

The Lowertown
Echo
 de la Basse-Ville

LE JOURNAL
 COMMUNAUTAIRE
 DE LA BASSE-VILLE

THE LOWERTOWN
 COMMUNITY
 NEWSPAPER

Gratuit

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Free

Upcoming Community Association Meetings

Regular LCA Meetings are held at the **Routhier Community Centre** located at 178 Guigues Ave at 7 PM on the second Monday of each month.

Next regular meeting dates:
 October 22
 November 17 (AGM)
 December 9

LCA meetings are often attended by our elected councillor and by the Ottawa Police Community Constable.

For more information visit:
www.lowertown-basseville.ca

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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AUDIT

Survey of sidewalks and streets reveals significant improvements needed for walking, cycling and wheelchair accessibility in Lowertown and Byward Market.

Liz Bernstein - The transportation choices we make on a daily basis affect not only the liveability of a community but the environment as well. Walking, cycling and other forms of active transportation promote healthy communities and have a range of knock on effects on our environment. Lowertown residents walk and cycle more than other communities in Ottawa, with about 40% of Lowertown residents either biking or walking to work. Yet in many areas, Lowertown residents face constant dangers from cars and trucks. From 2005 to 2009, four pedestrians were killed on King Edward Avenue and more than 60 people were injured. In order to ensure to promote safe and accessible streets, and to provide evidence in support of the bold improvements suggested during the recent Byward Market visioning exercise, in June the Lowertown Community Association (LCA), along with Ecology Ottawa, conducted an active transportation audit of the neighbourhood.

Ottawa cyclists, pedestrians and residents using wheelchairs toured Lowertown and the Byward Market for two hours looking at the



Liz Bernstein and John Woodhouse check the sidewalk space where an A-frame sign obstructs pedestrian traffic on Williams Street. Photo: Ecology Ottawa

safety, comfort and convenience of the streets. Ottawa city councillor Mathieu Fleury, City of Ottawa staff and representatives of Walk Ottawa, the King Edward Avenue Task Force, Citizens for Safe Cycling, and staff from the Byward Market Business Improvement Area also participated in the audit tour. Using a walkability checklist, participants attempted to answer a range of questions including, "Are streets well-lit? Are pedes-

trian wait times for traffic lights reasonably short? Are sidewalks free from obstructions such as sign poles or sandwich boards?" and "Are sidewalks wide enough for strollers and wheelchairs?" The audit report was compiled and delivered to councillor Fleury and city staff in an event at City Hall on September 19.

The audit report states that "if we want a vibrant and bustling By-

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LCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Lowertown Community Association (LCA) and King Edward Avenue Task Force (KEATF) will hold a joint Annual General Meeting on November 18, 2013 at the Routhier Community Centre located at 172 Guigues Avenue. The social will begin at 6:30 pm followed by the meeting at 7:00 pm. All Lowertown residents are welcome to attend.

The LCA is seeking nominations for all executive positions: President, Vice President (two positions), Treasurer, Secretary, and Directors (three positions). Nominees for the position of President must have previously held an elected position with the Association. Please send nominations to: info@lowertown-basseville.ca by November 15, 2013. Nominations can also be made at the meeting.

The LCA is also seeking volunteers to fill a number of positions, including: Events Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator, Business and Outreach Liaison, Transportation Lead, Volunteer Coordinator, and rink maintenance volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering with the LCA, please contact: info@lowertown-basseville.ca.

À QUEL PRIX LA DENSIFICATION DU MARCHÉ BY?

Les nouveaux édifices prévus pour la rue George vont-ils nuire à notre patrimoine?

Sylvio Granger - Au printemps dernier, la compagnie Claridge Homes se portait acquéreur de l'Union du Canada ainsi que du bar Honest Lawyer et les espaces de stationnement à l'ouest et partiellement à l'est de cet édifice dans le but de convertir l'Union du Canada en hôtel et construire une tour d'habitation résidentielle sur le reste de la propriété.

En permettant ce projet de densification démographique, la Ville d'Ottawa n'a pas protégé l'édifice de l'Union du Canada. Celui-ci représentait un patrimoine important pour bien des habitants de notre quartier. Avec regrets, il semble que nous perdrons un joyau architectural et un symbole de réussite franco-ontarienne.

