wouldn't need them," Eckert says. "I'm glad the support from the community for her book was so strong she could be proven wrong!"

The occasion was the launch and celebration of Nussey's first book, a collection of poems entitled *Slow Walk Home*. Nussey, 72, was introduced by former Old Ottawa East (OOE) resident Anne Marie Todkill, an award-winning author. The temperature in the packed room rose, literally and figuratively, as Nussey read a selection of poems from her book and then took questions from the audience of approximately 50 family members, friends and fellow writers.

The event was live-streamed and among those attending the launch online was Nussey's publisher at Saint Julian Press in Houston, Texas. Nussey's daughter Sophia Ross Eckert, a writer and former editor-in-chief of an American literary journal, was in charge of book sales and the author signing at the launch. Every last book her mother brought to the launch was sold. Ross Eckert also did the streaming and recording of the event and says hundreds of people have viewed the

recording since the launch.

Suzanne Nussey has been writing all her life. Themes of home, family and loss run through her work. One of the poems she read at the launch is set in OOE, where Nussey has lived since 1986. "I've always wanted my writing to be accessible, but also to be nuanced," Nussey explains. "I've had feedback from readers of *Slow Walk Home* that assures me the book has a 'moving transparency' that clearly communicates the narrative and emotion of each piece. All to say, the book is not a difficult read."

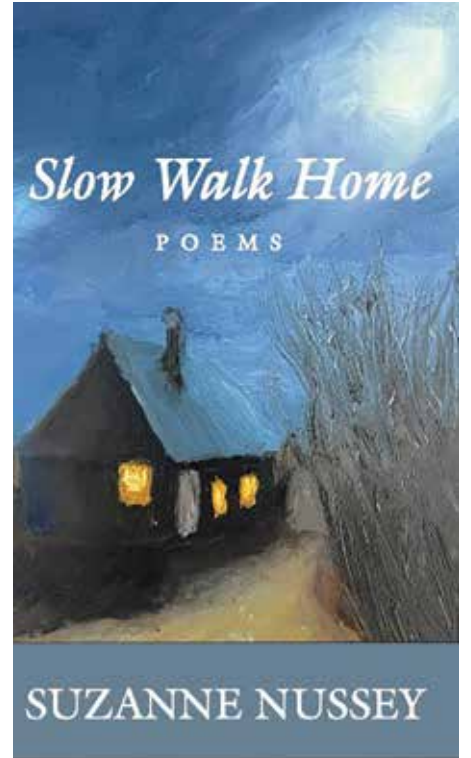
Nussey was born in Syracuse, New York, to Canadian parents. She pursued grad studies in creative writing at Syracuse University, and taught writing there. She has also taught writing at Houghton University, Jefferson Community College, Algonquin College in Ottawa, and at our very own Old Town Hall in OOE. She's been published in many literary journals and won the Nick Blatchford Occasional Verse Contest, the McNally Robinson Booksellers Award, the Prairie Fire Creative Non-Fiction Contest, and the EVENT Non-Fiction Contest.

Slow Walk Home is available in several independent bookstores in Ottawa, including Singing Pebble Books on Main Street. Laura Rayner of Singing Pebble Books says, "Suzanne's wonderful collection of poems has drawn attention to our poetry section and those poetry lovers are buying other books of poetry, which is always great!"

Congratulations to Suzanne on this joyous occasion of the publication of her first book of poetry.



ABOVE: Old Ottawa East resident and poetess, Suzanne Nussey, launched her first book on September 13th; RIGHT: In *Slow Walk Home*, each of Nussey's poems has a 'moving transparency' that clearly communicates narrative and emotion.



SAINT JULIAN PRESS

Ian McKercher's Home & Away: *A Frances McFadden Novel*

SUSAN CORNELL

Home & Away, Ian McKercher's fifth Frances McFadden novel is arguably his finest work to date. This World War II story is composed of two entwined plot lines. Borrowing a sports metaphor, he presents the odd-numbered chapters featuring Frances and set at the Bank of Canada as "the home game." The even-numbered chapters, "the away game," track the adventures of her boyfriend, Paul Roderick, in occupied France.

Will this switching back and forth confuse the reader, or prompt more attentive reading? Is one story line more interesting than the other, encouraging readers to skip chapters for the plot they prefer?

I found that McKercher's use of chapter titles set guardrails to keep me in the correct field of play. Also, the "away" chapters are much shorter than the "home" chapters, emphasizing the quickened pace of life in the war zone. That said, the "home" chapters do not drag. Peppered with subplots (anti-Nazi rioting, intrigue at the Governor General's, seances with the Prime Minister, security leaks at the Bank), McKercher keeps both plot lines hopping.

If you've read any of the earlier novels, you know that Frances is a rising star in the clerical hierarchy at the Bank of Canada where she exercises as much



SUPPLIED PHOTO

sway as Governor Graham Towers. She intervenes like a helicopter parent when internal or external forces threaten the Bank's critical work of financing the Canadian war effort. Is she "the power behind the throne?"

Frances is embarrassed when teasingly called "Queen of the Bank," but she hobnobs so easily with Hollywood

royalty and the House of Windsor, what sobriquet would be more appropriate?

Three thousand miles away, Paul Roderick is trapped in France when the armistice with Germany is signed in June of 1940. Paul gets involved subverting the occupying Nazis in a number of ways, playing an exciting game with fatal consequences if detected. Does he gamble on staying in France or slip to safety across the Spanish border?

McKercher uses correspondence between characters to illuminate views on the war from as far away as a rancher in Argentina, a parent in California and, most interestingly, a princess in England. All to say, there are many perspectives on a war which remind us to contemplate carefully who did what to win it.

Sidebar subplots lure the reader to

Home: Continued on Page 30

Lullaby for an empty nester

You have a bed that loves your bones.
The dog snores softly at your feet,
partnering your partner's drone.
Hermit thrush and tree frog sing the
creeping dark to sleep.
Make a cradle of the night,
a cradle for what's gone.
Nothing to fear
in your twilight.
You are here.
You are home.

