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COMMUNAUTAIRE
DE LA BASSE-VILLE

THE LOWERTOWN
COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER

Upcoming Community

Association Meetings

Lowertown Community Association Meetings are held on the Second Monday of each month:

- April 16 - 7pm
- May 14 - 7pm
- June 11 - 7pm
(None in July/August)
- September 10 - 7pm
- October 15 - 7pm
- November 19 - 7pm

All Community Association meetings are held at the **Routhier Community Centre** located at 178 Guigues Ave.

For up to date information on community news and events, visit:

www.lowertown-basseville.ca

LOCAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES CALL FOR A NEW VISION FOR THE BYWARD MARKET

By Norman Moyer

Depending on who you ask, Ottawa is on the verge of losing the dynamic, mixed residential community that has existed in Lowertown since Bytown was established.

A vibrant neighbourhood combines many functions. It can house large retail facilities, major institutions, lively restaurants, bars and pubs, a farmers' market and a myriad of small retail stores that serve both local residents and visitors. But most of all it needs permanent residents of all ages, tastes and pocketbooks. Lowertown has all of these features and the Lowertown

Community Association (LCA) is working to keep it that way.

On February 23 the LCA, the Byward Market Business Improvement Area (BIA) and the Byward Market Safety and Security Committee (SSC) all signed a letter to Mayor Watson outlining their concern that this community is threatened by the shape of development taking place. They are "concerned by the gradual reduction of small retail stores and particularly by the loss of food retail stores. This trend is combined with an increasing number of restaurants and bars. Between 2002 and 2011, the number of restaurants increased from 88 to 106 and the number of bars and nightclubs increased from 21 to 27. Over the last year alone the

market lost 7 retail stores, 2 of which were food retail stores. If this continues Lowertown will become less attractive for full time residents and visitors. Now is the time for the city to take action to make sure that smaller food retail businesses can survive in the Byward Market area.

The problem seems to come from two directions. First, the rental that can be paid by bars and restaurants drive up the cost of commercial space to the point that small food retailers cannot compete. Second, the market for the small food retailers is changing. The people who used to drive down to

(cont. on p.2)

WINTER FESTIVAL BIG DRAW FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

By Emma Ewart & Christine Kilfoil

The 2012 annual Lowertown Winter Festival is another example of the growing pride and spirit in the Lowertown community. With over 260 hot dogs served, hundreds of cups of hot chocolate, coffee and cookies, attendees enjoyed a day of food, fun and community. The festival attendance was approximately 200 people this year.

Holly Brown, coordinator of the "Lowertown Our Home" initiative of the Lowertown Community Resource Centre (LCRC), facilitated the organization of the festival as a first ever joint initiative of the Low-

ertown East Residents Committee and the Lowertown Community Association (LCA). "It was great to work with the LCA and join their efforts with the Lowertown East Residents Committee. It was truly a resident-led effort to create a festival organized by residents of Lowertown for the residents". Michael Kilpatrick, organizer for the LCA echoes that sentiment. "the LCA and LCRC will continue to work together on organizing future events for all residents of Lowertown to enjoy"



Kids play at Winter Festival in Jules Morin Park
(photo by Vera Etches)

"It was great to see the new faces at the Winter Festival too" said Brown, who took time throughout the event to greet both old and new Lowertown participants and thank

(cont. on p.2)

SIGN UP FOR NEWS- LETTERS

Send us your details to the following e-mail to receive community news and updates from the Lowertown Community Association. Write to us at: info@lowertown-basseville.ca

Accountant Needed!!

The Lowertown Community Association is looking for someone with bookkeeping experience to support documentation and management of its finances.

To join our team, write to us at info@lowertown-basseville.ca



Winter Festival Activities: (Left) Christie Lake Kids Hockey Team Players ready to face-off with the Ottawa Police Team. (Right) Horses led dozens of happy children on sleigh rides. Photos by Vera Etches.

WINTER FESTIVAL

(cont. from p.1) ... them for turning up. There were also attendees from Ottawa West and Quebec who had heard about the Festival. "Maybe Lowertown will become the place to go", said Brown. Other guests included three levels of government officials who were in attendance to support the residents of Lowertown: City of Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Councilor for Rideau Vanier Mathieu Fleury, Provincial MPP Madeline Meilleur and Federal MP Mauril Belanger.

