

La Nouvelle Scène:

The show will go on

By Juliet O'Neill

Managers of [La Nouvelle Scène Gilles Desjardins](#) theatre are working to ensure the show will go on despite withdrawal of a \$2.9 million grant from the Ontario government.

The theatre “is not at risk of closing,” executive director Chantal Nadeau told The Echo in late January, two months after the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport rescinded the grant.

“Right now, we are developing a business plan so we can go back to the ministry with a new grant proposal,” she said.

The business plan will also include new fundraising activities to mobilize support from the public and philanthropists for the theatre, a pillar of Francophone arts and culture in Lowertown and beyond.

Nadeau said there is “no immediate impact on the operations, staff or programming” which features the [Ottawa Winter Jazz Festival](#) Feb. 7-9 and an array of other music and drama productions in coming months.

The grant was meant to help “pay the debt for reconstruction” of the theatre in 2015-16. The new building at 333 King Edward Ave. was financed with federal, provincial [infrastructure funds](#), a municipal grant and \$1 million from builder and philanthropist [Gilles Desjardins](#), whose donation is described as the largest donation to a French Canadian cultural organization outside Quebec.

Documentation in dispute

The beautiful building replaced an aging 1930s-era theatre where La Nouvelle Scène was founded 20 years ago by four Francophone drama companies.



The new building houses two theatres, a studio and meeting rooms, a bistro and the four theatre companies: Théâtre du Trillium, Théâtre de la Vieille 17, Théâtre la Catapulte et Vox Théâtre.

Nadeau commented a day after the grant problem was discussed at a Jan. 21 evening meeting by La Nouvelle Scène board of directors.

Officials from the granting ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports said publicly that the grant was rescinded on grounds it had been awarded by the now defeated Liberal government without proper documentation and was intended to buy votes on the eve of the June election.

Nadeau confirmed to The Echo what theatre officials said in response: “All the information and documentation that was required at the time was given to the government.”

When word of withdrawal of the grant spread, it was widely portrayed

as part of a betrayal of the Ontario Francophone community by the Ford government, which had announced plans to axe the position of independent French Language Services Commissioner and halt plans to establish a Franco-Ontarian university in the Greater Toronto Area.

“Cultural icon of our community”

After an outcry, Ford announced a French-language services commissioner would be set up in the independent office of the Ontario ombudsman – independent meaning it reports to the legislature, not the government. Caroline Mulroney, Attorney General and Minister of Francophone Affairs, said there are no funds to build the university, however.

Nathalie Des Rosiers, Liberal MPP for Ottawa-Vanier, vowed to champion La Nouvelle Scène. Des Rosiers, who had announced the grant in May, is one

of only seven Liberals to survive the government’s electoral defeat.

“I am disappointed that the PC government did not honour previous commitments to la Nouvelle Scène but I remain committed to finding a solution,” she said in a written statement to The Echo.

“The contributions of La Nouvelle Scène are just too important to our cultural life to let the théâtre down. I have reached out to Minister [Michael] Tibollo and we are meeting in the coming weeks. I will continue to advocate for this cultural icon in our community.”

The original funds for building the new theatre were allocated in 2011 through infrastructure budgets by the then federal Progressive Conservative government, when John Baird was an Ottawa MP; and the former Liberal government of Dalton McGuinty, when Ottawa-Vanier MLA Madeleine Meilleur was Minister of Francophone Affairs.





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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.

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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.

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# Letter from the President

Dear neighbours,

The days are shorter and colder and the sidewalks are harder to navigate for many in our community, given the increased cycles of snow, melting and freezing. These greater fluctuations are just one of the ways climate change impacts us in Ottawa, but nothing is stopping many of you from working to ensure that the new year and the new Term of Council start off as an improvement for our residents. (If you are also concerned about walking in winter, you can help by becoming a “snow mole” by completing a questionnaire about winter walkability for seniors and other pedestrians or forming a neighbourhood group. <https://coaottawa.ca/snow-moles/>)

Just before the holidays, the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) and the Glebe Community Association co-hosted a meeting of community associations to urge the new city council to place much more importance on environmental issues. The Community Associations Forum on Environmental Sustainability (CAFES), with representatives from 30 urban, suburban

and rural community associations created a list of 24 environmental initiatives for the City to consider.

The comprehensive list includes items ranging from creating a “climate resilience and adaptation plan” to improving the environment for birds and bees, protecting and renewing of street trees, developing low impact solutions for storm-water management and improving the waste plan and the active transportation network. (For the full list of CAFES priorities please check the LCA website, <http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca/blog/community-associations-for-environmental-sustainability-cafes-call-on-ottawa-mayor-watson-and-councillors-to-make-real-the-2-million-for-ottawas-energy-evolution-in-budget-2018>)

Yet as such priorities were being discussed, the composition of committees at City Hall was released. We at the LCA sent a letter to the Mayor expressing our concern “over the lack of meaningful representation on key city committees by councillors who represent Ottawa’s downtown wards.” We’re particularly concerned over the

lack of representation on the Finance and Economic Development Committee (follow the money!) and Planning Committee. (See the full letter on the LCA website.)

The first meeting of the LCA this year featured a special discussion called “Homelessness: What do we know?” organized by board member Catherine Hacksel. More than 40 residents participated in a conversation with experts from various fields (See page 4 for Catherine’s report of the event.) It was a fascinating presentation on homelessness in our City, including what has worked in the past and what could work now as we begin a new Term of Council. Prescriptions for budget allocations as well as policy ones were discussed, and we all left with not only a greater understanding of the problem but of solutions. We as a city can deal with this; it’s not rocket science. As senior researcher Steve Pomeroy noted: “Housing first means housing first.”

In addition to urging City Council to include housing and homelessness and environmental issues as priorities this term, another priority of course is our

beloved ByWard Market. Two-hundred people packed the National Gallery to hear placemaking expert Gil Penalosa discuss what makes a great place. He reminded us to design for an 8-year old as well as an 80-year old, so it is safe for all, and to remember connectivity, including benches, trees and tables to facilitate human connection and socialization.

As consultations continue, we urge all of you to continue to participate in the public-realm plan for our Market (See <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/byward-market-public-realm-plan>). Of course it all takes money, and as Budget 2019 consultations begin, we’ll be there, but urge you all to turn out to make your priorities known.

We look forward to working together to ensure our community’s priorities, and the money to pay for them, are included in this term of council.

*Liz Bernstein,  
President, Lowertown Community association/Présidente, Association de la Communauté de la Basse-Ville*

## Development activity in Lowertown in 2019

By Peter Ferguson

This will be a busy year for the development of properties in Lowertown.

Rideau Street from King Edward east to the Cummings Bridge will see a burst of activity that should add much-needed student, apartment and condo accommodation to help revitalize the area. There will also be new development activity on Rideau west of King Edward that will fill in the vacant lots and improve the economic viability of the neighbourhood on both sides of the street. There will also be some practical infill activity to enhance the attractiveness of our community. The LCA Planning Committee has participated in the city-mandated planning process for all of the projects described below.

The repurposing of the former government building at 305 Rideau on the corner of King Edward is underway, with a completion date set to accommodate university students for the fall of this year. The University of Ottawa banner is now attached to the building, indicating that the private developer has reached an agreement with the university to provide student accommodation under conditions that are acceptable to the university. The variety

in the apartment-style accommodation and amenities has been well thought out and the adjustments to the original “Brutalist” style of architecture should make this an exciting structure at the one of the busiest intersections in Lowertown.

Further east on Rideau Street at Chapel, the LCA understands that Trinity Development will continue with its plans to develop the site. At this time last year we were informed by Councillor Fleury that the previously approved plan would be modified so as to reduce its retail footprint, and that the contemporary-style residential towers would be built in two phases rather than one. We await notice from the City that the project is moving ahead, hopefully in 2019. It will add much needed new commercial and residential accommodation to the neighbourhood.

At the northeast corner of Rideau and Cobourg, the Chenier Group will build a nine-storey apartment building to be known as 541 Rideau. It will have some retail space on the ground floor. The contemporary architectural style will contrast effectively with the reconstruction of the original house that currently sits on the property and that will be situated on the Cobourg side of the property. The reconstruction reflects a commitment made by the developer, Gaetan Chenier, to pre-

serve the structure, which dates from 1873, and to provide the community with a reminder of its original heritage. The expectation is that there could be shovels in the ground as early as April of this year.

A block further east and across the street at the corner of Rideau and Charlotte, Richcraft will be opening a sales office to attract interest in its proposed condo development at 560 Rideau Street. Ground floor retail accommodation will form part of this development.

Smaller developments are also proceeding within the community. Planning is underway for three townhouses at 101 Wurtemburg Street. This is a challenging build in that the steep embankment leading down to the Rideau River needs to be reinforced. Tree removal to permit the reinforcement activity occurred in mid-December. Hopefully the shoring up of the river

bank will proceed in the spring with final approval then to be given by the Committee of Adjustment.

