



# Major Trinity high-rise development approved at Rideau and Chapel

Robert Tritt

**25-storey development takes advantage of the new density transfer concept**

On February 10, City Council approved in principle a large development that will see two 25-storey residential towers built above a large, two-level retail shopping centre on the site of the former Congregation Beth Shalom Synagogue at Rideau and Chapel St. It is the first of several new mixed-use developments that are expected to come forward as a result of a new Community Development Plan (CDP) adopted last fall for Uptown Rideau St.

Trinity, which is behind the new development at Lansdowne Park, first submitted an application to develop the site in 2014. The recently-approved application is a scaled-back version of Trinity's first application and is in line with the provisions of the new CDP.

The development has 850 residential units in the two towers and 80,000sqf of retail space. The project takes advantage of the new CDP's controversial concept of "density transfer," which allows for towers exceeding nine storeys under certain conditions, including setting aside additional public space. As is required by the CDP provisions, the development includes a public park at the corner of Beausoleil, a public plaza at corner of Rideau and Chapel and new landscaping features along Chapel St.

For the retail space, the proposed tenants are a liquor store on the ground level, a food store and



An architectural rendering shows the two high-rise towers lined along Chapel Street. The towers will house 850 condos and the lower levels will have 80,000sqf of retail space.

source: trinity-group.com

retail on the second level, and a Dollar store in the lower level.

The most controversial aspect of the project is its proposal to re-open to traffic the cul-de-sac at Beausoleil and Chapel. Trinity argues that the recent redesign of Rideau St. makes it impractical for residents, retail shoppers or delivery vehicles to access the site only from Rideau St. and that traffic also must also be allowed to turn onto Chapel from Beausoleil.

**Residents concerned about opening Chapel-Beausoleil cul-de-sac**

Residents of Sandy Hill fear that opening the intersection at Beausoleil will encourage cut-through traffic, especially by north-bound commuters using Chapel St. as an alternative route between the Queensway and the MacKenzie King Bridge. Others are concerned about the impact that opening the intersection will have on children attending the nearby York Street

and Ste-Anne public schools, particularly because of the large delivery vehicles that will need to access the site.

In a 2015 letter to the City planner, Action Sandy Hill submits that "we have observed that over half of traffic currently on Chapel St. in the PM peak is Quebec-plated traffic heading back towards Quebec. Much of this traffic would find an opened Chapel-Beausoleil intersection as an attractive route to the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge. In the study, the [Trinity] consultant has made no attempt to quantify this. Similarly, the consultant did not consider the traffic on Nelson St., the only other street opened to the north of Rideau St. This street currently carries a volume of traffic many times higher than what the consultant predicts for Chapel-Beausoleil and over 50% of this is Quebec plated traf-

continues on page 14



## Call for volunteers

The Lowertown Community Association is looking for volunteers to help with advertising sales and invoicing for The Echo. We need people plugged into the community and connected to businesses. We also need volunteers to help deliver The Echo on a regular basis to coffee-shops, market businesses, community centres and other public spaces.

To volunteer, contact us at:  
echo@lowertown-basseville.ca

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ByWard Moves



Michelle Ramsay

Let's start with something sweet. **Lindt Canada** has opened a **Chocolate Shop and Café** at The Bay, just inside the George Street entrance. The café is full service, offering beverages, pastries, sandwiches and desserts.

The addition of Lindt to the ByWard Market may earn us the title of Sweetest Spot in Ottawa—if not Canada. Our four-blocks-square heritage district is home to four other chocolate shops, including: **Cylie Artisans Chocolatiers** (204 Dalhousie Street), **Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut** (256 Dalhousie), **Stubbe Chocolates** (375 Dalhousie), and the **Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory** (55 ByWard Market Square). We also host a chocolate-inspired restaurant, **Cacao 70** (51-53 William Street), a candy shop called **Sugar Mountain** (71 William), dessert destinations **Oh So Good** (25 York) and **Memories** (136 St. Patrick) and the iconic **BeaverTails** cabin (69 George Street).

The northeast corner of the Market has a new 'local' with Irish flavour. The new bar, **Brigid's Well**, is located in the basement of **St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts** at 179 Murray Street. If you want to check it out, use the Cumberland Street entrance.

Both **Stella Osteria** (81 Clarence Street) and **Lapointe Fish Restaurant** (55 York Street) were closed for a couple of weeks this past month, undergoing renovations. We are looking forward to seeing their transformed spaces.

**Bang-On** custom t-shirt shop moved from 31 York Street to 11 William, the former premises of Frou Frou boutique. Next door, where the **Sassy Bead Company** used to live, the bubble tea shop that has been moving in for months has put up a sign. Now we know it will be called **My Sweet Tea**. Still don't know when it will open.

On Clarence Street, at number 120 we lost **Bertholiny** clothing boutique, replaced by **VaperTown**, and at number 47, the **Empire** restaurant. It's rumoured that the Empire will be replaced by a pub.

Number 10 ByWard Market Square is not a lucky location for contemporary furniture stores. Exactly one year after **Phillip Van Leeuwen** went bankrupt, its successor **More than Design** followed it down the wormhole.

Another business has disappeared from Sussex Drive, vacating its premises the same week as three neighbouring merchants who were forced out on orders from the National Capital Commission (NCC). **Renée Lévesque Bijoux Mode** – coincidentally, also an NCC tenant but not one who was ordered out - is relocating to 265 Dalhousie, beside **Ma Cuisine**.

Only one of the three NCC tenants who were looking for new quarters was successful. Silk fashion merchant **ça va de soi** will reopen this spring at 519 Sussex Drive, the former home of **WOLF & Zed** footwear boutique. The upscale shoe business has been amalgamated into the next-door clothing store, **Schad Boutique** (521 Sussex).

Sadly, **MaiYa Pearls** and **Julie Thibault** could not find alternative storefronts and had to close. However, the former continues at its

second location in Summerside, PEI, and the latter is selling her original children's wear online ([juliethibaultottawa.ca](http://juliethibaultottawa.ca)).

Although we had lots of notice, **Mellos'** lights-out on December 21 saddened people both in our neighbourhood and all across Ottawa. The venerable 73-year-old diner did not go out with a whimper! From its scrappy (failed) Kickstarter bid to raise \$60,000 to fund a restart, to jam-packed boisterous dinner services throughout its final days, to the disappearance of its iconic sign in the dead of night—Mellos went out with a scream. Here's hoping it will rise again to delight us all anew.

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

Lowertown Community Association meetings

The Lowertown Community Association meets on the second Monday of each month. Meetings are held from 7 to 9 pm. Upcoming meetings:

**March 14** at the Jules Morin Park Fieldhouse, located at 400 Clarence St.

**April 11** at the Routhier Community center, located at 172 Guigues Ave.

**May 9** Annual General Meeting at the Jules Morin Park Fieldhouse, 400 Clarence St. - starting at 6pm.

LCA President's letter



Liz Bernstein, LCA president

Dear neighbours,

Recently I was reminded of what a fantastic community we have. Together with many of you, I was at a special meeting of the LCA focused on reducing crime and enhancing safety and security. Many volunteers had worked long and hard to prepare the meeting, review statistics and documentation, advocate for open crime data and invite panelists to share their views with us. All of the presentations were of high quality, and the perspectives thoughtful. So were the participants. While it could have left me feeling negative, tinged with a sense of fear or dismay, it was the opposite. Panelists and participants alike shared their passion for our community, acknowledging that it is unique in the combination of residents, bars, restaurants and other entertainment, businesses, a university of thousands of students, tourists, homeless shelters, rivers and parks, and that we cherish this vibrant diversity. I was struck by Fathiya Warsame's presentation about the Our Home project of the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, as she explained how they work with residents to create spaces where people feel welcome, and focus on positive uses of space and aspects of community. The room brimmed with the creative ideas of residents eager to help identify solutions and not just sit back, complain and wait for someone else to address their concerns. While each of us may have differing primary concerns, bringing together this spirit to advance solutions warms my heart so often.

In these pages you will find some of the incredible work of your neighbours. To highlight a few:

Nancy Chenier and Liz Mackenzie led members of the Heritage Committee to fight creatively, constructively and valiantly to save two Lowertown Heritage

buildings this month. While Council did not save the buildings, the way they lead the challenge taught us all so much, and we know the struggle continues. Read more about it on pages 3 and 11.

Peter Ferguson and Mario Gasperetti led many active members of the Planning Committee to work with the developers of the project at 151 Chapel, Trinity Ltd. to improve the project and address some of our concerns.

Led by stalwart Justin Dyet, the ice rink crew prepared and maintained the rink despite weather challenges, so that enjoyment could be had by all. We thank you.

It's also budget season, and we've participated in our provincial budget consultations and are preparing federal input, urging investment in the revitalization of ByWard Market so that we can make a difference in renewing the Market at the Centre of our community and city before the Ottawa 2017 anniversary. We asked Ontario to create an Active Transportation Fund so that Ottawa and other municipalities can accelerate developing active transportation infrastructure. The fund could expedite development of infrastructure such as bike lanes, walkways, pedestrian and cycle bridges or underpasses, and complete streets planning and development. We also urged Ontario to embrace a commitment to plant 150,000 trees for the 2017 anniversary. We echoed calls for a Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy.

Whether your passion is improving our parks, gardens, sidewalks, heritage buildings, planning or housing, budgets, or engaging neighbours, contact [info@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:info@lowertown-basseville.ca) to get more involved and join us every second Monday night.

See you around the neighbourhood!

Liz

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

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

If you'd like to write articles, draw cartoons or other illustrations for stories, or take photographs on assignment, please email and leave your name and telephone number at [echo@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:echo@lowertown-basseville.ca) by **March 25, 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, avril, juin, septembre et novembre. Son tirage est de 7500 exemplaires. Il est distribué gratuitement partout dans la Basse-Ville. On peut également l'obtenir au Centre Routhier, au Centre de Ressources Communautaires de la Basse-Ville, à la bibliothèque et dans plusieurs commerces du quartier.

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

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

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

**Advertising:** Donna Kearns

Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions à [echo@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:echo@lowertown-basseville.ca) avant le **25 mars 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.



# Vacant building at 209-211 Clarence goes up in smoke

Liz MacKenzie

One of the most storied buildings in Lowertown, 209-211 Clarence - sadly a vacant eyesore since 2011 - went up in flames on January 5th. The fire was caused by a candle lit inside the building and knocked over by a trespasser.

### Home of former Bytown mayor

The house was over 150 years old, dating from 1847. It was originally owned by Joseph Balzara Turgeon, city councilor for many years, Mayor of Bytown (1853-54) and the first francophone mayor in Ontario. In 1853, Turgeon petitioned the Province demanding city status for Bytown. He was refused, but in 1854, Mayor Friel's petition was successful: the City of Ottawa was a reality.

Turgeon was a huge figure in the French-Canadian community. In 1852, after francophones were denied a place on the board of the Mechanic's Institute, he founded the Institut canadien-français, a powerful cultural force in the city. As a school board trustee in 1855, he was instrumental in the formation of separate schools and a vigorous advocate for equal treatment of French teachers.