~ Suzanne Nussey, from *Slow Walk Home*
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LOCAL AUTHORS & NEW RELEASES

Pathways to the Trees

Deep appreciation for the trees of the Arboretum

What a treat to come upon a book you expect will bore you silly only to find yourself caught up in a field completely outside your realm of familiarity. Such was my experience with “Pathways to the Trees”. Written, illustrated, and imaginatively organized by Eric Jones of Old Ottawa East, Richard Hinchcliff, and Roman Popadiouk, it provides laymen like myself with a blueprint for understanding and appreciating the trees of Ottawa’s spectacular Arboretum. Yes, the Arboretum. That place in Ottawa’s Central Experimental Farm that we speed through on a regular basis.

Background

Of the Farm’s 400 hectares only 26 are dedicated to understanding our trees and forests, but back in the 1880s men of vision—William Saunders, James Fletcher, and William Macoun—saw the necessity of creating a national laboratory to study our trees and forests. They understood that while trees provided the backbone to Canada’s economy, they do not last forever. That, in time, even forests change in accordance with fluctuating weather patterns, climate and soils, as well as cultural and economic practices.

To monitor our forest’s health and to keep ahead of potential changes, trees were selected from across Canada, North America and the world and planted in Ottawa’s Arboretum. Each variety selected was to be studied for its ability to provide food, shelter and, yes, beauty, as well as for its climate hardiness and capacity to withstand environmental fluctuations. Result? An arboreal test centre for Canada and a place of wonder and beauty for those of us fortunate enough to live close to it.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Ottawa author Eric Jones has co-written a loving and detailed blueprint and guide of the trees of the Arboretum.



Guide

The wonderful photography in this book, as well as the clear, concise description of each tree variety, is enough to satisfy most nature lovers. But many will find the crowning touch to be in the featured 8 walks—six in the Arboretum, one on the Main Campus, and one along the shelterbelt at Merivale. Each walk is its own pathway to the trees. Each provides, a guide with an easy-to-follow map marking the exact location of the specific tree you are looking for, concise information on the tree in question, and beautiful photographs. The walks include:

Arboretum: Continued on Page 33

Home and Away

McKercher's 5th novel may be his finest

Continued from Page 29

shady dealings in the construction of “temporary buildings” in Ottawa, to an abortionist in Montreal and to a blackmailer in California.

It’s a balancing act to keep the double helix storyline and the various subplots from overwhelming the main theme of the novel - which seems to be that resilience and daring win the day - but the variety of these diversions draw us deeper into Frances’ world.

McKercher does have a weakness for alliteration which he uses most effectively to paint character descriptions that blossom in the mind’s eye: “She wore a blue halter top that just barely halted.” and “He had the thin-lipped smile of an undertaker’s understudy.”

The copyright page has the standard boilerplate quote found in every historical fiction novel: “This book is a work of fiction wound loosely around historical events and personages.” Right, but then the author inserts, for easy reference, 18 pictures of

real people who are characters in the novel, daring readers to parse the fine line between fact and fiction. Is this an aid to the visual learner or a sleight of hand designed to distract the truth from creative license?

Characters, anecdotes and historical information are the ingredients that make *Home & Away* a compelling and entertaining read. Despite the circumstances, Frances’ humour is ever present, as are her wisdom and humanity. A highlight of McKercher’s books is the dialogue through which the author conveys a wide variety of personalities, often with an amusing tone. Equally intriguing here are the little-known facts woven into fiction. Who could have guessed that the invention of drywall and the paint roller in 1940 would be critical to advancing a subplot?

Susan Cornell is a former resident of Ottawa now living in Kirbyville, Texas, where she makes art.

Book launch of *Home & Away*

Sunday, October 27th 7:30 pm
Church Hall of Glebe - St. James United Church
650 Lyon Street, between First and Glebe avenues.
Sale price \$25 (cash, check or e-transfer.)

Also available at Books on Beechwood, Octopus Books, Perfect Books, Spaniel’s Tale Book Store and at The Book Nook in Perth.

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POLITICAL PAGES

SHAWN MENARD COUNCILLOR, CAPITAL WARD

SHAWN.MENARD@OTTAWA.CA
SHAWNMENARD.CA



BUDGET TIME AND CITY SPENDING

City Hall watchers will know that as fall approaches, so too does budget time. The City recently released draft budget priorities (directions) for 2025. This statement gives you a pretty good idea of what the budget will look like, once it's finally released and debated by City Council. Despite a summer spent talking about a financial crisis, the City is sticking with what would seem to be an arbitrary across the board 2.9% increase for departments and boards, not including transit.

Why do I call it arbitrary? There is nothing presented that would differentiate among council priorities, like affordable housing, climate change, better transportation, small businesses or parks improvements. Furthermore, there is no evidence for why one area should receive substantially less in real dollars vs another which would receive substantially more. For example, a relatively small budgetary area to begin with, the Ottawa Library, would receive much less with 2.9% than would an already existing larger budget area, like Transportation and Roads.

The budget directions also detailed very disturbing outcomes for transit. After pouring more than \$7 billion of capital spending (\$4 billion in City funds) into a private sector led transit deal, the City has turned around and said we need to look at alternatives that cut service, raise fares drastically, and deter further ridership. It makes no sense to me to have the largest investment in City history, only to turn around and make riding it less attractive.

I voted along with several other colleagues against the way the budget directions were designed.

The recent messaging about the City being “in a financial crisis not of its own making” also needs much more introspection. Should the City be partnering with the federal and provincial governments to fund the services needed? Of course, and this is something I have advocated for, both when I owned a small business and when I worked for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Cities get a raw deal, owning 60% of the infrastructure but receiving just 10% of the taxes collected amongst the orders of government. However, the message that the City does not have to account for its own missteps (that were highlighted in the LRT inquiry or the wasteful spending that has occurred on urban sprawl, road widening or Lansdowne 2.0), doesn't ring true for people. A better message would be about tax fairness and working together towards a City we can all be proud of.

Our City debt has tripled in less than 10 years from 2011 to 2021 with the main culprits being expensive public-private partnership mega-projects. That costs us when it comes time to fund the needs of residents.