There was no doubt Lowertown was hot that day, and that was in addition to the warm weather. The day started with a parade of over 60 people including a horse and carriage from Cundell Stables, families

and members of the two associations. They marched around the side streets on Lowertown east to Jules Morin Park. Residents watching the parade were attracted by energy and urged to follow the parade to the park. Events included face painting, snow painting, and tug of war and hoola hoop activities for children. There was an exhibit of historic Lowertown pictures by the LCA Heritage committee. The Ottawa police and the Christie Lake kids faced off on the hockey rink.

Brown believes that joining the two associations, the efforts of the Lowertown residents themselves, and holding the event on family day when people were looking for things to do, helped make the Festival a success.

Fitzpatrick also noted the dedication of the volunteers. "The event could not have happened without the help of the volunteers who took time out of their busy lives to make the Winter Festival a reality", he said.

No event is complete without the sponsors who ensured the event could be offered at little or no costs to residents. Sponsors included Tim Hortons and Bridgehead for the Coffee and hot chocolate, Loblaws and Metro for the food, and York St Entertainment for the barbeque. They are dedicated supporters of the efforts of Lowertown Association and it is greatly appreciated.

BYWARD MARKET

(cont. from p.1) ... the market and shop are now deterred by traffic congestion and the cost of parking. New farmers markets in other parts of the city have also eaten into this traditional market. It is true that new people are moving into the communities around the Market, but so far these new residents have not made up for the loss of traditional shoppers.

The Lowertown/Byward Market area is changing rapidly in ways that could make it less attractive to a broad range of residents. The LCA, BIA and the SSC have asked the city to act quickly to examine the issues and to hold a community visioning exercise to lay down the parameters of a dynamic, mixed community for the next decades.

The BIA has agreed to fund one half of the cost of the visioning exercise and it appears that the City will include this activity in its plans for 2012. Now is the time to start thinking about the vision for the Lowertown/Byward Market area. Please plan to get involved. Watch for more information about when and how the City will run this process. In the meantime, shop at our local stores, they need our support.



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City Councillor
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Mathieu Fleury
Ward / Quartier 12 Rideau-Vanier



Rideau Street to be reconstructed

The wait is over. Rideau Street will finally get the revitalization that it deserves. The reconstruction of the street will take place this summer to replace outdated infrastructure including water pipelines and sewage.

The Rideau Street renewal will be a complete street reconstruction, as was done on both Preston and Wellington Streets.

The focus of the renewal project is to create "spaces", as to improve both the pedestrian and cycling environments. It will also encourage the development of an inviting and friendly shopping district that will connect the communities in the area and be the destination for both residents and tourists in the city. The new design will also take into consideration that the street is a key transit corridor.

The first phase of construction will begin mid-April and will focus on the section between Dalhousie Street and King Edward Avenue. The second phase of construction will begin mid-July until the late fall and will focus on the section between King Edward Avenue and Chapel Street. The remainder of the project, between Chapel Street and Cummings Bridge, will be completed in summer 2013. It is expected that the section between Sussex Drive and Dalhousie Street will be rehabilitated through the Light Rail Train project.



@mathieufleury

Ottawa

MESSAGE FROM THE LOWERTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

By Marc Aubin

Dear Neighbours,

In the 14 years that I have been volunteering in Lowertown, no time has seemed more important to the future of this community than now. We have a rich history, a diverse community, and a metropolitan flavour that can't be found anywhere else in Ottawa. However, we have many challenges ahead of us as well. For example, every major road in Lowertown is presently slated to be widened. Meanwhile, over two dozen heritage buildings are threatened with demolition. We are a community in transition and we can be spectators or we

can be leaders. We can let profit and planning by neglect define our community, or we can choose our own future – one that improves on what we have now. It's really up to all of us.

A key part of building our future is our community association. It is one of the few organizations in the neighbourhood that is in a position to help bring all residents together. We've been working very hard over these past few years to build this association. We share information on what's happening in the neighbourhood; organize community events; and, encourage

discussion on important issues and developments. We have many dreams and projects on the go. Together, there are no limits.

