avril - mai 2018 volume 9 numéro 2

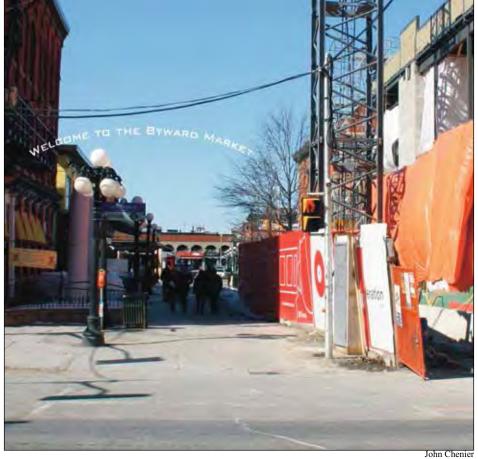
April - May 2018 Volume 9 Number 2

# Next train late - six months late

by John Chenier

Then the new management group assumed control of the ByWard Market in January, there is little doubt they were expecting a different scenario than the one currently unfolding. It was meant to be the start of a new chapter in the long history of ByWard. More and better space for programming was to go with a new mandate to steer the Market back to the future; promising a better tomorrow for the three main user groups local residents, others from Ottawa, and the thousands of tourists who visit every year.

A key element to the new plan was to be the opening of the Confederation Line. Not only would this deliver more people down to the market, but the new LRT station at the corner of William and Rideau will form the gateway into the market. People would emerge from the site of the big sinkhole (Is that delivery van still down there somewhere?) onto an open, landscaped plaza lined by attractive patios.



Not a welcoming sight or entrance.

The delay in the LRT opening has changed all that. The official launch of the "New Market" is still planned for April 30th. However, for market merchants, the three peak seasons of pedestrian traffic of 2018

Spring, Summer and Fall be hampered by the absence of the LRT and the downright ugly, uninviting main entrance.

True, there are several gateways to the market. The entrance down the cascading stairs beside the US Embassy opening up into the York Street Plaza is definitely attractive. Not so, is the stop-go drive-in from the north along Dalhousie. But the main entrance to the market is off of Rideau Street, especially for those arriving by public transit or crossing from the newly refurbished Rideau Centre.

See LRT, Page 14

### ByWard Market retailers adapt to new Farm Boy

by Nicolas Moyer

The last two decades have witnessed an ongoing decline of fresh food retail options for shoppers in the ByWard Market. Some notable losses of the last decade in-

cluded the closure of the Ontario Fruit Dealers, the Sausage Kitchen butcher Aubrey's. they've witnessed dwindling numbers of farmers' stalls in the summer and an everexpanding scene, residents have often feared a future without traditional fresh food vendors in the Byward Market.

Set against those changes, a recent arrival is once more expanding food options for residents. As of its opening in the Rideau Centre on December 9th, the new Farm Boy – a food retailer focused on local sourced products and prepared foods – has seen brisk business. In the press of a busy lunch hour, Farms Boy's Produce Manager, Korey Woodburn, is proud to note business is even better

than was expected. It's welcome news for what is a new model for Farm Boy. According to Woodburn, this location is nearly a third smaller on average than their other Ottawa stores and it places a heavier emphasis on prepared food.

Any visitor during a weekday lunch hour can see a steady stream of employees from the Rideau Centre and neighbouring office towers grabbing a meal; or a few groceries.

There's doubt the Farm Boy will change food shopping habits for many. While it is still early to draw con-

clusions, some businesses in the Market are worried about what this might mean for their bottom line. Many ByWard Market business owners have already been lamenting a decline in sales in recent years. For reasons ranging from construction on Rideau, to the 2016 sink-hole and the eradication of parking spaces on York for last year's

See Farm Boy, Page 14

#### Contributors to this edition

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### LCA - ACB reports

#### Letter from the President: Liz Bernstein

his morning I heard a bright red cardinal singing outside my window. Truly a good sign for the first day of spring! I love Lowertown in the spring (ok, all seasons!) Though it is still cold with a big pile of snow on the ground, the days are longer, the sun is shining and the promise of spring is in the air.

We are fortunate that we are going to celebrate improvements in two of our parks as we begin spring – renovations in Cathcart Square Park and we will plant trees to replace the ash ones that we lost to the emerald ash borer. Stay tuned for the date of our community celebration in Cathcart Square Park.

In Rose Park adult fitness equipment was installed, again thanks to the hard work of community activists. So I know you'll enjoy this issue, which includes a focus on our parks – a centre spread on our community's parks, articles on past events in our parks and how we can adopt a park. And we're looking forward to joining communities across the city in Ecology Ottawa's Park Summit on Earth Day, April 21.

In addition to our parks, many of our volunteers worked long and hard through the short winter days maintaining the skating rinks in Bingham Park and Jules Morin, on monitoring development projects, heritage plans, putting Safety & Security action plans in place, monitoring snow removal for pedestrians, and advocating for improved safety on King Edward Avenue.

And what gave me hope befitting a spring day? When a petition circulated by a local businessman called for the removal of shelters serving homeless and individuals with other needs in our community surfaced, the response was swift not only by the shelters themselves, but by members throughout the community, resident and business leaders alike who spoke up for rights of all people in our community. Indeed I was proud to be a resident of Lowertown.

As workers at many of the organizations are serving those in need in our community, spring is also a great time for us to renew our own commitments to improve our community – in whatever capacity. Whether your interest is planning, heritage, environment, transportation housing and homelessness or communications, we have a place for you and can use your help. Please join me in thanking one such volunteer, Thierry Harris, for his many years of community service. Thierry has stepped down from the board for personal reasons. Leaving space for you! Get involved, join us. Look forward to seeing you around in #MyLowertown: info@lowertown-basseville.ca

#### LCA Committee Reports Planning: Peter Ferguson

The Chateau Laurier: Is Public Consensus Possible?

Heritage Ottawa and the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) have indicated that they do not support the current proposal to build an addition at the rear of the hotel but one has to wonder if a consensus really is possible given the myriad design choices that have been and are part of the public dialogue. There are those who feel they could support the right design should it appear; there are those who are waiting for the same miracle but won't actually like any choice that is offered and there are those who simply don't want an addition on the back of the Hotel.

The current offering stands in stark contrast to the earlier designs that were severely criticised. It has been likened to a contemporary condominium although it seems more like a conservatory that could be filled with greenery. But even for those who sense some merit in the current proposal, there are some features that would need finessing.

For example, the massing of the proposed addition on the Mackenzie Avenue (east) side of the addition maximizes the amount of accommodation and enables the enclosure of the unattractive loading area for the existing hotel. But it also blocks the traditional sight lines north from Rideau Street interfering with the view of Majors Hill Park. The LCA has recommended to the City that there be some reduction in the protrusion of the building at the sidewalk on Mackenzie Avenue and the all loading and unloading should be done from the new underground parking facility. So which is it – the original sight lines from Rideau Street or good architecture hiding some of the original building's less that attractive features?

With regard to the use of glass and stone, the LCA feels that there should be more stone incorporated vertically into the design of the structure. This would help break up the monochromic feeling that is created by the sweeping use of glass. The LCA also feels that there should be more variety in the colour and texture in the glass. This would involve some serious changes to the current proposal with no guarantee that the public response would be any better.

Not everyone sees the Chateau Laurier from its Rideau Street "face". For many in the Lowertown community and those who regularly see the hotel from the Alexandra Bridge, Murray Street, Mackenzie Avenue and Majors Hill Park, their view of the hotel would become that of the steel and glass structure. Even with the height lowered to eight storeys, as has been done in this proposal, the view of much of the original, iconic structure will be lost irreparably from some vantage points.

#### Deadline

Reserve your advertising space or submit your contribution to echo@lowertown-basseville.ca by May 19, 2018

Questions regarding delivery? If you live in Lowertown, the Echo is delivered free to your door. Please email if you are aware of anyone or any business in our neighbourhood who is not receiving their community newspaper.

#### Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions à echo@lowertown-basseville.ca avant le **19 mai 2018** 

Questions au sujet de la distribution? L'Echo est distribué gratuitement dans la Basse-Ville. Veuillez envoyer un courriel si vous connaisez quelqu'un qui ne le reçoit pas. The LCA recognizes that designing an addition to the existing structure is a challenging task. How does one move forward with this project in such a fragmented and tormented design environment?

### Safety and Security: Sandra Milton

As a follow-up of the LCA January workshop actions items, a meeting of invested persons from various sexual assault groups resulted in several actions and outcomes.

Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and Sexual Assault Network (SAN) detailed a conversation to be included in the SMART Serve course and focus on getting the sexual assault awareness / prevention into the provincial security guard training.

The LCA Safety and Security Committee and the Planning Committee continue to be concerned about the rising number of bars and club in the Market. The LCA has reached out to the key political leaders and asked them to coordinate action to protect the By-Ward neighbourhood. We are pleased to report that the City and the Province have begun the process to put in place a task force to look at these issues that will involve local residents.

The Committee has also been active on the issues of rising crime rates in ByWard. The LCA has applied to get funding for two summer students to examine the crime data and interview local residents and business. The Safety and Security Committee of the ByWard Market BIA have agreed to partner with LCA in this work.

The BIA is running a survey of its members this Spring. The Collective Action Group of Lowertown Our Home is also preparing to conduct their 2018 Safety Survey of residents as part of their strategic plan. It would be interesting to see how the safety concerns compare from business to residents and from different parts of Lowertown



The Echo, a non-profit community newspaper, is supported by its advertisers and the Lowertown Community Association. Opinions expressed are those of contributors and advertisers and do not necessarily represent those of the volunteer editorial staff.

In 2018, the Echo will be published in February, April, June, September and November. 8,500 copies are printed and distributed free of charge to residents of Lowertown. Additional copies can also be picked up at the Routhier Centre, the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, the public library, and various commercial locations in Lowertown.

The Echo welcomes articles, letters, photographs, notices and other material of interest to its readers in the Lowertown community. Name and telephone number of contributor must be included.

If you'd like to write articles, draw cartoons or other illustrations for stories, or take photographs on assignment, please email and leave your name and telephone number at echo@lowertown-basseville.ca. No age restrictions.

The Echo reserves the right to edit in part or in whole all contributions.

#### L'Echo

L'Echo est un journal communautaire à but non lucratif dont les seuls revenus viennent des annonceurs et l'Association Communautaire de la Basse-Ville. Les textes n'engagent que leurs auteurs et annonceurs respectifs et ne reflètent pas nécessairement l'opinion de l'équipe de rédaction, qui est composée de bénévoles.

En 2018, l'Echo sera publié en février, avril, juin, septembre et novembre. Son tirage est de 8500 exemplaires. Il est distribué gratuitement partout dans la Basse-Ville. On peut également l'obtenir au Centre Routhier, au Centre de Ressources Communautaires de la Basse-Ville, à la bibliothèque et dans plusieurs commerces du quartier.

Tous les articles, lettres, illustrations, photos et autre matériel qui peuvent intéresser les lecteurs de la Basse-Ville sont les bienvenus. Leurs auteurs doivent indiquer leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone.

Les personnes qui aimeraient collaborer avec l'Echo sont invitées à envoyer un couriel au echo@lowertown-basseville.ca en indiquant leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone. Nous apprécions la contribution de tous, quel que soit leur âge.

L'Echo se réserve le droit de modifier en tout ou en partie les documents soumis.

### ByWard Market struggles with business mix

by Mathieu Fleury

City Councillor Rideau-Vanier

here has been a noticeable shift in the ByWard Market from retail to food/night life that has been going on for many years now. The City has put a lot of effort into limiting the number of bars and nightclubs through regulated minimum separation distances.

The City of Ottawa has an interim control bylaw that was meant to control the location and size of night clubs and bars. Since this bylaw was implemented, a new problem has arisen. Restaurants open but then slowly morph into bars.

Lowertown residents are concerned with the challenges around maintaining a desirable business mix for our area. We collectively want a strong, safe, and welcoming ByWard Market.

A strong ByWard Market means having locals and tourists of all ages enjoy the area every day of the week.

I spoke at a recent AGCO tribunal

appeal, and this was the concern I heard from residents over and over again. There are a number of businesses in the Market that are currently under investigation for illegally transforming from their original permitted purpose.

#### Restaurants open but then slowly morph into bars

The main issue is that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) doesn't distinguish between a restaurant and a bar when issuing a liquor license.

Every liquor licence issued gives the establishment permission to sell alcohol between the hours of 11 am and 2 am. It is only in extremely rare cases that the AGCO will put restrictions on an establishment.

This blanket issuing of licenses encourages establishments to have later opening hours in order to increase their revenue. You may have seen in the news the dispute between Lowertown residents and the new hair salon/coffee shop called Headquarters. For a long time this location was Canadian Rug Traders.

I'd like to emphasise that I have no issue with this business having a liquor licence with its current operating hours (9am-7pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday), nor does our community in general.

