

# Lowertown's virtual reality

By Juliet O'Neill

Above the food stalls, bars, cafes, and hair salons in the ByWard Market is another world populated by firms serving a clientele that spans the globe.

Shopify has moved out, but Lowertown remains a fashionable neighbourhood for over 20 small hi-tech companies.

A Bitcoin ATM stands at the entry to Atomic Motion, a company with the Twitter slogan "Design and Conquer." The slogan reflects enthusiasm for website design and digital marketing in offices above a bar and coffee shop owned by CEO Dan Cummins.

Across the street at 126 York, 85 employees at Kivuto Solutions Inc. help deliver digital textbooks and software services in 14 languages to businesses and schools across the globe. Kivuto moved in three years ago when Shopify, a fast-rising e-commerce powerhouse, outgrew the trendy space in a heritage building and moved to Elgin Street.

Two blocks up at 61A York, Systemscope occupies an early legendary Shopify address, since renovated, upstairs from a buffet restaurant, Tucker's Marketplace. Systemscope is a strategic consulting firm that specializes in helping the federal government's digital transformation.

While Systemscope has been based in the Market for 18 years, close

to government clients in Ottawa and Gatineau, there is a notable churn in the tech sector in the neighbourhood.

Survey Monkey, for example, bought Fluidware at 12 York St. a few years ago but moved in August 2018 to Laurier Street as services and staff expanded and outgrew the premises. Fluidware produced an online system to manage grant and scholarship applications. Survey Monkey provides online survey tools around the world.

Kivuto, long known as e-academy, was founded in 1997 by Ram Raju, the CEO, who was bumped to advisor in the wake of the company's purchase in March by Legado Capital and a group of investors led by Roynat Equity Partners. Kivuto's services are expanding, too, raising the question of whether it will outgrow the space as Shopify did.

While growing from five guys in a coffee shop to 3,000 employees worldwide, Shopify retains its association with ByWard Market as the place where the company "was born" and where new recruits might want to live.

"Colourful street art, farmers'-market stalls, clothes by local designers, specialty food shops, Canadian cheese, and of course, maple-infused chocolate," Shopify tells prospective employees on its website. Plus: "All the Beavertails you can handle."

Some of the companies focus on fun at work for young people. One is U7 Solutions at 78 George St., (think



exposed brick walls) which has designed, built and launched 113 websites in the last decade. Its 10-year portfolio ranges from the Tulip Festival to RVezy, Canada's first sharing marketplace for renting and owning recreational vehicles.

Another is Magmic, a 15-year-old firm which develops mobile apps for playing cards and board games, and has partnered with such big-league companies as Disney, Hasbro and Mattel.

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# Editorial

In this issue of The Lowertown Echo, the focus is on entrepreneurs past and present. The heritage section draws attention to two entrepreneurs defined by two buildings in Lowertown: Giant Tiger at 98 George Street and the S.J. Major building at 126 York Street.

Juliet O'Neill's story is on hi-tech firms in Lowertown, of which there are at least 23 that could be identified. While she was researching her article, two firms were moving out of Lowertown because they had outgrown their space here.

In the past five years, Lowertown has lost approximately 2 million square feet of office space (Union du Canada on Dalhousie and Bourque Building on Rideau at King Edward). There are several applications to build hotels and condominiums in the community, but there appear to be no plans for adding office space. Indeed, the sudden focus on hotels should be cause for concern in terms of pushing the market towards a more transient population.

Nicolas Moyer's article on what lies ahead for the ByWard Market also centres on the challenges ahead in transforming the Market. The new management team has a tough task ahead of them that will require a strong commitment to change and financial backing from the City.

While the new market management team has been busy identifying and cutting some of the shackles holding it back, it will eventually have to come to terms with the fact that it is only one player with a small plot of land. It will need to build new bridges, albeit new ones, to the two Business Improvement Associations and the City administration, all of whom have much more say in defining the quality of life in the ByWard area.

In another article, the chair of the LCA planning committee sets out the challenge for the community to engage in the process of change. In the reactive mode, the community is often only allowed to express what it doesn't want. Can it play a more active role in defining a future path for the community?

Finally, Joel Weiner has prepared an article showcasing the impressive amount of talent and experience possessed by the people on the new LCA board. The community is well-served.

## Letter to the Editor

Picture it: Lowertown, Ottawa. June, 2018. A new condo owner checks his mail box for the first time and discovers the local community newspaper delivered straight to him. On the cover, his own name printed in the cover story. Quelle coïncidence!

I was delighted to see that the article I wrote for the Ottawa Citizen became a part of the ongoing debate on the neighbourhood's livability. John Chenier's piece rightly highlighted the complicated issues involved in making the area a better place to live and visit. Now allow me to take a moment to continue the conversation. First, I must say I have very much enjoyed Lowertown so far and am excited to continue exploring the area, its architecture, parks and shops on offer. A few highlights have been the 100-year-old buildings dotted throughout (discovered with the help of Katharine Fletcher's Capital Walks) and the Saturday-night drummers on the corner of York and Market Square.

But also during this time, I have noticed the area's problems, especially exposed during the city's multiple heatwaves this summer. The population of people traversing along Cumberland between shelters has grown even since I've moved, bringing an unsettled atmosphere to the street. I was aware of this problem prior to moving here from reading the press. Now, I can more clearly imagine the difficulties that businesses and the area's residents have experienced as the homeless population has grown without an adequate increase in services, never mind the problems of traffic and noise that I highlighted in the Citizen. The problems of poverty and mental health are at crisis proportions in the neighbourhood and demand immediate attention from Mayor Jim Watson, MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers and MP Mona Fortier. The neighbourhood is far too important to the city for it to be left bereft and in shambles.

During the upcoming municipal election, these issues must also be vocalized. Tax dollars spent on going round and round in circles must be allocated to actually solving problems and helping people attain a better life than the one visible on King Eddy at Murray or along Cumberland. Join me in writing our local councillor, Chief of Police, and Mayor to advocate for better community policing and improved public health services. By working together, Lowertown's future is bright indeed.

Anthony Imbrogno



The Echo, a non-profit community newspaper, is supported by its advertisers and the Lowertown Community Association. Opinions expressed are those of contributors and advertisers and do not necessarily represent those of the volunteer editorial staff nor the community association.

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

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

If you'd like to write articles, draw cartoons or other illustrations for stories, or take photographs on assignment, please email and leave your name and telephone number at [echo@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:echo@lowertown-basseville.ca). No age restrictions. The Echo reserves the right to edit in part or in whole all contributions.

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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.

Les personnes qui aimeraient collaborer avec l'Echo sont invitées à envoyer un courriel au [echo@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:echo@lowertown-basseville.ca) en indiquant leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone. Nous apprécions la contribution de tous, quel que soit leur âge. L'Echo se réserve le droit de modifier en tout ou en partie les documents.

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## Deadline

Reserve your advertising space or submit your contribution to [echo@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:echo@lowertown-basseville.ca) by October 15, 2018

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

## Date de tombée

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# Meet the new LCA Board

By Joel Weiner

The Lowertown Community Association’s (LCA) deep-bench strength was on full display earlier this summer when a number of eminently qualified residents stepped up to the plate and were elected as members of the LCA Board of Directors. The occasion was the organization’s annual general meeting on June 11, where elections were held to fill 12 slots for 2018-2019.

Five directors on the previous board who agreed to continue were returned to their positions by acclamation: Liz Bernstein, president; Peter Ferguson, chair of the Planning Committee; Ana-Maria Tarres, director for Active Transportation; Catherine Hacksel, director for Housing and Homelessness, and; Sandra Milton, chair of the Safety and Security Committee.

Five newcomers were elected to the board along with a former board member who will assume new responsibilities. Each of them brings important skills and experience to the new board.

Although new to the board, Sylvie Grenier, now our vice president, is a veteran of the LCA. She founded the planning committee in 2009, was its first chair and is still heavily engaged in its work. Sylvie also represented the LCA for several years on the ByWard Market Core Team, co-organized our community’s first formal meeting with the City and the Project for Public Spaces in 2013, and has continued to work for an improved ByWard Market since then.

François Giroux, treasurer, is not only new to the board but also new to Lowertown, having moved here just two years ago from Montreal with his family. “We chose this neighbourhood because it’s the perfect place to raise a family,” François explains about the relocation. “It’s close to two rivers and the canal, there are lots of parks and

families with young, bilingual children, and I can walk to work.”

A chartered professional accountant with an MBA, François is well suited to manage the LCA’s finances. He’s also interested in the economic development of the Byward Market and in preserving our community’s history.

“I chose to get involved because we use the facilities and services in Lowertown,” he says. “You will always find our family on the skating rink on winter weekends, [and] at the pool on sunny summer days. We play hockey and soccer in the parks, as well as tennis and baseball. If we want to keep all that, we need to give back to the community.”

Andrew Waldron, is another newcomer to Lowertown, having moved here two years ago from Alta Vista. He is now chair of the Heritage Committee and brings considerable experience to the position. Currently, he is the heritage-conservation manager at a facilities and project management company; previously, he was Canadian Registrar of Historic Places, manager of the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office and a Parks Canada superintendent. Andrew is also an architectural historian, past president of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada, author of Exploring the capital: An architectural guide to the Ottawa-Gatineau region and an adjunct professor in the History and Theory of Architecture programs at Carleton University.

“We came to this area because we

attention to the importance and benefits of living in a designated Heritage Conservation District, both socially and economically, and manage the way we invest in community identity. In addition, he hopes to see more accountability by City Council in developing sustainable approaches to improve the urban environment.

Jeffrey Neto is the board director responsible for community outreach. An experienced government analyst, he co-founded Design for Citizens, a non-profit organization that simplifies public policies for marginalized groups, and has worked on numerous community projects in Ottawa and Toronto. “My passions include community development, entrepreneurship and public administration,” he reports. “As community outreach director, my vision is to build strong and lasting relationships with likeminded community organizations and businesses to support the prosperity of Lowertown.” Jeffrey plans to realize his vision by championing community services and developing strategies to engage LCA members and small businesses in the community.

The former board member who takes on new responsibilities is Norman Moyer, secretary. He previously served as the LCA’s liaison on the ByWard Safety and Security Committee, and co-led efforts to gain accessibility to crime data for our community and improve safety and security. Norman is also chair of the management board of Centre 454, a non-governmental organization serving the homeless in our community.

In conjunction with the election, four directors or committee co-chairs retired from the LCA after varying periods of providing our community with outstanding service: Nancy Miller-Chenier, John Chenier, Liz McKenzie and Ted Lawrence. Earlier in the year, Thierry Harris resigned as a prelude to his campaign in the upcoming civic election. All have undertaken to stay on as active members of the LCA.

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Another new member who lives near her work is Leah Resnick, the board director with lead responsibilities for the LCA’s active transportation file. She is a seasoned arts administrator who manages travelling exhibitions and partnerships at the National Gallery of Canada. “I’m passionate about preserving the unique heritage features of our community,” says Leah, “and ensuring that our neighbourhood remains walkable and vibrant.”

were searching for a more urban neighbourhood, a historic house and to be closer to amenities,” Andrew explains. “Lowertown was a pleasant surprise. I’ve been in the heritage field as a professional career for over 20 years and was interested in volunteering to promote and protect the historic values of Lowertown.”

