

ByWard Market refresh needs city investment



Liz Bernstein and Sylvie Grenier
City staff will present recommendations on how to revitalize the ByWard Market on June 8. Hints of the recommendations have been offered to members of the Market Core Team members, made up of representatives of the Lowertown Community Association, the Market BIA and other stakeholders. Short term recommendations include the creation of a municipal corporation to manage the ByWard Market and to invest in it, the renovation and repurposing of the Market Building into a fresh produce market and the landscaping of the streets adjacent to the Market Building. Longer term recommendations include replacing the parking on York with outdoor stalls and replacing the garage building with a smaller commercial building, to make room for a public square facing the Market Building, with an underground garage.
Now is the time to ensure our elected officials' commitment to a revitalized ByWard Market, a showcase attraction of our Nation's Capital that would also meet the needs of residents. The good news is that the Market has been included in the proposed 2015-2018 Term of Council Priorities report and will be considered for approval by City Council at the July 8 meeting. Once

approved, these priorities become the basis of the City's Strategic Plan, and thus have access to funding. While it is encouraging that our Market is on the way to be deemed a priority, so far only \$1 million has been committed. This is a wholly inadequate pittance, which would not suffice to implement a fraction of the comprehensive and exciting revitalization plan - certainly not before the 2017 anniversary celebrations of Canada's 150 birthday.
In addition, the federal government has recently announced the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program to help municipalities over the next four years with projects that would enhance the sesquicentennial celebrations. The City of Ottawa has included the ByWard Market, lumped together with the Parkdale Market on its long list of worthy community projects. While a start, this is again insufficient: the list includes \$2 million for Manotick's Arena, \$3 million for Kanata's recreation complex and then just \$400,000 for both ByWard and Parkdale Markets.
Resident or tourist, if you walk down from the Hill on the York Street steps to the Market, you leave behind the beauty of the Major's Hill park, the sculptures and the iconic staircase - to face the parking lot of York St. "It's uninviting, you

"Byward Market Ottawa View South" by Jcart1534 - via Wikimedia Commons

feel unsafe crossing in the middle of the street, weaving between turning and parked cars in the middle island, and you don't even know where to walk. That's the entry to the Market from the grand steps?" asks a resident whose daily walk takes her through the market.
Project for Public Spaces, the New York-based consultants hired by the City at the start of this process, noted that "we don't have a parking lot in the middle of a market - we have a market in the middle of a parking lot."
Now that residents, business representatives, city council and staff alike agree with the vision and have developed a plan, the City must put its money where its mouth is to fully fund it, if we want to invite the world to Ottawa in a world class Market that showcases public plazas, not parking lots.

Join us this year as we ask City investment in our market and our community. City staff will make a presentation on these recommendations on June 8, 7:00pm at the LCA monthly meeting, held at Routhier Centre on Guigues.

Neighbourhood Yard Sale



Spring cleaning? Too much stuff you want to get rid of but not throw out? Been thinking of having a yard sale lately? The Lowertown Community Association wants to know the community's interest in participating in an official Lowertown neighborhood-wide garage/yard sale. Tentative date is **Saturday June 20**. Interested? Send us an email at: info@lowertownbasseville.ca
Subject: Community Garage Sale

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ByWard Moves



Michelle Ramsay-Borg
Long list of move-outs and move-ins in the ByWard Market over the past two months!

Angéline Café, the wee espresso bar at 11 Murray Street near Sussex, has closed. Sorry to see it go, it was a personal favourite for European-style coffee. And, after a lengthy closing sale, **Lucaca Gift Shop** has vacated 278 Dalhousie Street.

The storefront at 110 Parent Street has lost its most recent tenant, **Be Uniq.** Fans can follow the retailer on Facebook, which has a posting saying they will soon reopen at a new location, and will also launch an online store.

Next door, at 112 Parent, **Lida Boutique** is closing its doors after a 38-year run. Lydia has decided to retire, and her daughters are taking over at the business's second location in Westboro, now renamed **Fashion United**.

The popular **Luxe Bridal Boutique** has moved from 208 Dalhousie to 733B Ridgewood Avenue near Mooney's Bay. Also moved: **LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics**, from 43 William Street to the second floor of the Rideau Centre, near the entrance to the dining hall.

Steak & Sushi at 87 Clarence is still closed after a fire broke out in its kitchen on April 5th. Owners Lee Wagner and John Leung are working "around the clock" to get it back as good, or better, than ever.

Happily, there were more openings than closings, with two on North Dal. The new design boutique called **goods**, at 201 Dalhousie Street, stocks its shelves "with a little bit of everything useful". It's at the corner of Parent Street, where Supercuts was located.

Smudge Beauty Bar has moved into the completely renovated storefront at 223 Dalhousie (formerly Young Jane's). The California-vibe salon offers blow-outs, mani-pedis and enhancements for eyelashes and brows—all at reasonable prices.

Meanwhile two new restos on Clarence Street couldn't be more different. **Cupid's Gourmet Hot Dogs**, opened at 97 Clarence on April 21, already extended its weekend hours to 3:30 am in order to meet the late-night demand for its dressed-up dogs. A couple of doors to the east, **Tomo** opened its doors on May 1 with a big reveal: a sushi lounge that is lushly appointed with Japanese-inspired modern design and art. The gorgeous interior was created by architect **Kayla Pongrac**, a hospitality designer. Kayla also designed the interior for **ACE Mercado** at Clarence and Dalhousie.

After months of anticipation, it's great to see **More Than Design** open at 10 ByWard Market Square. It's a worthy successor to Phillip Van Leeuwen, the high-end furniture store that used to occupy the two-storey space.

Zipcar, a car-sharing business with branches all over the world, has come to Ottawa. So easy: book a car online, say how many hours you need it and choose where to pick it up. There are two locations in Lowertown, including 700 Sus-

sex Drive, home to a Jetta zipcar named Sarabi and a Tiguan named Mandi.

Here is some back-door news to round out this month's news. The beautiful **Paper Papier** has taken over the wee **Fleurissant** flower shop at the back of its premises at 18 Clarence Street and has added a small range of art supplies to its stock. And over at 45 Clarence, **King Eddy Burgers** has opened a **Bridgehead** take-out counter at its rear entrance in the atrium of the Times Square building.

The opinions expressed are the personal views of the author. She does not receive any compensation or favour in exchange for coverage.

Michelle Ramsay-Borg is a brand name creator and storyteller who fell in love at first sight with Lowertown in 2012

Lowertown Community Association Meetings

The Lowertown Community Association meets on the second Monday of each month from September to June. Meetings are held from 7 to 9 pm at the Routhier Community Centre, located at 172 Guigues Avenue.

Upcoming Meetings: June 8, September 14.

LCA meetings are regularly attended by our elected councillor and the Ottawa Police Community Constable. Connect with us at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

LCA President's letter



Liz Bernstein, LCA president

Dear neighbours,

Lowertown and Ottawa are in bloom, and the spring renewal heralds the community renewal opportunities ahead.

We have long been pushing for a revitalization of the gem at the centre of our community and city, the ByWard Market. The revitalization project was started in 2012 at the request of the LCA, ByWard Market BIA and Councillor Fleury.