Our concern lies with the chance of this business model morphing into a lounge style bar with the hours of operation changing to reflect the broader hours permitted by their liquor licence.

In my opinion, since they were ask-

ing for a liquor license to supplement the income of the hair salon and café, the liquor licence should have been limited to their current operating hours.

My team and I have been working with community groups to try and bridge the gap between what the City can enforce and what the AGCO regulates. We are currently working with the provincial government to enact changes in AGCO policies.

For instance, we're asking that establishments be forced to reapply for liquor licences if they change owners or business names. In addition, we're requesting that these establishments obtain a zoning compliance letter from the City.

We are encouraging the AGCO to implement restrictions more regularly in order to be compliant with the City's urban planning goals. Through these measures we will continue to protect the diverse business mix in the ByWard Market.

### Mixité idéale de commerces difficile au marché

par Mathieu Fleury

Conseiller municipal Rideau-Vanier

epuis de nombreuses années, le marché By vit de profonds changements alors que les commerces de vente au détail font progressivement place à des restaurants et à des lieux de sorties nocturnes. La Ville d'Ottawa a déployé beaucoup d'efforts pour limiter le nombre de bars et de boîtes de nuit en instaurant par règlement des distances de séparation minimales.

La Ville a aussi adopté un règlement de restriction provisoire visant à contrôler l'emplacement et la taille des boîtes de nuit et des bars. Or, depuis l'entrée en vigueur de ce règlement, un nouveau problème se pose avec l'ouverture de restaurants qui, lentement, se transforment par la suite en bars.

Les résidents de la Basse-Ville sont préoccupés par les enjeux associés au maintien d'une combinaison optimale de commerces dans notre secteur. Nous voulons tous un marché By qui soit dynamique, sécuritaire et accueillant. Un marché By dynamique est un marché qui permet aux résidents et aux touristes de tous âges de profiter du secteur chaque jour de la semaine.

J'ai récemment pris la parole dans le cadre d'un appel présenté devant la Commission des alcools et des jeux de l'Ontario (CAJO), et c'est là l'une des préoccupations que les résidents ont soulevée à maintes reprises. Un certain nombre d'entreprises du marché By font actuellement l'objet d'une enquête pour avoir illégalement transformé leurs activités par rapport à l'usage permis initialement.

Le principal problème est que la CAJO ne fait pas de distinction entre un restaurant et un bar lorsqu'elle délivre un permis d'alcool. Lorsqu'un établissement se voit délivrer un permis d'alcool, il a le droit de vendre de l'alcool entre 11 h et 2 h. Dans certains cas extrêmement rares, la CAJO impose des restrictions. Cette façon de délivrer les permis incite les établissements à al-

longer leurs heures d'ouverture pour accroître leurs revenus.

Vous avez peut-être entendu parler du litige qui oppose les résidents de la Basse-Ville et le Headquarters, un nouveau salon de coiffure jumelé à un café. Pendant longtemps, c'est l'entreprise Canadian Rug Traders qui a occupé les locaux dont il est question.

J'aimerais souligner que, comme la plupart des membres de notre collectivité, je n'ai rien contre le fait que cette entreprise dispose d'un permis lui permettant de vendre de l'alcool dans le cadre de ses heures d'ouverture actuelles (de 9 h à 19 h du lundi au vendredi et de 9 h à 17 h le samedi et le dimanche). Nous nous inquiétons toutefois de la possibilité que cette entreprise se transforme en bar de style lounge et qu'elle change ses heures d'ouverture pour profiter de toute la plage horaire permise par son permis d'alcool. Selon moi, comme l'établissement demandait un permis d'alcool pour compléter le revenu tiré du salon de coiffure et du café, ledit permis aurait dû s'appliquer uniquement aux heures d'ouverture actuelles.

Mon équipe et moi travaillons avec des groupes communautaires pour tenter de combler l'écart entre les règlements que la Ville peut faire appliquer et ce que la CAJO réglemente. Nous collaborons aussi avec le gouvernement provincial pour apporter des changements aux politiques de la CAJO. Par exemple, nous demandons que les établissements soient obligés de faire une nouvelle demande de permis d'alcool en cas de changement de propriétaire ou de nom commercial. De plus, nous demandons que ces établissements obtiennent une lettre de la Ville attestant leur conformité au zonage. Enfin, nous invitons la CAJO à imposer des restrictions de façon plus régulière, en conformité avec les objectifs de planification urbaine de la Ville. Grâce aux mesures déployées, nous continuerons de maintenir la diversité des activités commerciales dans le marché By.

### Enfin le printemps - Spring at last

par/by Mona Fortier MP/deputee Ottawa-Vanier

e printemps est arrivé! L'année a commencé en force avec le succès du Mois de l'histoire des noirs en février et le Mois de la Francophonie en mars. Nous avons beaucoup à célébrer tout en mettant des efforts pour faire davantage et pour reconnaître la diversité canadienne.

C'est pourquoi le Budget 2018 met en place plusieurs investissements pour renforcer et aider les Canadiennes et Canadiens à s'épanouir et à réussir.

Par exemple, l'Allocation canadienne pour les travailleurs a été introduite comme une mesure pour mettre plus d'argent dans les poches des travailleurs à faible revenu.

De plus, en juillet de cette année l'Allocation canadienne pour les en-

fants sera augmentée en fonction du coût de la vie et ce, deux ans plus tôt que prévu.

À mesure que la croissance économique continue de croître et créer des emplois bien rémunérés, le gouvernement s'assurera que tous les Canadiennes et Canadiens se partagent cette réussite et en profitent. J'ai hâte de voir les effets positifs de ce budget monumental qui représente un investissement dans l'égalité pour toutes et tous. Nous avons tous droit à une chance égale et juste au succès.

Sachez que mon équipe est disponible afin de vous appuyer dans vos interactions avec le gouvernement fédéral. Mon bureau est situé au 233, chemin Montréal et est ouvert de 9 h à 17 h (lundi au jeudi) et de 9 h à 16 h (vendredi). Vous pouvez communiquer le bureau par téléphone au 613-998-1860 ou par courriel à

mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

Pelcome to spring! What a wonderful beginning to the year with the success of Black History Month in February, and the month of Francophonie in March. We have much to celebrate in our community, but there is always a need to do more to advance and recognize

Canada's diversity. That's why Budget 2018 puts in place several investments to reinforce and help Canadians grow and succeed.

For example, the new Canada Workers Benefit was introduced as a measure to put more money in the pockets of low-income workers.

Additionally, in July of this year the Canada Child Benefit will be increased this year to keep pace with the rising cost of living – two years earlier than planned. As Canada's economy continues to grow and create good, well-paying jobs, the Government will ensure that all Canadians share in and benefit from this success. I can't wait to see the positive effects of this monumental budget, which represents an investment in equality for all. We all deserve an equal and fair chance at success.

As always, my staff is here to support your interactions with the federal government.

My office is located at 233 Montreal Rd. and is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Monday to Thursday) and 9:00 AM to 4 PM (Friday).

If you would like to contact my office, please call 613-998-1860 or send an email to mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

### Real Estate

### Let's Talk Real Estate: The spring edition

by Lynda Cox, sales representative with Faulkner Real Estate

Preparing to sell your home? Here are two key questions you should ask yourselves, and my advice for how to deal with them.

What is the condition of my property and what are the anticipated costs needed for improvements?

- Spend money and hire a well respected building inspector to provide a written report, including photos depicting areas of concern.
- Provide quotes to buyers for any significant work identified by the inspector, allowing buyers to make informed decisions prior to submitting an offer.
- Discuss with your lawyer and realtor the history of any problems you are aware of to ensure you are making the disclosures to your buyer as required by law. While in some ways it is a buyer-beware industry and all buyers must do their own due diligence, always remember that home owners have a legal obligation to disclose all known defects of the property, past and present.

For example,

If the toilet overflowed 2 years ago and an insurance claim was made, DIS-CLOSE IT.

If there were squirrels in the attic and an intervention completed, DIS-CLOSE IT.

If there were small amount of water in the basement last spring, DISCLOSE

PS: If you are selling your property for its land value, you don't need to spend any time or effort preparing your home for sale. Money spent on improvements will be for naught.

What buyer audience is likely to pay the highest price for my home?

In Ottawa's core residential communities, the highest price will be generated from buyers that fall in love and intend to settle long term. This differs from investment properties where cash flow is the key. In the first scenario, the time, money and effort spent improving curb appeal, decluttering and staging interiors, and overall enhancing the "vibe" may benefit you. As they say, "First impressions are lasting impressions." Believe it or not, home owners develop house blindness over time and may benefit from the advice of a realtor or other professional who understands

buyers' preferences within their segment of the market. Minor, low-cost suggestions can make a big difference in the outcome.

The market is hot. Let's talk.

Lowertown real estate update for January 1 to March 16, 2018

**In a nutshell:** low inventory in residential sector and plenty of buyers ready and willing to purchase.

#### Residential Update

#### **Active Listings**

8, ranging from \$299,000 for a semi-detached on St Andrew to \$965.000 for a renovated duplex with double garage on King Edward.

#### Sold Listings:

12, three of which sold over their list price. One notable sale was a 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom duplex on York St. East listed at \$1,285,000.

#### Condo Update

#### **Active Listings**

44, ranging from \$229,900 for a studio at 150 York St. to \$2,650,000 for a 4000 square-foot unit on the 17th floor at 90 George. The condo fees at

the latter are over \$3000 per month. Sold Listings:

22, the most notable being a sale on George St. at \$900,000. The property had been on the market for 652 days.

#### Conditionally Sold

4. This is a very active sector at the moment. Good news!

#### Help Wanted

The LCA Safety and Security committee is looking to hire a student in criminology or the social sciences to work on a study of crime in Lowertown. The project will last ten weeks over the summer of 2018. The student researcher will analyze local data, interview local residents, business and experts, examine experience in similar communities. If you are interested please contact Norman Moyer, the LCA Coordinator of this project, through the LCA email at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

### Enforcing condo rules: Some thoughts and comments

by Ted Lawrence

he documents that guide the management and governance of condominiums are the declaration, bylaws and rules. These documents should be provided to owners when they purchase their home.

Generally the declaration defines the units and common elements and specifies how they are used, as well as defining the percentage ownership of the units. Bylaws deal with governance and management and the rules deal with safety, security and welfare of owners and property.

Owners are responsible for familiarizing themselves with these documents and complying with them. Tenants and guests must also adhere to the rules. On the other side of the coin, the condo corporation must enforce its rules in a fair and unbiased manner and notify owners if they are not in compliance.

Condo rules can be modified by the board of directors. However the changes can be challenged by the owners within 30 days of receiving notice of the change. If the rules go unchallenged after circulation to owners they come into force. The declaration and bylaws are more difficult to change. Procedures for changing these documents are governed by the Ontario Condominium Act.

The Board is responsible for ensuring compliance by responding to complaints and actively inspecting the property to pick up on infractions. Should it unfairly apply a rule, disregard the interests of owners or fail to



take adequate steps to enforce its own rules, it puts itself in a compromising position and open to legal action. If any rule is outmoded, does not apply or is ineffectual, the Board would be well advised to revise or remove it. A periodic review is good management practice.

What is the best way to deal with infractions?

Early action is the key. If rules are regularly ignored a climate of tacit approval develops: the longer an infraction goes unaddressed the more difficult it is to obtain compliance.

The first level is to verbally advise the owner and request compliance. This is usually effective in the majority of cases. The next level is a written request. At our condo we charge an administrative fee of \$50 to cover the cost of preparing and delivering the letter. This fee is added to the owner's account.

Should additional letters be required, the tenor of the letter may be more demanding and a third letter advises that the matter will be handed over to the condo's lawyer. Each letter incurs an additional \$50 fee.

Should we engage a lawyer, the owner is advised that a lien will be put against the property to recover legal costs and any outstanding administrative fees

The question sometimes comes up: "Can't we just fine an owner for non-compliance?" The condo corporation may be on shaky grounds if such a provision is not specifically laid out in the rules. Even then, the corporation may be open to a legal challenge.

It is preferable to set up a climate of conflict resolution and open discussion rather than a hard enforcement/penalty model that tends to drive parties apart.

In an attempt to resolve conflicts between owners and between owners and condo corporations, the Ontario government has modified its Condominium Act to include conflict-resolu-

tion provisions. Since November 2017, the Condominium Authority Tribunal is tasked with resolving certain disputes, including enforcement of declarations, by-laws and condo rules.

These are only one person's thoughts and experience. Let's hear what you have to say on this issue, or any other issue about condo living in Lowertown.

Note in response to previous article

In response to the article on Airbnbs in the last issue of the Echo (9, 1, p. 3) we received a call from the manager of a well-known local hotel. He said that he and other hotels were not against the operation of Airbnbs, but they wanted them to follow the same rules and regulations that the hotel industry is required to follow so as to have a level playing field.