A strong community is one where residents communicate with each through mediums like our newspaper, the Echo, attend community events and meetings, like our winter and summer festivals, and contribute some of their time to building the community. If you've received the Echo at your home, then you are a resident of Lowertown and you can join us. It can be as simple as showing up, but it can be

more, like joining one of our committees. You can work on special projects. Do you like taking photos? We need you. Do you like artwork and history? We need you. Do you like urban planning issues or helping solve big problems like homelessness and abandoned buildings? We need you. Do you want to have a community garden or do some guerilla gardening? We need you. Start by getting on our email distribution list and let's go from there together.

Marc Aubin is President of the Lowertown Community Association

WHICH WAY THE WEDGE? CARLETON STUDENTS HELP PRESERVE LOWERTOWN HERITAGE

By Peter Gould

Many residents of the 'Wedge'—the enclave bordered by King Edward, St. Patrick and the Rideau River—were saddened last year to see the City approve a developer's plans to tear down houses from Lowertown's early days to make way for a five-storey condominium. The developer, Claridge, originally sought approval of a nine-storey structure on Bruyere Street, but following resident opposition the project was scaled back to five storeys. In response to residents' concerns about the project's impact on local heritage, the City has promised to conduct a heritage study of Lowertown with a view to the possible expansion of the current Lowertown heritage district. As a first step, the City invited students in Carleton University's Canadian Studies program to work with the community to produce a heritage study of the Wedge.

Adjunct Professor Victoria Angel and one of her students, Cristina Ureche-Trifu are directly involved in the heritage study. Victoria, who also works as a heritage conservation expert with Parks Canada, described the project as an exciting opportunity for the students to learn

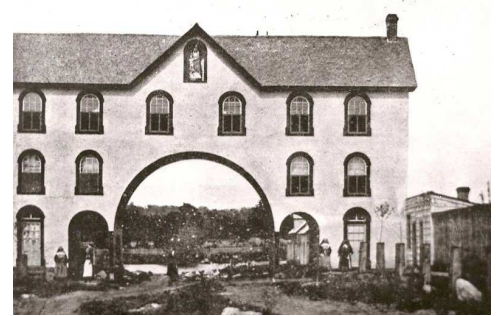
about Lowertown's rich cultural history and put into practice lessons about the preservation of buildings and cultures. The class studied the housing stock of the Wedge, noting what has been preserved from Lowertown's early history and what buildings disappeared in the era of urban renewal in the 1960s, when houses were demolished to make way for the new St. Patrick Street and apartment blocks. The students also looked at the geography of the Wedge, where the river bank that once ran along Rose Street was modified to where it is now, some hundred metres away.

The most important work of the class, however, is consultation with the residents of the Wedge. Victoria hoped that residents would share their vision, asking "Do you think there are certain characteristics of the Wedge that you want to keep?". The class has a community engagement team using social media and pamphlets to reach the residents. The report will draw on the views of residents from an online survey as well as two focus groups being held by the class. The students are engaging residents in exercises such as "cognitive mapping" to help the class visualize what residents value in terms

of houses, streets, paths and parks in the neighbourhood.

Victoria noted that, like many formerly lower-income neighbourhoods, much of the housing of the Wedge has been replaced over time, and so there is not a significant stock of buildings to be considered for heritage conservation. Nonetheless, the history of Lowertown is an important part of the history of Ottawa and has a special symbolic importance to the French-Canadian, Irish and Jewish communities. Lowertown has its origins as a transitional community, and continues to be the home of many immigrants and students. Therefore, the class is studying not only the built heritage of the Wedge but also the cultural landscape in an attempt to discover what the Wedge means to its residents.

In addition to her studies, Cristina works on masonry conservation for the Parliament Buildings. She says the class will recommend that the community and the City of Ottawa consider set-



Good Shepherd Convent Archway, over St. Andrews Street - demolished in 1895.

ting up walking tours of the district, plaques and maps. Modern technology is a boon to cultural preservation, as virtual tours with photographs and videos can be created using smartphone applications. A website can be an important means of disseminating the legacy of Lowertown's rich history.

The class hopes to get as much input as possible from the community. Their report will be presented to a Student Symposium being organized by the Heritage stream of the Canadian Studies program on March 24.

RECONSTRUCTION OF RIDEAU STREET TO START IN MAY

By Sylvie Grenier

The City of Ottawa will be rebuilding Rideau Street between Dalhousie and the Cummings Bridge over the next two summers. The construction between Dalhousie and King Edward Avenue will start at the beginning of May. The remaining portion of work between King Edward and Chapel will start in July and continue until the end of the year. The balance of the street between Chapel and Cummings Bridge will be done in 2013.