À l'origine, on devait ajouter quatre étages à l'édifice de l'Union du Canada mais les plans ont vite été changés et la ville a accordé à Claridge Homes un permis pour la démolition

de l'édifice.

Et ce n'était qu'un début! À la demande du promoteur, la ville a modifié son arrêté municipal sur la hauteur de l'édifice proposé par le promoteur. Elle accorde maintenant à Claridge le droit de construire une tour de soixante-dix mètres, soit vingt mètres de plus que le permettait l'ancien zonage.

Bref, des résidents du quartier en ont appelé auprès de la Commission des affaires municipales de l'Ontario afin de faire renverser la décision de la ville. Habillement représentés par Marc Aubin, notre groupe de résidents a présenté un dossier d'opposition détaillé devant la Commission dans la semaine du 9 septembre.

Selon notre argumentation, ce nou-

veau projet aura l'effet d'un mur qui défigurera la place du marché tant par sa hauteur que par sa masse et l'aspect patrimonial du quartier en sera sérieusement menacé. Ce projet créera aussi un important précédent, ouvrant la porte au risque d'une explosion de tours dans la périphérie de la place du marché.

Ne vous méprenez pas sur nos intentions. Nous ne nous opposons pas à la densification. Mais celle-ci ne doit pas se faire à n'importe quel prix. Densification et patrimoine ne sont pas incompatibles. Ils le deviennent lorsqu'on ne prend pas le temps de réfléchir à court, à moyen et à long terme aux différents scénarios possibles pour notre quartier.

Comme bien des résidents du secteur du Marché By, je demeure

perplexe devant le virage que prend la ville. Et pire encore, la ville ne semble plus entendre ses citoyens. Serait-ce que les fonctionnaires ont le monopole des bonnes idées en matière de développement urbain et de protection du patrimoine? Si nos élus ne sont plus à notre écoute, vers qui devons-nous nous tourner pour être entendus?

Enfin, on ne peut jamais prévoir quelle décision la commission des affaires municipales de l'Ontario rendra mais nous espérons ardemment que celle-ci soit à l'avantage de celles et de ceux qui ont à cœur leur quartier, leur patrimoine et encore plus le Marché By. Espérons que la sagesse soit au rendez-vous.

Les idées exprimées ici sont celles de l'auteur et ne sont pas nécessairement appuyées par l'Écho ou par l'Association communautaire de la Basseville.

KING EDWARD REZONING

Sylvie Grenier - The City of Ottawa plans to rezone properties along King Edward Ave from Residential to "Traditional Mainstreet" (TM) in keeping with the current Official Plan adopted in 2009. Properties fronting both sides of King Edward Ave from Bruyère St to George St will be affected as well as some properties behind these.

On its web site (ottawa.ca/kingedwardzoning), the City provides an

areal view of the properties in the proposed rezoning.

In addition to current low-rise residential use, mid-rise use up to six storeys as well as retail and office use will be permitted. Details of the proposal will be posted shortly.

For further information contact Andrew McCreight at 613.580.2424 Ext.22568 or at andrew.mccreight@ottawa.ca.

LOWERTOWN CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

364 St. Patrick Street

City of Ottawa will consider construction of an apartment/hotel with two public hearings scheduled for late November and early December for rezoning the site to allow for 9 floors. Peace Tower sightlines from the National Cemetery strictly limit the site to 9 floors. The project includes two levels of underground parking accessible from St. Patrick St and 98 apartment hotel units on 8 floors. The hotel would be similar to the Bay at Albert or Cartier hotels.

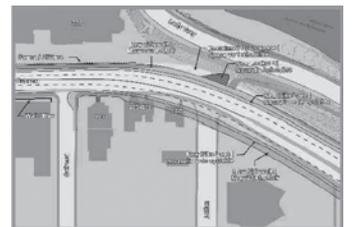
Jules Morin Park Construction

Jules Morin Park remains closed although sidewalks around the perimeter are open. Ottawa plans to reopen the park for summer 2014.

