Residents of Lowertown showed that they are very concerned about safety and security in their community. On Monday, January 15 it was standing room only as more than 50 people braved the cold weather to attend a Lowertown Community Association (LCA) meeting on safety and security.

The purpose of the meeting/workshop was to engage people in a discussion of the key issues affecting residents of Lowertown. According to a report by the Community Police Service, from 2016 to 2017, 209 crimes against property, 1045 crimes against the person and crimes including mischief, thefts from vehicles, and break-ins to homes and cars, vagrancy, homelessness and sex work were reported in Lowertown communities and streets, and increased personal safety and reduce break-ins by encouraging neighbours to be aware of and look out for each other.

The Liquor Licensing participants mentioned that the transferability of bar/restaurant licenses made it easy for owners to change the original purpose of licensed facilities, resulting in lengthened hours of operation. The group felt there was inadequate tracking of infractions. The Neighbourhood Watch participants considered ways to improve safety in Lowertown communities and streets, and increase personal safety and reduce break-ins by encouraging neighbours to be aware of and look out for each other.

Continued on Page 2

A flaneur’s paradise:

The cafes of Lowertown

Everywhere, from the teahouses of Nepal to the espresso bars of Italy, the neighbourhood cafe has a humble but important role in daily life. The explosion of interest in coffee beverages over the past twenty years has led to a proliferation of new cafes across Canada, mainly franchise operations catering to the demand for coffee to go.

Lowertown was once home to Cafe Le Hibou, a folk-music mecca for talented performers such as Bruce Cockburn and Joni Mitchell, and Cafe Wim, a bohemian hub for students and intellectuals.

Both closed long ago, but today Lowertown has an impressive variety of independent cafes offering residents and visitors eclectic menus, a unique ambiance, and in some cases entertainment. The Usual Suspects

The two Tim Hortons locations in Lowertown, at 99 Rideau and 360 St. Patrick at King Edward, are strictly take-out operations with no seating area. Starbucks has a Lowertown presence at 47 Rideau inside Chapters. Canada’s response to the Starbucks phenomenon, Second Cup, is located at 224 Dalhousie Street and caters mainly to students, with a large seating area offering views of the busy street life on Dal- house and Rideau streets. The Ottawa-based coffee chain Bridgehead, which offers fair-trade coffee, has a location at 224 Dalhousie, with seating in an environment that curiously blends homy and institutional decor.

The Home Away from Home

Bluebird Coffee at 261 Dalhousie epitomizes the traditional neighbourhood cafe. Coffee fragrance from the micro-roaster wafts through the large and welcoming salon. Patrons can recline in the comfortable armchairs arranged around a large low round table looking out on Dalhousie Street, or hold meetings at a nearby high table. The Bluebird is very much a community hub, with posters on cultural and arts

Continued on Page 12
Development activity in Lowertown East

Concerns Cont’d from Page 1

The Sexual Assault participants were concerned that sex work occurs in public spaces, including Bordeleau Park and other areas of Lowertown. There were questions about how residents could safely intervene to ask people if they needed assistance. The walkability of particular streets, the stigma around discussing sexual assault and, if reported, the person’s being taken seriously were also matters of concern.

Many of the outcomes and next steps from the workshop require a forum reaching out to the various community programs, services and agencies, including our councilor, to come up with strategies to focus on and deal with the problems in a community-centred way. Other outcomes and recommendations included increasing awareness of community issues and clearer guidelines on who to contact about various issues or concerns. There were specific calls for a pilot program for violations of bylaws and a revitalization of the Neighbourhood Watch program. It is worth noting that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission bylaws and a revitalization of the Neighbourhood Watch program.

The Chenier Group also intends to preserve the original portion of the house as an aspect of the history of the neighbourhood. While there is no way to preserve the house in its present position on the lot and have room to build a new apartment building, the company intends to dismantle the original part of the house and rebuild it on the Cobourg side of the property. The drawings by Barry Padolsky, an Ottawa heritage architect, show a red-brick, semi-detached dwelling, three floors in height, which will contain two apartments. Historic photos of the neighbourhood have been used to guide the design.

A new nine-storey apartment building will fill the main part of the property fronting on Rideau and Cobourg streets. The three-storey podium will be in red brick with design elements across the Rideau and Cobourg sides. The remaining six storeys will be in pre-cast concrete and set back on the Rideau and Cobourg sides, and be accessible to pedestrians walking on the sidewalk alongside the building on Rideau and Cobourg. Current plans also call for a ground-floor coffee shop at the corner of Rideau and Cobourg.

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L’ECHO Page 3

Over the years I have witnessed many couples buying and selling property. Here are some of my observations:

Couples in a good relationship know how to compromise. He wants new wineries — a disrupter. Airbnb: Uber for vacationers

A York, 1 bed, 1 bath, sold for approximately 19% less than it sold for in 2015. List price $195,000.

Guignes, 2 bed, 1 bath, sold for approximately 13% less than it sold for in 2012. List price $389,000.

Stacked townhome on St. Patrick sold for approximately 2% less than it sold for in 2010. List price $335,000.

Couples just starting out in second homes followed; each of them eventually found the right house and the right houses following; something was wrong. They could not make a decision even when the house was perfect in every way. They finally broke up. Each of them eventually found the right partner and the right houses followed; happy endings after all.

My favourite clients.

We combed the city and countryside. They could not imagine themselves living there. I showed them all the houses but they could not decide. Finally, one couple found a lovely home near the water, they were on speaker-phone dealing with an owner who lived far away. They turned in the market for condominiums in Ottawa. Although these measures do not guarantee a viable, fixed-rate model, it does give a condo corporation legal recourse to problems arising from short-term rentals.

The replies from other condo buildings are as follows:

183 to 189 Cumberland Streets:

Nine units: Airbnb is not an issue for us because we preemptively passed a bylaw a few years ago saying owners cannot lease for less than 6 months. We have had no reported problems.

222 Bruyère:

Bylaws state that rental must be one year minimum to avoid Airbnb.