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### Heritage

### Borden Park: One of Lowertown's most popular parks

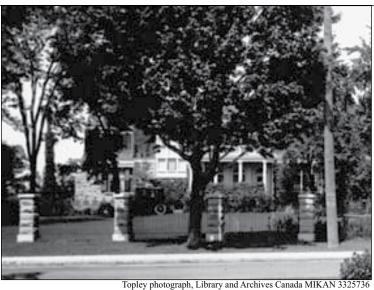
by Michel Rossignol

any current and former residents of Lowertown have fond memories of Borden Park. They remember taking pleasant walks along the tree-lined paths, enjoying a few quiet moments amid the hustle and bustle of a modern city. Many happily remember their childhood days when they played in the park's wading pool during summer heat waves or took slides down the snow-covered hills in winter.

However, those happy moments really took place in what is officially called Macdonald Gardens Park. There is no Borden Park in Ottawa's Lowertown, but you might be surprised to learn that many people use that name when referring to the park bordered by Cobourg, Heney, Wurtemburg, and Tormey streets. The name Borden Park is especially popular with Francophones as shown by its frequent use in the 2013 book Ste-Anne d'Ottawa Une belle aventure humaine, with no mention of the official name (see for example pages 49 and 186).

Prime-ministerial park

The name Borden Park is



June 1915 photo of the eastern edge of Borden Park (Macdonald Gardens Park) and the house of Sir Robert Borden (behind the trees) on the other side of Wurtemburg Street.

perhaps popular because it is less of a mouthful than Macdonald Gardens Park, but the area has long been associated with Sir Robert Borden, Canada's Prime Minister between 1911 and 1920. He lived in the house at 201 Wurtemburg Street where the Watergate Apartments is now located. just across the street from the eastern edge of the park. Borden bought the house in 1911 and continued to live

there after resigning as Prime Minister. After leaving politics, he was still actively involved in business and academic issues, and held meetings at his house with important visitors. In short, in the 1920s and 1930s, he was one of the most prominent persons in the neighbourhood. Indeed, at the official opening of the Rideau Branch of the Ottawa Public Library in 1934, Borden was the guest of honour. After Bor-

den's death in June 1937, his wife Laura continued to live in the house until her death in 1940.

While the former names of some streets and buildings in Lowertown have long been forgotten, even Sir Robert himself would be surprised to learn

that his name still lives on in the neighbourhood after all these years.

Thus, Lowertown has a prime-ministerial park, both officially and unofficially, so let us take good care of it, whatever it is called. See you in Borden Park!

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From 1912 to1914 Frederick G. Todd planned and executed this urban park on the site of the old cemetery as part of a vision for the country's capital. As the only surviving example in Ottawa of Todd's work, the remnants of his design for the Ottawa Improvement Commission are significant.

Entre 1912 et 1914, Frederick G. Todd a conçu et a participé à la construction du parc urbain sur l'emplacement des anciens cimetières dans le cadre de sa vision pour la capitale du pays. L'importance des vestiges de son concept préparé pour la Commission pour l'amélioration d'Ottawa découle du fait que le parc est le seul exemple du travail de Todd à Ottawa qui a survécu.

2 The hexagonal stone summer house with round arches and supporting buttresses is located on top of a hill and was planned to provide views of Parliament Hill. The Todd plan included retention of this high hill and other existing knolls that reflected the early topography of the area.

2 Une maison hexagonale en pierre avec des arcs plein cintre a été placée sur la cime de la colline afin d'assurer que les gens pourraient voir la colline du

Parlement. Le plan de Todd gardait cette haute colline et des petites collines avoisinantes afin de refléter la topographie originale du terrain.

Along the east side, Todd retained the large open space and existing mature trees. The original plan included gently winding paths through the park and

Le long du côté est, Todd a gardé les grandes espaces ouvertes tout en incorporant

then the Charlotte Street route was included and a staircase restored.



#### Heritage attributes that define Macdonald Gardens Park

#### Les éléments patrimoniaux qui donnent au Parc Macdonald Gardens son identité

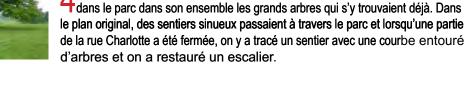
The rounded stone wall in the north west corner reflects the shape of the large circular pond originally located there. Described as a circular concrete pool ranging from 6 inches to one foot in depth, it provided a welcome wading area for local children.

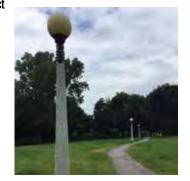
3 Le mur arrondi en pierre au coin nord-ouest reflète la forme de la piscine circulaire qui s'y trouvait. La piscine circulaire en béton avec une profondeur de six pouces à un pied créa une pataugeoire très appréciée par les enfants du quartier.



**5**The Ottawa Improvement Commission and later the Federal District Commission retained control of the park until the mid-1940s when it was returned to the City of Ottawa. The decorative composite lamp posts designed for use along Ottawa's parkway system were introduced after the park was completed.

La Commission pour l'amélioration d'Ottawa et plus tard la Commission du district fédéral ont gardé la responsabilité pour le parc jusqu'au milieu des années 1940, quand la Ville d'Ottawa l'a pris encore en charge. Des lampadaires décoratifs composés de différents matériaux conçus pour l'ensemble des parcs de la Ville d'Ottawa ont été ajoutés après les premiers travaux dans le parc.





Heritage designation of Macdonald Gardens Park provides protection against any development, demolition or inappropriate use.

La désignation patrimoniale du Parc Macdonald Gardens donne une protectioncontre le développement immobilier, la démolition ou l'utilisation inappropriée.

### Patro Saint-Vincent/Notre-Dame du Sourire d'Ottawa 410, rue St-André 1957 à 1975

par Danielle Gagné

¬ondé par les Religieux de Saint-Vincent de Paul en 1957, le Patro visait à répondre aux besoins de la population francophone de la région.

La mission du Patro Saint-Vincent/Notre-Dame du Sourire était de fournir une formation entière aux jeunes ainsi qu'aux enfants en aidant à organiser et planifier leurs temps libres.

Le Patro était un endroit où les jeunes se rencontraient pour faire des activités de tout genre.

Les dirigeants étaient très accueillants et qualifiés.

En 1964, le rapport annuel indiquait la présence de 181 225 enfants, une augmentation de 30000 enfants par rapport à l'année précédente (The Ottawa Journal, March 3, 1964).

La propriété du Patro mesurait 3,25



Entre 1957 et 1967. Jeux du camp du jour. Terrain de jeux du Patro Saint-Vincent.

acres et comprenait un immense terrain

Les activités étaient d'ordre éducatif, récréatif et pastoral. De plus, le Patro répondait aux besoins sportifs et culturels de la jeunesse.



1961 Carnaval, terrain de jeux du Patro Saint-Vincent.

ajoutée au milieu des années 1960.

La devise du Patro était «un milieu de vie où tous les francophones sont accueillis et respectés ». Encore au-

Une piscine extérieure avait été jourd'hui, il est un centre communautaire francophone avec une orientation catholique qui offre des activités et programmes culturels, récréatifs et soci-



Entre 1957 et 1967. Jeux du camp du jour. Terrain de jeux du Patro Saint-Vincent.



1961 Carnaval, terrain de jeux du Patro Saint-Vincent.

#### Sports:

Le Patro avait des équipes sportives dans plusieurs ligues de la Ville d'Ottawa, dans les sports tels que le hockey, la crosse, le ballon-balais, le judo, le ballon-panier, le ballon volant et d'autres.

Les activités culturelles offertes comprenaient du bricolage, une chorale, des pièces de théâtre, « les Patro-Mimes », un groupe de jeunes garçons reproduisant les succès musicaux du temps, le yoga, le jazz, les échecs, et le billard.

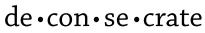
Des activités supplémentaires étaient offertes pendant l'hiver, le Carnaval, des courses de patins et deskermesses, parmi plusieurs autres.



L'enseigne à l'extérieur du Patro Saint-Vincent.

Des activités supplémentaires étaient aussi offertes pendant l'été, comme les voyages d'athlétisme « olympiques »avec des organismes similaires, du camping et la colonie de vacances du Lac Antoine qui accueillait les jeunes en pleine nature.

Le camp d'été de jour en ville avait des activités regroupées selon l'âge des participants.



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# Lowertown's playful streets

By Christina Williamson

Editor's note. Christina was a LCA

Canada Summer Jobs student in 2016,
and interviewed former Jewish residents of Lowertown for this story.

The backyards of Lowertown in the 1930s and 1940s were not where children played. Backyards were for stabling horses, growing vegetables and drying clothes. Instead, children in Lowertown played on the streets.

Children were creative in coming up with ways to entertain themselves throughout the year. In winter they enjoyed a wide array of cold-weather activities. Sylvia Kershman recalled how she would cross-country ski from her home on St. Andrew Street to Rock-cliffe, where there was a ski hill. Sol Gunner, meanwhile, remembered how in the 1940s he would play pick-up hockey with the neighbourhood kids on Murray Street.

At the time, Murray Street was paved with wooden cobbles that froze in the winter, allowing them to play ice hockey right on the road. Pucks were easy enough to find in the winter because there were many horses stabled in the community: frozen horse manure worked quite nicely. There were rules, however: no slap-shots and no raising the "puck"!

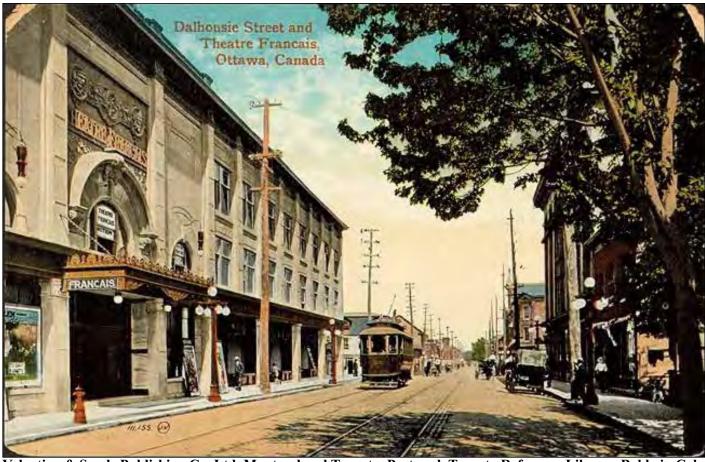
Kids also enjoyed ice skating. In 1959, Lowertown author Norman Levine wrote in the Jewish Post about his Ottawa childhood that "I used to go skating at Anglesea Square, in the open rink with the scratchy records playing waltzes over the loudspeaker, the lights on from overhead wires."

In the summer, kids had many other activities to entertain themselves. They could bike or swim, and play tennis, badminton or baseball, although "not necessarily at [sport] clubs". Mrs. Kershman notes: "you needed a brick wall, or a barn door...maybe you needed a partner maybe you didn't, but you could still play!"

Visiting the city's beaches was a popular activity as well. Lowertown residents could take the Ottawa Electric Railway tram from St. Patrick Street through town all the way to Britannia Beach, considered to be quite a distance from Ottawa at the time. Estelle Gunner laughed that it would take all day to get there. Another popular location to spend summer holidays for Lowertown's Jewish families was Carlsbad Springs, a mineral spa near Mer Bleue where, starting in the 1900s, many Ottawans would arrive to take the baths and relax at the hotels in the area.

However, these activities only took place during the summer holidays, because school had precedence over play for many of Lowertown's young Jewish children. Sol and Estelle Gunner remember that they did not have much spare time. After classes at York Street Public School they had another two hours of religious school plus their homework each day. Still Saturdays and Sundays gave some kids a chance to relax and play. Going to the movies on Saturdays is a particularly lively memory for Dr. Gunner.

He recalls the Théâtre Français and the Rideau Theatre were where "we would go from twelve o'clock and end at about six o'clock – the serials would end on a Saturday afternoon – we'd sort of walk out bleary-eyed." Rumour has it that by the 1950s, the Français was not the finest of establishments; rats used to run around on the floor forcing



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patrons to keep their legs up on the seats!

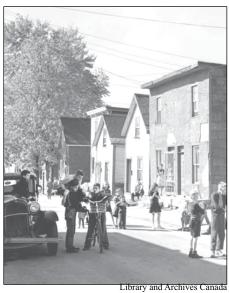
More structured activities were also available for children during the school year, such as Girl Guides, Brownies and Boy Scouts. The all-Jewish 13th Girl Guide Company was formed in the 1930s and met on Wednesday evenings in the York Street Public School gym. The 39th Hebrew Boy Scouts Troop, one of the first of its kind in Canada,

was formed in 1918. Both the boys and girls learned survival skills and went on hikes, while the Boy Scouts would also attend Camp B'nai Brith in the summer.

Teenagers were also busy with dances, socials, teas, fundraisers, debates and lectures in the Talmud Torah School, which was housed in an old public school on George Street from 1923 to 1949. Many were involved in sports teams, too, either Jewish or

mixed.