As for his vision, Andrew wants to engage owners and tenants in Lowertown development issues, bring more

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# Alvira Lockwood: Ottawa's first female photographer

By Michel Rossignol

Joseph A. Lockwood was already an experienced photographer when he and his family arrived in Ottawa around 1853. Various sources state that he was this city's first resident photographer. He apparently showed one of his young daughters, Alvira, the tricks of the trade so she could help him in the studio.

When Mr. Lockwood died in July 1859 (some sources say 1860), Alvira took over the family business and, as a result, she is now considered Ottawa's first female photographer. She was also probably the youngest of the numerous photographers working in Ottawa in the 1860s. However, it is difficult to state her age in 1860 with any certainty because various sources provide contradictory informa-

tion on the dates of her birth and death, not to mention her place of birth. The most accurate source is possibly the Beechwood Cemetery's 2015 publication *Historic Portraits*, which states that she was born in 1845 and died on April 5, 1925. (She is buried in the Beechwood Cemetery.)

She worked for about twenty years as a photographer and the Bytown Museum and Library and Archives

Canada have some of her surviving photographs. The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec also has the photographic copy she made of a portrait (drawing) of Bishop Guigues, who played an important role in Lowertown's history.

Like many young women in the 1880s, Alvira decided to study art in Paris where she lived for five years. After returning to Ottawa in 1891,

she opened an artist's studio on Rideau Street. According to the 1923 City Directory, her studio was at 386 Rideau Street, between Nelson and Friel, and she lived next door at 384 Rideau. Like other photographers in the 1800s, she called herself a "photographic artist", but after her art studies, she was an artist who explored all aspects of art and taught art appreciation to young and old. She was a real pioneer.

## Early photographers of Lowertown

By Michel Rossignol

Shortly after arriving in Ottawa in the early 1930s, Yousuf Karsh met the most famous photographers working in Ottawa at that time such as William Topley and J.-A. Castonguay.

When he met Karsh in June 1933, Castonguay took a few portraits of the soon to become famous portraitist.

Early in his career, Karsh had a studio on Sparks Street before moving to the Chateau Laurier a few years later, but in the 1930s, Castonguay was the best known photographer in Lowertown.

Between 1860 and 1900, Topley and many other photographers opened studios on Spark Street in the hopes of attracting business from the numerous parliamentarians on Parliament Hill. For the same

reason, others picked locations in Lowertown on Rideau Street and Sussex Drive. Some photographers had little luck in attracting business and soon closed their studios. Others were much more successful and became the most prominent photographers in the city between 1900 and 1950.

John G. Topley, William's brother, was one of those who had a studio in Lowertown in the 1920s and 1930s. He had a studio at 164 Rideau while William Charron, who among other things took photos of the fire in the original Parliament Building in 1916, had one across the street at 155 Rideau near Dalhousie.

Probably the most successful photographer was Jules-Alexandre Castonguay. After opening studios on Murray Street and Sussex Drive, he finally moved to 331 Dalhousie where he worked

for many decades before "retiring" in 1949. Castonguay was born in Vaudreuil, Quebec, in 1877 and shortly after arriving in Ottawa around 1901, he discovered that he could make money taking photographs, even though he had never taken any photography courses.

Over the years, more and more parliamentarians as well as many residents of Lowertown relied on him when they needed to have their photos taken. As a result, Library and Archives Canada now has thousands of his photos. Castonguay also took many photos of events and buildings in Lowertown which, together with those of Champ-lain Marcil and Michel Lafleur who followed in his footsteps, are precious souvenirs of our community's history.



*En juin 1933, le photographe J.-A. Castonguay a pris cette photo de Yousuf Karsh peu de temps après son arrivée à Ottawa. Photo: J.-A. Castonguay/Karsh/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, e010678720*

*In June 1933, the photographer J.-A. Castonguay took this photo of Yousuf Karsh who had recently arrived in Ottawa: J.-A. Castonguay/Karsh/Library and Archives Canada, e010678720*

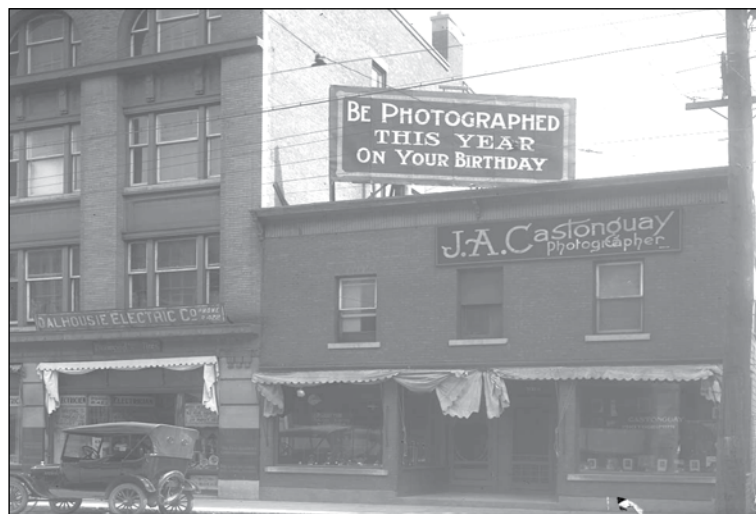
## Photographes de la Basse-Ville

Par Michel Rossignol

Après son arrivée à Ottawa au début des années 1930, Yousuf Karsh a rencontré les plus célèbres photographes de la ville à cette époque comme William Topley et J.-A. Castonguay. Castonguay a même profité de sa rencontre avec Karsh en juin 1933 pour faire plusieurs portraits du futur célèbre portraitiste.

À ses débuts, Karsh avait un studio sur la rue Sparks avant de déménager au Chateau Laurier quelques années plus tard, mais dans les années 1930, Castonguay était le doyen des photographes de la Basse-Ville.

Entre 1860 et 1900, Topley et plusieurs autres photographes ont ouvert des studios sur la rue Sparks dans



*Photo du studio du photographe Jules Alexandre Castonguay au 331 1/2 rue Dalhousie pendant les années 1920. Photo: Jules Alexandre Castonguay/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada/PA-084093 (MIKAN 3231750)*

*A photo of the photographer Jules Alexandre Castonguay's studio at 331 1/2 Dalhousie Street taken during the 1920s. Photo: Jules Alexandre Castonguay/Library and Archives Canada/PA-084093 (MIKAN 3231750)*

l'espoir d'attirer la clientèle des parlementaires sur la Colline du Parlement. D'autres ont

choisi des emplacements sur la rue Rideau et la promenade Sussex dans la Basse-Ville

pour la même raison. Certains photographes n'ont pas connu le succès espéré et ont fermé leurs studios.

D'autres ont réussi à se tailler une place de choix dans le palmarès des photographes professionnels entre 1900 et 1950. John G. Topley, le frère de William, était un de ceux qui avaient un studio dans la Basse-Ville dans les années 1920 et 1930. Son studio était au 164 de la rue Rideau alors que celui de William Charron, qui a notamment pris des photos du feu de 1916 au premier édifice du Parlement, était de l'autre côté de la rue au 155 Rideau près de Dalhousie.

Celui qui a peut-être connu le plus de succès fut Jules-Alexandre Castonguay. Il a eu des studios sur la rue Murray et la promenade Sussex avant de déménager au 331 de la rue Dalhousie où il a travaillé pen-

dant plusieurs décennies avant de prendre sa « retraite » en 1949. Castonguay est né à Vaudreuil, Québec, en 1877 et peu de temps après son arrivée dans la région d'Ottawa vers 1901, il a découvert qu'il pouvait faire de l'argent en prenant des photos, même s'il n'avait jamais pris de cours de photographie.

De plus en plus de parlementaires, ainsi que de nombreux résidents de la Basse-Ville, lui ont fait confiance de sorte que Bibliothèque et Archives Canada conserve aujourd'hui des milliers de ses photos. Castonguay a aussi pris des photos d'événements et de lieux dans la Basse-Ville qui, comme celles de Champ-lain Marcil et Michel Lafleur qui ont marché sur ses traces, sont de précieux souvenirs de l'histoire de notre communauté.



# Épicerie Beauchamp:

## histoire d'une famille et d'un bâtiment de la Basse-Ville

By H  l  ne Beauchamp

L'immeuble du 326-328 Saint-Andrew a   t   construit sur la partie « P » du lot « Villa num  ro 4 » selon le plan de l'arpenteur William Ryan Thistle (1868). Les premiers propri  taires du terrain, W. Germain et H. Lapierre, le vendent    Thomas Paquette en 1878 qui y construit l'  picerie et les logements locatifs, b  timent qu'Edmond Beauchamp, mon grand-p  re, ach  te le 18 juillet 1925.    cette   poque, il faut nourrir des projets audacieux dans une ville o   le gouvernement est le plus gros employeur. Le sens de la communaut   s'est bien d  velopp   dans la paroisse Sainte-Anne o   il est possible, pour un homme entreprenant comme lui, de prosp  rer. C'est donc un choix strat  gique.

L'  difice est de brique, bien situ      l'angle des deux rues, combinant magasin et r  sidence. Le b  timent principal est sur deux   tages avec un toit en pente prononc  e qui laisse supposer un grenier. Sur Saint-Andrew, la porte du 328 donne acc  s    des logements au



Groceteria Beauchamp et Apt MATH : MATH initiales des pr  noms de notre famille Monique, Michel, Aur  le, Andr  , Th  r  se, H  l  ne

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L'  picerie Beauchamp,   tablie depuis plus de 25 ans    326, rue St-Andr  , pr  sente    sa client  le un groceteria des plus modernes. Le propri  taire M. Aur  le Beauchamp est le fils de M. Edmond Beauchamp, ancien   picier et   leveur du quartier Ottawa.

Le Groceteria Aur  le Beauchamp occupe le m  me endroit o     tait situ   l'  picerie de son p  re, qu'il achet   il y a six ans. M. Aur  le Beauchamp s'est occup   du commerce de l'  picerie depuis son bas   ge et il a toujours su en faire un succ  s.

M. Beauchamp fit ses   tudes    l'  cole   l  mentaire et au Coll  ge. Mari   en 1945    Mlle Th  r  se Bouvrette, M. Beauchamp est le   re papa d'une famille.

rez-de-chauss  e et    l'  tage. L'entr  e de l'  picerie au 326, coup  e de biais sur le coin, est typique des ann  es 1870. Au 3 rue McGee, on d  tecte un b  timent secondaire d'un   tage et demi, et encore un dernier espace. Plus loin, une cl  ture laisse deviner une cour arri  re, o   se trouve une   curie.

Aur  le   pouse Th  r  se Bouvrette le 14 juillet 1940. D  j   propri  taires de deux duplex au 65 et 69 rue Bolton, ils acqui  rent le b  timent de la rue Saint-Andrew le 24 avril 1944. Ils d  moliront l'ensemble et le reconstruiront    neuf, sur le m  me emplacement, et en conservant les m  mes fonctions :   picerie et logements locatifs.