At 33 Heney Street, the footings and foundation have been completed for a small apartment building that will contain 11 units of various sizes. The structure will conform to R4 zoning requirements, meaning that, structurally, it will fit into the neighbourhood where existing buildings have a similar zoning designation.

There are other proposals in the pipeline at various stages of review. Throughout 2019, the LCA Planning Committee will continue to be vigilant, in each instance, to ensure that our significant heritage is respected but also that a new vitality can be brought to our community.

*Peter Ferguson is Co-chair, LCA Planning Committee*

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# Homelessness panel packs January LCA meeting

By Catherine Hacksel

Despite the dreary weather and intimidating subject matter, the first Lowertown Community Association (LCA) meeting of 2019 was abuzz with energy!

At least 40 residents filled the meeting room while maintaining a respectful dialogue over a challenging subject in our neighborhood - homelessness. As organizer I had two goals for the panel discussion: to unpack the complexity of this issue with residents, and to highlight the local impacts of our political priorities. Panelists came from academia, the non-profit sector, and frontline and former city staff.

While their professional backgrounds varied, some views were very consistent: housing first with community supports is far more humane and cost-effective than our current emergency-oriented approach. Panelists agreed with one who lamented “My biggest pet peeve right now is the word innovation; can we please fund what works first?” To learn more I encourage readers to do an online search of the At Home/Chez Soi Project, the largest randomized trial of formalized Housing First in Canada. This study and other research are also available online at [www.homelesshub.com](http://www.homelesshub.com)



Panel on Homelessness. From left to right: Catherine Hacksel, Mark Taylor, Steve Pomeroy, Joanna Binch, Terrilee Kelford, and Sean LeBlanc. Photo: Sandra Milton

Lowertown is a unique neighborhood in that we are undeniably witnessing the affordable-housing crisis on our streets. For those presently on Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program, an affordable rental price (30% of income) would range from \$211 to \$345 per month. As 10,000 households are on the waiting list of the Ottawa Social Housing Registry the private market is also filling the gap through rooming houses, domiciliary hostels and bunkhouses.


These spaces may be covert, and even those that are licensed through the City vary in oversight and safety standards. If government can't (or won't?) control the housing market, how can we reduce harm to ensure all residents' human rights?

Despite the stigma homeless folks face in Ottawa and across Canada, I was pleased with the community conversation at January's panel. It is clear that this issue will not be addressed until we as voters inform ourselves and hold our elected officials to account.


While it may be tempting to displace emergency shelters and scorn affordable housing for the sake of optics, we owe it to ourselves and to the most vulnerable among us to respond with best practices. As our nations' capital, let's lead by example to ensure dignity and quality of life for all.


Catherine Hacksel is Chair of the LCA committee on Housing & Homelessness

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# From Lowertown’s Academy of Arts to Canada’s National Gallery

By Nancy Miller Chenier

When the national art collection was moved to the new gallery at the corner of Sussex and St Patrick it completed a circle that began more than 100 years before. Our national art collection started at the corner of Sussex and George at an exhibition organized by the fledgling Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA).

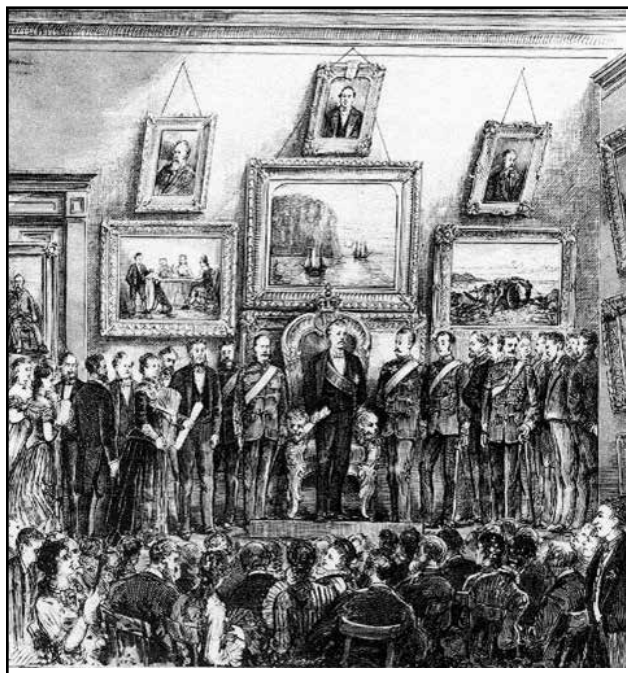
The Marquis of Lorne, then governor-general, and his wife Princess Louise encouraged the foundation of the RCA and opened the exhibition in March 1880.

At the opening, the Governor-General recognized the differing English and French traditions and suggested that this exhibition “where we have a people sprung from both races...should be able to combine these excellencies.”

The exhibition was deemed a success with a large number of artists showing works judged to be “far above the average”. Lucius O’Brien, first president of the Academy, submitted *Sunrise on the Saguenay*, *Cape Trinity* as his diploma work. Charlotte Schreiber, the first woman elected to the Academy, submitted *Croppy Boy (The Confession of an Irish Patriot)*. Both of these works are currently on display at the National Gallery.



The Canadian Academy of Arts, 541 Sussex Street. Photo: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/canadian-illustrated-news-1869-1883/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=22&>



Opening of the Canadian Academy of Arts at Ottawa 1880-03-20  
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/canadian-illustrated-news-1869-1883/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=21&>

Although the RCA showed Canadians that there was merit in art produced in Canada, the organization’s constitution and rules signaled the limited aesthetic that would shape the Canadian art scene for the next century. Works of painting, sculpture and design were allowed, but areas where women dominated —needlework, cut paper and coloured wax models—were not.

The building at 541 Sussex that housed the 1880 exhibition is an example of ongoing adaptive reuse. Lucien Brault recorded that Donald MacArthur built the first hotel in Bytown on the site in 1827.

As the Ottawa Hotel it served as accommodation for travelers but also as a public reading room that pre-dated any Ottawa library. Renamed the British Hotel and later Clarendon House, it was enlarged over the years and in the mid-1860s was temporarily requisitioned to be a military barracks during the Fenian crisis.

In 1880, the federal government acquired the building to house the Geological and Natural History

Survey, but first provided the space for the inauguration of the RCA.

From 1881 to 1911 it contained museum exhibits, a library, a mapping office and laboratories for preparing natural history specimens, analyzing geological materials and drawing and copying maps before being turned over to the Department of Mines.

In 1955, the building was recognized as a National Historic Site of Canada. In 1967, Sussex Street was renamed Sussex Drive. In the 1980s, under the custodianship of the National Capital Commission, its exterior was returned to an appearance closer to its 1880s style without the verandas.

A little over 100 years after that first showing of Canadian art in Lowertown, the federal government announced the selection of the current National Gallery site at Sussex and St Patrick. Today, Lowertown’s visual art scene continues to thrive with numerous private galleries, the Ottawa School of Art and, of course, the National Gallery of Canada. At least part of their success is attributable to that early art exhibition at 541 Sussex.



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# Toute une histoire !

par H  l  ne Beauchamp

**N**ovembre 1971 : inauguration de l  cole De La Salle. L'homme de th   tre Edgard Demers publie dans Le Droit un article intitul   « Les gens de ma rue ». Il y pr  sente, maison par maison, ses voisins de la rue St-Joseph, tel qu'ils   taient avant d'  tre chass  s par la r  novation urbaine et avant que leurs maisons soient expropri  es et d  molies.

   la fin de son texte – oh surprise! – il explique que De La Salle est construite sur les « d  bris des propri  t  s des gens de ma rue ». Et il sugg  re que les   l  ves devraient savoir que le hall d'entr  e de leur   cole, la biblioth  que, la caf  t  ria, les classes, les gymnases, l'auditorium se trouvent l   o     taient le salon, la cuisine, les chambres, le parterre ou la cour des gens de la rue St-Joseph, des rues Friel et Notre-Dame.

Ce texte me provoque. Est-ce qu'il contient l'id  e d'un spectacle? Faire revivre toute une rue? Mettre en sc  ne un quartier et ses habitants? Raconter une histoire qui s'  tend sur plus de 100 ans?

Maxine Turcotte, com  dienne professionnelle et enseignante    la con-

centration th   tre de De La Salle accepte de relever le d  fi. Oh joie! Et,    son tour, elle me met au d  fi d'  crire, pour ses 25   l  ves de 9e ann  e, autant de sc  nes de 3 minutes pour un spectacle d'environ une heure. Notre aventure th   trale commence! Et d'abord,

J'  cris mes sketches et le petit village rena  t sur les bords de la rivi  re Rideau. Marcel S  guin, plombier de son m  tier, se fait narrateur. Il pr  sente messieurs McGee, Rose, Friel et puis ceux qui habitent sur ces rues et dans le quartier : mes grands-parents ma-

animateur culturel, et puis Eug  nie, B  atrice, Anne-Marie, Jeannine, monsieur Bernier, Aur  le, Suzanne, Pierrette et... Edgard lui-m  me.