Years ago, Lowertown's streets bustled with pedlars and their horses and carts, and with people walking to the shops, to work and to home. Life could be difficult as the Jewish immigrant community worked hard to establish itself in Canada's capital city, but kids will always be kids and they made sure that the Lowertown roads were playful roads as well as working ones.



Children (above) playing on Papineau Street and (below) playing on Bruyére Street (late 1940s.)





#### **IMPORTANT SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET DATES**

(All meetings to take place at 7pm at 133 Greenbank Road)

March 20: Recommendation of academic staffing levels (COW meeting)

March 27: Approval of academic staffing levels - 70% of budget (Board meeting)

April 16: Update, including information on Ministry grants (GSNs)

May 14: Presentation of the staff-recommended budget May 30: Public delegations and committee questions

June 4: Budget debate commences

June 11: Budget debate (if required)

June 25: Budget debate (if required) and recommendations to

the Board

Should you have any questions, comments, concerns or a desire to be more involved in public education in Ottawa, please be in touch.

Shawn Menard, School Trustee
Capital/Rideau-Vanier
Shawn.Menard@OCDSB.ca

### Carré Anglesea (renommé le Parc Jules Morin)



Le cadet de l'academie de la Salle marchant au Carre Anglesea.

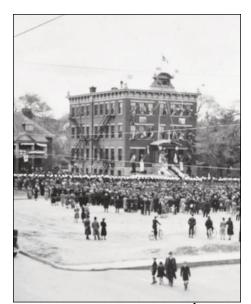
par Danielle Gagné

oté sud de la rue Clarence, entre les rues Chapel et AugustaLe Carré Anglesea était entouré de trois écoles primaires : deux écoles catholiques, l'école Brébeuf pour les gars, l'école Sainte-Anne pour les filles et l'école York pour les enfants de langue anglaise.

Le Carré était un énorme parc utilisé au maximum par presque tous les enfants, adolescents et adultes de la Basse-ville, en tant que participants ou spectateurs. Multiples activités se déroulaient à cet endroit à l'année longue.

De 1946 à 1970, un des sports les plus populaires pratiqués au Carré Anglesea était le jeu de Lacrosse. Un programme double était joué du lundi au vendredi. Des championnats de crosse juniors et seniors ont été perdus et rem-

portés à ce parc. Des milliers de spectateurs ont assisté aux jeux.



Fete Dollard des Ormeaux, École Brebeuf en arriere-plan.

Un autre sport joué au parc l'été était la balle molle.

L'hiver, les patinoires du Carré étaient utilisées quotidiennement par tous les jeunes du quartier. On patinait en rond au son de la musique! Jack Barber était le coach des patineurs de vitesse. Il a préparé plusieurs jeunes, tel que Michel Rivet, Carole Fortier et Jerry Cassan, qui avait qualifié pour les compétitions. En 1967, le championnat de patinage de vitesse de l'Ontario a eu lieu à la patinoire du Carré Anglesea et un total de 11 records de patinage de vitesse ont été établis.

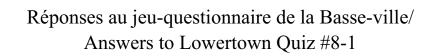
Le Carré Anglesea était aussi célèbre pour ses carnavals! Durant les années 1950 et au début des années 60, entre deux et trois mille personnes ont assisté à des programmes de courses, de patinage de fantaisie et de concours de

D'autres activités telles que les



Le Carré Angkesea

célébrations du jour de la fête de Dollard-des-Ormeaux ainsi que la fête de la Reine, aussi connue sous le nom de « la journée des pétards! », ont eu lieu au



Where in Lowertown can you:/ Où dans la Basse-ville pouvez-

- 1) Buy a Bonsai tree? / Acheter un bonsaï? Fairway Trading
- 2) Find a tribute to Franco-Ontarians?/ Trouver un hommage aux Franco-Ontariens? East side of Giant Tiger Store
- 3) Find a Statue of Mercury? Trouver une statue de Mercure? Mercury Building on Corner of George and Dalhousie
- 4) Find "Lady Bird" in December?/ Trouver « Lady Bird » en décembre? Bytowne Cinema
- 5) On what street will you find the house bearing this plaque? Sur quelle rue trouverez-vous la maison portant cette inscription? St Patrick Street

Winners - 2

#### Réponses au jeu-questionnaire de la Basse-ville/ Answers to Lowertown Quiz #9-1

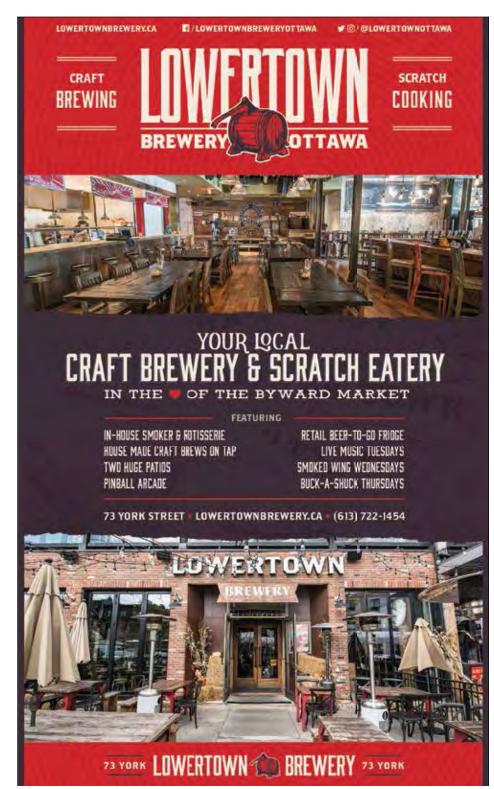
Beginning top row and moving by rows, left to right. Début de la rangée supérieure et déplacement par rangs, de gauche à

Top row: Ecole de la Salle; Bingham Park wading pool; east wall of Giant Tiger on George St;

Row 2 Lowertown Community House 145 Beausoliel Drive; Parking lot of Marriott Courtside Inn at York & Dalhou sie; Entrance to Youth Centre on Beausoliel;

Both murals are on west side of Fairview Chapel vie Row 3: wed from 230 Dalhousie St.

Winners: 0



### Le parc King Edward:Un parc bien en vue



Même si Bibliothèque et Archives Canada indique que cette photo montre le parc de la rue Cumberland, il s'agit en fait d'une photo du Parc King Edward peu après son aménagement en 1912. Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, MIKAN 3318903

by Michel Rossignol

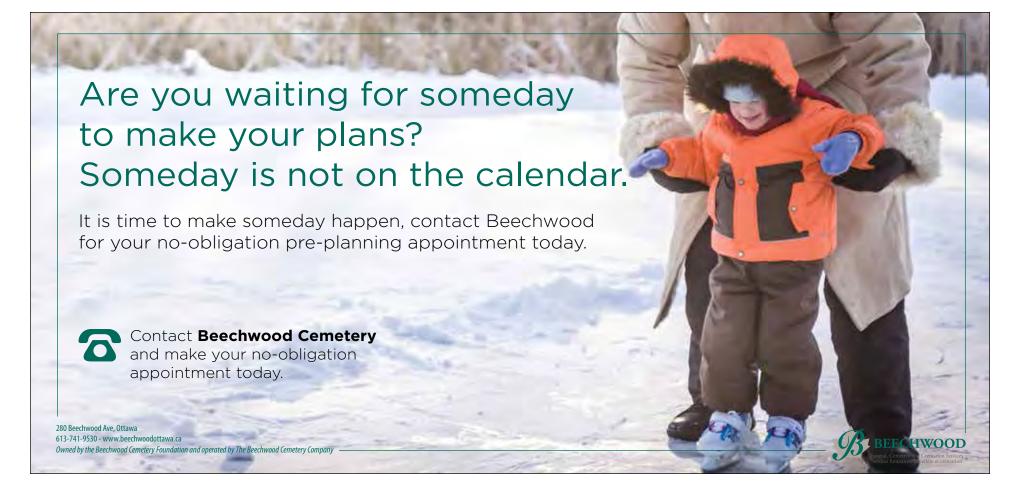
haque jour, des milliers d'automobilistes sur l'avenue King Edward passent à côté d'un petit espace vert tout près de la grande courbe qui mène au pont Cartier-Macdonald. Dans leur course effrénée, les gens ne remarquent pas le petit parc qui se trouve entre l'avenue King Edward, la rue Cathcart et la rivière Rideau. Pourtant, le Parc King Edward est un parc centenaire, un des plus anciens de la Basse-Ville et le seul vestige de ce qui était autrefois un grand boulevard tout le long de King Edward, de la rue Rideau à la rivière Rideau.

Avant la construction du pont Cartier-Macdonald dans les années 1960, il y avait de magnifiques arbres au milieu de l'avenue King Edward. Ceci était le résultat d'une initiative en 1912 de la Commission pour l'amélioration d'Ottawa qui avait reconstruit les rues et qui avait planté des arbres au beau milieu de l'avenue. En même temps, la Commission avait acheté les terrains et les maisons sur King Edward entre la rue Cathcart et la rivière Rideau. C'était justement où passaient les trains de marchandises qui traversaient au-dessus de la rivière Rideau sur le fameux pont noir, maintenant disparu. Cette partie de la Basse-Ville avait grand besoin d'amélioration en 1912 car le pont ferroviaire et les entrepôts près de la rue Dalhousie créaient un décor plutôt industriel. On a donc démoli les maisons et planté des arbres afin de créer un joli petit parc. On a même construit un petit tunnel qui permettait aux gens de marcher sous le passage ferroviaire et ainsi éviter de traverser au passage à niveau ou à des endroits encore plus dangereux.

#### Un parc royal

Après mûre réflexion, la Commission a démontré beaucoup d'audace en

donnant au petit parc le nom de... Parc King Edward. Cependant, l'idée était bonne car tout en améliorant la qualité de vie des gens du voisinage, on avait embelli l'avenue King Edward qu'on a parfois utilisé comme route cérémoniale entre Rideau Hall et la colline du Parlement, notamment lors de la visite du Roi d'Angleterre en 1939. Les heures de gloire de l'avenue King Edward sont malheureusement passées à l'histoire, mais le petit bijou vert, le Parc King Edward, est toujours là. Il ne faut pas le perdre.



### Lowertown Parks: Bits and Pieces

By Nancy Miller Chenier

owertown residents are blessed with multiple diverse green spaces. We have old public spaces like Anglesea Square and new ones like the Union Street Roundabout Basketball Court. We have large ones like Major's Hill Park and small ones like Raphael Brunet Park. We have some shared ones like Rideau Falls Park and some with recognized heritage value like Macdonald Gardens Park. We have some for exercising dogs like Cathcart Square and some for exercising people like Rose Street Park.

We have also lost some spaces – Metcalfe Square at the junction of Sussex and Dalhousie, the boulevard of King Edward avenue famous for its treed pathway and fountains, the playground on the York Street grass median near King Edward and the Patro d"Ottawa recreation grounds on St Andrew.

Have we gained another with the new York Street Plaza near Sussex?

So what are some of the stories? Here is a little history and some current information about a few of our major parks. See also the articles by Michel Rossignol on pages 5 & 9, Danielle Gagné on pages 6 & 8 and the tribute to Macdonald Gardens Park by the LCA Heritage Committee on page 5.

#### **Anglesea Square**

#### **Jules Morin Park**

Ottawa's oldest public square and first land in Bytown to be set aside for public use

Named after the Marquis of Anglesea who was the British Master-General of Ordinance when the Rideau Canal was built in the 1820s

Location for three schools –Ste Anne Roman Catholic for girls, Brebeuf Roman Catholic for boys and York Street Public

Angel Square by Brian Doyle features the park as the place where Tommy, the main character, participates in the daily fights among French Canadian, Irish Catholic and Jewish kids on their way to and from schools.

Place where King Clancy learned hockey, Lally Lalonde played lacrosse, Jules Morin snowshoed and Jack Barber taught speedskating and where the community currently holds Winterfest.

Revitalization in 2013 included weathervanes, playground, pool, and NHL size permanent outdoor rink partially funded by Senators Foundation (See Gagné p.8)



Bingham with cycle in Metcalfe Square 1890s.