Les effets de la Seconde Guerre mondiale se feront-ils sentir sur l'approvisionnement en mat  riels et en appareils   lectrom  nagers? L'entrepreneur A. Aubry est comp  tent et leurs fournisseurs sont fiables : la construction va bon train et se termine comme pr  vu. Le 11 avril 1947, un vendredi, Aur  le publie dans Le Droit une demi-page d'annonce c  l  brant l'ouverture du « Groceteria Aur  le Beauchamp ».

C'est l'aboutissement d'une p  riode tr  s intense. Les appartements 1 et 2 du 328 sont mis en location, les propri  taires habiteront l'appartement 3 au-dessus du magasin et deux garages seront ajout  s sur McGee.

En 1954, Aur  le lancera la construction adjacente du 330 St-Andrew o   le couple emm  nage avec ses quatre enfants. Aur  le Beauchamp choisit enfin de transformer l'espace des deux garages de la rue McGee en deux appartements, qui sont aussit  t lou  s.

L'  picerie et les 5 logements seront expropri  s en 1968, et d  molis en 1974.

Edmond Beauchamp l'audacieux (1887-1964) et Aur  le Beauchamp le b  tisseur (1911-1999), hommes d'affaires au grand c  ur, ont abattu une immense besogne en synchronisme avec leur ville au moment le plus d  terminant de son expansion.

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# Giant Tiger : 98 George St

By Marc Aubin

Lowertown has been the place where many successful companies got their start. For example, while Pure Spring Ginger Ale is associated with the West End, it was in Lowertown, that the company got its start as a bottle recycling venture. Similar examples abound, including one of the most successful discount store chains in Canada, Giant Tiger.

Gordon Reid, founder of Giant Tiger, was born in Vancouver in 1933, and grew up in Montreal. At the age of 13, he started his retail career working in the warehouse for the Robert Simpson Company (later Simpsons Sears). Reid worked his way up through the retail industry. He saw discount stores in the United States for the first time in the late 1950s when he was a traveling salesman selling imported fishing tackle and sporting goods. This was a new business model that had not yet reached Canada.

Reid quickly capitalized on the idea and opened his first discount store in 1961 in the former headquarters of Le Droit newspaper at 98 George Street. He chose Ottawa due to its relatively uncompetitive retail market and dependable public-service cheques. His initial investment was \$15,000, and the



98 George Street. Source: Quebec Archives BAnQ\_P172\_S1\_D1\_P1

other discount chains, but Giant Tiger was focused on carefully developing its franchisees. It often gives franchises to long-timer employees who have earned them.

there was less competition from big box stores. How many Walmarts are within walking distance in Lowertown?

Giant Tiger celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. Today, there are 245 Giant Tiger stores across Canada employing 8,000 people, and 4 more stores are set to open this year.



first year's revenues were \$139,781. The second store opened in 1965; in 1968 the company adopted a franchising model to encourage expansion and by 1971, there were six stores in the chain. This was considered a slow expansion at the time compared to

Competition grew fierce as the number of U.S. discount stores flooded into Canada. The number of discount chains grew from 10 chains in 1985 to 185 in 2003. Store location was a major factor in Giant Tiger's success. The early strategy had been to situate its stores in secondary markets where

That strategy has shifted over time with more factors now included in the decision of where to locate stores. Canadian retail expert, Bruce Winder, describes Giant Tiger as being between a Dollarama and Wal-Mart in terms of its offerings.

The headquarters is now located at 2480 Walkley Road in Ottawa. Gordon Reid is still actively involved in the company and its mission to deliver outstanding value to Canadian families every day.

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# Marie Corinne Lebel Major: 126 York Street

By Nancy Miller Chenier

Lowertown has numerous early entrepreneurs to celebrate. One of them is Marie Corinne Lebel Major, who started her married life on Murray Street and expanded a local family business after her husband’s early death. For those who pass 126 York Street and wonder about the S. J. Major Ltd. inscription on its facade, here is the story of the woman who made it happen.

Marie Corinne came from a family with experience in the business sphere. Brother Georges was one of the merchants forming the Ottawa Canning Company and another brother, Godfroid, was President of the Ottawa Wine Vault Company on George Street, the current location of the Ottawa School of Art.

When Marie Corinne married Sylvanie Joseph Major in 1883, she was a teacher, one of the few professions then open to women at the time. In 1889, shortly after their son Ascanio was born, the family moved from Orleans to Ottawa and set up a wholesale grocery business at the corner of Murray and Dalhousie, with their home next door at 143 Murray Street.

In 1903, when Sylvanie Joseph died, Marie Corinne was in her early forties with a young teenage son. She continued to expand the family’s wholesale grocery business while Ascanio finished his schooling at La Salle Academy and the University of Ottawa. Within 10 years of her husband’s death, in 1913, she was overseeing the construction of 126 York, designed by Colborne Powell Meredith. In 1914, an advertisement in the Canadian Grocer magazine labelled the building as the “most modern wholesale warehouse in Eastern Canada.”

Marie Corinne retained her role as president of the company but stayed in the background as her son Ascanio became the public face of the business. In 1924, while still in his thirties, he became the first French Canadian and youngest person to serve as president of the Ottawa Board of Trade. In 1925, he was a director and spokesperson for the newly formed National Grocers Association. S.J. Major Limited was made an affiliate in a merger that brought together more than 25 stores and about 35 distributing outlets in Ontario.

Marie Corinne Lebel Major died in 1947 at her home on Wilbrod, in one of the apartments built ten years



S.J. Major Building 1916. TOPLEY: Source Library & Archives Canada

earlier by the family as a new venture into real estate and development through Major Investments Limited. As her obituary in the Ottawa Journal observed, her organizing and executive ability had made S.J. Major Limited one of the largest companies of its kind in Ottawa.

A subsequent front page story in the Ottawa Journal reported that her estate was worth over a million

dollars, with money and possessions bequeathed to family members and charities. This woman who conducted her business life without any great public fanfare was probably the first francophone woman in Ontario to possess such wealth. The building at 126 York stands as a testament to the woman who made the legacy of S.J. Major possible.

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# What’s happening at Marchés d’Ottawa Markets?

By Cheryl Hammond

Marchés d’Ottawa Markets commenced operations in January of 2018 with a mandate to refresh and revitalize both the Byward and Parkdale Markets. As a not-for-profit organization governed by an active and highly engaged board of directors, this newly formed municipal-services corporation is led by Executive Director Jeff Darwin and a team of five full time employees. Seven student ambassadors were hired to be the face of the ByWard Market to both vendors and visitors throughout the busy summer months. We will be providing a regular column in the Lowertown Echo to keep our community, vendors and business partners up to date on further plans for the Marchés d’Ottawa Markets territory within the ByWard Market.

During the past eight months we have learned much about the ByWard Market, including its history and the many interesting people who live, work and play in the area. We have brought about a number of changes. Early in the season Marchés d’Ottawa Markets brought back a long-standing

tradition of ringing the market bell daily to open the Byward Market. This bell was cast in 1877 and installed in the original Market building, constructed in 1876. After a fire in 1926 the bell was salvaged and hung in St. David’s Reformed Episcopalian Church until it was donated to the City in 1976. We encourage people in Lowertown to come and ring the bell any day of the week at 10 a.m. Call 613-244-4410 to book your day.

A key initiative was the development of a new strategic plan, which was presented to City Council on June 27th. The plan was accepted and the hope is that Lowertown will become a term-of-council priority following the municipal election. This plan is a roadmap that includes many proposals which you can read about further on in this issue of the Lowertown Echo. To see the complete plan please e-mail [info@ottawamarkets.com](mailto:info@ottawamarkets.com) and we will send you a copy. We encourage questions and feedback.

Marchés d’Ottawa Markets has a food-first mandate and works hard to attract and keep food

vendors in both markets. Beyond the agri-food vendors on the ByWard Market, new to the scene in the outdoor-vending category are Nat’s Bread, Mitchell’s Soups and the Salty Don.

Inside at 55 ByWard Market Square there are also changes underway. A new way-finding board helps tourists find local attractions, and new signage and a general cleaning up of clutter is ongoing. We have space available for rent within the market building with the goal of attracting a more diverse and interesting mix to the offerings with 55 Byward Market Square.

Look for further columns with updated information on the many happenings here at Marchés d’Ottawa Markets. Contact [info@ottawamarkets.com](mailto:info@ottawamarkets.com) with questions or feedback.

*Cheryl Hammond is in charge of Communications for Marchés d’Ottawa Markets. Cheryl will be writing a regular column to keep our readers up to date on events and changes taking place at the Market.*

## ByWard BIA ambassadors



The Byward BIA ambassadors have been on the job all summer. They are, from left to right, Justin, from Embrun, Danka, from Ottawa, Kenna, from Ottawa, Nathan, from New Brunswick, Cecily, from Bracebridge, and Moira, from Ottawa. Over the summer they have developed a walking tour which is offered free of charge, Thursday through Sunday, at 10am, 11am, noon and 3pm. Photos: Sarah Jennings





# ByWard Market:

## Ambitious changes need to be term-of-council priority

By: Nicolas Moyer

In January, the City of Ottawa handed over the responsibility for managing the ByWard Market building and commercial tenant spaces in the City parking lot between York and Cumberland to Marchés d'Ottawa Markets, an arms-length Market Services Corporation (MSC) it created for this purpose. Its oversight includes retail space in those buildings, but also programming and stalls along York and George, William and ByWard Market Square. The MSC was created to reverse years of decline and lead the revitalization of a vibrant local food market.

### The MSC has faced challenges

Residents and businesses contributed ideas to multiple studies since 2013 which led to the creation of the MSC, and expectations for positive change are high. Yet it may not appear that much has changed since the MSC was put in place. Media coverage of the Market has also not been all that positive. Stories about the MSC have included Board member resignations, a public spat with buskers and tenant concerns with increased property management fees.

As Marchés d'Ottawa Markets board member Greg Skotnicki, points out, expectations were high for the new corporation and there was a lot of work to do just to get it operational. "We have a responsibility to pursue the mandate we've been given and to all stakeholders involved, but we know we can't please everyone", says Skotnicki.

Peter Ferguson, Chair of the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) Planning Committee believes that some challenges were inevitable early on, as the new corporation focused on putting the right plans and resources in place. According to him, "residents understand that change will not come easily."

In the last year, the volunteer Board has negotiated terms with the City and hired and worked with Executive Director Jeff Darwin to build a team, take over property management, assess the situation and develop a strategic plan.

### Future directions laid out

Darwin says that the MSC "mandate is above all a successful food-first market". A strategic plan presented to City Council in June lays out the working vision for the MSC. This plan aligns well with the expectations of residents, with a focus on fresh food, pedestrians and a better retail balance that redresses the increasing dominance of bars and restaurants in the area. To get there, the plan calls for pursuing three overarching outcomes: (1) new Market regulations; (2) a dynamic market experience addressing diverse audiences, including a new retail-mix strategy, programming and stakeholder participation; and (3) long-

term transformations such as the creation of a semi-autonomous "precinct", capital investment and new underground parking.