In June 2013, following a visioning exercise led by LCA Planning Committee co-chair Sylvie Grenier, City Council adopted a vision that we championed to strengthen the public market aspect of the ByWard Market. This vision has a focus on retailing fresh local produce and products, and on opportunities to make the market a more people-friendly place, with inviting public gathering spaces and pedestrian plazas.

Council directed staff to investigate and recommend a new governance structure to oversee the Market, review planning rules to address the spread of bars and nightclubs in the area, produce a business plan that shows financial

self-sustainability for the new governance structure, develop a strong mission for the corporation, and look at streetscaping and placemaking opportunities to support the area.

Over the last two years, City staff have been developing these recommendations and draft positions will be shared with the LCA on June 8 for input before a final round of public consultation gets under way — please join us! From the bits we've seen so far, it looks like a great start, with much of our vision and our suggestions incorporated.

Join us this year as we demand City investment in our market and our community. We just held our AGM (see page 8) and it was thrilling to review the remarkable work done by residents in just six months, and their continued commitment. I thank all of you for your confidence in me to continue to serve as president, and the entire board for their immense contributions. I want to thank outgoing board members Sylvie Grenier and Jan-Francois Grabowiecki for all they've given us. We have lots of

plans this important election year and we need your help - particularly on our Echo team, so we can continue to produce this great resource. Please join us in improving Lowertown for all of us and get in touch at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

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The Echo

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

In 2015, the Echo will be published in February, April, June, September and November. 7,500 copies are printed and distributed free of charge to residents of Lowertown. Additional copies can also be picked up at the Routhier Centre, the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, the public library, and various commercial locations in Lowertown.

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

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

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

E-mail/Courriel: echo@lowertown-basseville.ca

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Editor in chief: Giulia Nastase

Layout: Patrick Naubert

L'Echo

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

En 2015, l'Echo sera publié en février, avril, juin, septembre et novembre. Son tirage est de 7500 exemplaires. Il est distribué gratuitement partout dans la Basse-Ville. On peut également l'obtenir au Centre Routhier, au Centre de Ressources Communautaires de la Basse-Ville, à la bibliothèque et dans plusieurs commerces du quartier.

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

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

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

Deadline

Reserve your advertising space or submit your contribution to echo@lowertown-basseville.ca by **August 10, 2015**

The Echo is written, published and delivered thanks to the efforts of dedicated and talented volunteers and the support of our advertisers. Please support local businesses, especially those who advertise in and display the Echo.

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

Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions à echo@lowertown-basseville.ca avant le **10 août 2015**

L'Echo est rédigé, publié et distribué grâce au dévouement et au talent de nombreux bénévoles, mais aussi avec l'appui des annonceurs. Soutenez les commerces locaux, et tout particulièrement ceux qui font de la publicité dans l'Echo ou chez qui vous pouvez le trouver.

Questions au sujet de la distribution? L'Echo est distribué gratuitement dans la Basse-Ville. Veuillez envoyer un courriel si vous connaissez quelqu'un qui ne le reçoit pas.

Development and construction in your neighbourhood

Nine storey building proposed for 339 Cumberland

New proposal for 26 and 28 storey towers at 151-152 Chapel

The owner of 339 Cumberland submitted a rezoning application to redevelop the vacant parcel of land located at the northeast corner of Cumberland and York. If approved, the rezoning would permit a nine storey mixed use building with 48 units, average size of 350 square feet. The applicant is asking to double the permitted height, triple the Maximum Floor Space Index, which is the ratio between the gross floor area of the building and the lot area, and eliminate setbacks - the distance between the building and the street or property boundary.

The rezoning would also do away with the required parking spaces.

While redeveloping this small parcel of land is an excellent idea, a lower building height of four to five storeys would harmonize better with the historic character and scale of the adjacent buildings.

Keeping some setbacks would also protect existing trees, which help enhance this important entrance way to the ByWard Market. Comments on this proposal can be directed to city staff at Erin.O'Connell@ottawa.ca

Trinity Development Group, who owns the land formerly occupied by the Jewish Community Centre at the corner of Rideau and Chapel resubmitted its application for an official plan amendment. If approved, the amendment would permit two mixed use towers of 26 and 28 storeys sitting on a nine storey podium. The proponent reduced only slightly the height of the towers, which still leaves them at five times the permitted height. The new proposal shows a decrease in the number of units - from 785 to 550 - and in the number of parking spaces - from 721 to 532.

The revised proposal still requests the opening of the cul-de-sac at Chapel and Beausoleil to give access to a garage that would be located on Beausoleil. The proposal is now accompanied by a traffic study that posits that the proposed development and the opening of the cul-de-sac would have no major impact on the traffic circulation on Rideau, Chapel and Beausoleil. Comments on this proposal can be directed to city staff at Erin.O'Connell@ottawa.ca.

City to present recommendations for future of Rideau St. East

City staff will present recommendations for the Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan at the June 8th LCA monthly meeting. The draft plan proposes a vision of mainly six to nine storey buildings between King Edward and the Cummings Bridge. It also introduces - for the first time in an Ottawa Community Design Plan - the concept of density transfer.

This would allow buildings of up to 15 and 25 storeys on four of the eight blocks in the study area, if certain criteria are met. This may lead to replicating the concrete canyon developed recently on the West side of King Edward. You are invited to learn more by attending the meeting at the Routhier Centre on Guigues at 7:00pm on Monday, June 8.

Construction at the Chinese Embassy

As a crane was raised at 515 St. Patrick Street, we learned that an application for site plan control, in two phases, has been submitted to the City by AECOM acting for the Embassy.

The first phase consists of the demolition of a 1,620 sqm rear addition and reconstruction of a 1,960 sqm new addition in the same location. This addition is located behind the main building and connected by a corridor. It will be set back 18 metres from the water's edge. The addition will house a reception hall and a kitchen supporting the diplomatic mission use. The site works associated with Phase 1 will remove 21 existing parking spaces; however, temporary spaces will be provided on the site until a garage can be constructed in Phase 2. Phase 1 was approved by the City in January and building permits have been issued.

The second phase will consist of a new underground parking facility of 110 parking spaces. The facility will be used for long-term storage of diplomatic vehicles. Before it can proceed, additional works are required on site to adjust flood capacity.

Works are proposed in the eastern quadrant of the site to remove existing vegetation and fill material for an area measuring about 80 metres in length and from 9 to 30 metres in width. This area is known as the "cut". The volume of excavated material to be removed is approximately 1,080 cubic metres. A 3-metre high retaining wall is proposed and the area will be replanted with native species. According to city planner Allison Hamlin, the proposed development, including the balanced cut and fill, has been reviewed by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and found to be acceptable.



New construction site at 515 St. Patrick St.

Holiday Inn at the King Edward – Murray – St. Patrick triangle

The owner of 364 St. Patrick plans to submit a revised development proposal for the triangle of land east of King Edward, between Murray and St-Patrick. The proposal is for a nine storey, 167-room Holiday Inn with a restaurant on the ground floor and a two storey



Holiday Inn proposal rendering

underground garage. Cars would access the hotel through St. Patrick and would exit through Murray. The revised plan will require minor zoning variances and the approval of a site plan.

Work is planned to commence in December and be terminated in 2017.



