



Lowertown Community Association's crime and safety report

Lowertown crime data shows a safe neighbourhood in need of a crime prevention strategy.

“We have a high concentration of bars, nightclubs and restaurants, which means more intoxicated people and higher rates of interpersonal crimes. There’s more police presence, which means more crimes are reported and detected. And the nature of the neighbourhood - shelters, licensed establishments - means more intoxication, drug use and street-level assaults,” explained Norman Moyer to the many residents who came to hear and talk about crime data at Lowertown Community Association’s (LCA) April meeting.

The statistics for the neighbourhood were obtained through an Access to Information request from the Ottawa Police, a project led by residents Norman Moyer and Jan Grabowiecki for the LCA Safety and Security Committee. The data indicates that crime rates have risen slightly in Lowertown over the past six years; while the rise is not large, it has occurred at a time when crime rates are falling elsewhere in the city. Residents would like to see these numbers coming down; most feel very safe in Lowertown, except later at night, and are concerned that the media exaggerate the issue of crime in this area, portraying a negative image of a generally safe and thriving community. Lowertown is a safe neighbourhood and residents are working to keep it that way.

The community members present at the April meeting agreed that the best way to get support for crime reduction strategies and to fight the negative image portrayed by the media is to establish a solid basis of evidence on crime in the area. Using the existing crime data as a starting point, members of the LCA will be taking tangible steps to engage with the Ottawa Police, the City, and other stakeholder groups and residents to promote a collective response to crime and to illustrate that far from being an unsafe place to live, Lowertown is a community of engaged citizens with a vested interest in our neighbourhood.

The first step in addressing the question of crime is to ensure Lowertown residents and business owners have access to accurate data. In 2015, The Echo ran Jan Grabowiecki’s article asking “Can we tell if crime rates in Lowertown are increasing or decreasing?” It has taken a year to obtain a credible answer to this question: although police have crime data for the entire city, they only compile and release them if there is a specific request through



The presence of police helps stabilize the neighbourhood

the Freedom of Information Act of Ontario and if the asking party is willing to pay for the cost of producing the statistics.

The LCA is currently pushing the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) to make crime data available on the City’s open data website. Until that happens, the LCA will continue to access the data annually through FIA to track what is happening in Lowertown. At the LCA meeting in February 2016, representatives of the OPS generally confirmed the portrait that is captured in the statistics used here. However, they also suggested that some improvements may be seen in reports that were to be released soon. After waiting two months for these new numbers, to no avail, the LCA decided to proceed with releasing the statistics obtained through the FIA request.

Is crime increasing in Lowertown?

Prior to the release of the crime statistics from the OPS, residents noticed a tug-of-war between anecdotal evidence that seemed to show that crime rates were still falling in Lowertown and simplistic media reports that often portray the area as rife with crime. The statistics give a more accurate answer. The total number of crimes in Lowertown, as shown in chart 1, shows a slight increase for the period of 2009 to 2014. The chart also shows sig-

nificant year-to-year variations. The year 2012 was higher, while 2013 was much lower across all categories. Unfortunately, the numbers bounced back up in 2014. This is an indication that now is the right time for interested parties to engage more actively in this matter.

The OPS statistics are broken into major crime categories. As illustrated in chart 2, both crimes against property and crimes against people showed an increase between 2009 and 2014. The total number of reported property crimes goes from 845 in 2009 to 941 in 2014, an increase of 11%. Crimes against people increased from 350 in 2009 to 429 in 2014, a rise of 23%. It should be noted, however, that there are significant variations in the data from year to year within this six year period, with crimes against people showing a high of 478 reported incidences in 2012, and property crimes showing a high of 1033 in 2011.

According to inspector Mike Laviolette of the Ottawa Police Service, “statistics are reflective of proactive policing, which results in more charges laid in the area.”

In Chart 2, the categories are further broken down into the most common types of crimes. The total number of assaults, the most common interpersonal crime, went from 215 in 2009 to 259 in 2014, an increase of 11%, with some variation in between.

Over the same time period, reported sexual violations went from 24 in 2009 to 42 in 2014, an increase of 75%. The total number of robberies showed no increase over the six year period. In contrast, traffic-related criminal offenses went from 214 in 2009 to 165 in 2014, a decrease of 30%. Offenses under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act showed a slight increase of 230 in 2009 to 239 in 2014 (not pictured).

Attitudes to safety

Prior to obtaining the crime data from the OPS, the LCA conducted two online surveys that included questions about feelings of safety and security in Lowertown. 70% of respondents indicated that they felt safe during the day, while only 36% reported feeling safe at night. Based on this, it is important that measures to reduce crime and increase the feeling of safety be concentrated on the nighttime period. Extra police patrols would be most effective at that time.

Understanding crime in Lowertown

Crime trends in general are complex and the cause of crime in any area is never singular or simple. Factors such as variations in police resources can influence the rates of recorded crimes from year to year. Similarly, fluctuations in tourism and weather can also have a bearing on crime rates. In addition, contextual factors specific to geographic areas influence crime rates and patterns. Based on anecdotal evidence from the OPS and residents, as well as the broad criminological lit-

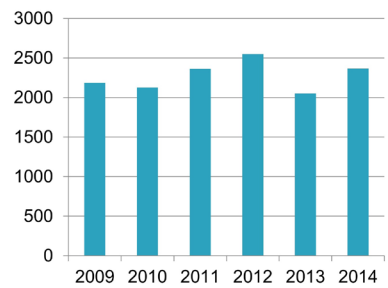
This article was written by Norman Moyer and Caitlin Hawkes-Frost .

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Crime rates in Lowertown



Total crimes:
As reported by the Ottawa Police Service in response to the LCA request for information:
• Crimes against a person
• Property crimes
• Driving-related crimes
• Other criminal code violations
• CDSA violations

Trend: small rise over a 6-year period

Chart 1: Total reported crimes per year in Lowertown

Moderate increase in both crime categories

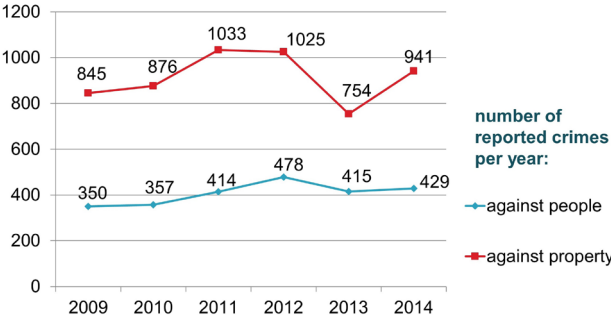


Chart 2: Crimes in Lowertown by major categories

ByWard Moves



Michelle Ramsay

Three closures, four openings and one move so far this spring. Also, lots of new patios and a lost Lowertown icon will soon be replaced. The season opened with the landlord at 39 Clarence Street locking out the owners of **Haveli Indian Restaurant** due to unpaid rent long past due - according to a notice on the door.

Stella Osteria at 81 Clarence Street was no sooner reopened following renovations than it closed again, this time permanently. A business called **Bar Gusto** has posted a 'Now Hiring' poster in the window, staking its claim on the vacated space.

Following stints in two different retail spaces at 100 Murray Street, Italian menswear boutique **Armen** shuttered its storefront and moved online to **armentstyle.com**.

Créations Lucas Jewelry Designer moved from 483 Sussex Drive to Unit 100, 260 St-Patrick Street, just east of Dalhousie Street.

In Clarendon Courtyard, 10 York Street is being fitted up for **Oz Kafe**, moving into the Market after a long and successful run at 361 Elgin Street. The owners are looking forward to having a larger space in the two-storey heritage building. It will be interesting to see how the NCC will divide up the patio area between Oz and its immediate neighbour, **Moscow Tearoom** - both of which are open from dinner to 2 am.

Two gelato places will be opening up very soon. The first, **Mantovani 1946**, will serve Italian "artisan gelato", as well as pizza, panini and pastries. The Mantovani franchise has eight gelato shops in Europe; 87 Murray Street, the space next door to **Scooteretti**, is its first in North America. Having peeked in the door to check the renovation work, we can tell you that it promises to be chic.

The second is **Sash Gelato Café**, opening in May in the storefront previously occupied by **Lush Handmade Cosmetics** at 43 Murray Street. It too will offer artisan gelato, as well as gelateria crêpes and waffles, coffee and smoothies.

Word on the street: a deli is moving into 5 By-

Ward Market Square - the old **Sausage Kitchen** space - and a bridal boutique will fill the vacancy left by **Créations Lucas** at 483 Sussex Drive.

All the street parking spots on the west side of Market Square have been kitted up with new outdoor patios for **Zak's Diner**, **Asian Alley**, **Cupcake Lounge**, and **Blue Cactus**. The parking spots will re-opened for the winter months.

Lastly, a construction permit has appeared in the window of the vacated **Mellos Restaurant** at 290 Dalhousie Street. It was issued to **Linejac Investments** and John Doran Trustee, for interior alterations on the first floor. It's likely the space is being fitted up for **ACE Mercado**, but who knows?

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

Heritage designation for King Edward synagogue

On April 26, Council approved designation as Heritage site under the Ontario Heritage Act for the former Adath Jeshurun Synagogue. The synagogue at 375 King Edward Ave. was built in 1904 for Ottawa's first Jewish congregation. It was converted into the Jewish Community Memorial Chapel in 1957, then sold to the Seventh-day Adventists in 1999. "The building has design value as an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style and as an example of early synagogue architecture, historical value for its association with architect John Watts and the Jewish community in Lowertown, and contextual value as a recognizable landmark," says the city report on the 3-storey red brick building. The Lowertown Community Association filed for the heritage designation in 2014.

LCA President's letter



Liz Bernstein, LCA president

Dear neighbours,

Isn't this such a gorgeous time of year in Lowertown? It's beautiful throughout the city, but we are fortunate with such proximity to the rivers, with many parks, trees and greenspace. On my morning run by the river, each day I see new leaves unfurling, and hear more birds and ducks. There are so many new beginnings that still seem to astound each year, and I feel such possibilities for change.

I had a similar feeling when I stood among the 1,300 who gathered on April 27 at Aberdeen Pavillion to hear Janette Sadik-Khan, former Transportation Commissioner of New York talk about the possibilities of urban transformation for safer, more livable streets, and participate in a Streetfight Fair of with 30 organizations from across the city. As one cycling enthusiast said, "it felt like I was in a megachurch" — among a community of neighbours with a common vision and common purpose, eager to contribute to building a city of streets where we can walk, bike, skateboard, wheelchair, bus, train, and gather in public spaces.