#### **Bingham Park**

First playground in the city when opened in 1898 as Ottawa Ward Playground

Named after Samuel Bingham, early resident of Lowertown and Ottawa mayor

First location for Betty Hyde Nursery School, Ottawa's oldest cooperative nursery school

Early activities: summer bicycle rodeos, softball games, marble competitions; winter speed skating, hockey and recreational skat-

Current activities: pool, playground, ball diamond in summer; winter skating rink

Last baseball diamond and first art fence in Lowertown

#### **Bordeleau Park**

On land reclaimed from the Rideau

Named for Napoleon Alexandre Bordeleau, active in business, sports, school board and alderman for more than 30 years in Ottawa Ward

Playground equipment from King Edward Playground near Minto Bridges relocated near wall of Convent of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd in 1950s

Formerly site of hockey rink and baseball diamond near corner of Rose

Redesign to include wooden gazebo and water feature in the 1980s

New swings, play structures and splash pad installed in 2009

#### **Cathcart Square**

Named for nearby street that was named for General Charles Murray Cathcart, Governor of Province of Canada

Site of market for fish and meat installed in 1877 at same time as one on Anglesea Square

Proposal by Parks and Recreation Department to sell the park in 1964 while the city council centennial committee proposed using the site to build a replica of the first hospital of the Grey Nuns of the Cross

Cumberland Street closed between Cathcart and Bolton in 1976

Fence to separate off-leash dogs from playground area installed in 2017

#### **King Edward Park**

Named after King Edward VII

Land and existing buildings purchased in 1912 by Ottawa Improvement Commission for development of park with paths, flowers, and shrubs

See article on p.9 by Michel Rossignol

#### **Macdonald Gardens Park**

First park in Ottawa to be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (See diagram on p. 6 for attributes)

Named after Sir John A Macdonald, first Prime Minister of Canada, by Sir Robert Borden, 8th Prime Minister who lived in adjacent house on Wurtemburg Street

Also called Heney Park (in Brian Doyle books) and Borden Park (see article p. 6 by Michel Rossig-

Park on the site of four cemeteries designed and completed by Frederick G Todd, first resident landscape architect in Canada

#### Major's Hill Park

Established as the capital's first formal park in 1875

Named after Major Daniel Bolton who replaced Colonel By after his return to England in 1832

Contains remains of house where Colonel By lived with his wife Esther and two daughters during the building of the canal

Stone heritage building, former header house that was part of a greenhouse complex, now occupied by Tavern on the Hill

Former site of noon gun

#### **Nepean Point**

Named for Sir Evan Nepean, British Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department

Site of huge bonfire to celebrate 1860s visit by Prince of Wales

Ottawa Improvement Commission in 1912 reported the construction of a lookout, a summer house and a footbridge to connect with Major's Hill Park

Location for statue of Champlain holding astrolabe and soon to be replaced Astrolabe Theater

#### Tell us about your park!

Do you have stores, photographs or information about your local park, or a favourite park in the City?

Marc Lowell and David Lafranchise, who have researched and published as House History Ottawa, are planning a book on Ottawa parks — use, origins, landscaping, monuments — and their association with notable people and events. They plan to give full coverage to selected parks from across the City associated with the most interesting stories. Even small parks can have interesting associations; for example, one person's campaign to improve a street corner or save a view.

If you have stories, photographs or other information about an Ottawa park, they would like to hear from you. You can reach them by e-mail at househistory@tricolour.ca, by telephone at 313-998-2021 or by post at House History Ottawa, c/o 3 Salisbury Place, Ottawa K2P 1G6.

Their website is htttp://househistory.tricolour.ca.

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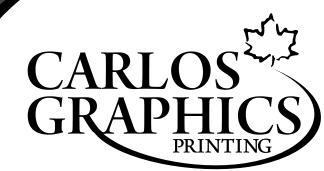
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### "Wedge" residents adopt Bordeleau Park

by Sandra Milton

River "Wedge" have been caring for Bordeleau Park for years, raising money for new playground equipment, launching a dock on the river, overseeing the river ice cutting, and organizing annual clean ups.

Last year we decided to go a step further and apply to the City of Ottawa Adopt-a-Park program. We knew our neighbours cared about the park, and many talked about the connections they made in the off-lease dog area, at the tennis courts and in the playground.

There is a sense of community that is generated by interactions in and around Bordeleau Park. Adopting the park has brought a feeling of pride and has created a real neighbourhood in the heart of the city. We wanted to make our area a place that feels safe and welcoming for ourselves and others.

Our park is well used on a daily basis by diverse individuals and groups: students at nearby schools, leisure walkers, joggers, cyclists, people walking to work, children and adults on their way to the basketball court, residents from nearby shelters. In addition, the park attracts people to the city core for family picnics, outdoor sports, dog walking, playground activities and tennis, while others just want to come and stroll along the river edge enjoying tranquility in the city centre.

You have to care when you adopt something and that includes a park. When we get together to clean up the park, it can involve neighbours, our local schools, our Councillor and the Causeway Needle Program. This past October, we worked with teachers and students from the École secondaire publique De La Salle for the fall cleanup event and to teach about park history, trees and the environment.

Yes we share the park and enjoy seeing everyone use it. It's always interesting what we will find on clean-up day. It has brought a real sense of community as we say hello to the person who lives next door or around the corner or is just passing by. We know if there are strangers to the area and look out for each other. Adopting a park promotes the safety of our parks by preventing neglect and misuse and encouraging appropriate community use and enjoyment.



Bordeleau Park and neighbouring "Wedge."

We have pride in the park and we care about our environment.

What is the City of Ottawa Adopt-a-Park Program?

With Adopt-a-Park, you can work as an individual, group or business to protect the green spaces around you. Adopting a park is a commitment, but the amount of time you put in can vary. Your commitment can be as simple or as involved as you choose. Here are some examples of what adopting a park can mean:

Picking up litter in the park or along the shoreline or paths

Identifying and reporting broken benches or waste receptacles to the City

Reporting on the health of the trees to the City

The Adopt-a-Park program is free and the City of Ottawa will provide the materials and support needed to complete the twice annual clean-up activities.

The city will erect an Adopt-a-Park sign with your group name on it, recognizing your commitment to the park's maintenance. In return, Park Adopters agree to:

Work together with the City to coordinate projects and park events;

Sign up to adopt a park for a minimum of two years to a maximum of five years;

Host a minimum of two clean-ups per year, spring and fall;

Register the clean-up with the City for the GLAD Cleaning the Capital campaign;



### Lowertown parks already adopted:

Bordeleau/King Edward Park Friends of Bordeleau Park/Amis du parc Bordeleau 2017

Jules Morin Park/Anglesea Square Rotaract Club of Ottawa 2014

Macdonald Gardens Park Friends of Macdonald Gardens 2012

#### Parks waiting to be adopted:

Bingham Park

Cathcart Square Park

**Cumberland Park** 

Raphael Brunet Park

Record and report on the clean-up to the City.

For more information on the E-mail : adopt@ottawa.ca

#### Jeu-questionnaire de la Basse-ville #9-2 Lowertown Quiz #9-2

Where was the first playground in Ottawa?/ Où se trouvait le premier terrain de jeu à Ottawa?

How many parks in Lowertown are named after municipal politicians?/ Combien de parcs dans la Basse-Ville portent le nom de politiciens municipaux?

What sport is as popular in Malaysia as hockey is in Canada?/ Quel sport est aussi populaire en Malaisie que le hockey au Canada?

How many parks in Lowertown are waiting to be adopted? Combien de parcs de la Basse-Ville n'ont toujours pas été adoptés?

What was a common name for Macdonald Gardens Park?/ Quel était le nom communément utilisé pour le parc Macdonald Gardens?

When and where was the match for the Bingham Cup played?/ Quand et où s'est déroulé le match pour la coupe Bingham?

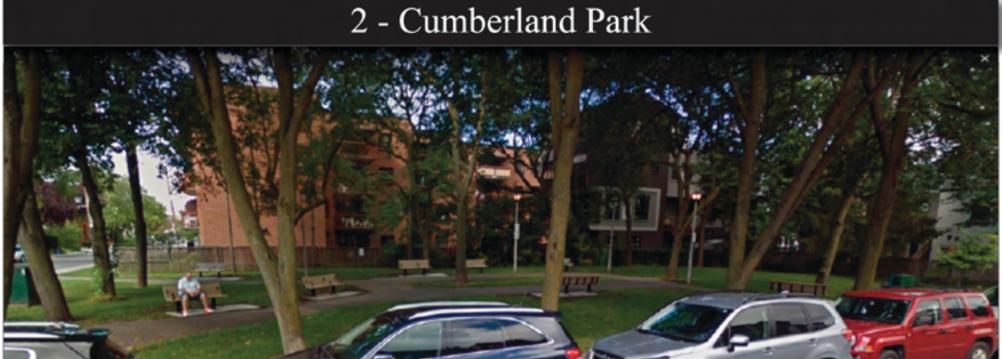
A winner will be drawn on may1st from the names of all those who have submitted correct entries. The prize will be two memberships to the Bytowne cinema.

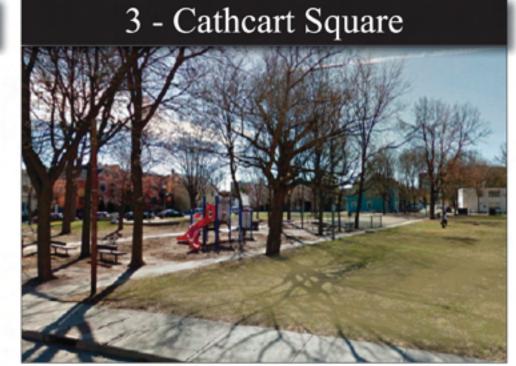
Le nom d'un gagnant sera tiré au sort le 1er mai parmi les personnes ayant répondu correctement à toutes les questions. Le prix sera de deux abonnement au cinéma Bytowne

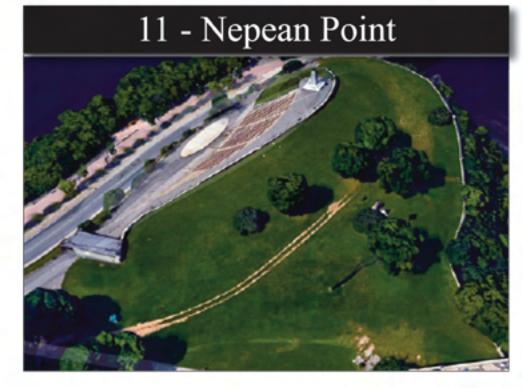
Submit your answers to ads.in.echo@gmail.com Envoyez vos réponses à ads.in.echo@gmail.com









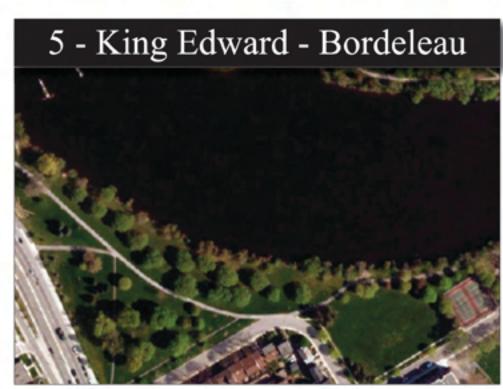


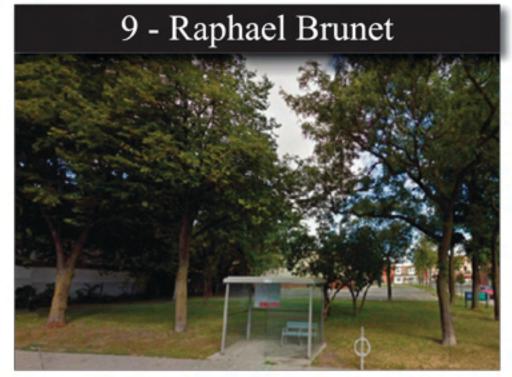


















#### LRT cont'd from Page 1

The delay, combined with the uncertainty of new management with new direction, is also having an effect on the mood among market merchants. Some doubt that the new start date of November will be met and are getting ready to write off a bountiful Christmas season, as well. There is also a rumour that when the LRT is up and running, construction on Rideau Street will continue for at least another year.

Until you actually make the journey from Rideau Street into the market area, it is difficult to appreciate the attitude of shop owners. The view looking south down William Street is the shiny new façade of Simons. The view from there looking north at the pathway into the market isn't quite so appealing.



Shady walk along Rideau Street towards Market entrance.

It seems like such a long time ago that the merchants were told this would be short-term pain for long-term gain. Unfortunately, the short-term keeps getting longer. Meanwhile, as the photo shows, the fencing put in place to make the area seem somewhat attractive is well-past its best-before date.

The setting does little to dispel the negative stereotype as a seamy, marginally safe/unsafe place that many people hold of the market area. The passageway looks uninviting even at midday. Imagine how it appears in darkness when there are fewer people around?

Unfortunately, there is little that can be done at this late date other than for the market merchants to grin-and-bear-it and watch the promise of another season turn into hope for the next.

#### Farm Boy cont'd from Page 1

"Inspiration Village", many business owners have seen foot traffic drop, and sales along with them.

Santiago Diaz of Continental Bagel says his sales were down 15-20% last year. Adnan Üstun, president of the Byward Market Tenants Association (those within the 55 Byward Market building), says the only thing keeping businesses like his from closing is the hope of new foot traffic with the opening of the new LRT station on Rideau. At Byward Market Fruit, the arrival of the Farm Boy created immediate ripple effects and an observable decline in clientele.