280 Cathcart Street (Cathcart Lane):

They still permit Airbnb rentals. There was one owner who leased out a unit on Airbnb for a few years but there were never any problems with her Airbnb tenants. The condominium did not have an Airbnb policy, per se.

180 York Street (East Market Phase I):

Airbnb are an issue as they are not permitted in the Eastmarket Condominiums. The Eastmarket Condominiums have always had a rule/policy in place against short-term rentals (less than 6 months), but we recently clarified this rule even further because of Airbnb, including instituting fines for those that violate the rule.

310 Cathcart Street (Cathcart Mews):

We have had no reported problems. V.W.A. (vis a vis) Airbnb. They are not forbidden in the bylaws and so the answer must be “yes” they are allowed. The matter will be added to the agenda for the next AGM.

160 George Street (the St George):

Airbnb or similar short-term rentals are not permitted. Section 3.2(a) of the St George Condominium Declaration states: “Residential Units shall be occupied only for the purpose of a single family dwelling and for no other purpose”. The Board of Directors has adopted “RULES respecting USE and TENANCIES of RESIDENTIAL UNITS” to ensure all owners and residents understand and comply with this requirement, as follows:

• Rooming, boarding or lodging arrangements are not permitted;
• No Bed & Breakfast, Airbnb or similar arrangements;
• Rental, tenancy, lease or sub-lease for less than 6 months is prohibited; and
• Owners are required to register any tenants occupying their unit to ensure the Corporation knows who is in the building and using the facilities.

124 Guignes Avenue:

Short term rentals, including Airbnb, are an issue for us. We are currently consulting owners about the way ahead.

From the above comments it is clear that the problem of owner-occupied short-term rentals has been a problem at some condominiums. We would like to hear from condo dwellers on this issue or on any other matters that concern them. Direct comments to: echo@lowertown-basseville.ca with subject: condo corner.
On January 1st, people across Ontario started the new year with a higher minimum wage and free prescription medications for everyone age 24 and under.

Ontario’s economy is booming. In 2017 we created 180,000 jobs and unemployment shot down to a 17-year low. But we know that not all families are sharing in the prosperity.

That’s why our government is bringing forward these changes – to create a fairer province for everyone.

Starting January 1, the minimum wage in Ontario will increase to $14 an hour. It will rise to $15 in an hour a year from now. Personal emergency leave and paid vacation are also being expanded.

We’re also helping families afford the care they need to stay healthy with OHIP+. Children and Youth Pharmacare. Starting January 1, people age 24 and under will be able to get over 4,400 medications free of charge, including antibiotics, asthma inhalers, EpiPens, insulin, diabetes test strips and drugs to treat depression, anxiety and epilepsy. All they need to do is show their prescription and Ontario health card number at any pharmacy.

By/par
Nathalie Des Rosiers
MP, Députée provinciale
Ottawa-Vanier

A just society ensures that workers are not exploited and are paid decent wages for their labour. It also strives to provide access to medication so that all children and youth can receive the healthcare that they need and deserve.

En Ontario, le début de l’année 2018 a été marqué par l’augmentation du salaire minimum et le lancement de l’Assurance-médicaments pour les enfants et les jeunes.

L’économie de l’Ontario est en plein essor. En 2017, nous avons créé 180 000 emplois et le taux de chômage a dégringolé pour atteindre son plus bas niveau en 17 ans. Nous savons toutefois que ce ne sont pas toutes les familles qui connaissent cette prospérité.

C’est pourquoi notre gouvernement apporte ces changements, afin de créer une province plus équitable pour tous.

En date du 1er janvier 2018, le salaire minimum en Ontario est passé à 14 $ l’heure.

Dans un an, il sera augmenté à 15 $ l’heure. De plus, le congé d’urgence personnel et les vacances payées ont été élargis.


Une société équitable assure que ses travailleurs ne sont pas exploités et qu’ils reçoivent un salaire adéquat pour leur travail. Elle s’efforce aussi de veiller à ce que les familles aient accès aux médicaments nécessaires pour faire en sorte que tous les enfants et les jeunes reçoivent les soins de santé dont ils ont besoin et auxquels ils ont droit.
By/par Mathieu Fleury
City Councillor/Conseiller municipal

• Aménagement d’un passage pour piétons à l’angle de la rue Cobourg et de la promenade Beausoleil. (En vertu d’un autre programme, un passage pour piétons sera également aménagé à l’angle de la rue Murray et de la promenade Beausoleil);
• Et, rétrécissement des intersections à la hauteur Old St-Patrick/Beausoleil, Cobourg/Beausoleil et Old St-Patrick/Cobourg.

Les mesures qui devraient être mises en œuvre cette année sont une zone d’interdiction de stationnement du côté est de la rue Cobourg près de la rue Tormey et des restrictions de vitesse depuis la rue Nelson pour emprunter les rues York et Clarence.

Merci à tous les résidents qui ont pris part aux consultations. Nous attendons avec impatience le déploiement de toutes ces mesures et avons hâte d’en voir les effets positifs pour les piétons, les cyclistes et tous les résidents de la Basse-Ville Est.

Enfin, pour continuer à soutenir des milliers d’aliments à faible revenu à sortir de la pauvreté, nous avons tout récemment augmenté le Supplément de revenu garanti (SRG). Les aliments qui vivent seuls reçoivent 947 $ de plus par année grâce au SRG, ce qui aidera 900 000 aînés vulnérables, dont 70 % sont des femmes, partout au Canada.

Ce programme est disponible afin de vous appuyer dans vos interactions avec le gouvernement fédéral. Mon bureau est situé au 233, chemin Montpellier et est ouvert de 9 h à 17 h (du lundi au vendredi) et de 9 h à 16 h 30 (le vendredi). Vous pouvez communiquer avec mon bureau par téléphone au 613 992-4766 ou par courriel à mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

Je vous appelle à participer au Jeu-questionnaire de la Basse-ville, le nom d’un gagnant sera tiré au sort le 1er mars parmi les personnes ayant répondu correctement. Le prix sera une boîte de chocolats d’une valeur de 25 $ provenant de Cylie Artisans Chocolatiers situés au 204, rue Dalhousey.