The construction work will include the rehabilitation and / or replacement of watermain, sanitary, storm and combined sewers, sidewalks, street lighting and signage. It will include new landscaping and street furniture as well as art pieces. During the design process, the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) recommended new pedestrian friendly features including as many trees as possible, wider sidewalks and lane reduction or

elimination. However, the results of LCA's efforts are mitigated as much of the road design will be similar to the current one.

Road construction will require adjustments for users. During the construction of the segment west of King Edward Avenue two lanes of traffic will be opened and truck traffic will be rerouted. For the segment East of King Edward the city will provide a single lane of traffic in the west-

bound direction only. Detour plans are currently being worked on, which will address the rerouting for buses, trucks and private vehicles. These plans will be made available at the Lowertown Community Association's monthly meeting on 16 April, at 7:00pm, at the Routhier Centre on Guigues. The association as well as the City will post the information on their respective websites.

SPRING IN THE BYWARD MARKET

By Katherine Solomon

Welcome to Spring 2012 in the Byward Market! Snow will soon be a distant memory and we turn our eyes, ears, and noses to the flowers, fashion, and food that come with the spring. The outdoor farmers' market officially opens on Mother's Day weekend, a great opportunity to bring the family to the Byward Market to experience the newest fashion trends, try inspired cuisine, and to visit the historic NCC Sussex Drive Courtyards.

Be sure to pick up your copy of the 2012-2013 Byward Market Brochure - a handy map and business listing you can use to plan your day - at the Information Kiosk at 55 Byward Market Square. Easily-identifiable Street Ambassadors in bright yellow polo shirts will be able to help

you with any of your inquiries at the Kiosk and throughout the Market.

Once you have your day planned and are familiar with the area thanks to your brochure, get out there and enjoy what the Byward Market has to offer! Bringing small children with you? Stop by Moulin de Provence where you will find dozens of spring-themed cookies, or head over to Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory for the freshest chocolate treats around (although, you don't have to be a kid to appreciate the delicious confections offered here). Also, two cupcake establishments are presenting spring collections: The Cupcake Lounge on Byward Market, and Glitz Cupcakes on Murray.

Finish off your treats before heading towards one of the many art galleries that encompass the area, and take in stunning artwork from local artists.

Clean up your spring wardrobe by visiting one (or two, three, or all) of the many celebrated fashion boutiques in the Byward Market. There's no shortage of what you are looking for to complete your new outfit.

After a day of shopping, sight-seeing, and taking in the atmosphere of the Market, you and your family will be pleasantly exhausted and ready for an unforgettable meal. Not sure what kind of food you are in the mood for? It's a hard choice. But the only thing limiting you is your imagination. With restaurants

featuring cuisine from around the world, you can have anything your palette desires.

However you chose to experience the Byward Market, know that you are going to have a day like no other. This is where you can shop, taste, and live, all while feeling like you've experienced a whole other world and can feel good about supporting local businesses.

Check out www.Byward-market.com for the complete business directory, the calendar of events, maps, historical information, parking information, and so much more.

Katherine Solomon is Communications & Special Events Coordinator for the Byward Market BIA

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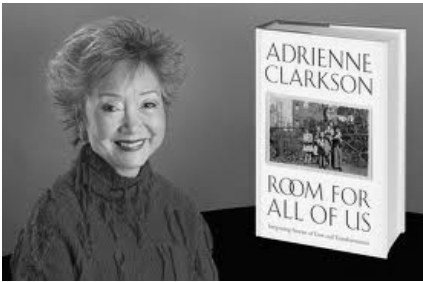


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ADRIENNE CLARKSON LOWERTOWN'S GOVERNOR GENERAL

By Nancy Miller Chenier



Adrienne Clarkson has a history in Lowertown

In late 1942, Adrienne Clarkson, then a three year old Adrienne Poy, and her family arrived in Lowertown as refugees fleeing the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong. The first Canadian home of Canada's 26th Governor-General was 277 Sussex Street, across from the Mint. Now owned by the National Capital Commission, it is currently empty and under threat of demolition for road widening.

