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# Welcome to *The Mainstreeter's* Community Newsletter

March 2026 - Issue #10

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Proudly serving our community for 41 years (1985 - 2026) | [Mainstreeter.ca](http://Mainstreeter.ca)

*Your chance to support local journalism -  
join the Friends of The Mainstreeter!*

A dark green circular badge with white text that reads: 'I'm a friend of The Mainstreeter'.

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*Mainstreeter*

*The Mainstreeter's* new supporters group - the ***Friends of The Mainstreeter*** - is the ideal way to show your support for your community newspaper, and to help sustain us into the future. In only two short months, more than 60 of our readers and fans have answered our call to sign aboard, and we couldn't be more pleased! Are you next?

When you make a contribution to join the ***Friends of The Mainstreeter***, you're helping to strengthen and build Old Ottawa East in the process - because the proceeds are shared between three community stakeholder groups - *The Mainstreeter*, *the artists of Old Ottawa East*, and for 2026, *The Children's Garden on Main Street*.

And we're giving back to our Friends with every contribution you make. ***Each of your contributions is rewarded with instant gifts from The Mainstreeter's online Community Shop***, delivered right to your door in Old Ottawa East. Click [here](#) to get the details and to join the growing ranks of ***Friends of The Mainstreeter!***

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## In our February issue of *The Mainstreeter*

Our February issue shone the spotlight on two of Old Ottawa East's elementary schools, one of which was poised for growth and expansion in a brand new facility expected to open in January 2027, the other under threat of a 2026-27 enrolment embargo with others to follow leading to a slow decline and the likelihood of closure.

**John Dance** explained how construction of classrooms was progressing at the new Deschatelets Building site of the French-language elementary school, Au Coeur d'Ottawa, to the delight of students and parents who have encountered lengthy delays in their existing sub-optimal facilities. Down the road, at the Lady Evelyn English-language elementary school, worried parents and students scrambled to organize and push back against orders from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to phase-out kindergarten enrolment for the 2026-27 school year, with subsequent phase-outs of an additional grade expected each year thereafter. A petition of concerned parents and residents has already crested 500 signatures as the community battles to save its only English-language elementary school.

Also in our February issue, writer **Theresa Wallace** paid homage to the memory of former Immaculata High School teacher John Gibbens who was remembered and honoured by the community at a ceremony on January 9th at Canadian Martyrs Church. During his remarkable lifetime, Gibbens was a role model and father figure for hundreds of young students whose lives he changed for the better. Other local news stories included one that confirmed that Old Ottawa East is indeed "kind of different" as borne out by new Ottawa Neighbourhood Study data. In addition, readers learned of new community initiatives in the works to mark reconciliation efforts in Old Ottawa East as well as plans already launched to construct a massive four-tower development at 320 Lees Avenue that will add 3,000 new residents and commercial space along the Sandy Hill/Old Ottawa East border.

For our local foodies, reviewer **Quinn Abugov** was hard at work again in Part 2 of his Pizza Taste-off, this time sampling five of the city's trendiest and tastiest flat-crust pizzas of the Neapolitan, Roma and New York styles. While Schoolhouse Pizza on Preston Street walked off with most of the top-rankings, the quality of all of the pizza pies sampled gave proof to the recent phenomenal rise of the overall culinary standard in Ottawa.

To read all these stories and more in our February edition, [click here](#)



In our February issue, reporter John Dance covered two stories about Old Ottawa East local elementary schools on very different trajectories. ABOVE: Worried parents of students at Lady Evelyn School gathered signatures of supporters on petitions to save the school from

a phase-out of classes ordered by the district school board that would likely spell the end for OOE's only English-language elementary school.; BELOW: The news was far cheerier for parents and students at Au Coeur d'Ottawa French-language elementary school where recent provincial funding has kickstarted construction of classrooms in the new school facility in the Deschatelets Building, expected to open for classes in January.(John Dance Photos).



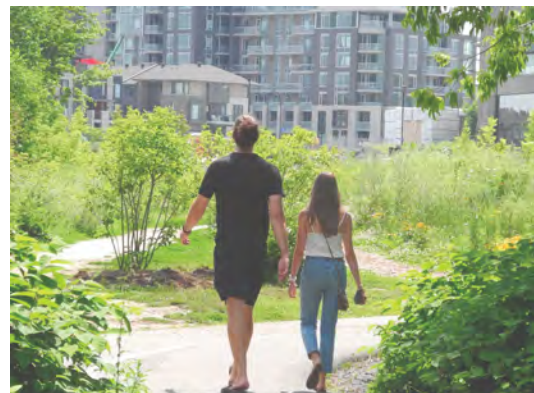
## Featured articles from our February Issue



### Old Ottawa East community campaigns to save Lady Evelyn School

Armed with a petition signed by more than 500 concerned residents, parents and the community push back against the school board's planned grade-by-grade phase-out of Old Ottawa East's only English-language public school.

