

# The ByWard Market at 192 years

By John Chenier

The outdoor fresh fruit and vegetable vendors at the Market have come and gone for another year. In the last week of the season, only five vendors remained, spread out along the west side of ByWard Market Square, with noticeable gaps between stalls. Judging from the remarks of some vendors interviewed during that final week, the end would come as a welcome relief.

There is a sense of pride in how long some of the producers have had stalls at the Market. For most, the connections go back generations. However, the long hours spent standing in all sorts of weather conditions; the arduous work involved with growing the produce; the rising costs to buy what's needed to enter into the business combined with uncertain rewards; all of these factors pose a threat to the future viability of the Market.

Huguette Lacroix has been selling produce from the family farm for 44 years. She started when she was seventeen. But her children have all chosen career paths far removed from growing and selling vegetables and flowers. She knows when she retires, it will be the end of the line. Several other vendors face the same situation. There are some who would stay longer if hiring reliable help was a viable option. But finding someone willing to put in 10 to-12 hour days — hot or cold, with rain, sleet or snow — is not easy. For the future of the Market, it is not a matter of a generation gap; it is a generation schism.

Of course not all vendors find themselves in the same predicament. The Rochon family operates the Jardin Rochon Garden stall at the corner of Murray and ByWard. The multi-generation family farm in Edwards, Ontario is doing very well. In addition to the ByWard, it produces enough flowers and vegetables to supply stalls at ten other markets in the region. At the instigation of the up-and-coming generation, the Rochon farm has developed a growing Community-Shared-Agriculture (CAS) component to its business model. CAS members can pick up their basket of produce weekly or bi-weekly at 11 locations in the region (the By Ward is not one of them) or have the baskets delivered right to their door.

While that success story provides hope for the ByWard, it also shows that the way things were in the past does not indicate the way of the future. Farmers are looking for, and finding, new ways and places to get their products to consumers. The results from relentless pressures for change are evident in the ByWard precinct. There used to be 11 butchers; now there is one, maybe one-and-a half if you include La Bottega Nicastro and one more if you include the two delis as half each. Number of indoor fruit vendors, one.

Change has come to the product mix of the outdoor vendors as well. Clearly, there are no more live chickens or about-to-be-skinned rabbits for sale. But there have been more subtle changes as well.

**Continued on Page 12**



Take your pick. Photo: John Chenier

LCA 2	Heritage 4	Real Estate 8	Politics 9	Business 11	Profiles 14	Community 16	Culture, Events 22
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The Echo welcomes articles, letters, photographs, notices and other material of interest to its readers in the Lowertown community. Name and telephone number of contributor must be included.

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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Dear neighbours,

The leaves have nearly all fallen, and the days are shorter and colder. We Ottawans have elected a new City Council. During the election campaign many Lowertown residents worked hard to ask candidates questions and spark debate about key issues in our community including the environment and climate change, transportation, housing, social services addressing poverty, heritage and planning, the ByWard Market, and of course safety and security in our community.

The Lowertown Community Association (LCA) released a study “Crime and Public Disorder in Lowertown, Ottawa: Trends, Causes, and Solutions” that confirmed that crime rates in Lowertown are much higher than in other similar downtown communities. The researchers, two students from the Master’s Program in Criminology at the University of Ottawa, presented the report of their findings to Lowertown residents on October 9, followed by a lively discussion on follow-up actions.

Norman Moyer, who led the research project, noted LCA demands that the city develop an Action Plan, in collaboration with all stakeholders. The new City Council should designate it a Term of Council Priority. The full text of the report is available at <http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca/>

Another element of safety in our community is our environment. Our new City Council’s adaption to climate change is key – so we’re better prepared to deal with the floods, fires, tornados and other severe weather. Our safety in walking, biking, skateboarding and using wheelchairs to get around our community without fear of being run down by cars or trucks, restoring King Edward from a traffic sewer to a boulevard for all, and improving our own health and reducing emissions while we do.

Then there are the trees. In a 2015 Toronto-based study, researchers found that city trees, especially those lining our streets, are linked to a “significant, independent, and reliable increase in health benefits.” The multi-authored study, “Neighbourhood [Greenspace and Health in a Large Urban Centre](#), The multi-authored study, “Neighbourhood [Greenspace and Health in a Large Urban Centre](#),” found that adding more trees on your street was like getting a salary raise, in terms of health perception

And then there’s trees and crime. A few days after the release of the LCA crime-rates study, I listened to a Hidden Brain podcast called “Our Better Nature”. In it, psychologist Ming Kuo, who has studied the effects of nature for more than 30 years, discussed one of her findings documented in “Environment and Crime in the Inner City: Does Vegetation Reduce Crime?” Kuo and Bill Sullivan, at the University of Illinois-Champagne Urbana, studied a public housing complex where residents were randomly assigned to apartments, some with “greener” settings and some without.

Results showed that residents in buildings with greenery had lower rates of aggression and violence, reported lower levels of fear, and “the greener a building’s surroundings were, the fewer crimes reported.”

While we need to address systemic issues of poverty, homelessness and access to health services for all Ottawans, we can’t forget another tool in the toolbox: trees and greenery, even in small amounts. Thanks to our volunteers who worked hard to plant gardens and clean up Bingham Park, improved Rose and Macdonald Gardens Park and revitalized and cared for newly planted trees in Cathcart Square Park.

Ecology Ottawa recently shared that most members of the new Council, including Councillor Mathieu Fleury, who responded to their survey on climate change action, sustainable transportation, green space protection and waste management articulated support. While 11 of 24 council members didn’t respond and Mayor Watson was vague and noncommittal, it is clear that with more hard work, it is possible to ensure that the new City Council does take meaningful action on environmental issues, and makes them a Term of Council priority.

I’d like to congratulate Councillor Mathieu Fleury on his re-election, and thank Thierry Harris for running as a candidate in the election. Thank you to all of you who volunteered, and worked hard to support one candidate, or to ensure issues important to our community were discussed, or events held to meet candidates. We look forward to working with you to hold our new City Council accountable to improve our community, and Ottawa.

Finally, a reminder of our own initiatives. The LCA has three active committees that meet regularly. — Planning, Heritage, Safety & Security. If you are interested in participating on any of these, you can communicate your interest through our website, [www.lowertown-basseville.ca](http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca). You can also sign up for our maillist We have regular meetings on the second Monday of every month except July and August at the Routhier Centre, 172 Guigues. I hope to see you there.

Liz Bernstein,  
President, Lowertown Community Association



# Lowertown Community Association Crime Report for 2018

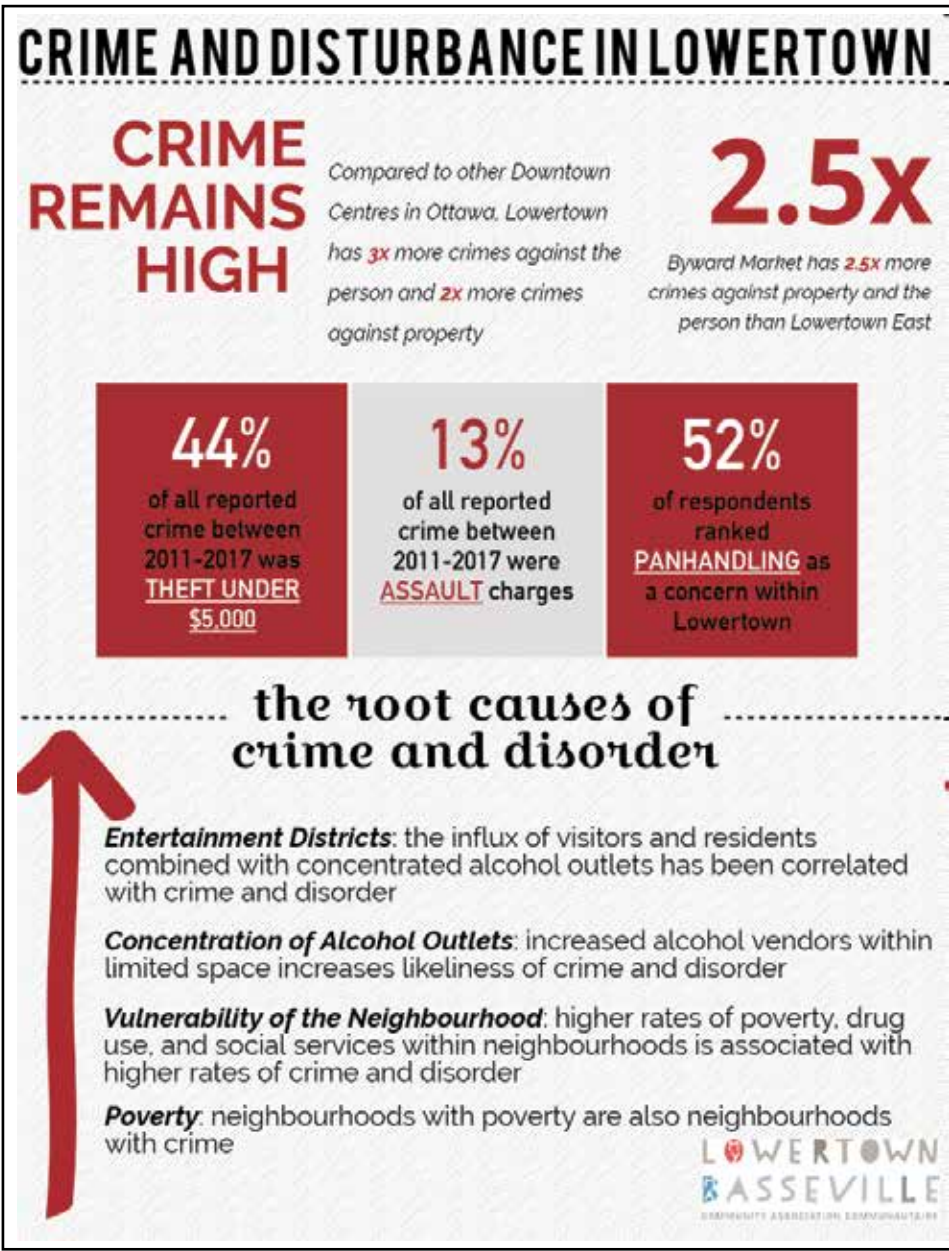
By Eilish McNamara and  
Samantha Cima

This past summer, the Lowertown Community Association commissioned a research project on crime and public disorder. Research for the study was conducted by two University of Ottawa Master of Criminology students. The researchers collected and analyzed six years' worth of data from the Ottawa Police Service, the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study, Bylaw Services, the Business Improvement Area, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, and the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) Crime Survey. The results from the study are detailed below.

Between 2011 and 2016, crime in all of Lowertown (comprised of the ByWard Market and Lowertown East) has consistently remained high compared to the neighbouring Downtown centres of Centretown and Sandy Hill. Calculated per 10,000 population, all of Lowertown has three times more crimes against the person (e.g., assaults) and two times more crimes against property (e.g., theft) than Centretown and Sandy Hill. Crimes against the person have remained stable, while crimes against property have been on a downward trend since 2011, with slight peaks upwards.

The ByWard Market area has a higher level of crime than Lowertown East, specifically two-and-a half times more crimes against property and the person. Analysis of the Crime Mapping Tool from the Ottawa Police Service demonstrated a clear clustering of crime within the ByWard Market. Interestingly, however, the LCA Crime Survey conducted in June 2018 found that residents of the ByWard Market reported feeling very safe from crime significantly more than residents of Lowertown East.

While the scope of this research project did not allow for a concrete investigation into the causes of crime and disorder within Lowertown, it is hypothesized that the concentration of bars and alcohol and the vulnerability of the neighbourhood are likely contributors to the higher rates of crime found the ByWard



Market (as compared to other Downtown neighbourhoods and Lowertown East). Data collected from the Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario indicated that there are at least 124 established vendors within the Lowertown area, most of which fall within the boundaries of the ByWard Market. Historically, crimes associated with alcohol vendors and entertainment districts include property damage, vandalism, assault, street offences, drinking and driving, and other related activities.

Vulnerable neighbourhoods refer to those with higher rates of poverty, drug use, and social services, where these neighbourhoods have more “targets” for victimization (all of Lowertown has six social services within its boundaries (Shepherds of Good Hope, the Salvation Army, Centre 454, Capital City Mission, Ottawa Inner City Health, and the John Howard Society) and while data were lacking on drug use, respondents on the LCA survey indicated drug abuse to be a large issue within Lowertown. Although these connections cannot be made with certainty, they warrant further inquiry.

While a common response to the problems cited above is an increased budget dedicated to policing, this response has proven to be ineffective in preventing crime and is solely a reactive approach to the problem. Instead, primary and upstream prevention is necessary, focusing on preventing crime before it occurs and investing in proven and evidence-based techniques. Moreover, a commitment to better measuring and accessing of crime and disorder statistics is required, specifically stronger and more accurate measures of disorder and more fluid reporting of statistics to the general population from all stakeholders involved.

The full report is located at <http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca/>

*Eilish McNamara and Samantha Cima are MA students in Criminology at the University of Ottawa*

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# The big picture: Cinema in Lowertown

By Michel Rossignol

For thirty years, many residents of Lowertown and other parts of Ottawa have travelled to countries around the world and sometimes to other planets. Instead of traveling by jetliner, flying saucer or time machine, they visited the world by watching films at the ByTowne Cinema on Rideau Street. Since 1988, the ByTowne Cinema has been a major contributor to Ottawa’s cultural scene and a key part of our community’s long association with the cinema.

The first cinemas in Lowertown opened their doors over a century ago. Between 1914 and 1961, many generations of Lowertown residents went to see great and not so great Hollywood productions and even some films in French at the Français Theatre on Dalhousie Street, one block north of Rideau. In the late 1930s, francophones could also see some films in French just one block away at the Rideau Theatre on Rideau Street at the corner of Dalhousie. However, after its grand opening on November 23, 1931 and until it closed in 1982, the Rideau showed mostly Hollywood productions, especially action films. The Rideau apparently replaced the

Princess Theatre, which opened in 1915, and while the building is still there, it is no longer used as a cinema.



The Linden Theatre on Beechwood Avenue, just outside of Lowertown near the St. Patrick Street Bridge, also attracted customers from this community. In the 1950s, many Lowertown families used dishes given free by the Linden and other cinemas to encourage people to go to movie theatres instead of watching television at home. In 1966, the new owner of the Linden gave it a new name, the Towne Cinema, which became famous as a repertory cinema offering a mix of classic and recent films. In 1988, the owners of the Towne bought the Nelson Theatre on Rideau Street and renamed it the ByTowne Cinema. The Nelson was built in 1946 and, a year later, started showing some of the most popular films of the day. This is where classics such as *Ben-Hur* (1959), *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), and, of course, *The Nelson Affair* (1973) got their first showings in Ottawa. When the Nelson became the ByTowne, cinema in Lowertown got a new lease on life. So, check the ByTowne schedule for the next departures to exotic places around the world and, **Bon voyage!**


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# King Edward Park’s Remarkable “Train Tree”

By Nancy Miller Chenier

In 2017, the National Capital Commission (NCC) initiated a project to identify 150 remarkable trees on federal lands in the National Capital Region. The goal was to find the trees in order to protect them and to educate the public about the region’s rich arboreal heritage. In response, residents living near the NCC’s King Edward Park organized an arborist visit to a magnificent oak tree that may predate Canada’s Confederation.