Earlier that day, Councillor Fleury, Mayor Watson, Minister Meilleur and Minister McKenna had joined Sadik-Khan to pledge support for revitalizing the ByWard Market. On May 3, the Finance & Economic Development Committee approved the plan, and on May 11 Council unanimously approved the plan. It includes \$1 million for the new George Street Plaza. As Minister Meilleur said, "We've waited for this for a long time." The plan also includes a recommendation that the city undertake proactive bylaw enforcement "to better regulate restaurants acting as bars or nightclubs". The LCA will work with Councillor Fleury's office and city staff to design an implementation plan.

The Revitalization Plan is a great step in the right direction, but we can do better. Now we must urge Council do go a step further, to improve the plans and call for matching provincial and federal infrastructure funding of \$10 million to be allocated to streetscaping and public realm to create a truly dynamic, pedestrian-friendly public space. As Minister McKenna said, "reimagining

public spaces is so important. There is a real opportunity here. We look forward to hearing more and seeing how we can be involved." It's up to us and the City to accept that invitation to submit a request, and prioritize our Market in discussions on infrastructure spending.

Media from across the city carried our appeal that Ottawa do for ByWard Market for Canada's birthday in 2017 what New York City did for Times Square.

Just a few days later, we celebrated what would have been Jane Jacobs' 100th birthday with Jane's Walk in Ottawa. Lowertown residents participated on several walks and led many, including walks on Rideau St. and "How to do a Walkability Audit". Peter Barry Padolsky led a walk through ByWard Market, informing us of the history and heritage, the planning decisions, showing us Freeman St. in the middle of The Bay, and Clarendon Court renovations. Once again I felt the sense of possibility, as 100 people came to learn about the ByWard Market and hundreds of people across the city got together to walk through communities, learn and share history, heritage, and discuss public space and community uses where we work, live and play. People care deeply about our community and our city. Ottawa is clearly part of the urban revolution.

Sadly, the ByWard BIA (the organization that represents businesses in the area) seems out of touch with this local movement. At the Finance & Economic Development meeting, they stated that improving pedestrian elements in the market will hurt business: "how can we carry potatoes?" When Jane's Walk gathered at the Market Building, with 100 people keen to appreciate the Market, the Byward BIA were upset with the crowd, urging us to move, as we may have stood in front of a stand for 5 minutes. It seems to me both the comment about pedestrians hurting business and urging Jane's Walk participants to move on were contrary to the interests of their members, the market businesses. We hope to improve our outreach efforts

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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 2016, the Echo will be published in February, May, September and November. 8,000 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

Deadline

Reserve your advertising space or submit your contribution to echo@lowertown-basseville.ca by **August 10, 2016**

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.

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 2016, l'Echo sera publié en février, mai, septembre et novembre. Son tirage est de 8000 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.

Advertising: Donna Kearns

Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions à echo@lowertown-basseville.ca avant le 10 août 2016

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.

National Capital Commission watch

Michelle Ramsay

Tin House Court Commitments

On March 11th, the National Capital Commission (NCC) hosted an information session for the residents and retailers of Tin House Court, the block bounded by Sussex-Murray-Parent-Clarence. Many of the attendees were residential and retail tenants who were evicted in September 2015 to facilitate the restoration of their NCC-owned buildings. Now they were presented with a work schedule for a project that, six months ago, was deemed so urgent that some people received only six weeks' notice to vacate.

First on the agenda was 7 Clarence, demolished in 2014 when the building was deemed too unstable to be restored. It's the first construction project to

or rehabilitation, mechanical and electrical upgrades, and universal accessibility upgrades - was issued on April 29th. The winning bidder will be announced in early June. An asbestos abatement project at 445 Sussex will begin earlier than the rest of the work. The facades will be done by January 2017; interior and structural work will follow. The NCC's goal is to have tenants in by summer 2017. If you have questions or concerns, contact NCC Client Services at 613-239-5000 or info@ncc-ccn.ca

Clarendon Court Food Folly

Following the March 11 meeting, NCC's Bill Leonard casually mentioned in conversation that the Commission is thinking about zones for the ByWard Market. This news tidbit was also mentioned in a conversation between another NCC staffer and LCA member Sylvie Grenier. Under this scheme, the Clarendon Court block bounded by Sussex-York-Market-George would be considered a "restaurant zone". This is rationalized as making it convenient for tourists and

visitors to have a designated area brimming with dining options. With a ByWard Market that already feels like wall-to-wall licensed restos and bars, is it wise to add even more in a one-block area with about 200* homes? Residents are already at their saturation point with the partying, street fights, shouting, bottle-breaking and al fresco bathroom breaks that follow the last calls at the 11 establishments on the Sussex-York-Market-George block. Enough is enough. The NCC should drop the restaurant zone idea and, instead, find ways to support the 8 food shops and 15 stores that call Clarendon Court home.

Guerilla Marketing

An ad hoc group of local business owners is not above taking matters into its own hands to promote and protect the ByWard Market brand. The dozen or so people who make up the group are all active and vocal members the ByWard Market BIA (Business Improvement Area). Despite this, they've been known to step outside the lines whenever they feel bound by red tape, no matter if it's unfurled by the BIA, the City or the NCC.

Here's one example. When the NCC papered over the windows of all the closed buildings on Sussex and Clarence, people started asking shop owners in the vicinity about it. Their impression was that all the stores had gone bankrupt. The BIA couldn't (and wouldn't) do anything because the properties are owned by the NCC. When the group asked the NCC to put up some signs to explain the buildings were closed for renovations, nothing much happened. After some futile conversations, the 'guerilla marketers' designed, printed and put up posters on each papered-over window-overnight! Next day, CTV picked up and ran with the story. Two days later, the NCC finally put up its own posters. Mission accomplished.



When the NCC did not explain where the businesses went, business owners put up their own signs on the windows of closed Sussex buildings.



Construction hoarding at Tin Court - Confederation Pavillion is scheduled to open at 7 Clarence in February 2017.

break ground, albeit a year late. A year's worth of events and programming has already been booked for the new Confederation Pavilion, beginning with its official opening in February 2017. The NCC hopes to reopen the Black Thorn at the same time as its next-door neighbor, 7 Clarence, but that date could slip a bit because they have to stabilize the structure - an unforeseen requirement. They also have to replace the roof and some windows, and restore the interior to meet building codes and accessibility needs. Restoring 445 through 465 Sussex Drive is the most complex of the three projects, and has taken more time to plan. The tender for the properties - including exteri-



Annual General Meeting
June 13, 6:00 - 8:30 pm Fieldhouse
Jules Morin Park Everyone is welcome

Assemblée générale annuelle
le 13 juin, 18h00-20h30
Pavillon du parc Jules-Morin
Tout le monde est le bienvenue

Meet your neighbours, LCA members and volunteers, elected representatives, local business people and community organizations. Be prepared to take home treasures-silent auction and door prizes.

Venez rencontrer vos voisins, les membres et bénévoles de l'association communautaire, les élus qui vous représentent, les gens d'affaires du voisinage et les membres d'associations communautaires. Vous allez peut-être retourner à la maison avec des trésors - encan silencieux et prix de présence.

PROGRAM
5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Silent Auction, Displays
6:00 - 6:45 p.m. AGM
6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Refreshments and Social
8:00 p.m. Door prizes
8:30 pm Winners of silent auction

PROGRAMME
17h30-20h30 encan silencieux , expositions
18h00-18:45 AGA
18:45 -20h00 rafraîchissements et se réunir
20h00 prix de présence
20h30 gagnant(e)s de l'encan silencieux

Please send nominations or questions for the board of directors to info@lowertown-basseville.ca by Friday June 10, 2016. Nominations may also be made at the meeting.



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Summer events in the Market

Geneviève Gazaille
City of Ottawa Markets Management
genevieve.gazaille@ottawa.ca

Like many people in Canada, every year, us Ottawans live to welcome the warm weather and the first rays of sun. Lowertown in particular sees a drastic change come the month of May with the awakening of the ByWard Market. Restaurants and bars open their patios, tourists make their way back and vendors line up the streets.

Craft, maple syrup and flower vendors are back at it, and food and flower baskets are filling ByWard Market Square. Whether it is pussy willows, fiddleheads, a new line of artisan goods or energetic buskers, their return can only mean one thing: summer is at our doors!

The outdoor market has been an Ottawa institution since 1826. Along the food retailers, distributors and hotels that lined the streets, people from all over gathered at the ByWard Market to buy and sell their

goods. Today, the tradition continues but as the landscape is changing, the ByWard Market has to evolve and be ahead of the game.

It is worth mentioning a few initiatives launched recently that will continue this year. The Authors' Market is one of these. This program allows local authors to promote and sell their books at the Market in a dedicated space at the corner of ByWard and George. Don't hesitate to stop by their table if you see them. The Demo Corner — launched two years ago — will also continue this year but in a different location. You will now be able to sample fresh Market products on a stand located amongst the agri-food vendors on ByWard.

A novelty in 2016 will be our Movies in the Market series. Starting with the outdoor screening of Grease on May 20th, a different movie will be shown every month at sundown. We look forward to seeing you!

Upcoming events:

Canada Dance comes to ByWard

June 9

Movies in the Market (French edition)

June 10

Foire du livre du marché By

June 12

Festival Franco

June 16-18

Moon Ballad Circus (Fringe)

June 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25



If you can still find fiddleheads in the market, look for tightly coiled discs that are firm and bright green in color. Remove all brown chaff, then steam or sauté them with garlic.



Madeleine Meilleur
MPP/députée
Ottawa-Vanier



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From the desk of Mauril Bélanger, Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier
Du bureau de Mauril Bélanger, député d'Ottawa-Vanier

VETERANS HOUSE

LA MAISON DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS

I would like to inform you about a great initiative which will hopefully be added to the new neighbourhood being built as part of the former Rockcliffe Air Base Redevelopment project: The Veterans House. Headed by the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI), the Veterans House is an important step in addressing homelessness among veterans in our region.

MHI is a non-profit organization with members of over 70 faith communities. Their goal is to provide safe, affordable housing for low-income residents. In many cases, they have even provided work for future tenants allowing them to take part in the creation of their new homes.

According to plans, the Veterans House would be a 40-unit permanent residence that will serve a multitude of functions. It would mainly allow veterans who are living in challenging conditions to benefit from stability and covered basic shelter needs. It would also ensure proper access to resources helping address mental health conditions and addictions, in both official languages.

I support this important project, which is an opportunity for us to positively change the lives of many, as well as to create awareness within this new community, while allowing citizens to come together in support of a great cause.