It is noteworthy that updating regulations is at the top of the plan's priority list. As Jeff Darwin puts it, "the outdoor vending bylaw for the ByWard Market is 64 pages long and 50 years old, and very few people can understand or interpret them [sic]". "They need to be modernized [...] and we'd like to see them replaced with a 12-15 page guiding policy, similar to what we've seen with other farmers' markets in Ottawa". This would better align stakeholder expectations with new roles and responsibilities under the new MSC, while doing away with burdensome red tape.



The market in the 1970s. Photo: Johanne McDuff

Another significant institutional change proposed is the creation of a new "precinct" for the ByWard Market. Under this proposal, the MSC would have greater autonomy for decision making and revenue generation within its oversight area. The MSC might, for example, increase garbage pick-up frequency beyond city benchmarks, something it isn't currently allowed to do despite much higher foot traffic than other neighbourhoods. It could also quickly change rules for vendors if necessary without having to turn to bylaw changes, or do its own enforcement without relying on bylaw services. The idea, says Skotnicki, is that someone "needs to be responsible for the whole community impact of the market revitalization project, and not just to some of the stakeholders".

The strategic plan also includes a reference to a "national brand specialty retail tenant" for the ByWard Market building. Without a better definition, this reference has led many to express concerns that it could lead to the arrival of a chain or even a fast-food franchise. Both Darwin and Skotnicki offered strong assurances that this is not the intention and conceded that wording in the plan could have been more specific to their vision of attracting a retailer complementary to the Market's fresh-food focus.

This has been proposed as a way to help overcome the financial constraints on the MSC. But is far from certain that such a retailer can be found.

### Financial resources don't match market ambitions

The far-ranging revitalization plans contained in the MSC's strategic plan run up against significant financial constraints. Since beginning operations, the MSC has discovered that the City of Ottawa's initial revenue projections, developed in 2017, were overly optimistic. Revenues in 2018 are 24% less than projected. At present, the MSC relies on revenues from tenants in its two buildings. With this they must ensure adequate property management at both ByWard and Parkdale Markets,

to re-investment in the Market. This approach was proposed in the studies which led to the creation of the MSC. It would ensure at least part of the funds generated in the Market would be reinvested there, rather than directed to the City's general coffers. It would offer real flexibility to the MSC, deemed to be one of the most important requirements for a successful revitalization effort.

### Success depends on term-of-council priorities

Peter Ferguson says "residents share [the MSC's] plans and overarching ambitions for the Market area. We just need the political leadership to get this vision in motion." All the planning and effort that have gone

into promoting Market revitalization now depend on City support to begin implementing tangible and sustained progress through capital investment commitments, regulation reviews and revenue sharing terms with the MSC. That will only be possible if the new City Council elected in October includes Lowertown and the ByWard Market in its list of term priorities.

In Jeff Darwin's words "it's Lowertown's turn". Peter Ferguson agrees and has begun thinking of ways the LCA could contribute towards making it happens. Both encourage local residents to raise the need for new investments in Lowertown during the upcoming municipal election.

After nearly 30 years of silence, the historic ByWard Market bell is being rung once more in the mornings to open up the Market. It is intended to be a tangible and symbolic sign of changes to come. With the MSC up and running, it is time for all stakeholders to make sure the resources are available to implement the vision of a revitalized ByWard Market.

The Marchés d'Ottawa Markets strategic plan can be found on its website: [ottawamarkets.com](http://ottawamarkets.com)

The proposal for the creation of a Market precinct would lead to a more integrated model, where a revenue mix from parking, patio-side-walk encroachment and event-space rental would be redirected specifically



# Virtual Reality

Continued from Page 1

Magmic’s web site shows employees playing ping pong at its fourth-floor offices at 126 York St., known to some locals for Market Organics, the health food store on the ground floor.

“Working in the gaming industry tends to have the reputation for being pretty chill, lots of fun and extremely rewarding,” says Magmic’s recruitment page. “The rumors are true.”

Working in the Market is great, says Valerie Husky, Director of Growth and Monetization at Magmic. “You can shop at lunchtime, have a drink on a patio after work. There’s a lot of action, always something interesting happening.”

A quick tour reveals about half the office cubicles are empty; Magmic has outsourced work. While other companies are too big for their space, Magmic may be getting too small.

Samantha Larocque also says that working in the Market “is fantastic,” especially in the summer with patios and the fresh fruit kiosks.” She’s a project manager at Lionbridge, which took over Lexi-tech Ltd. so recently that the office name hasn’t changed in the entryway at 126 York St. The 45 or so employees at Lionbridge provide translation and translation technology.

Two blocks over at Pointer Creative, atop a Starbucks coffee shop, CEO Chris Pointer and his team design websites exclusively for Shopify’s online merchants, among them The New York Times Store and the Ottawa Redblacks.

SEO Twist, a digital marketing firm with such clients as Second Cup and Anytime Fitness, is expanding and renovating its space at 110 Clarence to bring production staff to the same floor as executives and to make room for new hires later this year. The company has 24 in-house staff and a handful who work from home.

Is there a tech community in Lowertown?

Spokespeople at several companies said no, that their community is more with clients than with other companies in their sector.

One exception was Eddy Abou-Nehme, owner of the IT firm Revolution Networks and co-founder of its sister company SEO Plus, inspired by reading SEO for Dummies while trying to figure out digital marketing. SEO stands for search engine optimization. Both companies are at 55 Murray St.

Abou-Nehme says there are groups with meetups that some of his 22 employees in the market attend. “Most of the staff are Millennials,” he said in an interview. “They live downtown and walk or bike to work and they have a bit of community here.”

The creators of the Kwilt “shoebox,” a personal mobile cloud for storing digital photos and videos, didn’t find such community when they worked in the Market, says chief technical officer Mostafa Hosseini. They moved recently from a Dalhousie Street office to the Innovation Hub at Bayview Yards, a tech centre that opened with great fanfare last year.

The founders chose the Market as a vibrant neighbourhood with many options to host clients, Hosseini said in an interview. But the Hub facilities are more economical “and interaction with other startups is a great advantage.”

Invest Ottawa, the non-profit agency which, among other things, runs a startup “acceleration program” at the Innovation Hub, describes the ByWard Market as one of Ottawa’s attractive neighbourhoods in its international “Work in Ottawa” campaign:

“The perfect blend of historic charm and modern living. Often called the heart of the city, the ByWard Market has a wide range of eclectic shops, boutiques, artisan markets,



museums, art galleries, nightclubs and trendy restaurants with secluded courtyards. Your calendar will always be full while living in the ByWard Market.”

The campaign was launched in April 2017 to attract tech talent to Ottawa. Ryan Gibson, senior marketing strategist at Invest Ottawa, said that for years the agency campaigned to attract tech businesses to establish in or expand to Ottawa.

“Now we target job seekers,” he said in an interview. There is a talent shortage in all 40 to 50 tech centres around the world. “We give them a

snapshot of what their lives would look like here.”

An annual report on tech talent published in July by commercial real estate company, CBRE, said Ottawa’s tech job pool increased by 15.9 per cent from 2012 to 2017. Statistics Canada says there were 70,600 tech professionals in Ottawa in 2017, with an average income of \$88,000 per year.

Lowertown’s share of workers in the sector is small but impressive, given the reach of these companies working in the virtual world.

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## Did you know?

### Computing Devices Canada started in Lowertown

By Nancy Miller Chenier

*In 1948, Computing Devices of Canada established its original workshop in a former grocery store at 36 Anglesea Square (corner of Augusta). A business dream of three men – George Glinski, Joseph Spsychalski-Norton, and Peter Mahoney – the company is now recognized as the first significant electronic high-technology company in Canada.*

*While earnings the first years often did not leave enough to cover pay cheques, within 20 years it had become Canada’s first publicly traded export-oriented technology company. Later spinoffs included companies like Northern Electric (Nortel), Gandalf Technologies and Leigh Instruments.*



# Condo Corner:

## Dealing with legalized marijuana in condominiums



By David Lu

On October 17, 2018, marijuana will become legal in Canada. There are two issues that will be of most concern to condominiums: the smoking and growing of marijuana in residential units. What are the implications for condo boards?

The Cannabis Act does provide some regulation of marijuana that is relevant for these issues. Under the Act, the number of marijuana plants that an individual can cultivate is restricted. Provincially, when the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017

comes into force, it will prohibit marijuana from being smoked in enclosed spaces, including indoor common areas in condominiums. But what can condo boards do if they feel that these regulations are insufficient for their condominium?

One suggestion would be for condo boards to treat marijuana the same way they do tobacco. Some condominiums have a Rule or provision in the Declaration that bans tobacco smoking inside units and exclusive-use common areas such as patios or porches. Regulating marijuana could be dealt with in the same way.

Marijuana cultivation in condominiums can also be regulated through a Rule or a provision of the Declaration. For example, growing marijuana on common elements, including exclusive-use yard areas, could be prohibited in the Declaration or the Rules (unless of course the condo board consents to such cultivation). Boards may also want to consider a rule prohibiting the cultivation of marijuana in the units, particularly if there is a

risk of harm to the building due to excessive heat or humidity, or if it could result in excessive consumption of water or electricity.

Just like many other condominium-related issues, the goal is to balance the rights of everyone who lives in the condominium community. For example, users of medical marijuana, depending on their specific needs, will generally continue to have the right to grow and smoke marijuana where smoking is otherwise prohibited, pursuant to the Human Rights Code despite any Rule or provision in the Declaration of the condominium.

The key point is that these issues should be dealt with fully and carefully based on the individual circumstances of each condominium. For condominiums that wish to regulate the smoking and cultivation of marijuana in their communities, a Rule or amendment to the Declaration is the safest approach.

For condo boards that are considering regulating marijuana, now is a

good time to finalize the rule or Declaration amendment, before marijuana is officially legalized. While a Rule or amendment to the Declaration can be passed at any time, doing so after marijuana is legalized may present problems as some condo residents who consumed marijuana recreationally (after it has been legalized) would need to be grandfathered. This means that, for at least a period of time, the Rule or amendment to the Declaration passed by the condo board would not apply to them.

When marijuana becomes legal, it will be a new era for all of us in the condominium industry. That being said, there are tools available for condominiums that wish to regulate the smoking and cultivation of marijuana in their buildings.

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

## Real Estate: Is there a downside to multiple-offer situations? Yes. Some buyers lose.



By Lynda Cox

When a property is for sale, only one offer can be accepted. If four offers were submitted, three buyers end up disappointed and must keep looking. Some buyers have completed between two and five pre-offer building inspections on different properties at approximately \$575 each before having a successful bid. Once the successful bid is announced, the losing buyers kick themselves for not having bid just that little bit higher. If only they had known.

Blind auctions are like that. You never know what someone will pay.

This process can be very discouraging, and some buyers quit for a while before starting the house hunt again. Some buyers get caught up in the moment, especially if they have lost out before, and they can get reckless and offer too much.

### How can you tell if it's too much?

The answer is...you can't. Remember, a home is worth whatever a willing buyer wants to pay. The buyers' lender will never do an appraisal before an offer is submitted. So what happens when buyers do offer too much, with no conditions, and the bank appraisal, completed after the offer is accepted, comes in at less than the price they paid? This can be very tricky.

You can ask for another appraisal at your expense, but if the numbers still don't add up then the buyers are on the hook for the difference. That's right; the buyers will only get a mortgage based on the appraised value and can be left having to come up with the

cash themselves to make up that difference.