325 Dalhousie Street

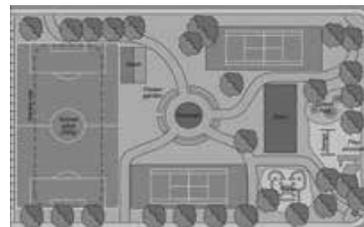
Demolition of the Union of Canada building has begun and will be followed by construction of a condo tower on George St. Expect significant traffic delays.

Sussex Street



The City has approved the NCC's proposal to move two homes and is now waiting for the NCC to approve other elements. No buses will be diverted to Boteler St. The plans for Sussex Ave including updated info at: <http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/planning-and-development/sussex-drive-confederation-boulevard-reconstruction-king-edward>. No construction is currently planned.

Bingham Park Revitalization



Construction will finish at the end of October. The LCA is currently looking for public art proposals. Contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca for more information. Ecology Ottawa will kick off Tree Ottawa with the planting of two Basswood trees in a public ceremony on October 9 at 2 pm.

Mauril Bélanger

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VIGNETTE DU VILLAGE: SANDRA PILOTE

Portrait of a historic Lowertown past from a long time resident and award winning community activist, Sandra Pilote.

Sophia Ross - In 2011, Sandra Pilote was awarded with the United Way Ottawa Community Builder Award. This recognition was for her work with Ottawa Community Housing, the Beauséjour Tenants' Association, and Lowertown, Our Home, formerly known as the Lowertown East Security Committee. So naturally Sandra's first two years in Ottawa laid the foundation for her strong sense of the Lowertown community.

Only 11 years old when her family, the Nadons, settled on Nelson Street in 1953, Sandra remembers the area as a front porch community. While she and the other kids

were outside playing, there were always parents outside, watching and ensuring the children's safety. Even the neighbours without children could be found outside in the evenings. In particular, Sandra recalls a Mr. Greenslade, an older Englishman who always had a bottle of Porter in hand for "medicinal purposes," would sit out on his porch as the kids played.

Out and about in the neighbourhood, Sandra and her family frequented several businesses that are no longer in existence. Downtown, Sandra recalls shopping at department stores like Woolworth's and

Reitman's on Rideau St. with her mother.

When the Nadon family moved from Delta, Ontario, St. Brigid's became their church. Sandra also continued her grades seven and eight in English, crossing King Edward Ave every day to attend the parish school, at the location which now houses The Shepherds of Good Hope.

In the end, Lowertown was a transition neighbourhood for the Nadon family, but not for Sandra. In 1984, Sandra returned to Lowertown with her husband and two children and began the community work she

is known for today. She remains committed to Lowertown East as a neighbourhood that can be secure and comfortable for all residents.

Sophia Ross is a Canada Summer Jobs student with the LCA.



Sandra was awarded the United Way Ottawa Community Builder Award in 2011.

STE-ANNE'S CHURCH CELEBRATES 140 YEARS

Michel Rossignol - Ste-Anne Church in Ottawa's Lowertown, now used by the St-Clement parish, is celebrating its 140th anniversary in 2013. The church's cornerstone was laid in May 1873 and construction ended in November of that year. Ste-Anne is a small church, but its construc-

tion was a very important development for the francophone community in Lowertown East. Together with Ste-Anne Hall built a few years later, the church became the hub of the community's religious, social and cultural activities for many decades. Situated at 528 Old St-Patrick, the church has survived storms, nearby fires, and, perhaps the greatest threat of all: the 1960s urban renewal.

1870s to meet the needs of the city's growing population. These construction projects shaped much of the city we know today.

For example, a few blocks south of Ste-Anne where Rideau and Charlotte Streets intersect, the new Ottawa Protestant Hospital (now known as Wallis House) was also under construction in 1873. It was one of Ottawa's major hospitals until 1923. Other buildings constructed around 1873 include Christ Church Cathedral on Sparks Street and the Ottawa Collegiate Institute (known today as the Lisgar Collegiate Institute). In 1872, construction began at the site of Saint Patrick's Basilica on Kent Street which opened its doors in 1875. It was also in 1875 that the convent of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd (now the Embassy of the People's Republic of China) was built just about a block north of Ste-Anne Church.