For more information, please visit www.multifaithhousing.ca

J'aimerais vous faire part d'une excellente initiative qui, espérons-le, s'ajoutera au nouveau quartier en cours de construction dans le cadre du projet de réaménagement de l'ancienne base aérienne Rockcliffe : la Maison pour les anciens combattants. Sous l'égide de l'Initiative multiconfessionnelle sur l'habitation (IMH), la Maison des anciens combattants représente un pas important vers l'atténuation du problème d'itinérance parmi certains anciens combattants de notre région.

Composé de membres de plus de 70 groupes confessionnels, l'IMH est un organisme sans but lucratif qui vise à offrir un logement sécuritaire et abordable aux personnes à faible revenu. Il est même arrivé à IMH de trouver un emploi à de futurs locataires dans le cadre de la construction de leurs nouveaux logements.

D'après les objectifs fixés, la Maison pour les anciens combattants compterait 40 unités et assurerait une multitude de fonctions. Elle permettrait d'abord et avant tout aux anciens combattants qui vivent dans des conditions éprouvantes de retrouver de la stabilité, une fois que leur besoin élémentaire d'un toit serait comblé. Qui plus est, ils y trouveraient des ressources d'aide en santé mentale et en toxicomanie dans les deux langues officielles.

J'appuie ce projet important, car il constitue un moyen d'améliorer la vie de plusieurs personnes et de sensibiliser les habitants de ce nouveau quartier à leur situation, tout en donnant l'occasion aux citoyens d'unir leurs efforts pour appuyer une juste cause.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, je vous invite à www.imhot-tawa.ca.



Mauril Bélanger
Député / MP, Ottawa-Vanier

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Public art fence transforms Bingham Park

Melissa Black

Lowertown’s Bingham Park has seen some changes and improvements; most recently a public art fence by local artist Cairn Cunnane. The functional and playful artwork entitled Our Fence highlights the entrance of the park at Dalhousie Street and welcomes the community through an elegant gate. This artwork was commissioned by the City of Ottawa Public Art Program — thanks to a policy that allocates 1% from municipal construction towards public art. The fence is a one-of-a-kind handmade artwork that adds character and playfulness to the community park. The artist intended this unique fence to be fun and filled with curiosities, so he made each section different from the last. While designing and fabricating the 200-foot-long fence, Cairn Cunnane was inspired by the history and nat-



Our Fence, Cairn Cunnane, 2015, stainless steel, Bingham Park

ural surroundings of the area. He shaped and bent metal like ripples of water to reference nearby rivers. Majestic stainless steel trees at the gate pay homage to Samuel Bingham, a lumber baron and former Mayor of Ottawa who donated the park and playground in 1897. The fence design also features playful figures in stainless steel that overlap one another, creating patterns and layers connecting to the many generations who have come and gone from this park. Councillor Mathieu Fleury and the Public Art Program are hosting a public art celebration and community barbecue at Bingham Park on Saturday June 4 at 11 am. All are welcome to come celebrate the artwork and meet the artist. Gardening enthusiasts are encouraged to join the Lowertown Community Association earlier that day at 9:30 am for the 4th annual Bingham Park garden clean-up and perennial exchange.

Water safety in the summer

Nathalie Vallières Martin

“Drowning season” begins every year on the Victoria Day long weekend in May and ends on the Labour Day long weekend in September. This summer period typically has the highest drowning rates for Ontarians. Enjoying our beaches, rivers and pools this summer can be both fun and safe, especially if you follow a few basic safety tips.

Learn to swim

It is important you and your children are able to swim, even if you are not actively involved in water sports. In Canada, drowning is the No. 1 cause of unintentional injury deaths among children 1-4 years of age, and the second leading cause of preventable death for children under 10 years. With some 500 fatalities annually, drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional death among Canadians under 60 years of age (surpassed only by motor vehicle collisions and poisoning). Swimming lessons are available for all ages and levels of ability. Swimming is enjoyable, low impact and one of the best

types of exercise available. For more information, contact your local public swimming pool.

Always supervise children near water

Keeping a watch on your children when they’re near water is the single most important precaution you can take. Parents know from experience how quickly children can do something unexpected. Proper supervision in and around water means a responsible adult keeps young children in their care both within sight and within reach.

At the beach

The city’s four beaches – Britannia, Mooney’s Bay, Petrie Island and Westboro – will all be open longer this year. Council approved a plan to provide an additional week of supervision at all four locations, with the end of the 72-day beach season calculated from the last Sunday in August prior to Labour Day weekend. Lifeguards are there to help; you should always listen to their advice.

For more information, visit: <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/parks-and-recreation/>

Community garden clean-up at Bingham Park

Bring your gardening gloves and join the Lowertown Community Association for some weeding and pruning at the 4th annual Bingham Park garden clean-up and perennial exchange, beginning at 9:30am on Saturday, June 4th. The Lowertown Community Association is responsible for the Bingham Park gardens and we welcome everyone’s help to keep the gardens looking beautiful. This is also a great opportunity to divide your perennials and bring some to exchange with neighbours. Questions? Contact: info@lowertown-basseville.ca Please join us for a BBQ right after the clean-up at 11 am, in celebration of the new public artwork at the park. See you there!

Cleaning the Capital, one Lowertown park at a time

The spring Cleaning Capital campaign ran in force from March 15 to May 15. Tim Hortons Cleaning the Capital is a city-wide event that brings together families, friends, neighbours and communities to help keep Ottawa clean and green. More than 43,000 volunteers have signed up so far to pick up litter and remove graffiti in Ottawa this spring. Last year alone, 82,000 volunteers collected almost 140,000 kilograms of litter from 1,400 locations. That’s enough to fill 100 garbage trucks. In Lowertown, volunteers set up and co-ordinated clean-up efforts for our parks: Susan Kelen at Macdonald Gardens, Catherine Mageau-Walker for the Jules Morin area and Sandra Milton at Bordeleau Park. Thank you all!



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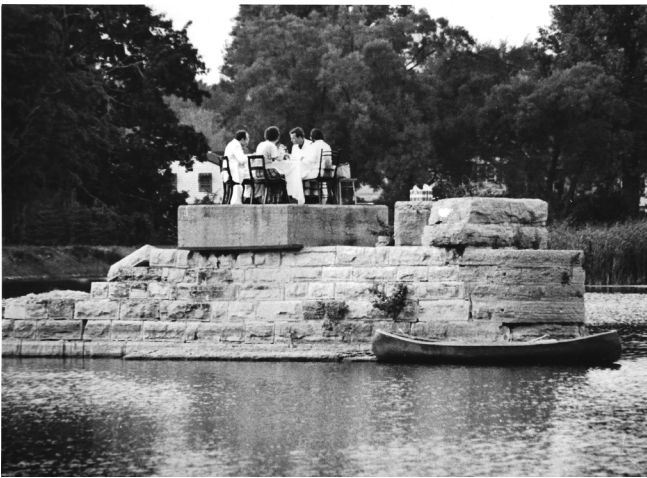
Lowertown firsts: Bytown and Prescott Railway

Nancy Miller Chenier

In 1854, the Bytown and Prescott Railway was the first rail line to reach Bytown. Its Sussex Street station - located in the area now covered by the Lester B. Pearson building - provided an important connecting point for royalty, politicians, entrepreneurs, immigrants, and others arriving via Montreal and Toronto. Today, the two stone piers standing precariously in the Rideau River and the historic plaque installed by the National Capital Commission in the nearby park are the only physical reminders of the Bytown and Prescott Railway Bridge that predated the City of Ottawa. The bridge, known to locals as “the Black Bridge” figured prominently in many tales of daring exploits by young Lowertown citizens who dodged trains when using it as a pedestrian crossway or a diving platform. By the mid-1970s, the remaining piers were a favoured summer dining loca-



Bytown and Prescott Bridge ca1950



Ladida Dining Club on Railway Pier, Aug 1975

tion for the Lowertown Ladida Club.

The bilingual plaque for the Bytown and Prescott Railway Bridge/Le pont ferroviaire de la ligne Bytown-Prescott located in King Edward/Bordeleau Park reads as follows:

The first railway reached Ottawa (Bytown) in 1854 and connected the future capital to Montreal and Toronto, via Prescott. The tracks were removed between 1964 and 1966 to permit construction of the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge and Vanier Parkway. The piers, which still stand in the river, are the last remains of this important page of the region's railway history.

Une première ligne de chemin de fer atteignait Ottawa (Bytown) en 1854, reliant ainsi la future capitale à Montréal et à Toronto, en passant par Prescott. La voie ferrée a été enlevée entre 1964 et 1966 pour permettre la construction du pont Macdonald-Cartier et de la promenade Vanier. Les piles qui émergent de la rivière sont les derniers témoins de cette page importante de l'histoire ferroviaire régionale.

Vignette du village: Little Jack and the wonders of Lowertown

Vincent Bergeron
Oral histories from Lowertown residents

Now residing in Plantagenet, Jack Daoust still remembers vividly his early years in Lowertown. In is seared in his memory as the most dynamic and lively neighbourhood of Ottawa. Jack recalls living with his parents, his two brothers and his sister at 97 Dalhousie Street as the most wonderful time of his life. From 1947 until the family moved to Chelsea in 1956, little Jack's world was all about his family, friends and neighbours. One of the best spots to have fun in the neighbourhood was the park at the corner of Dalhousie and Cathcart - officially Bingham Park, but called Cathcart Park by the children. With school friends or other neighbourhood kids of all ages, the park was where Jack always went to play all kinds of sports — soccer or softball in the summer, hockey in the winter. With so many kids in the community getting together there, it seemed that the whole neighbourhood was look-

ing after the kids. On summer weekday evenings, the recreation staff would show open-air movies using the park's shack walls as screens. Jack would sometimes watch them from his cousin's porch across the street. In winter, aside from playing hockey on the ice rink, the most anticipated were the winter festival festivities. On one occasion, Jack decided to experiment with how many hot chocolates he could drink. Being young, he drank and drank, and, as expected, was sick in the evening - proving that there is such thing as too much hot chocolate! Since his house was close to the train yard, Jack would hear the trains pass by. The freedom he had as a child allowed him to explore the tracks. One day, he went there with his cousin Butch and saw an unsupervised handcar. Because they had seen the workers pulling the cranking bar up and down easily, they assumed that it wouldn't be much harder for them to do it, too! With both hands on the bar, Jack pushed down as hard as he could, hoping desperately for the handcar to



Jack's apartment building at the corner of Dalhousie and Boteler. Archives Cda MIKAN 4511687, via J. Ouellette & D. Gagné

move. Fortunately, it was a lot harder than it looked, and it did not turn into a silent movie rogue handcar scene; but the train yard workers saw them, and the boys had to quickly flee the scene. Another train yard memory involved Jack voluntarily testing the

fruit that was delivered by train to see if they were any good. Back then, trains would arrive with all kind of fruit for the Ottawa stores in cars that had doors opening on both sides. Once the workers were away from the train car and the merchandise, Jack would open the other side door and select some samples. Fresh fruit was never wasted! When his family left Lowertown and moved to Chelsea in 1956, Jack felt as if his life would never be the same. He was not only losing his friends and his neighbours, but also the place he called home. However, all of his great memories of family, friends and neighbours will remain with him forever in his childhood's wonderland of Lowertown.