St-Anne’s Church 3rd Annual Heritage Restoration Golf Tournament

August 20, 2015 at Manderley Golf Club, North Gower • Tee-off time 1:00 pm - shotgun start

Cost \$105 includes golf cart, dinner with wine and prizes • Tax Receipt \$30

Registration deadline: July 26

Contact - Mike Whalen (613) 737-7140 e-mail silverstick57@hotmail.com



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A new pilot project by Citizens for Responsible Development Ottawa (CRDO) aims to document the impact of Ottawa's rapidly changing landscape on our communities.
Are you concerned with how planning and development is impacting your neighbourhood? Do you have a story to share? A new documentary film project by Citizens for Responsible Development Ottawa (CRDO) could help bring your story into the spotlight.

The goal of the project is to explore how the community's interests can be better balanced with those of developers and the city. CRDO will document the stories both through film and in the form of written case studies.

Through these case studies, CRDO hopes to identify trends and best practices that can help improve the consultation and planning process so it will better serve our communities.

Working closely with local community groups and the City of Ottawa, the CRDO documentary project will help give a clearer vision of what communities really want so we can build a better city together.

To participate in the pilot or serve as a volunteer, contact Thierry Harris at harris.thierry@gmail.com

To learn more about Citizens for Responsible Development Ottawa (CRDO), visit www.crdottawa.org. You can also follow CRDO on Twitter @crdottawa and take part in discussions on issues of development, planning and accountability in Ottawa.

Citizens for Responsible Development Ottawa (CRDO) s'apprête à lancer un nouveau projet pilote qui vise à documenter l'impact de l'évolution rapide de notre ville sur nos communautés.

Êtes-vous préoccupé par ce qui se passe dans votre quartier? Avez-vous une histoire à partager? Un nouveau film documentaire piloté par Citizens for Responsible Development Ottawa (CRDO) pourrait faire passer votre message au premier plan.

Le but du projet est d'examiner comment nous pourrions mieux équilibrer les intérêts de nos communautés, des développeurs

et de la ville d'Ottawa. CRDO documentera ces histoires par l'entremise de films et d'études de cas par écrit. Ces études aideront à identifier des tendances et meilleures pratiques qui pourront améliorer le processus de planification et consultation à fin qu'il puisse mieux servir les intérêts de nos communautés.

En collaborant étroitement avec les groupes communautaires et la ville d'Ottawa, le projet de CRDO contribuera à mettre plus clairement en lumière les priorités de nos communautés afin que, tous ensemble, nous contribuons à faire de notre ville un meilleur endroit où vivre.

Pour participer au projet ou faire du bénévolat, contactez Thierry Harris par courriel à harris.thierry@gmail.com

Pour en apprendre plus sur Citizens for Responsible Development Ottawa (CRDO), visitez www.crdottawa.org. Vous pouvez aussi suivre follow CRDO sur Twitter @crdottawa et prendre part au part aux débats sur l'urbanisme, l'aménagement à Ottawa.







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Vignette du Village:

Patrick Cassidy and his Cathcart Street childhood

Nancy Miller Chenier

Patrick Cassidy was born in Lowertown and grew up in a duplex at 288 Cathcart Street. His parents, Bernard and Beatrice, bought the house on the east of King Edward Avenue in 1959. They rented the upstairs apartment while the family occupied the ground floor.

For Patrick, many of his childhood memories involve outdoor fun with other neighbourhood children who lived around Bordeleau Park and near the Rideau River. Patrick recalls getting into trouble on several occasions for biking through the underpass of the former Bytown and Prescott Railway bridge, where homeless people took shelter. Most children were also forbidden to cross King Edward Avenue without an adult and jumping off the old railway bridge was only done when parents were not looking.

In the park, the neighbourhood games could be very creative, often making use of destruction and construction in the community. Patrick remembers playing on the trees cut down in Bordeleau Park as a result of Dutch Elm Disease. Also, while the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge was being built, the sand dug up by the road crew became a children's play area. The kids even made a small profit from the bridge's con-



struction Railway underpass, King Edward Park

struction by scavenging for the crew's empty soft drink bottles and returning them to the nearby store for 2 cents each.

The family was part of St. Brigid's parish, where they attended the high mass at 11 o'clock every Sunday morning. This also meant that he walked to the nearby elementary schools for English Catholics, first at Our Lady's from kindergarten to grade 4, and then St. Bridget's for grades 5 through 8. His schooling ended at the University of Ottawa, where he specialized in Political Science and later studied Law.

His father, a former employee of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company, died while Patrick

was still in elementary school, and Patrick and his mother were left to deal with the consequences of urban renewal. Though most of the early demolition was in other eastern areas of Lowertown, the Cassidy's family property was eventually expropriated and the Cathcart house vacated in March 1978. The site of the house is now an entry lane for the Cathcart Mews, a townhouse complex built in the early 1980s.

Although the family house is gone, Patrick still lives in Lowertown. When he stopped work as a lawyer, he decided to use his time and abilities to give back to his lifelong community. He is now active with the Tenants' Association at 380 Murray Street and with the Lowertown East Residents' Committee. He was also asked to be the vice-chair of the board of the Good Neighbours Community House located on Beausoleil Drive. Patrick's dedication and resolve to contribute to Lowertown provide another example of the community spirit that this neighbourhood generates in its residents.



Cathcart St. east of King Edward, circa 1978

Nancy Miller Chenier is a long-time resident of Lowertown and currently co-chair of the Lowertown Community Association Heritage Committee. She has a strong interest in the social history and the built heritage of this founding part of Ottawa.

Lowertown Lost and Found:

Former Ste-Anne's Rectory receives heritage designation

Nancy Miller Chenier

When constructed in 1921, Ste-Anne's Rectory at 17 Myrand Avenue was the most elaborate building in this Lowertown Roman Catholic parish. It was designed by Ottawa architect Werner Ernst Noffke (1878-1964) for Monsignor Joseph Alfred Myrand, the priest who served Ste-Anne's parish for fifty years. For Noffke, who later designed the Central Post Office, it was the first of multiple contracts with the Roman Catholic community in Ottawa. For Myrand, this large rectory signalled a strong francophone religious presence in the community, besides providing comfortable housing for him, his



Monsignor Joseph Alfred Myrand, circa 1940

assistants and numerous visitors.

Father Myrand's connection to Lowertown started in a house on St. Patrick Street, near the Cathedral. His father, Jean Baptist Myrand, worked as postmaster with the Legislative Council of the Province of



Ste-Anne's Rectory beside Ste-Anne Hall, 1968

Canada and after Confederation performed the same tasks with the Senate of Canada. Myrand took great pleasure in telling people that he was ordained in the same place where he was born, the building having become, by 1892, the Monastery of the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

After Myrand was appointed parish priest (curé) to Ste-Anne's in 1903, he made the parish a central part of francophone and Catholic activity, not only in Lowertown and Ottawa but also in the wider provincial and national sphere. In addition to building the new rectory, he oversaw renovations to Ste-Anne's church and the construction of a new Ste-Anne's hall. Along with the ongoing religious focus, this complex of buildings provided space for ferocious political meetings and gentler cultural events. Education was a big issue for Myrand and he was a major participant in the protests against the Ontario provincial government's Regulation 17 (Règlement 17) ordering that French as a language of instruction cease after the first

two years of schooling.