The Bur Oak stands at the edge of the bridge embankment that formerly carried the first train of the Bytown and Prescott Railway into the Sussex station in the 1850s. This location speaks of a link to Confederation and the trains bringing politicians

and civil servants to the new capital. The nearby historic plaque installed by the NCC indicates that the tracks were removed between 1964 and 1966 to permit construction of the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge and Vanier Parkway.

The “train tree” is a community landmark growing on a historical site in one of Lowertown’s older parks. Its dark bark is deeply and irregularly furrowed and its canopy of gnarled branches spreads above a trunk of close to a metre. This resilient tree continues to adapt to an environment where pollution from vehicles on King Edward Avenue is a daily threat.

The visiting arborist noted evidence of fire damage near its roots but indicated that the bark of a bur oak is fire-resistant. It is a survivor in a vulnerable setting.

This old residential area of Ottawa has seen the disappearance of many wonderful

trees along King Edward Avenue and elsewhere but also witnessed the steady growth of this proud tree. It is a distinctive natural structure integral to the landscape of this urban park. Its beauty and its bounty daily benefit our children and our wildlife. For residents, it is a remarkable tree and we await a final response from the NCC.



Train Tree on far right. Photo circa 1950.



# The Carter Family

## British Loyalists in French Lowertown

By Marc Aubin

Out of the 500 crowded buildings that once stood in the eastern triangle that was bordered by King Edward Avenue, St. Patrick Street, and the Rideau River, only about 35 remain. Of those 500 buildings, we have been able to identify about 15 to 20 families that lived in the area for many years. The Carters were among them. A couple of summers ago, I caught up with one descendent, Georges Carter, in Toronto.

One would find the name *Carter* unusual when researching Lowertown of old. Typically, they were predominately French names. It turns out that the Carters are descended from United Empire Loyalists! Surgeon Major of the British Army, Christopher Carter came to Sorel, Canada, from Boston in 1783. His grandson, Edward Albert Wellington Carter, travelled to Ottawa's Lowertown circa 1866 and married Angèle Couturier, a descendant of an early worker on the Rideau Canal.

Edward eventually began work at a local printing establishment and when the Government Printing Bureau was established on St Patrick Street in the late 1880s, Edward worked his way up to become foreman of Parliamentary Room No. 2. This large enterprise, located on the site of the current National Art Gallery, provided many Lowertown families with good, secure jobs.

The Carter family moved around Lowertown, but by the 1890s settled at 314 St. Andrew Street with their four sons and three daughters. The strong ties with the francophone community were evident when daughter Blanche married Jules Tremblay, a well-known French-Canadian author whose works included histories of Ste-Anne Roman Catholic Church and the Water Street Hospital, which eventually became the Ottawa General Hospital. The house at 314 St. Andrew remained in the family until the 1950s.

In 1915, according to the *Ottawa Journal*, one of the most impressive funerals ever to take place at Ste-Anne's Church was that of Edward A. W. Carter. Over five hundred people attended; notably a large contingent from the Printing Bureau that included Irish Farrells and Gleesons as well as French Laverdures, Pinards, and Paradis. Not bad for a British Loyalist in Lowertown!

William George Carter, the eldest of Edward and Angele's children, followed in his father's footsteps and worked at the Printing Bureau for 40 years. His wife, Eugénie Labelle, and their children (Marcel, Hermance, and Jeanne) lived at 295 St. Andrew Street; Eugenie continued to live there after her husband's death in 1937.



Photos:left 295 St. Andrew St., right 297 to 301 St. Andrew ca. 1950. Carter family album.

Marcel became a vice-president at the CBC, and Hermance was a nurse at what was then the Ottawa General Hospital on Bruyère Street. Jeanne became a legal secretary after graduating from Rideau Convent.

Georges Carter, the son of Marcel Carter, shared his recollections of St. Andrew Street from 1945 to 1952. He frequently visited family at 314 St. Andrew, and his grandmother Eugénie and his aunt Jeanne at 295 St. Andrew. He recalls the house being made of wood, very narrow and long. He also recalls the glory days of the Rideau Street shopping district, which, in his opinion, now pales in comparison. It was on Rideau Street that he first took a transit ride some 52 years ago. He also recalls one of his distant cousins, former Councillor Georges Bédard, who lived nearby at 252 Bruyère with his hard-working mother, a young widow with a large family.

While 295 St. Andrew Street, and 297 next door, have changed quite a bit over the years, much of their original façades are likely hiding un-

der the layers placed over them down the years. Could they one day be restored with the photos taken by the Carters? Will these examples of Lowertown working-class cottages, two of only 35 left out of 500, be restored one day and survive? Perhaps, and if they do it will be thanks to the photos left behind by the Carters.



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# Joie et Tristesse : La Basse-Ville en 1918

Par Michel Rossignol

Il y a un siècle, l'Armistice du 11 novembre 1918 mit fin aux combats de la Première Guerre mondiale. Il y eut quelques manifestations de joie ici et là à travers Ottawa après l'annonce de l'Armistice, mais il y avait aussi beaucoup de tristesse dans la Basse-Ville et d'autres quartiers de la ville.

La guerre a bien sûr été une des principales causes de cette tristesse car même si les champs de batailles étaient en Europe, la Basse-Ville n'a pas échappé aux peines et sacrifices qui ont marqué le conflit. Plusieurs résidents du quartier étaient partis au front et l'annonce de l'Armistice a donné espoir aux familles car elles pouvaient enfin espérer le retour d'Europe d'un père, d'un mari, d'un fils ou d'une fille (plusieurs infirmières canadiennes ont soigné les blessés près des champs de batailles). Certaines familles ont eu la joie de voir leurs proches arriver à Ottawa quelques jours après le 11 novembre. Par exemple, comme en témoigne une liste publiée dans le *Ottawa Citizen*, plusieurs des soldats qui sont arrivés le 2 décembre 1918 demeuraient sur Clarence, Cobourg et d'autres rues de la Basse-Ville. Cependant, le même jour, la liste officielle de soldats morts ou blessés a confirmé le décès de quelques soldats, dont un de la rue Cumberland.

Si la Basse-Ville a été marquée par la guerre, elle a aussi été surtout durement éprouvée par l'épi-

démie de la grippe espagnole qui a frappé le monde en 1918. Plusieurs citoyens d'Ottawa sont tombés malades lors de la première vague de grippe au printemps de 1918, mais la deuxième vague de la fin de septembre jusqu'au début novembre a été meurtrière car parmi les milliers de personnes qui sont tombées malades dans cette ville, plus de 500 sont décédées. Plus de vingt millions de personnes sont mortes à travers le monde lors de cette épidémie, y compris plus de 50 000 citoyens Canadiens. En quelques mois, l'épidémie a tué à peu près le même nombre de Canadiens que le nombre de soldats canadiens, environ 60 000, tués au combat entre 1914 et 1918. À Ottawa, on a remarqué que ce sont surtout les quartiers ouvriers autour des gares de train qui ont été

le plus durement éprouvés, notamment ceux autour de la gare de la rue McTaggart (aujourd'hui la route parallèle à la rue Boteler qui relie le pont Macdonald-Cartier à l'avenue King Edward). En effet, de tous les quartiers d'Ottawa, c'est dans la Basse-Ville qu'il y a eu le plus de morts à cause de la grippe espagnole. Donc, malgré la fin de la guerre, 1918 a été une année triste pour la Basse-Ville.



*La rue George dans le Marché By en juillet 1918, quelques semaines avant la deuxième vague de l'épidémie de la grippe espagnole qui a fait de nombreuses victimes dans la Basse-Ville.  
Photographe : Williams James Topley. Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, MIKAN 3318780.*


# The By Wash: Lowertown's Venetian Canal

By Nancy Miller Chenier

In 1826, Colonel By's tasks included not only construction of the Rideau Canal but also the establishment of a settlement to support canal building. In his town-planning role, he envisioned an efficient grid pattern for Lowertown streets and arranged for drainage of the swampy areas. In his canal-building role, he designed an overflow channel from the canal basin above the locks.

The By Wash was a waterway that channeled through a 34-foot sluice gate from the Rideau Canal across Rideau Street to George Street through the ByWard Market along York Street and down King Street to the Rideau River. Into this Venetian-style canal, his engineers could direct the multiple streams running through the cedar swamp, creating one watercourse to flow from the Rideau Canal to the Rideau River. Constructed circa 1828 along an existing creek bed, the By Wash was credited with giving Lowertown an early commercial and economic ad-

vantage. Its current was strong enough to power the first ByTown mill, built by Jean-Baptiste St. Louis on York Street. Its volume permitted the movement of barges delivering goods from the canal to the market area. At the Rideau River end, it was originally intended to connect with docks in the bay above the mills at the Rideau Falls.



Over the years, residents did their laundry and fished in the Wash. Fire engines used its water as a back-up supply. But as other modes of transportation took precedence, the By Wash gradually filled with sludge and debris. Over the years it became

a smelly and unhealthy nuisance, and multiple newspaper stories argued for its demise. After the sewer was constructed in 1875, the main By Wash that ran through Lowertown gradually disappeared from sight.



*The By Wash that used to run down the middle of King Street (now King Edward Ave). Ottawa Archives.*

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**Answers from  
previous quiz on  
page 19  
and  
WINNERS!**



# Under the City: A Trip Through the Main Sewer (1876)

This article originally appeared in the *Citizen* on March 21, 1876.

Yesterday afternoon...members of the Board of Works, several members of the Press and three or four other gentlemen assembled at the office of the City Engineer, to make the ...trip through the main sewer. The party was composed as follows: Aldermen Heney, Rocque, DeGuise, Rowe, Birkett and Chabot, Dr. Lynn, Health Officer; H. Lapierre, City Solicitor; representatives of the three city papers, the contractors, Messrs. Booth and Murphy; the City Engineer, Mr. Surtees; the Sewer Inspector, Mr. Birkett; Mr. James White, Mr. John Grant and Mr. Weldon, guide.

On arriving at the Engineer’s Office, the party was informed by the City Engineer that they were about to undertake a perilous and dangerous task...the trip might involve loss of life...As the party moved away, a crowd of curious spectators gave them a parting cheer, which had the tendency to raise the spirits depressed by the remarks of the City Engineer.

Mosgrove Street was reached...the party...descended the sewer by manhole...the odor arising from the sewer had a very depressing effect on their spirits. Here the medical advisor, who had taken the precaution to bring along medicine (a bottle of V.O. brandy,) suggested the propriety of “liquoring up”...antidote...to ...obnoxious air...The suggestion was acted upon, Ald. Heney alone dissenting. To meet his case the doctor had very thoughtfully brought along a bottle of disinfectant and gave “Honest John” a dose sufficient enough to make him proof against all the foul atmosphere in the United Kingdom.

After walking about three minutes, the Rideau Street connection was reached. Here a great volume of water fell into the sewer and made a noise like a miniature cataract. The party was slightly scared...but Ald. Rocque who led the party cried in a stentorian voice “On pilgrims on!”... The sewer at this point was of a horseshoe shape, the arch...of brick, the sides of cut stone...the pavement brick. Dr. Lynn...remarked that a pipe would not be out of place. All hands accordingly filled the pipe of peace and puffed away with a vengeance.

Next manhole...on George Street. Here Mr. John Hill and a host of citizens smiled down from above, and treated the boys below to a snowball or two to cool their heated brows. In endeavouring to dodge a snowball Ald. Rowe stepped on Ald. DeGuise’s pet corn, and that gentleman immediately squealed and sat down in about a foot of water, to the extreme delight of the spectators above.

The Dalhousie Street trap was next reached...At this manhole the welcome face of Ald. McDougal was exposed, surrounded by a score of school boys...the crowd moved on...Ald. Rocque...wandered out of the narrow channel and fell over a boulder on the side of the sewer. Unfortunately at this point there happened to be about a foot and a half of water...for a moment there was the prospect of a new election in Ottawa ward...But...was rescued by the courage of Ald. Birkett. After...taking a little brandy (ordered by the doctor).

Ald. Rocque took the lead again...to the gas house connection. Here, a halt was made...bottom of the sewer coated in a sticky substance and once the feet got into it, there was considerable trouble extricating them...After coal tar and gas-houses had been sufficiently condemned the march continued to the strains of “Annie Laurie”, very touchingly sung by Dr. Lynn

At York Street...a number of school children were crowded around the manhole, and threw armfuls of snow down. They enjoyed the sport immensely, but the party cannot say as much for those who had the snow dropped down their backs. At the King Street manhole, a basket of Moselle was lowered, and the party refreshed themselves...At St. Andrew Street...Ald. Chabot sang “Youp, youp sur la rivière,”...lost one of his boots in the tar.



Before coming to Cathcart Street it was noticed that the arch of the sewer ... had flattened out considerably...instead of being egg-shaped...was circular...the City Engineer deems it advisable that it should be taken up and re-built for fear of accident...The party, after inspecting the fall of water into the Ottawa River, climbed up the manhole, covered with tar. Here refreshments were supplied, after which a start was made for home.

Elizabeth Krug contributed this 1876 news story adapted from Michael Newton, Lower Town Ottawa, Volume 2, 1854-1900.

# Report Warns Ottawa Heritage Conservation Districts at Risk

By Susan Peterson

Reflecting concern about the protection of heritage districts in Ottawa, Julian Smith, architect, conservator, scholar and educator, who is internationally recognized for his contributions to heritage conservation, was invited to lead workshops with participants from seven community associations representing sixteen of Ottawa’s twenty heritage conservation districts. They were joined by representatives of Heritage Ottawa. Among his findings, he noted that the cultural-heritage value of Ottawa’s heritage-conservation districts is being routinely compromised and eroded. This is related to the failure of city staff and city councillors to respect and straightforwardly apply the approved heritage plans for these districts, as well as the related directives set out in the Ontario Heritage Act and the Provincial Policy Statement.

### Recommendations

To protect Ottawa’s heritage districts, a significant change in culture, attitudes, and practices is called for. The direct voice of Ottawa’s heritage communities, and the unique expertise they embody, must be given the principal role in interpreting their heritage plans, and advising city councillors on development applications or other proposed changes in their heritage districts. City staff must see their role, not as one of

negotiating and facilitating development applications, but as protecting and enhancing the heritage of Ottawa by supporting heritage communities.



3. If there is disagreement between the community association’s heritage committee and city staff, the community’s recommendation should be the one put before the Subcommittee or Committees of Council. Other opinions can be referenced, as at present. But it is important that City Council and its committees accept, modify, or reject the voice of the community, and justify any deviations if the community’s expertise is not accepted.

4. A member of each community’s heritage committee should sit as a voting member of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee when applications in their heritage district are considered.

5. At meetings of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee and Planning Committee, the community’s heritage committee should have the opportunity to present their case at the outset, as well as to respond after others have spoken.