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New hotel to celebrate Ottawa

Michelle Ramsay

“Andaz always tells the neighbourhood story, and this—Ottawa—is a big story,” says Matt Graham, General Manager (GM) of a new boutique hotel still under construction at the corner of York and Dalhousie in the ByWard Market.

Andaz is a Hyatt brand, comprising 12 hotels in vibrant urban locations such as Liverpool Street in London, 5th Avenue in New York, and Prinsengracht in Amsterdam. Five more will open this year, including the ByWard Market location. According to Lippincott Corporation, the New York branding firm that named the hotel, “Andaz is a Hindi word meaning personal style.”

The hotel in our neighbourhood will indeed be very personal. The Andaz ByWard Market is being styled for “the traveller who wants to immerse oneself in the local culture. They want to learn about the community and have a deeper understanding of the people,” says Graham. From the environment to the experience, every detail will celebrate Ottawa.

Toronto-based Mason Studio has designed the interior spaces of the 16-storey hotel “to reflect Ottawa’s identity as the capital of Canada,” Graham explains. “At street level, the restaurant is inspired by the land and its abundance. The design of the check-in lounge is inspired by the mind, more specifically the history and culture of Canada.” The second floor is a city-themed event space, with six small rooms that can be opened up as needed.

The design story continues through the tower. Each floor reflects the history and character of a province or territory, beginning with Ontario on the third floor. The rooftop celebrates the view, Ottawa’s neighbourhoods and waterways as far as the eye can see and, of course, Parliament Hill. It’s nice to know too, that it’s built on the actual foundations of the historic Union du Canada building that once stood on the site. The basement of the previous structure was also retained.

The personality of the individual spaces will be expressed with art. Close to 200 pieces are being supplied by the Canada Council Art Bank, which has a collection of 17,000 artworks - including sculptures, paintings, photographs, and, multimedia and textile pieces. The collection being curated for the Andaz includes not only contemporary pieces, but also aboriginal and historically-inspired artwork. The themed guest floors will be home to art that is created by an artist from, and/or characteristic of, the featured province or territory.

Graham and the interior designers are also tapping into and supporting the local art community, via the Ottawa School of Art (OSA) on York Street. An OAS student was hired to design hotel collaterals, including the room key folder. OAS will also

mount a continuing exhibition of student art, to be displayed in a custom-designed wall gallery in the elevators. The exhibit will be refreshed every three months.



View from rooftop

Photo by Rachel Kerr, Andaz ByWard Market

Also sourced locally: coffee, room amenities, craft beers, various food products and executive chef Stephen La Salle. The Ottawa native moved from the Albion Rooms to the Andaz in March. LaSalle will partner with local markets and farmers to develop menus for the 100-seat ground floor restaurant, 110-seat rooftop tapas and cocktails lounge, and banquet services. “Our food and beverage venues are not just for people staying here,” says Graham. “The restaurant will be high quality, comfortable dining with good ingredients, a nice option for people in the neighbourhood.”

hoods, such as the Glebe and Westboro. “This hotel is designed for the outwardly thinking person who wants to learn more about Ottawa. They want authenticity and

experience. That means everyone who works here has to know the city inside and out.” He adds, “Our guests don’t ask, where’s the closest Starbucks? They ask, What’s the best local coffee shop? That’s Origin, that’s Bluebird, that’s Bridgehead. The staff is not scripted, so it depends on whom you ask.”

The ambiance that staff experience in the Andaz promises to be very different from other hospitality properties in Ottawa. ‘Front-of-the-house’ personnel are not differentiated - there are no bellhops, concierges and front desk persons. Everyone is a host, engaging with guests as peers.



Rendering of hotel terrace. The hotel will have a 100-seat ground floor restaurant and a 110-seat rooftop tapas and cocktails lounge.

Since he arrived in Ottawa at the end of December, Matt Graham has been out meeting people at all the popular venues in the Market and in other neighbour-

Staff are not scripted; they do not have to wear a uniform or name tag. There is no front desk.

“Registering has become too transac-

tional,” explains Graham. “We have removed the functional barrier.” Hosts welcome guests to the hotel and Ottawa in a comfortable lounge, sitting down with them and offering refreshments before running a slide show of available rooms on an iPad. Then they register the guests and escort them to their chosen room.

When the time comes to hire hosts for the ByWard Market Andaz, Graham will be looking for “people who know the city, have walked the city, and understand the city.” He adds, “The best hosts have natural humility. The way they interact with their guests will be nice for the community to see and a nice surprise for our guests.”

It’s evident that Matt Graham is a consummate host. Graham says he is “From everywhere. Born in New York City, grew up in New Jersey, haven’t lived in any place for more than four years.” In his 20 years with Hyatt, he has worked in New York City, Washington DC, Miami, Rochester, Boston and Savannah. This posting is his second Andaz brand hotel. He is the only American on staff, chosen to open the Ottawa property because he is so familiar with the Andaz guest experience.

His delight in the guest experience is most evident when describing Andaz Salon, an event series that is common in concept across all the brand’s hotels, yet unique in how it is manifested at each location. “It’s all about connections facilitated by a great space,” Graham states as he explains the concept. The Salon is usually an evening event which highlights ‘cultural insiders’, guides to local knowledge and creative experiences. These insiders can be artists, chefs, dancers, photographers, musicians, even chocolatiers. The hotel invites both guests and local residents to attend.

“In Savannah, we did one with a local beekeeper, Ted Dennard, who talked about his heritage hives. After that, local chocolatier Adam Turoni came and talked about making chocolate. Ted attended Adam’s Salon. About six months later, Adam was producing honeycomb-embossed chocolate bars and honey-infused truffles—all inspired by and made with honey from Ted’s hives. Adam went on to win a big award thanks to the honey connection.” (Editor’s note: In 2015, the Culinary Institute of America named him one of the Top Ten chocolatiers in North America.)

Graham concluded the interview with an invitation to Lowertown residents to come out and see the hotel for themselves. “We’re great at throwing parties and inviting people in. And there will be some introductory pricing for locals who want to stay in the hotel.”

The Andaz ByWard Market will open its doors in late July or early August. Follow its progress at Ottawa.Andaz.Hyatt.com.



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ByWard Market revitalization kicks off with George Street Plaza \$1M project

The long-awaited Market revitalization plan was approved in early May, in a unanimous vote of the City Council's finance and economic development committee. Assertively named "A New Direction for the ByWard and Parkdale Markets," the plan proposes a new governance model for the Market and a re-design of the public realm, with a first project that will see George Street Plaza overhauled as an Ottawa 2017 Legacy project. The plan does not include a car-free area for the market, as many residents hoped and many business owners opposed.

The plan was presented to the community at the April 11 LCA meeting by Court Curry for the City of Ottawa.

First, the plan recommends the creation of a not-for-profit Municipal Service Corporation (MSC) to operate the ByWard and Parkdale Markets. The City will continue to own the properties and hold responsibility for their lifecycle. City Council will appoint the MSC Board of Directors and will

set powers and duties. The MSC must have a self-sustaining financial business plan and report to council annually. This recommendation is meant to reduce regulation and to allow Market management to be more nimble and innovative, in a context where bars, night clubs and restaurants have come to dominate and define the ByWard Market, and where resident needs are losing out to tourist needs. Asked whether there is a plan to limit the number of bar and nightclub licenses, Curry said that "bars and night clubs will continue to be permitted so long as they comply with the provisions of the City's Zoning By-law. Activities are proposed to be undertaken to ensure that property owners are complying with the provisions of the Zoning By-law. The regulation of the provision of liquor licences is the responsibility of provincial authorities."

The second recommendation is a \$1M project to redesign a section of George Street as a permanent public

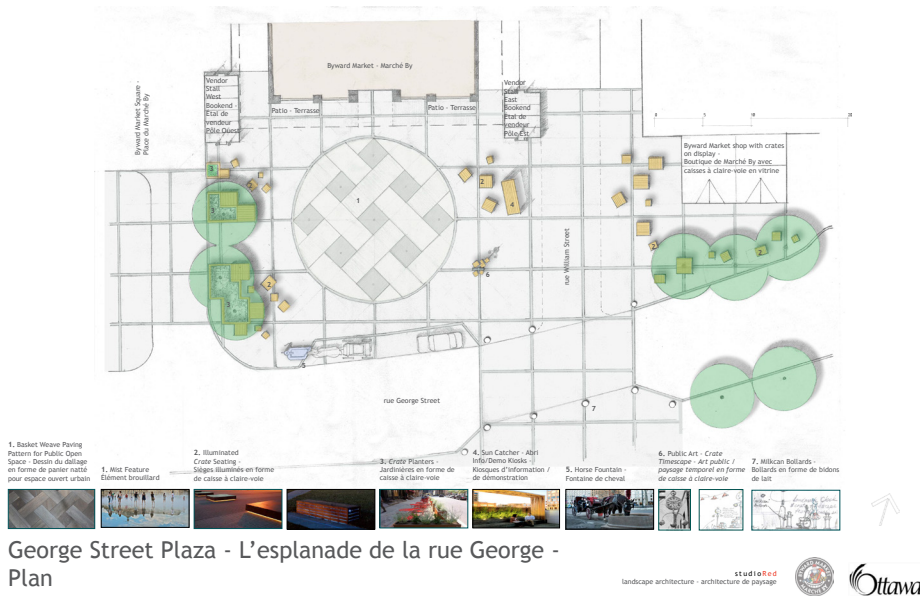
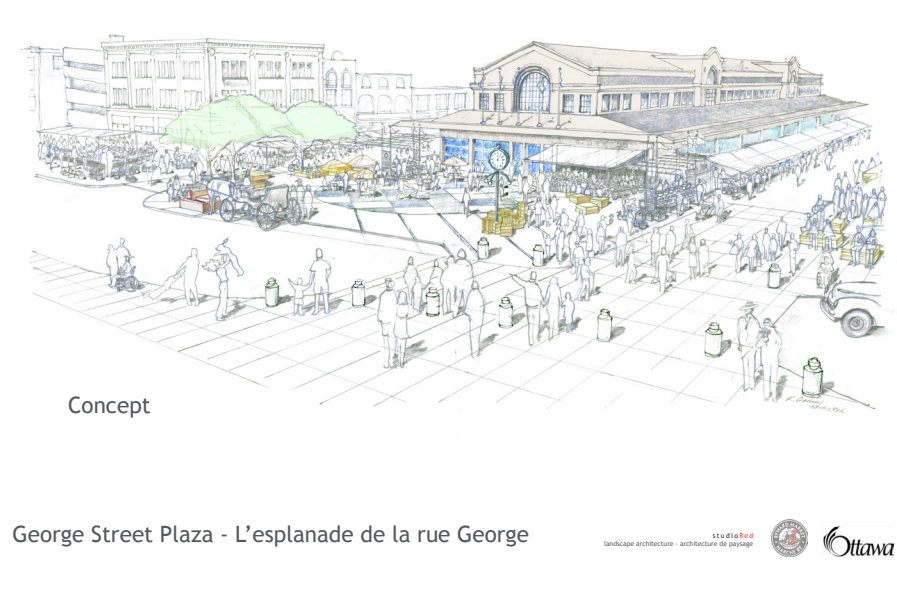
plaza in front of the ByWard Market, an open space offering a great visual of the Market building façade when stepping out from the new LRT station. George Street Plaza will be a gathering place, with flexible space for programmed events. The preliminary design concept shows elements that seek to capture the tradition and character of the market: illuminated crate seating and planters made of cor-ten (a corrosion-resistant steel alloy), public art, a mist fountain and a horse fountain, milk can bollards, new curbs and pavers. This will no longer be a permanent vendor space.