As Councillor in 1849, he was at the site of the Bloody Monday riot - the first major political riot in Bytown. The people of Lowertown, mainly French and Irish Reformers were preparing a welcome for Governor General Lord Elgin, who was visiting Bytown to search for a capital to replace Montreal. English Tories from



One firefighter was injured in the fire caused by a candle at the abandoned 209 Clarence

Uppertown opposed Elgin and conflict boiled over. Turgeon addressed the crowd and was knocked over by a bystander. A stone was thrown and a riot ensued, leaving one man dead.

From 1897 to 1922, Joseph H. Laperriere and his descendants resided here. Laperriere was a banker, an insurance agent and a broker. Like Turgeon, he was an important figure in the francophone community, working with Turgeon on the affairs of the Institut canadien-français. Laperriere was the treasurer of Union St. Joseph, later the Union du Canada. He was a founding member of the French theatre troupe that still performs at the University of Ottawa.

### Five years of scot-free neglect

Fast forward to the "For Sale" sign that, in 2011, led me to book an appointment to tour the building with

sistible.

Synercapital Developments bought the property, applied for demolition and proposed a glass box with 11 micro apartments, requiring 14 minor variances. A glass box with street level balconies was not deemed a good idea by a community experiencing significant homelessness; however, the developer got their approvals and, under threat of an OMB appeal, sat down with the community to devise a more appropriate building for the site.

Ever since, the house sat derelict, boarded up and neglected: a neighbourhood nuisance attracting drug deals and prostitution in the large rear yard. Requests for the number of police and bylaw calls went unanswered. The building fell into disrepair; doors were not secure, the roof was failing, the front yard was strewn

my husband. The large rooms were rented to students; the basement was supported on log joists with the bark still on. There was a huge kitchen - you could imagine lively gatherings of debaters, politicians, artists and actors. The vibe was irre-

with garbage. Inevitably, on January 5th, 211 Clarence burned down.

Standards to protect vacant buildings were tightened in 2013; however, the boarding up of buildings is not enough. Regular surveillance is necessary, repeated police and bylaw calls should be charged back to owners and there should be a time limit on how long a boarded up property can be left to deteriorate. We have to do better to secure vacant buildings, and demand swift development. All other owners on this block maintain their buildings to a high standard, and one derelict building, vacant for years, degrades everyone else's efforts.

### Fire started by candle inside the building

The price for a vacant building fire can be very high. Firefighters are at risk - a firefighter was injured battling the two alarm fire - , neighbouring buildings and occupants are at risk, and if the fire is started by a person squatting in the vacant building, their life is at risk as well.

In this case, the fire was caused by a lit candle that was knocked over by someone trespassing inside the building. There are many people experiencing homelessness on our streets and a vacant unsecured building can look like a winter haven, but the dangers of keeping warm with candles or fire indoors can be deadly. Please be vigilant and report any unsecured building to 311. If you see unusual behavior inside a building, call the police immediately. You could save a life.

# Heritage building, meet wrecking ball

Liz MacKenzie

### Councilors on Built Heritage Sub Committee vote to demolish 171 Bruyère

Against heritage planner recommendations and against arguments from the heritage expert members of the committee, city council members of Built Heritage Sub-Committee voted for demolition of 171 Bruyère in a split-vote decision on February 11.

In December 2015, Ottawa Community Housing came to the community with a proposition: let us tear down a building that no longer meets our needs and we will build an innovative heritage-themed parkette on the site. There were two issues with this proposal. First, the building at 171 Bruyère is in the Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District and protected under the Ontario Heritage Act. Second, residents at neighbour-



171 Bruyère awaiting wrecking ball

ing Belanger Manor, 181 Bruyère are plagued with unwanted activities at the adjacent park and opposed another park that would attract more of the same.

The Lowertown Community Association Heritage Committee, whose mandate is to advocate for the protection of our heritage properties, opposed the demolition. At a meeting of residents, the opposition to the proposed parkette was strong, for very specific reasons: no more drugs and prostitution in the neighbourhood. There was sweeping support for a community garden on the site.

On February 11, the councilor members succumbed to the arguments from Ottawa Community Housing and voted to recommend demolition in a close 4-3 vote decision. The public members of the committee, heritage experts Carolyn Quinn, Barry Padolsky and Sandy Smallwood argued that demolishing 171 Bruyère would send a dangerous signal that demolition of protected buildings was an acceptable option to rehabilitation.

They were outvoted by the four

city councillors on the committee: Scott Moffatt, Marianne Wilkinson, Catherine McKenney and committee chair Tobi Nussbaum. Councillor Mathieu Fleury is chair of the OCH Board of Directors and supported the demolition.

The switch in the OCH proposal is that the bait - an innovative and groundbreaking design for the site - has had its budget slashed from \$100,000 to \$20,000. On this reduced budget, it will take some magic to produce anything like the quality of design originally shown.

As we lose our heritage buildings, Lowertown is no longer the proud testament to Colonel By and those that built this city, and becomes just another neighbourhood of rushed and disposable urban planning. Will lying down in front of wrecking crews and human chains to stop demolition come back into fashion?



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# Revue de l'année 2015 in review

L'hon./Hon. Mauril Bélanger, M.P./  
député, Ottawa-Vanier [www.mauril.ca](http://www.mauril.ca)

## Redevelopment of the old Rock-cliffe air base

The redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe Military Base is one of Ottawa's most anticipated projects. This 125-hectare plot of land is a very significant urban planning opportunity for our region. Lots should be offered to builders later in 2016 and the first block of homes should be ready for occupancy in 2017, just in time for Canada's 150th anniversary celebrations. My vision for developing this vast tract of land has always been driven by the need for balance, viability and sustainability, with the creation of over 5,000 jobs within the community.

## Un nouveau gouvernement

Tout d'abord, je tiens à remercier les électeurs d'Ottawa-Vanier qui m'ont réélu comme député à la Chambre des communes. Pour un huitième mandat consécutif, je suis fier de poursuivre mon travail en tant que député et d'aborder des enjeux qui sont importants aux yeux de mes électeurs, et du Canada tout entier, au cours de cette 42e législature. D'un bout à l'autre du pays, les Canadiens ont choisi un nouveau gouvernement libéral positif, un gouvernement qui a une vision ambitieuse pour l'avenir et un plan solide pour la classe moyenne.

## My fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease

In November 2015, I met with highly respected Ottawa neurologist, Dr. Pierre Bourque. After a series of tests, he has diagnosed me with ALS. It is presently an incurable disease. Earlier in November, I sent a letter to all Members of Parliament signaling my intention to seek election as Speaker of the House of Commons. My wife Catherine and I are enormously appreciative of all the efforts deployed for my candidacy. Under the doctor's advice and following the ALS diagnosis, I announced on November 30th my decision to withdraw my candidacy for Speaker of the House. I also an-

nounced that I will be continuing to serve as the proud Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier. As a Member of Parliament, I intend to raise awareness by sharing this journey with my colleagues and the public so that more Canadians will learn and fight to continue research for a cure to ALS.

## Président honoraire de la Chambre des communes

C'est un grand honneur qui m'a été accordé le 9 décembre 2015, lorsque j'ai été nommé occupant honoraire du fauteuil du président de la Chambre des communes. Je suis profondément touché par ce geste et je remercie tous mes collègues du fond du cœur. Recevoir un tel honneur est vivement apprécié.

## Prime Ministers' Row

I invite you to join a group of citizens as they work to transform Laurier Avenue into a place that celebrates Canada's past and shapes Canada's future, a place we hope will come to be known as Prime Ministers' Row. Many don't know that Ottawa's Laurier Avenue and surrounding area, from King Edward to Strathcona Park, has been home to 8 Prime Ministers and 7 Fathers of Confederation. This stretch, which once served as a meeting place for our nation's leaders, has been all but forgotten. But if residents have their way, it will soon be recreated as an interactive street museum and gathering place.

## Travail de représentation sur le terrain

Durant l'année 2015, plus de 600 personnes ont sollicité l'aide de mon personnel du bureau de comté et moi-même pour faire avancer des dossiers individuels de nature fédérale et reliés notamment à l'immigration, à l'assurance-emploi et aux pensions. Qui plus est, j'ai tenu sur une base mensuelle des cafés-causeries aux quatre coins de la circonscription, afin de rencontrer les citoyens d'une façon informelle pour discuter des questions de compétences fédérales.



**Madeleine Meilleur**  
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## National Anthem

On September 22, 2014 I tabled in the House of Commons Bill C-624, An Act to Amend the National Anthem Act (gender). The Bill advocated a simple change in the English lyrics. It proposed that "True patriot love in all thy sons command" become "True patriot love in all of us command", therefore replacing only two words, "thy sons" with "of us". This change would have rendered the Anthem gender-neutral. Although my bill was defeated at second reading in the House of Commons, the drive to make 'O Canada' more inclusive has been advanced. I tabled my bill once more when the House of Commons resumed in late January 2016 and can expect to initiate the debate on the bill around April.

## Files to watch in 2016

Locally, a few files are likely to dominate; namely the redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe Air Base, the advancement of the Prime Minister's Row project and getting the heavy trucks out of the downtown core by exploring the possibilities of digging a tunnel.

Le 26 février, Mauril Bélanger a reçu le prix Bernard-Grandmaître, décerné par l'Association des communautés francophones d'Ottawa (ACFO Ottawa). Le prix est remis à une personne qui a marqué la francophonie de la région d'Ottawa et qui a participé au développement de la collectivité.

**Volunteer with Ottawa  
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Do you want to be more involved? You have an idea but you are not sure where to start?  
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In Ottawa Community Housing communities, we help residents get together to plan activities in their communities. If you want to start a tenant group or if you have teamed up with a few willing tenants and want to plan activities or a one-time event, we can help to plan and run activities or events, including community beautification projects. We will also provide the funding to do so and fill out the application with you to get the funding you need.

Why do it?

There are many benefits to being involved in your community. These include getting to know your neighbours, taking pride in your community, fostering a positive social environment, and creating a safer place to live.

Where to start?

If this is something that interests you, please contact your Community Development Manager, Francine Vachon at [francine.vachon@och.ca](mailto:francine.vachon@och.ca) or call (613) 789-4305 extension 4245. You can also e-mail us at [info@och.ca](mailto:info@och.ca). We look forward to working with you.

Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) provides 15,000 homes to 32,000 seniors, parents, children, couples, singles and persons with special needs within many communities across the City of Ottawa. In the last year, over 1,000 volunteers completed 38 projects and tended to 23 community gardens managed by tenants.

**Irish Film Festival**

Tickets are on sale for the April 1-3 Irish Film Festival at the Arts Court Theatre at 2 Daly Avenue. The festival will show six feature films, including an award-winning Canadian premiere and a film for children. The festival will commemorate the 1916 uprising with a special presentation of silent newsreels, actualities and short films in the Irish and English language.



**Mauril Bélanger**  
**Député / MP, Ottawa-Vanier**

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# A great family day at Winterfest

Sandra Pilote

For the fourth year in a row, volunteers made the Family Day Winterfest a special Lowertown event. On Monday, February 15th, the Lowertown East Residents Committee and its partners delivered another fun-filled afternoon at Jules Morin Park, formerly known as Anglesea Square — the revitalized park located behind 40 Cobourg Street and at the east end of York Street.