It was in the rectory that Myrand provided advice to parishioners on personal and church matters. This was where baptisms, marriages and deaths, as well as the success of the newly formed neighbourhood caisse populaire were discussed. It was also the place where he hosted visitors from outside the parish. Henri Bourassa, Quebec nationalist leader, visited before he gave an inflammatory speech on the issue of Regulation 17 at Ste-Anne's Hall. Lionel Groulx, well-known Quebec priest and historian, stayed at the rectory during Ottawa visits when researching the experience of francophones living outside Quebec. He described Myrand's residence as "the echo chamber where all the political and ecclesiastical news reverberated."

In March 2015, with the assistance of architectural historian Shannon Ricketts, the

Lowertown Community Association succeeded in getting City Council approval for a heritage designation of this building. The Ste-Anne Rectory is described as "a two-and-a-half storey, rectangular plan, Beaux-Arts style building" with notable architectural features that include a "raised main façade, pedimented main entrance with a double-height portico and paired giant Corinthian columns, gable dormers, and an arched balcony on the west façade."

This landmark building survived the 1960s urban renewal plan that saw long-time parishioners forced out of the area. It is currently home to the National House of Prayer. The designation of the former rectory along with the earlier one for Ste-Anne church (now the home of the St. Clement parish) commemorate francophone tenacity in this eastern part of Lowertown. The particular story of this imposing building is also closely tied to the legacy of Joseph Alfred Myrand, who lived here until his death in 1949 and made it a hub of religious, social, cultural and political thought.



Ste-Anne's Rectory and St. Jean Baptiste parade, 1956

A new offering by Jerry Grey

Liz MacKenzie
On June 18th, a new exhibit at Galerie d'art Jean-Claude-Bergeron, 150 St Patrick Street will show recent works of longtime Lowertown resident and artist, Jerry Grey.
In Vancouver and Regina, Jerry studied art, taught and exhibited widely. She arrived in Ottawa in 1968 and in 1971 she began her



A preview of new works from the upcoming show

career as a full-time professional artist. Her first public commission was an artwall on the blank wall of Pestalozzi College, now Horizon Towers at 160 Chapel St. Unfortunately, a new owner and structural problems with the building made it impossible to execute.

Jerry's command of materials is tremendous: metallic inks on Mylar, porcelain enamel on steel, tempered glass, kiln-fired glass, watercolour, gouache, glass mosaics, and serigraphy on canvas. Her broad range of artistic media is channeled by a keen intellect. Works ranging from small scale to large murals are always ordered, detailed, precise and meticulously researched - and all evoke the warmth of an artist who is passionately interested in people and their stories.

Perhaps her best known public commission in Ottawa is the mural *Tiles of the Times* at the Ottawa Police Headquarters. The 3.5 by 17.5 metre mural is made up of 268,000 square Italian glass mosaic tiles. The figures of fifteen Ottawa police chiefs, in their period uniforms (1855 to 1983) are posed as if for a family portrait: their period uniforms and outlines of their families and friends evoke the characteristics of their time. The Ottawa River, from the falls to the Rideau River, unifies the group in sparkling blue glass tiles.

Another large public art project taught her the fraught financials of public commissions. She spent three years working on the installation *The Great Canadian Equalizer*, commissioned by Canada's Department of Public Works in 1976 for Statistics Canada at the Jean Talon Building. When installed, it had cost \$56,420 and Grey received less than \$19,000 for three years' work - from which all production costs had to be paid.

At that time, artists did not receive an upfront percentage on their public art contracts: a sharp contrast with consultant contracts in any other area of expertise. The irony was not lost on Grey as she assessed her experience



Stunning detail and emotion

with *The Great Canadian Equalizer* project. She became active in the Canadian Artists'



Artist Jerry Grey and her famous smile

Representation (CAR), working for acknowledgement of artist's right to fair business contracts for public art and with gallery owners. She continues to be a tireless worker for arts organizations and a generous contributor to fundraisers. She is an active member of PAL Ottawa, a non-profit charity providing support to senior professional artists in need.
Lowertown is home to Jerry Grey and to a couple of her important public installations, both commissioned by the Sisters of Charity. The project *The Sisters of Charity Building Hope*, 1987-89, was installed in the lobby of St. Vincent Hospital to celebrate their 250th anniversary in Canada and the 65th anniversary of St. Vincent Hospital.

In researching the project, Grey was impressed at how much Ottawa's history owes to Elizabeth Bruyère. In this muddy rough town, Bruyère established a bilingual school in 1845 and then in the following years, a hospital, two orphanages and a home for the aged. In the installation, Grey reverently depicts their history on glass building blocks and with glass figures lit to evoke a spiritual quality.

Grey received a second commission from the Sisters of Charity in 2011. *La compassion au cœur du monde* celebrates the lives and work of generations of the Sister of Charity in Ottawa and abroad. It can be seen at 27 Bruyère Street on request. Fifty small paintings arranged on three panels tell their story: at the center is a stunning painting of Elizabeth Bruyère, a testament to Grey's remarkable gift for portraiture.

You can see more of the artist's wide-ranging work on her website at www.artengine.ca/jerrygrey

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Sharron Lafferty explores memory with wonder and humour

Karen Bailey
“If it’s easy, I don’t want to do it.” Artist Sharon Lafferty’s eyes sparkle as she describes her approach to painting. Nothing is simple about Lafferty’s work: the characters who inhabit her art are unconventional and complex.

The Lowertown resident initially sold her fabric sculptures in the form of quirky dolls as an independent Byward Market vendor before being invited to exhibit at the Lookout Bar on York Street and later at Ecclection. Her off-the-wall creations proved increasingly popular, and as a result of the laborious process of stuffing the dolls, Sharon suffered a serious repetitive strain injury to her shoulder. Serendipitously, in 1999 she discovered she enjoyed painting more than making dolls, so she embarked upon this new, less physically demanding occupation. A friend suggested she sell her bizarre portraits on eBay when it was in its infancy. She scanned and posted them, selling throughout Canada, the United States and internationally to Australia, Latin America and Europe. This led to an insatiable appetite for her works within the online market. The Byward Market connection continued with sales of her paintings at the Tickled Pink shop.

Former Byward Market vendor, past Ottawa School of Art student, current Lowertown resident and Rectory Art House studio member, Lowertown is central to all aspects



of artist Sharon Lafferty’s *There Were Three*, acrylic on canvas, 30 x 36 in, 2012
Purchased by the City of Ottawa in 2013

After relocating from New Brunswick to Ottawa in 1992 with husband Dallas, they first lived in Hull, then Hintonburg. The Byward Market became a magnet for both of them. Regular Lowertown forays to shop and explore prompted the move to a Parent Street apartment in 1997.

The artist’s work explores the power of memory to define our existence and has evolved to include pensive children in dark, mysterious settings or haunting figures in psychologically charged situations, always touched with a pinch of humour.



Striped Shirt, acrylic on canvas, 16 x 20 in, 2014

Utilizing her strong sense of composition, Lafferty initially sketches the image in white chalk on canvas, then paints the eyes first. She mischievously points out, “You don’t know who you’re dealing with until you do the eyes.” A process-based artist, Sharon

embarks on continual change within her paintings as she strives for resolution.