After already reducing their store operations from 8 employees 5 years ago to 4 now, the threat posed by the new Farm Boy is very real.

Yet all are not concerned by Farm Boy's arrival. Reflecting on a 50 year career in the Market, Saslove's owner, John Deiner, points out that the businesses who have adapted remain strong today. He credits Saslove's constant evolution to meet changing customer expectations for their continued success. No small thing when you consider there were 11 butchers in the Market in the early 1970s – Saslove's is the only one left. John hasn't seen any notable decline in sales after Farm Boy's opening and isn't ready to say yet whether its impact will be positive or negative.

It's a similar story at Lapointe's Fish Market, where Roberto Pachece is confident in the competitive niche they occupy with their specialization and unique fresh products. The Moulin de Provence makes this case too. Theirs are fresh and unique products that Farm Boy can't and won't offer. So, for some businesses at least, the Farm Boy doesn't appear to pose a threat.

More worrying perhaps then the arrival of the Farm Boy, are the larger issues business owners raise. Nearly all share concerns about empty parking spaces, reduced foot traffic, vanishing farmers' stalls in the summer and



Farm Boy in Rideau Centre offers a selection of fresh produce

changing eating habits as people cook less at home.

Early excitement for Ottawa Markets, the new Municipal Services Corporation responsible for driving a positive vision of a thriving traditional fresh food market, has waned among some owners. Many wonder why new management hasn't visited them or why they haven't seen anything regarding plans and next steps. Given Ottawa Markets only began operating legally as of January, it may be too soon to tell whether these concerns are warranted.

Even as delays continue to affect the opening of the LRT and Ottawa Markets prepares for its first summer season, local business owners are eagerly waiting to see if the long-awaited revitalization of our traditional downtown market is finally in the cards. Residents are too.



# Parks, kids and community

by John Chenier

That do men do when they need a rest from shoveling snow off a skating rink? Usually, they just stand around, leaning on their shovels and sharing stories. If you happen to be shoveling with folks who grew up in Lowertown — someone like 82-year old Bob Lafontaine you will get glimpses of what the neighbourhood parks were like 50 or 60 years ago — before the big Lowertown derangement.

Back then, Lowertown was about parks and kids and community. You see snippets of those times in the articles appearing in the heritage section of this

Bob tells stories of the sports leagues that thrived at Bingham rink when he was a child and later when he was an adult. There were four men's and four women's broomball teams that competed regularly. And when they weren't competing, they were often skating to music on the oval that surrounded the hockey rink.

What made all this possible was the link between the residents and the businesses of Lowertown who provided money to sponsor the teams — supplied the jerseys and provided for the banquets that came at the end of the season.

It was Bob's musings that led to the main themes of this issue – the parks of Lowertown, then and now — and this article, an exploration of the current links between the residents of Lowertown and the business community

There no longer are lacrosse, hockey, softball or broomball teams sporting the logo of a local business, and many of our sports facilities languish because of it. Where there used to be four ball diamonds in Lowertown, now there is only one. The combination of bad weather and fewer volunteers poses a threat to the continuance of the remaining outdoor rinks.

#### Community links

The good news is that many Lowertown businesses remain active in the community. The better news is that there appear to be more ready to respond should the right request come their way.

Many merchants have favourite charities that they support for various personal reasons – the Heart Institute or causes researching and combating comstricken a family member — and there is nothing wrong with that. But there are also some that focus their giving

or to causes that provide benefits to many Lowertown residents.

Many of the groups and agencies that belong to Lowertown Our Home say they receive donations of food and supplies for their monthly and annual events. The also receive coupons or vouchers to be distributed to agency clientele or to reward volunteers.

> Lowertown was about parks and kids and community

The Lowertown Community Association (LCA) receives donations from many businesses for its silent auction or to give out as door prizes at its annual general meeting. Two years ago, the silent auction raised over a thousand dollars. The LCA, in turn, uses the money to support community events like Winterfest and the Bingham Cup.

There are formal events to raise money as well. The ByWard BIA works with participating restaurants in the annual stew cook-off with the proceeds going to the Lowertown Community Resource Centre. The event raises close to \$5,000 every year.

Other events raise modest amounts for local organizations. The annual Servers Games at Winterfest raises several hundred dollars which it donates to the Bruyére Hospital in memory of Julie Donnelly, a long-time employee of the Heart & Crown.

Another event, Barket, which takes place this year on May 29th this year, will be donating the money it raises to Bruyére Hospital in support of its pet therapy program. The driving force behind Barket. France Lavigne of Pub 101, has managed to get Tito's Vodka to agree to match the money raised at the event.

The Heart & Crown solicits donations to fund its annual Christmas Dinner which provides a gift and free dinner to all who walk in the door. Given that it considers itself to be an Irish pub, it is not surprising that it is deeply involved with the Irish community. The H&C hosts the Irish-Canadian mon and rare diseases that may have luncheon which usually raises over \$10,000. One of the owners of the H&C, Pat Kelly helped purchase St Brigid's Church, saving it from an un-

specifically on Lowertown organization certain fate. The church is now the Na- Lowertown. Steve's biggest charity is tional Irish-Canadian Cultural Centre — a valuable community resource.

Schad, the Fashion Boutique on Sussex Drive used to run the "Warm and Fuzzy" drive: a program that would collect gently-used winter coats to be distributed among the various shelters. Three years ago, Schad brought the Shoebox Project to Ottawa. Shoebox, which began in Montreal and spread to Toronto, encourages people to fill a shoebox with about \$50 worth of "nice things" for women living in shelters and drop these at a collection point for distribution. When Schad acted as the only collection point in Ottawa, they collected around 300 boxes during the campaign. Now that more firms in Ottawa are involved, the number of boxes it collects has fallen to around 50.

Another part of the Schad empire, Tavern-on-the-Hill, raises funds to support of research into dementia at University of Ottawa and the Bruyére Hospital. The newest business, Tavernon-the-Falls located where the Rideau River cascades into the Ottawa, will also be participating.

Another Lowertown business involved in working with women's shelters, mainly through Centre Espoir Sophie, is Pharmacie Brisson. The pharmacy also puts its multilingual capabilities to good use working with new immigrants at the Catholic Centre for Immigrants on Boteler Street.

Several agencies contacted for this article mentioned the work of Steve Monuk on behalf of the children of the Christie Lake Kids which "serves economically disadvantaged children and youth by providing recreation and skill-building programs at no cost and with all barriers to participation re-

While we may not think of chain stores as local merchants, many of these sponsor national events to raise money for various causes. One which is happening soon is the SHOPPERS (Drug Mart) LOVE YOU Run for Women. Most of the chains such as Loblaws, Sobey's, Shoppers and so on have processes for local groups to apply for project funding or event sponsoring. However, many agencies that could use the money find the the application process arduous and lead time is often very long.

Finally, there is The Echo. Many of the merchants who advertise in our paper do not depend on Lowertown residents for their businesses. A few even have more work and clients than they can handle at present and take out advertisements as their way to support the community.

So, while the face of community involvement may have changed since the '50s, many Lowertown businesses continue to offer support to the community. Some could and would do more if the right opportunity came along, but they don't have the time to go in search of worthy causes. The causes must come to them. Those working to make Lowertown a great place to live must show them how and where they could help.

Get Involved in YOUR community Here are some ways Join/Establish Neighbourhood Watch Organize or join Adopt-a-Park Attend the Lowertown East Residents Committee Check out Lowertown Our Home Join the Board of the community association LCA committees to join: Heritage Safety & Security Planning Transportation & Traffic Environment Homelessness You can make a difference!

#### Donors to Lowertown

Here is an incomplete list of Lowertown businesses that are known to have provided time, money, services, or products in support of Lowertown causes. There are certainly more, and the Echo invites them to share their stories.

3 Brothers Shawarma All Dolled Up Bridgehead ByWard BIA C'est Bon Cooking Cornerstones Cumberland Pizza Cylie Artisans Chocolatiers

Das Lokal Daya Organic Spa Fugals Resto-Pub Heart & Crown L'Hexagon Loblaws Lococina Lowertown Brewery

Lowertown Canning Company Lynn's Tailoring Metro Ottawa Public Library, Rideau Branch Pete's Gluten Free

Pharmacie Brisson Portuguese Bakery Pub 101 Rideau Bakery

Schad Fashion Boutique Sen's Place The Clocktower

The Laff The Syrian Kitchen

Wunderkammer

### We are YOUR Community Resource Centre

By Matt Beutel, Executive Director, Lowertown Community Resource Centre

his is the third issue of the new Lowertown Echo and you may have noticed that we at the Lowertown Community Resource Centre have jumped in with gusto! Allow me to explain why...

When I arrived at the Resource Centre in August 2016, I was struck by two things: the quality of our staff and services and our under-the-radar profile.

Every day I see the impact that we have on the lives of Lowertown residents: the gratitude expressed by someone struggling with anxiety or family conflict after having been listened to; the relief felt by a resident who has been given a bus ticket to get to a medical appointment on the other side of town or a bag full of groceries to help feed her family for the week; the joy on the face of a youth who has made a trusted connection with one of our after-school workers.

The team here is exceptional. They are a group of compassionate and dedicated social workers, child and youth workers, counselors, educators, receptionists (see our article in the previous



Marty Mudie, Matt Beutel, Sally Arsove, Anabelle, promoting the Lowertown Community Resource Centre on March 17, 2018.

Marty Mudie, Matt Beutel, Sally Arsove et Anabelle faisant la promotion du Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville le 17 mars 2018.

Echo), volunteers, coordinators and managers who go above and beyond. We serve hundreds of residents every year and those who know us well are great ambassadors. Yet I am continually amazed at how many residents of Lowertown do not know us at all despite our having been in the neighbourhood for 40 years! Some folks have grown up across the street and only just realized

who we are! When I explain to residents what we do, I often hear a version of the following response: "Oh, I don't need those programs." It is quite clear that we need to improve how we promote

So back to the Echo. Obviously, we like this newspaper so much because it gives us a chance to be better known by the people that we are here to serve: the

residents of Lowertown. But more importantly, the Echo and our Centre share the very thing that is central to each's reason for existing: to improve the quality of life in this community. You may never need any of our resources directly, but our Centre helps make a safer, more connected, and more vibrant Lowertown for all who live and work here. We provide a safe and healthy place for kids and youth to go after school and in the evening, we support people facing mental health challenges, we offer welcoming spaces for Lowertowners to connect with one another, we work with residents and partners on community safety, and so much more.

We want every single Lowertown resident to feel connected to us. This is a standing call and invitation! Please get to know us; reach out to us if you, a friend or a neighbour could use a helping hand. Volunteer for our Board or for one of our activities. Attend one of our community events. Drop by for a chat. Let us know how we can do even better!

We are YOUR community resource centre.

Lowertown Community Resource Centre 613-789-3930 / www.crcbv.ca

### VOTRE Centre de ressources communautaires

par Matt Beutel, directeur général, Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville

I s'agit du troisième numéro du nouvel Écho de la Basse-Ville, et vous avez peut-être déjà remarqué que nous tous, au Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville, avons pris part à ce projet avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme! Permettez-moi de vous expliquer pourquoi...

Lors de mon arrivée au Centre de ressources en août 2016, j'ai été frappé par deux choses : la haut niveau de qualité de service maintenu par notre personnel, ainsi que notre visibilité pour le moins discrète.

Chaque jour, je constate la différence que nous faisons auprès des résidents de la Basse-Ville : ça se voit par la gratitude exprimée par quelqu'un qui est aux prises avec de l'anxiété ou des conflits familiaux, et qui s'est senti écouté; par le soulagement ressenti par une résidente à qui l'on a offert un billet d'autobus pour un rendez-vous médical à l'autre bout de la ville ou un sac rem-

pli de provisions pour nourrir sa famille pendant la semaine; par la joie sur le visage d'un jeune qui a établi une relation de confiance avec un de nos intervenants de programme parascolaire.

L'équipe ici est exceptionnelle. Il s'agit d'un groupe de gens compatissants et dévoués qui se dépassent continuellement; cette équipe est composée de travailleurs sociaux, d'intervenants auprès des enfants et des jeunes, de conseillers, d'éducateurs, de réceptionnistes (veuillez vous reporter à notre article de l'Écho précédent), de bénévoles, de coordonnateurs et de gestionnaires. Nous offrons des services à des centaines de résidents chaque année, et ceux qui nous connaissent bien sont d'excellents ambassadeurs.

Pourtant, je suis toujours étonné par le grand nombre de résidents de la Basse-Ville qui ne nous connaissent pas, malgré le fait que nous sommes présents dans le quartier depuis 40 ans! Certaines personnes ont grandi à un coin de rue de notre centre, et elles ne réalisent que depuis peu qui nous sommes! Lorsque j'explique aux résidents en quoi consiste notre travail, j'entends souvent ce genre de réponse : « Oh, mais je n'ai pas besoin de ces programmes. » Clairement, nous n'avons pas été les chefs de file en auto-promotion!