What was life like for the Poy family on Sussex Street? William Poy secured work with the federal Department of Trade and

Commerce. Ethel Poy learned to shop and cook in a Canadian way with the help of French-Canadian families, the Marcottes and the Proulx. Later, when Adrienne was old enough for kindergarten, she set off across King Edward Avenue to York Street Public School to

join her older brother, Neville.

Inside 277 Sussex Street, the Poy family would sit with friends to discuss the war and to recount their own traumatic encounters during the Japanese invasion and occupation of Hong Kong. Other times the family would invite people for an evening filled with singing and piano music and games of Chinese checkers and gin rummy.

Outside 277 Sussex, Ottawa's population grew as the federal government expanded to meet wartime needs. Along with their

Lowertown neighbours, the Poy family dealt with rationing of items like tea, butter, sugar. Rags, metal, rubber, paper, bones and glass were saved for recycling. Censorship was accepted and labour shortages were everywhere. Candidates running for City Council advocated a return to five cent fares for streetcars. Like other Chinese living in Canada, the Poy adults would be excluded from voting until 1947.

For Adrienne Clarkson memories of her first Canadian home, on Sussex Street in 1942, include a terrifying coal furnace, a backyard Victory Garden growing Swiss chard and tomatoes, and French-Canadian families who spontaneously helped the newly arrived refugees. In 1999, as a newly appointed Governor-General, she passed this modest 3-unit Lowertown brick rowhouse on her journey to live in a grandiose stone house situated in a

magnificent landscaped garden and served by an array of staff.

In another country, this extraordinary move along the road now called Confederation Boulevard - from refugee to head of state, from brick rowhouse to official residence - would have already merited a commemoration. What better celebration of Canada's Confederation and the diversity represented within it than a designation for this house at 277 Sussex and an opportunity to tell all Canadians this amazing family story?

**“During my life in
Canada, I have moved
from a triplex at 277 Sussex,
opposite the Canadian
Mint, to One Sussex
Drive, Rideau Hall.”**

*(Adrienne Clarkson,
Heart Matters:
A Memoir, 2006)*

TRUCK TRAFFIC MUST BE FAIRLY SHARED

By Marc Aubin

It has been 47 years since the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge opened. Ever since, King Edward and Rideau have been used as a temporary truck route between Gatineau and Highway 417. In an Ottawa Journal article from the 1970's, former president of the Lowertown community association, Lionel Hotte, boldly said "the poor are fed up with being treated as leftovers." The article was entitled "Passing the trucks" and it is a stark reminder of how little some things have changed in Ottawa.

Despite promises from a generation of politicians and bureaucrats, an alternative route is still a far way off. Despite studies for an interprovincial Bridge to the East, fierce opposition by residents in potentially affected communities are adding to rumblings that this project may never come to fruition. As the City grows, Lowertown must bear the burden of more trucks, cars and buses every year. Most terrible of all, over half a dozen people have been killed in recent years on

this truck route and most of the incidents involved trucks.

The King Edward Task Force has taken up Mr. Hotte's challenge. We will be releasing a report this spring entitled "No More Trucks on King Edward Avenue." What we will reveal in that report is somewhat shocking. Despite having five interprovincial bridges between Gatineau and Ottawa, only two of the bridges allow trucks to cross. There are also several major roads in Ottawa that could help with dis-

persing truck traffic, but these roads often pass by wealthier and more influential communities or are controlled by the National Capital Commission. Our report will challenge the status quo. The burden of truck traffic in Ottawa must be fairly shared. Lowertown has paid a high price for this City's truck traffic. Ottawa owes Lowertown, people like Mr. Hotte, and others like him.



LOWERTOWN HISTORY IN PICTURES

Left: Parade on Notre-Dame Street (now De Lasalle High School parking lot) - July 1961
Right: Celebration on St. Andrews (296-270) circa. 1950

*If you have any historical pictures of Lowertown to share, please send us these at :
thelowertownecho@gmail.com*



THAI RESTAURANT DELIVERS SERVICE WITH LOVE

By Yasmin Asgarali-Glassford

Sukanda never thought she would own a restaurant, and yet ever since opening on Feb 1, 2010, clients call to compliment her cooking!