Pour mon plus grand plaisir, les   l  ves entrent dans ce projet avec curiosit   et beaucoup d'  nergie cr  atrice. Ils d  sirent conna  tre cette histoire et donnent vie    ces personnes qui deviennent des personnages au fur et    mesure des r  p  titions. Ils plongent dans leurs recherches, inventent leurs costumes, ajoutent du texte au mien. Maxine r  gle une mise en sc  ne vive et rythm  e, o   les r  pliques fusent, donn  es directement.

Le 2 mai 2017, des photos de Michel Lafleur sont expos  es dans le hall d'entr  e, l'auditorium est plein, les jeunes acteurs sont solides, les spectateurs, tr  s   mus, applaudissent    tout rompre. Le spectacle sera repris dans la semaine. Merci    Maxine,    la direction et    toute l'  quipe de la concentration th   tre!

Pendant un bref printemps, l'id  e d'Edgard Demers a pris corps et voix : les   l  ves sont devenus « un solide trait d'union entre les g  n  rations » et De La Salle, un monument vivant aux francophones de la Basse-Ville.



**H  l  ne Beauchamp with De La Salle Theatre students.**  
**Photo Michel Lafleur**

par une visite guid  e du quartier. Pour les   l  ves, le th   tre prendra racine dans la vraie vie.

ternels, Wilfrid Labelle, fondateur de la Caisse populaire Sainte-Anne, le cur   Alfred Myrand, Napol  on Taylor,

## HIER, LES ENFANTS CHANTAIENT

Par Michel Rossignol

**E**ntre 1945 et 1980, plusieurs   l  ves d'  coles primaires de la Basse-Ville d'Ottawa ont pass   de nombreuses heures    pratiquer des chants afin de participer aux comp  titions du Festival de musique d'Ottawa (qui depuis 1985 porte le nom de Festival de musique Kiwanis). Le personnel enseignant des   coles primaires francophones a reconnu l'importance de faire bonne figure au festival afin de d  montrer sur la place publique leur savoir-faire.

   cette   poque, la plupart des jeunes gar  ons francophones de la Basse-Ville allaient aux   coles Br  beuf et Guigues alors que les filles se rendaient aux   coles Duhamel et Routhier. Aujourd'hui, ces   coles sont utilis  es    d'autres fins (Guigues, Routhier) ou n'existent plus car elles ont   t   d  molies (Br  beuf, Duhamel). Cependant, pendant des d  cennies, les chorales de ces   coles francophones, comme celles des autres   coles de la Basse-Ville telle que la York Street Public School, ont fi  rement repr  sent   leur communaut   et ont remport   de nombreuses victoires.

D'ailleurs, « Les petits chanteurs de l'  cole Guigues » se sont taill   une excellente r  putation d  s la premi  re   dition du festival en 1945 et ont gagn   ann  es apr  s ann  es dans plusieurs



**Photo des petits chanteurs de l'  cole Guigues en mai 1960 lors d'une de leurs nombreuses victoires au Festival de musique d'Ottawa. Photo Ph2-894, Fonds Association canadienne-fran  aise de l'Ontario, Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-fran  aise (CRCCF), Universit   d'Ottawa.**

cat  gories comme la musique religieuse et le folklore « French Canadian » (le nom des cat  gories   taient seulement en anglais les premi  res ann  es du festival).

Entre 1945 et 1955, le fr  re Victor (Albert Laprise) fut le directeur de

la chorale et sa contribution aux succ  s des petits chanteurs a souvent   t   soulign  e par les juges du festival. Le fr  re Mathieu, le fr  re Alain et d'autres directeurs l'ont remplac   avec succ  s dans les ann  es subs  quentes.

J'ai eu la chance d'  tre un des petits chanteurs entre 1957 et 1963.

Selon un article dans le journal Le Droit du 3 mai 1961, la juge d'une des comp  titions, Madame Berythe Birse, a pos   la question suivante apr  s nous avoir d  clar  s les gagnants: « Qu'est-ce qui fait que ces petits peuvent chanter comme des anges? » J'aurais r  pondu « de nombreuses pratiques de chant ». Connaissant notre excellente r  putation, le gouverneur g  n  ral du Canada, le g  n  ral Georges P. Vanier, et son   pouse nous ont invit  s    chanter lors du mariage en septembre 1962 d'un de leurs fils.

La chorale de Guigues a continu   d'accumuler des victoires au festival de musique    la fin des ann  es 1960. D'ailleurs, un des petits chanteurs dans les ann  es 1950, Jean-Louis Schryburt, est retourn      l'  cole Guigues vers 1966 comme enseignant et directeur de la chorale, remportant ainsi des victoires comme chanteur et comme directeur.

Aujourd'hui, les   l  ves et le personnel enseignant des   coles dans la Basse-Ville comme l'  cole   l  mentaire catholique Sainte-Anne, York Street Public School et l'  cole secondaire publique De La Salle continuent cette tradition d'excellence en musique et dans les autres disciplines artistiques. Bravo les jeunes!



# Norman Levine’s Lowertown

Nancy Miller Chenier

For people who live or have lived in Lowertown, reading Norman Levine’s books and short stories is like taking a stroll along streets with familiar names but to places that have changed over time.

Norman Levine (1923-2008) left Lowertown physically behind when he won a fellowship to King’s College London in 1949 but he returned often in his writing. He wrote that Lowertown had a magnetic effect, making him unable to stay away and bringing him to visit whenever possible.

When Levine’s parents Moses and Annie arrived in Ottawa from Poland, they settled in Lowertown near other Jewish families. Levine has written about the three streets where the family lived. All were within a short distance above or below St Patrick Street, Lowertown’s main street.

From St Joseph Street speaking only Yiddish, he walked with his mother to start his English education at York

house on Murray Street where he re-lives the most memories.

The 363 Murray Street home was in a block close to many Jewish families and within viewing distance of Anglesea Square, then a treeless, grassless, dusty playground. Levine’s father was a fruit pedlar and his son remembers the other pedlars on the street – the Slacks, Blacks, Tallers, Gunners, Kirshners, and Glusteins. The Goldfield kosher butcher and the Ages ice vendor were located nearby.

Levine was part of a Murray Street gang of young male adults that played hockey, softball and rugby on teams sponsored by local businesses. The sponsors were usually Jewish businesses like that of the Smoke Bar Kosher Deli on Rideau Street near Nelson.

The family attended the Murray Street Synagogue at the corner of King Edward. Levine recalls the rewards of being brought up Jewish where religion associated with synagogue, festivals and food was interwoven with



Levine home at 249 Guigues 1970s.  
Photo: Johanne McDuff

Levine served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and then, as a veteran, was admitted to Carleton College and later McGill University. When a 1949 Beaver Club Scholarship enabled him to study in England, he left Canada, returning only for visits. On one longer visit in 1956, he undertook a three-month cross-country journey that led to his controversial book, *Canada Made Me*, published in England in 1958 but not in a Canadian edition until 1979.

By the late 1960s, Levine’s father was in long-term care and his mother was living in the newly built Macdonald Manor on Cobourg Street. Levine writes about one winter visit where he

looks out from her second-storey unit at the snow and dark trees in Macdonald Gardens. Later walking along Murray Street, he is nostalgic as he watches a kid playing hockey in front of the house where he grew up. On a subsequent visit, he observed that the house had been demolished as part of urban renewal and the streets changed.

In 2001, Levine was the winner of a Writers’ Trust award in celebration of his writing life. The award citation noted that “there is no doubt that Norman Levine is one of the most accomplished and important writers that Canada has made.” And so much of what made him was Lowertown.



Levine (third in back row) with Smoke Bar Kosher Delicatessen Softball Team 1940s. Photo: Ottawa Jewish Archives

Street Public School. At the house on the corner of Guigues and King Edward, he remembered boarders that helped pay the rent, and skating between the trees of the boulevard after a freezing rain. But it was the third

childhood events. Key memories included the richness of the Hebrew chants on the Sabbath and the food associated with holidays.

## LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

The Lowertown Community Association meets the second Monday of every month September - June at the  
Routhier Centre 172 Guigues Street  
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By Lynda Cox

What is best: loving where you live or living where you love? You might say that is a tricky question. Is there a difference or are they one and the same? The short answer: it depends. Loving where you live, to me, means finding and making a home that is comfortable, warm and inviting; a house or apartment that you love to come home to every day after work or play. This atmosphere is your own doing. You can create it in any location.

Living where you love, speaks more about neighbourhood. It is more an acquired love than a love that is already there. It requires getting to know the area, getting to know the people and amenities, finding your place in it all and loving the quality of life it gives you.

# Love where you live / live where you love

Many of us living here in Lowertown are living where we love. We might fantasize about a dream home in a warmer climate, especially at this time of year. We might fantasize about winning the lottery to finance those dreams BUT here we are, right in the middle of the best little city in Canada and the greatest neighbourhood in Ottawa. I can say that because this is where I live now. I have lived in rural Ottawa, I have lived in suburban Ottawa, I have lived in an urban university neighbourhood. I loved all my homes. I loved where I lived, but my Lowertown location is my favourite of all. I am now living where I love.