It is time for the City to halt the mega P3 projects that have turned out so poorly for us. Focus on basic services, instead, including upgrades to park bathrooms, splash pad and wading pool time extensions, community centre upgrades and efficiencies that save money over time. Let's concentrate on fixing the roads we have and stop widening them, let's end the millions in subsidies we give to Porsche dealerships and developers and, instead, let's invest in affordable housing. Make our transit system attractive, frequent and affordable to ride so people make the choice to try it. Open the library on Sunday. Clear the outdoor stairs in the winter. Stop the massive and costly outward sprawl and enhance services in already built-up areas. Basic, low cost, quality of life improvements would go a long way in this City.

I believe that we all need to keep pushing for something better.

The draft budget will be released on November 13. It will go to committees for review and debate before being voted on by City Council in December. We will keep residents informed of consultations and opportunities to speak at committee in our newsletter. You can sign up by emailing CapitalWard@ottawa.ca.

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TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A HATE-FREE ZONE

I must confess to a growing concern within me as the future unfolds. Over the summer, so many of you spoke to me about the state of politics, and the polarization we now see regularly. I increasingly hear from constituents who tell me that their sense of belonging, of being part of the wider community, is under threat. We all are feeling a pit in our stomachs.

Politics is changing as well. It's far too common now that our Community Office is vandalized, staff harassed and threatened. Many other elected colleagues tell me the same. It hardly happened before. Most recently, someone tore down the Canadian flag at our office, and stepped on it leaving a boot print.

The politics of hatred and division has no place in a free and democratic society, and we must always confront it and call it out. The principles of tolerance, inclusion and respect are fragile gifts requiring constant tending and cultivation, but sadly, the populist politics of rage has also found fertile ground in Canada. We know this all too well here

in Ottawa with the 2022 occupation of our downtown. Who could have imagined that scenario, and especially how it was exploited by those aspiring to national political leadership.

We can only find common ground by moving to higher ground, leaving things that too easily divide us behind, seeking to come together for the common good. It is unacceptable for any member of our community to live in fear, whether they are of Jewish faith, Muslim or belong to the 2SLGBTQI community. It is my firm conviction that leadership is not about choosing sides, it is about never ceasing in the effort to bring seemingly intractable sides to the common table. Choosing sides is an abrogation of leadership given the current global climate. I will always stand against the easy solution of demonizing one's opponents and painting with too broad a brush.

I was recently asked if I could choose to live anywhere else in the world, where would that be? For me, the answer was simple. I could not imagine living anywhere else but Ottawa. I love my city. I love the beautiful mosaic that makes up the neighbourhoods of Ottawa, walking down the street and meeting people of every nationality, race and creed, with every language possible being heard. It is a community that welcomes you in from wherever you are and provides a place to belong.

Those who know me, know that I am a bridge builder. The status quo can always stand to be challenged, but in doing so we must always ensure that we bring everyone along. We may not always agree, but we always have the right to be informed and consulted, with the dignity of having our views taken into consideration.

Whether it is combating antisemitism or Islamophobia, confronting the politics of identity that demonizes the choices people make about how they live or whom they love or seeking solutions to the mental health and drug abuse challenges we face, I will always act in a manner that respects the dignity of every human being. I am committed to achieving solutions that will strengthen our community fabric. In all of this, the politics of inclusion over division will always be my guiding light. Together, we will continue to build a community that is a hate-free zone.

POLITICAL PAGES

JOEL HARDEN MPP, OTTAWA CENTRE

COMMUNITY OFFICE
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ROAD SAFETY IS NEVER AN ACCIDENT

How do we ensure safe streets?

Road safety shouldn't be a superficial discussion ("we all care about safety"), or a polarized discussion (of "cars vs. bikes").

Instead, the best evidence says we must make the right investments to ensure safe streets. That is why municipalities everywhere are rebuilding road infrastructure with protected lanes for bikes, scooters, and wheelchairs. These efforts are inspired by the Vision Zero approach, which aims for zero deaths or injuries on our streets.

Road safety is never an accident. We reduce the likelihood of tragedies by intentional efforts to design our road system for human error and hold reckless road users accountable.

Two major cities — Oslo, Norway, and Helsinki, Finland — had zero deaths of vulnerable road users by 2020 though implementing a Vision Zero approach.

These cities reduced speed limits and built a vast array of protected lanes for bikes, scooters, and wheelchairs. They have public transit systems that are convenient and accessible for commuters. Reckless road users are held accountable.

In Ontario, we are debating increases to speed limits, and the merits of protected lanes for bikes, scooters and wheelchairs. Reckless drivers get modest fines after critically injuring or killing others. We underfund public transit, pushing people into cars. All of these actions lead to traffic congestion, frustration, and tragedies.

In the last few weeks alone, we've lost several cyclists and pedestrians in Ottawa to road incidents, and many more have been injured.

Audrey Cameron, a 16-year-old Nepean High School student, was hit by a speeding car and critically injured while trying to cross Carling Avenue on her scooter.

The impact shattered Audrey's pelvis and left knee and caused traumatic brain injuries. Her helmet was shattered. Ottawa Police have asked for help from anyone who witnessed this tragedy.

Audrey is known to her family as a careful, loving person. She loves animals and art.

Audrey's family has been at her bedside around the clock this week. Thanks to first responders and medical professionals, her condition has improved; but Audrey faces a significant rehabilitation process. Her family has created a GoFundMe page to help with the costs associated with this long, arduous road.

In two years of serving as Ontario's Critic for Transit and Active Transportation, I've seen no shortage of suffering. 49,106 drivers were involved in fatal and personal injury collisions in 2023. That's a rate of 134 each day!

How many more tragedies will it take for this to change? Why is Premier Ford fixated on pitting road users against each other?

Here is my hypothesis: some want to tap into the anger people have with traffic and focusing the frustration in the wrong place. We can't let that happen.

Road safety is never an accident. We can and must demand better.

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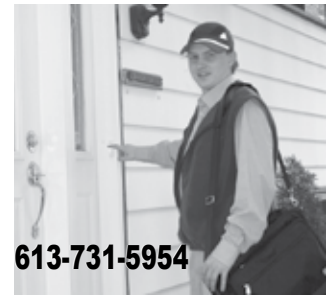
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The Arboretum - a national treasure we take for granted

Continued from Page 30

Conifer Walk, Lookout Walk, Lowland & Shoreline Walk, North Path Walk, Prince of Wales Walk, Southpath Walk, Campus Walk, Merivale Shelterline Walk.