Revenons alors à l'Écho. De toute évidence, nous aimons ce journal parce qu'il nous offre la chance d'être mieux connu par les gens que nous souhaitons aider : les habitants de la Basse Ville. Mais plus important encore, l'Écho et notre Centre partagent la même mission : améliorer la qualité de vie des gens au sein de notre communauté. Vous n'aurez peut-être jamais besoin de nos ressources de façon directe, mais notre Centre contribue à rendre la Basse-Ville plus sécuritaire, plus connectée et plus dynamique pour tous ceux qui y vivent et y travaillent. Nous fournissons un endroit sécuritaire et sain pour les enfants et les jeunes après l'école et le soir, nous soutenons les personnes aux prises avec des problèmes de santé mentale, nous offrons des espaces accueillants où les gens du quartier peuvent créer des liens entre eux, nous collaborons avec les résidents et les partenaires en matière de sécurité communautaire, et bien plus encore.

Nous voulons que chaque résident de la Basse-Ville se sente lié à nous. Nous vous lançons donc officiellement un appel! Prenez le temps de nous connaître : communiquez avec nous si vous, un ami ou un voisin avez besoin d'un coup de main; faites du bénévolat auprès de notre Conseil d'administration ou pour l'une de nos activités; participez à l'un de nos événements communautaires; venez nous faire un brin de jasette; et faites-nous savoir comment nous pouvons améliorer!

Nous sommes VOTRE Centre de ressources communautaires!

Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville, 613-789-3930, www.crcbv.ca



### King Edward: measures to slow down traffic being explored

By Ana-Maria Tarres

here is a speeding problem on King Edward Avenue (KEA). Around 25,000 vehicles use this interprovincial corridor each day, of which 2,500 are heavy trucks carrying freight, logs and dangerous substances.



A bird's-eye view of KEA.

A study conducted by the City of Ottawa last summer showed that 95% of vehicles drove over the 40km/h limit, and close to 20% drove above 60km/h. Given the high amount of traffic and density of population in this area, it is a serious concern to users of active transportation. And given the weight of heavy trucks, when these speed down a residential street they produce loud noises and vibrations, which impact the quality of life of residents.

The politics behind this outrageous mistake of urban planning are too numerous to cover in this article, but it's worth mentioning that the City and the Province have each committed \$2.5

million to fund the environmental assessment needed for a proposed truck tunnel, but the Federal government has not, and it does not look like it will. It is likely that a final solution to downtown trucks will not arrive for at least 10 or 20 years. For this reason, the LCA's Transportation Committee (LCA-TC) has met with our councillor and staff from the City's Transportation Department to discuss measures to make this interprovincial route safer for users of active transportation and more tolerable to residents.

Ensuring that vehicles abide by the speed limit requires a road reconfiguration. KEA was designed for a speed limit of 50km/h and City staff insist that maintaining six lanes is necessary to accommodate high traffic flows for a total of 15 hours per week (3 hours x 5 days). Given this limitation, the LCA-TC has proposed a number of measures which may succeed in reducing the speed of vehicles.

These include: making the right lane north of St. Patrick Street a turning lane only by using curb pins; using photo radar on KEA; restricting the time during which trucks can travel on KEA to daytime hours; confining trucks to the left lane; enforcing red-light tickets on vehicles registered in Quebec; having more regular police enforcement of the speed limit; and reducing the pedestrian wait time at the St. Andrew crossing. Several of these measures are being studied by City staff at this time. We will provide an update on their outcome later this year.

The LCA-TC plans to hold a transportation workshop for the entire Lowertown community this year.

Stay tuned.



Mathieu Fleury News

King Edward Avenue as an interprovincial thoroughfare.

# Looking for a great small retail or office space?



by Sylvie Grenier

The NCC is in the process of renting 7 Clarence. This is a new building replacing the structure that used to house Memories, now located at 136 St. Patrick. For most of 2017, 7 Clarence was used as an international pavilion open to the public for the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Six international diplomatic missions presented exhibits and public events celebrating their links to Canada.

Resolutely modern, the two-storey building echoes nicely the adjacent heritage buildings. It features new materials as well as salvaged stones taken from the former structure. The building is universally accessible. It is slightly larger than the previous building and offers 3,200 square feet of rental space. It would make a great retail and/or office space.

The new building is the result of several consultations with community stakeholders, heritage experts and other interested parties in the historic By-Ward Market area. During the consultation process, the NCC agreed to modify the rental policy for its buildings located in the ByWard Market, specifically for commercial space along Sussex and close to Sussex. It agreed to rent to small Canadian retail businesses, not restaurants or bars. This is to counteract the persistent loss of small retail stores and the proliferation of bars and restaurants. This new rental policy is meant to ensure that the ByWard Market offers a healthy mix of commercial activities that occur throughout the day, not only at night.

Residents of the ByWard Market neighbourhood involved in the consultation were impressed with the NCC's open and effective consultation process. It is a real model for all new projects in the area. We hope that the NCC's new rental policy will help create a diversity of unique retail stores that will make the area more attractive to residents and visitors alike.

# Thinking of Selling this Spring... the market is *HOT*

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Lynda Cox & Jim Cox
Sales Representatives

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It was a pleasure to visit the Jules Morin Park and meet members of the Community during Lowertown's 9th Annual Winterfest Celebration on Family Day!



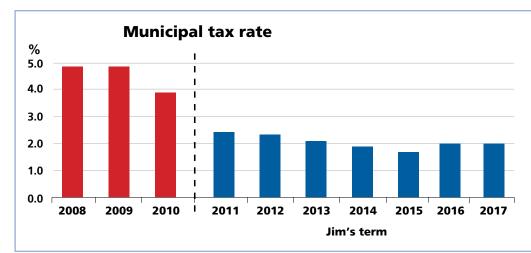
#### **City Building**

- Confederation Line of our Light Rail Transit (LRT) System opening to the public in November 2018
- Record \$80 million invested into cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in this Term of Council
- Additional \$10 million being invested into road repairs and resurfacing in 2018 to bring the total roads budget to \$45.2 million
- Partnership with Library and Archives Canada and \$73.3 million funding secured for the new Ottawa Central Library



#### Community

- Official opening of the House of Sport at the RA Centre, which houses various local and national Sporting and Multi-Sport Organizations
- Official opening of the newly expanded and renovated Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG) on April 28, 2018
- 136 new affordable housing units to be completed in 2018, with 142 more to be built in 2019
- New Red Light cameras being installed and a new
   30 km/h speed policy in school zones being implemented
- Implemented the low income transit pass, EquiPass, and single-ride fare, EquiFare



#### **Affordability**

- Overall surplus of \$24.9 million for 2017
- Maintained a Moody's AAA credit rating
- Keeping the City affordable with a 2% tax cap

# Meet your neighbour

by Joel Weiner

Then you travel and clear immigration, are you asked for your visa or handed a pen? If you happen to be Lowertown's Dominic Soong, you may get the pen to sign autographs for admiring border agents. That's because, in the international world of competitive badminton. Dominic is famous: a former world ranked #2 in men's doubles.

Born in Malaysia, Dominic began playing badminton at the age of 6 with a racket purchased for the princely sum of \$1 from a charity shop. His family was not well off, so his version of a court was newspapers hanging from a string strung across the back yard.

Fortunately, school provided him the opportunity to develop and display his talent at the game. Dom was a star on his elementary and high school teams and was just 16 when he represented Malaysia and won the Asian school boys' championship in Manila.

After graduation, he was selected to go to Kuala Lampur to train full time with the national team on the international circuit. This culminated with a second-place finish in the men's doubles at the 1976 Thomas Cup (equivalent to the World Cup for soccer).

In 1978, Dom was lured to Canada by an invitation to coach at a presti-

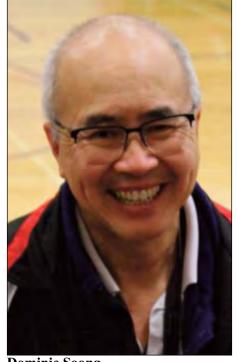
gious private club, the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association . A year later, he placed first in the men's doubles at the Canada Individual Championships.

Following the exodus of English corporate offices from Quebec in the 1970s, the MAAA began to flounder and Dom was finding his lack of French fluency a liability. On the advice of a friend, he moved to Ottawa where he supported himself by doing freelance coaching and working in a sports shop. Soon, his services were in such demand that he was travelling across the country to assist provincial teams.

But it was in Ottawa that Dom met Janet, his wife to be. A Bell Canada employee who moved to Canada's capital from Toronto, she had played badminton since her teens and had several high school and university championships to her credit. They married in

Today, they operate the very successful Soong Badminton Academy. Launched in 1996, its first lessons were conducted in the Immaculata High School gymnasium with a class of just seven students. They have never looked back since.

The academy now serves some 500 "students" ranging in age from 5 to 75 and, in addition to Dom and Janet, employs another 20 certified coaches on



**Dominic Soong.** 

an as-needed basis. To meet the demand, instruction is now offered for 10 week terms in fall and winter, 8 weeks in the spring and 10 weeks of summer camps offered in the summer. In addition, the academy fields a team of 48 players (24 girls and 24 boys) which competes in tournaments at the provincial level.

In the 20 years that Dom and Janet have been operating their business, they have had numerous successes. Their

teaching and mentoring program has produced coaches for many university teams in the province. Three players coached by Dominic as part of Ontario's Provincial team (of which he was the head coach for 8 years) competed in the 2004 Olympics in Athens and one subsequently finished 2nd in the Swiss Open.

Dom and Janet have seen many changes since the early days of the academy. One of the most prominent is the changing demographics in some of our major cities. More people are emigrating from countries such as China and India, where badminton is a preeminent sport like hockey is in Canada. In that realm, Dominic Soong is the equivalent of a Jean Beliveau or George Armstrong and is similarly remembered and revered.

Janet tells the story of a recent visit to Singapore where she passed through customs in a matter of minutes. As a Canadian citizen born in Malaysia, Dom was channeled through a different line. After waiting almost half-an-hour she began to get worried. However a few minutes later he emerged. The border agents recognized the name and diverted the line so that they could get autographs and pictures.

How about that? A superstar right in our neighbourhood.



#### Lowertown Community **Resource Centre**

**COURS DE YOGA** Mardis de 13 h à 14 h Lundis de 14 h à 15 h Pour adultes 50 ans et +, au pavillon du Parc Jules Moriim

**YOGA CLASSES** Tuesdays 1-2 pm **ZUMBA CLASSES** Mondays 2-3 pm For adults 50+, at the fieldhouse in Jules Morin Park

#### **BASSE-VILLE EN FÊTE 2018!**

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Give Peace a Chance

### Urban wildlife in Lowertown

by Juliet O'Neill

gave no thought to urban wildlife until one day I walked out my back door to find a family of raccoons looking up at me. I ran back in and they scampered down to their new home under my deck. Don't laugh; I was worried for my cats. I called the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre. The person who answered did have a laugh.

No, she told me, the Wildlife Centre wouldn't come and collect the raccoons. Also, my cats would see more raccoons in one evening in the Market area than I would see in my lifetime. And not to worry: cats and raccoons often become buddies.

"Cats and raccoons get along very well," confirms Donna Du Breuil. Most wildlife does not want conflict with any animal, she said in an interview.

Du Breuil is president of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, which no longer has a hotline (that used to get as many as 10,000 calls a year) or rehab facilities. Instead the Centre focuses on education, advocating peaceful coexistence with urban wildlife.

The Centre's web site says that in an age when declining urban green space pushes wildlife onto residential properties, the organization "strongly believes that appreciating the wildlife in our backyards is the first step in conservation and that all major change has to start with one individual's actions."

That means that if you don't welcome the creatures, take proactive steps to minimize food and water attractions on your property, and take a few homemaintenance measures to animal proof vulnerable spots. The Wildlife Centre emphasizes that care should be taken to not separate parents from babies; wait until after they are weaned and have moved along to a more natural spot before you animal proof entries.

"Then, you can relax and enjoy the distinct pleasure of watching squirrels



You look like my cousin.

perform their acrobatic feats high up in the trees, be amused by the single file of baby skunks following their mother on a foraging trip through your garden at dusk or a couple of cottontail rabbits playing tag on your lawn," says a Wildlife Centre blog.

#### Sound a bit romantic?

Until neighbours complained, a Lowertown couple tolerated, if not enjoyed, a groundhog which had built tunnels under their garage and settled in for



It was an Amazon delivery.

what looked like the long haul. They lured the groundhog into a homemade cage with apples and lettuce and deliv-



Meter reading.

ered it closer to the wild.

Beware that it is illegal under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to trap and relocate wildlife beyond one kilometer from point of capture, the Centre notes. Before you consider trapping and relocating a wild animal, "remember the situation is temporary."

"The safest option is to give a grace period until babies are coming out with mom, before undertaking animal proofing," the Centre advises. "It is critical not to trap young inside, as they will perish, possibly falling between walls and requiring expensive drywall removal and causing very bad odours, if they die in inaccessible areas."