Why do we love it so? Our walking score is 99. Most amenities are at our fingertips, just a short stroll from home, without the need for a car. Our population is very diverse. Every season provides varying opportunities,

different sights and aromas and, best of all, housing is still affordable.

**FACT:** Ottawa is a terrific place to live as a homeowner: the words "housing bubble" and Ottawa have never gone hand in hand. Ottawa is a government town so housing prices tend to be steady and buyers plentiful.

I join my Lowertown neighbours in stating: We are living where we love. No lottery win would change a thing. ... Well perhaps there'd be a few more warm winter getaways.

Lowertown.....What's not to love?

## Real Estate Update

Greater Ottawa experienced a 3.9% overall increase in prices compared with 2017, but Lowertown was only

1.5%. Lowertown experienced a 25% increase in sales volume compared with 2017. This was mostly due to the increased activity in the condo sector.

**Residential activity since Oct. 31**  
SOLD 5  
CONDITIONALLY SOLD 0  
ACTIVE 0

**Condominium activity since Oct. 31**  
SOLD 19  
CONDITIONALLY SOLD 4  
ACTIVE 21

**Rental activity since Oct. 31**  
AVAILABLE ON MLS 14  
RENTED 13

*Lynda Cox is a sales representative with Faulkner Real Estate*



By David Lu

As I was driving through my parent's neighbourhood over the holidays, I saw the same impressive Christmas decorations on the same houses, as if nothing had changed since I was a kid. It reminded me of an issue that sometimes arises in condominium living: decorating, particularly if the decorations are for religious reasons.

Unlike residents in freehold homes, a condominium resident is generally not allowed to put up decorations on their unit's exterior since it is often part of the condominium's common elements. In many condominiums, this includes porches or balconies even though they are only accessible from a specific unit. Sometimes, these rules can conflict with a person's religious beliefs.

# Condo Corner: Putting up decorations in and around your condominium

The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) dealt with one such situation in the case of Syndicat Northcrest v Amselem (henceforth Amselem). In Amselem, a group of Orthodox Jews owned units in a luxury Montreal condominium. They wanted to construct succahs (small enclosed temporary huts or booths) on their balconies during the Succot festival.

However, the governing documents of the Syndicat (the Quebec version of a condominium corporation) prohibited decorations, alterations and construction on the balconies of its units.

Syndicat Northcrest proposed instead that a communal succah be built in the gardens. However, the residents' position was that a communal succah would not meet their religious requirements and beliefs, which they said called for their own succahs on their own balconies.

In a 5-4 decision, the SCC ruled in favour of the residents. The Court was satisfied that the residents were genuine in their religious beliefs requiring them to have their own succahs.

Although the residents were required to sign a declaration indicating their agreement with the condominium's rules when they purchased their units, the Court found that (1) the Syndicat's governing documents did not clearly prohibit succahs; (2) the residents had no choice but to sign the declaration in order to live at the condominium; and (3) there was no clear indication to the appellants that their religious rights would be impeded.

The SCC ordered that the succahs be permitted, but constructed in a manner that ensured resident safety (i.e. fire escape routes) and conformed as much as possible with the general aesthetics of the property.

Condominium living often means living in a community of residents with various backgrounds and cultures. This can sometimes result in a conflict between a resident's religious beliefs and a condominium's rules and regulations. In such situations, both parties should try to dialogue and work together to achieve a solution.

As the majority at the SCC wrote in Amselem, "mutual tolerance is one of the cornerstones of all democratic societies." In condominium living, reasonableness and a willingness to compromise can go a long way in ensuring a harmonious community for all residents.

*David Lu is an Associate at Davidson Houle Allen LLP, a boutique Condominium Law firm serving Eastern Ontario.*



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Venez célébrer la Journée de la famille 2019 avec Nathalie Des Rosiers, députée provinciale et moi, députée fédérale pour Ottawa-Vanier!

Le 18 février 2019, de 13 h à 16 h, Salle de quilles du Centre francophone de Vanier au 270 ave Marier

Joignez-vous à nous pour un après-midi de quilles et de jeux de société en famille ! Les parties et la location de souliers seront gratuites. Puisqu'il y a un nombre limité d'allées de quilles, les premiers arrivés seront les premiers servis. Il y aura aussi des jeux

de société et des collations dans la salle communautaire en haut ! SVP, confirmer en visitant votre participation au lien suivant : [www.monafortier.ca/events](http://www.monafortier.ca/events).

Le mois dernier, Santé Canada a dévoilé un nouveau Guide alimentaire canadien qui fournit des directives et conseils au sujet d'une bonne alimentation. N'étant plus un document générique, le guide est maintenant une collection de ressources qui peuvent aider une variété d'utilisateurs ! Il met l'accent sur le fait qu'une saine alimentation ne se limite pas aux aliments qui sont consommés.

Le nouveau Guide alimentaire encourage les Canadiennes et les Canadiens à manger des fruits, des légumes, des grains entiers et des aliments protéinés. Il fait aussi la promotion de saines habitudes alimentaires pour la vie en encourageant les Canadiens à cuisiner et à préparer des aliments sains à la maison.

Pour garder le rythme des vies des Canadiens, le guide est maintenant sous la forme d'une application Web conviviale. De cette façon, tout le monde peut accéder à l'information sur la saine alimentation de partout. Vous

pouvez consulter le guide, des conseils concrets, des recettes et beaucoup plus à ce lien : <https://guide-alimentaire.canada.ca/fr/>

Comme toujours, mon bureau de circonscription est là pour vous appuyer dans vos échanges avec les services fédéraux. Il est ouvert du lundi au jeudi de 9 h à 17 h et le vendredi de 9 h à 16 h 30. Communiquez avec nous au 613-998-1860 ou envoyez un courriel à [mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca).

\*\*\*\*\*

Come celebrate Family Day 2019 with Ottawa-Vanier MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers and myself!

February 18th 2019 · 1pm-4pm, Vanier Francophone Centre Bowling Alley, 270 Marier Ave

Join us for an afternoon of bowling and board games with your family! Games and shoe rentals will be free! There is a limited amount of bowling lanes, so they will be attributed on a first come, first served basis. There will also be board games and snacks in the Community Room upstairs! Please RSVP at: [www.monafortier.ca/events](http://www.monafortier.ca/events)

Last month, Health Canada unveiled an updated, Canada Food Guide that provides guidelines and advice on healthy eating. No longer a "one size fits all" document, the guide is now an online collection of resources to help a variety of users! It emphasizes that healthy eating goes beyond just the foods you eat.

The new Food Guide encourages Canadians to eat vegetables, fruit, whole grains and protein foods. It also promotes life-long healthy eating habits by encouraging Canadians to cook and prepare healthy foods at home.

To keep up with busy lives, the guide is now in the form of a mobile-friendly web application. This way, everyone can access information on healthy eating from anywhere! You can consult the guide, concrete advice, recipes, and much more at this link: [www.Canada.ca/FoodGuide](http://www.Canada.ca/FoodGuide)

As always, my constituency office is there to help you with any interactions with federal services. It is open Monday to Thursday from 9 to 5, and Friday from 9 to 4:30. Give us a call at 613-998-1860, or send an email at [mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca).



Chers résidents et résidentes d'Ottawa-Vanier,

N'hésitez jamais à me faire part de vos commentaires relativement aux enjeux provinciaux. La session législative se poursuivra d'ici peu et il est important pour moi de bien comprendre ce qui vous préoccupe. Entre autres, j'ai récemment organisé des tables rondes sur les questions touchant les aînés ainsi que sur le logement. Même si vous n'avez pas eu la chance d'y participer, j'apprécie toujours vos commentaires sur ces sujets.

Certaines de nos discussions lors de la prochaine session porteront sur l'éducation de nos jeunes, des prêts étudiants et des frais de scolarité. D'autres discussions porteront sur les questions environnementales, telles que la gestion des déchets, et la protection de l'eau et de la Ceinture vert. Je déposerai un projet de loi pour traiter de la gestion des sacs de plastique et de leur impact sur nos lacs, rivières et océans.

De plus, le gouvernement conservateur a continué à tenir, en janvier, des consultations budgétaires pour présenter son budget en mars. Si vous avez fait ou ferez des présentations dans le cadre de ces consultations, il me fera plaisir de les reprendre devant la Chambre. Faites-les moi parvenir. Si vous avez des inquiétudes en rapport au budget, n'hésitez pas à m'appeler.

Je suis à votre service et veux continuer de bien vous représenter : je soutiens activement toutes les institutions qui ont pignon sur rue dans le comté d'Ottawa-Vanier ainsi que tous mes concitoyens et concitoyennes de notre belle région d'Ottawa.

En terminant, je vous invite à notre journée de quilles et jeux de société le 18 février prochain dans le cadre des

festivités de la Journée de la famille. Venez jouer avec nous! Contactez mon bureau pour plus de détails.