Her art reflects an original career path. One of six children born to an Irish father and a French-Belgian mother in a small town in New Brunswick, her sense of curiosity emerged early and learning came easily. These traits have never left her.

As a lab technician in New Brunswick with Forestry Canada, Lafferty worked in forest entomology. Later, she undertook a teaching degree with a specialty in art education - it never developed into a career because her sense of play trumped any desire to discipline children. As Sharon tells it, while doing her practicum she preferred getting her hands messy, finger painting alongside the six year olds rather than exercising control over the class. She happily returned to Forestry Canada and continued to work in entomology and the aerial survey program assessing tree conditions, damage and mortality. She then worked as an independent contractor, conducting research projects for Forestry Canada until her move to Ottawa.

A self-taught artist with natural ability, Sharon learned important technical skills while studying full-time at the Ottawa School of Art (OSA) on George Street from 2007-09.

At the OSA, one of the oldest art institutions in Canada, Lafferty developed the confidence to bring her art to the next level, going on to exhibit paintings at Cube Gallery, the Ottawa Art Gallery and to present

installation work at the Rectory Art House on Murray Street during Nuit Blanche 2012 and 2013.

Acrylic and oil canvases checker the walls from floor to ceiling in Sharon’s Rectory Art House studio. Her subjects are inspired by vintage photographs, contemporary European catwalks and her vivid imagination.

In *There Were Three*, standing knee high in a pool of water, three red-haired girls hold hands in a circle and gaze at the viewer. A dense forest looms behind them. What just happened? What will happen next? One is reminded of the patterned richness of Gustav Klimt’s landscapes married with the sociologically layered narrative found in Edward Gorey’s drawings.

Sharon was one of the first of eight artists to rent studio space in the deconsecrated St. Brigid’s Church Rectory when it re-opened as the Rectory Art House in 2011. Her studio installations for Nuit Blanche in 2012 and 2013 challenged her creative powers, catapulting her art into a complex three



Crow, acrylic on canvas, 2012

dimensional fantasy world. With the future in mind, she contemplates the nascent stage of an installation involving paper, botanical drawings and experiments with scale. Sharon’s next project promises to embrace wonder, tension and insight - in equal measure.

www.sharonlafferty.com



Cross, acrylic on canvas, 18 x 24 in, 2015

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Lowertown Community Association: Annual General Meeting and a new board

Liz Bernstein

The rainy evening of May 25 did not deter many, as about 60 Lowertown Community Association (LCA) members, local business leaders and government representatives turned out to the Annual General Meeting. This was a short year: the last AGM was in November 2014, but the Board decided to shift the cycle to May to better coincide with the fiscal year - so we had this AGM just six months later.

The meeting was held at the beautiful, newly renovated Jules Morin Park Fieldhouse. Board and community members wanted to create an opportunity for neighbours to meet one another, mingle over food, raise funds for the LCA, and conduct the business meeting.

The atmosphere was fun and festive as door prizes donated by local businesses were called out, volunteers signed up, information tables of local community organizations were perused and bidding ramped up on silent auction items. We had gift cards to restaurants, shops and locally crafted items donated to raise funds, and we sold LCA t-shirts with the new logo for our community.

The business portion of the meeting was short and efficient, thanks to the new format, which included a report printed report in advance with all of the work and accomplishments of the committees, board and volunteers —



New LCA board, from left to right: Donna Kearns, Peter Ferguson, Nathalie Vallières Martin, Liz MacKenzie, Liz Bernstein, Sarah Bonesteel, Ted Lawrence and John Chenier in the back.

you can see it on our revamped website at lowertown-basseville.ca.

The meeting kicked off with thanking outgoing board members and lead volunteers. **Sylvie Grenier** has chaired the Planning Committee, led the By-Ward Market revitalization for the community, provided expertise to LCA in reviewing development proposals and by-law changes and drafted numerous letters to the City. **Jan-Francois Grabowiecki**, who served as vice-president, helped spearhead an initiative for open crime data and completed a project with Ottawa U students to better understand crime in Lowertown. **Merle Reid**, advertising coordinator for The Echo, worked tirelessly to grow the advertising base, enabling us to reach not only more businesses but print more editions, more papers, and reach more residents.

Michelle Ramsay Borg served as the communications liaison, who led the LCA through a comprehensive re-branding process that gave us our new brand identity, with a new look and graphics. Michelle also built the new LCA website and spent countless hours sending our e-news to the community and writing and photographing for our social media channels and The Echo. The new board members of the LCA are: President: Liz Bernstein Vice President: Nathalie Vallières Martin Secretary: Sarah Bonesteel Treasurer: Ted Lawrence Director, Planning: Peter Ferguson Director, Heritage: Liz MacKenzie Director, Business Outreach: Donna Kearns

Many thanks to all who volunteered and contributed so much to our community, and to all who came to the AGM to celebrate together.

In particular, thanks to those who made this AGM so successful:

The Board Committee of John Chenier, Sarah Bonesteel and Ted Lawrence coordinated planning for the event. Liz MacKenzie coordinated the silent auction and the report production. Michelle Ramsay Borg shared communications to advertise the AGM. Michel Vallée served as nomination chair and Archie Campbell chaired the meeting. Katherine Van Meyl of Lowertown Community Resource Center coordinated food preparation and serving. Nancy Miller Chenier set up a Heritage Committee table display and the King Edward Avenue Task Force, Tree Ottawa and Ecology Ottawa set up table displays as well.

Auction donations: MP Mauril Belanger, Councillor Mathieu Fleury, MPP Madeleine Meilleur, ByWard Market BIA and many North Dal merchants: Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut, Cylie Artisan Chocolates, Das Lokal, Daya Spa, Goods, L'Hexagone, Upward Dog Yoga, Workshop and Wunderkammer.

Community donors: Nancy Miller Chenier and John Chenier, Abigail Gosage, Sylvie Grenier, Donna Kearns, Ted Lawrence, Liz MacKenzie, Steve Monuk, Elaine Sigler.

What's in a name? Bingham Park

Nancy Miller Chenier

Bingham Park is named after Samuel Bingham (1845-1905), early resident of Lowertown and mayor of Ottawa between 1897 and 1899. He arranged to have the land set aside for the first city playground and reportedly also paid to refurbish it and to cover the caretaking costs.



Mayor Bingham in regalia

His efforts were not without controversy: in 1898, the Ottawa Citizen reported that ratepayers in the vicinity of the Ottawa Ward Playground protested the removal of electric lights on Cathcart and Bolton streets to improve illumination for the new playground.

Samuel Bingham was an avid sportsman who loved skating, snowshoeing, bicycling, canoeing and other outdoor pastimes. He would have enjoyed seeing the multiple activities in Bingham Park over the years, including bicycle rodeos,



softball games and marble competitions in the summer and speed skating and hockey in the winter. *Bingham Playground, circa 1914*

However, the park was not all about play. Early events included parades, festi-

vals, and religious ceremonies. In the 1950s, a Youth Village that functioned like a city council provided political training for 16 to 21 year old residents.

As well, Ottawa's oldest cooperative nursery school, later renamed the Betty Hyde Nursery School, opened here in 1952 in a small hut at the corner of Dalhousie and Bolton Streets.

The city's parks department considered selling Bingham Park in the 1970s, after National Capital Commission expropriations and demolitions reduced the nearby population.