Conifer Walk, for example, compares 18 conifer varieties. It highlights notable features of each, explains how to distinguish one from the others, touches on symbiotic relationships with the immediate environment, and points out idiosyncrasies. Case in point is the Pitch Pine. This tree, named for its copious amount of pitch, becomes a fierce torch in a forest fire. However, it also becomes a fire-tree colonizer soon after the fire passes. Why? Because Pitch Pine cones have evolved to open and spread their seeds after exposure to fire.

National Showpiece: The Dominion Arboretum

The Arboretum is a national showpiece. One we take for granted. "Pathways to the Trees" is more than a beautiful book, it's an opportunity to get out, touch, feel and learn about our trees; a chance to reacquaint with our national gem, the Dominion Arboretum.

For information on "Pathways to the Trees", or how to get a copy, contact: info@friendsofthefarm.ca. The book is 340 pages and sells for \$25.00 tax included.

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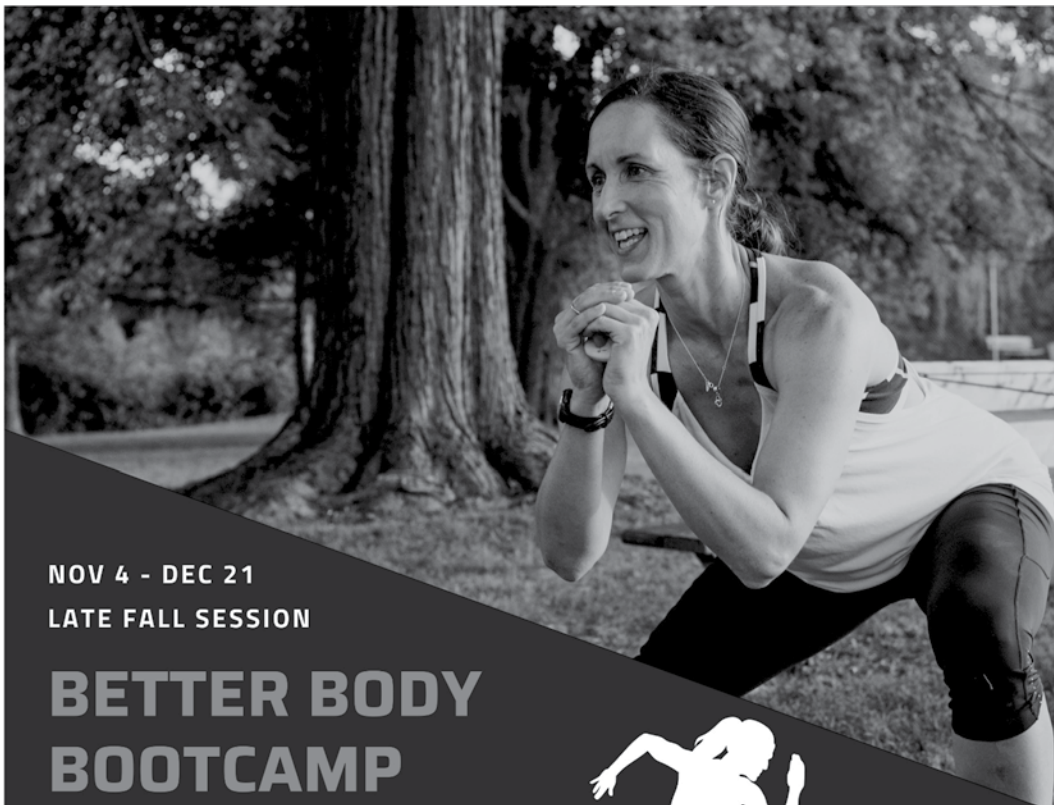
Fall 2024 Update

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The Ottawa Wildlife Strategy now under review

“There’s a raccoon in my backyard eating my garden!”

PETER CROAL

How often have we looked in our backyards or neighbourhood to find a groundhog, raccoon or skunk making its home in the ground, the tree or under a deck? Perhaps we have walked along the Rideau River and noticed trees cut down by beavers? In many of the parks of Old Ottawa East (OOE) cyclists have had to slow their bike riding or tread carefully while walking if Canada Geese and their young are gathered at the side of the river.

Wildlife is all around us in OOE. With the effects of climate change now upon us, it is possible to spot a coyote or other rural wildlife making its presence known in OOE. In some cases, the natural reaction for people is to use a lethal method to get rid of the critters. Others may choose to live trap the visitors and release them somewhere else, thus transferring the problem to another neighbourhood.

Ottawa and its residents are now in a conversation to address these and other wildlife issues as part of a policy process to update the existing Ottawa Wildlife Strategy, which has been in place since 2013. The Wildlife Strategy focusses on wildlife and human interactions – where wildlife usually comes out the loser. However, the current process to revise the Wildlife Strategy is based upon a different approach, namely, co-existence between wildlife and Ottawa citizens.

The genesis of the 2013 Strategy started with a group of citizens who were upset at the killing of a number of coyotes in Greenboro in 2010. The resulting Wildlife Strategy did not emphasize coexistence as a solution. Fast forward to 2022-23, years that witnessed the killing of coyotes in Riverside Park South and the shooting of a bear in Kanata. These incidents reignited many citizens passion to urge the City to develop a revised policy with coexistence as a core principle.

The co-existence principle has been emphasized in many submissions to the City by the Ottawa Carleton Wildlife Centre (OCWC). For example, OCWC recommends that the City calculate the time and cost of maintenance in trapping beavers and instead use cost-effective flow devices to mitigate flooding. Beavers play many important roles in the landscape which need to be better respected. The OCWC also recommends discontinuing ‘sighting reports’ of coyotes that promote unwarranted fear, and instead adopt proven strategies from Toronto, Oakville, and Niagara Falls, which focus on public education and detailed

response guidelines.

As for large mammals, the OCWC urges assigning specific roles for the National Capital Commission, as lead organization, and for Ottawa by law officers and Ottawa police. Killing large mammals must be done when all other control techniques have been tried, according to the OCWC.

The OCWC also recommends that conditions be developed so that hibernating animals’ habitats are not destroyed during construction. Regardless of what the City eventually proposes for the revised Wildlife Strategy it is against federal law (Migratory Birds Convention Act) to destroy nests of breeding migratory birds as a result of construction or tree maintenance, during the nesting period.