Identifier l’emplacement d’au moins 7 des 8 murales de la Basse-ville représentées aux pages 7 et 8.

Envoyez votre réponse à ads.in.echo@gmail.com

Lowertown Contest
Identifiez les locations de 7 de 8 Lowertown murals found on pages 7-8.

A winner will be drawn on March 1st from the names of all those who have submitted correct entries. The prize will be a $25 box of chocolates from Cylie Artisans Chocolatiers at 204 Dalhousey Street.

Submit your answer to ads.in.echo@gmail.com /Lowertown Quiz
The tannery at 98 Friel Street

By Marc Aubin
Former President, LCA

Lower-town Lost and Found:
Groulx Grocery at 193 King Edward Avenue

The Germain City Tannery

The corner of Guigues and King Edward Avenue

By Nancy Miller Chenier

Land registry documents indicate that on February 22, 1866, François Xavier Groulx, gentleman, bought Lot Letter A on the south side of Napoleon Street at the corner of King Street for $500. The lot was sold to Groulx by the Institut canadien-français de la cité d’Ottawa in 1870.

The 1871 census identified François X. Groulx as a 31-year-old merchant with a wife, Sophie, and four children. He was in partnership with his younger brother, Alphonse, in a dry-goods business located near the Byward Market area, later known as 226 Byward Market. This partnership lasted until 1879.

By 1874, Groulx was one of the few remaining merchants in Lowertown. The Ottawa directories show him living and working at 337 Clarence in 1862. His 1.5-storey wooden house was at 337 Clarence while his tannery, which employed 10 people, was behind the house along Friel Street. The tannery was a 2.5-storey building that processed raw animal hides into leather. Besides running his business, Germain was also a well-regarded member of the community (city councilor) for the area in the 1880s.

In the late 1800s, Murray Street at this end of Lower-town did not exist, as shown in the map above. Anglesea Square was just a swamp and there were only a few houses beside Nelson Street. The tannery was described in one newspaper account as being in an open field. Unlike other tanneries, Mr. Germain’s didn’t need to be near a river because he had sunk a well on the property.

By 1887, Mr. Germain had built one of the finest brick houses in Lowertown at 339 Clarence next to his wooden house at 337 Clarence. Unfortunately, that year, according to newspaper accounts, Mr. Germain lost his tannery to another local tanner, William MacKay, to whom he had mortgaged his business and home. Germain blamed protectionist tariffs placed on the U.S. by the Liberal government for destroying his business. The tannery property and all the equipment were sold at auction on October 11, 1887.

After 37 years in Ottawa, it appears that Edmond Germain moved to Quebec City. Two of his sons, Edmond and Gaspard, were listed as tanners in that city’s directory of 1890-91 at 285 St. Valier Street under the name Edmond Germain & Cie.

At the time of his death, Edmond Germain was living in the finest brick house in Lowertown at 339 Clarence with another of his sons, Alphonse. Despite having left Ottawa years before, Germain was brought back to Ottawa for his funeral at Notre-Dame Cathedral in 1909 and is buried at Notre-Dame Cemetery on Montreal Road. He left behind four sons and two daughters.

The tannery building was used as a planning mill by Desrivières and Company for a short time, but the business soon moved to another location in Lowertown West. By 1981, the Ottawa Canning Company was using the building, and by 1991 the building was occupied by the Watson Carriage Company. Research indicates that Watson tried to woo automobile manufacturers from Detroit to build cars on the premises. The building burned down in 1914 and the lot appears to have remained vacant for many years until some art deco apartment blocks and doubles were built on that corner of Friel and Murray. These brick buildings remain on the property to this day.

The last commercial building still operating at the corner of Friel and Murray is the Rideau River in Lowertown East stands at the southeast corner of Guigues and King Edward. In 1891, it was one of several buildings proposed for heritage designation in an attempt to protect the few heritage structures remaining after the sweeping urban renewal demolitions in Lowertown East. At the time, it was seen as an excellent late nineteenth century example that combined business and residence. In addition to a second storey hanging ornament porch (since removed), it encompassed special design details from its rusticated stone basement to its decorative upper moldings. Now home to the Champa Thai restaurant, this stately brick edifice shows the scars of years of neglect.

Within a few years, the third generation owner, Romeo Groulx, applied for a liquor licence for the building. At the subsequent meeting of the Ontario Liquor Licence Board, the Citizen reported that several temperance organizations had stormed the event with claims that the increase in licensed establishments throughout the city was detrimental to the community.

Later, Groulx found evidence that someone had broken into his buildings during the night. The culprit was quickly found—a man asleep in the owner’s car behind the store with an empty bottle of gin beside him.

By the 1960s, the Groulx connection was gone from the building and it became associated with the Carrozzi family and others who ran varied enterprises from this corner location prior to Champa Thai. Despite the early effort to obtain heritage designation, this storied Lowertown landmark remains in danger of losing its heritage defining qualities due to neglect.

The Germain City Tannery

The corner of Guigues and King Edward Avenue

Running first as a barge-carrying canal and then as a garbage filled ditch was closed in 1875, when an underground sewer was installed. A decade later, sidewalks were gradually extended on the east side of the street. By 1878, the fire insurance map showed a two and a half storey building on this corner lot.

In the early 1880s, Jean-Baptiste Parent transferred the property back to his grandson, the youngest François Xavier Groulx. City directories indicate that several different individuals operated grocery businesses at this corner, possibly as renters prior to F.X. Groulx junior assuming responsibility.

By the early 1900s, the building was enlarged to a three storey brick building with a corner entrance designed to bring in customers passing on either street. When François Xavier junior died in 1946 at 87 years of age, his will indicated extensive property holdings that included 193-195-197 and 199 King Edward Avenue as well as 260 Guigues Avenue. He also had a summer residence at Crystal Bay.