6. Cultural Heritage Impact Statements (CHISs) are optional within the regulatory framework, and should be treated as such. If a CHIS is prepared and paid for by the proponent, the community should be given an opportunity to prepare its own CHIS.

7. Strong consideration should be given to making the Built Heritage Sub-Committee a full committee of Council, reporting directly to Council. The Built Heritage Sub-Committee could deal with heritage applications without concern that its recommendations will be overridden by the Planning Committee.

Workshop Participants: Centretown Citizens Community Association, Glebe Community Association, Lowertown Community Association, New Edinburgh Community Alliance, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and Heritage Committee, Rothwell Heights Property Owners Association (for Briarcliffe), Action Sandy Hill, and Heritage Ottawa.

The full report is available at: [heritageottawa.org/sites/default/files/smith\\_report.pdf](http://heritageottawa.org/sites/default/files/smith_report.pdf)

Photo: 325 Dalhousie Street, ByWard Market HCD. Demolished 2013.

# Condo Corner: Your new electric vehicle and condominium living

By David Lu

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are becoming more attractive to consumers (myself included). However, before buying that new plug-in vehicle and saying good bye to weekly visits to the gas station, condo residents need to be aware of the situation at their building regarding EV charging stations.

Many new condominiums, particularly in Montreal and Toronto, have charging stations builtin. The advantage of this arrangement is that the use of the charging stations is governed by the new condominium's governing documents. I haven't heard of any new condominiums in Ottawa that will have charging stations built in, but I'm sure it's only a matter of time.

For existing condominiums, the challenge is to balance the rights of the condo owners/residents who want to charge their EV in their building and the condo owners/residents who do not own EVs. Who should pay for electrical upgrades and increased electricity use? This is a challenging issue because the governing documents at many condominiums never contemplated the advent of EVs. At my firm we are increasingly seeing these issues arise.

In response to this issue, the provincial government released regulations under the Condominium Act that outline the procedure for installing EV charging stations at existing condominiums.

A condo board (the "Board") can, in some cases, install EV charging stations at the condominium's expense if: (1) the installation cost (excluding post-installation/operating expenses) is no more than 10% of the condominium's annual budget; and (2) the Board believes that the owners would not regard the installation as a major reduction or elimination of their use of condominium property. If these conditions are met, the Board can notify the owners with details of the proposed installation and proceed with the work 60 days later. Owners only have the right to call a meeting to challenge the Board's proposed installation if either of the two conditions above is not met.

A Condo Owner can apply to install their own EV Charging Station

If a condo owner wants to install an EV charging station at their own expense, they must apply to their condo board in writing. The Board must respond to an owner's application within 60 days or by a mutually agreed upon



David Lu.

deadline.. An application can only be rejected if an expert (such as an engineer) concludes that the installation would: (1) be contrary to a statute or regulation; (2) adversely affect the structural integrity of condominium property or assets; or (3) pose a serious health and safety risk to people or a serious risk of damage to condominium property or assets.

If an owner's application is accepted, the parties must enter into an installation agreement. The agreement

determines who is responsible for the costs associated with the charging station and other related costs, as well as maintenance obligations.

In our experience dealing with EV charging stations, a major source of dispute is with regards to determining who is responsible for paying the associated expenses. When dealing with issues that can involve competing interests of different owners (such as this one), emotions can run high and threats of legal action can be made.

Solving disagreements through compromise and without the need for legal action is often the best solution. Living in a condo community means that issues that involve competing interests (like EV charging stations) sometimes come up. To solve these challenges, the Board should consider not only the interests of the individual owner, but also of the community as a whole. Each condominium will need to determine the arrangement that will suit their community best.

*David Lu is an associate at Davidson Houle Allen LLP, a boutique condominium-law firm serving Eastern Ontario.*

## Environmental concerns in real estate transactions

By Lynda Cox

When buying a house we say "buyer beware". When selling a house we say "disclose everything".

In this issue of the Echo we will deal with environmental issues when buying or selling real estate. Here are things to look for:

Buried oil tanks can leak and cause soil contamination. The cost to remediate can be huge. Inspectors look for unidentified holes in the basement floor.

There can be soil contamination due to homes having been built on old dumps/landfills, gas stations, dry-cleaner sites etc. The City of Ottawa can provide maps of the "brown" or contaminated areas of the city. Buyers must do their due diligence to obtain this information. Your realtor can advise.

You and your realtor must also look for evidence of water infiltration and mould. The "nose" test comes first. You can smell mildew, and where there is mildew there is often mould. Beware of finished basements that are packed to the rafters with boxes and shelving so walls can't be closely scrutinized. Look for water marks on the drywall. Sometimes water infiltration is a result of a leaky roof or bad grading, so investigate everything. Ask for statements from sellers about past water issues, and in your offer include a warranty from the seller that there have never been any water problems. Your insurance company must check to see if any claims have been made due to water damage. Always include a condition

stating that your offer is conditional upon an insurance investigation.

Radon is a relatively new concern. Most inspectors now have the ability to detect this gas. The City of Ottawa or a Google search should give the buyer help when trying to determine if the house might be exposed to radon.

Asbestos, which might be found in pipe/duct wrap, tiles, fire retardant paper, stippled ceilings and vermiculite insulation, is a big issue, especially if renovations need to be done. During the conditional period of an offer get a qualified technician to test any substance that is suspect. The test results only take a few days and the cost is minimal. There are several labs in the city that do this type of work.

The issue is whether or not the asbestos is friable with particles which can easily become airborne, or if it is contained/encapsulated. Are the edges rough or smooth? When it is contained and not disturbed there is somewhat less concern. However, some buyers simply refuse to buy a home once any asbestos is found.

We live in an "old" neighbourhood where lead may be present. Lead is usually found in older, unrenovated homes. Many streets in the city still have lead water pipes. The City of Ottawa can help you determine if water pipes on the street you want to move to have been changed to copper. Your building inspector can tell if your intake pipe to the house is copper or lead. If there are lead pipes, water can be tested and filters can be used.

Many of these issues, if present in



Lynda Cox of Faulkner Real Estate

your new home, can mean your lender will have difficulty processing your mortgage. Also many insurance companies will refuse to cover homes identified with these issues and/or give the buyer 30 days to remove them.

NOTE: other problematic issues for lenders and insurance providers are knob-and-tube wiring, renovations/additions without proper permits, Insulbrick siding (tar-based siding which is highly flammable and may contain asbestos), and legality of secondary apartment units.

Let's review:

What are the options for the Seller?

Do a pre-listing inspection. Identify the issues.

Get quotes for remediation from reputable experts to provide to prospective buyers.

Do nothing and sell "as is". This is often done in estate sales.

Remediate before selling, then disclose and provide receipts.

What are options for the Buyer?

In your offer, request that the seller have the offending elements removed by a professional and provide you with all the receipts for the work completed prior to closing.

During the conditional period get quotes for all the issues noted in your inspection and then do a price adjustment to reflect the expenses you will incur to address the issues (providing you can get insurance and a lender).

Walk away and keep looking.

In the end it is up to each buyer to decide how he/she will proceed. Remember, the conditional period, typically five business days, is for the buyer to investigate and resolve as many issues as possible. At the end of those 5 days he/she can walk away with no penalty or decide to proceed to closing.

Remember: Hire a great inspector, one that primarily deals with older homes, ask lots of questions, do your due diligence.

And remember: buyer beware, seller disclose

MARKET UPDATE May 9 to October 31

RESIDENTIAL: 7 Active Listings, 23 SOLD listings (7 selling over list price)

CONDOMINIUM: 34 Active Listings, 4 conditionally Sold, 74 SOLD Listings (5 sold over list price)

*Lynda Cox is a sales representative with Faulkner Real Estate, "Living and Working in Lowertown"*



# Priorities for Lowertown

Thank you to the residents of Lowertown for your on-going support. Our team has received a strong mandate to go ahead with our election priorities.

Our goal is to continue to make Lowertown a safe, healthy and dynamic community where youth, families, and older adults have the right services and spaces to enjoy what Lowertown has to offer.

Our main priorities revolve around housing capacity, infrastructure improvements, ByWard Market beautification and a dynamic district with diverse businesses.

We want to have a modern and innovative housing plan that addresses homelessness by investing in three key strategies; Housing First (targeted towards singles), Housing and Supports (targeted towards high needs residents) and affordable housing (targeted towards families).

I will be proposing a one per cent tax levy city-wide as a bold strategy to develop innovative housing initiatives. This would mean \$14 million

per year over four years and \$56 million this term of Council.

Removing interprovincial trucks from our downtown streets by building a tunnel is one of our highest priorities for Lowertown. The City has completed the feasibility study

which shows that it is possible to connect the Vanier Parkway highway exit with the MacDonald Cartier Tunnel via tunnel. The next step is the environmental assessment (EA).

Supporting our community's diverse and unique businesses and

beautifying the Byward Market is an important priority as well. We have already had great success with York Street Plaza and George Street Plaza. We look forward to seeing continued financial investment and phased improvements to public spaces in the Byward Market.

There are many priorities that have a direct impact on our quality of life that will continue to make our community desirable for all, including LED street light modernization, park improvements (namely Bingham park) and the return of community policing in our area. We look forward to working on initiatives that are community driven and appreciate your continued support.

Let's make Lowertown a place where everyone belongs and is heard. As always you can contact our office at 613-580-2482 or Mathieu.fleury@ottawa.ca. We're happy to work with you.



# Les priorités pour la Basse-Ville

Je tiens à remercier les résidents de la Basse-Ville de nous avoir soutenus sans relâche. Notre équipe a reçu le mandat clair de donner suite aux priorités annoncées pendant la campagne électorale.

Notre but est de continuer à faire de la Basse-Ville un milieu sain, sûr et dynamique où les jeunes, les familles et les aînés disposent de services et d'espaces qui leur permettent de profiter pleinement du quartier.

Nous concentrerons nos efforts sur la capacité d'hébergement, l'amélioration des infrastructures, l'embellissement du marché By et un dynamisme caractérisé par une offre commerciale diversifiée.

Ainsi, nous voulons nous doter d'un plan de logement moderne et no-

vateur qui s'attaque à l'itinérance par l'investissement dans trois grandes stratégies : Logement d'abord (pour les personnes seules), logement et services de soutien (pour les résidents vivant avec des besoins majeurs) et logement abordable (pour les familles).

Je proposerai une augmentation du taux d'imposition de un pour cent pour l'ensemble de la municipalité comme moyen de financement de projets immobiliers novateurs. Cela équivaut à 14 millions de dollars par année sur quatre ans, donc à 56 millions d'ici la fin du mandat du Conseil.

Une de nos priorités pour la Basse-Ville est de détourner les camions en transit interprovincial des rues du centre-ville par la construction d'un tunnel. Une étude de fais-

abilité réalisée par la Ville démontre déjà qu'il est possible de relier la sortie de l'autoroute 417 en direction de la promenade Vanier au pont Macdonald-Cartier par un tunnel. La prochaine étape est l'évaluation environnementale (EE).

Il est également primordial pour nous de pourvoir au soutien des commerces locaux, variés et sans pareils, et à l'embellissement du marché By comme nous l'avons fort bien réussi sur les esplanades des rues York et George. Nous comptons bien poursuivre les investissements financiers dans ce dossier et apporter des améliorations progressives aux espaces publics du marché By.

De nombreux chantiers prioritaires améliorent directement la

qualité de vie des résidents et contribuent à l'attrait de notre communauté, comme la modernisation des lampadaires par la technologie DEL, les améliorations aux parcs (notamment au parc Bingham) et le retour de la police communautaire. Nous désirons promouvoir des initiatives soutenues par la population et apprécions votre soutien inébranlable.

Faisons de la Basse-Ville un quartier accueillant pour tous où vos idées sont les bienvenues. Comme toujours, vous pouvez communiquer avec notre équipe au 613-580-2482 ou à Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca. Au plaisir de travailler avec vous!

# Thank you : Merci

I would like to congratulate all those who participated in this municipal election. I'm proud of the campaign we ran and the team we assembled, full of beautiful people from all around the world that represent the diversity of our neighbourhood. The actions we will take in Lowertown over the next few years will be critical in keeping Byward Market alive, preserving our heritage, eliminating homelessness and reducing truck traffic on King Edward. We have the capacity as a community to resolve these issues and I will continue the fight. Thanks to all of you who supported our campaign for change at City Hall. The movement has just begun.

Thierry Harris



Je tiens à féliciter tous les participants aux élections municipales. Je suis fier de la campagne que nous avons menée et de notre belle équipe composée de gens de partout à travers le monde qui représentent la diversité de notre communauté. Les actions que nous prendrons dans la Basse-Ville dans les prochaines années seront cruciales pour garder en vie le Marché By, préserver notre patrimoine, éliminer l'itinérance et réduire les camions sur le boulevard King Edward. En tant que communauté, nous avons la capacité de résoudre ces problèmes et je continuerais le combat. Merci à tous ceux qui ont appuyé notre campagne pour un changement à l'hôtel de ville. Le mouvement ne vient que commencer.

Thierry Harris



# Les Canadiennes et Canadiens sont conscients que la pollution nous coûte tous très cher



Notre gouvernement sait qu'il y a un lien étroit entre la protection de l'environnement et notre économie et que tout véritable plan de lutte contre les changements climatiques doit faire payer les pollueurs.

Avec les provinces, les territoires et les peuples autochtones, nous avons travaillé à l'élaboration de notre tout premier plan exhaustif de lutte contre les changements climatiques, qui inclut l'imposition d'un prix sur la pollution par le carbone.

La tarification de la pollution réduit les émissions polluantes, incite les entreprises à innover et à concevoir des solutions propres et procure au monde des affaires la certitude que nous nous dirigeons vers une économie axée sur une croissance propre. C'est pourquoi notre gouvernement instaurera un nouveau système fédéral de tarification de la pollution causée par le carbone en 2019.

Tel que promis, notre gouvernement reversera l'entièreté des produits de la tarification à la population de la province où ils ont été perçus. On Ontario, cela signifie qu'ils seront redistribués directement aux ménages par le biais de l'Incitatif à agir pour le climat. Une famille de quatre personnes recevra 307\$ dollars lorsqu'ils produiront leur déclaration d'impôt au printemps 2019.

Lorsque je rencontre les gens d'Ottawa—Vanier, plusieurs expriment leur inquiétude par rapport aux effets des changements climatiques. C'est pourquoi notre gouvernement prend des mesures audacieuses pour s'attaquer à la pollution et aux changements climatiques.

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

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## Canadians understand that pollution has costs for all

Our government knows that protecting the environment and growing the economy go hand in hand and that making polluters pay is a critical part of any serious climate plan.

Our government has worked with provinces territories and Indigenous Peoples on our first comprehensive climate action plan, which includes a price on carbon pollution.

Putting a price on pollution not only reduces pollution, but it also creates incentives for companies to innovate and develop clean solutions and provides certainty to businesses that we are moving to a clean growth economy. This is why our government will be putting a new federal pollution pricing system in place in 2019.