You can see why buyers in this position must be very confident of their financial situation. They often have more than the 20% down payment in savings or have an inheritance to lean on. It's not a problem if you pay too much but plan to live in the house for a long time.

The downside can happen if you have to move after a short time, before your home has had time to increase in value beyond what you paid for it. Then, unless the market has gone up a great deal more than the normal 5% to 6% you could take quite a loss. That's why buyers in bidding wars are usually banking on the notion that this is their "forever home". They will have time to pay off the excess price they paid.

There is an upside to losing out in a multiple-offer situation. After losing out, buyers tend to get smarter. They realize that next time a great house comes along they will do their mortgage approval and building inspection before submitting their offer. This will

give them a better chance because they'll be going into the deal unconditionally. They might push the price point a little higher than their last bid.

Finally, in my experience, most buyers eventually find the "right" home and are happy that they lost out on the others.

### Lowertown Update

Since May 8th Lowertown has experienced six bidding wars: 88 Wurtzburg, 303 St. Andrew, 14 Lower Charlotte, 333 St. Andrew, 141 Dalhousie and 316 Bruyere #313. Buyers paid from as little as \$100 over asking price to \$58,000 over asking price.

From May 8th to August 15th there have been 23 condo sales, and 12 residential sales.

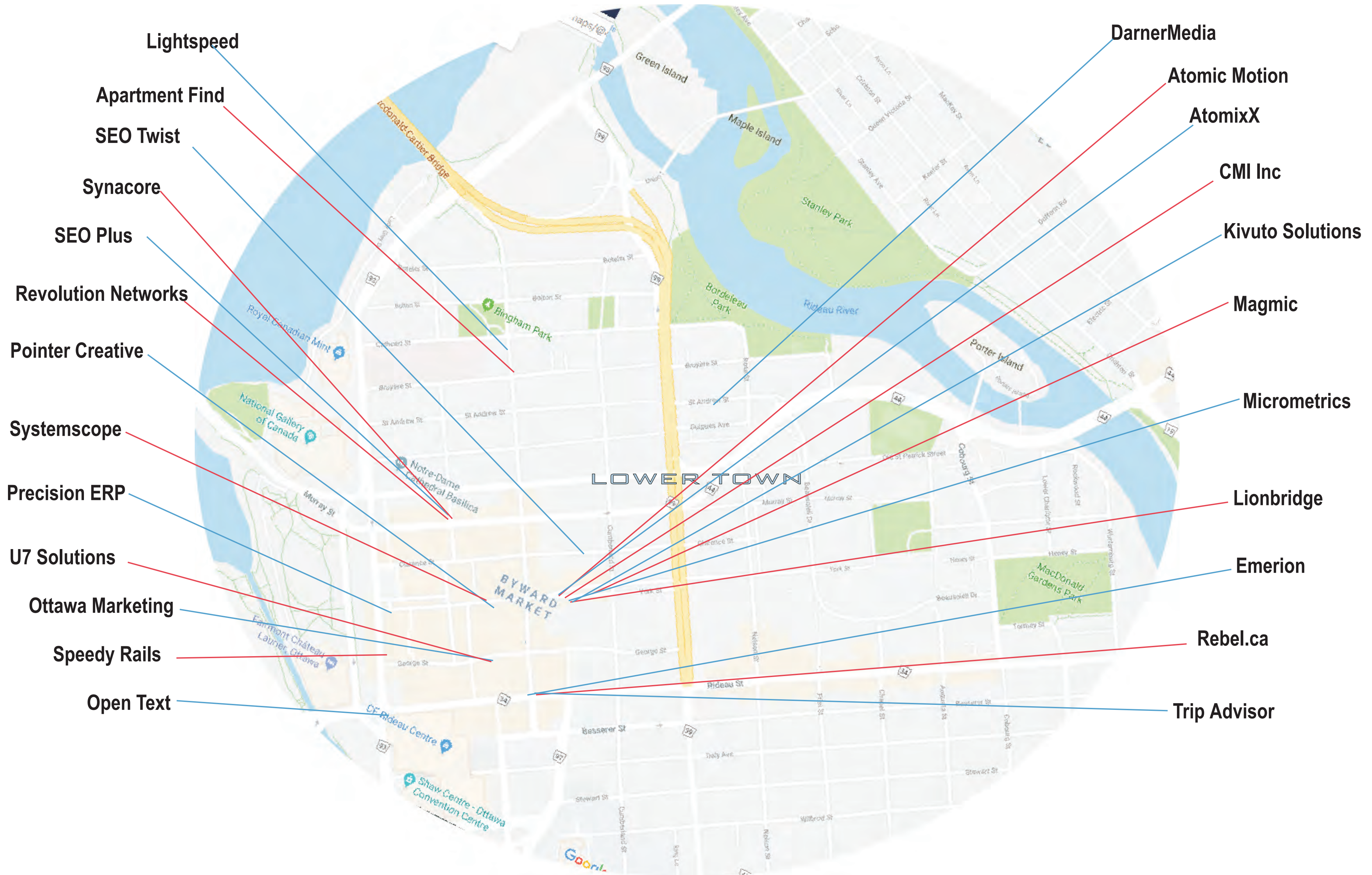
As of August 15th there are 9 active residential listings, 73 active condo listings and 7 conditional condo sales.

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

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# The virtual world of Lowertown





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Ahmed Bouragba	613-255-5509	forvulnerables@gmail.com (link sends e-mail)	No
Bernard Couchman		mayor@bernardcouchman.ca (link sends e-mail) twitter.com/H2OBoyGlobal (link is external)	Yes
Clive Doucet	613-808-0019	clive@cliveformayor.ca (link sends e-mail) www.cliveformayor.ca (link is external)	Yes
Joey Drouin	613-299-5633	joey.drouin@gmail.com (link sends e-mail)	Yes
Ryan Lythall		rlythall@me.com (link sends e-mail) facebook.com/ryanlythallformayorofottawa	Yes
Craig MacAulay	613-518-2107	ottawaowl2@yahoo.ca (link sends e-mail) bellscorners.wordpress.com/why-im-running-for-mayor	No
Bruce McConville	613-298-1984	bmcconville@outlook.com (link sends e-mail)	Yes
Michael Pastien	613-799-9110	m.pastien@yahoo.ca (link sends e-mail) linkedin.com/michaelpastien (link is external)	Yes
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James T. Sheahan	613-693-0142	www.moisseschachtler.com (link is external)	No
Jim Watson		info@jimwatson.ca (link sends e-mail) www.jimwatson.ca (link is external)	Yes
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<b>Councillor Ward 12 - Rideau-Vanier</b>			
Salar Changiz			Yes
Mathieu Fleury	613-879-8683	info@mathieufleury.ca (link sends e-mail) www.mathieufleury.ca (link is external)	Yes
Thierry Harris	613-265-4655	thierry@thierryharris.ca (link sends e-mail) www.thierryharris.ca (link is external)	Yes
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<b>School Board Trustee</b>			
<b>Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Zone 9</b>			
Lyra Evans	613-410-6377	lyraevans.zone9@gmail.com (link sends e-mail)	
Rose LaBrèche		voteroselabreche@outlook.com (link sends e-mail) facebook.com/voteroselabreche (link is external)	
<b>Ottawa Catholic School Board Zone 10</b>			
Thérèse Maloney Cousineau	613-235-2024		
Cindy DescLOUDS-Simpson	613-824-0237	cinsimp24@gmail.com (link sends e-mail)	
<b>Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario Zone 10</b>			
Lucille Collard (Acclaimed)	613-698-9717	lucillecollard1@gmail.com (link sends e-mail)	
<b>Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est Zone 6</b>			
Valérie Assoi (Acclaimed)	613-878-6221	batissonsdesponts@gmail.com	

Chez Lucien

BAR

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Lowertown’s meeting place in the Market! La Basse-ville se retrouve Chez Lucien!

Local kayaker helping Riverkeeper monitor water quality in Rideau

By Larissa Holman

This summer, Ottawa Riverkeeper has been working with a local kayaker to better understand water quality in the part of the Rideau River that runs through Lowertown. Sandra Milton, the chair of the LCA Safety & Security committee and main organizer of “Friends of Bordeleau Park,” approached the organization with her concerns as she noticed more people using the park to launch their kayaks and lots of dogs swimming in the river.

It was great timing. Ottawa Riverkeeper is in the process of developing a Citizen Science Hub, a unique space in their office where volunteers can come to learn about the river. As part of this hub, they have purchased equipment and materials to test recreational water quality.

This will allow them to measure the level of E. coli, harmful bacteria which are an indicator of fecal contamination from what could be urban-pollution sources, such as combined sewers and stormwater outfalls. Knowing how much E. coli is present allows people to better understand how safe their local waterways are.

As a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting the health and future of the Ottawa River and its tributaries, Ottawa Riverkeeper works to promote river stewardship and collective action on issues that affect our ability to safely swim, drink and fish in our vast watershed.

With Sandra’s help, they have begun to test this new equipment and verify the consistency of results. It has been a very useful tool for learning more about the water quality in this section of the Rideau River. “We are looking forward to launching more water quality testing activities throughout the watershed and to engage citizen scientists and volunteers to help protect the health and future of the Ottawa River and its tributaries,” said Larissa Holman, Riverwatch Coordinator at Ottawa Riverkeeper.

For more information on Ottawa Riverkeeper and the Citizen Science Hub, go to [www.ottawariverkeeper.ca](http://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca)

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# The LCA & community planning

By Peter Ferguson

From time to time individuals in the community wonder why the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) Planning Committee only plays what they see as a reactive role in the planning process, that is, responding to zoning and site-plan control applications submitted to the City by developers.

The questions include: What is the vision for the future of Lowertown? What should Lowertown be like in twenty years? What must be preserved and what is expendable? Shouldn't we be planning for additional green spaces? How do we better manage traffic flows into and within our neighbourhoods?

As you can see these questions rapidly move from a planning-and-development mode to a broader set of issues that are outside the scope of the committee structure of the LCA. Nonetheless, these are very good questions that we have to debate within the LCA.

First, the current role of the planning committee isn't quite as reactive as it might appear. It is true that ultimately we are responding to someone else's proposal, but we are usually involved from the outset, sitting in on what are called pre-application consultations between the developer and City planning staff on what might be appropriate for the site in question.

These consultations can involve competing parties who are interested in acquiring a property and are looking for the City's views on what might be appropriate. On the other hand, they could involve discussions between the property owners and City staff about technical issues and heritage requirements, supported by architectural and design documents.

When a development proposal is complex there may well be more than one pre-application discussion. Thus the LCA is in this from the beginning

and can contextualize the decisions that will follow when the formal application is underway.

In terms of developing a more visionary approach to planning the community, this is normally done through a community design plan (CDP) exercises. The participants are City planning staff, the development community and community associations.