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The six communities highlighted on this self-guided walking tour are currently operated by Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) in Lowertown East. Most were constructed to provide replacement housing after urban renewal in the 1960s and 1970s cleared entire city blocks and displaced 1500 predominately francophone families.

Home takes many forms and generates many stories. Today, several OCH structures resulting from this social experiment are recognized for their architectural design and their historical value. Architecturally, the buildings reflect a variety of mid-century modern influences. Historically, this distinctive Lowertown area provides a complex narrative of people and events that reshaped the neighbourhood.

1. **Parc Jules Morin**
Architectural: Miska et Gale with DeZotto Enterprises; typical of Canada’s modern mass housing in the period; rectangular 11-storey form designed with “cartageway” opening to the Clarence Street right-of-way.
Historical: named for the nearby Angelsea Square, the first public square in Ottawa, currently known as Jules Morin Park, first family-oriented rebuilt in the Lowertown east neighbourhood.
2. **Beausoleil Community Community – Beausoleil, Clarence, Murray, and York (1973)**
Architectural: Miska, Gale (and Ling) with DeZotto and Douglas MacDonald; modern rowhouses replicating scale of earlier homes; streets closed to create car-free pedestrian walkways.
Historical: name honours Alexandre Beausoleil, former parish priest of the newly renovated Anson Plaza.
Architectural: Murray and Gale with R.J. Nicol; majority of homes are back-to-back townhouses; complex also includes early 1900s buildings that survived urban renewal.
Historical: originally named Beau Séjour, first new construction for City Living, Mayor Lorry Greenberg, former resident of Lawton Park, is credited as first sod in 1978, initially allocated to families with Lowertown connections.

4. **King Edward (1962)**
Architectural: Unknown architect and builder; rectangular brick walk up typical of 1960s rental properties.
Historical: built as the private ownership of the Mayor to provide income to the elderly.

5. **St. Patrick’s Park**
Architectural: Craig and Kohler with Doran; distinctiv types of exposed concrete construction; unique examples of stacked two-storey homes in an 11-storey and a 12-storey high-rise.
Historical: named for their own long-standing occupation of the site with the conclusion of the 1960s, the public is interested in the projects of the 1970s.

Architectural: Gitterman with Palel Associates; 6-storey building to house low income seniors; penthouse lounge for group activities and basement with resident janitor, beauty salon, barber shop.
Historical: named for the adjacent Macdonald Gardens Park; federal and provincial governments covered many costs while city contributed the site of the former Ottawa Electric Railway Car Barn; now populated by residents of all ages.

7. **Place Charlotte**
Architectural: Miska and Gale with unknown builder; 14-storey building designed for mass housing for seniors.
Historical: still seniors-only building and possibly named for former Mayor Charlotte Whitton who supported housing for this vulnerable group; earlier development proposal for 27-storey cylindrical hotel on site after urban renewal clearance.

8. **Manoir Victoria Manor–110 Cobourg**
Architectural: Jooste and Associates with Domicile Development.
Historical: Named for former Lady Stanley Institute for trained Nurses, first nursing school in Ottawa, established in 1881; City Living acquired property proposed to Walls House, the former County of Carleton General Protestant hospital project survided due to 1965 cancellation of provincial funding for non-profit housing by newly elected Ontario Conservatives.

Architectural: Miska and Gale possibly with DeZotto; 15-storey high-rise designed for low income seniors.
Historical: early organized activities included snowshoeing and picnicking in Macdonald Gardens Park as well as horse-drawn wagon service to supermarkets; currently populated by all ages.

**Registre patrimonial de la Ville d'Ottawa, 2017 ; Patrimoine Ottawa, From Walk-Up to High-Rise: Ottawa's Historic Apartment Buildings, 2017 ; divers blogues “Urbsites”.**

*Homes take many forms and generate many stories. Today, several OCH structures resulting from this social experiment are recognized for their architectural design and their historical value. Architecturally, the buildings reflect a variety of mid-century modern influences. Historically, this distinctive Lowertown area provides a complex narrative of people and events that reshaped the neighbourhood.*
Lowertown Murals

Outdoor murals can breathe life and character into the uniformity of large urban centers. When coordinated, they can demarcate distinct communities, even when isolated they show that here, someone cares. They reduce graffiti in problem areas, they can build community pride.

John Sankey

Special thanks to John McQuarrie of John McQuarrie Photography & Lighthouse Publishing for taking the photos
Il y a également des histoires qui vous brisent le cœur : des gens qui ont faim et qui n’ont pas assez de nourriture pour eux ou leurs enfants, ou encore ceux qui n’ont pas accès à un logement stable ou dont le logement est inadéquat. Certains sont aux prises avec des problèmes de punaises de lit ou de rats, et d’autres sont incapables de trouver des ressources pour leurs enfants handicapés. Puis, il y a les demandes qui sont carrément bizarres : la personne qui demande de l’aide à cause de la présence d’un fantôme dans son immeuble ; le client qui veut organiser une rencontre avec Stephen Harper, le pape (pape actuel) ou l’interlocuteur qui veut les horaires de cinéma pour aller voir le film Cinquante nuances de Grey. Vous développez rapidement l’art de l’écoute avec attention, et en gardant votre sérieux — peu importe ce que les gens vous disent. Vous apprenez également à écouter et à saisir la signification plus subtile cachée derrière la demande initiale. Il est souvent difficile pour les gens de demander directement l’aide dont ils ont réellement besoin ; il peut s’écouler un certain temps avant d’en arriver à parler du vrai problème.

Et lorsque les gens s’ouvrent finalement, il est important d’échanger avec eux en faisant preuve de respect, tact, discrétion et compassion.