Nathalie Des Rosiers – Députée provinciale, Ottawa-Vanier

bureau: 237 Montreal Rd  
téléphone: 613-744-4484  
<http://nathaliedesrosiers.onmpp.ca>

Dear constituents of Ottawa-Vanier,

Please do not hesitate to share with me your comments relating to provincial issues. The legislative session will resume shortly, and it is important for me to understand your preoccupations. Among other topics, I have recently held roundtable discussions on seniors' issues and on housing issues in Ottawa-Vanier. Even if you were unable to participate, I am happy to receive your input.

Some of our debates for the next session will be on topics such as our children's education, student loans and tuition. Other debates will be on environmental questions such as proper waste management, as well as the protection of drinking water and of the Greenbelt. I will be presenting a

Private Member's Bill addressing the management of plastic bags and their impact on our lakes, rivers and oceans.

Additionally, the Conservative Government's budget consultations continued in January, and they will present their budget in March. If you have made presentations during these consultations, it would be my pleasure to present them again in the House. Feel free to send them to my office. If you have any concerns with respect to the budget, let me know.

I am at your service, and want to continue to represent you well: I actively support all institutions that are located in the riding of Ottawa-Vanier, as well as all my fellow residents of the beautiful Ottawa region.

In closing, I invite you to an afternoon of bowling and board games on Family Day, February 18th 2019! Contact my office for more details.

Nathalie Des Rosiers – MPP, Ottawa-Vanier

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# Art returns to your ByWard Market Building!

By Jeff M. Darwin

After many years of sitting vacant, the second floor mezzanine of your historic market building is being revitalized with the exciting new Point of View Gallery.

Point of View Gallery showcases the art of established and emerging photographic artists in a space specifically designed to encourage public viewing. The gallery is the creation of Louise Radmore, a local photographer, as a space that gives emerging artists an affordable opportunity to exhibit their work and interact with the public in a historic location.

The ByWard Market building attracts visitors from the community and from around the world with international visitors, for whom the “birthplace of commerce” in Ottawa is a must see.

For many emerging artists, it is difficult to gain a foothold in the exhibition world. Exhibiting at Point of View Gallery may be their first opportunity to introduce the community to their work.

Radmore says this project is her way of giving back to the arts community, which has been instrumental in her own success. She credits the generosity of local artists and the encouragement of fellow students and mentors from the School of Photographic

Arts of Ottawa (SPAO) for providing her with the breaks that earned her exposure in Ottawa art circles. As a long-time student of SPAO, Radmore has access to some of the most creative new photographic artists in Ottawa.

The opening exhibition featured “Bones”, a portfolio created by first-year students, abstract works by Laurence Head entitled “Hidden memory”, as well as a 35-piece exhibition of Radmore’s own work entitled “Migration through Time” with the famous Eagle Hunters of Mongolia.

Public interest in the work and gallery has been beyond enthusiastic.

The gallery will eventually have creative project spaces for work in progress also.

To celebrate our national winter festival, Point of View Gallery will be creating an inclusive body of work entitled “We” to be exhibited throughout the Winterlude festivities. For “We”, Radmore will select and photograph random people visiting the Market during January. These portraits will then be on exhibit during Winterlude

in February, giving us all a view of what “We” of Ottawa look like. Photographic art with a winter theme will also be featured throughout February.

The gallery is unique as it encourages the public at large to visit. Many people are intimidated to walk into an art gallery; however that will not be the case at Point of View Gallery.

The artists will be on site for exhibition openings but otherwise the images will speak for themselves. We want the public to be able to explore and interact with the art at their own pace. Contact and purchase information for each artist is discreetly displayed.

Please drop by the Gallery and support the work of local artists. Nothing is more rewarding than seeing the public appreciating these images. Comments and words of encouragement on the website or FaceBook are greatly appreciated by all.

To exhibit your local art at the Point of View Gallery, please contact Louise Radmore directly at [louise@pointofview.photos](mailto:louise@pointofview.photos)

Jeff M. Darwin is Executive Director at Marches d’Ottawa Markets.



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Business Profile:

Dalhousie’s local designers

By Deborah Mebude

Situated on the north end of Dalhousie Street, Workshop Studio & Boutique embodies the true essence of neighbourhood collaboration.

It was established in the ByWard Market almost 14 years ago by Christina Ballhorn and business partner Bridget Remai, two designers with a common passion for locally made fashion. When they first met, both women were selling their own goods in the Market, Ballhorn making silk screen T-shirts, and Remai making fair-trade jewellery. “We hit it off,” explains Ballhorn.

Naturally, it was this synergy that led them to envision a space where local and sustainable designs would be front and centre. Both women recognized a need for a shared platform for like-minded creatives. “We thought it’d be great to have a space that could showcase local artists,” Ballhorn tells me. Along with other friends in the industry, they set off to design a shop that would be truly one of a kind.

Today, the shop maintains these same core values, with locally made products by mostly female vendors as its raison d’être, and its eclectic feel, all of it is distinctly Canadian.

Featuring more than 100 designers, the storefront is filled with lines from across Canada. Entering the shop, it’s easy to see its unique charm. The selection includes a variety of women’s goods, from accessories, to printed tops and scarves, to a vast assortment of handmade jewellery.

Notably, the shop features clothing lines with a range of sizing, because an inclusive customer experience is important to Ballhorn. She wants women of all ages, shapes and sizes to feel welcome. To her, it’s about creating a positive space that all people can feel comfortable in. “We want it to feel like you’re shopping with your best friend in her closet,” Ballhorn explains.

It’s no surprise then, that business has been steady for the duo. For over a decade, the owners have been able to grow alongside other creatives. They’ve had the pleasure, too, of introducing new designers to customers.

“It’s been great to have seen people become established. It’s also great to help up-and-coming people,” says Ballhorn.

In true collaborative fashion (pun intended), the store also provides opportunities for those with little to no design experience to hone a new skill, right in

the shop itself. “We do workshops to teach people about jewellery-making, knitting and other crafts.” With a cul-

in our community. With so many of the goods we buy produced internationally, there’s something special about



Racks full of unique designer fashions to suite all ages for all occasions. Photo: Deborah Mebude

ture of skillsharing, the shop is an all-around outlet for creative expression.

Some of this creativity happens right behind the till area, where employees are able to bring prints to life. With a specialized work space for designing, this in-house space allows staff to silk screen t-shirts by hand. If one’s in the market for something locallymade, it doesn’t get much more local than that.

It’s this fact, combined with the variety of other hand-made goods, that makes the store a great option for the environmentally minded shopper. Since goods are made in Canada, less energy is needed to transport items to the store.

There are other benefits to shopping Canadian-made though, including the positive impact on the local economy, as well as the ability to support artists knowing that a product is made by a designer not too far away. This emphasis on local production helps bridge the gap between producers and consumers.

If one prefers the online experience, however, a selection of the store’s products can be purchased on their website. Still, Ballhorn maintains that there’s nothing quite like the in-person experience. “As much as it’s great to have online shopping, it’s vibrant and interesting to invest in your neighbourhood.”

These days it can be rare to find things that are genuinely local. But after more than a decade in the community, these Ottawa designers don’t seem to be going anywhere anytime soon. “I really like Dalhousie,” says Ballhorn. “We’re happy to be a part of the community.”



The Workshop at 242 Dalhousie St. Photo: Deborah Mebude



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# Building Bridges:

## The Architecture of Pluralism, Culture, and Collaboration

By Yasmin Rajwani

*“The language of architecture speaks in different idioms, but it also provides powerful connections, resonating in landscapes both urban and rural, global and local, monumental and humble, secular and spiritual. An “Architecture of Pluralism” is one that will encourage all of us to listen to one another and to learn from one another, with a deep sense of humility and a realization that diversity itself is a gift of the Divine.”*

*His Highness the Aga Khan, on being awarded the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada 2013 Gold Medal, Ottawa*

Ottawa, and Lowertown in particular, is blessed with an architectural pluralism that reflects the value of cross-cultural conversation. Whether it is the modernist National Gallery, the Notre Dame Cathedral or the many embassies, each building speaks to those passing by – telling stories of the history, culture, or aspirations of the institutions and individuals behind their construction. These buildings spark the curiosity of all those who traverse this historic neighbourhood.

The Delegation of the Ismaili Imam- at at 199 Sussex Drive is among the more recent of these landmarks. Designed by the world-renowned Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki, the building embodies the Aga Khan’s vision of integrating both traditional Islamic and modern elements. Maki is celebrated for his masterful use of light and fusion of cultural traditions.

In designing the building, His Highness asked Maki to draw inspiration from rock crystal - specifically its strength and luminosity. At the building’s inauguration in 2008, the Aga Khan explained his reasoning, expressing that “rock crystal seems to be such an appropriate symbol of the profound beauty and the ever-unfold-



The delegation of the Ismaili Imamat in Ottawa from Fumihiko Maki and Moriyama & Teshima. Photo: Thomas Lewandovski/AKFC

ing mystery of Creation itself - and the Creator.”

The Delegation’s distinctive glass roof is the most evident manifestation of the rock crystal inspiration. Light entering through the roof panes creates patterns that change with the time of day and season.

The atrium also features elements that interpret Islamic architectural traditions in modern or local materials, such as its geometric patterned Canadian maple floor and dramatic, cast aluminum screen encircling the space. Similarly, an interior courtyard interprets the char bagh (four-part garden), here employing melted snow as the water feature appropriate to our Canadian climate.