In answer to residents' and business owners' concerns about the new public space becoming a homeless or illegal activity camp-out, like the William St. plaza and many other market areas, Curry said that "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles were used in the design process. City staff are also developing a security plan for the plaza that will include patrols by staff and community

police partners." Asked if the existing vendor stands would move elsewhere or would have to go, Curry responded that some vendors will require relocation for the plaza redevelopment to proceed. "It is hoped that the vendors will stay and take up another vacant stand space in the ByWard Market." Others voiced the need to support local farmers and artisans, who are being undercut and squeezed out by resellers.

Heritage advocates pointed out that ByWard Market is a Heritage Conservation District, but the plans are not going to the Built Heritage Sub-Committee for review or approval; they would like to see an Interpretation Centre built into the plans for revitalization.

A public consultation was held on May 11; construction is planned for September 2016 and will be completed by July 1, 2017. Overall, the proposal was well received by the community, and we will report on any changes in our next issue.



Ottawa Police Service Initiative moves community officers to frontline patrol

In a move that raised hackles throughout the city's community and business associations, and vexed a few councillors and its own union, Ottawa Police has shifted over 100 specialized officers to a "frontline deployment model". This will see community officers - who spent many years building ties to their assigned communities - reassigned to frontline work. The new service model was presented at a public consultation held at the city hall on April 25. The model is rife with management terminology ("demand management" to "streamline intake process" in a "frontline functional model") and less clear on how the specific needs of communities will be addressed. Residents and advocates of Hintonburg, Vanier and Lowertown spoke vehemently against the one-sided decision path that led to the new model, arguing that it takes years to build the trust and community connections that allowed to successfully address persistent issues in high-crime neighbourhoods. They cautioned that this is a shift from proactive to reactive community policing, with unfortunate consequences. They also argued that the consultation was an afterthought, brought upon by negative public reaction. "The time for meaningful



District Police Officers get to know people on the streets of Lowertown

consultation is now," said councillor Jeff Leiper, who credits community policing with addressing Hintonburg's crackhouse problems of two decades ago. "Local community police offices are safe spaces to talk to police, and the community officer has the time and mandate to be proactive," he added.

The police also completely withdrew service on bylaw calls. This means they

are no longer responding to noise complaints or any bylaw calls unless deemed "a threat to public safety." This is a concern in neighbourhoods with large student populations and absentee landlords. Councillor Mathieu Fleury spoke of the positive interaction between community police officers and residents, and asked for a hold on the decision to stop responding to bylaw calls; he was told by police board

chair Eli El-Chantiry that the change has been in the works since 2013 and it is now a fait accompli.

OPS promised further consultation on the service initiative, and now a public survey is available on their website until June 10: <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/news-and-community/service-initiative.asp>. Have your say!

Debate: supervised injection site (SIS)

Sandy Hill Community Health Centre hosted visits and held consultations throughout April for the proposed supervised drug injection site at their Nelson Street location. The proposal will go to their board in June; to deliver service, the Centre is looking to apply to the federal government for an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. The Echo received contributions from advocates who support or oppose an injection site, presented on pages 10 and 11. City officials are still not on board: Mayor Watson favours drug treatment centres instead, and police chief Bordeleau believes a supervised injection site is a threat to public safety.

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Injection sites: because everyone matters

Catherine Hacksel is a program coordinator for the Drug Users Advocacy League and a research assistant at the University of Ottawa

Last week, my neighbour and I talked about the fentanyl crisis in Ottawa. The conversation was prompted by a news story on the subject, featuring myself and other members of Drug Users Advocacy League. He told me he was surprised, and had not considered Ottawa a town with such a drug problem: It's so conservative here.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opiate drug, is a powerful painkiller. Initially prescribed to cancer patients or those post-operation, the patch is meant to slowly release soothing drugs over a few days. However, people discovered the impact of smoking these patches, or boiling them down and injecting their contents. While patch-return programs at pharmacies (intended to prevent illicit sales and use) have begun to gain traction, powdered fentanyl has emerged from illegal drug labs across the country.

The drug market — arguably, capitalism at its most violent - is simple supply and demand. At the moment, Canada is the second-highest consumer of opiates in the world. They are being prescribed en masse, and sold illicitly across the country. There's a lot of suffering out there.

Addiction is an illness characterized by isolation and feelings of worthlessness. For most, it's a response to trauma or emotional neglect. As my friend Jordan has described it to me, drugs become your best friend. They don't judge, and they're always there for you. Despite dangerous or self-destructive behavior, addiction has a way of keeping you company in a downward spiral.

Helping someone overcome their addiction takes patience and empowerment. It requires hope and opportunities for advancement. People who inject drugs in Ottawa need much more than a safe injection site — but it's a crucial piece of the puzzle. Meeting people where they are at and accepting them is the first step to building a constructive relationship with positive outcomes.

I know this first-hand. As a member of Drug Users Advocacy League (DUAL), I coordinate a weekly drop-in program for people who use drugs in Lowertown. For two hours once a week we provide fresh breakfast, nursing care, program referrals, and drug using equipment. But most importantly, we offer a space where people can just be themselves without judgment or punishment. This simple gesture of acceptance and welcoming is a rare commodity for many of our attendees. Our staff who cook and serve are all people with lived experience of drug use, and can offer peer support to those entering the space. Every week I am inspired by the team's passion, knowledge, and contagious optimism. On a modest \$50 budget, we employ two people a week and typically serve over 40 individuals.

Observing the nurses provided by Ottawa Public Health has taught me a lot about building trust in medicine. Nearly every week they are present to offer services, but it often takes a DUAL member to connect an attendee with care. Shame and judgment become so internalized during addiction that many who need medical attention avoid seeking it until the situation is dire. I am proud of the nursing services accessed in our space, the most popular being wound care, but also ranging in blood testing for infectious diseases and Naloxone training.

Naloxone is a drug that is made and distributed in an effort to reduce fatal opiate overdoses. The drug temporarily blocks the brain receptors affected by opiates, which during an overdose could cause an individual to stop breathing, suffer brain damage, or die. While largely hailed as a miracle drug, Naloxone is still inaccessible for many who could benefit from it. One immediate barrier is stigma — Ottawa Public Health will provide free Naloxone kits to anyone who identifies themselves as an opiate consumer. However, this program is not widely known and has only been accessed by roughly 200 people since its launch in 2012. For a city that hosts an estimated three to five thousand injection drug users, there's still a long way to go. In addition, many people who are at risk of overdose are so caught up in their using that they don't think to protect themselves with this program. Instead, partners, parents and friends seek

it out, but cannot receive a kit if they themselves are not at risk.

While Naloxone has recently been recognized by Health Canada as a drug that should be available without prescription, that policy change has yet to trickle down to Ottawa Public Health. And on its own, Naloxone cannot curb fatal overdoses in this city. Why, you may ask?

Because too many people are using alone. I-Track, a national surveillance study on people who inject drugs across Canada, has found that the majority of respondents most commonly used drugs by themselves. Unless the individual has time to pre-load their Naloxone kit (it comes in an injectable fluid) and act immediately upon feeling an overdose, the situation can quickly turn for the worse. As a research assistant with University of Ottawa contracted to interview people for I-Track, hearing these stories firsthand blew me away; housing may take drug use off the streets, but it does not guarantee safety.

While they operate discreetly, Ottawa has fairly comprehensive harm reduction programs. Harm reduction is a series of strategies and services meant to alleviate the harms of drug use. Free Naloxone kits would be an example of such a program. In Ontario, we've been providing sterile drug using equipment for people who inject since 1991 to combat HIV and Hepatitis C transmission. We offer twenty needle exchange programs across Ottawa, over a dozen of which include safer inhalation supplies, and three mobile services. However, there are still obvious gaps — for instance, only one service operates after 1:00am, at the Shepherds of Good Hope shelter. For unstably housed or homeless drug users living outside the ByWard Market, this can result in shared equipment, but typically means buying supplies from those who exploit this gap in care.

Another obvious gap is the lack of sanctioned places for people to actually use their free city needles. Safe injection sites protect drug users from criminal prosecution during access, providing an opportunity for an individual to use in a clean environment with staff they can trust. There is no risk of robbery or rape in a safe injection site. These risks, however, exist elsewhere. In a safe injection site, one can take their time finding a vein, something very important if you've injected for a number of years. Many people who have injected drugs for a long time have collapsed veins and can turn to high-risk spots for easy access if the timing is tight — a good example of this is jugging, when an individual shoots into their jugular. This is high risk for overdose, and for cases of bacterial infection that go straight to the heart. It's a scary option, but necessary if one needs to use quickly in a public place.

Instead of providing people a safe place to go, we reduce homeless drug users to public washrooms and parkettes. A conservative town, we don't want to see the need in our streets. Needle Hunters scour Lowertown on a daily basis, cleaning up the evidence, while the Mayor deflects any calls for action. While detox and rehab are easy answers, people need to survive to seek treatment.