[Read More](#)



### New neighbourhood data confirms what our residents already suspect - we're kind of different!

From housing and education to trees, transit and travel habits, new Ottawa Neighbourhood Study data paints a revealing picture of Old Ottawa East and provides evidence that our community is statistically as distinct as it feels.

[Read More](#)

## From our Old Ottawa Eats pages



## ***Sula Wok cooks up a creative financing plan - and neighbours are buying in***

The much-loved Old Ottawa East eatery is inviting its neighbours to play a role in financing Sula Wok's next chapter of expansion on Main Street.

[Read More](#)



## ***A slice of the City: The Mainstreeter's Ottawa pizza taste-off - Part 2***

Quinn Abugov returns to review and rate five of Ottawa's trendy Neapolitan, Roma and New-York pizzerias to sample their delicious pies. He enjoys them all, but one spot in particular almost sweeps the awards. Read his report and see if you agree!

[Read More](#)

## ***From our Art Beat pages***



## ***From Tim Hunt's OOE sketchbook: Glenora Street***

The view looking north towards Immaculata High School at the end of Glenora Street looks much the way it did years ago when we parked our car in a snowbank and trudged through the snow to get our first glimpse of the place where we now live. (Tim Hunt Sketch)

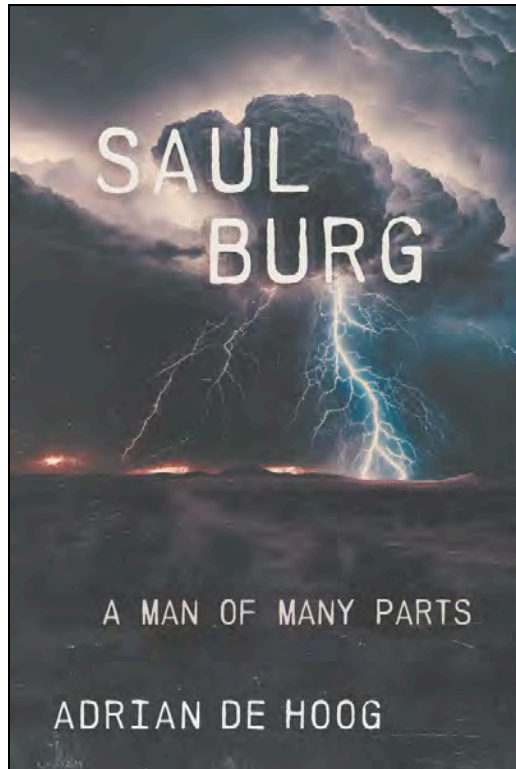
[Read More](#)



## ***Art Beat: A June exhibit will offer a Portuguese-Canadian perspective on the arts***

Planning is now underway for a major cross-cultural Portuguese and Portuguese-Canadian art exhibit that will be staged in June to mark Portuguese Heritage Month in Canada. Joana Pimentel of the Embassy of Portugal tells us more about the planned *Symphony of Colours* exhibition she is helping to curate and stage. (Painting by Ian Olliff, who paints under the name Yan).

## We thank our March newsletter sponsors



How does a fierce man with a shrouded past become Special High Representative to the UN Secretary General responsible for co-ordinating UN Humanitarian work in Failed States?

*“A story with a sweeping biographical arc and historical-political backdrop.”*

*“A compelling fictional biography that moves from a childhood marked by tragedy through an extraordinary career in military and intelligence.”*

The fourth novel by Ottawa author Adrian de Hoog, is now available at Books on Beechwood and through online book sellers.

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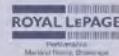
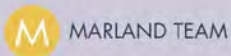


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*Pssst! Have you seen it yet?*



As the centrepiece of its *Year of Community Engagement*, *The Mainstreeter* has now launched a brand new sister digital publication - **The Sidestreeter** - and it's quickly gaining popularity as a primary platform for hyper-local community-centric event information and news for online readers residing in Ottawa's "core urban" central communities.

**The Sidestreeter**, which has been developed in collaboration with one of Ottawa's foremost digital newsletters - *The Ottawan* - is **published weekly and delivered free of charge to subscriber's inboxes every Thursday morning**. The bold new red masthead (see below) of **The Sidestreeter** borrows from the classic look of *The Mainstreeter*, employs a stylized "S" festooned with Canada's flag atop the Peace Tower, and adds the explanatory tag-line: "*Covering the news and events in Ottawa's core communities.*"

If **The Sidestreeter** sounds like it might interest you, [click here](#) to subscribe and check it out. It's free of charge. We'll send you the first edition and you can see what you think!