The sun shone brightly and the outdoor activities attracted crowds of children of all ages. The horse-drawn wagon from Cundell stables on York Street gave rides in the nearby area. Even with two bouncy castles this year, the lines were

continuous. The music from JUMP radio kept spirits on a high note.

Despite the unpredictable weather that meant ice-making was a big challenge, the community team managed to ensure that there was skating on the NHL-size rink. As an additional highlight this year, the Lowertown pool was opened for free swimming.

Beside the field house, a BBQ served

up burgers and hot dogs, while hot chocolate and sweet snacks provided the extra fuel needed to participate. Inside the field house, there were tables where partner organizations had a variety of displays - everything from crime prevention to Lowertown history.

This community event in Lowertown happens because volunteers

work to make an afternoon of fun for all ages. The presence of many youthful helpers added new liveliness to the usual group from the Lowertown East Residents Committee and the Lowertown Community Association.

In the 1930s and 40s, Lowertown's annual winter carnivals brought out thousands of participants for fancy dress masquerades, broomball games and other activities. Decades later, Winterfest still draws large crowds and positive spirits. This was another opportunity to greet some neighbours and to get some enjoyment from winter, and all comers are already looking forward to next year.



Children enjoying Winterfest at Jules Morin Park



The bouncy castles were a favorite.

# Councillor's update: What is Ottawa 2017?

In 2017, Canada will celebrate its 150th year as a nation. Canadians from far and wide will gather in Ottawa to join in the many festivities. After all, as Jean Pigott said, we are “every Canadian’s second home town”! As co-chair for the Ottawa

2017 celebrations, I would like to share with you an update of some of the amazing events that we have confirmed for Canada’s 150th Anniversary of Confederation in 2017.

Ottawa 2017 has been tasked with creating a yearlong celebratory calendar that will be big, bold and inclusive, to complement national and ongoing annual events in our capital city, including Canada Day festivities. Big signature events will animate the entire city, while community celebrations will engage our local neighbourhoods and residents. Additionally, legacy projects will strive to transform our urban landscape. The end result will be a special year of national pride, right here in our

city.

Important partnerships have already been struck, including key relationships with the title sponsor CIBC, Algonquin College, la Cité Collégiale, and Roots, who will be the clothing sponsor for Ottawa 2017. Much anticipated events have been confirmed: we will host the Juno Awards, the Video Game Awards and an Interprovincial Picnic on the Alexandra Bridge. The Red Bull Crashed Ice event will see the Ice Cross Downhill World Championship crashing and gliding its way into the capital in March 2017. More events will be announced in the coming months.

We are working to build momentum and excitement for Canada’s big year, in Ottawa and across the country. I invite you to visit [Ottawa2017.ca](http://Ottawa2017.ca) to find out how you can get involved in this monumental year and to see the numerous events that will be announced in the coming months. The City’s Event Central helps residents and community groups coordinate more than 900 events each year, and for 2017 we are prepared to support more than 1,200 community events. Contact [eventcentral@ottawa.ca](mailto:eventcentral@ottawa.ca)

[ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) for assistance with coordination of city services for your community event. 2017 will definitely be the year to be in Ottawa!

As always, we are here to work with you. To stay informed with community updates, city projects, community events, and what’s happening around town, follow us on Facebook @Mathieu Fleury.



Plan your own community celebration for 2017 with Event Central, a one-stop shop for event organizers in Ottawa  
Photo: [Ottawa2017.ca](http://Ottawa2017.ca)

### LEGACY PROJECTS

- Ottawa 2107**
  - Light Rail Transit Confederation Line
  - Ottawa Innovation Centre
  - Ottawa Art Gallery and Arts Court
  - Main Street Renewal
  - Global Centre for Pluralism on Sussex Drive
- National partners**
  - National Arts Centre redevelopment
  - Canada Science and Technology Museum renewal
  - Bank of Canada Museum
- Community**
  - 20 community gardens
  - Plant 1 million trees
  - Canada 150 maple groves





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# Lowertown pilot participated in the Battle of Britain

Michel Rossignol

The “Most Courageous Athlete of 1940”, according to the Philadelphia Sports Writers’ Association, was a young man who spent most of his youth in Ottawa’s Lowertown. Jean-Paul Joseph Desloges played many hockey games as a goaltender, but it was his narrow escape from death in August 1940 during the Battle of Britain that caught the attention of the Americans. Desloges managed to jump out of his burning Hurricane aircraft and parachute to safety after he was attacked by a German plane; he spent many weeks in hospital because of the head injuries and serious burns he suffered. The Ottawa Citizen of January 31, 1941 reports that Desloges accepted the award at the association’s annual banquet “in all humility” on behalf of the “other fellows” - the other British, Canadian, and Allied fighter pilots who had defended British cities and airbases against German air attacks.

Desloges was the subject of a recent Royal Canadian Air Force (R.C.A.F.) article; see Battle of Britain Profile of Courage: Wing Commander Jean-Paul Joseph Desloges, August 4, 2015, in news articles at [www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/battle-britain/index.page](http://www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/battle-britain/index.page).

However, the article did not indicate his links to Lowertown. Desloges was



Pilots of No. 1 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, in July 1940 shortly after arriving in the United Kingdom. Jean-Paul Joseph Desloges is in the middle row, third person from the right.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada, MIKAN No. 4816352.

born in Hull (now Gatineau), Quebec, in April 1913, but a few years later, his family moved to Bolton Street in Lowertown and he went to Guigues School on Murray Street. He played hockey, football, and other sports at the University of Ottawa, but he did not neglect his studies. After graduation, Desloges became a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, but he wanted to be a pilot and joined the R.C.A.F. Before sailing to the United Kingdom in 1940, Desloges was briefly in Ottawa; he got married and had a home in New Edinburgh, but his parents still lived in Lowertown at 33

Heney Street, on the northern edge of Macdonald Gardens Park.

Desloges was appointed the military attaché of General George P. Vanier, who became Canada’s representative to the French Committee of National Liberation (the Free French Forces led by General de Gaulle) in late 1943. He was invited to visit Free French airbases in North Africa at a time when Canada was becoming more involved in the training of Free French pilots. Tragically, Desloges was killed on May 8, 1944 in Algeria, when the aircraft transporting him from one base to another crashed on take-off.

## Crime reduction strategy

Look for a detailed feature in our next issue

The latest meeting of the Lowertown Community Association drew many neighbours interested in the special presentations and discussions about a strategy for crime reduction in Lowertown. Norman Moyer and Jan-François Grabowiecki of the LCA researched the open data crime statistics available from the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) – freely and through an Access to information request - and reported on their findings, comparing our numbers with the other Ottawa neighbourhoods by types of crime and top concerns of the residents.

Inspector Mike Laviolette of the OPS talked about the way policing resources are allocated and how proactive policing affects crime statistics.

Councillor Mathieu Fleury explained the role of the City and called for additional foot patrols on Rideau Street. He underlined that addressing housing and addictions will reduce crime in Lowertown, and urged those who want to help to give money to shelters that feed and clothe homeless people, not directly to homeless people.

Fathiya Warsame talked about the project Lowertown, Our Home on behalf of the Lowertown Community Resource Centre. Lowertown, Our Home seeks to prevent crime in the community through community building. The project is focused on a catchment area in Lowertown east, working with residents to identify issues and then with 14 community resource organizations to help find solutions. For 2016, this will mean responding to concerns about mental health and helping residents learn what resources to call to resolve situations.

Read the next Echo for an in-depth look at the data, the issues and the questions about crime and safety in Lowertown.

# What's in a name: Waller Street Mall

Nancy Miller Chenier

Waller Street Mall is an open-air pedestrian walkway that connects Rideau Street and George Street and carries the name of William Henry Waller (1835-1885). Elected mayor of Ottawa in 1877, the Irish-born Waller was described as “gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked.” After arriving in Ottawa in the 1860s, he settled initially in Lowertown. In addition to political appointments as separate school trustee, alderman and mayor, he worked as newspaper reporter, insurance agent, corn merchant and finally as Registrar for the County of Carleton.

The sheltered Waller Mall-promenade was constructed in 1985, during a Rideau Street revitalization. Soon after, the community sought to discour-



Waller Street Mall, 2015

age loitering and anti-social activities in this public space. A recurring theme was animation through visual art, with the community proposing an artist alley similar to that in Quebec City. In the mid-1990s, Justin Wannacott was commissioned to create the granite disc titled “from a campers diary” that is in the sidewalk near Rideau Street. The George Street end has another 2003 Wannacott sidewalk image titled “compass rose.” The city-owned space continues to be promoted as an entrance from Lowertown to the Rideau arts and design sector. Most recently, it displayed self-portraits from the City of Ottawa Art Collection in a show titled “Changing Faces, Transforming Spaces.”

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# Vignette du village: Michel Rossignol's firefighting family

Nancy Miller Chenier  
Francesca Taucer

Having lived on both sides of the King Edward divide, Michel Rossignol has widespread knowledge of Lowertown. He started his life on St. Patrick Street - near Parent, where the Théâtre Français on Dalhousie and Gelman's candy store at the corner of Murray evoke fond memories. At one point, his parents lived on



Fire station No.5

Guigues Street, across from his paternal grandmother and next door to his aunt. In 1978, the family moved to the Watergate Apartments on Wurtemberg Street, where Michel now lives.

Michel recounts the oft-told family story of his paternal grandfather, Eugène Rossignol, who was a firefighter with the City of Ottawa. His fire station was No.5, located at the corner of King Edward Avenue and Bruyère Street. When this station ceased operations in the 1950s, it continued life

as a laboratory, and later a community centre. It is currently a residential building still carrying the "Fire Station No. 5" lettering on a pediment at the Bruyère façade.

Eugène was one of the men battling the blaze on Parliament Hill in 1916, working for hours to control and douse the fire that started in the late evening of February 3rd and was still smouldering the next day. While it severely damaged the centre block, the fire left the Library virtually intact.

Michel's grandmother remembered the night well and told her children and grandchildren about her husband's return home after fighting the fire. "The story my grandmother used to tell was that when he came back from Parliament Hill, he took off his overcoat, and it was so encrusted in ice that she put it in the bathtub, and it took hours for it to melt. There was so much ice, it stood up by itself" Michel recalls.

Michel's father, Emile Rossignol, was a career civil servant. After serving in the air force for five years during the Second World War, he worked at the Department of Veteran's Affairs until his retirement. Michel's mother, the former Antoinette Dubé, was employed in various jobs over the years: nurse's aide, saleswoman at Caplan's and Freiman's, and finally cashier at the Tulip Room Restaurant at Freiman's, later The Bay.

Emile and his siblings were fascinated by fires. They would run after the fire trucks to see the blaz-

es, and before their father's death, they often watched Eugène as he rushed into burning buildings.

This family relationship with the fire department continued after Eugène Rossignol's death in 1931, at the age of only 43 years.

Michel remembers one firefighter in particular who kept in touch with the family: Phil Larkin, who had grown up near Station No. 5 and who became the Ottawa Fire Chief from 1967 to 1975.