Harm reduction is health promotion. Amongst the vast research on Vancouver's Insite, one of the most powerful findings was the uptake in self-care. People who used Insite were 30% more likely to enter detoxification programs than those who injected elsewhere. People who use Insite are more likely to practice safer behavior beyond the facility, wearing condoms and not sharing their needles. Harm reduction is about prioritizing health and dignity unconditionally; forcing people into dangerous situations does not deter drug use, only increases their harms.

We live in a country where we take pride in offering health care to all. None of us are perfect, but we all deserve an efficient and evidence-based health care system. Safe injection sites offer a stepping stone, and when effectively implemented reduce public drug use in the surrounding area. In Rideau-Vanier, the need is clear — 75% of city-wide drug litter is found in this ward.

As an advocate and community member working with people who use drugs, I know there is more we can do as a community and country. We need to treat addiction as an illness, not a crime. A safe injection site is not a cure-all, but it does offer one thing addicted people need most — hope.

Injection sites: the numbers do not support the need

Chris Grinham co-founded Safer Ottawa, a non-profit organization that promotes drug treatment, education and prevention. Safer Ottawa picked up thousands of needles and drug equipment discarded on Lowertown and Sandy Hill streets.

We started Safer Ottawa in 2007 to pick up discarded needles in the neighbourhood. The reason we started it was that a neighbour came by and told us that some of the kids in our neighbourhood were seen playing with a discarded needle and she asked me if I can go and pick it up. So, with a set of pliers and a Maxwell house coffee can, I walked over and picked up my first needle. Over the next three years, my wife and I picked up 7,000 more.

We worked really hard with the City, Ottawa Public Health and Ottawa police to get changes to how needles were both handed out and how they were picked up, and that was extremely effective. During that exercise, we realized that needles were not the problem - they were a symptom of the problem and the problem was addiction, so if we wanted to have the most positive effect possible we had to get to the root cause and not simply clean up the spillage.

We continue to check on the situation of discards in the city and we are still very pleased with the response time and the serious reduction of discards visible on the streets. That is not to say that needles do not end up discarded improperly, but it's happening significantly less than it was in 2007. We will continue to monitor that situation and report our findings to the city.

Once again, there is a push for Supervised Injection services in the City of Ottawa, and once again we find it important to provide correct and accurate information to the public and decision makers.

There are three main arguments that proponents of Supervised Injection Services in Ottawa make for the need for Supervised Injection Site(s) in Ottawa: to prevent/reduce Infection of HIV and Hepatitis-C; to prevent/reduce overdose deaths from injection drug use; to connect people who use drugs with health services.

A closer look, however, shows that the facts and numbers do not support the claim that there is a need for supervised injection services in Ottawa, nor does the evidence support claims that they will be in any way effective.

Ottawa HIV Infections

There were a total of 50 HIV infections in Ottawa in 2015. That is a 6-year low, which continues a down-

ward trend: from 72 infections in 2010 to 50 infections in 2015. The vast majority of HIV infections in Ottawa are not attributed to Injection Drug Use (IDU), but to unprotected sex. Only approximately 7% of HIV infections in Ottawa have been attributed to IDU. If we follow the numbers from the official studies of 2011 and 2013 and apply those ratios to 2015, that would suggest that of the 50 infections that occurred in 2015 in Ottawa, 3 or 4 infections might have occurred through injection drug use. It is important to note that infections rates associated to IDU are not confirmed to be caused by IDU, just considered likely, as such the numbers could be lower, however we feel it to be the responsible approach to quote the highest possible number based on these reports.

Ottawa Hepatitis-C (HCV) Infections

Ottawa tracks Acute (new) and Chronic (pre-existing) cases of Hepatitis-C (HCV) together; as such, it makes it difficult to track year to year new and pre-existing cases. In 2013, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) released a report titled Substance Misuse in Ottawa Technical Report which broke down these numbers. There were a total of 206 Acute (new) and chronic (pre-existing) cases of HCV in Ottawa in 2015. That is a 6 year low and continues a 3 year downward trend: from 230 in 2010 to 2016 in 2016.

The report found that, of the 2010 infections, 17 were potentially attributable to IDU; in 2011, that dropped to 9 infections that were potentially attributable to IDU. Once again, it is important to note that infections rates associated to IDU are not confirmed to be caused by IDU, just considered likely.

It is clear that Ottawa does not have the out of control or skyrocketing infection rates as some have claimed. In fact, Ottawa's infection rates are considerably lower than most, if not all, other major cities within Canada. Below is a sample of the most recently available information from comparable and/or surrounding cities.

Overdose deaths in Ottawa

Each year there are approximately 40 drug overdose deaths in Ottawa. This number has been quoted very frequently in the media; however, in most cases, whether purposefully or not, it is quoted incorrectly and without proper context. That number includes both intentional (suicide) and unintentional overdoses, which in turn include accidental prescription medication misuse — such as dosage or combining with other medications.

To get the most accurate informa-

tion possible regarding Injection Drug Use overdose death statistics, we contacted the Regional Supervising Coroner's office and requested information on overdose deaths in Ottawa which occurred from an injection, both intentional and unintentional overdose. Based on the report from the coroner, there have been a total of 25 deaths from 2008 to 2014 from drug overdose by injection, giving Ottawa an average of 3.5 deaths per year from injection drug overdose. This makes it that, while every death is tragic, Ottawa does not have a large problem of overdose death from injection drug use.

Connect people who use drugs with health services

We have addressed this several times and our position has not changed. A supervised injection site is not required to connect people with health services. We have dozens of agencies and organizations within Ottawa that do just that every single day, including but not limited to Needle and Stem distribution and exchange locations, Community health Centres, Homeless Shelters, Ottawa Police, Ottawa inner city health, Ottawa Public health, religious organizations and many non-profit groups. To suggest that you need an SIS to provide access to health services or to perform outreach services is not only false but, in our opinion, a serious insult to those that work tirelessly in these services and vocations every single day.

We do not think that the supervised injection site in Vancouver has been very effective. There are many studies that show how effective InSite is — however, a good majority of those studies were written or co-authored by the very people that founded InSite in the first place. They attribute reductions in disease to the supervised injection site, while ignoring many other factors, including other organizations' health initiatives and, of course, law-enforcement initiatives.

The situation in the downtown east side Vancouver is still terrifyingly deplorable. There is so much misery on those streets and it doesn't seem to be getting any better. InSite has been in operation for 13 years and Vancouver still has the highest rates of HIV and hepatitis C in the country and the downtown side of Vancouver is still one of the worst neighbourhoods in Canada.

Based on the official numbers of infection and overdose death in Ottawa, the proposed Injection Site(s) would be established to attempt to reduce: 4 or less HIV infections per year; 9 or less HCV infections per year; and 4 or less

IDU overdoses per year.

Since an SIS is not mandatory, meaning not all users would use its services and certainly not for all injections, and since we have no geographical data to link where these infections and overdose deaths occurred, we cannot be even remotely certain if an SIS in Sandy Hill/Lowertown area would even reach this very small target population. Therefore, it is impossible to claim that an SIS would have any positive impact at all on the rate of HIV/HCV or number of overdose deaths in Ottawa; it is more than plausible to say that it would not. Adding to that the obvious reality that Supervised Injection Services are not needed for outreach services, and we can see absolutely no justification for opening an SIS in Ottawa.

The numbers show quite clearly that the City of Ottawa has been doing a very good job at reducing infection rates and has done a fantastic job at keeping injection drug related overdose deaths extremely low. What we don't have in Ottawa are enough resources to provide services to help people suffering from addiction; if someone asks today "please help me, I need to get clean" - the answer in most cases would be "we'd love to help, but no help is available" and that is truly tragic.

The truth is, and this is something that everyone from all sides of this issue agrees on, Ottawa needs more services for housing, detox, treatment and aftercare. The wait times for treatment are shockingly long, the availability of housing to get street-involved addicts out of the environment surrounding the shelters and street life is low, and again, wait times for a unit are far too long and aftercare services in most cases are all but non-existent.

If we are being truly honest, the only way to guarantee someone does not become infected or dies of an overdose because of injection drug use is to help them break free from addiction, to provide them the services and support necessary to stay free of addiction and help them return to a healthy lifestyle.

There's a limited pot of money to help street-level addicts and we have to make sure that we get the best results we can with the funds we have available. Those results are best achieved through treatment programs, aftercare programs, housing initiatives and prevention programs. We should be at all times in the business of doing everything and anything we can to help people get off drugs - that is the only way that they can return to a healthy and safe standard of living.



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La Nouvelle Scène, centre du théâtre francophone d'Ottawa

Hélène Beauchamp

Born, raised and schooled in Lowertown East, Hélène Beauchamp taught at the University of Ottawa (1966-1975) and at UQAM (1975-2003). She has published widely in French on the history of St. Anne church and parish, St. Anne hall, Ruling 17 and on francophone theatre in the Ottawa/Gatineau region.

We have all noticed that a new neighbour to the Champagne Bath has finally emerged and stands proud at 333 King Edward Avenue. The long-awaited theatre building - La Nouvelle Scène - has opened its doors to visitors, spectators, artists of theatre, music, dance, cinema, the visual arts. This is really a cause for joy.

The building that stood on the site before was torn down in March of 2013.



A new building for La Nouvelle Scène.

If things had gone as planned, the new theatre would have opened its doors in September 2015; but things didn't go as planned, and the official opening was postponed a few times. Many city permits later, and after two more years of patience and a \$1 million gift from Gilles Desjardins, president of Brigil construction, the theatre announced a « clandestine season » starting this January 2016. The building was still missing the last finishing touches, but the theatre spaces were ready.

I took the opportunity to see a show in the 170-seat main hall and another one in the 60-seat experimental studio: both beautiful, fully operational spaces. A third hall for rehearsals can accommodate 40 persons. At last, the francophone community has its own theatre and the artists - all 250 of them in a given year - could come home to great performance spaces. The official opening is scheduled for May 2016.

Like the phoenix, La Nouvelle Scène has now risen from its ashes. <http://nouvellescene.com/>

A long history of French theatre

Theatre has been performed in French in Ottawa since the 1880s, and the most popular venue then was right here in Lowertown East - the St. Anne hall, built in 1874 next to St. Anne church on St. Patrick Street. Back then without television or internet, people loved to meet for theatre, concerts, conferences and banquets in the three story parish hall (demolished in 1982). All performances were by excellent amateur groups. Melodrama was the favorite fare.