Je jadore travailler à la réception parce que j’apprécie vraiment être auprès des gens. Au fil des ans, j’ai noué des relations de confiance avec de nombreux résidents. Je les connais par le biais des écoles que nos enfants fréquentent, et aussi parce que l’on se croise à la piscine de la Basse-Ville, à la bibliothèque Rideau, à l’épicerie ou aux réunions communautaires, car j’habite moi-même dans le coin. Mais surtout, j’ai appris à les connaître grâce à nos discussions lorsqu’ils attendent de rencontrer un de nos travailleurs sociaux ou organisateurs communaux. Être une réceptionniste, c’est un peu comme être une serveuse de bar : vous pouvez soutenir les gens en répondant à leurs besoins.

Je me préoccupe de leurs familles, de leur travail, de leurs études et des autres choses qui se passent dans leur vie. Nous discutons par exemple de problèmes de santé et des ressources disponibles pour un enfant qui a des problèmes à l’école. Nous échangeons également nos remèdes maison contre les petits ennus de santé, ainsi que nos conseils de cuisine! (Ouvr un titre de réceptionniste au Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville me pousse à utiliser mes compétences et ma créativité de façon quotidienne. Cela me donne l’impulsion de réfléchir à la communauté et de faire une différence.

Je me considère comme étant privilégiée de pouvoir faire un travail important, au sein de ma communauté, avec des gens que je respecte, et pour qui j’organise un poste qui possède une mission et des valeurs auxquelles je m’associe.
Le processus créatif est animé par des visites d’auteur chaque année. Nous avons accueilli les écoles élémentaires York Street et Sainte-Anne pour des journées de portes ouvertes avec des comédiens, du maquillage et des bricolages. Nous encourageons les écrivains en herbe de participer au concours d’écriture pour les jeunes « Super auteurs » (la date limite est le 19 février).

Nou les programmes
Nous sommes ravis d’introduire une nouvelle activité cet hiver pour nos clients les plus jeunes : « Bébés à la bibliothèque » où des enfants âgés de 0-18 mois et leur parent ou gardien peuvent jouer, lire et chanter ensemble. Nous allons également mener des programmes pendant la relâche de mars sous le thème musical « Branche-toi ! ». Des adultes peuvent assister à nos programmes réguliers : le groupe d’écrivains, les groupes de lecture, et l’atelier pour le jeu de société « Go ».

Visitez notre site web pour les horaires et les descriptions des programmes : BiblioOttawaLibrary.ca.

Vous cherchez une recommandation de lecture ?
Notre personnel s’engage avec enthousiasme dans la lecture et dans leurs recommandations de lecture pour tout âge. Pour les amateurs de lecture de la Basse-Ville, notre défi de lecture annuel est de retour en 2018. Rendez-vous à la succursale afin de vous procurer un signet pour le défi. Les lecteurs qui lisent un livre pour chacune des douze catégories au cours de l’année, peuvent s’inscrire à un tirage. Le gagnant sera annoncé en décembre prochain.

Contacts-nous
377 rue Rideau
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InfoService : 613-580-2940

Vient de Paraître : un livre sur la communauté francophone d’Ottawa

Par
Michel Rossignol

events pinned along the espresso bar. Paintings or photographs by local artists grace its walls. You can receive a palm reading from Jolydo, guitars from Don Lane, and chansonnier François Champagne performs on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Soups, panini sandwiches and muffins are available, and all are prepared fresh on the premises, as at all the other independent cafes surveyed for this article. An expanded menu of baked treats is coming soon. 

Well-floored, scaling rolling glass doors looking out on bustling Byward Market Square at George and William streets, the Byward Cafe (55 Byward Market Square) offers one of the best views of any historic setting in Ottawa. Planet Coffee is on offer. Ideal Coffee is also a coffee roaster, cafes, and an eclectic mix of tourists, students and style mavens can be found relaxing in the sun in perhaps the most historic setting in Ottawa. Planet Coffee is famed for its rhubarb-square dessert. Its leatherette booths a nod to its vintage diner origins. Ideal Coffee (176 Dalhousie) is an oasis of languidness repose on the North Dalhousie strip of fashion designer boutiques. You are welcome to play a vintage upright piano, and on Saturday mornings from 10:30 to 12:30, Katey plays guitar and sings country and folk music. The owner, Lusana, hail from Brazil and so paso de queso (cheese bread) is among the snacks on offer. Ideal Coffee is also a coffee roastery. Ideal has applied for a liquor license and hopes to soon offer wines and beers, along with an expanded food menu.

Origin Trade (111 York) has a gentle hipness and quietly inviting atmosphere. Exposed brick walls and a large polished-concrete bar impart some of the ambience of a vintage neighbourhood tavern. In summer, there is a small terrace in front on York Street. Origin is licensed, and in the evening the small salon transforms itself into a lounge. On Monday nights, amateur performers flock to Origin for an acoustic open-mike event, and on other evenings provide ambient music.

And Now for Something Completely Different

Upbeat Italian pop music, clean white lines and stylish salon chairs set apart Mantovani 1946 at 87 Murray as a special venue for that first date or for a fine dessert with a friend in a stylish setting. Mantovani 1946 also serves lunch entrees such as Italian pasta dishes and arancini (fried rice balls stuffed with tomato sauce and cheese). Gelati, prepared to the recipes of the Mantovani family from Naples, are a major attraction.

HQ (113 Clarence) offers the unique opportunity to enjoy a coffee while watching the street at the neighbouring houses, while getting highlights through a glass wall that runs the length of HQ. HQ is spacious, with sleek white walls and marble tables. In addition to serving coffee beverages such as espresso, HQ has an adventurous kitchen, offering innovative appetizers and entrees such as a clam chowder prepared with jalapeño peppers, potatoes and Manila clams. The flagship store for Canada, Starbucks Reserve at 62 York caters to both everyday java junkies and connoisseurs. In the summer, Starbucks Reserve offers cold-brewed coffee on tap served at a long bar. A drinks menu also offers craft beers, Ontario cider, and wines.

A sign on the brick heritage house at 119 York depicts the classic image of the Mad Hatter, and at The Tea Party Cafe you can indeed experience a bohemian version of the traditional high tea. The clients are mainly students. There are occasional poetry readings, and on Fridays aspiring acoustic performers assemble for an open-mike evening. The Tea Party menu includes not only teas, coffees and scones, but Indian specialties such as buttered tofu, as well as craft beers and wine.