We are very lucky that Ste-Anne and other landmarks built some 140 years ago have survived to this day. Our city is more than just schools, hospitals, and sites of worship – it is living history.

COMING SOON: BOOK ON STE-ANNE PARISH

Current and former residents of Lowertown East have written about their memories of life in Ste-Anne parish, a project encouraged from inception by the Lowertown Community Association. Their writing and many photos will be published in French in November 2013.



St Anne Church in Lowertown East.

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Ste-Anne was just one of the buildings under construction in the early

WHAT'S IN A NAME: MACDONALD GARDENS

Centenary anniversary of former cemetery in Lowertown



The gazebo in Macdonald Gardens circa 1920. Photo: Library and Archives Canada

Nancy Miller Chenier - Built on the site of four cemeteries, it was designed by Frederick G. Todd, Canada's first landscape architect. In 1912, the Ottawa Improvement Commission (early NCC) announced that the old cemetery area between Cobourg and Wurtemberg Streets would be converted into a beautiful park.

At this time, Sir Robert Borden was our 8th Prime Minister and living on Wurtemberg Street facing the old cemetery area. He claimed responsibility for the park's name asserting that nothing else in Ottawa honoured Sir John Macdonald, our first Prime Minister and longtime leader

of the Conservative Party.

Charlotte Whitton, Ottawa's first female mayor, recounted the park name story in more humorous and political terms. "During a social event, a staunchly Liberal lady taunted Mrs. Borden that nothing in Ottawa had been named in honour of Sir John A Macdonald. Mrs. Borden immediately reported this to her husband who then gave the park its name. The Liberal lady then reportedly said that she 'never thought of anything as appropriate as an old cemetery to commemorate the founder of the Canadian Conservative Party.'"

LOWERTOWN IS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE

Residents on Ottawa's Safety and Security Committee use police reports to identify and stop undesirable trends.

Norman Moyer - Residents of Lowertown are often asked whether or not they feel safe in their community. Local papers, radio and TV emphasise stories about violent incidents in the Market. And yet, the residents in this area do not feel particularly threatened. In a recent survey of 155 residents by the Lowertown Community Association only 3% of respondents said that they did not feel safe during the day and that number rose to only 24% at night. When asked, the principal concerns expressed by residents related to public drunkenness, drug

Negative incidents this year are less than 50% of the level reported in 2006.

use and aggressive panhandling. Lowertown and the ByWard Market communities have long been proactive in maintaining a safe neighbourhood. The Lowertown Community Association takes an active interest in safety and security issues and relays concerns to the police, to by-law control, and to the City. Since 1998 residents, business owners, police, and the City have formed a special committee on safety and security. It deals with issues from pedestrian safety, traffic, noise by-laws, panhandling, vandalism and

crime against property and people. The committee is chaired jointly by a resident and a member of the Byward Market Business Improvement Area (BIA).

The Safety and Security Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month to study reports from police and bylaw control, and to consider action to stop undesirable trends. During the summer months the committee also receives reports from the Street Ambassadors Program whose ambassadors patrol the streets, giving information to residents and visitors. Their reports help to identify trends and causes of unacceptable behaviour. Year after year they provide a good indicator of the general atmosphere in the By-

Ward Market. They track incidents of aggressive panhandling, public intoxication, observed drug use or trafficking and rowdiness. Since 2006 the trend has been down. Negative incidents this year are less than 50% of the level reported in 2006.

The Committee also looks at special events such as Canada Day, Nuit Blanche, and Oktoberfest to prepare for issues which may arise and to review incidents that have arisen. If you have concerns about safety and security in Lowertown please come to the regular LCA meetings.

Norman Moyer represents local residents on the Safety and Security Committee.

FALL CELEBRATIONS AND CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Musicians, magicians, games, alpenhorn players, face painting, sausages & sauerkraut await visitors to the Market.

Katherine Solomon - You've tucked away your t-shirts and shorts for another season, longing for the hot days that lingered into warm evenings. But secretly you've been gazing at your favourite sweater all summer long because you can't wait to bring it out at first leaf's fall. The ByWard Market waits for the same thing, as we know great things are coming!