To learn more about **The Sidestreeter**, [click here](#).

Panel Discussion

*Getting to know Ottawa's  
food insecurity problem*



# FOOD FOR LIFE

## ADDRESSING THE FOOD INSECURITY GAP IN OTTAWA

**Over 1 in 4 households in Ottawa are experiencing food insecurity**  
2025 Ottawa Hunger Report, Ottawa Food Bank

The Ottawa Horticultural Society invites you to join us for this in-person panel discussion with community leaders and experts who are actively working to address food insecurity in our community.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 7:30 pm  
 St. Mark's Anglican Church  
 1606 Fisher Ave., Ottawa  
 Open to all, free admission

MORE DETAILS AT OTTAWAHORT.ORG

### Panelists

-  **Peter Tilley**  
CEO Ottawa Mission
-  **Nelson Coyle**  
Healthful Food Working Group
-  **Carla De Ciccio**  
Director of Marketing, Grower
-  **Tom Robson**  
Ottawa Food Bank Community Harvest Farm Coordinator
-  **Cecilia Lee**  
OHS Community Impact Program

On Tuesday, March 24th, the Ottawa Horticultural Society will present a panel discussion entitled ***Food for Life: How Some Organizations in Ottawa are Addressing the Food Insecurity Gap***. This topical program takes place at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 1606 Fisher Avenue, beginning at 7:30 pm.

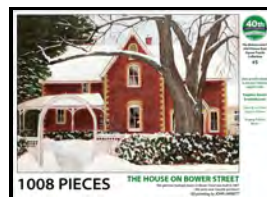
A distinguished five-person panel of community leaders, experts and speakers from the Ottawa area, all of whom are actively working to address food insecurity in our community, will share some important and encouraging information.

From the panel, you will learn how innovative gardening initiatives, urban agriculture and special community partnerships are helping to bridge the food gap. You will also discover how horticulture can play a vital role in creating a more equitable and sustainable food system, and how dedication, commitment and hope can help fill the food insecurity gap.

This is a free community event and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis so plan to come early to ensure you get a seat. For more information, visit [www.ottawahort.org](http://www.ottawahort.org).

**What next???**

*Imagine living in a community that has its very own jigsaw puzzle collection!*



**Try one, or try them all this month at *The Mainstreeter's* online Community Shop!**

It's no secret that Old Ottawa East residents have a certain affinity for jigsaw puzzles. And by now it must be apparent that the community teems with talented local artists like John Jarrett, Louise Elliott, Tim Hunt and Lucianne Poole.

So it was only a matter of time - 40 years, actually - before someone came up with the idea to create a curated collection of community jigsaw puzzles featuring familiar Old Ottawa East scenes captured by some of our finest local artists. The result is *The Mainstreeter's 40th Anniversary collection of Old Ottawa East jigsaw puzzles* available in both 1,008-piece size and 504-piece size. If you haven't yet sat down at the puzzle table with of these beauties, now's the time!

They're on sale now at **The Mainstreeter's online Community Shop** and at **Singing Pebble Books and Watson's Pharmacy & Compounding Centre** on Main Street.

And like all of *The Mainstreeter's* community-minded gifts purchased through our online Community Shop, they are delivered for free right to your door anywhere in Old Ottawa East. So, click [here](#) to purchase your Old Ottawa East jigsaw puzzles from our online Community Shop! All proceeds go directly to support *The Mainstreeter* and our Old Ottawa East local artists.

## Old Ottawa Eats

### *Reviewer Quinn Abugov finds his happy place at The Belmont*



## QUINN ABUGOV

Tucked into Old Ottawa South, **The Belmont** is a cherished neighbourhood restaurant that has earned its reputation over the years. My family and I celebrated a birthday there in early February and immediately felt at ease in the intimate, cozy setting. The restaurant strikes a perfect balance between lively energy and relaxed comfort, making it ideal for both special occasions and casual nights out.

The décor adds to the welcoming atmosphere, with playful wall decals showcasing different places across Canada, giving the space a distinctly local and personal touch. The bar is compact but impressively well stocked, offering a range of cocktails that are consistently excellent. On this visit, we opted for a Moroccan red wine, which paired beautifully with our meal and highlighted the thoughtful beverage selection that complements the menu.