Our government is delivering on its promise to redistribute all proceeds from pollution pricing to the population of the province where they have been collected. In Ontario, this means proceeds will be returned to

families through the Climate Action Incentive payments. Not one dollar will go to the federal government. This will give a family of four an additional \$307 dollars when they file their income tax return in the spring of 2019.

When I meet with Ottawa—Vanier constituents, the effects of climate change are some of their greatest concerns. That is why our government is taking bold leadership to address pollution and climate change.

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

*Mona Fortier is the Member of Parliament for Ottawa - Vanier*

## Update: Queen's Park



### Dear constituents,

It is a real pleasure to give you an update on what is happening at Queen's Park.

Two main issues have been at the forefront of the debates for the last month: cannabis and the environment.

As of October 17th, cannabis is allowed to be consumed recreationally but it will only be sold online in Ontario for the time being. The government will allow sales in licensed, privately owned stores starting in April 2019. Municipalities will not be allowed to regulate where stores can be located but they can make submissions to the licencing authority.

In addition, the government is allowing smoking of cannabis wherever smoking of cigarettes is allowed. You can find out more information on the subject by visiting this website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization>. You can also find my comments on my Facebook page.

Last summer, the PC government cancelled the climate change cap and trade program. You can read the Environmental Commissioner's views on this at <https://eco.on.ca/our-reports/climate-change> as well as the recent commentary from the Financial Accountability Officer at <https://www.fao-on.org/en/Blog/Publications/cap-and-trade-ending>.

For my part, I have recently introduced three private members' bills.

“Bill 35: Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2018”

“Charter Rights Transparency Act, 2018”

“Juries Statute Law Amendment Act (Juror Eligibility), 2018”

If you would like to learn more about these bills, please visit the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current>

In closing, I want to wish you all the very best over the holiday season. I look forward to updating you all again in the New Year!

Thank you,

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

### Chers résidents et résidentes d'Ottawa-Vanier,

C'est toujours un plaisir de vous tenir au courant de ce qui se passe à Queen's Park.

Deux questions ont occupé nos débats au cours du dernier mois : la réglementation du cannabis et la protection de l'environnement.

Depuis le 17 octobre, la consommation du cannabis à des fins récréatives est permise. Par contre, la seule façon de se procurer du cannabis en Ontario pour l'instant est à travers le magasin en ligne établi par la province. Le gouvernement a modifié le modèle de distribution pour permettre aux entreprises privées ayant obtenu une licence, de vendre le cannabis dans leurs établissements à partir du mois d'avril 2019.

Les municipalités ne peuvent réglementer le zonage des magasins de cannabis mais peuvent intervenir dans le processus d'approbation des licences. Le cannabis peut être fumé partout où la cigarette peut être allumée. Pour plus d'information, veuillez visiter ce site : <https://www.ontario.ca/fr/page/legalisation-du-cannabis>. Mes commentaires sur la législation sont affichés sur ma page Facebook.

Le gouvernement conservateur a annulé le plan sur les changements climatiques (connu sous le nom de

programme d'échange et de plafonnement). Cette décision a été commentée par la Commissaire à l'environnement <https://eco.on.ca/fr/our-reports/climate-change> et le Bureau de la responsabilité financière : <https://www.fao-on.org/fr/Blog/Publications/cap-and-trade-ending>.

Pour ma part, j'ai récemment déposé trois projets de loi privés.

« Loi de 2018 modifiant le Code des droits de la personne »

« Loi de 2018 sur la transparence relative aux droits garantis par la Charte »

« Loi de 2018 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne les jurys (habilité des jurés) ».

Si vous désirez en savoir plus sur ces projets de loi, vous pouvez visiter le site web de l'assemblée législative de l'Ontario : <https://www.ola.org/fr/affaires-legislatives/projets-loi/actuels>

Pour terminer, j'aimerais vous souhaiter tous et toutes mes meilleurs vœux pour le temps de fêtes qui approche. J'ai hâte de communiquer avec vous à nouveau au nouvel an!

Merci,

**Nathalie Des Rosiers – Députée provinciale, Ottawa-Vanier**



# Weathering Winter in ByWard Market

By Katherine Solomon,

With every season that passes, many changes take place in the ByWard Market, inside and out. Outdoor vendors have always peddled their wares to reflect seasonal offerings from freshly harvested veggies to artisanal mittens and scarves, and Christmas trees and holiday décor. Inside many changes have taken place over 2018, and the ByWard Market BIA is pleased to welcome new and returning faces to our neighbourhood! Get ready to brace yourself against winter chill by warming up in these great new locations:

## Bistro Ristoro

17 Clarence Street, 343-984-6080

Self-described as a traditional Mediterranean cuisine establishment, this new bistro on Clarence street near Sussex Drive boasts carefully-made, uncomplicated dishes that don't disappoint. Brick oven-baked pizza, pasta, sandwiches, salads, and mains are featured on the menu, all made to order. A hot bowl of pasta on a chilly afternoon? That should warm your toes!

The Stalk Market, 246 Dalhousie Street, 613-241-8255

#Flowertothepople is the name of the game here, and the folks at The Stalk Market know they are making serious moves to appease your every flora and fauna need. They know how to make the right arrangements for your casual breakfast table display, or a grab-and-go bouquet for a last-minute encounter, and even offer subscription services – the perfect way to remind someone you are thinking of them, or maybe it's a gift you give yourself. There's always room for more colour in the winter, and flowers are just the thing to bring your indoors through the darker months. But don't forget to pop into the shop frequently, as they also feature local artists on their Art Wall, and things change frequently.

## Le Mien - Craft Noodle

43 William Street, 819-923-2432

The ByWard Market has always been attractive to food makers from all over the world. It's one of the greatest things about the Market – you can dine anywhere in the world within our district. This new dine-in restaurant is where chefs work right in the front windows making traditional Chinese hand-pulled noodles. It's a sight to be seen from outdoors, and a complete sensory experience when you step inside. Aromas of soups that have been simmering for hours waft throughout the room, and flavours round out the entire experience.

LOLLO Salads, 60 George Street, 613-518-1454

Heartiness doesn't always have to mean heavy meals. Take a step to the lighter side at Lollo Salads, a companion storefront to La Bottega Nicaastro. Local ingredients meet your taste buds with a carefully planned dressing (which are also for sale to bring home!). Fine Italian coffees bring out the dis-

tinctly European appeal of the worthy trip. And just for balance, Lollo is supplying the ByWard Market with Suzy Q Doughnuts.

Optique Prestige Boutique, 238 Dalhousie, 613-798-2170

Meet the newest eyewear store in the ByWard Market and get ready to rethink your entire concept of what eyewear can really mean. Think vintage. Haute couture. Gucci. Christian Dior. MCM. It's all there, and it's all accessible to you. But not only do they specialize in some of the most sought-after frames, they also take great pains to care for your favourite specs from so long ago by updating new lenses in modern finishes to keep them fresh-looking. It's equally important in the wintertime to look after your peepers, especially if you plan on spending a lot of time outside. All that glare off the white snow? Throw it some shade with a new set from Optique Prestige Boutique.

Pauls' Vintage, 161 York Street, 613-866-7376

Located in the bright yellow refurbished buildings at York Street near Cumberland, Paul's Vintage is situated perfectly by Frou Frou by Pat and Adorit, a trifecta of significant import for the ByWard Market. More on that later. Paul's Vintage reveals more and more special items the closer you look around. Really take your time in this shop as you will discover all kinds of incredible fashion finds (we found a pair of Valentino cutoffs!), pieces for entertaining, items of home décor, and objets of nostalgia are mindfully sprinkled on the store shelves and tabletops.

Toy Soldier Market, 260 St Patrick Street, 613-562-2580

About two decades ago (nearly three...) ByWard Market News housed the Toy Soldier Market at 6 ByWard Market Square (now home to The Cupcake Lounge). After some time away, The Toy Soldier Market has returned to our neighbourhood, and exclusively focusses on miniature collectables, with emphasis on King And Country. Find their new location on St Patrick Street, near Dalhousie, and see what piques your interest! Perhaps a new year will entice a new collectable hobby!

Kabeshinàn Minitig Pavilion 453 Sussex Drive, 343-999-6223

"Pijashin, Welcome! Omamiwiniini Pimadjiwowin, The Algonquin Way Cultural Centre presents ancient artifacts & a display of Indigenous Arts and Fine Craft." Neatly presented between Murray and Clarence Street on Sussex Drive, Kabeshinàn Minitig Pavilion provides an exhibition and retail space for authors, textile artists, jewellery makers, painters, and illustrators to meet with you in person.

Alpha Art Gallery New location! 531 Sussex Drive, 613-241-7671

Alpha Art Gallery first opened on Murray Street in an intimate gallery space that housed artwork by resident

artist Dominique Sokoloski, and held vernissages for many other Canadian and internationally acclaimed artists. Now residing in the two-story high location on Sussex Drive, Alpha Art Gallery remains a viewing experience it always was, and can also host sizable events. Music, visual arts, literature, film, and creativity are the heart and soul of Alpha Art Gallery, and visitors are guaranteed to feel quickened by the open grandeur of the new location.

Frou Frou by Pat, 159 York St 613-562-4581

Those who shop at the newly reopened Frou Frou by Pat will be happy to see the familiar face of Pat, who is now the sole owner of this grounded fashion boutique. Shoppers will notice some small changes in the offerings, and they are definitely for the good. More Canadian creations are on the floor, and local jewellery makers are featured in the showcases. Of note, returning to the Market in this form is Helena Jones (formerly Lococina of Northdal) who designs timeless metallic jewellery and woolen clothing articles. Pat is determined to work more

closely with Ottawa-based designers so you can feel good about who you are wearing, and where you are shopping.

What else is going on?

Winter is a special time in the ByWard Market. The BIA is pleased to present our Christmas Choirs and Wagon Rides for the first three weekends of December. From noon – 4 p.m. at the George Street Plaza, various choirs will be singing their hearts out to help bring about a festive feel. Complimentary wagon rides will take place from noon – 4 p.m. at William Square, provided by the ByWard Markets' own John Cundell. This is our way of saying Thank You to all our visitors for spending time with us.

After all the Christmas and New Year's events, we will be pleased to work with Winterlude to make the ByWard Market an extra special place to visit in 2019. Please visit our website for updates on events and activities as they become available!

*Katherine Solomon is Events Manager with the ByWard Market BIA*



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

By Jeff M. Darwin

Thank you very much for your continued support of Marchés d'Ottawa Markets' "public goals for public spaces". I am privileged to be tasked with leading the revitalization of Ottawa's "oldest and only" public markets. (ByWard was established in 1826 and Parkdale was established in 1924.) You may not be aware that the other eighteen seasonal, weekly markets in Ottawa are privately owned.

Many of these do a pretty good job, and we will continue to borrow their best placemaking ideas to use in your two public markets.

Opening the dialogue on possible public realm improvements in Lowertown, and disrupting the status quo thinking of the (occasionally) self-serving commercial establishment has been challenging, but entirely worth it in my

view. One change that has proven popular is Marchés d'Ottawa Markets new daytime activities that have brought families back to the ByWard Market Precinct.

Inviting local daycare and primary school children to ring the market bell, welcoming local families onto ByWard Market Square to build with Lego blocks or watch a children's movie, and most recently to decorate free Jack-o-lanterns for Halloween on the George Street Plaza have been true free-family-fun highlights for us this year.

We can't wait to unwrap some new daytime activities and attractions for the holiday season and for Winterlude.

In our efforts to keep things family friendly, Marchés d'Ottawa Markets declined to issue a 2019 vending permit to a local greenhouse operator who

wanted to sell cannabis seedlings for home cultivation. We are currently developing policies and procedures that will ensure that your public markets do not become drawn into things our community may not fully support at this time. Similarly, we have proactively banned all smoking on the George Street Plaza.

To help show our children where their food comes from, we have recently contracted with an urban beekeeper to show how to bring back honey bees to the ByWard Market and produce our own local, raw, unpasteurized honey for demonstration and education purposes in 2019. How local you say? Well, we're hoping to foster our first bee hives right here on the roof of 55 ByWard Market Square.

With the 2018 election now behind us, I think it is incumbent on all of us to hold our all elected municipal offi-

cials to account for Lowertown's current reputation. In my opinion the status quo simply isn't good enough for the residents of Lowertown. The reason we require city-wide support is because I feel that the most appropriate response is for the new Council to openly declare Lowertown a "term of council priority" for the next four years.

You have already invested your tax dollars in Little Italy, Westboro and the Glebe (over \$400 million of taxpayer's money went into Landsdowne), and we're investing now on Elgin and Sparks streets, Lebreton Flats and of course billions for LRT, so I think its high time that we address the very neighbourhood where Ottawa began, and where the world still comes to visit. It's Lowertown's turn.

*Jeff Darwin is the Executive Director of Marchés d'Ottawa Markets*

## The Market at 192 years (cont'd from Page 1)

According the Madame Lacroix, even the mix of vegetables they grow and sell has changed over the years from the staples of green beans, carrots and potatoes to include more exotic fare such as peppers, herbs, eggplant, broccoli — and, ironically, heirloom carrots.

With the season drawing to a close, the obvious question was how did they fare this year? One vendor when asked that question pointed at what was an empty sidewalk. Years ago, she noted, the sidewalk was seldom as empty as it was that morning. Worse, the absence of shoppers was not an unusual occurrence. Several factors contribute to the decrease in the number of outdoor vendors over the years. Lack of shoppers is clearly one of them. For the Market, which is already going through tough times, this is not a good sign.

It used to be that the Market would attract large crowds during the day and be almost deserted after sunset. In the '60s and '70s, many Ottawans considered it foolhardy and dangerous to enter the Market after dark. Some today

might still consider it foolhardy and dangerous, but it is clear that many more don't feel the same way. On most days, the busy times begin after 5p.m. Even during the day when it is busy, many people have come to the Market for a coffee and a pastry or brunch rather than a load of vegetables.

### Hope for redirection?

Public Markets of Montreal, "a corporation of 250 members, vendors and merchants from the city's 15 markets," is often held up as the gold standard of farmers' markets. Clearly the structure brings a lot of different interests together under one big tent.

By comparison, the history of the ByWard Market over the past 50 years is one of conflict and division over who should be allowed to sell what, where and when. Currently, there are three types of outdoor vendors in the ByWard — vendors that sell only what they produce on their own farms, vendors that sell mostly what they produce but supplement their sales with small amounts of imported fruits and vegetables and

lastly, the vendors that sell on behalf of other producers from near and far.

Those still selling produce in the final week in October represented all three types and it did not take much probing to discover that there is little love lost among those who differ along that spectrum.

In the past, it seems like little effort was directed at seeking compromise or considering what it was that brought people to the Market in the first place. In the absence of consensus or direction, the ByWard precinct has drifted and taken on a different role.

Part of the problem at the moment is that there are numerous ideas of what's wrong — along with the quick fixes that would supposedly solve everything. Consensus seems a long way off.

Do shop owners and outdoor vendors recognize that curtailing the availability of products has hurt all of them by driving consumers away from the Market?

Which leads to the question: Has

the City waited too long to repair the damage and change the direction?

The hope is that over the winter months the various "rethink the market exercises" currently underway will yield a plan for the ByWard Market to regain its "market appeal" and attract more people.