Fire and firefighters continued to feature in the Rossignol family life. In the 1970s, Michel remembers waking up to the sound of sirens outside his parents' house. "It was about three o'clock in the morning and I heard the fire trucks," says Michel. "They stopped right in front of our house; I saw the pumper and all the other trucks, so I went outside and saw this flame shoot out into the air, just an incredible sight, and I thought it was my grandmother's place. I didn't know it was the printer next door. Just as I was getting really concerned about my grandmother and others in the house, I saw them on the porch, a fireman helping them to safety." His grandmother moved out of the house at 220 Guigues because of the fire damage.

Michel's grandmother would have been so proud to know that he ended his working career at the Library of Parliament, the library her husband fought so hard to save in 1916. She would also be pleased to know that, at the end of his career, Michel worked on policies to ensure that veterans like his father were treated with respect.



Parliament Hill and firefighters



Michel at St-Patrick Street

## Lowertown lost and found: Cornering St. Patrick and Cumberland

Nancy Miller Chenier

Built between 1878 and 1888, the distinctive brick house on the southeast corner of St. Patrick and Cumberland housed one of the four businesses of this intersection - a business at each corner. Although situated at the outer edge of the main commercial part of Lowertown, residents near this junction had everything within reach, from meat, groceries and liquor to painted signs.

Regrettably, this last of the original buildings that once stood at this cross-road is now facing the prospect of being surrounded by a proposed four-storey apartment development that would extend along Cumberland, from Murray Street to St. Patrick Street.

Like many Lowertown corner buildings, the house has already experienced physical changes and varied uses over its lifetime. The story of some of the occupants and their enterprises reveals a little background on its evolution and the eventual acquisition of two addresses - 320 St. Patrick Street and 277 Cumberland.

Adelaide Marenger, widow of Antoine, gets the credit for the first grocery store on this site, operating perhaps as early as 1861. She also built the double at 281-283 Cumberland as an investment property. After the death of her husband, Adelaide operated a grocery business at 320 St.

Patrick from late 1870 up to late 1880, eventually with the assistance of her son, Adolphe and his family.

When Louis Renaud with his wife Euphemie St. Germain and infant daughter Validore arrived, the family continued the grocery for a few years. By 1888, they had established a flour and feed business behind the house, at 279 Cumberland Street. The house was big enough to accommodate extended family members, and the flour and feed business was successful enough to require a clerk and a delivery

person. Horses still ruled the roads and needed food, as did the chickens and pigs that people kept in their back yards. For people, flour in large quantities was needed to keep up the daily supply of bread.

In 1912, 320 St. Patrick was sold to Michel Ulric Valiquet, a physician who lived here for several decades with his wife Grace Harris and their five children. Newspaper stories about the family indicate that St. Brigid was their home parish and the children were educated at nearby schools. During the First World War, Ulric served in Europe from 1915 to 1918 as part of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and was raised to the rank of Major. On his return to Ottawa, he worked at the Department of Pensions and at the time of his death in 1932, he was a

medical adviser on the Board of Pension Commissioners and medical officer for the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. His funeral service at St. Brigid's included an honour guard of the Dragoons and band music by the Governor General's Foot Guard.

Over the years, the building has adapted to the needs of its owners. What started as a combined home and grocery store on St. Patrick with an adjoining flour and feed business on Cumberland became a large residence and office for a physician and his growing family. As a practicing physician, it is possible that Valiquet made changes to the building to have a discrete entrance for visits from patients.

By 1940, when Robert Beland purchased the building, he had a separate address at 277 Cumberland while 320 St. Patrick was converted to apartments, to meet housing needs generated by an influx of civil servants to Ottawa during WW II. Later, 277 Cumberland was also converted into two rental units. Happily, the building is now once again a single home for Alexandra and Armin Badzak.

As the neighbourhood evolved, there were many changes in its surroundings. One of the other long-term corner landmarks is St. Brigid's, constructed in 1889 on the northwest corner to serve the local Irish and other English-speaking Catholics and now home to the St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts.



Kind-Edward to St-Patrick, looking west.



# Voting with your bike for a better cycling network

Michelle Ramsay

Our world is being re-shaped by apps. Amazon, Airbnb, and Uber have disrupted commerce, while apps such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn have given the word “social” a whole new meaning. Now we have welcome news that a “social fitness” app called Strava is poised to re-shape our city’s biking network.

Strava—which is the Swedish word for strive—enables its “community of athletes” to track their bike rides, runs and walks via their iPhone, Android or dedicated GPS device. It also helps them analyze and quantify their performance. They can strive to improve their personal best (PB) or work their way up the Strava Leaderboard whilst competing against other Strava users on designated routes.

The app also brings camaraderie and motivation, incorporating fun features such as clubs, badges and crownings. King or Queen of the Mountain is a highly coveted title across the Strava world. Over 50 GPS devices are compatible with the app, including Fitbit, Garmin and Suunto. Although the company does not publish its user numbers, it does say that some five million rides are logged into its database every week. It’s no wonder PC Magazine listed Strava as one of ‘The 25 Best Fitness Apps for 2016’.

The combination of the Strava app and GPS technology also unlocks an opportunity to use the collected data—stripped of personal identifiers to protect user privacy—in city planning. Happily for cyclists, the two municipalities in the National Capital Region are collaborating to take advantage of this opportunity.

The cities of Ottawa and Gatineau recently announced that they have entered into an agreement with Strava Inc. to obtain cycling data for the region. The agreement gives the two cities access to two years’ worth of cycling trip data, such as where and when people are riding, how far and what measures they take to deal with unsafe roadways. The data is then aggregated to provide a pattern of cycling trips across the region.

The first year’s data is historical, comprising over 160,000 bike trips logged by

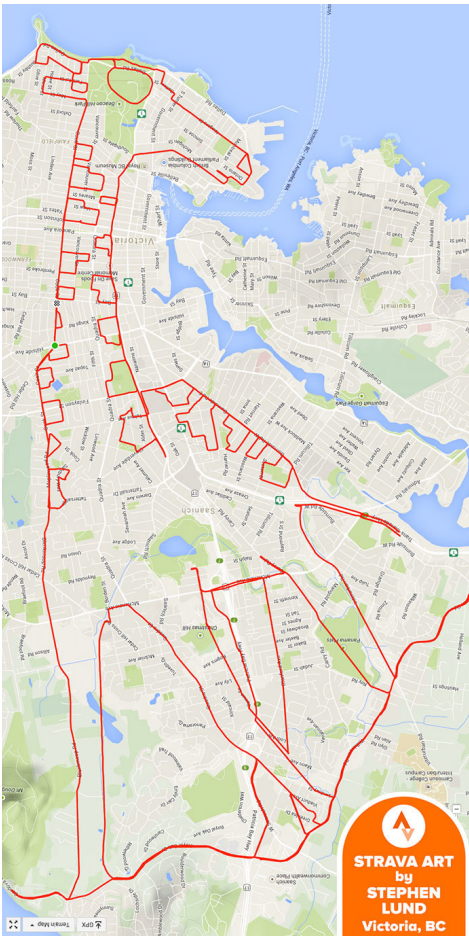
the 7,065 local riders who are already registered users of the Strava app. The second year’s data is real time data, tracking bike rides point-to-point 24/7 while being continually updated with the addition of new users, changes to the bike path network, and even accident locations.

The Strava mapping will also shape changes to the cycling network because the data will highlight sections of routes and roadways where people are detouring or using sidewalks, which indicates they don’t feel safe riding on those stretches. City staff can then decide what would make them feel safer, painting sharrows (road-sharing markings showing a bicycle with two chevrons), designating a bike lane, or installing a multi-use pathway.

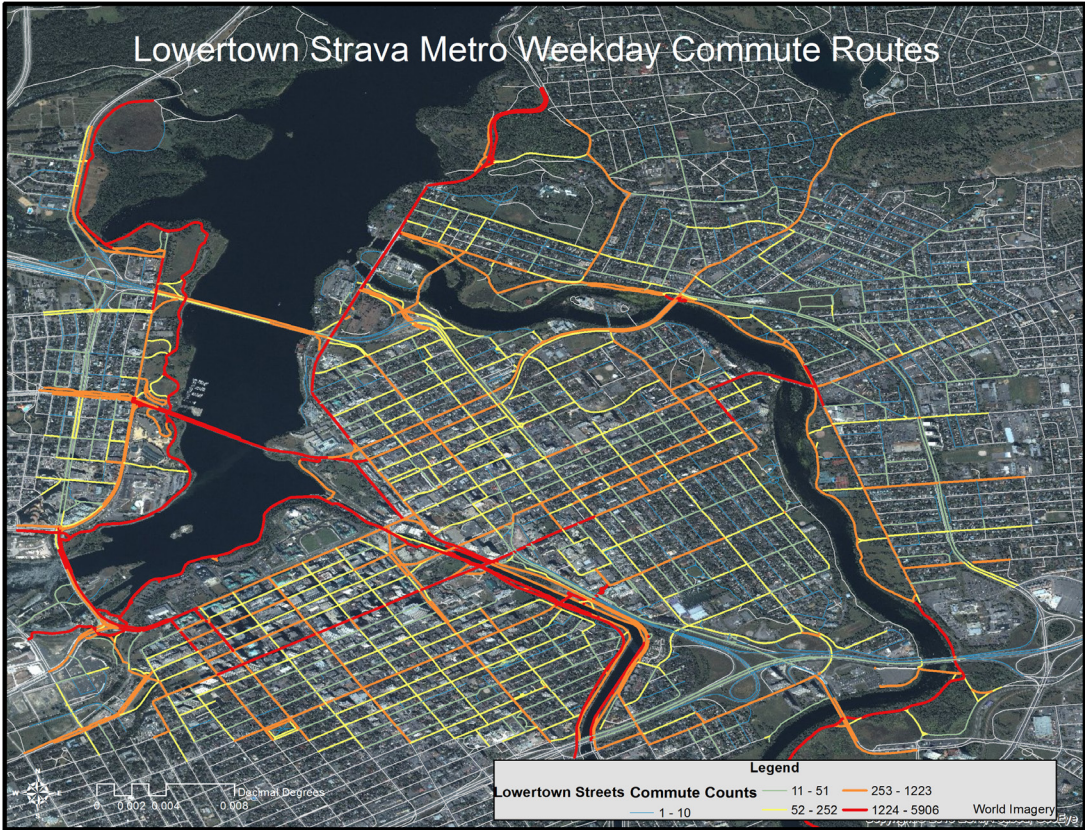
Numerous other municipalities have decided to use Strava Metro data in their planning process. The company formed Strava Metro and struck its first deal with the Oregon Department of Transportation in fall 2013. Since then, cities around the world have signed up at a fast pace. In Ontario, they include Simcoe County, Halton County, City of Oakville, City of London, York Region and now, Ottawa.

Soon after the announcement, local bike blogger Kathryn Hunt of The Incidental Cyclist cautioned, “It is certainly the best data collection op-

tion the city’s come up with yet, but whoever looks at the results should



Garmina, the GPS doodle giraffe created by Stephen Lund on Strava, took 115 km of cycling.



The heavy red lines on this map represent up to 6,000 cyclists who pass through Lowertown on their way to and from work, mostly along Sussex drive and the bike paths along the Rideau canal and Ottawa river.

remember that ‘If it’s not on Strava, it didn’t happen’ shouldn’t be the rule.”