The website www.wildlifeinfo.ca has instructions on gradually luring animals away from your house when raccoon and other animal parents take their babies out foraging.

Lowertown resident Sandra Milton unwittingly created a cozy winter castle for squirrels in her garage by leaving a thick rope neatly coiled in a bucket. She got them out before birthing season.

You won't be able to predict everything that attracts wildlife to your yard, but take note that seeds from bird feeders also attract mice and squirrels. Pet food and water attracts wildlife, as does garbage that is not well sealed. And

don't forget the grease trap in the BBQ.

The City of Ottawa won't collect animals you consider a nuisance. Call 311 to report sick or injured small mammals, from porcupine and raccoon size on down. The city recently appointed Miriam Smith, formerly of the Ottawa Humane Society, to help train Ottawa by-law officers responding to calls about sick or injured wildlife.

"It is a positive in that the City is allocating resources to this work," Du Breuil says. "At the same time, efforts to get information out to help people resolve wildlife conflicts will do a great deal to reduce the numbers of orphaned animals unintentionally created each year while giving people the tools and confidence they need to live with and enjoy wildlife."

To figure out if wildlife babies are truly orphaned and/or sick or injured, check www.rideauwildlife.org.

The wildlife birthing period peaks between April and June. Good luck!

#### **Tips on Prevention**

Once you are sure there are no raccoon mom and babies or other creatures in your attic, chimney or window well, apply wire mesh screen. See www.wildlifeinfo.ca for specifications.

Remove food sources for raccoons, skunks and rats by securing garbage and compost properly. Remember, pet food and birdseed can attract animals to your property, as does the grease catcher on your BBQ.

Before pruning trees, check for leaf nests or cavities that could be a home for babies.

If you find a nest of babies put it back exactly as you found it and give mom a few days to relocate her young.

Nests might be under the BBQ cover or grill, in an air conditioner sleeve, storage container or patio-furniture cushion.

Encourage mom to leave by leaving a patio door or window open a little. (The smells and sounds indicate a danger.)

Worn socks or dog hair in a pantyhose sock or an onion bag will introduce predator smells. Turn a light on at night as this is when squirrels are trying to sleep and rest.

Use chemical-free lawn care, starting early in the spring, to control grubs and keep raccoons and skunks from digging up your lawn.



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### Arts come to Lowertown

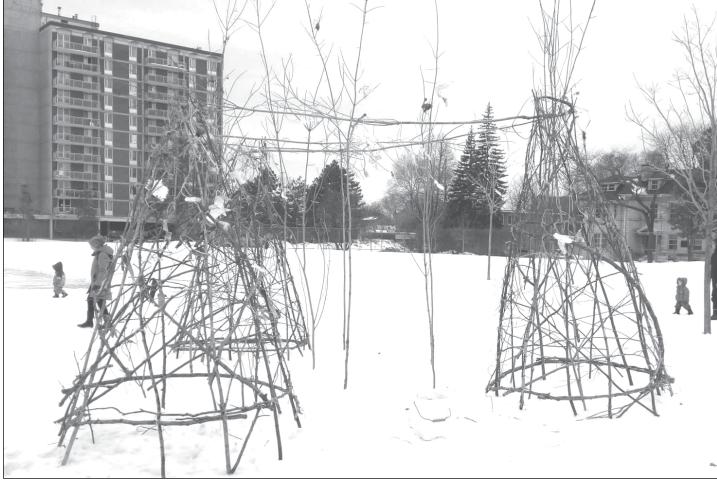
by Christine Kilfoil

¬ or the next few months, stepping into York St Public School after the school day has ended, means music, dancing and painting. Between now and May 25th, the school becomes a hub of creativity as the Lowertown kids get ready for the annual "Awesome Arts" Festival. In addition to York St. School, creative workshops are taking place around the neighbourhood engaging other Lowertown residents including with the Francophone and senior communities.

From March to May 2018, eighteen 8-week long workshop series are offered to more than 130 children, youth and seniors aged 5-95 culminating in a free public festival called Awesome Arts. The bilingual festival will be on May 25 at the Patro d'Ottawa from 6-9pm. Space is limited so it is a firstcome-first-seated basis. Admission is free.

Awesome Arts is a community-engaged program that allows participants of all ages to explore issues important to their community through the arts. Participants express themselves via various art forms such as slam poetry, animation, music, theatre and video. The Awesome Arts Festival brings the community together for an evening of celebration during which the participants share their creations.

The Festival also features professional artists, inspiring the entire community to remain connected with the



Awesome art at Winterfest.

arts and the issues. The program is also offered bilingually as Awesome Arts en folie.

The program is run by MASC (http://www.masconline.ca/en/home.as px) whose mandate is to bring the arts and culture alive in children, youth and seniors each year. Working out of diverse cultural traditions, MASC's roster of over 60 professional artists offer workshops, performances, artist-in-residence programs and professional development in music, dance, drama, literary, media and visual arts. MASC partners with the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, Centre de services Guigues, Patro d'Ottawa and Ottawa Community Housing.

The performances are both professional and moving. Seniors recollect

what Lower town used to be like and children share their experience of growing up today in our community. In addition, it is not often you will get a chance to see our councilor Mathieu Fleury rapping and dancing as happened at last year's event. The most important aspect of the festival is the pride and love of Lower town that will come through the performances.

### Books by or about Lowertowners

The architecture like the people of Lowertown is varied and in this issue, the editor highlights publications with some focus on Lowertown architecture. Where the guides are also available in French, this is indicated.

Andrew Waldron Exploring the Capital: An Architectural Guide to the Ottawa-Gatineau Region, 2017.

The book was published simultaneously by University of Ottawa Press as Explorez la region de la capital nationale.

The author, an architectural historian and resident of Lowertown, teamed up with architectural photographer, Peter Coffman, to offer eleven tours with buildings in our region. For Lowertown, the section titled Byward Market encompasses areas along Sussex Drive and on both sides of King Edward Avenue.

Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, Ottawa: A Guide to Heritage Structures, 2000.

This book was also issued in French as Ottawa, guide du patrimoine bati.

This book was intended to inform and encourage interest in locally designated heritage. Multiple Lowertown buildings designated under Part IV of

the Ontario Heritage Act are featured in sections titled Byward Market, Sandy Hill West, Lowertown.

Heritage Ottawa, From Walk-Up to High-Rise: Ottawa's Historic Apartment Buildings, 2017.

Shannon Ricketts, former Lowertown resident, Susan Ross, creator of a website on Macdonald Gardens and Robert Symthe, author of several Urbsite blogs on Lowertown architecture, are among the contributors to this beautifully illustrated book on Ottawa apartment buildings. Five Lowertown buildings east of King Edward Avenue are featured- The McCullough, The Watergate, The Anglesea, Friel Towers and Pestolozzi.

Lowertown Community Association, Macdonald Gardens Park Heritage Designation Walking Tour Guide, 2017.

The text of the publication is in English and French.

With this booklet, the LCA Heritage Committee continues its identification and documentation of places with historical and cultural importance in our neighbourhood. Profiles of this Lowertown park and of selected individuals and buildings in the vicinity tell some of the story of this community's significance to Ottawa and Canada.





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### Another Wonderful Winterfest on Family Day

by Sandra Pilote and Aysha Farouk

Tor the 9th year, volunteers from the Lowertown East Residents Committee assisted by the Lowertown Our Home Coordinator and partner organizations brightened a February winter day by organizing activities for all ages in Jules Morin Park. Close to 200 individuals came out to enjoy a BBQ and good weather with their neighbours in this special public space.

While the bouncy castle was a key attraction for young ones with lots of physical energy, MASC artist Marc Walter provided a creative outlet for others with his interactive environmental art activity that produced whimsical twig structures filled with silver birds.

One highlight for all ages was the hockey challenge organized by Sébastien Lemay, our community police officer. A line up of big Ottawa Police Service officers that included Councillor Mathieu Fleury was seriously outplayed by a group of young Lowertown residents.

Whether taking part in activities around the park or munching on a hot



Some of the many who got out onto the ice for a really great time at Winterfest.

dog or snacks, there was background music by JUMP 106.9. If you popped inside the fieldhouse, artwork by kids from Club 310 and heritage information by the Lowertown Community Association was on view.

All participants agreed that it was a fun way to spend an afternoon and to feel part of a community.

So keep your skates sharpened as the organizers hope to see everyone again next year for the 10th annual Winterfest.

The big boys getting serious about the game.

# Things to do, places to go

# Lowertown Community Resource Centre & Lowertown East Residence Committee: Jules Morin Park

May 26 - 1100-1500h Basseville en Féte: Bollywood dance workshop, free bike tune-up, free BBQ, delicious multicultural desserts, Junkyard Symphony

#### Patro d'Ottawa: 40 Cobourg

Awesome Art 60+ presents: April 13 - 1400-1500h Colores Andinos

May 4 - 1400-1500h Galiotcha May 26 - 1400-1500h Junkyard Symphony

Awesome Arts The bilingual festival: May 25 1800-21000h

#### **ByWard Market**

May 6 - Spring Cleaning the Capital: ByWard Market businesses in partnership with community partners will come together to do a spring clean-up. Store fronts, sidewalks and public spaces will get a little love as items like cigarette butts, litter and graffiti get scrubbed away. Volunteers are welcome and all Lowertown residents are invited to take action on their streets and corners as well!

May 27 - The 3rd Annual ByWard Barket: The Market goes to the dogs. Bring your dog: Costume contest, Pupcakes, Bones for Bruyére, Barking Brunch and so much more!

#### Ottawa Little Theatre: 400 King Edward

May 2-19 Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily

#### La Scene: 333 King Edward

20 avril - Musique - Rencontre inédite: Pierre Flynn el Le Paysgiste

5 mai - Théâatre Le garcon au visage disparu

12 mai - Théâtre enfance Mokatek et l'étoile disparue
19 mai Musique L'Afgrique poétique: Cécile Doo-Kingué

### Jane's Walk: In a neighbourhood near you

May 5th-6th - An annual festival of free community-led tours.

Walks led by local residents offer insight into local history, planning, and the environment through the simple act of walking and observing, together.

Find walks in your neighbourhood

and around the City at www.JanesWalkOttawa.ca.

#### St Brigid's Centre for the Arts -Brigid's Well: 310 St Patrick Sunday Music at Brigid's Well

Pat Moore & Roland Douce April 22 - John Carroll & Fred Guignon

April 15 and May 20 - 1700h



Fans take timeout from the fun for a group pic.

### Lowertown Community Association: Routhier Community Ctr 172 Guigues

April 9 - 1900 - 2045h - monthly meeting

May 14 - 1900 - 2045h monthly meeting

#### The Rainbow Bistro: 76 Murray George

April 21 - 2100h Paul Deslaurier Band

April 22 - 2000h Blue Moon Marquee

April 28 - 2100h Angelique Fran-

The Mercury Lounge 56 Byward Market Square

April 7 - 2000h in partnership with the NAC Orchestra: Wolfgang Session 11 - Members of the NAC Orchestra are back to play chamber music with a wild side for an unforgettable night. Tickets Eventbrite

May 5 - 2000h in partnership with the Ottawa International Drumming Festival: FELABRATION - a Tribute to Fela Kuti. Expect a drumming circle. Tickets Eventbrite

### The Chateau Lafayette aka "The Laff" 42 York

Every Saturday 1600hish The Lucky Ron Show

## Community

# Coupe Bingham Cup

The second annual competition for the Coupe Bingham Cup took place on February 3rd. The match, which took place on the rink at Bingham Park, featured a reprise of 2017, with a team from the U.S. embassy competing against past and present members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

Last year, the unseasonably warm weather on February 18th forced the teams to play the match wearing boots. This year the game took place on one of the very few weekends where the weather was winter-like and the players were able to wear skates.

While the weather may have been different, the result was the same as last year, with the U.S. team prevailing once again by a one-goal margin, 8 to 7.

Hot coffee, cold chocolate milk and chocolates for the players and spectators were provided by Bridgehead Coffee and the Lowertown Community Association. Gift certificates for the Sens House, The Lowertown Brew Pub and Cornerstones were provided by Ottawa Venues. These were awarded to the captains and the most valuable player of each team. A special award was made to the oldest player in the match, 72-year-old ex-newsman and current Senator Jim Munson.

Fittingly, it was a gift certificate to



Skaters from both teams who contended for the 2018 Bingham Cup and one referee.

the Sens House.

Thanks go out to the sponsors and players who made the event a success. Special thanks go to Peter ThomasGaby and Reed Ericson, who worked of volunteers who this year, like the hard to get the ice surface and the equipment ready for the event. Once again, thanks are owed to a small team

postal service, battled rain, sleet and snow to keep Bingham rink open for the community.



Players and fans take time to enjoy a hot coffee courtesy of Bridgehead.