In the 1930s, francophone artists of the Ottawa region started training - some of them even went to Paris - to professionalize their art. The most interesting theatre venues in Lowertown were then the auditorium of Académie De La Salle at Sussex and Guigues, and the Monument National at George and Dalhousie (demolished in 1961).

By the 1960s, a new brand of artists had appeared: the young and creative. They formed their own companies, performed their own scripts in new and free acting styles and founded Théâtre Action in 1972.

Credit: Patrick Potvin

This very active association works today from its offices

on Montreal Road.

Feeling very strongly about the artistic experiences they could offer to spectators of all ages, those companies went on tour throughout Ontario, organised festivals and training workshops. They grew so well, became so knowledgeable in the techniques of the stage, wrote such strong plays, attracted such an interested public that they soon realised they were missing a theatre building, a place where their spectators, young and old, would know where to find them.

The search for a home

The desire for a building to perform theatre in was at its strongest during the 1970s, when Lowertown Ottawa was experiencing major transformations. The companies, along with interested artists, started looking around and set their eyes on a few buildings that could meet their requirements: 18 York Street - but the NCC bought it from under their feet; the synagogue at the corner of Murray and King Edward - but the zoning was changed and the building demolished; the dream of a space on the second floor of the new By-Ward market building did not take flight. Their final bid was on the Guigues school, but the school board chose another use for

the building. By that time, the National Arts Centre had opened in 1969, and the Théâtre français section hired mainly actors and artists from Montréal, much like the English theatre section who brought in artists from Stratford and Toronto. Local talents were not to be considered.

Also, unlike all major Canadian cities who built their « centennial theatre » in the 1960s and 1970s, the city of Ottawa never had a municipal theatre because...it had the National Arts Centre. Ann Loretto Beninger denounced this situation in her thesis on The politics of culture in Ottawa (2005).

National capital cultural institutions, funded by the federal government, received pride of place in funding, facilities, promotion and infrastructure support, and provided the capital city with "culture" at no cost to the municipality. In other cities, cultural interests pressed their municipal governments successfully for local theatres, music halls and civic art galleries. In Ottawa, there was less incentive to develop a local cultural infrastructure.

And then came André Brassard

Strong shows continued to be produced, including plays for children and youth; gradually, professionally-trained artists from the University of Ottawa's theatre department joined in. But the



Anne-Marie White, acting director general of La Nouvelle Scène.

Credit: Marianne Duval

event that would change history was the arrival of theatre director André Brassard as head of Théâtre français at the NAC. Brassard was aware of the amazing talent of franco-ontarian theatre artists, and chose to work alongside them.

He convinced the NAC that it needed an experimental space for new works to be developed, and that it should buy this garage at 333 King Edward and trans-

form it into a multifunctional space. This fabulous adventure in discovery lasted from 1982 to 1990. The NAC then sold the building to the corporation of the Centre du théâtre francophone d'Ottawa-Carleton, which transformed into a bona fide theatre. La Nouvelle Scène was inaugurated in 1999.

The building itself was not particularly appealing. A one-storey rectangle, with a stage tower on the roof, bordered on both sides by public parking. The doors opened directly on the street and a big, rolling 40-square-foot garage door opened onto the foyer for the delivery of sets and technical material - the foyer was also an unloading dock! The theatre could seat 152 and there was a small rehearsal hall and administrative offices. Built in the 1930s, the building started showing its age, had structural problems, ventilation and water infiltration problems, was not up to code, was definitely too small and not technically up to date. And it certainly could not be repaired any more. The only thing to do was to demolish and build anew.

A new home for artists and art lovers

The new Nouvelle Scène, a 23,000-square-foot building, was designed by internationally known Montreal architects Saucier and Perrotte. There are multiple inside spaces for the artists of theatre, music, dance, the visual arts to perform in, which is the first mission of such a building. The other mission, equal in importance, is to welcome spectators and friends of the arts and so the foyer is expansive and opens onto an interior garden - a sight which is more than welcome on King Edward, where greenery is rather scarce. The façade of glass is meant for passers-by to look in, to see inside, to be attracted by the artistic offerings. Moreover, in a mirror-like effect, it reflects both the Champagne Bath to the North and the former synagogue to the South so that, with its very contemporary outside envelope, it blends in with the traditional buildings on either side.

The budget for the new building came from federal and provincial governments - \$2,73 million dollars each; City of Ottawa - \$2 million; Brigil Construction: \$1 million. A fundraising campaign for the first phase raised \$2.5 million; a second phase of the development is planned to house the offices of the four founding companies.

The founding and resident companies of La Nouvelle Scène were then, and still are: Compagnie Vox Théâtre (1979), Théâtre de la Vieille 17 (1979), Théâtre du Trilium (1975), Théâtre La Catapulte (1992). They each have their own administrative and artistic structures, as well as specific mandates. In the next issue, we will talk about the theatre companies, explain the functioning of La Nouvelle Scène, and comment on the 2016-2017 season.

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What's in a name?

The Friel Towers

Nancy Miller Chenier

The Friel Towers at 200 and 201 Friel Street located between Rideau Street and Beausoleil Drive were completed in 1975 and immediately garnered both positive and negative attention. Considered by some to be excellent examples of what is called “brutalist” architecture, a term derived from the French “béton brut” or “raw concrete,” their style has a predominance of exposed concrete construction intended to communicate strength and functionality. Many others saw the style as simply cold piles of concrete projecting an impression of oppressive institutionalism.



Friel Towers from Beausoleil

The two towers take their name from the street that commemorates Henry J Friel, a newspaper editor and businessman, who grew up in Lowertown. After the 1849 Stony Monday riots at the Byward Market, Friel was arrested for

allegedly supplying weapons to the Reform side. However by 1854 he was elected for his first term as mayor, a year when council successfully gained both city status and a new name for Bytown. A politician from an early age, he supported many progressive changes in the city and died in 1869 during his fourth term as mayor.

The Friel Towers are a complex design by Ottawa-based architects Craig and Kohler. Arranged as stacked two-storey apartments with five storeys in 200 Friel and six storeys in 201 Friel, this joint venture of the City of Ottawa and the now-defunct Ontario Housing Corporation was intended to replace housing destroyed during urban renewal.

They are currently managed by Ottawa Community Housing and provide 155 homes with a mixture of one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom apartments.

Parent Street name change

On May 16, the section of Parent Street north of the Bruyère Hospital - from Boteler Street to Cathcart Street – was renamed Gilberte Paquette Avenue, at the request of the Sisters of Charity.

Sister Gilberte was the hospital Administrator at the Ottawa General Hospital from 1968 to 1980. She then undertook the organization of the Élizabeth Bruyère Health Centre. Thanks to her determination and spirit of compassion, in 1983 she succeeded in getting permission to set up a Palliative Care Unit within the Centre.

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Towering and uninspiring: new proposal for 261-277 King Edward Avenue

After a decade of wait, is this what the neighbourhood wished for Group Lauzon's redevelopment of their property along King Edward Avenue?

Katya Kartashova

On April 12, the City of Ottawa received Group Lauzon's new development application for 261, 269, 277 King Edward Avenue and 260 Murray Street - a year and a half after they demolished the buildings that stood on the King Edward Avenue site. The latter were unoccupied since the mid-2000s, slowly deteriorating and finally becoming structurally unsound.

The proposal is for a 6-storey mixed-use building, with retail space at grade and residential units above. The development is sited on the east side of King Edward, south of St.



Building shadow on September 21

Patrick, between Murray Street and Clarence Street.

The building elevation dwarfs the recently redeveloped Nouvelle Scene (2 storeys) and the rest of the adjacent neighbourhood residential buildings. A similar towering approach was taken by the Manor Park Management Inc. development at 235 King Edward, which will see the construction of a Holiday Inn Express in the St. Patrick triangle.

The development proposed by Group Lauzon for King Edward Avenue would feature two heights, namely 6-storey façades on King Edward Avenue and along Clarence Street, and a 4-storey façade on Murray Street. This would sit next to mostly 2-storey residences of Clarence and Murray. The building has 31 residential rental units of 1 and 2 bedrooms - from 650 to 1300 square feet - and 30 parking spaces divided between residents, visitors, and retail customers. The ground floor along King Edward Avenue and the Clarence Street entrance is designated for retail occupancy, with the possibility of hosting one or multiple store fronts; this, according to the developer, will animate the 6-lane King Edward Avenue with more pedestrians.

The public comment period opened on April 26 and closed on May 24; proposal details, including a num-



Aerial schematic of the proposed King Edward development bordering on Clarence & Murray

ber of expert reports related to traffic, geotechnical, sun/shadow, noise and other analyses of the new development are available at: <http://app01.ottawa.ca/postingplans/appDetails.jsf?lang=en&appld=05G0R8>.

An elephant in the Lowertown's barber shop?

The developer requests to take full advantage of the permitted heights under the traditional main (TM) street designation of King Edward Avenue, making numerous references to it throughout the application. However, does the application provide convincing arguments that this new traditional main street development would recognize the history of the area and reflect its character in terms of its scale, rhythm and design? Let's take the main portion of the building on King Edward Avenue and how it relates to the existing neighborhood along Clarence and Murray Streets.

The proposed 6-storey building creates a massive footprint that puts a wall at the end of a block of consistently low-rise buildings on narrow lots, protected by heritage overlay. Nowhere is this wall closer to home than in the case of the oldest building on the block (circa 1870s). At 2.5 storeys, this historic building - with the carriage and horse stable in the back - would be left completely over-shadowed and overwhelmed by the background of the new building, which allows for no more than a 2-metre setback from its upper floors.

A similar absence of transitions creates a drop from 6 to 2 storeys at the corner of King Edward Avenue and Murray Street, where the existing building would not only be dwarfed by the proposal, but would also find itself in isolation from the rest of the streetscape, if the developer's request for minor variance is approved and an infill project is completed.

Minor or major variance?

The permission for "minor" variance is required because the land owned by Group Lauzon does not support the proposed infill along Murray Street. With this portion of the building in place, the rear lot line setback under the project will be less than ¼ of the city's mandated distance of 7.5 meters. Despite the name, the requested variance is quite important and would determine the fate of the whole Murray Street portion of the project.

As the application suggests, the developer's rationale for requesting a variance is based on the grounds that not extending the building to Murray Street would result in

an empty street-front. In its current design, however, the street-front seems to be created for a parking garage entrance on Murray Street, with additional units squeezed overhead. This design is inconsistent with the overall streetscape, in character and in height. At four storeys, the proposed Murray Street segment would simply protrude between the two adjacent 2-storey buildings, rather than tie with them, as implied by the developer.