To address concerns that Strava data is marketed to bike ‘warriors’ and cycling competitors, Hunt and a few other local bike commuters formed a club called #ottbike on the Strava website. She explains, “...after the City’s announcement, quite a few cyclists signed up, specifically in order to track the kind of riding we do and make sure it shows up against the sea of spandex. There’s an #ottbike Strava club now to remind people to log their short, slow, urban trips, to generate the kind of data we want generated.” About 80 people have joined the #ottbike club to date.

Strava Metro Manager Brian Riordan points out that, “Of the 7,000 users in your region, over 4,700 of them upload commute trips. Of the 160,000 bike trips logged last year, more than half were commute trips and not recreation. The demographic of the Strava user is changing as the social network continues to grow. So there is already a large group of commuters on Strava and with new folks coming on board this will only provide deeper data.”

Ottawa’s Citizens for Safe Cycling is encouraging people to join Strava as a voting platform. “This data will be used in decision-making about cycling and walking infrastructure. Every trip you take is a vote for where you want to go. The City will be able to learn how bike traffic flows at intersections, how usage patterns change in winter or darkness, which streets even the most enthusiastic Strava users refuse to use, how far out of our way some of us have to go to cross a river or a highway, the desire-lines that need to be made into official routes, how long pedestrians wind up waiting at intersections, and how far and how fast a typical active commuter will go.”

Riordan echoes the importance of participating in the data capture: “Every time you log into Strava, you vote for your ride and the paths that you use.”

This is civic engagement with a side of fun. Kathryn Hunt enjoys that “cyclists who’ve signed on for Strava in spite of its sportsiness, and because they want people to

continues on page 9

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# Kickin' it 1941 style at the Lord Elgin Hotel

Michelle Ramsay

The stylish Lord Elgin Hotel turned 75 on February 27th, celebrating its milestone anniversary with a glamorous Forties lounge party. Every detail was crafted to 1941 specs - from the Hollywood-style searchlights at the door actually manufactured in 1941, to a local big band that would do Benny Goodman proud, to the intimate scotch bar with a whiskey-voiced blues singer.

Some 250 people attended the gala, with many answering the call to dress up in 1941 vintage clothing. The City of Ottawa proclaimed February 27, 2016 Lord Elgin Hotel Day, an honour which, as Mayor Watson pointed out when he presented the scroll, “includes free parking on this date anywhere in Ottawa.” General Manager David Smythe accepted the proclamation with gratitude, noting however, “I would prefer having free parking on July 1st, 2017.”

The first scroll presented to the hotel on behalf of the City was commissioned by alderman Chester Pickering, the man who is credited with brokering the deal between the various founders of the hotel. It was placed in a time capsule on February 27th, 1941, the same day the ceremonial cornerstone was laid by Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Mayor Stanley Lewis.



(Left to right) Lowertown resident and Lord Elgin Hotel Sales Manager Amber Van der Hoeven; fellow resident Charles McCullough, Vice President, Corporate Philanthropy and Partnerships at the Ottawa Heart Institute Foundation; and, Nila Matthews, Sales Representative with Coldwell Banker Rhodes & Company Brokerage.

According to Randy Boswell, author of ‘The Lord Elgin Hotel’, Pickering mused at the time about how nice it would be for people to read the scroll “when the hotel had outlived its usefulness in 75 years or so, and was being torn down.”

Happily, the Lord Elgin survived its first 75 years, and is thriving. Legions of visitors laud its staff and accommodations on Trip Advisor and other travel sites. Lowertown resident Amber Van der Hoeven, who began working at the Lord Elgin a few months ago, enthuses, “Since I first set foot in Ottawa, the Lord Elgin stole a piece of my heart. Now an employee, I am thrilled to share in its history.”

Indeed, it has a fascinating history, chronicled in a just-published commemorative book entitled ‘The Lord Elgin Hotel: Mackenzie King’s capital vision and the birth of a landmark’. To read an excerpt, go to <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/ottawas-hotel-with-no-name-the-lord-elgin-turns-75>.

What’s next for the venerable Lord on Elgin Street? A massive renovation scheduled for May through September 2016. All rooms will be gutted and refurbished, in preparation for the influx of tourists and meetings expected during 2017, Canada’s 150th anniversary. If its own 75th anniversary celebration is any indication, the Lord Elgin will do Canada proud.

## Lowertown Legends project: Polly Drouin

The Lowertown Community Association has submitted a nomination for Polly Drouin as a hockey athlete to the Ottawa Sport Hall of Fame. LCA summer student Brendan Bowen researched Drouin for a heritage walking tour on North Dalhousie.

After a six-season, 160-game NHL ca-



Polly Drouin in Habs uniform  
[legendsofhockey.net](http://legendsofhockey.net)

reer with the Montreal Canadiens, Drouin and his wife operated the La Salle Hotel on Dalhousie Street in the 1940s. He played for various Ottawa and Hull teams before signing up in 1934 with the Canadiens, where he was known as the Flying Frenchman and “the speed merchant”.

continued from page 8

know that not everyone on a bike is training for a century [a 100-mile ride], are having some fun with it. They’re giving the rides they log sarcastic names. They’re making a point of the ordinariness of their ride to get cat food or toilet paper or bagels. They’re speculating on whether, at some point, an engineer at Strava will stop and wonder why there’s suddenly been this spike in slow, short, meandering, un-athletic trips in the Ottawa area.

Stephen Lund of Victoria, BC spent the whole of 2015 creating Strava GPS drawings, chronicled at his website Sketchbook of a GPS Artist [www.gpsdoodles.com](http://www.gpsdoodles.com). The cycling community took immediate note and countless GPS designs of dinosaurs,

queens, Star War characters and birthday messages later, his art was covered by press everywhere, and Lund himself was featured on CBC News and talked on Tedx Victoria.

If you cycle and want to participate, download the smartphone app or register at [www.strava.com](http://www.strava.com) to begin using Strava. The basic app is free; a premium subscription is offered to users who want more functionality. Once you register, consider joining the #ottbike club so you can keep track of what’s happening in Ottawa. Go to: <http://www.strava.com/clubs/168195>.

To learn more: ‘Bike Data in Ottawa’, an infographic courtesy of Citizens for Safe Cycling <http://www.bikeottawa.ca/index.php/24-data/41-bike-data>

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Heritage Conservation District or  
Heritage Demolition District?

How to demolish your Lowertown  
property in five easy steps

Most people in Lowertown live in what is called a Heritage Conservation District.

The Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District was designated in 1993 for its cultural heritage value as one of Ottawa's earliest residential neighbourhoods. The City did so to protect, improve and manage its cultural heritage resources, recognizing that “the character of the area is based strongly on architectural variety [...] it is important to maintain this diversity.”

All this may lead you to believe that there are restrictions on what you can or cannot do with your property, but we're here to tell you: not really. Don't worry about any of this.

If you want to improve your home, to enhance the heritage features, be prepared for push back from the Heritage department at the City. Best practice here is “don't ask, don't tell.” There are no inspectors to keep an eye on what you are doing. Your worst enemy is your neighbor, so have a few beers together and get on with the work.

Want permission to demolish your home? No problem at all. Here are a few tips:

1. First, it helps a lot if you uglify your building. Abandoning it is even better. Don't let pride get in the way! Look around you: lots of other people are already doing it.
2. You have to propose something to fill the space

that will be left when you demolish. Make sure that it looks “of its time,” which is code for “not like the other old stuff on your street”. This will get you a green light report from the Heritage Planner, your most important piece of paper.

A time-honoured practice is to propose an unreasonably big development — so you can then back down to what you really wanted and look like a good person. There is also an option to ask small and just build it bigger. Only your neighbours are checking, anyway.

There are many city policies about making your new place compatible with the neighbourhood, but you can ignore these completely — heritage staff, your councillor and most other councillors will not be paying attention to these.

3. You don't need an expensive architect to draw up your plans! There are lots of designers who will do plans for you; try going off-shore to get a real bargain. You can even fake their credentials, no one is checking.
4. You will need to provide an independent Cultural Heritage Impact Statement, prepared by an accredited Heritage Planner. Don't worry about the word “independent” - you are paying this company, so how hard can it be to find one who will promote your plan?
5. There is a public consultation process and you will have to go to two committees and City Council to get approval. It's a nuisance: Heritage Ottawa, your neighbours or the community association busy bodies might object, but with your Heritage Report and your Cultural Impact Statement, you are untouchable.

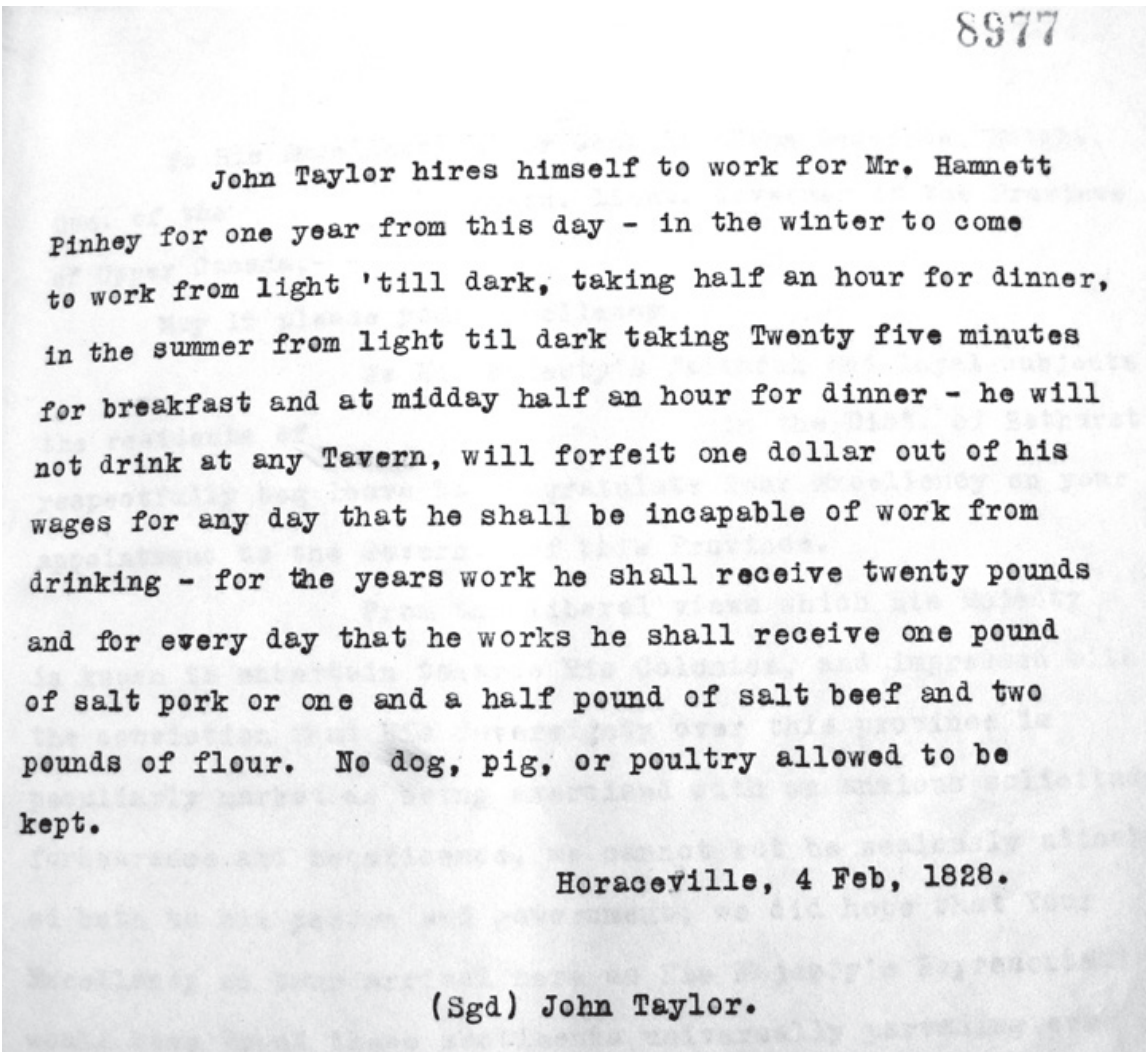
Best part? No one can appeal the decision to demolish your building. Now go and wreck something old.