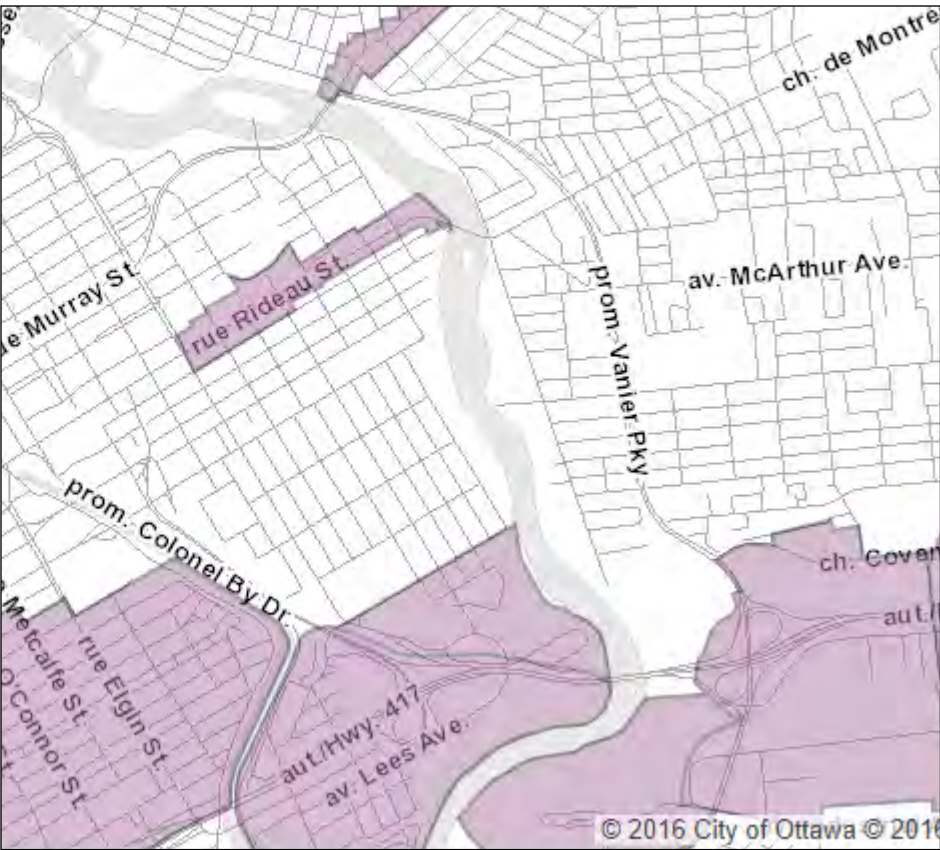
A recent example is the Uptown Rideau CDP – forming part of Lowertown and Sandy Hill - which commenced in March 2014 and concluded in December 2015 with the approval of the new plan by city council. These are lengthy exercises often undertaken when there is some degree of conformity in the economic, social and development potential.

The benefits include updates to zoning requirements, building-height limitations, improvements in future traffic patterns and the requirement for privately owned public spaces as part of new developments. However, CDP exercises are costly in terms of the number of city staff who have to be involved and require the dedicated involvement of community volunteers for an extended period of time.

So far, the LCA has been unsuccessful in convincing the City to undertake other CDP exercises in other parts of Lowertown.

However, what the LCA Planning Committee could do is to undertake a visioning exercise within the community. What do the residents of the community see as its future and how do we undertake an exercise that will generate useful and accurate information? We will discuss this idea at an upcoming meeting.

*Peter Ferguson is the Chairperson of the LCA Planning Committee*



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# Candidates respond to Echo survey

At the beginning of August, the Echo sent out a question and a list of issues to all the candidates for Councillor in our ward. Mathieu Fleury and Thierry Harris were the only candidates to send in their responses. The candidates submitted their responses in English and French. Unfortunately there is only enough space to include their responses in English. You can find the responses in both languages on the Echo page of the LCA website <http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca/echo.html>. The candidate’s answers are presented here in alphabetical order by candidate..

*What do you think will be the three main challenges residents of Lowertown will face during the mandate of the next council and what could/ would you as a councillor propose to do to meet these? Leurs réponses en français et en anglais sont disponibles à <http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca/echo.html>*



## Mathieu Fleury

**1. Safe and healthy community:** I am committed to making our community the safest and healthiest place to live, work, and raise a family. As your Councillor, I will continue to advocate on your behalf to further enhance pedestrian and community safety by eliminating interprovincial truck traffic on King Edward Avenue by building a tunnel. This will improve livability by making the corridor safer and reduce noise as well as air pollution.

**2. Housing and adequate supports:** Part of building a safe and healthy community also means working to address access to supportive housing, preventing homelessness, and assisting people who are homeless with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. As your Councillor, I will continue to work alongside community partners - such as the Alliance to End Homelessness - to modernize our City’s approach to housing. That means developing targeted strategies to prevent vulnerable individuals from becoming homeless, and providing tai-

lored supports to those who are, including families, women, and members of the Indigenous community.

**3. Vibrant public spaces:** Healthy and livable communities all share one thing in common: vibrant public spaces. These spaces, whether they be parks, libraries, markets or playgrounds, need to be safe and accessible. As your Councillor, I will continue to promote the beautification and the vibrancy of our community. That includes the renewal of the ByWard Market (through a new governance model and infrastructure initiatives such as the George Street Plaza pilot), but also things like well-maintained parks, safe recreational facilities, and more public washrooms so you and your family can enjoy Lowertown and the Market to its fullest.



## Thierry Harris

**1. Crime and safety:** Our ward, Rideau–Vanier, now has a crime rate that’s 3.5 times higher than the rest of Ottawa. We cannot thrive as a neighbourhood when people fear for their safety. As councillor, I will collaborate with local groups to develop innovative crime prevention programs. I will also make better

use of our community centres, focusing on opportunities for youth and at-risk individuals. In addition, I will improve public spaces so that they are clean, well-lit and abide by the principles of crime prevention through environmental design. Another important priority is to improve the public’s relationship with the police. My role will be to continually find new and better ways to engage both groups and ensure cooperation. I will push for a better police presence, such as more foot patrols. I will also sponsor diverse, inclusive and community-centered events where we can interact with each other and build trust. During my time at the Federation of Citizens’ Association of Ottawa, where I served on the Ottawa Police Community Advisory Group, I built a positive relationship with both the community and the police. I believe this relationship will be an asset during my term in office. By empowering our community and including all voices into the conversation, I know we can achieve safer streets for all.

**2. The broken planning process at City Hall:** Poor planning decisions have negatively impacted both the livability and cohesion of our neighbourhood. The years of inaction on King Edward, including the failure to get the trucks out, the plethora of unimaginative developments and the shameful neglect for the historic character of our neighbourhood has left us in a challenging position. We are at a crossroads, facing enormous pressure from profit-centered developers and it is more important than ever to have a capable, community-focused councillor at the helm. I will push for an open and transparent consultation process and work to attract green, sustainable and human scale development. I would also implement safety measures for pedestrians, improve the accessibility of our streets and re-explore a bridge option as a solution to curbing traffic in our downtown area.

**3: The lack of vision for Byward Market:** This is one of our ward’s crown jewels and a pillar for Ottawa’s economic and cultural identity. But the lack of vision and leadership by the city has allowed it to decline. The exorbitant rents and recent fee hikes for independent businesses have now put us at risk of losing our local merchants in favour of big chain retailers. This is an ill-suited approach for a historic district like the Market. With my experience in both business and community work, I can effectively engage business owners and residents. I will work to repair trust with the city and start collaborating with all sides on a shared vision: a world-class, vibrant market experience where locals and tourists alike can shop at unique stores and enjoy activities that reflect our identity as the nation’s capital.

Lowertown. Over the next council mandate, indicate which of these you think will have the most impact with #1 having the highest negative impact. *Ties are acceptable. Maximum three “tied” for any single ranking.*

Issue	Fleury	Harris
Excessive speed and noise on King Edward Avenue	1	1
Homelessness	1	3
Deterioration and neglect of historic properties/districts	3	4
Neighbourhood flow-through traffic	4	2
Increase in crime rate	2	1
Continued diminishment of the ByWard Market as a place to buy local goods and produce	4	3
Deterioration of public safety (real or perceived)	1	5
Pressure for inappropriate development	3	3
Drug use in public places	2	2
Deteriorating quality of city services (policing, bylaw enforcement, operation of public places)	2	4
Environmental degradation (loss of trees, parks, failure to deal with effects of climate change)	3	4

3. As a councillor, your ability to act directly on these issues will be limited. Please rank these same issues now in the order where you would be able to affect positive change from most able (#1) to least (#10). *Ties are acceptable. Maximum three “tied” for any single ranking.*

Issue	Fleury	Harris
Excessive speed and noise on King Edward Avenue	2	2
Homelessness	1	3
Deterioration and neglect of historic properties/districts	1	4
Neighbourhood flow-through traffic	2	1
Increase in crime rate	4	1
Continued diminishment of the ByWard Market as a place to buy local goods and produce	4	2
Deterioration of public safety (real or perceived)	2	5
Pressure for inappropriate development	3	3
Drug use in public places	3	2
Deteriorating quality of city services (policing, bylaw enforcement, operation of public places)	1	1
Environmental degradation (loss of trees, parks, failure to deal with effects of climate change)	3	3

### Election Day is October 22

Who can vote?

To be a qualified elector, on voting day you must be :

- a resident of the City of Ottawa, or an owner or tenant of land in the City, or the spouse of such an owner or tenant;
- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years old; and
- not prohibited from voting by law.



Dear constituents,

I am honoured to continue to represent the residents of Ottawa-Vanier at Queen's Park. As your representative, I will continue to advocate on your behalf.

My priorities are to ensure that seniors and vulnerable people have access to the services they need, that we create good and affordable housing, ensure access to jobs and opportunities for all, regardless of origins, handicap, race or religion, protect our environment and support the bilingual character of our community.

On June 29th, the new government was sworn-in and Doug Ford's cabinet was announced. In response to this, I have been assigned the following critic responsibilities: Municipal Affairs and Housing, Women's Issues, Attorney General, Environment, Conservation and Parks, Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Since then, the government has made many changes. They have cancelled renewable energy contracts, programs such as the Basic Income Pilot and the Climate Change Cap and Trade Plan. They have rolled back the increases to Ontario works and ODSP. These changes are provoking reactions from people all over Ontario.

I look forward to hearing from you, my constituents, with regards to these or any of the issues that matter most

to you, and to bring forward your concerns and struggles at Queen's Park.

On August 12th, I have published an opinion article in the Toronto Star, you can see the full article on my website at this link: <http://nathaliedesrosiers.onmpp.ca/News/15585?rc=l&l=EN>

Nathalie Des Rosiers  
MPP, Ottawa-Vanier  
\*\*\*\*\*

Chers résidents et résidentes d'Ottawa-Vanier,

C'est un grand honneur pour moi de continuer de vous représenter à Queen's Park. À titre de votre représentante, j'entends continuer de défendre les intérêts de notre communauté et de tous ses résidents.

Mes priorités sont de bien soutenir nos aînés et les personnes vulnérables dans nos communautés, d'assurer un accès à des logements abordables, et l'accès à l'emploi sans égard à la nationalité, le handicap, la race ou la religion, de protéger notre environnement et soutenir le caractère bilingue de notre communauté.