Il Perugino is a small but lively cafe at 176 Dalhousie that also transforms itself by night into a lounge. Eclectic decor such as gold pillars and red leather upholstery sets Il Perugino apart as a cafe with a rare pizzazz. Wednesdays, Il Perugino hosts an Italian card-games night. On weekend evenings a DJ plays Spanish and Italian pop music. The food menu includes pizzas, pasta and sandwiches, and for dessert, cannolis (Italian cream-filled pastries). Il Perugino also serves wine, beer and spirits such as amaro (a bitter Italian liqueur).

Since 1994, Oh So Good extend deep into the rear of the building, and feature an impressive array of work by local artists.
My front porch restoration

Some years ago, my neighbour and I decided that our elderly double-reomed porch renovation. As residents of the Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District, we wanted a look that reflected something of the original character of the house. Our neighbourhood has many original heritage houses built by master builders with a love of wood, and we wanted something that reflected this history.

By Nancy Colton

My porch is special, but the Alphonse Rochon House, now the Jean-Claude Bergere Art Gallery at 150 St. Patrick Street, stands out as a testament to the work of a skilled and artistic restorer. The elaborate porch created by Alphonse Rochon, one of the wood carvers for the Cathedral, had disappeared. Only an old faded photograph provided guidance for Paul, and more than 3,800 pieces of wood later, the building stands as a heritage landmark.

My modest vintage porch was a relative small project but I now appreciate the effort of others who have honoured their homes or businesses with a nod to Lowertown’s past craftsmen.

By Nicolas Moyer

January marks milestone in Market revitalization efforts

January 1st of this year marked an important milestone in the history of the Byward Market. On this day, Ottawa Markets, a new municipal services corporation, took over management of market operations in the Byward and Parkdale markets from the City of Ottawa.

In Lowertown, the creation of Ottawa Markets is the culmination of over a decade of consultations and planning aimed at revitalizing the Byward Market. By transferring market operations to an independent corporation, the City of Ottawa is banking on the potential of dedicated leadership and a clear mandate to help revitalize the Byward Market and secure its future as a thriving traditional market in Ottawa’s downtown core.

Residents have long been concerned with the decline in numbers of traditional fresh-food vendors and an increased prevalence of bars and restaurants in the Market. The City of Ottawa has also documented a decline in revenues, vendor diversity, sales, and customer base in both the Byward and Parkdale markets.

By Jeff Darwin (centre) with Mathieu Blanchard (L) and Anthony Hainse (R)

Following recommendations built on community consultations and expert advice from Project for Public Spaces (PPS) between 2013 and 2015, last year city councillors approved the legal incorporation of Ottawa Markets and the general guidelines guiding its launch for January 2018. A volunteer board of directors was appointed in July 2017, and Jeff Darwin was appointed Executive Director in December.

Despite a few challenges, including short timelines and the resignation of four months of four of nine Board members, critical early decisions have been made. These include the contracting of a new property management firm (Paradigm Properties) and approval of a service agreement with the City of Ottawa for transfer of activities to Ottawa Markets. That service agreement retained ownership of Market infrastructure with the City, but transferred tenant agreements and lease management to Ottawa Markets. It also transferred $160,000 in deferred revenues to Ottawa Markets and granted permission for a $1 million line of credit.

With strong roots in Ottawa, Jeff Darwin says he is excited about the opportunity to revitalize the Market’s traditional role in our community. “That process begins quickly in 2018 with consultations and the development of a 5-year Strategic Plan to be presented to Council in May” says Darwin.

A critical long-term issue will relate to the funding of any infrastructure changes included in plans to revitalize the Market. With only lease revenues to count on at this stage, Ottawa Markets has limited means at its disposal, but is projecting a balanced budget of $1,575,000 in 2018.

Despite PPS’s recommendation for Ottawa Markets to retain a portion of nearby parking revenues and the role such arrangements have played in the success of revitalization efforts for markets in other cities, like Montreal’s Atwater and Jean-Talon Markets, no such decision was made here.

According to local councillor Mathieu Fleury, “Ottawa Markets has a critical role to play and has a clear mandate to support the growth of fresh food retail in our historic Market.” He has great hopes for the revitalization of the Byward Market. Citing the need to increase foot traffic in the Market, the councillor notes the positive impact expected from the new LRT station on Rideau.

As the plans for Byward Market are developed this year, City Council has recognized the need for major infrastructure improvements that support its renewal. Supporting this, Fleury signals the importance for local residents to be active participants in impending consultations. With so many stakeholders involved in the success of the Market, Jeff Darwin has also underlined the importance of collaboration and shared vision to achieve progress.

With strong community interest in the revitalization of the Byward Market, residents will be watching for an ambitious change and investment plan to favour the return of a bustling, thriving public market to its community. Opportunities to participate in related consultations will be available in February and March, though details are not yet known.

Ottawa Markets has taken over office space in 50 Byward Market (just above the Byward Market Café). Stay informed about Ottawa Market’s activities on Twitter (@OttawaMarkets) or their website www.ottawamarkets.com

By Jeff Darwin (centre) with Mathieu Blanchard (L) and Anthony Hainse (R)
Kings of Lowertown

By Christine Kilfoil

He continued:
“I liked the fact there are many “Lowertowners” existing in numerous cities in Canada and the United States and I thought the plurality of “kings” was grand because usually there can only be one, and it was perhaps suggestive that it was more sharing of power, all genders, wealth and community.”

Clearly the name “Kings of Lowertown” captures both history, and complex ideas about equality, diversity and learning to live together and sharing space.

“I don’t really know where the songs come from”, says Mackey. “I know I’m inspired by many things. I love the Ottawa valley, rural blues songs, elements of New Orleans such as the lower 9th ward, the Mississippi delta, and local history”. Mackey add that “I’m currently intoxicated by singer, songwriter Sarah Shook and her band, the Disarmers.” The new recording digs deeper into the Bands own distinct rural blues sound and the tribulations of small town outsiders living lives on the periphery of society.