And we think we have it bad?

The LCA Heritage Committee found this transcript of an indentured labour agreement from 1828, between John Taylor and Horaceville landowner Hamnett Kirkes Pinhey. It's not hard to tell this was signed long before unions - or for that matter, before vegetables,

urban farming or human rights - but probably right after the first leather-bound edition of “How the Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Poorer.”

Trivia: Hintonburg's Pinhey Street is named for Hamnett's son, Charles Hamnett Pinhey.



Transcript of Indenture Agreement between John Taylor and Mr. Hamnett Pinhey  
Library and Archives Canada, Hill Collection, MG24 19, vol. 34, p. 8977



# Death knell for 281-283 Cumberland workers' cottage

Liz MacKenzie

**Groupe Claude Lauzon wins again - City Council grants demolition permit for over objections from LCA, Heritage Ottawa, and neighbours.**

On January 26, City Council brought down the axe on 281-283 Cumberland, the last of five heritage buildings that Groupe Lauzon asked and succeeded to demolish. The Council did not have the fortitude to insist that Groupe Lauzon preserve it as part of their proposed infill project at Murray and Cumberland - Our Lady's School site. The building is a little workers' cottage double, still salvageable and still providing affordable rental housing. With ingenuity, it could have been integrated into the new condo design, but there was no resolve.

In 2005, Groupe Claude Lauzon asked City Council for permission to demolish five buildings designated under part IV of the Heritage Conservation Act. City Council refused. Over the years, through deliberate neglect, unchecked by City officials, these buildings were allowed to deteriorate and crumble. They became a blot on our community. Two have been rebuilt, two have been lost.

The Built Heritage Committee was sympathetic when neighbours, members of the Lowertown Community Association, and Heritage Ottawa spoke in defense of the building. However, these community groups are not the people that staff or City Council heeds. Groupe Lauzon has their ear and the outcome at Council was sadly predictable.

The website Skyscrapers weighed in with unsettling ignorance about the meaning of heritage, the purpose of Heritage Conservation Districts, and the legislation in place to protect buildings within them. The Skyscraper gang is about bricks and mortar — but heritage is not just about bricks and mortar. The demeaning comments about 281-283 Cumberland are a sobering reminder of this knowledge gap.

*"preserving an old cottage because three francophone widows lived in it doesn't qualify as heritage.."*

*"CMON, even if this is where some seamstress and landlady made their living, look at these buildings. They're absolutely HIDEOUS! Ugly paneling [sic], 2 doors and 7 windows. This ratio-*

*nale is indefensible."*  
<http://forum.skyscraperpage.com/showthread.php?t=220026>

This little house on Cumberland dates from the 1860s, shortly after Bytown became the City of Ottawa in 1855. Vast fortunes were being made in the lumbering, milling, construction and transportation industries. By 1871, the mills were producing more than 200 million board-feet of lumber each year.

Workers - many of them francophone - who toiled in these highly lucrative but dangerous trades were

those of business and political cliques? Their homes demand as much respect as the grand homes of the Billings and Pinheys for whom so many of the poor labored. These are homes celebrated not for their architectural grandeur, but for the spirit and stories they embody.

What will we lose when 281-283 Cumberland is demolished? We lose a monument to the story of poor, hardworking Lowertown families, who built this city brick by brick, stone by stone for the industrialists that they served. Who will remem-



*Proposed development at 281 Cumberland pushes between two houses; construction will bring structural threats.*

poorly paid and lived in humble conditions. John H. Taylor's Ottawa, an Illustrated History, Table VII shows that in 1885, the predominately francophone By Ward made up 18.1 % of the of the City's population, and in 1885 accounted for 37.9% of deaths.

The English establishment feared the voting power of the French workers and re-drew ward boundaries to dilute this power. The workers were denied government positions, life insurance, and access to banking and education opportunities.

There was poverty, and there were widows; many, many widows who had families to support and little or no income. Through ingenuity, hard work and determination, many succeeded to build decent housing and run sustainable businesses. At 283 Cumberland, we know that Adelaide Marenger, Marie Desilets, and Hermiline Brunette turned to self-employment to sustain their families. As widows, they engaged in enterprises that could be conducted from their homes with revenue generating businesses as landladies, storekeepers, and dressmakers.

We should celebrate them. Are their accomplishments lesser than

ber their stories when all the traces are destroyed?

**Proposed new construction brings structural threat to heritage houses**

The north wing of Groupe Lauzon's development plans for Our Lady's School on St. Patrick Street pushes between two heritage buildings. Engineering geologist Ted Lawrence raised concerns to the Planning Committee about dangers posed to 228 St. Patrick Street. and 277 Cumberland Street. This will be an important issue to watch when the site plan is presented, as the new construction has a high potential to threaten the structural integrity of the two buildings. Lawrence proposed a separate infill on the vacant St. Patrick Street lot to respect the heritage infill guidelines and to protect these small buildings.

The concern is heightened by the knowledge that recent residential construction with two levels of underground parking at 317-321 St. Andrew Street caused severe adverse impacts to adjacent buildings under similar circumstances.

**Texting to 911 now available**

Texting to 911 for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Speech Impaired Community (DHHSI) is now available in Ottawa, announced the Ottawa Police Service in February.

Members of the DHHSI Community must register their cell phones with their service provider to allow this functionality. For many providers, this is an online process. Once registered, the subscriber will have the ability to text their information to the 911 call taker in the event of an emergency.

The process to contact the 911 centre is not the same as a regular texting session. The registered caller dials 911 and the 911 call taker will identify that the call is being made by a member of the DHHSI community and start a texting session with the caller.

The 911 call taker will be able to hear background noise and provide verbal instructions to the caller, if they have an ability to hear in addition to texting. For individuals who are hearing impaired but can speak, they will be able to verbalize information and receive a response and instructions from the 911 call taker via text.

"In the past, members of the DHHSI Community have had to rely on a TTY system attached to their land lines at home to communicate with 911 operators. This is a perfect example of how technology can be used to improve access to emergency services, and illustrates our commitment to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities," said Insp. Paul Gallant, Ottawa Police Communications Centre. "We encourage all members of the DHHSI Community to register their cell phones and take advantage of this new feature."

**Tips for texting 911 in an emergency:**

- Do not text while driving
- Include clear information about your location and the nature of your emergency
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 911 call taker
- Text using simple language; do not use abbreviations and avoid using emoticons or emoji
- Keep text messages brief and concise
- Stay on the line until the call taker advises you that no further dialogue is required
- Keep in mind that texting does take longer than engaging in a conversation
- Photos and videos cannot be sent to 911 at this time



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# Lowertown Community Resource Centre needs your help

Naini Cloutier

The Lowertown Community Resource Centre (LCRC) needs your help to restructure its space to better serve its clients. The centre must raise \$50,000 to add to the \$60,000 in capital funds already committed by the City of Ottawa for specific enhancements of the current facility.

Since the 1970s, the LCRC has served the community's most vulnerable residents from the same location at 40 Cobourg Street. When the building was designed and constructed in 1975, the primary focus was on the Lowertown Pool and the Patro. The LCRC was not central to the plan and this is evident to anyone who visits for the first time. Just finding an entrance is a challenge. Is it the one from the parking lot, or the pool, or from Patro Street?

Staff members at the LCRC work every day with clients who live in poverty, face

isolation, experience racism and deal with discrimination. LCRC programs address the various crises that residents may face on a regular, sometimes daily basis. In ad-



dition to giving information and referrals to other existing services, workers offer counselling for individuals and families. The programs encompass parent support, early childhood development, health promotion, youth activities and ongoing

community engagement.

Physical changes are needed to ensure greater confidentiality, accessibility and personal safety.

Modifications that would greatly improve the facility in this direction include:

- Better signage and more lighting in the dark exterior passageway from the parking lot, to enable safe and secure entry
- Modifying the reception area to allow clients more privacy (as the reception area is shared with the dental clinic in the same facility) and to make the reception counter more accessible to individuals in wheelchairs and scooters
- Create a children's' program area within the centre so that caregivers can more easily connect with other services
- Provide space for residents to access computers



While the City of Ottawa provides the core funding for programs, the LCRC has to share the costs on structural renovations. The planned alterations will allow staff to better serve the needs of Lowertown's diverse community.

Businesses and individuals willing to donate should know that the LCRC can provide a charitable tax receipt.

Online donations are possible through our website at [www.crcbv.ca](http://www.crcbv.ca). Anyone wishing more information can contact Naini Cloutier at [ncloutier@crcbv.ca](mailto:ncloutier@crcbv.ca) or Christian Ndashimye at [cndashimye@crcbv.ca](mailto:cndashimye@crcbv.ca).

## Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting

FREE workshops for parents and caregivers of children from infancy to 18 years of age  
Childcare and snacks provided, registration required  
The focus of positive discipline is on:

- increasing parents' knowledge of child development
- increasing parents' understanding of children's perspectives
- improving parent-child communication
- strengthening parent-child relationships
- enhancing parents' problem-solving skills
- promoting emotional self-regulation of both parents and children

Dates: Every Tuesday starting from March 22nd until May 24th 2016  
Time: 9:30am-11:30am  
Location: 40 Cobourg Street

Diane Major  
(Monday-Friday)  
E-mail: [dmajor@crcbv.ca](mailto:dmajor@crcbv.ca)  
Phone: 613-789-3930 ex: 317

Marie Claude Flibotte  
(Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays)  
E-mail: [mcflibotte@crcbv.ca](mailto:mcflibotte@crcbv.ca)  
Phone: 613-789-3930 ex: 304

## Early Years

Promotes the healthy development of children from 0 to 6 years while providing the means to better prepare them for school. This bilingual program is geared to support parents and caregivers by offering educational tools and resources, such as workshops on parenting and playgroups.

Lowertown parents testify how our programs help them nurture parent-child connections; check out the Ottawa Early Years video on YouTube, "An engaged parent: the best gift of all".

**Parent-Baby Playgroup (bilingual)**  
The program focuses on child development, nutrition, sleep routines, baby massage and other aspects of the life of new parents.