Bingham Park, 1968

Fortunately for current residents, the recreational area was eventually revitalized and we don't doubt that Mayor Bingham would be delighted at the level of outdoor recreation and community activity in 2015.

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The Château Lafayette at 166: Lowertown's happy place

Michelle Ramsay-Borg
“La chaise à Yvette, la reine du Château,” her chair proclaims, with a plaque funded by fellow habitués of The Laff to celebrate Yvette’s joyous 80th birthday last year. Daily, for four decades, she has taken the bus from her home at Bank and Somerset to spend the evening in her second home, the Château Lafayette. She stays right up until the minute when she has to leave to catch the last bus. She has the timing down pat, thanks to years of experience. Some nights the bartender offers Yvette a lift, which she accepts, happy to stay put in her chair until lights out.

Yvette is one patron amongst millions that the oldest public house in Ottawa has welcomed at 42 York Street over the past 166 years. More than eight generations of Lowertowners have crossed over the threshold since it opened in 1849 under the name ‘Grant’s Hotel’. It was the first of seven names for the hotel over the years, including Salmon’s, Dominion House and ‘Bodega’, the Spanish word for wine cellar. An oddity, considering that the public house sold only beer until 1999.

The Bodega Hotel was renamed Château Lafayette in 1936, a change marked by the installation of its neon sign—thought to be the oldest neon sign in Ottawa.



“La chaise à Yvette, la reine du Château” is what her chair reads. This is a wonderful picture of her as she often prays in the bar.

Today, the Château Lafayette, whose lounge is fondly known as The Laff, is a family business owned and operated by Jill Scott, her brother Todd Scott and her uncle John Sloan.

General Manager Jill started with The Laff in 1985, “doing the books at home when the kids were small, then working here beginning in 1991.” Her husband, Pierre Labelle, was the head bartender through the 1990s. Jill adds, “I feel honoured to have been involved for so long, especially now that there is more public awareness of what The Laff is to Ottawa.”

Jill’s daughter, Deek Labelle, is Assistant General Manager and the third generation to work in the business since her grandfather James Scott bought it in 1966. “I’ve been here my whole life, full-time since 2007. I’ve worked every position possible, from the kitchen to the bar”, said Deek, her eyes alight with enthusiasm. “Canada Day for me is always a highlight, the one day of the year I tend

the bar. This becomes the coolest place in Ottawa on Canada Day.” Interesting, considering that the public house had already been operating for 18 years when Confederation, the event celebrated on Canada Day, occurred.

In 1849, the hotel’s first year, the Parliament Buildings were not even conceived of yet, but the canal was completed, the second-generation market building had just opened, and Notre-Dame Cathedral was under construction. In September that year, people took refuge in Grant’s Hotel to escape the Stoney Monday riot—one of the seminal events leading up to the selection of Ottawa as the capital city.

In its early years, Grant’s Hotel put up farmers who came to Ottawa for the week to sell their produce in the market. Over time, the establishment at 42 York came to be frequented by itinerant workers and local labourers, and soldiers during war time. By 1936, when it became the Château Lafayette House, it was a seedy and raucous place that didn’t lack for customers.

When tourists ‘discovered’ the ByWard Market in the 1950s and ‘60s, some stopped in at the Château Lafayette to soak up the vibes of what was then known as a dive bar. By the 1970s and ‘80s, after James Scott took over the business, it had evolved into a laid-back student hang-out, with live music, no cover charge and affordable beer.

The 1990s were marked by top-to-bottom renovations, beginning with the washrooms (which are located in the old vaults of the Dominion Bank, next-door neighbour to the hotel back in the early 1900s) and ending with the installation of a new bar in 1999—a necessity when the family started offering liquor as well as beer.

The ‘90s also brought a change in atmosphere and image for The Laff. It transitioned into a relaxed pub, attracting patrons who didn’t “drink their face off,” as Deek puts it. But they liked to smoke, and they stayed away in droves when the city enacted its smoking bylaw. “It was such a huge change, such a bad time for business,” according to Jill. The Laff survived on income from submarine sandwiches, having bought a Quiznos franchise in 2003. The sub shop took over half the area of their former lounge.

Also thanks to its Quiznos business, the Laff was able to hold onto music, unlike other pubs and bars. Jill explains, “Bars couldn’t afford musicians any more, because they took such a big hit (financially). Thirteen years after the smoking bylaw, it’s still really tough to find live music in the market.”

Except at The Laff, where it resonates through the old plank floors and bounces off

the walls most evenings and weekend afternoons. “Local artist and icon” John Carroll has performed weekly since 2004, and “local Ottawa legend” Lucky Ron has filled the room every Saturday for the past 16 years. Birdie Whyte is also a big draw, with her open-mic nights and Sunday solo shows. All free, as Deek reminds us, “Never a cover charge, ever!” Reviews on tripadvisor.com and elsewhere attest to the popularity of The Laff’s musicians.

What is a typical day at The Laff? “We see



Lafayette in 1957, showing Iring Rivers and the empty lot next to it where the parking garage is now located.

everyone from ages 19 to 81,” Deek replies. “First, there are the daytime regulars, older men who faithfully watch ‘The Price is Right’ and ‘News at Noon’. Don’t ever change the channel on them!” She continues, “Then the place is quiet for a couple of hours, until the after-work crowd comes in looking for drink specials. There’s usually a blip of tourists too.” By late night, “We get the staff from bars and restaurants in the market, and musicians after their shows end.” Deek adds, “It’s like taking a ride on a bus. You never know who is going to be sitting next to you.”

And what about the hotel? Is it still operating? Deek says yes, it is, with mostly long-term rentals. “We have 19 tenants, all men, nice quiet people who share a need for assisted living and companionship. Some hold down simple jobs; others do small tasks from time to time around the place. Garry, who is in his late sixties, has been living here and working at The Laff for about 30 years.”

The upstairs quarters where tenants live did not escape the renovation years. In fact, a few surprises were uncovered. A wall demolition revealed an old fireplace in Room 5 that contained a 1908 postcard from Toronto and tickets for moonlight cruise on the Duchess of York dated July 11, 1910.

When the lounge was renovated to accommodate Quiznos, workers found lovely embellished tiles under four layers of flooring. Ten years later, when Rob Pennie designed new signage, he incorporated a corner of the tile’s four-sided maple leaf medallion. The sign is a work of art, hardwood hand-carved by Rob and his son Sorel, owners of Trisohn Construction.

What’s next for The Laff? Well, more renovations because they need more space. “Business is good, we’re even hosting weddings. Two last year, including for our bartender Jourdon and his wife Lauren, who works at Play. Lucky Ron married his sweetheart Kathy here in 2001,” says Deek. Her younger brother, Francois Labelle, has moved back from Vancouver to help with the renovations and the business.

They created more space for The Laff by closing Quiznos, and they are putting in a kitchen. Deek describes it as “A simple kitchen with a simple menu that showcases the food sold in the market. We want to promote our neighbours, and local beers.” The room set-up is being designed to take advantage of acoustics, “We’ve had a lot of years to figure out how the music sounds best, and we’re going to rebuild the bar so we can load it from the back, making it longer too, for customers who like to be at the bar.”