Arriving in Canada from Thailand almost one year after her marriage in Bangkok to Andrew, she worked as a helper in various

restaurants, learning and growing. Always a giver and ready to help, she remembers her mother's words: 'do good for others and it will come back to you'.

Almost four years after arriving in Canada, an opportunity arose to be in charge of her own res-

taurant. It was a difficult decision. The money she had saved was earmarked for her orphaned niece in Bangkok who she had been supporting for many years.

She trusted her intuition and invested in the restaurant. Her decision was rewarded. She worked hard, and before long was able to support her niece again, while operating the restaurant.

People often take the initiative to call after they have eaten her food to say how much they enjoyed it! She gets calls from California and Toronto to deliver to friends in the neighbourhood of Lower Town, and clients from Montreal will stop by her restaurant on the way home.

She believes in giving love first to receive it back. Restaurant hours are Tuesday to Sunday, 4 to 10

pm, but if someone walks by, she will prepare an order, even if not officially open. She will take special orders in advance and deliver when the restaurant is closed.

She has the attitude of a leader who is a team player – she does whatever her staff does, including cleaning. 'Employees are part of a team, like family, working side by side', she asserts. She creates her own recipes based on her mother's home cooking in Thailand, mixing her own spice combinations, using base ingredients that are the freshest she can get. She puts love and happiness in her food, responding to the needs of her diverse customer base by not mixing foods, respecting vegetarians and other cultural groups.

Important to her is respecting her own words and commitment: "Nobody knows, but I know!"



Champa Thai Restaurant—corner of Guigues and King Edward

WILLIAM ST. PEDESTRIAN AREA SLATED FOR CONSTRUCTION THIS SPRING

By Nicolas Moyer

After years of discussions, planning meetings, focus groups and pilot closures, the William St. Pedestrian Area is finally slated to be built this Spring.

According to City officials, the \$275,000 project is expected to begin shortly after May 15 and is to be completed before Canada Day. The City of Ottawa has already put out the tender for bids on the project by local construction companies. Though the final project is expected to be very

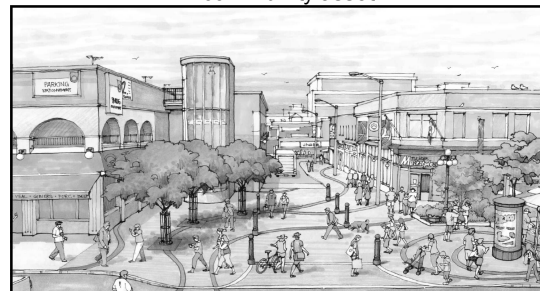
similar to the plans and artist renderings produced in initial planning stages, some changes in the design are still possible. Depending on what construction proposals are received, certain elements of the initial plan may be adapted to meet budget limitations.

The William St. Pedestrian Area is expected to significantly enhance the pedestrian experience in the Byward Market. The project includes a new stop sign and a narrowing of York at the corner of William, new surfacing to iden-

tify an obvious no-car area, two trees and a few benches.

With a main focus on pedestrians, the area is also expected to play host to community activities and events on occasion. From buskers to cook-offs this area will no doubt be a great location

for family-focused activities. Local residents are looking forward to enjoying this long-awaited community asset.



Artist's rendering of the proposed pedestrian area at the corner of William and York Streets

THE OTTAWA RIVER ACTION PLAN

By Liz Bernstein

We in Lowertown are fortunate to live near and enjoy the Ottawa and Rideau rivers. Yet every year the City of Ottawa spills millions of litres of sewage into our rivers. Thankfully, the city developed the Ottawa River Action Plan and it is delivering results, cutting discharges by more than half compared to measurements of four years ago. Unfortunately, in 2011 the city still discharged 417-million litres of combined

sewage and rainwater into the river. To pay for the \$150 million construction of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) storage facilities—intended to lower the amount of contaminants released to the river, improve water quality, and reduce the number of beach closures—the city now seeks one-third funding contributions from the federal and provincial governments. The province has indicated it will

contribute, but the federal government - at the time of this writing - had not yet done so. We at the Lowertown Community Association joined other community associations, the Ottawa Riverkeeper, Ecology Ottawa and hundreds of individuals from across the city in writing our MP Mauril Belanger and all Ottawa-area MPs urging them to support \$50 million in federal funding for storage facilities in the 2012

budget. We asked Mathieu Fleury to convey our message to his federal counterparts as well. We hope funding has been pledged as you read this, as the time to act is now, not in the future. But if not, we will continue to keep urging our elected officials at all levels to protect our rivers and fund the Ottawa River Action Plan.