- for babies 0 to 12 months on Mondays, 1:30 to 3:30 PM at 10 Patro Street
- for babies 0 to 18 months on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30 PM at 10 Patro Street

**Playgroups** (English or French), see <http://www.crcbv.ca/programs-and-services/#calendar> for hours and location

## Family ASL Group - American Sign Language

FREE drop-ins, free parking.  
Family ASL supports the language and literacy development of young children with language delays, fosters parent-child connection, and gives parents the tools they need to support their child's language learning at home.

Dates: Wednesday mornings from 10:00 - 11:00 at 40 Cobourg St.  
Parents are welcome to come on their own or with children. Snacks and free on-site childcare are provided.  
To register: contact Kim at 613-233-8660 or email [kim@also-ottawa.org](mailto:kim@also-ottawa.org).  
Visit [www.also-ottawa.org](http://www.also-ottawa.org) for more information.

## Lowertown, Our Home

A project in partnership with Lowertown residents and community organizations with the objective of preventing crime in the community.  
The goal is to actively engage the community to identify safety concerns in the neighbourhood and facilitate solutions.

**DUAL Breakfast Drop-In (bilingual)**  
Dates: Every Tuesday (March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26)  
Time: 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
Location: the lounge of 380 Murray  
DUAL (Drug User Advocacy League) and Lowertown, Our Home host a drop-in breakfast for current and former drug consumers. All peers are welcome. Residents from 110 Cobourg and 123 Augusta are also welcome.

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A photograph of the exterior of a barber shop. A large, stylized 'M' logo is visible in the window, with the words 'BARBER SHOP' written in red letters below it.

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# Taking your art from sideline to bottom line

Michelle Ramsay

A Lowertown resident who waited until her sixties to take art lessons was gobsmacked when someone wanted to buy one of her canvasses mere weeks after she first took up a brush.

“It wasn’t a relative or friend who was doing it to encourage me. It was an acquaintance attending a meeting at my house. The few works I had painted in class were stacked against the wall. She asked to see them. One moved her; she wanted to buy it. I was embarrassed, so I said, ‘Please, just take it.’ Later, I heard she had it framed and added it to her art collection—her ‘art collection’! That’s when it dawned on me that painting may be my next career.”

**So what’s next, if you want to ‘turn pro’?**

Artist and blogger Crista Cloutier of [theworkingartist.com](http://theworkingartist.com) says she’s often asked: “Where can I find an agent? How can I get a gallery? Who will sell my work for me? These are... the wrong questions. Those aren’t the things you need. What every artist needs is an audience. And no, it’s not someone else’s job to find one for you. It’s your job.”

**Where do you start? At home!**

First, do up a website. It doesn’t have to be fancy and it doesn’t have to be big, but it must showcase your best pieces. Think of it as a digital portfolio. There are so many easy-to-use website apps available, including leaders Weebly, Wix and WordPress. If you’re just putting together a few pages, you can often do it for free, and most offer templates that are perfect for artists’ portfolios.

For inspiration, check out these websites by Lowertown artists: [karenbailey.ca](http://karenbailey.ca), [sylviegrenier.ca](http://sylviegrenier.ca) and [barryseguin.com](http://barryseguin.com). Tip: your own name is the best URL.

Promote your website on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Yes, especially LinkedIn. John R. Math, guest author on [finearttips.com](http://finearttips.com), affirms, “LinkedIn networking affords... artists to reach, meet and network with other art professionals who in the past, they would never have never known.”

**Next, show your art.**

There are several public art shows in Ottawa that offer opportunities to build your audience—and maybe even sell a few pieces. Some are more affordable than others; some are easier to get into than others. For example, the popular Figureworks art show held every fall at St. Brigid’s

Centre for the Arts in Lowertown charges affordable entry fees—\$50 for the first work and \$20 for the second—but they don’t guarantee a spot. This is a juried show, which means if

able to Lowertown residents is Bruyère Gallery, situated in the Bruyère Family Medicine Centre on the first floor at 75 Bruyère Street. The Bruyère Gallery “merges art and heal-

showing the work of two or three artists. Exhibits change frequently. If you’re interested, call the Élisabeth Bruyère Hospital’s main information line at 613-562-6262, ext. 1000.

Some Lowertown restaurants also offer wall space to people in the neighbourhood, including Bluebird Coffee at 261 Dalhousie Street and Lapointe Fish Restaurant at 55 York Street. Best to inquire in person at these and any other local restos where you see art displayed. Tip: visit in off-hours.

If you want to invest in yourself, rent a venue and host your own exhibition. St. Bridgid’s Centre for the Arts is a venue option, as are many local restaurants and hotels that rent out event rooms.

Two local treasures are the Ottawa School of Art at 35 George Street and School of the Photographic Arts: Ottawa at 168 Dalhousie Street. Each one offers gallery space and exhibition opportunities to its students.

**Don’t forget to build your brand.**

Lastly, if you are serious about selling your art, start with the basics—learn how to market yourself. The Ottawa School of Art offers a course called “The Business of Art”, taught off-site at Cube Gallery. If you prefer to learn online, you can start with these websites: [artsyshark.com](http://artsyshark.com), [theworkingartist.com](http://theworkingartist.com) and [skinny-artist.com](http://skinny-artist.com). Google will help you find others.



Acrylic painting by Rosita Blais, Lowertown resident and fledgling portrait artist.

your works don’t make the shortlist, they won’t be exhibited. The submission fees are non-refundable.

The City of Ottawa has four community galleries where artists can show their work at no cost. The April 2017 to March 2018 exhibition schedule will be decided by a committee in late fall this year. If interested, check [ottawa.ca/en/liveculture/community-galleries](http://ottawa.ca/en/liveculture/community-galleries) in August 2016 for more information.

The Ottawa Public Library offers wall galleries in some locations, available at no cost to groups and individuals. Bookings may be made up to one year in advance, through the manager of the location. Call the OPL info line at 613-580-2940 to ask about participating branches. Note that the Rideau branch in Lowertown does not have public exhibit space.

ing to inspire compassion and encourage healing within the public, the health care workers and the patients.” This is a large space, often

“No one is born with the talent and knowledge and understanding that it takes to succeed as a working artist. Be patient with yourself. You’ve got to work through the bad to get to the good. Whether it’s technique or marketing, there’s no such thing as genius. There’s only work.”

Crista Cloutier, artist and blogger

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# La famille Patry et la Basse-Ville

Étienne Camirand

Si flâner au « Carré Cathcart » (Parc Bingham) en dégustant un « Mello-Roll » a déjà fait partie de vos passe-temps, c’est que vous avez peut-être côtoyé les Patry de la Basse-Ville dans les années cinquante. Cette famille de sept enfants - quatre filles et trois garçons - résidait, jusqu’en 1956, au 186 Bolton. Monsieur Louis V. Patry était d’ailleurs un de ceux-là. Nous l’avons rencontré récem-

était chimiste dans le domaine des sols à la ferme expérimentale. Il était marié à Liliane Boulay, originaire de Sudbury. Femme au foyer la majeure partie de sa vie, Madame Patry avait suivi un cours pour être infirmière et elle avait aussi été suppléante dans les écoles du coin. Fait intéressant, le frère de Louis Patry, Gilles, était pianiste et avait été membre des Poètes de la chanson, tout comme son père. Il avait eu l’opportunité de voyager et ses récits faisaient

personnalisée. Notons la Boulangerie Gravelle sur Dalhousie (entre Bruyère et Guigues), le dépanneur de Monsieur Poirier (coin Cathcart et Dalhousie) ou celui de Monsieur Têtu (coin Dalhousie et Bolton). Il y avait même un cinéma nommé «Théâtre Français» sur Dalhousie à l’époque. Tout cela et sans compter les nombreux commerçants ambulants qui faisaient le tour des maisons afin de vendre leur produit. Selon Louis Patry, il s’agissait d’un phénomène très ré-

400e anniversaire du passage de Champlain. De plus, Louis fait valoir l’histoire et le patrimoine d’Orléans en publiant des chroniques bilingues dans les journaux locaux et en faisant connaître la décision de la Commission de toponymie de l’Ontario qu’Orléans s’écrit avec un accent aigu en anglais et en français. Il recommande aussi que des rues, parcs et installations soient nommés en l’honneur de pionniers d’Orléans. Finalement, Monsieur



Famille Patry sur le balcon, 226 rue St-Patrick, ca. 1939



De g. à d. à l’arrière: Huguette, Hermance, Diane, Thérèse; de g. à d. à l’avant: Roger, Louis, Louis-Maurice, Liliane, Gilles.

ment afin de partager l’histoire de sa famille et celle du quartier. Le grand-père, Edgar Patry, dont ses trois sœurs prirent le chemin des vocations comme c’était souvent le cas à l’époque, était originaire de Montréal et avait plutôt bien réussi dans le domaine des affaires sur la rue Sparks. Il travaillait dans le domaine de la fourrure pour R. J. Devlin Co., un magasin bien connu à l’époque. En 1903, il avait épousé Laure Elzire Houde et ils eurent dix enfants. La famille avait, par ailleurs, pignon sur rue dans la Côte-de-Sable, quartier chic de la capitale prouvant ainsi

le bonheur de ceux qui avaient la chance de l’écouter et de le lire dans Le Droit. La Basse-Ville de l’époque connaissait déjà une diversité ethnique intéressante. Les communautés polonaise et grecque étaient notamment bien représentées. Fait à noter, tous ces groupes maîtrisaient le français et la cohabitation avec la communauté francophone était plutôt harmonieuse. Il n’était pas rare de voir les enfants de multiples origines jouer ensemble dans les aires publiques et le faire en français. Un adulte de l’époque aurait d’ailleurs croisé plusieurs petits cowboys dans les parcs car c’était un jeu prisé par plusieurs. La famille Patry n’y faisait pas exception. Les enfants adoraient aller se baigner l’été au «Flat rock» dans New Edinburgh en traversant à pieds l’ancien pont de la voie ferrée. Il fallait toutefois être vigilant car il arrivait parfois qu’un train soit rencontré lors de la traversée faisant ainsi monter l’adrénaline des petits aventureux! La famille Patry se rappelle aussi les fêtes et les rassemblements qui rythmaient la vie de quartier. A ce titre, notons par exemple le défilé de la Fête Dieu ou encore celui de la St-Jean-Baptiste. Il y avait aussi quelques industries notoires comme la Florence Paper et Gamble-Robinson. Les petits commerces familiaux étaient bien ancrés dans la communauté et servaient la population de manière

pandu durant son enfance. En 1956, la famille prend le chemin d’Eastview (aujourd’hui Vanier) pour y habiter une demeure aux dimensions plus adaptées à leurs besoins. Avant cela, les enfants Patry ont fréquenté les maisons d’enseignement du quartier comme la désormais célèbre école Guigues ou encore la prestigieuse Académie De La Salle dans le cas de Roger Patry. Aujourd’hui, Louis Patry réside à Orléans et s’implique depuis plusieurs années dans la communauté ayant à cœur la préservation du patrimoine historique de la ville. A ce titre, son travail acharné a notamment permis d’éviter la démolition de deux maisons patrimoniales sur la rue Sussex dans la foulée des importants travaux ayant lieu sur cette artère. Il est aussi vice-président et co-fondateur de la Société franco-ontarienne du patrimoine et de l’histoire d’Orléans - SFOPHO. Les activités de l’organisme contribuent à mettre en valeur l’histoire locale et à préserver le patrimoine. La SFOPHO a d’ailleurs fait installer près d’une trentaine de plaques historiques bilingues en 2014 le long du boulevard St-Joseph à Orléans en collaboration avec zone d’amélioration commerciale du cœur d’Orléans. Ces plaques avaient pour but de souligner la présence francophone dans la région ottavienne en marge des célébrations entourant le