The OCWC also emphasizes the importance of eco-passages to reduce wildlife mortality on roads. Edmonton has developed excellent wildlife sensitive planning measures and designs. Additionally, public education has also been emphasized in the OCWC recommendations, focusing on the need for comprehensive public education and community outreach programs.

OOE is fortunate to have the Rideau



Freepik.com IMAGE

As a result of climate change and intensive development, it is no longer uncommon to spot wildlife all around us in Old Ottawa East.

River and green spaces and parks. With our proximity to many different wildlife habitats, OOE residents can play a key role in helping shape a more progressive “co-existence

based” and “best practices” Wildlife Strategy for Ottawa.



Nature is under threat in Ottawa due to climate change, urbanization, road expansion and lack of respect for wildlife. There are many ways that we can co-exist with our furry and feathered friends that allow us to live and enjoy OOE in a more harmonious and respectful way. It is not too late to share your Wildlife Strategy views with the City by reaching out to Councillor Shawn Menard, the OCWC or CAFES (Community Association for Environmental Sustainability). Wildlife will be grateful for your voice.

The Mainstreeter teams with Shopify to open a new online Community Shop

Sales proceeds will fund the newspaper's new digital platform

MAINSTREETER STAFF

The Mainstreeter has moved quickly to implement several important aspects of its new 3-year Strategic Plan, which was outlined in the August issue of the newspaper. Foremost among the new initiatives are ones designed to attract younger readers.

To achieve its objective, and to help it finance a costly digital expansion, Old Ottawa East's community newspaper has partnered with local digital powerhouse Shopify to launch *The Mainstreeter's* Community Shop, a new on-line storefront at mainstreeter.myshopify.com/. The online business opened its virtual doors this month, and currently offers shoppers *The Mainstreeter's* new 13-month community calendar, *Artists of Old Ottawa East 2025/2026*. Many new branded OOE community items will be added to the new shop in the near future.

The Mainstreeter has already implemented a community e-newsletter that will be published six times per year (to subscribe see: mainstreeter.ca/index.php/newsletter/) and

will unveil a new website in December. All of these changes and additions are steps the newspaper is taking to address some key findings of its digital readership survey, paramount among them the need for *The Mainstreeter* to re-balance its reader demographics.

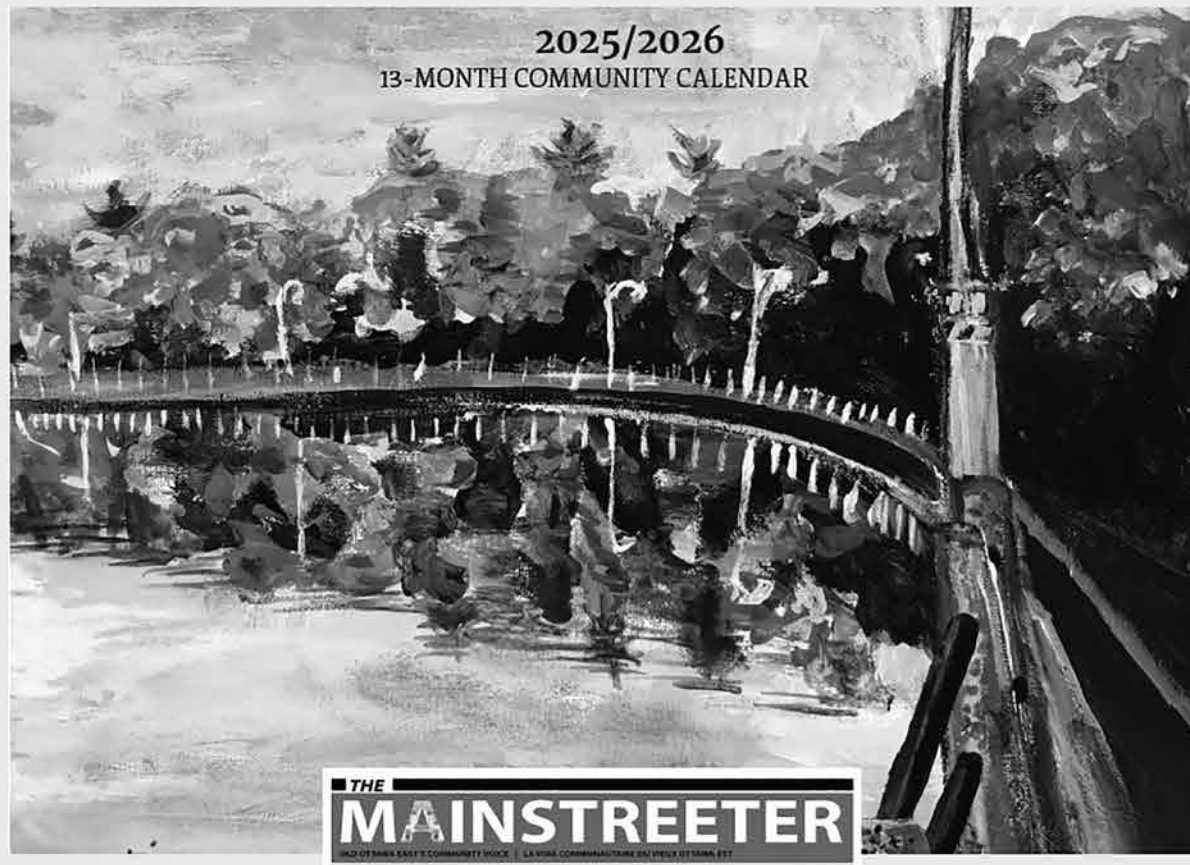
In its survey, which registered 215 responses from readers, almost 70% of the respondents were in the 45- to 75-year-old age range. By comparison, only 20% of respondents were in the 25- to 45-year-old bracket.

According to its editor, Lorne Abugov, *The Mainstreeter* has no intentions to depart from its printed newspaper but wishes to ensure it can also attract younger members of the Old Ottawa East community by adapting to newer digital readership modes.

“Frankly, printed community newspapers are even more important today than ever, as mainstream printed daily newspapers decline across Canada,” Abugov remarked. “But it's clear that we must attract younger readers and meet them on their home ground, which is on digital platforms.”