Le 29 juin dernier, le nouveau gouvernement a été assermenté et le nouveau cabinet de Doug Ford a été annoncé. En réponse à ceci, on m'a assigné les responsabilités suivantes entant que critique : Affaires municipales et logement, Condition féminine, Procureur Général, Environnement, protection de la nature et des parcs, Affaires autochtones et réconciliation,



Nathalie Des Rosiers  
MPP/députée Ottawa-Vanier

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Sécurité communautaire et services correctionnels.

Depuis ce temps, le gouvernement a fait plusieurs changements. Certains programmes ont été annulés, tels que le projet du revenu de base, et le programme de plafonnement et échange pour lutter contre les changements climatiques. Des contrats pour le développement de l'énergie renouvelable ont également été annulés. De plus, les augmentations pour les programmes sociaux ont été diminuées. Ces changements suscitent plusieurs réactions de gens partout en Ontario.

N'hésitez pas à me contacter pour me faire part de vos commentaires ou inquiétudes sur ces sujets, ou quelque autre sujet qui vous tient à cœur, pour les faire suivre à Queen's Park.

Le 12 août 2018, j'ai publié un article d'opinion dans le Toronto Star. Pour ceux et celles d'entre vous qui désirez le lire, vous pouvez retrouver l'article intégral sur mon site web au lien suivant : <http://nathaliedesrosiers.onmpp.ca/News/15586?rc=l&l=FR>

Nathalie Des Rosiers  
Députée provinciale, Ottawa-Vanier

Quel bel été nous avons passé à Ottawa-Vanier cette année! Le beau temps nous a permis d'aller à la rencontre de ceux qui profitaient du temps avec leurs familles et amis dans le comté. J'ai ainsi eu la chance de faire des nouvelles connaissances et de revoir des visages familiers. J'ai pu participer à plusieurs événements communautaires, tels que des barbecues, des événements de la fête du Canada ainsi que la St-Jean Ottawa, une célébration de notre patrimoine francophone ici-même dans Ottawa—Vanier.

Mon équipe et moi avons organisé plusieurs activités et événements dans la communauté afin de passer du temps avec nos commettants et d'échanger avec eux.

Le 29 juillet, dernier, nous avons organisé un barbecue communautaire avec la députée provinciale Nathalie Des Rosiers et nos conseillers municipaux. Ce fut une bonne occasion pour discuter d'enjeux locaux avec plus de

700 résidents et de partager des bons moments ensemble. Je suis fière de vous dire que nos événements étaient écoresponsables et que nous avons mis l'emphase sur les ressources recyclables et sans plastique.

Le programme Emplois d'été au Canada fut un immense succès à Ottawa—Vanier. Des centaines d'organisations de chez nous ont pu bénéficier de soutien pour engager des étudiants pour la période estivale. Ce fut une excellente occasion pour moi de rencontrer des entreprises et des organismes à but non-lucratif de chez nous.

Le temps passé avec vous cet été dans la communauté me motive à commencer la session qui approche avec plein d'énergie et d'idées. Je tiens à prendre cette occasion pour remercier chacune et chacun de celles et ceux qui ont pris le temps de partager leurs inquiétudes, leurs questions et leurs idées avec moi cet été.

Sincèrement,  
Mona Fortier

What an amazing summer we have had in Ottawa this year. With the fantastic weather, it has been great to see so many constituents out and about in the riding enjoying some much deserved rest with their families and friends. I have been so honoured to have the opportunity to see many familiar and new faces.

I have been very fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in countless fun activities in the riding, such as community barbecues, Canada Day neighbourhood events as well as St-Jean Ottawa, a local celebration of our francophone heritage.

My team and I also organized several activities and events in the community to connect with constituents. This past July 29th, my office, together with MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers and local councillors, organized a community BBQ. It was a great chance to talk with over 700 constituents about local issues and share in some fun too!

And I am proud to say our events were environmentally responsible and focused on recyclable and plastic-free resources.

The Canada Summer Jobs program was a real success in Ottawa—Vanier. Hundreds of organizations from our riding benefitted from support to hire students for the summer. It was a great opportunity to meet great businesses and not-for-profit organizations from the riding.

Having this time to meet face to face with the people I represent motivates me to go into this upcoming session with lots of energy and ideas. I want to take thank each and every one of you who shared their concerns, questions and ideas with me this summer.

Sincerely,  
Mona Fortier  
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# Meet your neighbour: Maryse Maynard

By Liz MacKenzie

Maryse Maynard has a dream job: Director of Visual Arts for the School of Dance. She draws on a rich background in visual arts: performance, sculpture, photography and film, paper making, wood carving, mixed and multimedia and has collaborated in interdisciplinary works. She has shown in juried shows across Canada, and has art in public and private collections here and internationally.

Maryse is also famous for her stable of angels, which she will dispatch whenever and wherever needed. Parking problem? her parking angel will get you right outside the door. The angels are multipurpose and Maryse is generous in sharing their blessings.

Her Catholic education and introduction to angels began in French kindergarten at the Jeanne d'Arc Convent on Sussex, now converted to condos, and continued at the Rideau Street Convent.

*Incredibly one day she arrives wearing short white socks – not the required long brown stockings with garters. She is scolded by the very scary Mother Directress and sent to Larocque's Department Store to buy proper stockings.*

"Oh yes", Maryse smiles broadly, "I got the stockings. It was so funny – the nuns bought everything at Larocque's because they thought it was owned by a French-Canadian although Pèpère had lost it long before."

From kindergarten to high school graduation Maryse was educated at French convents and her work often reflects religious influences: candles, incense, little secret boxes on the altar, beautiful embroidered cassocks, lace cloths and of course the angels. "The concept of angels worked for me. To feel that other energies existed though they were not visible, added a spiritual dimension that was natural and comfortable."

*Four Maynard sisters leave the Rideau Street Convent every afternoon and troop over to the Français theatre managed by their father. They climb to the*



*section outside Bob Maynard's office and watch snippets of newsreels and movies. When they hear, "Come on girls, time to go home" they are released.*

"It was so boring, and sometimes scary", says Maryse, "the same bit of a movie day after day – and we never got to see what happened!" However, she credits all those hours in the dark as one of the important influences in her art.

She worked for several years before resuming her studies. Jobs varied: secretarial work at the NRC, hostess at Expo 67, summers as a secretary in Toronto, legal secretary in Ottawa and in much younger years, she sold candy at the theatre, Coke at the Exhibition, electric shavers at Freiman's – modeled at the Mary Smith Agency and baby sat.

Her art training started at the High School of Commerce as a mature student, where she was taught the basic techniques needed to proceed with serious art studies. After a brief stint at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, she attended Ottawa University and graduated with a Major in Visual Arts.

*She is helping a friend paint an apartment. The second-floor tenant, a super cool young flutist named Robert*

*Cram, pops his head in and says, "You girls look like you could use a beer." Best pick-up line ever! Months later, Maryse moves into the apartment above, and thus begins a lifetime friendship, love and partnership.*

Maryse, mother of two girls, pursued her art and managed the household while her musician husband worked nights and travelled with the NAC Orchestra. Often a collaborator, she created sculptural pieces for performers, interdisciplinary works with composers and musicians as well as mounting solo shows, teaching at the Ottawa School of Art and conducting workshops.

In 2012 she co-founded Gallery 200, a curated public gallery at 200 Crichton Street, home of The School of Dance. Gallery 200 adds a visual art

component to the School's multi-disciplinary experience, acting as a bridge by focusing on innovative, contemporary work in a variety of media.

There are delightful symmetries in Maryse's life. She and husband Robert now live in the converted Jeanne d'Arc Convent on Clarence and Sussex, where her education began. Daughter Pixie is a filmmaker, following in the footsteps of her grandfather Bob Maynard who was in the cinema business for 45 years and his father who ran the first nickelodeon in Ottawa.

Maryse continues to pursue her personal art projects. She describes her current work in progress as "a multi-media project presenting some 50 clay masks that are faces I consider from the invisible realms. It will include lighting and music."

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# Business Profile: W. Thomas Leroux

By John Chenier

Some people are born entrepreneurs; others have entrepreneurship thrust upon them. W. Thomas Leroux—known to his friends as Tom and by many people on the internet as WTL—falls in the latter group. Tom was a store manager at Wonder Computers until one day back in 1999, on the same day that he was thinking of quitting, he was told his services would no longer be required.

After considering his options, Tom and a friend decided to start Technomages, a web development business. Like many web-development firms at the time, they needed to try their hand at various things in order to survive, including designing games for cell phones. In 2003, his partner was offered a job he couldn't refuse and once again Tom was left to contemplate his future.

In 2003, he did what he always does for several weeks every summer; he headed off to Algonquin Park to read books and contemplate what he should do next. He decided he would continue with the web-oriented business on his own, but the question was what to call his new company?

While out on a hike, a dragonfly landed on his hand and began eating whatever kind of bug it had just caught. The dragonfly lingered long enough for Tom to reach for his camera and snap a photo. He subsequently identified the dragonfly as a Variable Darner, and adopted the name for his new company, Darner Media.

Given the breadth of his interests, it is difficult to capture all that Tom does at Darner Media and elsewhere. His taste and his skills are eclectic to say the least. In addition to Darner Media you are just as likely to come across his work under the WTL brand (What the Lemur?) on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/WTLNTT/videos>) or his blog at



Tom with his wife Tracey at Bluesfest. Photo: W. Thomas Leroux

[www.leroux.ca](http://www.leroux.ca), or watch his attempt at making a horror series *Scream a Little Dream Episode 1*, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTY-du4zmKCU>.

Forty percent of Tom's time at Darner is dedicated to providing a few hundred clients with secure web servers. Many in the client base are of a kind that, for one reason or another, attracts hackers. He says he is able to track thousands of attempts to hack client's sites on an ongoing basis.

Another thirty percent of Tom's business involves support and training. This includes everything from providing how-to videos to offering on-site training seminars to companies and NGOs.

The final thirty percent of Darner's business involves creating, shooting and editing video productions to demonstrate products, cele-

brate special occasions, record events or communicate company messaging — but note, he doesn't do weddings.

Music is one of his passions, one which he satisfies by being part of a team responsible for setting up secure IT networks for Bluesfest and the Cityfolk Festival. When we finished our interview, he was going home to edit a music video he was producing for an up-and-coming local artist.

Most of Tom's clients come to him by word of mouth. He has a litmus test to figure out whether or not he will be able to work with a prospective client. His main office is in his home, but the boardroom where he meets clients is Patty Boland's Pub in the Market. He says if a client is comfortable meeting in that setting, they should get along fine. One thing is for sure, they won't find him boring.

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# On the Menu:

## Squash Soup, Social Benefit, Homemade Bread, Entrepreneurship, Curry Chicken and Collaboration

By the Lowertown Community Resource Centre

Want a recipe for innovation, collaboration and entrepreneurial spirit in the community benefit sector? How is this for an ingredient list?

- Multiple organizations working together to try something new...CHECK
- Transforming a sparingly used communal room and attached commercial kitchen...CHECK
- Providing youth with developmental and / or social challenges an opportunity to develop skills for meaningful employment...CHECK
- Increasing access to healthy and affordable food...CHECK
- Helping reduce social isolation for low income residents...CHECK

Since March, the Mac Manor Bistro has been open three days a week to residents of 123 Augusta St. (otherwise known as MacDonald Manor), an Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) building in Lowertown. Clients can order a healthy lunch for \$2 or bring home one litre of soup for \$1. "It's an excellent program...a lot of people are benefiting", says Bob Mather, a resident of the building.