**The Belmont** focuses on small plates designed for sharing, making it perfect for couples or groups of friends. Their family-style menu, priced at \$65 per person, is a six-course experience available in both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. Each course is carefully portioned and thoughtfully curated, providing a no-nonsense yet elevated dining experience that works well for any group size.

The non-vegetarian menu included the restaurant's famous Trinidadian-style doubles, creamy burrata with toast, a crisp little gems wedge salad with blue cheese and toasted prosciutto, fingerling potatoes with labneh, subtly spicy piri piri chicken, and a perfectly moist slice of tres leches cake to finish. The vegetarian menu followed the same structure, replacing the chicken with richly flavored maitake mushrooms and omitting the prosciutto from the salad, ensuring every dish remained satisfying and full of depth.

From start to finish, the meal was comforting, flavorful, and meticulously executed. **The Belmont** remains a long-standing Ottawa classic, combining a warm, intimate atmosphere with inventive, delicious food, and is a place that invites repeated visits, whether for a family celebration or a casual night out with friends.

## *Ottawa Police confirm early morning shooting incident in late February on Main Street in OOE*



**Police continue to investigate a confirmed shooting incident that occurred on the 100 block, west side of Main Street at approximately 4:00 a.m. on February 24th. No injuries have been reported and no arrests have been made to date.**

Ottawa Police Service officers responded to reports of a shooting at approximately 4:00 a.m. on February 24th in the 100 block of Main Street in Old Ottawa East. Upon arrival,

officers located evidence confirming that a shooting had occurred.

At this time, there have not been any reported injuries, nor any arrests. The OPS investigation is ongoing and is being led by the Guns and Gangs Unit.

*The Mainstreeter's* ad manager, Ben Crooks was walking his dog in the area a few hours after the reported shooting and noticed considerable crime scene trappings around the area on the west side of Main Street where the shooting is alleged to have taken place.

Anyone with information is asked to contact 613-236-1222, extension 5050. Anonymous tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1-800-222-8477 or online at [crimestoppers.ca](http://crimestoppers.ca). (Ottawa Police Service Photo)

## *Is Elvis in the house??*

*No...but he's probably at a cinema near you!*



## **New blockbuster film, EPiC, shows Elvis as we've never seen him before**

### **TONY WOHLFARTH**

The new documentary blockbuster, *EPiC* (as in "*Elvis Presley in Concert*") portrays Elvis as we have never seen him before. An astonishing 426 songs are split between Elvis onstage and after his time in the US Army, as well as long stints performing at the iconic International Hotel in Las Vegas. EPiC won the first runner-up award in audience voting at the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival last September. This is a film best seen on the big screen. The camera work along with the first-person narration make it exceptional, featuring footage never seen before. I also found the sound quality amazing.

In the film, Elvis tells his story in the first-person narrative, and the screen is replete with original footage from his many on-stage performances. An astonishing 80 % of the footage in this film has never before been seen publicly.

Directed by Baz Luhrmann, the running time is one hour and forty minutes. Luhrmann also directed the film, *Elvis* in 2022.

For a current list of cinemas screening *EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert*, check: [www.cinemasclock.com](http://www.cinemasclock.com).

**Starting to look like a dynasty!**

***Old Ottawa East Hosers take 4th consecutive Capital Ward Cup***



JOHN DANCE PHOTO

**The Old Ottawa East Hosers won the Capital Ward Cup for the fourth consecutive year. Front, left to right: Lauren Marantz, Andrew Matsukubo, Jack Matsukubo, Kenzie Tobin. Back: Eric Cauchon, Louis Denis, Lee Jacobs, Brad Scott, Jacob Bays.**

The Old Ottawa East Hosers remain the Capital Ward Cup champions but their primary rivals - the Old Ottawa South Moose - tried hard to prevent the Hosers from winning the cup for a fourth consecutive year.

The annual community shinny tournament, organized by Councillor Shawn Menard and his staff, played out on a spectacular Valentine's day at Windsor Park.

In the round-robin portion of the tournament, the Hosers readily disposed of the Moose by a score of 10-4. Both the Hosers and the Moose defeated the gritty Glebe-Heron Park team so the Moose won a berth in the final against the Hosers.

The final was a very different affair than the initial Hoser-Moose match during the preliminary round. The Hosers took an initial lead but then the Moose stormed back to seize the lead, and then they were tied. But as the game drew to its exciting finale, the Hosers took an 8-6 lead that they held. Much of the Hosers' scoring was from the Matsukubo duo – father Andrew and son Jack. With stunning stickhandling and skating, they dazzled the opposition. The entire Hoser team - having trained at the Brantwood Park rink for the last 20 years or so - readily withstood the onslaught of the Windsor-based Moose.