HOCKEY UNDER THE STARS AT BINGHAM PARK

By Peter Gould

Matt Atton started playing hockey in Halifax when he was six, and never lost his excitement for hockey in the great outdoors. When he moved to Lowertown, he was thrilled to see boards in place for a rink at Bingham Park at Cathcart and Dalhousie Streets—but wondered why no one was clearing the snow. After a week of telephone tag with the City of Ottawa, Matt discovered that the lone devotee who had maintained the rink in previous winters had moved out of the neighbourhood. Finding himself with the keys to the fieldhouse, Matt quickly recruited two other local hockey devotees, Justin and Shea, to help him bring the rink out of hibernation. Ten days of dragging boards back and forth to pack down the snow was followed by two days of flooding to build the desired surface. Matt confesses that he woke up at 4:30 am to flood the ice one time, before climbing back into bed until he returned at seven am to revel in the paradise of a perfect new ice surface. Matt is proud of the Bingham Park rink. The rink is the scene of intense pick-up hockey sessions every night of the week until the lights die at eleven and all day on the weekend. As many as thirty players sometimes vie for time on the ice. The rink also attracts hockey players from as far away as Orleans. The volunteers also flood "The Puddle", a 14 foot by 14 foot practice skating rink next to the main rink that is heavily used.

Although hockey is the primary focus, Matt notes that this winter a young couple arrived most evenings just before closing to take advantage of the deserted rink for an elegant practice of figures. Sunday afternoons often feature the unusual spectacle of unidentified hockey enthusiasts who chase a rubber ducky rather than a puck.

The rink opened late this year, shortly after Christmas, due to the late arrival of cold weather. The City provides lighting, erects boards and supplies the water source in the field house. The volunteers do not receive any assistance from the City in the maintenance of the rink. It's all a labour of love for Matt, who also works full-time as a chef at the NAC and teaches engineering part-time in the Reserves. Prior to his culinary career, Matt served as a diesel engineer with the naval command of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Matt hopes that other rink enthusiasts will join his tiny band to keep the rink alive, noting that it takes more than three people. He expressed the view that, because of his diligence, most of the players seem to think that he is a City employee. The rink only has one hose and as a result flooding the rink takes ninety minutes each time. The volunteers would also welcome a snowblower to ease the never ending chore of snow-clearing. Despite the shortage of equipment, Matt is determined that the rink will have the best sur-

face possible and has innovated by building, from scratch, a modest but effective alternative to the Zamboni!

Matt has big plans for the Bingham Park rink for next year. He hopes to organize a hockey tournament, with a small prize for the winning team, to raise money for the rink to finance modest purchases such as an extra hose for flooding and rubber mats in the fieldhouse so that the next aspiring Jason Spezza doesn't damage their skates on the cement floor.



Matt Atton with his homemade zamboni

MARKET SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

By John Edwards, committee co-chair

Established in 1998, the committee's membership broadly reflects the community - private sector, social agencies, police, city officials and residents. It deals in issues of interest for the community

It is a respected body and was given an award in 2011 for its work in crime prevention. Meetings are kept short and include regular reports from the police and by-law services.

In the past, the committee has successfully sought extended late night bus services and bar employee training; reviewed plans for major events such as Canada Day; encouraged businesses to leave lights on at night; and explored what to do to combat graffiti, aggressive panhandling and other nuisances.

The most difficult issues faced by the committee are about preserving the rich diversity of the Market - fresh produce stalls, a restaurant and bar destination, a fine range of specialized stores and a cherished residential area. A dynamic Market area but not where one segment drives others out - like happened in the second half of the 1900s when families with children migrated away from the area.

Our current fear is that the proliferation of bars, restaurants and

coffee shops are driving out small retail. An unfortunate development when the residential building boom in and around the Market is bringing more consumers anxious to find what they need within walking distance.

Traffic and parking are another perennial source of controversy and major studies underway by the City are likely generate new debates. When a light rail station arrives in the Rideau Centre, more visitors may leave their cars at home.

Despite the committee's appreciation of the work they do, it has argued against any greater concentration of social agencies.