This holiday season, give the gift that says Old Ottawa East!

Artists of Old Ottawa East



The Mainstreeter's best-selling 13-month calendar is back again for holiday gift-giving. This year, popular sketch artist Tim Hunt joins up with four other Old Ottawa East artists to showcase our talented community.

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www.mainstreeter.ca

COMMUNITY GARDENING



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

LEFT: Thanks to the initiative of a handful of local residents and Saint Paul University 17 years ago, the Ottawa East Community Garden continues to thrive today, as evidenced by the bounty of fresh food produced this season by member gardeners; RIGHT: An aerial photo of the Ottawa East Community Garden behind the Saint Paul campus shows its many garden plots cultivated with utmost care.

The Ottawa East Community Garden

Experiencing the joyful challenge of growing your own food

REBECCA AIRD

Each year, members of the Ottawa East Community Garden (OECG) find delight in the beauty, bounty and diversity that emerges from the combined richness of earth, sun, water and their labour. Equally evident, those who are just passing through the space also take great pleasure in it.

The OECG is one of over 60 organic gardens in Ottawa's Community Garden Network, coordinated by Just Food with modest annual funding from the City.

Now in its 17th season, the OECG is managed by a board of directors comprised of member gardeners. The board recently invited members to complete a survey about their experience at the garden. The fact that 30 gardeners – almost half of the membership – responded to the survey is an indication in itself of the level of engagement and enthusiasm.

OECG gardeners range in age from under 30 to over 75, though a majority of survey respondents were older than 60. About half of those responding have become members within the last three years, including six new gardeners this past year. Six respondents had no previous gardening experiences, while 17 considered themselves experienced

gardeners.

Not surprisingly, in response to the question of what gardeners find most enjoyable about their experience at OECG, many spoke of the simple (though challenging!) pleasure of growing food. Another top response related to the sense of community, social interactions and friendliness. As one example, Kristine Houde expressed admiration that neighbours will often help take care of plots of gardeners who are injured or absent, and that plots for the food bank are “tended and cultivated with utmost care.”

Many survey respondents also mentioned the beauty and peacefulness of the garden, the opportunity to learn from others, the benefits of proximity, the availability of good tools, and even improved health. Pride in learning new skills was also a theme. Fabienne Tougas was completely new to gardening when she joined the OECG, and consequently had quite a learning curve. While recognizing how much more learning lies ahead, she was pleased when, in her second year, she received “many comments on how plentiful my plot was.”

In response to the survey request to share tips, a common theme well summarised by Janice Neelands related

to patience: “Keep sowing. You may need to re-sow seeds several times in the spring. Don't be fazed by a low germination rate and don't give up if your seedlings get eaten by earwigs, rabbits or groundhogs.”

In the category of unusual plants grown at the OECG, Shambhavi Pundir mentioned her Indian mustard and okra, and Nicole Wegscheider spoke of her Egyptian spinach and Italian dandelion. Margaret Vant Erve - a veteran gardener and long-time key volunteer - loves her Cherry bomb peppers.

17 years ago, Saint Paul University (SPU) took a gamble on a new community initiative pitched by a handful of local residents. Since then, that initiative has yielded many tangible and intangible benefits to individuals and to the fabric of community. Everyone associated with the OECG remains deeply appreciative of and indebted to SPU for allowing this continued use of their land and water supply.



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A familiar face at Mike Galazka's Service Centre

Remembering Bob Forget, a fixture on Main Street for half a century



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Old Ottawa East community mourns the loss of Bob Forget, a friendly fixture at the Mike Galazka Service Centre from 1967 to 2020.

TERESA WALLACE

Bob Forget, a fixture in Old Ottawa East (OOE) for more than 50 years as an employee of the Mike Galazka Service Centre on Main Street, died September 12 at the age of 83. Many members of his large family spoke at his funeral at Canadian Martyrs Church on Main Street on September 26 and recalled his affection for OOE and for his customers.

Current owner Mike Galazka's father opened a gas station and car repair business on Main Street in 1966 and starting the next year, from 1967 until the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, Forget worked for all but two years at the garage. "Bob was a very loyal employee," says Galazka. "He was a likeable guy who could talk to anybody."

OOE residents remember Forget coming to the rescue when they had car troubles. "Bob was helpful many times," Burnham Road resident Margaret Moriarty recalls. "The major incident was when all four wheels of our Impala were stolen on a frigid January night from a parking lot on King

Edward Avenue. CAA was no help. Bob arrived with four temporary replacement wheels and drove the car to the garage on Main Street for us to pick up."

Forget also answered the phones and made appointments. He received each car enthusiastically as the owner brought it in. He remembered everyone's name and what kind of car they drove and always said nice things about those cars no matter how old and decrepit the vehicle. He spoke energetically and cheerfully when he called to tell people their car was ready. When a customer came to pick up his or her car, Bob swiveled in his chair, reached over and magically extracted the correct set from the jumble of hung-up car keys.

Bob always took an interest in his customers and their families and was immensely proud of his wife, his two daughters, his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his three brothers, seven sisters and their families.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of the unforgettable Bob Forget.

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A Walk of Art – but just for kids!

The OOE Children's Garden hosts another successful art exhibition

LORI GANDY

Sunshine and smiles were the order of the day as seven young artists gathered with a parent or two to participate in the second annual Kids' Art Exhibit in the Children's Garden in Old Ottawa East. Visitors were treated to a spectacular array of artistic creativity. The artists happily discussed their inspirations and techniques and made a few sales along the way.

Mána Lemus-Heimberger (8), who participated in last year's Kids' Art Exhibit, showcased a number of her paintings, including a creative depiction of bubble tea, and a rat she drew as a symbol of one of Apollo's sacred animals. She also enjoys exploring perspective and creating reflections in backgrounds, techniques she learned recently.

Camille Holton (10), another veteran from last year's Exhibit, showcased more of her gorgeous artwork, which ranges from detailed still life to more abstract work, using a range of styles and media. Her colourful *'Seasons of the World'* was particularly stunning, demonstrating her technique of using leaves and painting over them with splattered watercolour paint.