These attributes serve as a reminder of the innately pluralistic essence of

the building’s function: to promote dialogue, exchange, and partnership.

The Delegation exhibits powerful aspirations for today’s globalized world: building bridges, sharing knowledge, and joining forces to address global challenges.

The Delegation’s architectural significance has not gone unnoticed; the building is the recipient of the 2012 Governor General’s Medal in Architecture, and the Ontario Institute of

Architects’ Celebration of Excellence and People’s Choice Awards in 2010.

The Delegation hosts public events such as seminar series, youth workshops, concerts, and exhibits in partnership with Canadian and global organizations. Free, guided tours of the Delegation’s public spaces are available Wednesdays and Saturdays. To book a tour and to find out about upcoming events, visit [www.akfc.ca](http://www.akfc.ca).

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# Meet your neighbour: Bob Misener

By Joel Weiner

Did you know that Lowertown is the birthplace of the renowned Ottawa Jazz Festival and that one of its founding fathers is a long-time Lowertown resident?

The story begins when Robert (Bob) Misener first arrived in Ottawa in 1958. At the time, he was 23 years old, a just-released serviceman and excellent pianist looking for a job, a place to live and a chance to make music. It was in Lowertown that he found all three, and also Doris, the woman who soon became his wife.

Bob's passion for music developed even before his teens. That's when his father, an officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, brought a piano to the family home in Calgary, where they were stationed at the time. A curious lad, Bob started pecking at the ivories. He displayed a remarkable ear for melody and soon began to take formal lessons.

What soon set Bob apart was a love of jazz, thanks to the 1948 movie *New Orleans*. That film featured the music of Louis Armstrong, and Bob was smitten by what he saw and heard. So much so in fact that a few months later the movie's soundtrack became the very first record album that he ever bought. He was only 13 at the time and already hooked on jazz!

Piano lessons weren't always available as the family moved from posting to posting, but Bob's natural proclivity allowed him to keep developing and improving as a musician. That was also true when he followed his dad's lead, joining the RCAF and having postings of his own across Canada and Europe.

It was while stationed in France that Bob decided to try civilian life. Sent to Montreal for demobilization, he then made his way to the nation's capital to visit a friend and figure out what to do with his life. In short order, he had an administrative position at the National Research Council on Sussex Drive and a room in a home at the corner of Friel and York.

One of the buildings he strolled past each day on his way to work and back housed an attractive young woman who, as fate would have it, also worked at the NRC. It wasn't long before Bob and Doris started making the return walk together, and they soon decided to get married.



The Magnolia Rhythm Kings in full swing with Bob Misener on keyboard

Not surprisingly, one of their early dates was to take in Capital City Jazz Band, a local group that played the New Orleans music that Bob loved. That was Bob's introduction to Ottawa's nascent jazz scene. He started meeting area musicians and jamming with them, eventually joining a group that played evenings and weekends at venues around town. Most often, though, they were at the old Riverside Hotel on North River Road, just across from Lowertown over the St. Patrick Street Bridge.

In 1979, Bob went to the recently launched Toronto Jazz Festival and was quickly inspired to set up a similar event in our town. Fellow musicians Tony Pope and Bill Shuttleworth helped him make that dream a reality, along with assistance from City Hall, the NCC and a few big jazz names. They agreed to come to Ottawa in 1980 and play on a makeshift stage for little money over a single weekend at Major's Hill Park in Lowertown. The rest is history.

Almost 40 years later, the Ottawa Jazz Festival is a huge enterprise with multiple stages, world-famous

artists and about 250,000 fans, tourists and locals alike, who attend the 10-day event each year. Bob served as the Festival's Chief Executive Officer for five years, giving up the position when it started to interfere with his daytime job. Handling endless calls from performers, agents and managers looking for gigs, negotiating contracts or making travel arrangements were all demanding tasks that could not be reconciled with his career in human resources for a succession of federal departments and agencies. Nevertheless, he continued to play at the Festival for another 25 years.

Ultimately, the Ottawa Jazz Festival outgrew Lowertown and had to move. But Bob came back. Today, at 83, he and Doris still live in our neighbourhood, having returned after raising a family in other parts of the city. And he's still a jazzman. You can catch him every second Sunday afternoon--on the piano, banjo or guitar--at the Royal Oak in Kanata, playing for the 28th straight year as a member of the Magnolia Rhythm Kings.

Thank you again for your confidence. As always, our office is here to help you.

Merci encore pour votre confiance. Comme toujours, notre bureau est ici pour vous aider.



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# When creativity meets care, the possibilities are limitless

By Deirdre Freiheit

When the cold January nights seem longest and darkest, I am often reminded of the incredible warmth and care that our staff, volunteers and community partners extend to our city’s homeless and vulnerable people every day at Shepherds of Good Hope.

Being homeless can be a scary experience for many people, but there are many staying at our shelter who brighten our days through their art work, and culture.

Just last month, in the community room of our shelter on King Edward Ave., a small group of people participated in an Indigenous Cultural Workshop where people learned how to make dream catchers. This program was possible because of our partnership with Ottawa Inner City Health, and Miniwaashin Lodge whose staff often visit our shelter to bring Indig-

er some beautiful and personal pieces of art. Fingers tying stringed beads one at a time until the dreamcatchers were complete. These workshops are meaningful for Indigenous people, especially those who have experienced trauma. By using traditional activities and art, they can heal and renew confidence.

Indeed, at Shepherds of Good Hope, we know art can provide a much-needed tangible connection to a person’s history and culture. It can help to heal emotional wounds and can provide a creative outlet for our clients to express themselves. For others, it is a chance to try something they may not have done before.

For several years, Shepherds of Good Hope has made a sincere effort to provide those opportunities. Art can do so much more than entertain; it can inspire.

Marcel Mowatt, an accomplished



Oaks resident, Peter. Photo: Shepherds of Good Hope



Marcel Mowatt. Photo: Carlington Community Association

enous people and others together to participate in Indigenous cultural art and traditions.

Participants smiled and chatted with each other as they wove togeth-

Indigenous painter who now lives at The Oaks, one of our supportive housing residence, has helped many share his passion for art.

Marcel’s handiwork can be found on the side of The Oaks, where he


designed the top portion of a massive mural celebrating the history of the Carlington community. Thanks to the Carlington Community Association and lots of energetic youth in the neighbourhood, The Oaks now has a permanent reminder of how art can bring us all together and foster a community of compassion.

Last October, Marcel also hosted an art workshop for fellow residents. For a few hours, the common room at The Oaks was a flurry of paintbrushes and excitement as, under the tutelage of Marcel, residents tried their hand at painting some landscapes.

For one resident, Peter, it was the first painting he had ever made in his life. After completing it, he was all smiles showing off his handiwork to staff and residents. Peter’s toothy grin when he had the chance to try something totally new and succeed is exactly what Shepherds of Good Hope is all about.

When we help homeless and vulnerable people in our community connect creativity with their care, the possibilities are limitless.

Deirdre Freiheit is President and CEO of Shepherds of Good Hope



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# Lowertown Transformed

By Sandra Pilote

Lowertown is now home to Ottawa’s largest mural. In November, this colourful mural titled Transformation: The Welcoming Ottawa Mural was unveiled on the Rideau Street wall of 215 Wurtemberg, an Ottawa Community Housing building.

Designed by artist Claudia Salguero, the mural was funded by Paint it Up!, an initiative of Crime Prevention Ottawa and the City of Ottawa Diversity in Arts Fund as well as Ottawa Community Housing.



The participants involved in creating the mural reflect the diversity of our community. Individuals involved with the Tenants Circle at 215 Wurtemberg and the Lowertown Community Resource Centre were among the more than 60 volunteers from 32 countries involved in painting the 68 panels for the wall mural.

The mural will become a permanent legacy recognizing Welcoming Ottawa Week, an annual event that acknowledges our city’s appreciation of newcomers from around the globe.

## Public art in Lowertown

In addition to the National Art Gallery and numerous private galleries, residents of Lowertown will find many displays of public art scattered throughout the community compliments of the city and the ByWard BIA.

Issue 9-1 of the Echo featured some of the murals that brighten walls in the community, The most recent mural is featured above.

Here are images of two exhibits you might glimpse as you make your way around Lowertown

Right: **Flock of Fancies**  
Media: Bronze sculpture  
Artist: C.F. Fleury  
Location: Porter’s Island  
#2005-0004

Far Right: **Bywash 1832**  
Media: mixed - steel, cast glass, photography  
Artist: CAAP Collective  
Location: Routhier Community Centre  
#1999-0024



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# MASC: awesome arts in Lowertown

By Micheline Shoebridge

Over the past nine years, Lowertown residents have been busy dancing, singing, painting, videomaking and more through the MASC Awesome Arts program.