The Kings of Lowertown recently returned to the stage with songs from their EP Missouri Lowther at the Avant-Garde Bar on 135 1/2 Besserer Street in Ottawa last December. Mackey was excited about the impending release of their new EP “Missouri Lowther” written by Mackey and produced and engineered in Greenwood Ontario by Jordon Zadrozny. It is being released in late winter or early spring of 2018 and will be available for purchase at the band’s live shows. You can also check out the band’s latest release “Woodpyle” on YouTube.

Talking with Mike Mackey

From the desk of the Editor, this is a new column that will build over future issues. We are reviewing books written entirely in French as well as books available in both languages in future issues. In this column, we feature a book written by a local author who is happy to call Lowertown his home after years of living and travelling in other parts. As well we highlight several “coming of age” books – fiction and nonfiction – written in English by authors who spent many formative years in Lowertown.

We count on you to let us know of other books written by current Lowertown residents, as well as books written about Lowertown by former residents and others.

Current Lowertown resident, Graham Gibbs authored Five Ages of Canada: A History from Our First Peoples to Confederation (2016), a work that resulted from several long and numerous short trips in his their Canadian Roadtrip Class B camper van. From multiple visits to historic and archeological sites and from conversations with fellow Canadians, Gibbs concluded that Canada’s history could be described in five distinct and progressive eras or “ages” to use his term. From first inhabitants through to Confederation personalities, he chronicles the stories that shaped the country.

The first age introduces Canada’s first inhabitants: the Palaeo-Indians from Northen Asia, their descendants, and the First Nations and Inuit peoples of today. The second age began in the early 1500s when fishing fleets from European nations spent their summers fishing off the shores Newfoundland and Labrador. Nowadays tourists might not agree to when this all started.

A century later, the third age began with the first permanent English and French settlements in the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec which led to the eventual battle for domination between England and France. The fourth age covers the fur trade that was responsible for the exploration, mapping and eventual settlement of the west. Lastly, the fifth age, “The Road to Confederation,” is the story of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir George-Etienne Cartier and the other Fathers of Confederation.

Graham has shared their coast-to-coast adventures on his website: www.gram-hang/gibbmycanada.ca (Graham can be contacted via his website). His book is available at the boutique of the Canadian Museum of History, Books on Bankwood and available online via Friesen Press:

Former Lowertown residents have supplied some wonderful stories about growing up in Lowertown.

Brian Doyle wrote Angel Square (1984) a mystery that is solved by a young Lowertown boy named Tommy with help from his friends. The author who lived during his youth on Cobourg Street where the Patro/City of Ottawa building is now located writes about the young Catholics, Protestants and Jews who live near Anglesea Square, now renamed Jules Morin Park. Through the eyes of Tommy, a student at York Street Public School, the reader sees the good and the bad of a Lowertown (and later in the Second World War). Several versions of plays based on his novel have been produced for amateur school and professional theatre performances. The book was also made into a movie that won three Geneve award in 1990.

Robert Fontaine’s The Happy Time (1945) features a young boy Bibi living on Elzel Street in the 1920s surrounded by French and Scottish family members. Fontaine’s father worked for several decades as a musician in Ottawa, playing at various theatres and at the Chateau Laurier. Bibi’s adventures take him to many familiar locations in and around the city. The book was made into a movie in 1952 movie and a 1968 musical on Broadway.

Doris Lee-Momny wrote both Farewell, My Bluebell. Her vignettes about the people, businesses, schools, churches and other elements of her immediate neighbourhood reveal a vibrant tight knit community. The author was born at 137 King Edward Avenue during the Second World War and she witnessed the end of a way of life and of her home when Lowertown was severely changed by urban renewal.

Lower Town: A Novel by Darren Jerome First Class Press, 2014 “Step back in time almost 200 years, to the new-hewn streets of Lower Town in the time of the Shubenacadie War. Old Bytown comes alive through this story of two Irish brothers, who in their hearts, lives, and fates are as different from one another as all the opposing forces around them.”

Norman Levine (short story) and Joanne McDuaff (photographs) collaborated with Glenn Cjeriton (publisher) to produce this small booklet title In Lower Town (1977). This small booklet – which begins with Levine’s words “When I was a kid we lived in Lower Town, Ottawa” – narrates his life as part of a Jewish community and ends with a description of the destruction of the Rideau Convent. The photographs tell the story of 1970s Lowertown as it is recovering from urban renewal.

Sylvia Bodovsky Kershman, author of Life Lines and Other Lines (2016) grew up at 321 St Andrew Street in a household strongly connected to the large Jewish population in Lower Town. She writes about her family life and the institutions that supported it, her father’s business as a butcher in the Byward Market and her own forays into business, as well as the larger sphere of the Ottawa community.

If you know of other books, plays, and so forth by people with a history of Lower Town or about our community, please send you suggestions to echo@lowertown-baseville.ca

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Books by or about Lowertowners

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Meet your neighbour:

**Animal rights lawyer Camille Labchuk**

G rowing up in a family that included cats, a hamster, and a rabbit, Camille Labchuk saw all animals as pets. That changed forever when she was nine and watched a TV show on the seal hunt.

Just a dozen years later, Labchuk was on the ice floes off the East Coast campaigning against the hunt during a vacation from her then job in the office of Green Party leader Elizabeth May.

While her mom, an environ- mental activist, implored Labchuk to “do something about it if you see an injustice,” it was May, a lawyer, who inspired her to study law. She wanted to be able to quickly drill down, like her boss, through legalese.

“Animals should have rights appropriate to their species,” she said. “Not the right to vote or to drive a car, but to live free of pain and to enjoy everything that makes life worth living.”

Despite her dim view of Canada’s record, Labchuk was op- timistic in an interview at Monte- vani 1946, an Italian gelato café on Murray Street. A vegan, she or- dered her café latte with almond milk.