Claire Holton (6) joined her sister Camille this year. Claire's work focuses on painting hearts and rainbows and using glue and sparkles to create lovely pictures. She also uses stickers on some of her art. She was busy throughout the exhibit demonstrating the spontaneous nature of her techniques. She has been creating art for about 2 years.

Olivia (10) gets her inspiration from online tutorials that teach her about different craft techniques and art forms. She showcased a range of artistic skills through varied works including drawings, pottery, origami, catnip toys, miniature books, friendship bracelets and a wax person.

Bridget Sabean (7) exhibited an exquisite painting of a tree in full autumnal flare. She described her technique using Q-tips to create the leaf effect, and a fork dipped in paint and



LORI GANDY PHOTOS
Pictured here are some of the artists and their artwork exhibited at the Children's Garden: 1) Parker enjoyed her experience exhibiting her paintings; 2) Bridget's tree in autumnal flare was an eye-catcher; 3) Sophie's gorgeous painting of a waterfall was popular with visitors; 4) Olivia demonstrated her skills with various media; 5) Smiling artists in the making: sisters Camille and Claire.



dragged across the bottom of the painting to create the grass. She is also fond of splashing glue randomly on a paper and then tossing onto the page flower petals, leaves and other objects found in nature, to see what sort of shape emerges.

Parker MacLean (10) enjoys drawing and painting flowers. Her painting titled *'La fleur de paix'* was stunning. She also enjoys drawing and painting cats, her own cat Gomez being a favourite subject and the inspiration of her drawing titled *'Watchful Cat.'* She is also learning about perspective from her dad and has integrated this technique into her drawings.

Sophie Killough (11) enjoys painting nature, particularly landscapes. Her work reflects a Japanese influence, with flowers featuring prominently. She also likes to explore abstract subjects and food and enjoys making little cards that can be used as birthday greetings.

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 Andrew Ager: *Christmas Medley* with strings, oboes, and continuo

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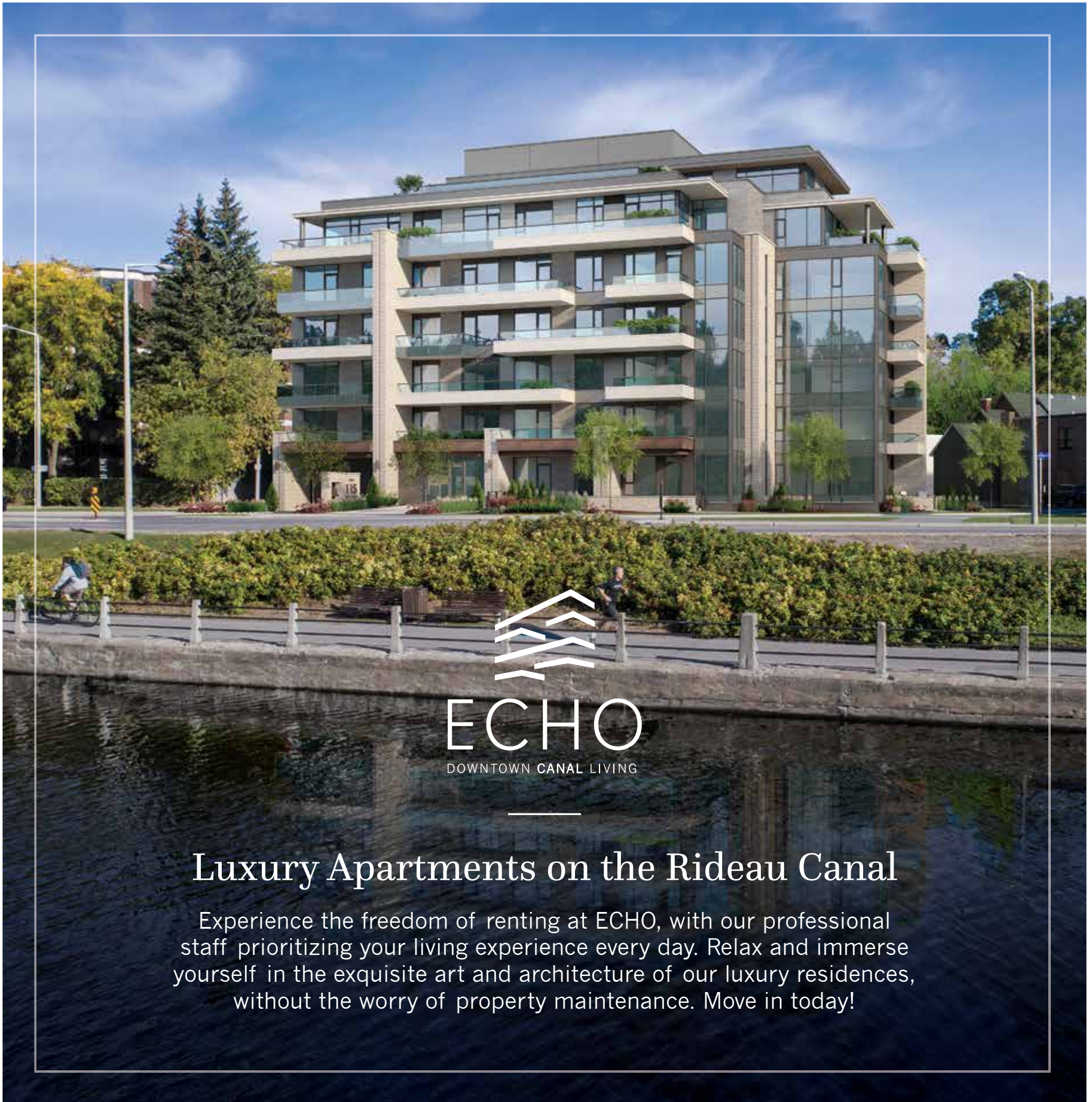
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ECLECTIC EVENTS

Wednesday Dec 11th @ 7:30pm
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS,
The Stairwell Carollers,
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24 Sandridge Road.

The Stairwell Carollers are all set for their 47th Christmas singing season, and they look forward to entertaining you with a festive Christmas carol concert on December 11th..

The Stairwell Carollers is an a cappella Ottawa choir that sings sacred

and secular music from all eras, as well as settings of traditional and contemporary Christmas carols.