Since 2010, more than 1125 free workshops have been offered in both French and English to more than 2000 Lowertown residents. Ranging in age from 5-95, participants explore important community themes such as neighbourhood safety, diversity and inclusion, as well as gender equality through different art forms. Learning to explore ideas and share them with their community is key to the program. As one teenager said, “Awesome Arts has helped me express myself in ways I never thought I could.”

Held over 8 weeks, the workshops culminate in a high-energy Festival held each Spring. More than 350 Lowertown residents come to see their friends, family members and neighbours perform. This grows connections and builds confidence. One young performer stated, “My friends in the audience made me feel important.” The Festival also features professional artists who inspire the community through dance, music, poetry and more!

Awesome Arts participants have also created a number of legacy projects that brighten the com-



Participants from the 2018 visual arts program in front of their project which os now installed outside of the Lowertown Community Resource Centre. Photo: Martin Lipman



Akoul Lua holds the International Spotlight Award given to MASC by the American National Arts and Humanities Youth Program in 2018.

munity. Twelve works of public art can be found in the neighbourhood. Additionally, Lowertown youth have created five music videos, some of which have over 6000 views on the Awesome Arts Youtube channel – such a great way to shine a positive public light on Lowertown!

City of Ottawa Councillor, Mathieu Fleury noticed how, “Art has really played a strong role here in opening up those channels and involving youth in bridging demographic and age barriers amongst communities... We couldn’t be prouder of Awesome Arts and the work that MASC is doing.”

MASC is thankful for our close relationships with our partners like the Lowertown Community Resource Centre (LCRC), Patro d’Ottawa, York St. Public School, Centre de services Guigues, Ottawa Community Housing and Options Bytown.

In the Fall of 2018, the Awesome Arts en folie program garnered international acclaim when chosen for the International Spotlight Award by the American National Arts and Humanities Youth Program. Akuol Lua, a Lowertown resident and long-time Awesome Arts youth participant and in-

tern, traveled with the MASC team to Washington DC for the official reception.

In 2016, MASC secured a 3-year Grow Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to expand the program in Lowertown. Now in the final year of this grant, we are thrilled to have been able to grow the program by adding new community partners and increasing the number of participants.

Our community partners have embraced how the arts can be an incredible tool for community engagement and have worked with MASC to bring artistic programs to Winter Fest, Lowertown Celebration and Magasin Partage at Patro d’Ottawa.

After participating in an Awesome Arts world music program, one senior resident stated “I can see the similarities in the different cultures. It breaks down barriers. A lot of the people I didn’t know before I started, and now I do. They’re my friends.”

This year’s program begins the week of March 18 with the Festival taking place at Patro d’Ottawa, May 10, 6-9pm.

Hope to see you there!



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# Living & Learning: arts & culture in Lowertown

By Liz MacKenzie

Lowertown provides numerous opportunities for those young and old seeking to develop or hone their artistic talents. The following is not meant to be an exhaustive list or complete description of what is available to residents of all ages from dance to drawing, acting to photography.

## The Ottawa School of Art: Teaching art to everyone

The motto of the Ottawa School of Art (OSA) is “Teaching art to everyone”, and they deliver. No person in Lowertown with interest or passion in art, from age four upwards ever needs to go without expert instruction. Weekend courses are offered for children and teens and many of us passing the downtown campus at 35 George Street have seen the enthusiasm brimming over as kids spill out of the summer camp and March break programs.

The OSA is a remarkable bilingual institution in our community, offering a studio-centred school as envisioned by its founders 140 years ago. It provides studio training and hands-on instruction for all: beginners and accomplished artists, full- and part-time, children and adults.

Is the OSA hide-bound by tradition? Not at all! A glance at the general interest winter courses includes fresh takes on traditional creative disciplines as well as some unexpected offerings including Art and Wellness, The Language of Art, Textile Arts and Woodcarving. There is a general interest or fine arts course geared to any level of experience, talent and time commitment.

You can sign up for a 1-night-a week 11-week course or a weekend course, dip into a 4-hour workshop or drop into the open studio to work and be inspired by fellow artists. There is no end of opportunities for visual expression and creative development.

The backbone of the school is the Diploma and Portfolio Certificate Programs, which fills a vital niche in art education in Ottawa. The three-year

Fine Arts Diploma course offers a unique program of intensive, hands-on training in the fine art tradition of drawing, painting, ceramics, photography and sculpture.

The one-year Portfolio program is followed by students wishing to upgrade their skills for a career in the arts or develop a portfolio of work in advance of entering the workforce or applying to a university art degree program.

More than \$11,000 in bursaries is available, awarded based on need and merit. More than 200 students have graduated in the diploma course, benefiting from working in the school’s 19 specialized studios with 20 dedicated instructors.

The Lee Matasi Gallery and three vitrines showcase student work at the school. Graduating students have the option of showing their work in the Great Canadian Theatre Company’s Lorraine “Fitzi” Yale Gallery at 1233 Holland Avenue and a number of commercial sites throughout the city. There is more information about the galleries on the OSA website. (<https://artottawa.ca/>)

## École Secondaire Publique De La Salle

High praise indeed from two parents I spoke with about École Secondaire Publique De La Salle! Both parents had experience with the music program – one parent has three kids in the program at present and speaks enthusiastically about the quality of teaching, the cultural benefits and the fact that, when life looks bleak, their music keeps her children going.

The school provides French-language education from grades 7-12. In addition, students showing promise in visual arts, music and drama can enter the arts-intensive program, which prepares them for advanced studies and careers in visual arts, , dance, creative writing, music and drama.

There is a cost for these programs, but subsidies up to 100% are available to ensure that financial circumstances do not reduce opportunities for talented students.

School clubs cover a wide range of student interests including feminism, social justice, the environment and outdoor activities. Students also share their talents in an outreach program to Trille des Bois, a Waldorf-inspired primary school in Vanier. Soon, as part of an exchange program, some senior students will travel to Salluit, the second most northern Inuit community in Quebec

Another parent with unqualified praise for De La Salle has seen her son graduate with a BA in music from the University of Ottawa and enrol in a music education program with high career prospects. As an exceptionally talented youngster, he benefited greatly from the quality of the music program at De La Salle as well as opportunities to perform and realize his potential.

De La Salle is Lowertown’s local French high school; however the cultural and social diversity of teachers and students make it a thoughtful choice for parents across the city who want their talented kids to develop a balanced world view. (<https://de-la-salle.cepeo.on.ca/>)

## RICHARD ROBINSON Academy of Fashion Design

Do you dream of entering the elite world of high fashion? I had a chance to chat with Renée Berezowski, Assistant Director about opportunities at RICHARD ROBINSON Academy of Fashion Design, located at 419 Sussex Drive.

This is the only school in Canada that prepares students to work in the traditional haute couture realm. Students learn the art and skills of design, sketching, pattern making, fitting, and fine detailing which culminate in pro-

ducing their original fashion collections.

At 19 years of age, the founder, Richard Robinson, studied and worked in Paris in the fabled fashion houses of Dior and Yves St-Laurent. This year he celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Academy he established in Ottawa in 1969. For years, the boutique windows on Sussex Drive displayed his fabulous creations. The boutique is closed now and all energy is channelled into teaching.

The Academy has courses for everyone, from full-time students in fashion design and couturier, to youth summer camps in fashion design, to short courses including sewing for all levels, hat making, lingerie, marketing, fashion sketching and history of costume.

A diploma from RICHARD ROBINSON Fashion Academy is internationally recognized: it is a private career college and students are eligible for student aid. Special support is available for international students.

An important player in the Ottawa fashion community, each year the Academy presents the Grande Première, a much-anticipated annual fashion show where students present their original collections.

It is a collaborative production drawing in students from the creative arts program at École Secondaire Publique De La Salle and from local modelling and make-up schools.

The Grande Première 2019 will be held this year on May 18. at the National Arts Centre. For further information, contact Richard Robinson [info@richardrobinson.com](mailto:info@richardrobinson.com) or visit [www.richardrobinson.com](http://www.richardrobinson.com).


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# Music and Beyond: In our neighbourhood

By Patricia Balcom

If you happen to be walking on William Street between York and George, you might notice an A-frame sign on the sidewalk between Crocs and CACAO 70, or a bright red sign with a dancing harlequin and floating instruments on the wall. If you open the door to 51 William and go up the narrow staircase you'll enter another world, the world of Music and Beyond. I recently interviewed Julian Armour, Artistic and Executive Director, in his office there.

***So tell me why did you choose William Street as your location?***

Music and Beyond is still a relatively new festival even though we're having our tenth anniversary. We started off with no money at all. When we reached the point where we could actually afford to rent an office, I knew from my time on the Tourism Board and my six years as president of Ottawa Festivals that almost every tourist in Ottawa goes for a walk on this one block of William Street.

I thought: "We've got to be on this block. It's definitely the place." And I knew anecdotally that this is a block that people living in Ottawa come to at least a couple of times a year. And it's our demographic: the people who go out to these restaurants are people who are likely to come to our events. The only place available on the block was an abandoned, burnt-out shell of a restaurant up on the second floor. The landlord wasn't particularly interested in renting it, but finally she said that if we fixed it up and didn't get her too involved we could have the space. So we fixed it all up and now we're on this great block, starting our second five-year lease.