Public awareness is growing, she said, thanks to mainstream media and social media “inspiring a greater ethic of care.”

Living for the past few years in Lowertown, Labchuk, 33, en- joys the proximity to the Byward Market, being within walking dis- tance to her downtown office and to Parliament Hill, where several proposed laws for animals are being considered.

The proposals would ban captivity of whales and dolphins, prohibit cosmetic testing on ani- mals, ban shark fin imports, and criminalize all sexual contact with animals.

The Supreme Court of Canada suggested in 2016 that Parliament modernize the anti- bestiality law after it acquitted an accused. For Labchuk, the case produced two milestones. For the first time, lawyers were allowed to stand up in court and address judges on behalf of animals. And the Supreme Court ruling incorpo- rated Animal Justice’s position that “fundamental values” include the protection of vulnerable ani- mals.

“Pretty cool,” said Labchuk. “That set the tone for the future.”

**Business Profile:**

Lynn Truong: Tailor and seamstress

Lynn Truong doesn’t sleep in Lowertown, but she lives here all the same. That’s because she’s almost al- ways at her shop, Lynn’s Tailor- ing, on the second floor of 208 Dalhousie Street, where she has been doing business as a seam- stress since 2009.

Actually, Lynn’s connection to Lowertown’s needle trade dates back much earlier than that. In 1991, soon after arriving in Ot- tawa from Vietnam with four young children in tow, she started work at Dworkin Furs on Rideau Street, just east of King Edward. And, except for a short stint at an- other fur store off Elgin Street, she’s been in our neighbourhood ever since.

“In 1994, I began as a part- time seamstress for Market Clean- ers,” Lynn recalls, speaking of the business just downstairs from hers. “Ten years later, I switched to full time for them. And five years after that, I went out on my own.”

Today, Market Cleaners still sends business Lynn’s way. But, over the years, she has developed a broad clientele of her own – as is immediately evident to anyone stepping into her shop and seeing the huge array of clothing hanging neatly on racks, waiting to be worked on or collected by her customers.

Despite this large volume, Lynn delivers on time. “I love my work, so putting in lots of hours is no problem for me,” she says. “I try to leave a bit early on Fri- days to spend extra time with my grandchildren, but my customers are like family, too, and I never want to disappoint them.”

**Business Profile:**

Rent-A-Wife Household Organizer

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Photo by John McQuarrie

Camille Labchuk

Joel Weiner

May, June and July are Lynn’s most hectic months, when marriages and school proms are at their peak and she is busy with wedding dresses, evening gowns and other fancy wear. Some of this specialized work is done in the evenings, when she takes appoint- ments after 6:00 PM. Her solid background in the fur trade is an- other forte that is called upon generally later in the year. How- ever, year-round, Lynn has a steady load of alterations and re- pairs for men and women alike.

Lynn learned to sew in Viet- nam, where her grandmother’s company made table clothes for sale in France, her mother fitted ladies’ garments in her own shop, and an uncle was a tailor. “I learned from all of them,” she says, “especially my mother because I would help her out after school. I liked the business and I like it now.”

Before emigrating to Canada, Lynn ran various enterprises in her home town. Her penchant for sewing and commerce eventually merged when she opened Lynn’s Tailoring less than twenty years after she arrived in Ottawa.

“Well, I came here to make a better life for my children,” says Lynn, taking obvious pride in the fact that she succeeded. Today a proud grandmother of five, she delights in her family, her business and her many friends. She’s also a huge booster of Lowertown, patroniz- ing merchants up and down Dal- housie Street and the Byward Market.

“I could get a haircut in Chi- natown for $15 but I’d rather sup- port my neighbours!” she says. “The same is true for clothing, food, gifts and almost everything I need. Lowertown supports me, so I do what I can to support it.”
Things to do, places to go

2 – 19 February, Winterlude: Venues: Snowflake Kingdom at 350 Laurier Gatineau Jacques-Cartier Park, Confederation Park, the Rideau Canal and the Byward Market. Consult the calendar of events at www.canada.ca/en/canada-heritage/campaigns/winterlude/calendar-events.html for a list of activities at each location. For the children, Snowflake Kingdom should be on the must-do list. Always amazing are the ice sculptures in Confederation Park and the SnowArt events in the Byward Market. The OLG Gin-Bus Shuttle Service links the Winterlude official sites on weekends and Family day. Stops are sign-posted.

8 & 21 February, 8:00 pm, Bridg’s Well, 310 St Patrick entrance off Cumberland: North of Normal – IMPROV SHOW. Sundays at 5:00 pm, Live Music, 1st Sunday of the month - Bluegrass & Country with the String Masons; 2nd Sunday - Vintage Country & Cajun with Ball and Chain; 3rd Sunday - Swing. Blues, Country & Folk with Pat Moore & Roland Doucet; 4th Sunday - Blues & Folk with John Carroll and Fred Guignard.

9 February, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm, Byward Market, York Street: 27th annual Winterlude Stew Cook-off: For only $10 get your favourite in the Top Shelf Distiller’s People’s Choice Awards. Celebrity judges will pick Russell Hendrix/Ron Earle Chef’s Choice Award All proceeds to the LRCC. http://www.crcbv.ca/

11 February, 1:00 – 3:30 pm, Byward Market, Clarence Street between William & Dalhousie; 3rd Byward Market Server Games: Teams from various By-Ward Market restaurants, bars, and cafés compete for the title of server champions!

14 February – 3 March, 7:30 pm, The Ottawa Little Theatre, 400 King Edward: Dead Accounts: a dark comedy that tackles the timeless issues of corporate greed, small town values, and whether or not your family will always welcome you back.

17 February, 19 February, Monday (Family Day) 1-4 pm, Jules Morris Park: The Lowertown Winterfest: free activities for families including bouncing castle, wagon rides, music and skating. Hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served.

23 – 25 March, Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Ave: Irish Film Festival presents six award-winning Irish films. (irishfilmfest-ottawa.ca)