While overall crime in the Market is at quite low levels, periodic spikes such as car break-ins give us concern. We are aware that there are likely a very few culprits, often well-known to police. Drug trafficking is worrying, particularly when centred on specific locations.

Finally, noise complaints are discussed from time to time but most of us here seem to accept more noise than would be acceptable in more residential neighbourhoods.

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CENTRE DE RESSOURCES COMMUNAUTAIRES DE LA BASSE-VILLE

Par Sonia Pouliot

Depuis plus de 40 ans, le Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville (CRCBV) offrent des services sociaux et communautaires aux résidents et résidentes du quartier. Situé au 40 rue Cobourg, dans le même édifice que le Patro, l'équipe du CRCBV s'affaire tous les jours à offrir différents services et programmes à la communauté. Par exemple, des services de counselling et d'intervention de crise, plusieurs groupes de jeu parent-enfant pour les enfants de moins de 6 ans et leur parent ou responsable de garde, un programme après l'école pour les enfants de l'école York Street, des

programmes pour adolescents, des classes d'aérobic et un bain libre pour femmes seulement, des activités physiques pour les aînés, un jardin communautaire, un programme donnant accès à une boîte vocale et un programme de boîte vert donnant droit mensuellement à des fruits et légumes à coût avantageux. D'autres agences telles le Service familial catholique, Action-Logement, Santé publique Ottawa et Bébés en Santé-Enfants en Santé offrent aussi des services dans nos locaux aux membres de la communauté. De plus, chaque année, le CRCBV se joint à d'autres organismes ou regroupements de la Basse-Ville

afin de mettre sur pied différentes activités communautaires, telles le Nettoyage du quartier en avril, Basse-Ville en Fête en mai, Cinéma dans le parc en juillet ou août, etc. En collaboration avec 14 organismes partenaires et des résidents du quartier, le CRCBV coordonne l'initiative Basse-Ville Notre Chez-Nous qui a pour objectif de favoriser une communauté saine et sécuritaire pour tous.

Si vous êtes intéressés à en apprendre davantage sur les services ou vous désirez vous impliquer comme bénévole dans l'une

des activités ou comme membre de notre Conseil d'Administration, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter au 613-789-3930, à l'adresse info@crbcv.ca. Vous pouvez aussi visiter notre site web au www.crbcv.ca

Sonia Pouliot est Directrice générale par intérim du Projet Basse-Ville, Notre Chez-nous

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



**Lowertown
Community
Resource
Centre**

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- ⇒ Our Lowertown police officer: Ryan Pierce: piercer@ottawapolice.ca
- ⇒ Life Threatening Emergency or crime in progress - 911
- ⇒ Other Emergencies 613-230-6211
- ⇒ General Police Inquiries 613-230-6211
- ⇒ Call Centre for crime reports 613-230-6211-ext 7300
- ⇒ Crime Stoppers 613-233-TIPS (8477)
- ⇒ By-Law, including pick up for syringes or crack pipes-311
- ⇒ Jean-Guy Albert for needles 613-580-2424 ext 23653

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU! LA COMMUNAUTÉ À BESOIN DE VOUS!

Volunteer for Lowertown, and get to know your neighbours! From rink building to involvement in the City budget process to park revitalization, the Lowertown Community Association helps you stay informed and active in your community! We are looking for community builders who can help us deliver notices, plan festivals, get grants, develop newsletters, and maintain the Bingham Park hockey rink. If you have talents to share and would like to match these with exciting volunteer opportunities, please email Leah at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

Consacrez votre temps pour la Basse-Ville, et apprenez à connaître vos voisins! Que ça soit la construction d'une patinoire, s'impliquer dans le processus du budget de la ville, ou aider à la revitalisation d'un parc, l'Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville vous permet de rester informé et actif dans votre communauté! Nous recherchons des personnes qui désirent contribuer un peu de leur temps à la communauté, qui peuvent nous aider à écrire et traduire des avis, planifier des festivals, obtenir des subventions, rédiger des bulletins, ou maintenir la patinoire du parc Bingham. Si vous avez des compétences particulières que vous souhaiteriez appliquer à des occasions de bénévolat excitantes, veuillez communiquer avec Leah à : info@lowertown-basseville.ca

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Real Estate Advice From Your Neighbour

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