A serious consideration has to be given to independent small-scale infill or alternative uses of the site that would continue to permit car use, while providing additional green space for gardens and amenity area for building residents.

Overall, this development appears to follow the same undesirable pattern that was earlier proposed by Group Lauzon when seeking the demolition of a heritage building and infill around the remains of Our Lady's School on Cumberland Street. This pattern includes an overall inconsistency with the established streetscape, a disregard for the iso-



View of proposed development at Murray Street corner with King Edward

lation of corner buildings, and complete disrespect of any of the guidelines regarding infill in a low-rise neighbourhood.

Solutions

All told, it would seem more fitting for the proposed Murray Street segment to be a more neighbourly 2 storeys, with a similar size podium or transition accent on King Edward Avenue. In addition to being sympathetic to the surrounding environment and to the heritage overlay of existing buildings along the adjacent streets, the lower height would also provide consistency with new buildings along King Edward, such as the reconstructed Nouvelle Scène and the 2-storey base of the HIE development. This, in turn, would suggest a more reasonable and fitting 4 storeys design for the main portion of the building along King Edward Avenue.

The reduced mass of the building along all dimensions would also help avoid potential foundation-shaking and damages to neighbouring residential buildings during the drill-



Proposed development at corner of King Edward & Clarence

ing and pounding required for the proposed foundation depth of up to 10-11 meters, as suggested in the geotechnical study. Given the age of the neighbouring residential buildings, many at least 100 years old, and the experience of others in Lowertown with similar larger-scale construction projects, the concerns regarding residential building damages inflicted by the proposed over-sized Lauzon Group project are all very real.

Lower heights would also allow for less dramatic changes to the quality of life of the dozens of existing residents of the block. At a towering 6-storey height and with numerous windows and balconies on its east side, the building will directly overlook the existing residents' backyards and adversely affect their privacy. Additionally, while developer's application mentions only minor deviations

from the allowed parameters for the building's shadow, its towering six storeys will cast lengthy shadows all year long, affecting exposure to sun of a third to half of the block. Reducing the height of the building would help lessen both concerns.

We hope that readers and decision-makers can make wise and considerate adjustments to the proposed King Edward development, for greater respect of the Lowertown neighbourhood community of 2-storey residential units and for greater architectural worthiness of the proposal.



View of the development around Our Lady's School at St. Patrick street with Cumberland

Active transportation and environmental updates

Liz Bernstein

Photo radar pilot project

Lowertown residents are all to familiar with the dangers of speeding cars and trucks on King Edward Ave. This month, Council passed a motion to try to curb it. Michael Powell of Dalhousie Community Association and Kevin O'Donnell spearheaded the campaign, and Councillor Riley Brockington had proposed a motion - which we supported - to make our streets safer. The motion included requesting permission from the provincial government, as other municipalities have, to use photo radar as a tool to address speeding. On May 11, a weaker version of the original motion was passed: in a 20-2 vote, Council approved a motion to ask the provincial government for permission to conduct a photo radar pilot project in school zones only. The ward's councillor must agree, so let Councillor Fleury (who voted for) know you support it. Money collected from the fines would be used to fund road safety programs.

King Edward Avenue study

We are waiting to hear when the feasibility study for the tunnel will be released, as it was due to be made available in May or June. As soon as we hear anything, we will schedule a meeting to discuss the report. Stay tuned.

New launch docks on Rideau Canal

Thanks to the hard work of our neighbours in the Old Ottawa East and Glebe Community Associations, paddlers will now have easier access to the Rideau Canal with the opening of two new access points for canoes, kayaks and paddleboards. The new access points are at Patterson Creek in the Glebe and on the east side of the canal at Clegg Street. The docks will be open to the public until October 10. Get out and enjoy the new forms of active transportation available to us!

Cathcart Park Square

A public consultation on May 26 was announced with short notice by Councillor's Fleury's office to discuss concerns from residents regarding off-leash dogs around Cathcart Park. The notice acknowledges that it is unusual for an off-leash dog area to be so close to a playground, while noting that there are not many areas available where dogs can run around freely. City staff was asked to propose solutions, and we will attend the consultation. Stay tuned.

Urban Forest Management Plan

Consultants for the City are working on the draft plan which will be submitted to city staff for review soon. It will be made available to the public later this summer in preparation for the Phase 2 consultations, which will

take place in late September / early October. Check out ottawa.ca/urban-forest for the draft plan and the dates for the consultations this fall.

Gotta Go Campaign

The Gotta Go Campaign, which we have supported, launched a great report on the lack of accessibility for public toilets. The "Flushing Inequality" report found that nearly half of the public washrooms were inaccessible during standard hours: "Although assessed during standard operating hours on weekends and weekdays, at time of survey, 45% of the City of Ottawa public toilets were unavailable for access, either due to seasonal or daily closures." The report includes data from a survey: "all of those interviewed indicated that they would be more likely to use public transit, cycle or walk to commute if there were more public toilets in the City of Ottawa (Canham, 2014, p. 17). A strong public toilet strategy would complement the current sustainability plan by shifting service users away from driving as a means of commute toward more sustainable methods of travel. A concrete aspect of this would be to ensure that facilities near transit stops are made available to the public, and that forthcoming transit stations be equipped with accessible and free public toilets." One of the researchers, Tori Roberts, provided a breakdown on the data for Lowertown public toi-

lets and noted that "many are located in heritage/older buildings that have a number of stairs (i.e. Champagne Baths) which poses a barrier to elderly and people with disabilities. They have lifts, however the inconvenience of needing to alert staff inside for assistance would certainly pose as a deterrent to using these spaces." Lowertown resident Feliks Welfeld noted that even our beloved renovated Jules Morin Fieldhouse does not have hours of operation posted, and once when he was using the toilet after a ski trip in the winter was asked what he was doing there. At our recent meeting, we were told the LRT station at Rideau will not have public washrooms, either. We have a long way to go to ensure access when we gotta go!

Climate change: have your say

The Federal government has initiated a consultation process across Canada and are calling on all of Canada's MPs to host climate action consultation town halls in their communities. They are also calling on all Canadians to access their online platform to submit comments and suggestions (letstalkclimateaction.ca) while they finalize their climate action plan for the fall. Take a minute to submit yours. Meanwhile, the Renewable Energy Strategy at the City is progressing and consultations will take place during the next quarter. Stay tuned.

Streetfight: Urban Revolution comes to Ottawa

Liz Bernstein

The urban revolution came to Ottawa in April, as over 1300 people packed the Aberdeen Pavilion at Lansdowne Park to hear former New York City Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan talk about how to make cities safer and more livable.

Sadik-Khan was in Ottawa as part of her "Streetfight: A Handbook for an Urban Revolution" book launch tour. According to Sadik-Khan, the New York experience shows that new complete street plans can be implemented quickly and inexpensively. "All it takes is some paint to transform a street." Because the measures are easy to implement, she encouraged the City of Ottawa to experiment.

The round of applause and the cheers that erupted when Sadik-Khan ended her talk with an image of York Street in the ByWard Market reimagined as a car-free plaza gives a clear sign that it's time to build the city that Ottawa residents want.

During her tenure as Transportation Commissioner, Sadik-Khan didn't just re-image New York City - she implemented a plan that saw people-focused streets with the building of nearly 400 miles of bike

lanes and creating more than 60 plazas citywide, including the transformation of Times Square.

"The massive turnout for the Streetfight event clearly shows that there is an appe-

lance for this kind of urban revolution here in Ottawa," said Graham Saul, Executive Director of Ecology Ottawa. "Ottawa has the plan to re-image and re-design its streets, what is needed now is funding from all levels of government to implement it."

The timing of the Sadik-Khan visit coin-

cided with the City of Ottawa's tabling of the ByWard Market Restoration Plan. The plan, which was unanimously approved by City Council just weeks after the visit, envisions a more pedestrian and bike-

friendly ByWard market, where plazas replace parking lots and streetscapes invite people to stand and enjoy the local, fresh produce stands, have a meal on a patio, or just people-watch on a bench.

At a press conference in the ByWard Market, Sadik-Khan called on Ottawa to

do for the ByWard Market what New York did for Time Square. She also said that redesigning the Market with all users in mind — not just cars — is good for business because "cars don't shop, people do".

Joining Sadik-Khan at the press conference were Ecology Ottawa's Executive Director Graham Saul, Ottawa's Mayor Jim Watson, Attorney General of Ontario and MPP for Ottawa-Vanier Madeleine Meilleur and Minister of Environment and MP for Ottawa Centre Catherine McKenna.

All three levels of government (city, provincial and federal) heard the call to accelerate the implementation of Ottawa's complete streets and ByWard Market restoration plan, and for the City to ask for increased funding from both federal and provincial governments to build pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Sadik-Khan's day in Ottawa also included a meeting with City staff, before heading out on a bike tour of Ottawa coordinated by Citizens for Safe Cycling: Bike Ottawa and Sandy Hill Community Health Centre.



Janette Sadik-Khan signs a copy of her book, "Streetfight: A Handbook for an Urban Revolution" at the press conference in the ByWard Market, with Mayor Jim Watson looking on.

Credit: Photo by Roger Lalonde, City of Ottawa

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Lot 24 Lamarche W—Wendover
Commutable Retreat



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\$298,000

3858 Rideau River—Kemptville
Affordable Water-front Getaway

RURAL, RECREATIONAL AND CLOSE

AND HOT



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\$307,900

9 Wildpine—Stittsville
Townhome on Extra Large Lot



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WESTBORO

330 Athlone
Tastefully Updated Home



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HINTONBURG

188 Carruthers
Duplex Investment Opportunity



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ORLEANS

1340 Caserta
Dynamic Family-sized 5-bed

RECENTLY SOLD

EXECUTIVE RENTALS



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\$1,550/mth

3-64 St Andrew—Lowertown
Urban Living in Furnished 1-bed



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\$1,950/mth

2011-199 Slater—Centretown
Premier Luxury 1-bed + Den Condo

HAPPILY RENTED



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RENTED

1-64 St Andrew—Lowertown
Freshly Renovated 2-bed/2-bath



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RENTED

1408-199 Slater—Centretown
Modern and Trendy 1-bed + Den Condo



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Testimonials
To Patrick and the team. You rose to every occasion in the purchase of my new home, the sale of my development property and the purchase of my new Triplex in New Ed. Your professionalism and expertise is cherished.
—Dr. Nadine Rossy.

Hi Patrick. Many thanks to you & the team for the sale of our country home and the purchase of our new great place in the city. Your Good Counsel and marketing skills made the transition smooth and easy. Best regards.
—Frank and Gaye Misurek.



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