The choir placed 1st in the Ontario Music Festivals Association competitions in 2010 and 2013 Provincials and 2nd in the 2010 Federation of Canadian Music Festivals Nationals. The Stairwell Carollers are currently ranked amongst the best of Ottawa choirs and have provided over \$146,000 in scholarships and donations to local charities since their founding by Pierre Massie in 1977. Massie began the choir while a student at U of Ottawa by singing Christmas carols for fellow students in the residence stairwells.

The choir has chosen a variety of choral favourites for their upcoming Christmas 2024 concerts, entitled NOEL. The program spans all eras, including contemporary arrangements by Ola Gjeilo, Tavener, Rutter and Maelor, as well as Pierre Massie's beautiful choral version of "Do You Hear what I Hear?"

A matinee concert has also been scheduled for Saturday, December 21st at St. François d'Assise Church, 20 Fairmont Avenue at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, age 12 and under free with adult supervision. For tickets, visit: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-stairwell-carollers/events/noel/>



October 31 to November 16, Thursday to Saturday evenings
L'OUTAOUAIS AU MENU!, Participating Restaurants throughout the Outaouais Region.

Following the success of last year's first edition, the second edition of L'Outaouais au menu!, the gastronomic event across the Ottawa River, will this time be held over three weeks, from October 31 to November 16, from Thursday to Saturday evenings.

Participating restaurants will offer customers a three-course, dine-in evening menu specially designed for the occasion. Menus are offered at a fixed price. New this year: there will be two fixed-price tiers, \$54 or \$74 per person before tax and tips, depending on the restaurant.

More than twenty restaurants in Gatineau, Petite Nation, Collines-de-l'Outaouais and Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

answered the call. Many of last year's participating restaurants are back, and some exciting new additions have joined the line-up!

The restaurant menus are available on the Outaouais Tourism website or by scanning the QR Code below. Customers can visit the website to view the menus, then make reservations directly with their selected restaurant(s).

Reservations at each restaurant are strongly recommended. However, if you arrive at one of the participating restaurants without a reservation and there is space remaining, make sure to ask for the L'Outaouais Au Menu.



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Rideau Chorale presents the music of Vaughan Williams, J.S. Bach

Christmas just for the beauty of it

MIKAYLA ODUT AND JANICE MANCHEE

Who knew an agnostic would pen a beautiful and haunting choral work about Christmas? Rideau Chorale did and they're going to sing it.

Ralph Vaughan Williams was born (1872) into a family with strong roots in progressive and liberal thinking, including abolitionists and those strengthening the separation of church and state. Charles Darwin was Vaughan Williams' great-uncle. Vaughan Williams himself was an atheist for a time, but this later eased into a "cheerful agnosticism."

The depth of Vaughan Williams' musical talent was not immediately apparent to everyone. He studied at the Royal College of Music both before and after he earned a doctorate in Music at Cambridge. But wider recognition eluded him. It wasn't until 1910 that he gained this recognition with his piece *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*.

While not a fan of Brahms and Wagner, Vaughan Williams' love of J.S. Bach was evident in his long-time membership in London's Bach Choir, where he later became the Music Director. He tried out new compositions here and, over a hundred years later, some of those 'trial

runs' are cornerstones of choral repertoire.

Rideau Chorale will pair these two composers with some local favourites at their upcoming December 7th concert. They will present *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Vaughan William. Written for baritone, chorus and orchestra, it includes traditional English folk carols. They will also sing Bach's cantatas *The Newborn Infant Child* (122) and *Sleepers Awake* (140). Both are sacred cantatas, with the second being one of his most famous and beloved.

Local composer Andrew Ager has updated his *Carol Medley* for this concert, now arranged for string ensemble. Ager composes a variety of works, including operas and is the co-artistic director of *New Opera Lyra*.

Finally, *Gloucester Wassail* composed by Rideau Chorale Music Director Kevin Reeves will also be performed, along with a number of sing-along carols for the audience.

All that's missing is you! So, put Saturday, December 7, 7:30pm, in your calendar and get the holiday season off to a beautiful start!

Information about Rideau Chorale and its virtual and upcoming performances can be found at rideauchorale.com. Tickets will be available on Eventbrite.ca in October.



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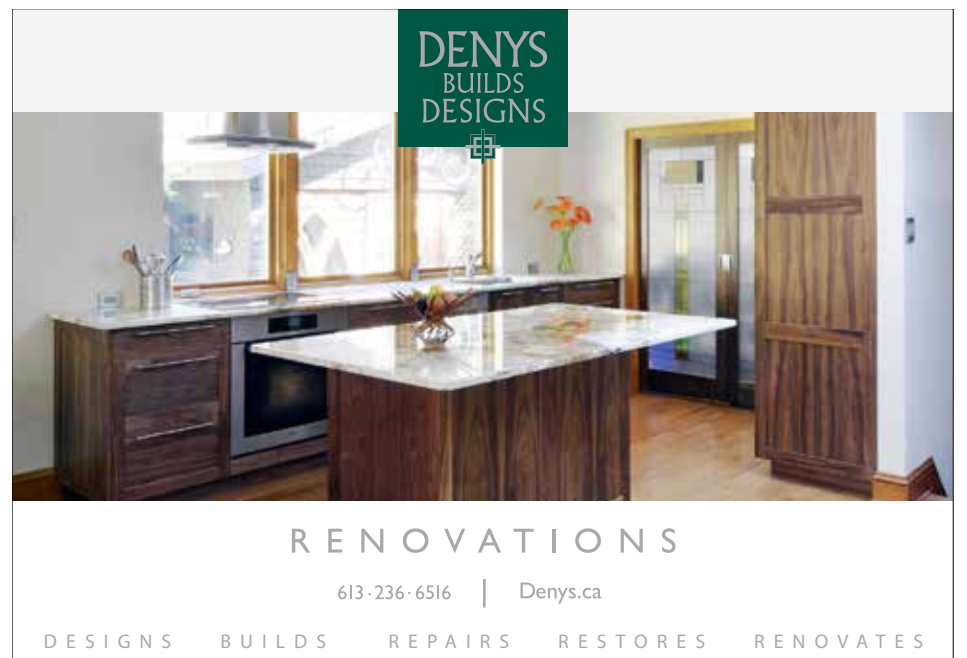
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