But the management team also needs to come up with a way to better accommodate and attract more and varied vendors who aren't prepared to operate a stall seven days a week for six months and who can sell their wares under more favourable conditions at numerous venues around the region.

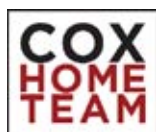
Meanwhile, most of the produce vendors are gone for the year. A few remain to make and sell Christmas wreaths and ornaments. If you are wondering what happened to all the produce left in the stands at the end, each producer has their own favourite charity, be it the Food Bank, The Shepherds, The Mission and so on who take it all away, leaving empty stalls, hopefully only until next May.

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# The eclectic shop on George: Picture Plus

By Joel Weiner

Need something expertly framed? Want to buy an electric bike? Looking for an advertising or portrait photographer? How about locally designed clothing and accessories? You can find all of the above and more at Picture Plus on the corner of George and Cumberland right here in Lowertown.

In fact, Picture Plus is a veritable cultural general store for artists, discriminating shoppers, companies small and large, and even departments at all levels of government. It’s also a micro United Nations, since the three entrepreneurs who operate out of it come from Spain, Iran and Panama.

This eclectic amalgam of ventures began almost 30 years ago when the Spaniard, Kane Masrour, took over Picture Plus on Rideau Street in 1989. At the time, the “Plus” in the store’s name signified his broad range of services beyond standard picture framing. But today, it also refers to the other companies that operate alongside his in the commercial condo he bought and moved to 15 years ago on the ground floor at 179 George Street.

One of those businesses was started as a sideline by Masrour himself, the sale and service of electric bikes. Now a Lowertown resident who walks to work, he had become fascinated by these ecofriendly conveyances much earlier when he bought one for his own use while still commuting to the shop. It wasn’t long before he decided to sell and service them on a seasonal basis alongside his mainstay business.

Throughout the year, though, Masrour is busy custom framing and printing for a broad clientele ranging from walk-ins in search of talent and creativity at very competitive prices all the way to federal ministries and territorial governments with medals, certificates and proclamations where the result needs to be absolute perfection.

On the framing side, customers can choose from over a thousand materials, including wood, metal and PVC, an equal array of matting colours, and four types of glass: regular, non-reflection, conservation and museum. As for printing, Picture Plus specializes in photographic printing with archival ink as well as digital and large-format printing. The former encompasses everything from business cards, postcards, flyers and brochures to presentation folders, booklets, tickets, calendars and even magnets. The latter is for vinyl or adhesive banners, window graphics, posters and coroplast or styrene signs. Lamination services are also available.

A few years ago, Masrour began renting part of his commercial space to Amir Zargara, an Iranian artist who had just founded Babes & Gents to retail clothing made in Ottawa. Zargara also markets his own eponymous brand that draws inspiration from the worlds of music and painting, and applies art work to clothing and accessories. This line encompasses a broad range of products such as jackets, pants, T-shirts, shoes, bags, coffee mugs and cell phone cases. Zagara’s own drawings of fa-



The shop on George.

Photo by Ima Ortega

mous singers and instrumentalists adorn many of these items.

Another business at 179 George Street belongs to Ima Ortega, a Panamanian commercial photographer who fell in love with the art when she received her first camera at the age of nine. Over the years, she honed her craft by working as a darkroom printer for professional photographers and going to school where she studied graphic arts and multimedia. Today, she has a range of talents that produce everything from classical business portraits to market-savvy photos of commercial services and products.

Ortega does the camerawork in her own studio at Picture Plus or on location throughout the National Capital Region and for clients dispersed from New Brunswick to British Columbia. Development and other finishing steps are then applied by her expert photo retouching team. Ortega works with her customers to build libraries of images that speak to their target market and, in collaboration with design and marketing experts, helps them update or revamp their corporate identities and marketing collaterals.

The synergy among all their disciplines is what brought both Zargara and Ortega into Masrour’s orbit, and it’s been a good arrangement for the three of them. But now, after almost three decades in business, Masrour is ready to ease up a bit. That means continuing to frame and print but selling Picture Plus and the condo shop to Ortega who, backed by a group of investors, is finalizing plans for some big changes.

Among other things, a new layout will provide room for increased studio and printing space and Ortega will step up efforts to service Ottawa’s growing

number of artists and photographers who need a proper venue to develop, print, display and sell their work. So,

the eclectic shop on George is poised to become an expanded art centre in Lowertown.

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# Business profile – C'est Bon Cooking

By Joel Weiner

When Stefanie Siska and Chef Georges Laurier met face-to-face for the first time, it was the day they bought C'est Bon Cooking from its previous owner, Chef Andrée Riffou, and began the process of moving the culinary school to Lowertown. Up to that point, they had only discussed the commercial opportunity and developed their plans on the phone and by email.

But even before they became partners, Siska and Chef Laurier already had something in common. Although they didn't know one another, both were consultants to Chef Riffou, she on the marketing side and he as a guest instructor. They only started to communicate when the former proprietor decided to sell and suggested that they join forces to acquire the company.

There's no question that the two partners' talents are very synergistic. With degrees from two universities, Siska has worked in communications and marketing for a variety of major national associations and spent 15 years as a sales consultant with Pampered Chef Canada, part of billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway multinational conglomerate and the premier direct seller of high-quality kitchen tools.

Chef Laurier, on the other hand, honed his skills in Switzerland, France and New York City as well as Café Henry Burger which, for almost 80 years, was ranked among our region's top restaurants. From 1995 to 2004, he operated Laurier sur Montcalm, which was equally famous. Afterward, he worked as Executive Chef at such renowned establishments as the American ambassador's residence, the Wakefield Mill Inn and the Canadian History Museum, and also co-starred on Food Network's Cook like a Chef series.

Until Siska and Chef Laurier bought it, C'est Bon Cooking was an in-home operation. The transition to an outside facility began in late 2015 when

the purchase was complete. Then began the process of finding a location and converting it to a modern culinary school that could accommodate cooking classes of various types and sizes.

"Lowertown quickly became the venue of choice," says Siska to explain why they chose 208 Dalhousie Street between Bruyère and St. Andrew. "We liked its central location and its proximity to the ByWard Market for many of our fresh supplies. People can reach us easily from anywhere in the Ottawa Valley or the Outaouais."

In fact, an impressive number of students come from far and wide. Since the Dalhousie Street school opened its doors in mid-2016, it has attracted visitors from the U.S., England, China, Australia and France, just to name a few countries, as well as several provinces across Canada. That's why C'est Bon Cooking is an active member of Ottawa Tourism, the organization that promotes the city on regional, national and international stages, and of Savour Ottawa, which works to develop and promote Ottawa and area as a premier, year-round culinary destination.

"The food tourism industry is massive," explains Siska. "Many people who travel for business or pleasure also want to improve their kitchen skills or learn about other cuisines. Taking lessons at a cooking school like ours is an easy and fun way of accomplishing all these objectives. That's also true for anyone who lives in the area."

C'est Bon Cooking's classes are fun but have a serious objective: to help participants master essential cooking principles and techniques by getting hands-on experience in the preparation of popular French-inspired dishes. The atmosphere is relaxed, the groups intimate (usually from 4-12 people), the teaching top-notch, and the facilities state of the art.

In addition to newfound culinary skills and confidence, students go home



**Chef Georges demonstrates another use for wine to his interested class.**

with recipes and grocery lists for the dishes they have made. Some classes are designed as six two-hour weekly sessions, but the curriculum also features one-, three- and four-hour lessons that cater to couples or groups of friends, parent-and-child programs, courses and seasonal camps for teenagers, and any type of private lesson.

Knife skills are a key component of every program, and the dishes cover a gamut ranging from meat, poultry and fish to vegetarian or vegan and desserts. In all cases, the emphasis is on using local ingredients sourced from the ByWard Market and some of the more than 1,000 farms within a 200-kilometer range of Ottawa. Distinctly Canadian delicacies such as syrup or jelly made from haskaps (like elongated blueberries), dried or preserved spruce tips (clipped spring buds) and the grated cones of alder trees are typically used for flavouring.

For companies large and small,

C'est Bon Cooking's team-building classes are a novel way to improve leadership, enhance communication and promote collaboration. Designed by experts in both the culinary and business arts, these courses blend elements of strategic planning, project and change management, and facilitation to challenge and entertain participants.

Daytime tours through Ottawa's vibrant food scene, on foot or bicycle, are another C'est Bon Cooking innovation. Participants explore food markets, sample local produce and dishes, and meet area chefs and food artisans. The ByWard Market, Wellington West, Little Italy, the Glebe and Chinatown are among the neighbourhood choices. Oftentimes, visiting excursions and conventions offer these tours as mainstay, companion or leisure activities.

Everybody eats but not everybody knows how to prepare food, where it comes from or how to appreciate it," says Siska. "Dish by dish, we're changing that."

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# Meet your neighbor: Richard Guy Briggs



Richard, Carole and family arriving at the music camp in the Laurentians at Harrington QC in 2011 after a 140 km ride.

By John Chenier

If there was a competition for the most environmentally conscious individual in Lowertown, Richard Guy Briggs would certainly be a strong contender. Throughout his adult years, he has pursued two major interests many consider to be at the heart of environmental sustainability, cycling and solar power.

Like most children, Richard started cycling when he was young, but it was only after he completed high school that friends introduced him to the joys of taking longer bicycle trips out into the surrounding countryside. His first major trip took place at the age of 20 when his regular means of transportation to a music camp in the Laurentians was not available. Given the choice between driving his father’s car or cycling the 135 km to the camp, he opted to cycle – a practice he continues at least yearly to this day.

That trip marked the start of his enthusiasm for long-distance biking. Some examples: in 1991, he fulfilled his dream of biking across Canada from Victoria to Montreal; in 1993, he biked across Australia from Adelaide to Cairns; and, in 1998, he and his wife, Carole, celebrated their honeymoon by biking the length of Cuba.

His bicycle trip across Australia came about as a result of his other interest, solar power. During his last year in computer engineering at the University of Ottawa, Richard was a member of the solar-car design team that entered in the Dallas-to-Minneapolis competition, Sunrayce 93 (now The American Solar Challenge). During his visit to Australia, his solar-car credentials got him “hired on” as a volunteer for the solar-car competition, the World Solar Challenge from Darwin to Adelaide. After the end of the race, he cycled back north.

Eventually, the aches and pains that came after long rides led him to make the switch to recumbent bikes. The years since then have been filled with experiments and experiences using various “cargo” and other forms of working bikes. He is a founding member of the Human-powered Vehicle Operators of Ottawa (HPVOoO) — a club “set up to be a non-club, with no dues, no meetings, and not even any organized rides!”

In 2007, using only what members of the HPVOoO, refer to as a vehicle with two power-plants (that is, people) towing a tandem-axle trailer, Richard and Carole moved all of their worldly possessions from their old house on Cambridge Street to their new house on Wurtemberg. The trailer was initially built to carry a person playing a full-sized Hammond Organ in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. It continues to be modified and entered into parades throughout the Ottawa region. Over the years it has carried a giant snowman, a child’s swing set, complete with swinger, even an Irish pub and, of course, it is still used to help people move. Richard says the hardest part of using the trailer to move peoples’ possessions is carrying them in and out of the houses.

Richard and Carole have never owned a car. Over the last decade, residents of Lowertown have grown accustomed to seeing Richard transporting people and things — children to school or daycare, groceries, canoes — using various forms of cargo bikes. The children have grown up now but are still seen riding in Richard’s version of a family sedan, “the caterpillar”. Given his engineering degree and his interest in solar cars, it is no surprise that the roof of his house and his garage are covered with solar panels. According to Richard, the 40 panels generate about 9 kW, but the output varies with

the seasons. The heat in the summer, and the low angle of the sun and short daylight hours in the winter diminish the ability to generate power. Peak time is in the cool months of spring,

In case you are wondering whether he uses an HPV to commute to work, the answer is no. As a committed open-source Linux kernel security software engineer, he works from home.

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# Home for the holidays?

By Joe Enberg

The holiday season is just around the corner. The trees will be going up, the holly will be hung and carols will be sung. Many of us will be spending our Christmas with families and loved ones around a fire place and a table full of food. For others, the holiday season will be glum and they will be in a world of darkness. Many of Ottawa’s homeless individuals will spend not only Christmas, but the entire winter, hungry, cold and alone.

For many of Ottawa’s homeless, Shepherds of Good Hope (SGH) will be their only home this Christmas. Staff, volunteers and community partners work hard year-round to make the shelter environment and supportive housing residences a warm and inviting beacon of hope.

They provide food, clothing, shelter, counselling and access to treatment for individuals living with mental health challenges, addictions and trauma. This compassion is essential during the cold winter nights and lonely holiday season.

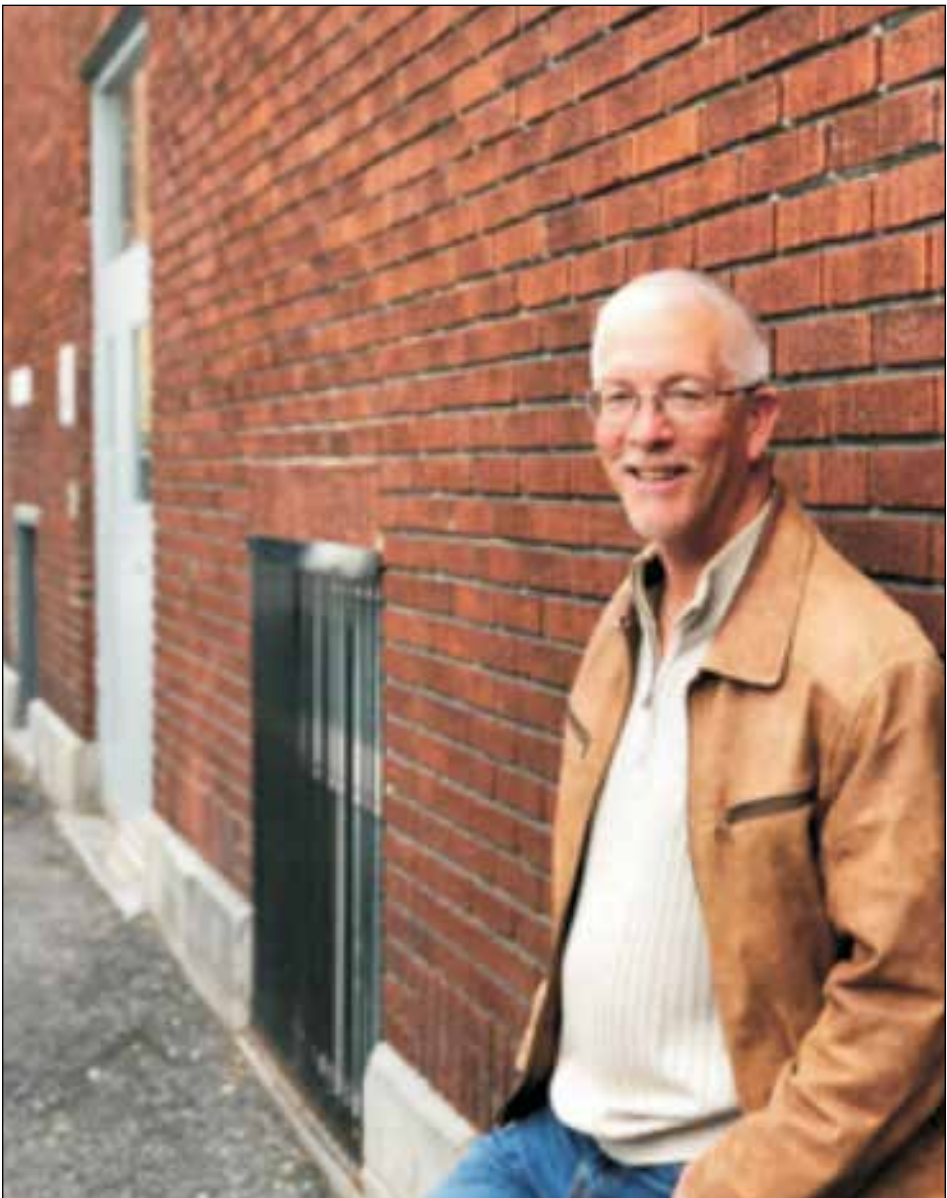
The Shepherds team is skilled at creating a welcoming environment for all who are in need. The generosity of spirit that exists in all of their programs and services across the city demon-

strates the caring way in which they assist many of Ottawa’s most vulnerable people.