Patry s’est vu décerner le prix Bâtisseur de la Ville le 24 juin 2015 par le maire Jim Watson.   
*Coordonné par Marc Aubin  
Merci spécial à la famille Patry*



Louis et Isabelle Gravelle (une amie) 184-186 rue Bolton, ca. 1955



Diane (Cole) et Louis Patry, 2015

leur réussite. Avant de déménager dans la Côte-de-Sable, la famille avait également résidé au 226 rue St-Patrick (un ancien hôtel). Le père, Louis-Maurice Patry,

*continued from page 1* fic. Some of this traffic would also find an opened Chapel-Beausoleil intersection an attractive route. It is our view then that the resultant cut-through traffic volumes through the Chapel-Beausoleil intersection and along Beausoleil drive would greatly exceed the actual site generated traffic that the consultant has estimated as would use this intersection.” Because of these concerns, Councillor Fleury asked Council to withhold final approval until either Trinity agrees to allow the intersection to remain closed or comes up with satisfactory measures to deal with the impact of opening the intersection. These could include, for example, restricting the times trucks can access the site, posting crossing guards and requiring all north-bound traffic on Chapel to turn at Rideau St during peak hours. The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) will review the project March 28, at a hearing that was scheduled last year, before the details of Trinity’s revised proposal were known. Since the City is now supporting the application, the OMB is expected to approve the development with no major changes. However, the hearing will provide an opportunity to review the issue of whether or not the cul-de-sac at Chapel and Beausoleil should be opened and, if so, under what conditions.



# Environment happenings around Lowertown and Ottawa

*Liz Bernstein*

**Active transportation and safer streets**

Here are a few numbers that all members of this community should know: about 2,600 trucks a day travel along the King Edward Ave/Rideau/Waller corridor, to and from the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge to the 417. About two-thirds of these trucks are tractor trailers. Daily, about 6,000 pedestrians use the King Edward Avenue — Rideau intersection during the busiest eight hours of the day. Of them, 67 people were struck between 2007 and 2010.

We may not know people who have been struck, but we certainly know elderly neighbours who refuse to attend activities at our community centres because they are afraid to cross the street. And we may not know that LCA residents, through the King Edward Avenue Task Force, have been advocating for 25 years to make our streets safer by removing the trucks from the downtown core. The Task Force is now integrating into the Lowertown Community Association, and our Environment and Active Transportation

Committee will continue fighting for safer streets for our community.

Creating a link between the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge and Highway 417 is now the subject of a \$750,000 feasibility study that is funded by the City of Ottawa and the Province of Ontario. The study is looking at options and different possible routes for a tunnel to carry trucks to and from Highway 417. A report of preliminary findings is due to be delivered to City Council's Transportation Committee shortly. As soon as we receive it we will share it, and invite residents to meetings and whatever is deemed feasible, we will encourage ample opportunity for community consultations. Let us know if you wish to be involved.

**Climate change motion to strengthen climate protection**

On February 16, the city's Environment Committee passed a climate change motion put forward by the chair of the committee, councillor David Chernushenko. Councillors discussed the motion after hearing a report on the emerging Renewable Energy Strategy for the City, which is set to begin consultations in the coming months,

and an update on the implementation of the City's climate change plan. The motion proposed five things:

1. That the City strengthen its greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to match the more ambitious Ontario provincial target;
2. That Mayor Jim Watson join an international climate initiative called "the Compact of Mayors";
3. That David Chernushenko work with multiple city departments and outside groups to generate an implementation plan to reach the more ambitious targets;
4. That city staff study the feasibility of setting minimum energy efficiency standards for new construction in Ottawa, and;
5. That the Environment Committee change its name to the Environment and Climate Protection Committee.

Scott Moffatt was the sole councillor on the committee who voted against the motion, while most were eager to support more ambitious target. "I would rather fail trying rather than not being as aspirational as we can," Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney said. The LCA sent a letter to council-

lors on the committee urging passage of the motion, noting that for years we have been working hard to improve walking and cycling infrastructure for residents' safety and for us to reduce our own carbon footprint with our transportation choices. Councillor Fleury is not on the Environment Committee, but indicated support.

"If you live in Ottawa, your city government, your provincial government and your federal government all say that they care about taking action on climate change, which means now is the moment for people who care about this issue to demand they follow through on that," said Graham Saul, Lowertown resident and Chair of Ecology Ottawa.

A week later, on February 24, the whole city council approved the motion with a vote of 21-3. Mayor Watson introduced the motion by saying "the reality is climate change will be a larger part of the municipal agenda in the years ahead, and that is simply the reality we face. The future prosperity of any city will depend on its ability to protect itself from, and adapt to, climate change".

## Age-friendly walkability report looks at street safety for seniors

*Ecology Ottawa*

The Council on Aging Ottawa (COA) and Ecology Ottawa hosted a special event on February 25 to launch An Age-Friendly Walkability Report: Safe Streets for Seniors and Other Valuable People in Ottawa.

The report summarizes a two-year project carried out by the COA's Pedestrian Safety Committee involving walkability and pedestrian safety audits in three Ottawa communities — Hintonburg, the Glebe and Kanata-Beaverbrook in the winter, spring and fall of 2014-15. Residents from age 2 to 85 (and several dogs) carried out the walkability audits in sunny, rainy and snowy weather.

"To our knowledge, we are the first city in Canada to carry out walkability audits in all seasons," says Peggy Edwards, a member of the Pedestrian Safety Committee. "Snow, ice and cold winds impose serious challenges to seniors and people with disabilities, which need to be prioritized for attention in a winter city like Ottawa."

The report talks about the factors that put older adults and other vulnerable pe-

destrians at risk and the city policies and plans that affect pedestrian safety and walkability. It also makes available an age-friendly walkability audit checklist that other communities can use, and recommendations to improve pedestrian safety and walkability, especially for seniors and other vulnerable road users, such as young children and people with mobility problems.

As a guiding principle, the report recommends to the city of Ottawa to adopt an age-friendly "feet first" approach to transportation and public space design that assigns priority to users in this order: pedestrians (including those using motorized mobility aids), cyclists, motorcyclists, drivers of motor vehicles.

Detailed recommendations seek to implement an age-friendly, inclusive complete streets approach. This includes speed reduction strategies and strategies to prevent collisions with people who use wheelchairs and who have vision and hearing disabilities. Curb cuts increase accessibility for pedestrians with disabilities and allow easy movement by people trav-

elling in wheelchairs, scooters and walkers. All signalled intersections could be equipped with audible pedestrian signals and instructions to activate them.

To prevent collisions at mid-block uncontrolled crossings, the city could incorporate pedestrian crossing islands on roads with four or more lanes or with very long distances between intersections. There are strategies to improve winter walking - enhanced ice removal on residential streets and escalating snow removal standards from Class B (snow packed) to Class A (bare surface) around all transit stops, schools and in residential areas where seniors' residences are located.

The report does not overlook the need for a network of safe, accessible, free, clean and environmentally responsible public toilets and water fountains in parks, major transit stops and key public places to meet the needs of residents and tourists in Ottawa. The recommendations are to take advantage of all new construction and reconstruction to include public toilets, to make toilets in public buildings and parks open and accessible all year round, and to

develop a city map of public toilets.

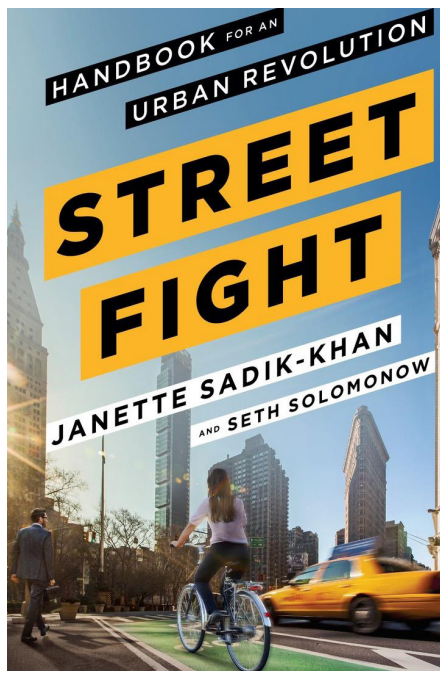
One important recommendation calls for enhanced enforcement of the Highway Safety Act requiring drivers to wait until pedestrians have completely crossed the road before proceeding at school crossings and pedestrian crossovers. Lastly, the city must review the implications of and plan for increasing numbers of mobility scooters and motorized wheelchairs as the population ages.

COA's goal is for the city to adopt a Vision Zero goal which aims to reach zero fatalities and serious injuries to pedestrians and cyclists by 2020.

## New York's Urban Revolution comes to Ottawa: The movement for safer, more livable streets

Janette Sadik-Khan, co-author of Streetfight: Handbook for an Urban Revolution and former Transportation Commissioner for New York City, will be in Ottawa on April 27 to talk about how she re-imagined public spaces and helped transform the streets New York — one of the world's greatest, toughest cities — into dynamic spaces for pedestrians and cyclists.

During her tenure as Transportation Commissioner, Sadik-Khan implemented an ambitious program to improve street safety, mobility and sustainability throughout New York City. She oversaw a series of innovative projects, like creating more pedestrian space in Times Square, the addition of nearly four hundred miles of bicycle lanes, and the installation of more than sixty plazas citywide.



To help Ottawa join the Urban Revolution, Sadik-Khan will share tips on how to rethink, reinvigorate and redesign our city for safer, more livable streets. The Lowertown Community Association is proud to partner with Ecology Ottawa and other Ottawa community associations to co-sponsor this exciting evening at the Horticulture Building - Large Hall, 1525 Princess Patricia Way.

*Streetfight: Handbook for an Urban Revolution, co-authored by Sidik-Khan and Seth Solomonow will be available for sale and signing by Sadik-Khan. For more information and to RSVP, visit [ecologyottawa.ca](http://ecologyottawa.ca)*

Did you know?

- By 2031, more than one in five residents in Ottawa will be over 65.
- Between 2000 and 2010, almost 43% of pedestrian deaths were aged 56 and over, although this age group represents less than 20% of the population.
- Older people experience more and higher severity pedestrian injuries than younger people. Injured seniors spend an average of 16 days in hospital, compared to 7 for all age groups.
- Uneven, broken, sloped and slippery sidewalks and pathways can lead to falls, which often have serious, long-term consequences for older people. Pedestrian falls and fear of falling is exacerbated in winter when ice and heavy snowfalls can keep older people inside and socially isolated.
- Some 33% of Canadians over age 65 report having a disability and 81% of people with disabilities use some kind of assistive device.
- Wheelchair users are 3 times more likely to suffer from a car collision, often resulting in death or serious injuries.
- Driving 15 km/h over the set speed limit increases the chance of killing a pedestrian from 45% to 85%.



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