Over the 19 years of the Capital Ward Cup, the Hosers have won 10 times, the Moose five times and the Glebe once. Three years were cancelled because of COVID and the early arrival of spring. Special thanks to referee Brad Prouse who kept the games under control with the occasional reminder to players that the game was primarily to have fun. Also, thanks to Chris Lee and Caitlin Mclauchlan of the councillor's office for well-organizing the event.

**OOE residents can place tree orders starting March 9th**

***City's Plant Your Place program again offers  
free trees to Ottawa residents***

Trees do more than beautify our neighbourhoods - they help clean our air, store carbon, manage rainwater, and cool our city. With nearly 40% of Ottawa's urban land privately owned, residents play a key role in growing our tree canopy.

The City of Ottawa's **Plant Your Place!** program is returning in 2026, offering free trees to residents city-wide through two program streams.

Registration to place a tree order opens on March 9 for residents of Old Ottawa East, one week after early registration begins for those citizens living in City-designated high priority neighbourhoods. Multiple species are available to choose from, and OOE residents need simply choose their tree, pick it up, and plant it.

**Plant Your Place!** is delivered in partnership with [EnviroCentre](#). To find out more and to apply for your tree, please visit [www.plantyourplace.ca](http://www.plantyourplace.ca).



## Coming up in our April issue

### Here are some of the stories we're working on for the April 2026 issue of *The Mainstreeter*:

- *Clayton Goodwin* is an Old Ottawa East resident who enjoys nothing more than speaking his mind over a cup of coffee. A member of the Mi'kmaq nation of Nova Scotia, Goodwin is a decorated advocate for Canadian veterans and a well-known "thorn in the side" of Canada's Veteran Affairs department. We sat down recently to interview a man with insightful perspectives and diverse opinions who absolutely delights in sharing them.
- Our *Art Beat* editor, *Tanis Browning-Shelp* went on assignment in early February to attend and report on the Arts Ottawa Awards/Prix d'Arts Ottawa gala at the National Arts Centre. Among the award winners was Jacqui Du Toit, an international theatrical performer and storyteller from South Africa. As a dedicated arts educator, she is passionate about sharing storytelling and theatre with women and youth. You can read the full Art Beat report in the April issue of *The Mainstreeter*.
- Old Ottawa East resident *Judith Kennedy* is concerned about the loss of mature trees along the Rideau River and the erosion of the river banks from the spring flood. So she's taken action over the past year, working in conjunction with the Old Ottawa East Community Association, the City and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, to obtain the necessary approvals and funding to undertake a shoreline restoration planting in Brantwood Park. She outlines the plans for a revived Rideau shoreline in our April issue.
- And you can catch up on what's going on at both Saint Paul University and the Sunnyside Library branch thanks to our roving newshound *John Dance*, who has been in touch with both of these important local community institutions, asking some probing questions.

## Up & Coming Events & Dates

Date	Event
March 9	<a href="#">Vanier Sugar Festival</a> – 41st Anniversary @ Richelieu Park
March 10–12	<a href="#">Ottawa Valley Farm Show</a> , EY Centre, 4299 Uplands Drive
March 12	The Sidestreeter's Issue #4 is published – <a href="#">click here</a> to subscribe
March 15	<a href="#">Ottawa Nostalgia &amp; Collectible Show</a> , Nepean Sportsplex

March 19–22	<u>Ottawa Home &amp; Garden Show</u> , EY Centre, 4299 Uplands Drive
April 2	Submission deadline for <i>The Mainstreeter</i> April issue
April 16	<u>The Mainstreeter</u> April issue is published
April 22	CAG Wellness Workshop – <u>Nutrition and the Aging Brain</u> , Old Town Hall, Old Ottawa East
April 23–26	<u>Ottawa Grassroots Festival</u> , First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Avenue

**THE MAINSTREETER'S**  
**2026 Print Newspaper Production Schedule**

Issue	Booking Date	Submission Date	Print Publishing Date
#2	March 18, 2026	April 2, 2026	April 16, 2026
#3	May 14, 2026	May 28, 2026	June 11, 2026
#4	July 21, 2026	August 4, 2026	August 20, 2026
#5	September 14, 2026	September 29, 2026	October 15, 2026
#6	November 12, 2026	November 26, 2026	December 10, 2026

***The Mainstreeter's* April issue -  
Key submission deadlines**

**NEXT ISSUE PUBLICATION DATE**  
**April 16, 2026**

**EDITORIAL CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
**April 2, 2026**

**ADVERTISING ARTWORK SUBMISSION DEADLINE\***  
**April 2, 2026**

***\*Book ads well in advance to ensure space availability\****

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