So how does it all work? The Bistro is the product of more than two years of discussions among five partner organizations. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board refers students who have struggled to complete high school due to developmental disabilities or social/behavioural challenges to Algonquin College's Kitchen Steward program. This program teaches safe food handling, basic food preparation, kitchen sanitation and table service.



Algonquin students Mitchell and Beulah at the Mac Manor Bistro. Mitchell et Beulah, étudiants du Collège Algonquin, au Bistro Mac Manor.

Rather than learning at the College itself, students get hands-on training in a real but less stressful restaurant environment. Just ask Mitchell, one of the Algonquin students: "Here, we're interacting with real people, real clients, real issues and [learning] how to deal with that. It's lessened my nervousness around talking to people. We're always working on different dishes. Some of the dishes have been difficult to

make but we've learned. We make everything, even the bread!"

Algonquin and Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) invested to upgrade the kitchen space and brighten the common room on the top floor. Social workers and support staff from OCH, Options Bytown and the Lowertown Community Resource Centre are present to support residents, to encourage them to come and to ensure that the program meets community needs. "Coming up here, it's friendly, it's kind. They make you feel welcome and I like to support the students," says another resident, Diane Meldrum. "I don't like eating alone... here you've got company and the food is marvelous! It's a nice place to be."

Algonquin student, Beulah, also likes seeing people and getting to know them. "In the future, I'd like to open my own business. This gives me experience", she adds.

For now, the Bistro is only available to residents of the building. However, the partners are exploring ways of adding to the project and finding ways for it to generate revenue for reinvestment in the community. At the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, we are proud to be involved in such a partnership and see it as a model that could be replicated in many other buildings across Ottawa.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Au menu:

## Potage à la courge, bienfaits sociaux, pain fait maison, entrepreneuriat, cari de poulet et collaboration

Contribution du Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville

Voici une bonne recette pour un délicieux plat d'innovation, de collaboration et d'esprit d'entrepreneuriat dans le secteur communautaire :

- De multiples organismes travaillant ensemble sur un nouveau projet osé
  - Transformer un espace commun et une cuisine commerciale peu utilisés
  - Offrir une occasion de développer l'employabilité de jeunes ayant des déficiences sur le plan du développement ou faisant face à des défis sociaux
  - Faire croître l'accès à de la nourriture saine et abordable
  - Contribuer à réduire l'isolement social de résidents à faible revenu
- Depuis le mois de mars, le Bistro Mac Manor est ouvert trois jours

par semaine aux résidents de l'édifice MacDonald Manor, un édifice de Logement communautaire d'Ottawa situé au 123, rue Augusta à la Basse-Ville. Les clients peuvent y commander un dîner santé pour 2\$ ou acheter un litre de soupe pour 1\$ pour emporter. « C'est un excellent programme...beaucoup de monde en bénéficie », relate un résident de l'édifice, Bob Mather.

Ce projet est le fruit de plus de deux ans de planification entre cinq organismes partenaires. L'Ottawa-Carleton District School Board réfère au programme « Préposé au service alimentaire » du Collège Algonquin des étudiants adultes qui, pour des raisons de déficience intellectuelle ou comportementale, ont connu des obstacles à compléter leurs études secondaires.

Le programme d'Algonquin permet aux étudiants d'acquérir des compétences de base en manipulation sécuritaire des aliments, en préparation des aliments, en maintien de l'hy-

giène dans la cuisine et en service à la table.

Le Bistro offre un contexte de restaurant réel, bien qu'un peu moins stressant, où les étudiants peuvent bénéficier d'une formation pratique. Mitchell, un étudiant du programme, raconte : « Ici, nous faisons face à de vraies personnes, de vrais clients, de vrais enjeux et nous apprenons comment agir. Ma gêne de parler aux gens a diminué. Nous sommes toujours en train de créer des plats différents. Quelques-uns sont difficiles à faire mais nous avons progressé. Nous faisons tout nous-mêmes...même le pain! »Le Collège Algonquin et Logement communautaire d'Ottawa ont fait des investissements pour améliorer la cuisine et la salle commune du 7e étage de l'édifice.

Des travailleuses sociales et du personnel de soutien de LCO, d'Options Bytown et du Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville sont présents pour appuyer les résidents et pour les encourager à y

participer. « J'aime venir ici, c'est accueillant et on est gentil. On se sent bienvenue et j'aime ça supporter les étudiants, » dit une autre résidente, Diane Meldrum. « Je n'aime pas manger seule...ici on a de la compagnie et la bouffe est merveilleuse! C'est tout simplement une bonne place. »

Beulah, étudiante, aime également interagir avec les clients et apprendre à les connaître. « Un jour, j'aimerais ouvrir ma propre entreprise. Ce projet fait grandir mon expérience. »

Pour l'instant, le Bistro n'est ouvert qu'aux résidents de l'édifice. Par contre, les organismes partenaires mijotent des stratégies pour bonifier le projet et pour générer des revenus pour réinvestir dans des programmes. Au Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville, nous sommes fiers de nous associer à un tel partenariat et nous y voyons un modèle à reproduire dans plusieurs édifices de logement à travers la Ville.



# Swordfish Club

By Christine Wagg

Lowertown is a mix of turn-of-the-century homes, Ottawa Community Housing apartments and townhouses, high-income condominiums and high-rise residence apartments for University of Ottawa students. It was historically a low-income area where labourers and loggers lived. Today, Lowertown East has approximately 1400 households, with 49% living below the poverty line. It is unique also in the mix of new Canadians, families who have been in the area for generations, students and professionals.

I am the manager of the two aquatic facilities in Lowertown, The Lowertown Pool and the Champagne Fitness Centre. When I started working in the neighbourhood a few years ago I knew very little about it. A community advocate took me on a walking tour and I instantly fell in love with the area. There is such deep-rooted history in Lowertown, as well as tolerance for cultural differences.

What I also discovered was that there was very little activity in the Lowertown Pool, probably for two reasons. First, the building is very large and built in the 1970s, with the pool in the basement, where it has low visibility. Second, the City’s program fees were too high for many of the residents.

## Opportunity knocks

I soon met Stephen Pearson, a former teacher who is now a child and youth community developer working at the Lowertown Community Resource Centre (LCRC), located across the hall from the Lowertown Pool. I learned that he supervises an after-school homework club and sport groups, a youth centre, summer camps, all of which are paid for through his tireless fund-raising efforts, so that there is no cost to parents. He approached me with the opportunity of funding for a swimming program. For me this was an interesting proposal because my main focus is to get as many children to learn how to swim as possible, yet I was constrained by having to follow policy and charge user fees for pool admissions and swimming lessons. Stephen and I found a way to make this work!

## Swordfish: Junior lifeguards in the making

We started our planning and I engaged a key group of my staff that had a love for lifesaving and community development. We decided to have the group follow the Junior Lifeguard Club, a program offered by The



Junior lifeguards in the making. Photo: Christine Wagg

Lifesaving Society. This program instills leadership, fitness, knowledge and skills for self-rescue and rescue of others. It met all the requirements for provincial funding through the LCRC, as it involves learning new skills, physical fitness, community engagement, and would also lead to employment opportunities.

Today we have over 60 swimmers in the Swordfish Club! There are emerging swimmers ages 6 to 11, and Junior Lifeguards ages 12 and up. Some of the juniors are ready to

take their initial certification courses to become lifeguards and be able to work at their own neighbourhood pool.

People in Lowertown are a very special group. They care for each other and really have a community spirit like no other I’ve seen. I consider it a pleasure to provide value for the community!

Christine Wagg is a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Ottawa

# Movies in the Park/Cinéma dans le parc

By Sandra Pilote

As the movie poster announced, popcorn was served. On Friday August 17th, more than one hundred residents came to Le Patro d’Ottawa to see Coco, a movie with a family-oriented story that addresses issues of culture, life and death.

Despite the rain that had left Jules Morin Park too damp for outdoor viewing, little ones accompanied by teenagers, parents and grandparents gathered together in the auditorium on chairs or on blankets. All agreed that the movie was a fun way to spend an evening. As one young person commented when leaving: “I really enjoyed the movie. It made me laugh and it made me cry.”

The Movies in the Park evening continues a tradition established many years ago by the Lowertown East Residents Committee and partners of Lowertown, Our Home.

Sandra Pilote is Chair of the Lowertown East Residents Committee

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# Shakespeare in the park

Company of Fools Theatre: Bordeleau Park, July 17

Lowertown residents of all ages brought their blankets and chairs to Bordeleau Park to watch an entertaining production of Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night. This is the second year that the theatre company has staged a play in Bordeleau. It was a great night to spend outdoors in a glorious setting.



Twelfth Night in full flight.  
Photos: Tim Smith

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# Books by or about Lowertowners

Lowertown is home to many talented individuals and in this issue, the editor highlights two books that reveal the photographic skills of two residents.

John McQuarrie has contributed photographs to the Echo and in fact was featured in an earlier “Meet Your Neighbour” column. He is well known for his Then and Now series of books featuring Ottawa photographs.

McQuarrie’s latest collection with sections on Lowertown and the ByWard Market is **Ottawa: An Aerial Panorama - Spirit of Place**, Magic Light Publishing, 2018.

As Randy Boswell states in the foreword:

*“This book, his latest contribution to a genre that he has pioneered and perfected, supplies a wealth of detail – rich and frequently breathtaking images of present day Ottawa-Gatineau – as well as a time-machine trip to the city’s storied past.”*



Abigail Gossage is better known for photographs in exhibitions (and in her blog) than in books. But community efforts in 2013 to save the Union du Canada building at the corner of Dalhousie and York resulted in some evocative Gossage photographs of this iconic building.



Union du Canada Building 325 Dalhousie Street. Photo: Abigail Gossage

Gossage’s photographs are now published in a book about Louis Lapierre, the building’s renowned architect. The Union du Canada was one of eight works by Lapierre featured in the book - Andrée Dupuis et Marie-Dina Salvione, **L’architecture dans une vie – Louis J. Lapierre, architecte**, Carte Blanche, 2018.



## Photovoice project

By Jinny Caron

The Youth Outreach program in partnership with the Ottawa Police and the Lowertown Community Resource Centre (LCRC) put together a project called “Photovoice”. This project is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and offered through the Lowertown, Our Home program at the LCRC.

Through the eyes of Lowertown youth are pictures that will show what life is like in the Lowertown East neighborhood. The project started on July 11th and is expected to be completed by the beginning of September 2018. The project’s goal is to give a voice to the youth to show their pride in their neighborhood and to allow them to share this pride with other residents. It also allows youth to advocate for the amazing things that are available to them. The pictures they take will show where the youth take pride and feel safe in their neighbourhood.

We hope that you will appreciate this project as much as we do. We plan to put boards up with their photographs in the LCRC’s collective kitchen, and to display them at various community events, residents’ meetings and LOH partner meetings.

Jinny Caron is Youth Outreach Worker at the B&GC Ottawa



Lowertown youth on PHOTOVOICE Project. Photo: Jinny Caron





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