I remember it well. I have been on the receiving end of such unconditional support from other Ottawa agencies similar to Shepherds of Good Hope. For many years, my drug and alcohol addictions controlled every aspect of my life. Today, I am happy, healthy and will be surrounded by the warmth of family and loved ones at Christmas.

I can tell you that we can’t do it alone. It takes a community to create a compassionate environment. What I love about Shepherds of Good Hope is that a stay in the shelter is only a small part of a person’s journey. The majority of the individuals SGH houses each year are able to maintain their housing and break the cycle of homelessness. They have come a long way from their stays in the shelter and streets.

SGH continues to grow by creating more affordable housing options that are desperately needed in Ottawa. Above all, they offer hope. Please consider becoming involved and helping them in their efforts to enhance our caring, compassionate community during the holidays and beyond. Give SGH a call at 613-789-8210 or visit [www.sghottawa.com](http://www.sghottawa.com) to see how you can help change a life.



Joe Enberg outside the Shepherds of Good Hope

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- ✦ **Aînés :** zumba, yoga, natation, activités sociales
- ✦ **Tous :** accès à internet, jardinage, dépannage alimentaire, banque vestimentaire, occasions de bénévolat, aide au logement, et bien plus !





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# « Points chauds » : Se sentir en sécurité et bâtir un meilleur quartier

*Par le Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville*

En début d'après-midi d'une journée ensoleillée d'automne, des gens en conversation animée sont rassemblés dans le cul-de-sac de la rue Murray, là où elle aboutit un peu à l'est de l'Avenue King-Edward.

À quelques pas d'eux, sur un petit carré de pelouse à côté du mur anti-bruit longeant la rue Saint-Patrick, dort un homme sans abri sous un tas de couvertures. Du bord sud de la rue, se trouve un édifice à briques beiges sur le terrain angulaire à côté d'une maison centenaire de deux étages sous rénovation. L'un des participants à la conversation, Gordon, est propriétaire d'une petite compagnie de construction. Il a acheté la maison et depuis lors, investit temps et argent pour lui donner une nouvelle vie. Les autres participants sont Sandra, Ifrah, Ruweida, « David », Aicha (tous résidents de la Basse-Ville), le Constable Martin Riopelle du Service de police d'Ottawa, ainsi qu'Aysha Farouk et Anabelle Gisanza, employés du Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville. Ils font tous partie d'un projet pilote spécial, intitulé SafeGrowth, qui voit le jour pour la toute première fois en Ontario.

Comme le décrit le constable Riopelle, SafeGrowth offre une structure pour que «les gens de la communauté puissent se réunir dans le but d'identifier des emplacements problématiques et d'en venir à une solution. Ensuite, en collaboration avec les autorités policières, des commerçants locaux et d'autres parties intéressées, ils développent un plan de prévention du crime et des stratégies préventives. » Cet effort est coordonné par le Service de police d'Ottawa par le biais d'une subvention du Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire et des services correc-

tionnels. Selon Riopelle, « Le rôle typique de la police, c'est de répondre à un appel ou à une plainte. Mais, cette approche nous permet de travailler autrement avec des résidents dans une optique de prévention. »

Le petit recoin de la Basse-Ville où est réuni le groupe a été identifié par les participants comme étant un « point chaud ». Sandra explique que « Nous l'avons choisi pour des raisons de manque de sécurité...des gens y dorment, on y trouve régulièrement des aiguilles usagées et il y a eu des incidents violents. » Les résidents vivant autour indiquent qu'ils ne se sentent pas en sécurité d'y passer à pied. On a rapporté une concentration de vols de vélos et d'autres objets dans les cours de maison, des introductions par effraction dans des véhicules et de la violence.

Une telle initiative oblige aux participants de composer avec des complexités sociales et philosophiques. Il y a plusieurs enjeux sous-jacents dont le sentiment de la part des résidents de vivre en milieu sécuritaire, le sans-abrisme, la toxicomanie, la valeur des propriétés, et le respect des droits de tous les citoyens incluant ceux qui sont marginalisés. Il y a également une panoplie d'opinions sur comment s'y prendre. Où se trouve l'intersection entre la responsabilité personnelle et la responsabilité sociétale? Jusqu'où s'étend le mandat d'un organisme qui vient en aide aux personnes itinérantes? Les résidents ressentent à la fois frustration, colère et tristesse. David raconte que plusieurs « ont exprimé des sentiments de compassion » pour ceux qui vivent dans la rue. Dit Ruweida, «Il est triste qu'ils aient nulle part où aller.»

Les membres du groupe vont de l'avant avec leur travail tout en ré-



**From left to right: Constable Martin Riopelle, resident Sandra Pilote, LCRC's Aysha Farouk, residents Ifrah and Ruweida.**

**De gauche à droite: constable Martin Riopelle, résidente Sandra Pilote, Aysha Farouk du CRCBV, résidentes Ifrah et Ruweida.**

fléchissant à ces enjeux. Ils visitent le site à de différentes heures et jours afin de faire des observations, ils cognent aux portes avoisinantes pour parler aux résidents et ils formulent leur plan. Les solutions mises de l'avant pourraient inclure des mesures telles que faire croître la fréquence d'inspections des résidents et de patrouilles policières, travailler avec des refuges pour personnes sans abri et revendiquer des améliorations à l'espace physique (éclairage, lignes de visibilité, élimination de recoins et cachettes). Le groupe ainsi que deux autres ont présenté leurs conclusions et recommandations le vendredi 9 novembre au Pavillon du Parc Jules-Morin.

L'implication du Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville dans le projet SafeGrowth fait partie de son mandat de développement communautaire et d'approche. Nos services et programmes tels que les activités parascolaires et la banque

alimentaire joue un rôle central mais il nous est tout aussi important d'être branché aux préoccupations des résidents et de les appuyer dans la création d'un quartier plus sécuritaire et plus vivant. Une autre façon de ce faire est par le biais de Basse-Ville notre chez-nous (BVNCN), une initiative collaborative qui œuvre à rendre la Basse-Ville Est un quartier plus sécuritaire, plus accueillant et plus inclusif. Le Centre s'occupe du rôle de coordination de BVNCN en rassemblant des résidents et des organismes locaux à travailler en concertation sur les enjeux reliés au crime et à la sécurité dans le quartier. Pour en savoir davantage ou pour vous y impliquer, veuillez communiquer avec Aysha Farouk, afarouk@crcbv.ca, 613-789-3930.

*Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville :*

*<http://www.crcbv.ca/fr>*

*SafeGrowth: [www.safegrowth.org/](http://www.safegrowth.org/)*

## “Hot spots”: Feeling safe and making a better neighbourhood

*By The Lowertown Community Resource Centre*

It is early afternoon on a sunny fall day and a group of people are gathered in conversation in the Murray Street cul-de-sac—a stone's throw east of King Edward Avenue, where Murray Street merges into St. Patrick Street.

A few metres away, a homeless man is asleep in a heap of blankets on a small patch of grass next to the wall meant to block the sound from St. Patrick Street traffic. On the south side of the street, there is a beige brick building on the corner and next to it is a two-storey century-old house undergoing a complete renovation. One of the people in the group, Gordon, is the owner of a small construction firm which has purchased the property and is investing time and money to restore it. Others there are Lowertown residents, Sandra, Ifrah, Ruweida, “David”, Aicha, Ottawa Police Constable Martin Riopelle, as well as Aysha Farouk and Anabelle Gisanza, staff from the Lowertown Community Resource Centre,. They are part of a special initiative called SafeGrowth, which is being piloted for the first time in Ontario.

Constable Riopelle describes SafeGrowth as a structured approach “...of engaging residents in identifying problematic areas in their neighbourhood. Then, in collaboration with law enforcement, local businesses and other stakeholders, they create their own local crime-prevention plan and preventive strategies.” It is coordinated by the Ottawa Police Service, which received a grant from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to carry out the project. “The typical police role is responding to calls or complaints,” says Riopelle. “However, this approach allows us to work differently with residents with a focus on prevention.”

The small corner of Lowertown where the group is meeting has been identified by participants as a “hot spot”. Resident Sandra explains: “We chose it for safety issue: people are sleeping there, there are discarded needles, there have been violent incidents.” Residents of the community said that they no longer felt safe walking through this part of their neighbourhood. Thefts of bicycles and other items from backyards break and enter of vehicles and also violent crimes have been reported by residents in the vicinity.

Working on an initiative like this can be quite complex. There are many underlying issues—feelings of safety for residents, homelessness and addiction, property values, respect for the rights of all citizens including marginalized people—and even more points of view on how to address them. Where does individual responsibility begin and societal responsibility end? How far should the mandate of an organization addressing homelessness extend? The local residents have mixed feelings of anger, frustration and sadness. David recounted how “many residents expressed compassion” for those who find themselves living on the street. Says Ruweida, “It is sad they have nowhere to go.”

The residents carry out their work as they consider these complexities. They are visiting the site at different times of day to make observations and knocking on doors to talk to neighbours before formulating a plan. Solutions might include proposing increased inspections and patrols from police and residents, working with homeless-serving organizations and pushing for changes to the physical space (lighting, sight lines, removal of recesses and hiding places). The group, as well as two others, presented their

findings and recommendations on November 9 at the Field House in Jules Morin Park.

The Lowertown Community Resource Centre's role in SafeGrowth is part of our community development and outreach work. While offering much needed services and activities like after-school activities and a food bank are a key part of what we do, equally important is being connected to residents' preoccupations about their neighbourhood and supporting them in creating a safer and more vibrant community. Another way we do this is via Lowertown Our Home (LOH), a collaborative initiative focused on making Lowertown East a safe, welcoming and inclusive community. The Centre coordinates LOH by convening residents and local organizations to work together on issues related to neighbourhood crime and safety. To learn more about SafeGrowth and Lowertown Our Home or to get involved, please contact Aysha Farouk, afarouk@crcbv.ca, 613-789-3930.

*Lowertown Community Resource Centre: <http://www.crcbv.ca/>*

*SafeGrowth: [www.safegrowth.org/](http://www.safegrowth.org/)*



# Environmental and cultural costs of demolition (Part 1)

By Liz MacKenzie  
“...in a society which urges the reuse of items as small as pop bottles, tin cans and grocery bags (to avoid sending same to landfill), one would expect efforts to reuse items as large as buildings.”  
(M. Denhez, OMB Decision, Nov 18, 2014)

In Lowertown, we have come to accept that building owners have the right to demolish just about any building. We have also come to accept that laxness of building-standard enforcement leads to “demolition by neglect”, causing, for instance, the loss of 269, 277, 285, and 291 King Edward Avenue and the appalling eyesore at Murray and Cumberland that was once Our Lady’s School.

The wish to get rid of an inconvenient heritage building such as the historic row at 316–324 Bruyère St. and the Union du Canada at 325 Dalhousie (now the Andaz Hotel) has also led to demolition.

Watching huge machines smash buildings like toys can be mesmerizing, but do we consider the rubble and other construction waste as it is hauled “away” by an army of trucks. Of course, as with most other things, there is no “away”. The disposal of construction waste is big business and more and more the environmental costs of demolition and disposal are being scrutinized.

City official are quick to say that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks governs the management of construction waste: it is not OUR problem. However, it is the municipality that grants the demolition permits with no thought about the environmental impacts.



Lowertown demolition Photo: M. Lafleur

The environmental cost of disposal and the cultural loss of traditional, energy-saving building materials and historic construction details are largely ignored. Sending tons of material to the landfill is not weighed against the economies of repurposing or rehabilitation, but accepted as routine. And who is looking at the environmental cost of the replacement buildings?

When a building is demolished, some materials such as concrete, drywall and metal may be sorted on site and recycled. However, the energy used to crush, melt or repurpose recycling material carries a significant environmental burden. In addition, older building materials such as massive timbers, craftsmanship details or decorative elements are seldom salvaged. Added to the cost is “embodied energy”, a term that we will hear more and more. Embodied energy is the energy that was used in the original construction. It includes the energy used to

manufacture and transport all the materials and the construction labour.

In addressing the issue of the demolition of older buildings with inherent embodied energy and energy-saving elements, The Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation of the Association of Preservation Technology International notes: “...it is increasingly critical to account for the environmental impacts of every stage of a building’s life cycle. This is particularly true for historic and existing buildings ....” Catherine Naismith, Past President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in her 2008 paper, “Waste Not Want Not—Buildings are Not Garbage” provides a glimpse at the environmental costs of demolition and building. She says, “Depending on the study quoted, between 20 and 35 per cent of landfill is building waste. According to statistics gathered by the Heritage Canada Foundation, construction accounts for 50 per cent of the natural resources we consume, and 10 to 30 per cent of greenhouse-gas emissions are from the production and transportation of building materials and demolition waste.

Creative Deconstruction instead of feeding urban landfill is advocated by Carleton University professor Susan Ross. Deconstruction slows down demolition so that all materials can be reclaimed. Ideally, these materials would be reused on the building site, but could be saved for a use later. Ross suggests that when the need to conserve resources is better recognized, existing buildings will be seen as urban mines, a valuable source of materials for new construction.

Clearly, there is no escaping the prominently accepted international mantra: “The most environmental building is the one that is already built.”