With all this rebuilding, they’ll hold onto the mementos. There’s the painting of a former bartender, donated by a regular in honour of Mark’s 32 years of service. Next to it is a painting of long-time regular “Old Eddie”, donated by another regular, artist and poet Robert Craig. Another keeper is a painting mounted on the ceiling that portrays God serving a quart to Adam, mimicking the Sistine Chapel’s ‘Creation of Adam’ by Michelangelo. It was painted by Christine, who is a big fan of



The Laff, April 2014

photo by Michelle Ramsay Borg

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The Laff. Add to these all the old still-good fixtures and vintage commercial signs, as well as Yvette’s chair, and you have over a century’s worth of memories being safeguarded by the Scott family.

The renovations will be finished in time for Canada Day, so pencil in a peek at the New Laff on your calendar for July 1st this year. It’s the only day of the year you’ll see Deek behind, rather than in front of, the bar at The Laff: “the coolest place in Ottawa on Canada Day.”

“Come in no matter who you are, what you’re wearing or where you’re from. We offer an equally good time for everyone.”

For more of the history of the Chateau Lafayette, visit www.thelaff.ca.

Ten tips for building a safer community in Lowertown East

If you value your neighbourhood, you know how important it is to build a sense of community and belonging for you, your family and your neighbours. Building community spirit helps build pride among residents. With that pride comes a greater sense of wellbeing in our neighbourhood. People feel safe. They get involved. And they truly start to care about the place they call “home”. It also tends to show criminal elements that they are not welcome in our community, making it a safer, better place to live.

Here are ten top tips for building community spirit:

1. **Adopt a park, roadway or gateway:** The City of Ottawa’s Adopt-a-Park or Roadway or Gateway program encourages community members to care for and maintain parks and roadways. Volunteers take on park or roadway clean-up projects to improve safety, the environment and to keep the city clean, green litter and graffiti free. Find out more at www.ottawa.ca.

2. **Build a community garden:** A community garden is a place where people come together to grow flowers, herbs, fruits or vegetables. Often, community gardens make use of neglected or underused spaces in neighbourhoods, providing beauty and sometimes food for the people who tend them. A new community garden was installed at Angel Square in 2014.

3. **Design safer surroundings:** To help prevent crime in your neighbourhood, take a look at your surroundings. Are your streets, walking paths, parks, areas around homes and other public spaces designed in a way to maximize safety? An increasingly popular and effective method of planning is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED design ideas can be used to plan cities, suburbs, neighbourhoods, parks, places of business and homes. To learn more, visit www.cptedontario.ca.

4. **Do a community cleanup:** A community clean-up is an event in which friends and neighbours work together to clean up a park, street, ravine, shoreline, pathway, bus stop or other public space. The City of Ottawa has two scheduled “Cleaning the Capital” days. One takes place in the spring and the other in the fall. You can register for these activities by calling 3-1-1.

5. **Encourage local leadership:** Do you believe in the value of local leaders? Consider this: without the people who actively work to make your neighbourhood a better place, volunteer their time, recruit others to put initiatives in place, organize activities or raise awareness about important issues, very little would get done. These local leaders are often the

unsung heroes in our communities. Get involved and encourage others to do the same.

6. **Involve youth:** Young people are a big part of our communities. Getting them involved in neighbourhood events and activities can benefit everyone. To involve youth in your community, it’s important to develop interesting opportunities for them. Talk to them. Engage them. After all, today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders.

7. **Organize a special event:** A special event can be a great way to get your neighbourhood together and build community spirit. Whether you want to plan a community picnic, outdoor movie night, family day, carnival, street fair, talent show, dance, concert or any other type of special event, the City of Ottawa offers planning advice and information about related Bylaws. Visit www.ottawa.ca.

8. **Publish a community paper:** Community newsletters can be an entertaining way to share important information about your neighbourhood. A good newsletter contains information that is useful and interesting to the reader, such as neighbourhood news, upcoming events, tips for improving their property, local promotions and much more. Gather up volunteers, create

an editorial plan and decide whether you want to distribute it in paper or electronic format. It’s a great way to keep everyone involved and interested in what’s going on in your neighbourhood.

9. **Tap into community grants:** Do you want to buy a play structure, plan an event or beautify your neighbourhood? There are many ways to fund these community projects. You can do fundraising, approach local businesses for sponsorships or apply for grants. For more information on grant monies available, visit the Neighbourhood Toolkit (details below).

10. **Volunteer:** Volunteering is a positive way to contribute to life in the City of Ottawa. The opportunities are endless—from volunteering at schools to supporting non-profit organizations, charities, local festivals, places of worship or community programs and events. Interested? Start by connecting with Volunteer Ottawa at www.volunteerottawa.ca.

To learn more about how to put these plans into action, visit Crime Prevention Ottawa’s Neighbourhood Toolkit online at www.crimepreventionottawa.ca/toolkit. It has checklists and advice on getting each of these initiatives underway in your own community. You’ll find them under “Build Community Spirit” in the “Get Involved” section.

When Lowertown East neighbours work with each other, great things happen

Showcasing a partner of Lowertown, Our Home: Crime Prevention Ottawa

Do you know that people power can help prevent crime and keep Lowertown East safe? If you want to make a difference in your city, your neighbourhood, your school or your place of work, perhaps it’s time to gather up friends and volunteers to take action. You can address a specific problem or build community spirit through activities that bring people together.

The most successful community development projects are focused on the neighbourhood, based on its strengths and they’re driven by the community. Neighbor Power author, Jim Diers, believes that stronger neighbourhoods are built

through projects that use a community’s assets—namely, people and their passion for the place they call home.

Ready to take action? Here are Jim Diers’ top 7 tips for getting people in your community interested and involved:

1. **Have fun.** To engage your community, make it fun for everyone. Avoid meetings. Plan your projects and make them happen in a way that feeds everyone’s passion for building a better neighbourhood.

2. **Start where people are.** Go to where they live, on their street, and be sensitive to language and culture. Start with their networks, instead of trying to bring them into yours. Reach out to associations and groups.

3. **Focus on people’s passions.** Ask your neighbours, “What’s your hope for the community? What are you passionate about?” Don’t try to convince them to care about things that are important to you.

4. **Let them see results.** To keep your community engaged, show them the impact they’re having and the change they’re creating. They will come to understand that through collective action, they can make a difference.

5. **Do not sit on your assets.** Focus on every individual’s strengths and gifts: their head, heart and hands. Recognize that while everyone has needs, they also have incredible gifts. Lead them by stepping back and letting them take on small roles. They will eventually grow into bigger roles to lead the community.

6. **Recognize and celebrate.** Give recognition to those who make a difference. Lift them up so others can see what’s possible.

7. **Share stories.** Inspire your community through other people’s stories. What motivates communities are stories about people like them who have created positive change through their efforts.

Look around you. When you really pay attention, you’ll notice that your city and community are doing things to build this passion and

community spirit. Activities include:

- Events: street parties, movies in the park, festivals, community sports day
- Initiatives: walking clubs, graffiti removal projects, seniors’ programming
- Projects: skateboard parks, community gardens, homework clubs
- Safety efforts: risk assessments, safety audits, improved lighting

Crime Prevention Ottawa’s booklet, *How to Create Safe and Caring Communities: A Project Book for Your Neighbourhood*, highlights how you can improve your community through beautification projects and activities. The booklet is for residents, community groups and businesses. It features eight community-based projects from Ottawa and beyond. In each case, neighbourhoods become safer and stronger thanks to communities that care.