***Congratulations are in order. The Music and Beyond Festival received an Ottawa Tourism Award for the best annual event of the year in 2018. What are your plans for the festival this year?***

When you run an event like this your goal is to make it better than the year before. We've got really exciting plans and a number of big projects. We're bringing back one of the greatest figures of music that's ever lived in Ottawa, a conductor named Brian Law. He's going to conduct seven different orchestras that he was either conductor of or founder of. There's going to be a big gala celebrating him. And we've got a whole roster of some amazing names. We're just about to start releasing them.

This year we're partnering with the Museum of History. The attendance at this museum is just massive and we're going to fill every corner and really link music to the history that's happening there. Douglas Cardinal [architect who designed the Canadian Museum of History], who's a real music fan, is going to be patron of the event.

As we go through the eras we're going to match them with styles of music. For example, we're going to play Ukrainian music in the Ukrainian church.



**An innocuous doorway on William Street.**

**Photo: Patricia Balcom**

***What about the wine auction?***

The next one's going to be at City Hall, on April 26. People donate all these incredible wines. Usually they're the first owners and their wines are impeccably cellared. And the prices are really pretty good, with a lot of wines starting at \$25 per bottle. We expect to have about 300 bottles. People can go to our website <https://ottawawineauction.ca/about/> and place advance bids on line. And at the auction there's like this receiving line afterwards. People come and they thank me. And every single dollar spent helps us put on what we do.

The reality is that with Music and Beyond just about everything we do loses money. The arts don't pay for themselves, so we need to find other ways to help finance events. [Full disclosure. I worked on the wine auction in the spring of 2017.]

***And does some of the money you raise go to educational programs?***

Every year, it's becoming an even bigger priority. Almost 100% of private schools have a dedicated, trained professional music teacher, and they do it not so the kids will become professional musicians but because they know it's good for their brains and their concentration. For public schools in Ontario the average has dropped from 57% of elementary schools having a dedicated music teacher down to about 50%. In Eastern Ontario it's 21%. And you hear these people on the radio saying "Well math is more important than music", but music makes a difference. I can see it. They're much more focused.

Hardly anything we do requires the brain to do a lot of different things, but

with music you have to think about 20 things at the same time, all the time. It opens up paths in the brain that nothing else does.

***Do you do any lobbying on the benefits of music?***

We're not officially a lobbying organization. My job is to show the great value of music and to get people really excited. If they're excited about it they're going to want to get their kids involved. So we do things like our free Ottawa Family Music Expo at the University of Ottawa. There are over 200 concerts and activities.

The idea is that families can go and hear a short concert—say a 10-minute performance by a brass quintet—and then talk about the pieces, and then try a trumpet. They can then go and make an instrument, or play a game or do an activity. Anyone can come. It's totally free. And that's the kind of thing I want to do.

***How much does it cost to attend the Music and Beyond Festival?***

The thing that sets Music and Beyond apart from so many other events is that we've got these inexpensive passes. There's still early-bird pricing up until February 15th [\$150 for a regular pass]. Then there's another price until July 1 [\$160] and then it goes up again [to \$180]. There are also three-

day passes. And once you've got your pass you can go to almost everything you want.

Some people get so much value from their pass. For example, the Borodin String Quartet is coming back this year. It's a \$75 US ticket in New York. If you go to both of their concerts you've paid for your pass.

It's going to be very, very exciting. I'm just totally thrilled that we've hit this landmark. Ten years. The arts climate has been so tricky; it really has been challenging. It's very hard to run any arts organization, but for a new one it's even harder.

It's hard to get into the funding stream and get funding on par with the organizations that have been around for a long time. But we're now on pretty solid territory, which is nice and I'm grateful for that.

[See <https://musicandbeyond.ca/product-category/festival-passes/> for more information about passes.]

The Music and Beyond Festival runs from July 4 to 17 2019. The next time you're on William Street between York and George, you can go upstairs and pick up your pass. The welcoming and competent office assistant, Jessie Tarlington, will be pleased to help you.

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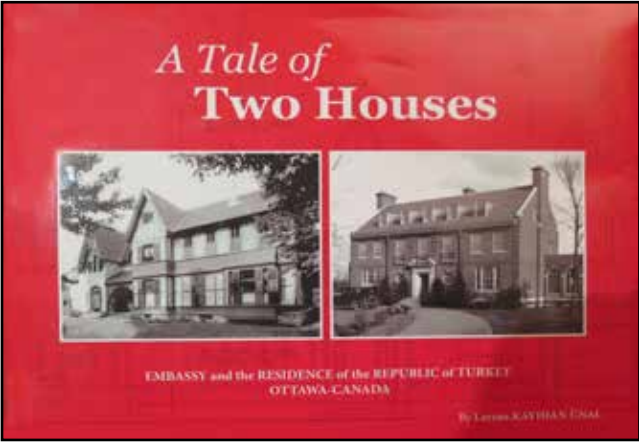
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# Books by or about Lowertowners

As previous columns have documented, Lowertown has produced and continues to produce many significant resident authors. As well, non-residents apply their skills to documenting our community’s colourful history and ongoing vibrancy. This column focuses on two recently published works.



Lerzan Kaythan Ünal, the wife of the former Turkish Ambassador, authored “A Tale of Two Houses” published in 2018. This book is a wonderfully documented and illustrated history of 197 Wurtemberg Street (Turkish Embassy) and 3 Crescent Road (Official Residence of the Turkish Ambassador). Like Earncliffe at the opposite side of Lowertown, this imposing Wurtemberg building reflects the grand aspirations of residents in the mid 1800s.

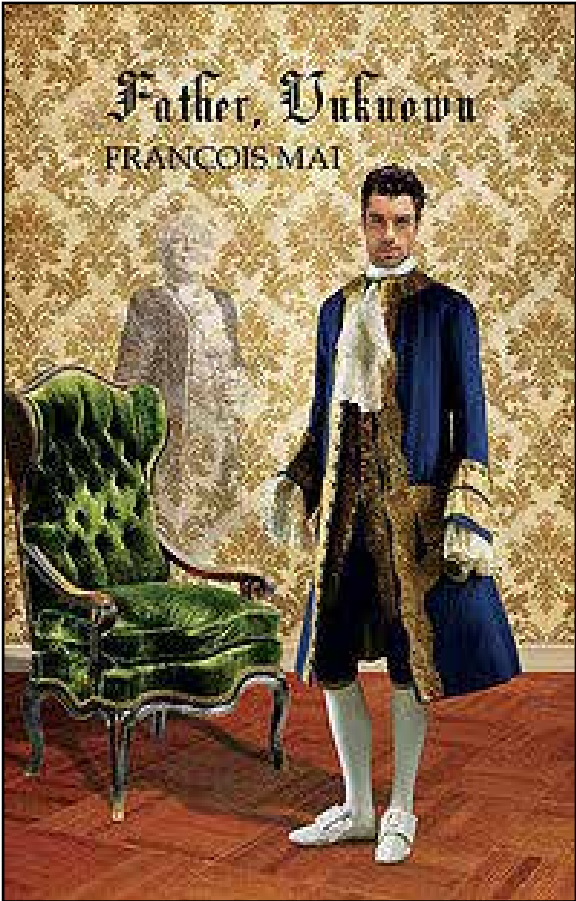
In commenting on her reasons for writing the book, the author observed that upon arrival to Canada: “I not only admired the chancery and the residence that are home to my country, but wanted to learn more about their history. During this time, I start-

ed to learn about those people whose paths crossed through these two beautiful buildings as well.”

With reference to 197 Wurtemberg, she emphasized that “the more I read and learnt about Lowertown, the more I loved it. The first house at 197 Wurtemberg Street, still serving as the Turkish Embassy, is a historical building constructed in 1869. It almost witnessed everything in Ottawa regarding Canadian history. It has been used as both chancery and residence by Turkey between 1953 and 1999. Apart from serving as Ottawa Children’s Hospital for a long time, there are a lot of people who once lived there: the then Commissioner of Fisheries, Liberal MPs, Conservative Senators, Private Secretary of Princess Juliana of the Netherlands in exile, Chief of the General Staff, many Consul Generals and Trade Commissioners from the US, UK, Japan were among them.”

François Mai who lives on Boteler Street at the opposite end of Lowertown authored “Father Unknown” in 2017. This historical novel is set primarily in 18th and 19th France. The main story revolves around Marcel and his family in a country struggling in the pre and post revolutionary days leading to the creation of the Republic.

However, the book also touches on Canadian ties with France. The first chapter deals with the Plains of Abraham while later chapters touch on the life of priests and exiled French royalists such as Comte de Puisaye with a brief encounter with Joseph Papineau.



In addition to writing fiction, the author has a notable background as a published academic psychiatrist. His creativity also extends to music as a pianist. In the 1990s, he recorded CDs of classical and jazz music to raise funds for the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario. In 2007, he wrote “Diagnosing Genius, The Life and Death of Beethoven” describing the famous musician’s medical and psychiatric problems and the effects on his creativity.

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