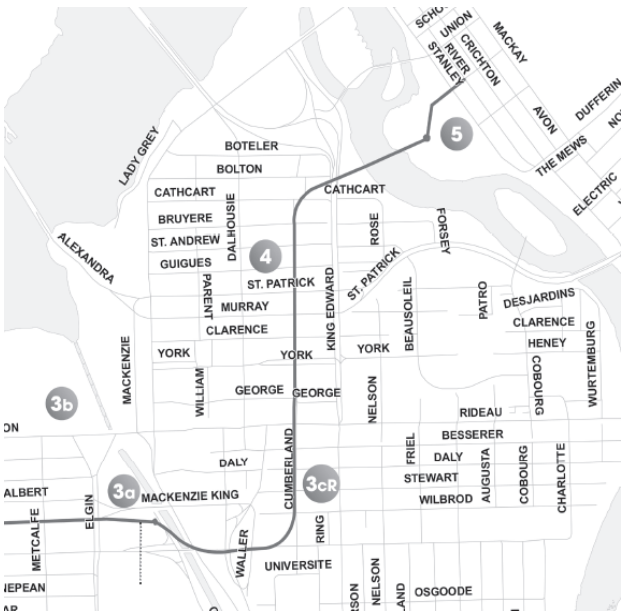
## Sewer tunnel under Lowertown starts soon

By Nancy Miller Chenier  
Construction of the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) under Lowertown, which is part of the Ottawa River Action Plan, is scheduled to begin later this fall. The proposed east-west tunnel will start in LeBreton Flats and proceed through the downtown core, moving along Cumberland Street to near Cathcart, and then angle to Bolton and under King Edward Park and the Rideau River to the outlet in New Edinburgh Park. (See the map below.)

The tunnel, which is approximately three metres in diameter will run anywhere from 10 to 30 metres below ground level. Its role is to hold sewer overflow during major rainfalls. It will reduce the frequency of sewage overflows directly entering the Ottawa River by allowing the excess surface runoff and wastewater to be stored until it is treated.

The long-term environmental benefits for the river are expected to be significant. The short-term consequences for Lowertown residents are to be tolerated for the greater good. They began and continue with the noise reverberating across the Rideau River into Bordeleau Park as the holding chamber and tunnel shaft are constructed. For residents above or near the tunnel route, there may be noticeable vibrations as the tunnel boring machine passes underneath. These are to be monitored by the contractor to ensure that they are within non-damaging limits.

The CSST team plans to update the Lowertown Community Association before tunneling reaches Lowertown and to continue to share information on its website. In the meantime they are providing regular updates through a project newsletter and can be reached at their email [csst@ottawa.ca](mailto:csst@ottawa.ca)



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# Jeu-questionnaire de la Basse-ville #9-5 Lowertown Quiz #9-5

1. On what day of the week does the Lowertown Community Association hold its monthly meetings?/ Quel jour de la semaine l'association communautaire de la Basse-ville tient-elle ses réunions mensuelles?
2. What year did the ByWard Market begin?/ En quelle année le marché By a-t-il commencé?
3. On what date did some city councillors take a tour of the Ottawa sewer system? / À quelle date des conseillers municipaux ont-ils visité le système d'égout d'Ottawa?
4. Where is the Beauséjour Community Library located? / Où se trouve la bibliothèque communautaire Beauséjour?

A winner will be drawn on December 15th from the names of all those who have submitted correct entries. The prize will be a pedicure from **Celadon Salon & Spa** at 373 St. Laurent Blvd

Le nom d'un gagnant sera tiré au sort le 15 decembre parmi les personnes ayant répondu correctement Le prix sera **un pédicure du Celadon Salon & Spa** au 373, boulevard Saint-Laurent.

Submit your answer to [ads.in.echo@gmail.com](mailto:ads.in.echo@gmail.com) /Envoyez votre réponse à [ads.in.echo@gmail.com](mailto:ads.in.echo@gmail.com)

# Volunteers needed

Many hands make light work. John Heywood

It soon will be that time again—skating season. Lowertown is fortunate to have two outdoor rinks; one at Bingham Park and the other at Jules-Morin. Once again, the appeal goes out for volunteers to help supervise and/or maintain the rinks on behalf of the community.

Dave Bowen has taken over the supervision of Bingham. He is hoping to hire a student to take on some of the required supervisory hours during the weekends from January to March. If you know anyone who might be interested, have them contact Dave.

If you can volunteer even some of your time over the winter months, Dave or Steve Mongrain at Jules-Morin would love to hear from you. Contact them at [bingham.ottawa@gmail.com](mailto:bingham.ottawa@gmail.com) or [julesmorinrink@gmail.com](mailto:julesmorinrink@gmail.com)



# City of Ottawa

The City is looking for volunteers. While not all these areas are directly related to Lowertown, there are many in our community with expertise to share across a wide range of issues. Many of these boards and advisory bodies would profit from receiving a Lowertown perspective on the issues.

The City of Ottawa is currently recruiting for:

- Ottawa Board of Health (5 members)
- Ottawa Police Services Board (1 member)
- Ottawa Public Library Board (5 members)
- Committee of Adjustment (15 members)
- Transit Commission (\*4 members)
- Built Heritage Sub-Committee (\*3 members)
- Property Standards and License Appeals Committee (5 members)
- Shaw Centre – Board of Directors (\*2 members)
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (\*5 members)
- South Nation Conservation (\*2 members)
- Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (\*3 members)
- Mohr's Landing / Quyon Port Authority (1 member)
- Accessibility Advisory Committee (\*9 – 15 members)
- Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation Advisory Committee (\*9 – 11 members)
- Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (\*9 – 11 members)
- French Language Services Advisory Committee (\*7 – 11 members)
- Planning Advisory Committee (\*12 members)

\* Subject to the Term of Council Governance review and/or Nominating Committee process.

The City can greatly benefit from your expertise and professionalism, enthusiasm and your willingness to serve.. Get involved and play an active role. You can make a difference.

## Who is eligible?

You must be a resident of the City of Ottawa and 18 years of age or older in order to be eligible for appointment. Membership will, as much as possible, reflect Ottawa's diversity and demographics in such areas as gender, official language, geographic representation, race and disability. Participants may be eligible for re-imbursement of some out-of-pocket expenses.

For more information go to: <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/get-know-your-city/volunteering/other-volunteer-opportunities-city/committees-and-boards-recruitment#add-your-voice-help-move-city-forward>

# Ottawa Riverkeeper

Are you seeking an exceptional opportunity to drive positive change in your community? Have you been called courageous and visionary? Do you see collaboration as the key to achieving impact? If so, you just might be the inspiring leader we're looking for to hold the coolest title in town... as our next Riverkeeper!

## Candidate profile

As our next Riverkeeper, you are a true team player and you value collaboration. You have a solid scientific background and understanding of water issues. You are a good listener and an excellent bilingual communicator. You have a proven track-record in senior management roles and partnership building. You are a strategic thinker and respected leader in your community. Most of all, your charisma and passion for the goals of Ottawa Riverkeeper are contagious!

## Process

Send your CV and cover letter to the attention of Mr. Geoff Green, Chair of the Board of Directors, at [thecoollestjob@ottawariverkeeper.ca](mailto:thecoollestjob@ottawariverkeeper.ca). We encourage candidates to apply at their earliest convenience. Our new Riverkeeper would ideally start in their role at the beginning of 2019.

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# News from Lowertown's parks

## Jeudis 5 à7 Potluck au parc Bingham tout l'été!

Par Annabelle Bibeau

L'été dernier, plusieurs familles du quartier ont participé à un potluck. Tous les jeudis du mois de juillet et août, parents et enfants se sont réunis au parc Bingham (près de l'hôpital Bruyère) pour partager un repas ensemble. Pour participer, les familles devaient fournir un repas à partager et chacune devait aussi fournir ses ustensiles et assiettes ainsi que ses breuvages. Les familles végétariennes, carnivores, végétaliennes, anglophones, francophones, hispanophones, (...) ont profité de l'horaire de la piscine qui fermait à 19 h.

Pourquoi ai-je eu l'idée de faire un potluck?

Nous aimions, moi et quelques amis, organiser des soupers partage les jeudi soirs pendant l'été afin de profiter de la baignade plus longtemps. À chaque fois, nous étions gênés de constater que nous avions oublié d'inviter telle voisine ou tel voisin... J'ai donc eu l'idée d'afficher au parc une invitation générale à toutes les familles de la communauté. Puisqu'une voisine avait créé un groupe Facebook pour les familles du quartier, j'ai aussi lancé l'invitation sur ce groupe. Avec joie, j'ai constaté l'enthousiasme



Juedi soir au parc Bingham Photo: Annabelle Bibeau

des gens et ce fut un grand succès! Les semaines de travail sont longues et chargées, pourquoi ne pas prendre un petit quelque chose dans le réfrigérateur (pas de souper à préparer) et venir partager un bon moment avec d'autres familles à la pataugeoire?

L'été prochain, nous renouvellerons ce potluck simple et improvisé avec toutes les familles prêtes à partager un bout de croûte autour d'une belle petite piscine.

## Les bons petits bonhommes verts

Par Les DeLaSalliens  
avec l'aide de Nicolas Michaud

Le 12 octobre 2018, trois classes de la 7e année de l'école secondaire publique De La Salle sont allées au parc Bordeleau. Les élèves ont été accueillis par trois bénévoles: Sandra Milton et Nancy Miller Chenier qui faisaient partie de la communauté du parc Bordeleau et Larissa de l'organisation River Keeper.

Le but de cette activité était de nettoyer le parc en ramassant des déchets comme les mégots de cigarettes, des matelas et des sacs de plastiques, en plus de faire des stations pour apprendre aux jeunes DeLaSalliens à découvrir et apprécier l'environnement.

Alors que certains élèves étaient en train de ramasser les déchets, d'autres se préparaient à

animer des stations. Il y en avait sept, toutes différentes les unes des autres. Celles-ci offraient des activités originales telles que mesurer la hauteur d'un arbre avec deux bâtons ou faire des oeuvres d'art avec des éléments de la nature. Après, les bénévoles les ont appelés afin de leur raconter l'histoire du parc comme telle et les ont impressionnés en leur parlant de la découverte d'une nouvelle sorte de poissons qui vivaient, il y a plus de 120 ans, dans la rivière avoisinante.

Puis, les enseignants les ont réunis pour accueillir le conseiller municipal : Mathieu Fleury qui était venu les visiter. M. Fleury les a mis au courant de la situation écologique d'Ottawa et en partie au Canada. Durant cette rencontre, les élèves ont notamment appris que le gouvernement municipal fait construire un tunnel à l'autre bout de la rivière Rideau afin que l'eau polluée s'y faufile pour être décontaminée lorsqu'il pleut. Le conseiller leur a aussi parlé du com-

postage et les a informés que la grande majorité des déchets qui peuvent être compostés s'en va à la poubelle. Il leur a aussi fait prendre connaissance de la réalité du recyclage : le Canada ne peut plus faire autant de recyclage qu'il voudrait car la Chine, qui autrefois prenait la matiere recyclable pour la transformer, a arrêté ce processus.

Les élèves ont fini leur belle activité en prenant un peu de temps à jouer dans les structures. Ils sont par la suite retournés à leur école pour finir leur journée, les esprits inspirés à faire un changement pour aider la Terre, leur génération et les générations suivantes. Cette sortie les a aidés à prendre conscience de la situation écologique de la Terre.

Peut-être que cet événement pourrait être répété avec d'autres classes et niveaux ce qui permettra à une plus grande tranche d'élèves d'approfondir leur connaissances écologiques et culturelles afin de les motiver à sauver la Terre.

## News from the Friends of the Macdonald Gardens Park

By Ilona Horvath

The Friends of the Macdonald Gardens Park (FMGP) whose history goes back two decades is dedicated to the revitalization of the park. Originally created as an informal community group for organizing clean-ups, over the years it has become the main guardian of the park, dealing with the City regarding maintenance and security issues.

With the official recognition and designation of the Park's heritage last year, the group sees its major role as bringing together neighbours and distinctly advocating for the preservation and restoration of the heritage values of the park. To realize its vision, the FMGP has worked with LCA's Heritage Committee in an effort to get the continuing support and volunteer expertise needed to develop a long-term heritage work plan for the Park that respects Frederic Todd's original plans.

Over the Summer, FMGP held several meetings and walkabouts in the Park with Councillor Fleury and City staff to assess the foliage and structural deficits of the Park. We also made recommendations for replacing park furniture, as well as restoring some built heritage features (gazebo, remnants of a wall). Although some work has been accomplished this year, a lot more lies ahead. Preservation and protection of the Park requires close cooperation between and concerted efforts from the community as a



Park clean-up crew, Spring 2018

whole, the Friends of the Park, the LCA, the councillor, as well as City heritage and park maintenance staff. We also see room for improved coordination and communication among participants.

We can all play a part in taking care of this unique greenspace and at the same time nurture peaceful co-existence among all users of the park. You can lend a helping hand at our biannual Park cleanups (early Spring and late Fall). If you have any security con-

cerns, please call 311 without delay so the City can take appropriate action without delay. Please become involved with the 'Friends of the Park' as a volunteer or a donor (contact Susan Kelen at [susankelen@icloud.com](mailto:susankelen@icloud.com)).

The FMGP want to express their thanks to the anonymous donor for his \$10,000 donation to the Park, as well as to Natalie Paradis, who dedicated a school project on the Park's flora and fauna.



# Welcome to the 10-minute city

By Juliet O'Neill

Many residents of the ByWard Market already live the dream of the “10-minute city,” a concept that perplexes and inspires urban authorities around the world.

The idea is to ensure residents are no more than 10 minutes by foot or bike from everything they need in a normal day: community gathering places, shops, schools, parks, services, workplaces and public transit. That’s the definition from the 55th International Making Cities Livable Conference that the City of Ottawa hosted last spring. The theme: “Healthy, 10-Minute Neighborhoods.” Other definitions are looser, expanding the 10-minute rule to a car drive.

An example of perplexity is in Portland, Oregon, where authorities have encouraged “10-minute neighbourhoods” with zoning laws that allow construction of high rises without parking space on condition public transit is nearby.

It was reported at the Ottawa conference that a flood of 18 out of 40 apartment building projects filed in Portland in the previous 18 months offered no parking. The snag was that neighbours were upset about increased competition for street parking. How would the city control tenants who buy cars? In Europe, the concept is called “the city of short distances.”

In central Porto, the mayor is inspired to lead the rehabilitation of derelict heritage buildings to attract low-income residents back from the suburbs of Portugal’s second largest city. The aim is to replace commuting time with family and entertainment time. Other times a “10-minute city” grows spontaneously. That’s how it feels in the ByWard Market, a 1.2 square-kilometre neighbourhood where many residents live a convenient life of access to most daily needs within 10 minutes.

My family, neighbours and several friends are among them. Some work from home or are retired. Some have given up car ownership. There are car-sharing Vrtucars parked around the neighbourhood and three rental companies: Hertz, Enterprise and Discount. Plus there are two OC Transpo bus routes on Dalhousie, the No. 9 and No. 6, that connect riders to anywhere in the city, even faster next year when the LRT opens on Rideau Street.

I live on a residential street of houses, apartments and condos that is a few blocks from the busiest zone, far enough to enjoy a quiet lifestyle but close enough to shop, dine out and find entertainment within a short walk. Within 10 minutes, I can get to the farmers’ market to buy fresh seasonal food; to the National Gallery of Canada to see world-class art exhibits; to a café for a business meeting; to a cooking class at C’est Bon Cooking; to a panoramic view from the rooftop bar of the Andaz Hotel; or to one of the cities two best gelaterias – Mantovani 1946 or Piccolo Grande.