For more information on what you can do to make your neighbourhood a better place, download the booklet at crimepreventionottawa.ca (under Publications) or order a free copy by sending an email to cpo@ottawa.ca with your request.

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Environment happenings about Lowertown and Ottawa

Liz Bernstein

Cycling and walking made easier

If you are a cyclist, or appreciate dedi- cated cycling infrastructure for the safety of cyclists as well as pedestrians, there’s good news for you! In April, LCA repre- sentatives met with Councillor Fleury and Alanna Lacroix to discuss priorities for improving pedestrian and cycling infra- structure this term of council. Many excit- ing cycling connections will be made this year in Lowertown. They include:

- Continuing the cycling lanes on St. Patrick and Murray streets west of King Edward Avenue to Sussex Drive
- Installing cycling infrastructure on Mackenzie Avenue that connects St. Patrick to Wellington streets
- Creating a cycling connection point between Beausoleil Drive and the ByWard Market (East to West)
- Creating a south bound cycling connection point between Low- ertown and the ByWard Market (from Parent Street)
- Expanding the winter cycling net- work



North Dal bike corral installed in May at Dalhousie and St. Patrick

Meanwhile, with support from the North Dal businesses, a new bike corral was installed at Dalhousie and St. Patrick.

For pedestrians, LCA’s priority is to ex- pand the pedestrian areas and improve walking in the ByWard Market through the Market Revitalization Project in time for the Ottawa 2017 anniversary celebra- tions. A big blow was dealt for the proj- ect and the City’s Official Plan goal to “prioritize walking, cycling and transit use” and “minimize car traffic” when Councillors approved Notre Dame Cathe- dral’s fourth application for a ‘temporary’ surface parking lot, first established in 1992, in the middle of the area. (more on this in our April-May 2015 issue)

Climate change

LCA joined 18 community associations in sending a letter to Mayor Jim Watson call- ing on the City of Ottawa to do its part in making climate change action an official city priority, a “Term of Council Priority” for planning and budgeting processes for the next four years. The initiative re- sulted from a meeting of Community Associations Forum on Environmental Sustainability (CAFES). Together with Hintonburg Community Association, LCA co-organized the meeting with rep- resentatives of 18 downtown community associations and environmental organiza- tions. Councillors Jeff Leiper and David Chernushenko, Chair of the Environment Committee, MPP Yasir Naqvi and MP Paul Dewar joined as well. Councillors Chernushenko and Leiper kicked off the discussion on the Environment Commit- tee’s priorities for this Term of Council, including seeking Council endorsement of a 100% renewal energy commitment by 2050, as Vancouver has just done. Dis- cussions focused on common actions on urban trees and the City’s Urban Forest Management Strategy and climate change, resulting in letters to the Mayor on these

issues. The next day, MP Paul Dewar made a statement in Parlia- ment about the gather- ing, noting “Urban trees help to mitigate climate change, and they also make our cities better places to live. All levels of government should support this agenda.”

On April 9, a packed house of more than 100 people turned out to “The Climate Change Challenge” at the Uni- tarian Universalist Fel- lowship Church to ask elected officials from all three levels of gov- ernment in the Ottawa- Vanier riding how they can and will address climate change. Councillors Tim Tierney, Mathieu Fleury and Tobi Nussbaum, Ottawa-Vanier MPP Madeleine Meilleur and MP Mauril Bé- langer participated in the event organized by Ecology Ottawa, Climate Fast, LCA and several local organizations.

Relief for our rivers

At long last, on April 7 the federal gov- ernment announced it was stepping up to contribute its fair share to fund the Ottawa River Action Plan to clean up our rivers and allow us to stop dumping raw sewage in them. For years, LCA has joined thousands of citizens across the city in urging the provincial and federal

governments to match the City commitment. As Ontario included \$62 million in its Mov- ing Ontario Forward budget initiative, it was left to the federal gov- ernment to complete project funding, which includes building two underground combined sewage storage tun- nels to halt wastewater spills into the river. One of the tunnels will run east-west from LeBre- ton Flats to Stanley Park, under- neath Cathcart park.

Proposed Energy East pipeline

In April, TransCanada announced that they would abandon plans to build a ma- rine tanker terminal in Cacouna, Quebec for loading oil onto ships. The corporation wanted to build the terminal as part of its proposed Energy East pipeline, which would carry 1.1 million barrels per day of oil sands crude from Alberta to refineries on the east coast for export overseas, and would cross the Rideau River here in Ottawa. Plans for the terminal were aban- doned after citizens organized to protect the nearby beluga whale calving grounds, a Quebec court ordered an injunction against seismic work, and the govern- ment recommended beluga whales be re- cognized as an endangered species. Trans- Canada announced they intend to change their application with the National Energy Board in the fourth quarter of 2015, which would push their expected start date back to 2020, from a previous date of 2018. As the National Energy Board evaluates how to proceed with their current application, organizations here in Ottawa and more than 60 across the country have urged the National Energy Board to suspend their application.

Sing with us: “We don’t want your money”
John Carroll and other popular local mu- sicians announced that they refused to play at the Dandelion Festival (May 22 to 24) in Kemptville, Ontario, if Trans- Canada was a sponsor of the event. Their statement said “We, the undersigned, are local musicians and in order to stand united with our community in opposition to the TransCanada Energy East pipeline project, we have formally withdrawn our musical services from the Festival.” Mem- bers of the community, who strongly sup- port the Dandelion Festival but share the concerns of local musicians, launched a crowdfunding effort to raise money to re- turn TransCanada’s sponsorship.



Stump of tree infected with emerald ash borer at Cathcart Park

Trees of Cathcart Park

Five trees infected with the emerald ash borer were recently cut down and re- moved from Cathcart Park. On May 25, Lowertown Community Association members Isabelle Leclerc Morin and Liz Bernstein joined City of Ottawa Land- scape Architect Kendra Labrosse and Councillor Fleury’s assistant Alanna La- croix to tour the park. Kendra Labrosse has a great deal of expertise about trees and park design, including planting a va- riety of species, and this was a great op- portunity to engage LCA residents. Isa- belle favours nut and fruit bearing trees, and when asked what types the City will plant, Kendra noted that serviceberry and Turkish hazel are among them. She suggested replanting near to the tree stumps of removed trees, and near those that are infected but have not yet been removed. They have been treated with an injection which will prolong their life, but not cure the disease. Kendra assured that the tree stumps will be shaved to be flush with the ground. She will draft design plans to be shared with the com- munity in June, finalized in July and trees replanted in October, when the LCA is planning a celebration of the new trees. If you are a frequent user of the park, with children and/or dogs, and have ideas for taking advantage of the replanting in October to improve the park, or wish to adopt a tree, please let LCA know by completing a short survey on our website: www.lowertown-basseville.ca

Erratum:

Due to an editorial error, the “What’s in a name: Beth Shalom Synagogue” article pub- lished on page 6 of our April-May 2015 is- sue mentioned that the building was sold to Claridge Homes. The property was eventu- ally sold to Trinity Development Group after Claridge Homes backed out of an initial offer. We apologize for the error.



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