I can buy locally-roasted coffee beans and brewed coffee at three fine places. Ideal Coffee features freshly-baked scones twice daily. Bridgehead is a home away from home for local apartment dwellers well into the evening. Bluebird Coffee doubles as an art gallery and regular gathering place for Ottawa Storytellers.

In less than five minutes I can get to three spas within a block of one another on Dalhousie St., including the high-end Daya Spa, the moderate-

ly-priced Smudge Beauty Bar or lower-priced student services at Gina’s College of Advanced Aesthetics.



The 10-minute rule is snap when it comes to hair salons, with at least one on every block of Dalhousie St., among them my favourite hair dresser Chuck Barhoum at Gigi Hair Design near Bruyere St., which originally opened in 1950.

A health clinic is a block away at Bruyère Family Medicine Centre in a building that also provides a dry-cleaning drop-off point, a mailbox, a battery-recycling depot, hot pizza slices at lunchtime and one of three pharmacies within 10 minutes by foot. Make that four if you walk briskly or bike to the Rideau Centre shopping mall.

Did I mention The French Baker at Benny’s Bistro is three minutes door to door? Two other outstanding nearby bakers are Le Moulin de Provence which Obama made famous during a 2009 visit, and Aux Delices Bakery & Pstry on ByWard Market Square, where you can buy soft ice cream in summer.



It’s a short run to exercise class, badminton practice or sewing lessons at the Routhier Community Centre, to yoga as early as 6:30 a.m. at Upward Dog, to a 24-hour gym at Anytime Fitness on George St., and to swim in the four-lane pool at the historic Champagne Bath on King Edward Ave. A stroll along the Ottawa River or Rideau River is within 10 minutes.

You can map out a DIY fitness track, perhaps running from Notre Dame Cathedral up to Samuel de Champlain’s statue on Nepean Point, across to the sculpture of an Anishinabe scout in Major’s Hill Park behind the Chateau Laurier, down to the Canal locks and back up, with a final sprint up and down the stairwell beside the U.S. embassy on Sussex Dr.



Bingham Park provides a kiddies’ wading pool, a tennis court, a baseball diamond and a skating and hockey rink in winter. Cathcart Park is split between dog walkers and a children’s playground. There is usually someone keen to play chess at Il Perugino Caffè & Bar.

The 2014 Ottawa Neighbourhood Study, based on 2011 census statistics, supports these personal experiences. It says the percentage of people who walk to their jobs in the Market was 44.4 percent. The Ottawa average was 7.2 percent. An updated study is due soon. Many of the observations may stand.

The single population in the market was far higher, 51.2 percent, than the city average of 30.5 percent. And the number of couples without children was much higher, 72.7 per cent, compared to the city average of 38.2 percent.

ByWard Market residents were closer than city averages to a community garden, convenience store, a museum or gallery, a dog park, a baseball diamond or basketball court, an outdoor play structure, wading pool or sledding hill. Along with far more bars and nightclubs than average, there were far more dentists and optometrists in the Market.



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# Marc Aubin: a Lowertown story

By Christine Kilfoil

On September 29th 2018 Marc Aubin launched his book *Blight*, a fictional account of the destruction of a vibrant Lowertown in the name of urban renewal and the battle of a young resident to reclaim it.

Marc is uniquely placed to chronicle the story of Lowertown, and it was no accident that he chose Bingham Park to launch his book. His family has lived nearby since the 1890s, and he has lived on and off in Lowertown since he was born. The strong family roots continue with a father, brother and uncle all living in the area of St. Andrew, Sussex, Boteler and Dalhousie.

Marc has a long history of community service in Lowertown; he was president of the Lowertown Community Association from 2011 to 2014 and served for several years as chair of the King Edward Task Force. In 2014 he ran against the incumbent councillor in Rideau-Vanier and though unsuccessful, the lasting effect of his candidacy has been more focus on Lowertown issues at City Hall.

But it is a long road from community activist/politician to author. Marc felt the story of Lowertown needed to be understood. The book draws from actual historical events, and recounts how the decision-makers of the day changed the community's future. Marc wanted readers to feel anger at political decisions that devastated neighborhoods, ripping apart the ties to Low-

ertown's French, Irish, Italian, Jewish and other communities. He knew the story of stolen homes and businesses, the destruction of green and healthy trees and the ramming of a highway through a community, effectively splitting it in two.



Marc Aubin Photo: Tim Smith

As Marc explains, “growing up, I heard many stories from residents past and present who were negatively affected by the urban renewal of Lowertown East in the 1960s and 70s. I was really struck by the injustice of it and felt that no one had properly recognized the damage done to individuals and the collective of this community. I felt compelled to write a story about it.”

Getting a book published for a first-time author has been described as akin to being struck by lightning, and many

would-be authors' stories lie buried under a prospective publisher's slush pile of manuscripts. But Marc's publishing journey was different. “Finding the publisher was actually a fluke. I was in Mexico on vacation and met up with some friends on a rooftop. Upon showing one of my friends the draft of my book cover on my cell phone, he indicated his brother-in-law was in publishing in Toronto. After a few phone calls with the publisher, a contract was signed.”

The challenge of good story telling is not only to ensure the accuracy of historical events, but to bring it to life through meaningful characters. The book's main character is very much based on Marc, but he explains that it is really difficult to fully create a character based on a real person. “We are very complex people and we change over time, and trying to communicate who I was 10 and 20 years ago is not easy. While the book is a work of fiction, it is historical fiction. I would say 60-80% of the story is based on real facts and events”.

Marc acknowledges that Lowertown has been forever changed. But change does not mean defeat. He believes Lowertown today is still a community with a rich but humble history that gives it character and context. Part of that history lives on both in the physical landscape and in the people. He asserts that Lowertown today is still more a connected community than many places in Ottawa. As individuals

and organizations continue to work together to build a neighbourhood, he thinks technology has a role to play. “In some ways, we have a strong community thanks to the way technology allows us to communicate and participate. Whereas in the past, church leaders and politicians were able to operate in a much more isolated and unsupervised way, we now have a lot more opportunities to participate and question authority.”

There are still challenges. Marc points to the void between individuals and City Hall and the burden on community associations to fill part of that gap through volunteer effort. “However, I think that what is being done is contributing to a long and gradual improvement in a sense of community.”

And what is next for Marc Aubin? In fact the book was only a side project for Marc, who is working on an app project. But as he indicates: “I need time for rest”. It would appear Marc's definition of rest is much broader than it is for most of us, given all the things Marc has done and continues to do. It is unlikely that he is finished yet with the contributions he has to make for Lowertown and for his own personal ambitions.

Marc' book *Blight* is available in-store at all Chapters in Ottawa, online directly from the publisher (<https://crowsnestbooks.com/books/blight/>) or Amazon or Chapters Indigo. You can also purchase a copy from Marc.

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# Anthropocene: The environment writ large

By Patricia Balcom

The theme of this issue of The Lowertown Echo is the “environment writ large”. It is an appropriate title for a new exhibition at the National Gallery, Anthropocene, featuring the work of Edward Burtynsky (photographer), and Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas De Pencier (filmmakers). It consists of 31 large photographs (many as large as 152.4 cm. x 203.2 cm), 12 videos, 3 murals with film extensions and several augmented-reality installations. It is balanced, with images from all continents except Antarctica, and aims to include both positive and negative stories.

## What is Anthropocene?

The Working Group on the Anthropocene (the human epoch) began working in 2009 to have a new geological epoch declared. They argued that human activity has brought about profound and permanent changes to the Earth’s surface which will leave their mark in a new geological stratum. The group dates the beginning of the period to 1950, when radioactive fallout after nuclear explosions was dispersed throughout the planet. The new stratum also contains technofossils such as plastics and concrete, as well as traces left by agriculture, mining, deforestation and urbanization, resulting in more carbon dioxide emissions, rising sea levels, and species extinction.

I will concentrate on Burtynsky’s photographs, each of which is a masterpiece of imagery, colour and composition. He often uses drones and helicopters in his work, so that some of the photographs are taken from so far away the images appear as abstract patterns, and viewers may need to read the wall notes to know what they represent. The works are beautiful, but paradoxically show the terrible ramifications of human activity on Earth. Some are hopeful, but many are not, although they are all visually stunning. As a poster commented, “The only problem with Burtynsky [sic] is that he makes pollution and environmental destruction look so beautiful that I almost want people to do more of it just so that he can take pictures of it. (Clawsoon, October 19, 2018 at 12:53 p.m. <https://www.metafilter.com/177161/A-water-fight-in-Chiles-Atacama-raises-questions-over-lithium-mining>)

## The photographs

Visitors to the exhibition are greeted by Big Lonely Doug, a 1000-year-old Douglas fir, 66 m high and 12 m in circumference, and the only survivor of clear-cutting in an old-growth forest on Vancouver Island. His survival is due to an industry engineer who instructed loggers to “leave tree”.

There are two striking photos showing how humans’ current consumption will result in massive numbers of technofossils which will endure for millennia, Dandora Landfill #3, Plastics Recycling, Nairobi, Kenya, depicts humans, dwarfed by mountains of trash, sorting through for recyclables, which they can sell on-site. The photograph is so detailed that one can read the labels on the individual plastic bottles. Concrete is another technofossil, which, like plastic, takes thousands of years to break down. Tetrapods #1, Dongying, is a gorgeous abstract pattern of thousands of lozenge-shaped objects, tetrapods shot from above, which ironically will be used to preserve shorelines for oil extraction.

Intensive agriculture is another hallmark of the Anthropocene. The photo of the industrial fish farm in Cadiz, Spain shows clearly how humans have changed the geography of the place, but paradoxically it is actually sustainable, an “example of human-engineered biodiversity—healthy polyculture which results in harvest of fish, molluscs and crustaceans.” Unfortunately these sustainable farms are likely to be supplanted by more lucrative monoculture operations. Similarly, Dryland Farming #40, Monegrillo County, Spain, photographed from

a helicopter at 610 m, evokes an abstract painting, and although the landscape has been altered by agriculture, the dryland farming tradition has sustained generations of farmers growing cereal crops using



Outside mural Photo: Patricia Balcom

very little water, and could be a model for the future.

Some of the most beautiful photos in the exhibit deal with resource extraction, particularly the open-pit copper mines Morenci Mine #1 and #2 in Arizona, and Chino Mine #5 in New Mexico. The brilliant reds and golds are reminiscent of a Renaissance painting, but the psychedelic patterns are a result of heavy metals in the wastewater held in tailing ponds.

One powerful photograph representing oil extraction is Oil Bunkering #1, Niger Delta. Oil extraction here is a hazardous process, with even fewer safeguards than in Canada. The extraction activities pollute rivers, creeks and swamps, as well as the surrounding land. The image depicts some locals “bunkering” (stealing) oil from the pipelines to later refine it in small make-shift refineries, further contributing to land and water pollution. But the pattern of the oil spill in the water is beautiful, in with swirling bands of mauve, indigo, pale green, yellow and orange.

One of the starkest images on the theme of deforestation is Clearcut #1, Palm Oil Plantation, Borneo, Malaysia the right-hand side is a verdant forest but the left-hand side has been shaved bare, with paths and furrows incised into the brown earth. More optimistic is the almost full-size mural of Douglas firs in Cathedral Grove on Vancouver Island. This park has preserved a stand of old-growth Douglas fir trees, some of which are 800 years old. But in the wall notes visitors are cautioned “that such forests are as vulnerable as they are majestic”. The positive message in Cathedral Grove is echoed in the mural of a coral reef in Komodo National Park, Indonesia. It is one of the few remaining viable coral reefs in the world, but the lower right side of the mural shows the beginnings of coral bleaching. This reef is not in the same dire straits as the Great Barrier Reef, where 50-60% of the reefs have been affected by bleaching, but this is a portent of things to come if ocean temperatures continue to rise.

Several images reflect the theme of urbanization: the bird’s eye view of Mushin Market in Lagos Nigeria shows very clearly how humans have irreparably altered the earth’s surface. This theme is echoed in the photograph of the Santa Ana Freeway in Los Angeles: urban sprawl has transformed the planet for human needs.

The final room of the exhibition contains what could be considered good-news stories. Burtynsky views wind and solar power, as well as electric cars, as part of the solution to global warming and one way to reduce humans’ carbon footprint. The Cerro Dominador Solar Project #1, Atacama Desert, Chile is a view of the massive solar-energy project taken from high above, so that it appears as an ab-

stract spiral of dots of white. The concentric circles drawn in the sand suggest there will be thousands more panels in the future. This is another paradox: the landscape is being changed for a more sustainable future. Similarly, Lithium Mines #1, Salt Flats, Atacama Desert, Chile consists of huge square pools of various colours—from mustard yellow to lime green to robin’s egg blue—holding brine, which, as the liquid evaporates, leaves behind the lithium used in most consumer electronics, including electric-car batteries. However, companies are overdrawing the brine from the delicate underground ecosystem, and trees are dying. South Bay Pumping Plant #1, Near Livermore, California, USA shows windmills being used to pump water for the South Bay Aqueduct. But windmills too change the landscape, and this particular one is depleting the water table.

## Conclusion

Burtynsky, Baichwal and De Pencier wanted to strike a balance between positive and negative narratives, but even what may appear to be good-news stories are often contradictory, for example Lithium Mines #1 and Tetrapods #1, Dongying. And two of the most hopeful images, of Cathedral Grove and the coral reef, show that we need to stop global warming and clear-cutting now, before it’s too late. As Joni Mitchell sang “You don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone.”

In his essay in the book for the exhibition, Burtynsky wrote “We feel that by describing the problem vividly, by being revelatory and not accusatory, we can help spur a broader conversation about viable solutions.”, and on the T-shirt for the exhibition are the words “A shift in consciousness is the beginning of change.” I can only hope that those who see Anthropocene will be moved to think and act.

The exhibition runs until February 24, 2019. Don’t miss it!

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## Pas de carte de bibliothèque requise pour la Bibliothèque communautaire Beauséjour

Par Sandra Pilote

Au début d’octobre, les résidents de la communauté Beauséjour ont ouvert leur première « petite bibliothèque rouge ». La petite boîte en bois de couleur vive est située à l’extrémité ouest de l’ancienne rue St-Patrick, là où la rue se termine par une impasse circulaire.

La bibliothèque est déjà bien garnie avec une collection variée de livres pour tous les âges. Les mem-

bres de la communauté sont invités à y prendre et/ou y laisser un livre à partager avec les autres.

La petite bibliothèque gratuite a été financée grâce au Fonds d’immobilisation communautaire fourni par la Société de logement communautaire d’Ottawa. Un grand merci à tous les locataires et le personnel qui ont pris ensemble l’initiative d’en faire une réalité.


# INDIAN SUMMER

Along the line of smoky hills  
The crimson forest stands,  
And all the day the blue-jay calls  
Throughout the autumn lands.

Now by the brook the maple leans  
With all his glory spread,  
And all the sumachs on the hills  
Have turned their green to red.

Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,  
Or past some river's mouth,  
Throughout the long, still autumn day  
Wild birds are flying south.

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