The ByWard Market Oktoberfest is growing strong in its fourth year, and will be a weekend-long celebration from Friday, October 18 - Sunday, October 20, with free family programming during the day and live entertainment in the evening. The

festivities kick off on Friday, October 18 at noon on Clarence Street with the tapping of the first official Oktoberfest keg, accompanied by Schteev un die Leiderhosers. Musicians, magicians, games, alpenhorn players, face painting, sausages & sauerkraut all wait for you all weekend long at the best Oktoberfest in Ottawa.

Come and enjoy the whirlwind of activity at the ByWard Market Oktoberfest, then pause to catch your breath, because winter comes all too quickly shortly after.

The festive spirit of the holidays is in the ByWard Market every week-

end in December, where Christmas choirs will sing your favourite Christmas carols on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 pm. Cundell Stables will also offer free wagon rides, so come early and sign up to save your spot!

More information is always coming up on our website. Check back with us often for the most up-to-date details on your favourite events and businesses (www.byward-market.com). Don't forget to follow us on Twitter (@ByWardMarketBIA).

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



Traditional costume and alpenhorns at the Byward Market Oktoberfest in 2011.



Shop | Taste | Live
Experience the ByWard Market

The ByWard Market has something for everyone!
Keep your eyes out for all these great activities and more:

4th Annual Oktoberfest, Christmas Choirs and wagon rides for Christmas Programming, Winterlude, Valentine's Day, and Family Day, and the only year-round outdoor farmers' market in Ottawa!

ByWard Market businesses and outdoor market stalls are open as usual for holidays, so check our website for the most up-to-date information.

www.byward-market.com

@ByWardMarketBIA

OTTAWA'S PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

City's plan to end chronic homelessness in Ottawa focuses on quickly providing housing and to leave no one un-sheltered.

Leah Fleetwood - The Lowertown Homelessness Stakeholder Roundtable (LHSR) is made up of a group of active citizens who want to be part of the solution to homelessness in our neighbourhood. It is co-chaired by Dwight Burgess, a Lowertown community member, councillor Fleury, and Shannon Poole, Chris Grinham and myself. Meetings are held every few months with the councillor's office and city staff from the Housing Department.



Homelessness is a particularly visible problem in Lowertown. Photo: David Johnson

Since 2012, the LHSR has conducted a community audit of the homelessness and housing system in Ottawa including site visits to shelters and supportive housing providers all over the City including all three downtown shelters as well as Cornerstone (women's shelter). The LHSR also talks to stakeholders and engaged organizations including the police. All are trying to address

more challenging issues than they were ever really meant to – including harm reduction, mental health, and addictions.

All three shelters make referrals to housing providers and try to transition clients to housing, yet it is the lack of both supportive and afford-

able housing which causes many to end up in shelters chronically. Stakeholders also repeatedly refer to the lack of specialized services for both mental health and addictions (including detox and rehabilitation beds for those who need support for addictions), all of which means people don't get the assistance they need in a timely fashion.

Today the status quo is not an option. Where shelters used to get money for keeping people in shelters, now there will be incentives to transition individuals to housing. A City of Ottawa proposal titled *A Home for Everyone: Our Ten Year Plan (2014-2024)* was recently launched with a couple of key objectives including leaving no one un-sheltered to end chronic homelessness (stays over 30 days) and ensure people have the right supports through a 'Housing First' approach.

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THE TAR SANDS: COMING TO OUR BACKYARDS?

TransCanada pipeline threatens our homes where we live, land where we farm, aquifers we depend on for drinking water, the Rideau River, and the Ottawa River.

Liz Bernstein - The tar sands could be coming to town, and potentially impacting Lowertown. TransCanada announced that they want to ship 1.1 million barrels a day (over 130 million litres) of tar sands crude through Ottawa and across the Rideau River.

homes, farms, aquifers, the Rideau River, and the Ottawa River. The risk of a spill should not be dismissed easily. Every year, over 100 pipeline spills are recorded in Canada. And carrying tar sands oil only increases the risks.

TransCanada is proposing to retrofit a gas pipeline through Ontario, and through Ottawa. The pipeline currently exists as a 40-year-old gas pipeline for a 3,000 km stretch from Alberta to just south of Ottawa near Cornwall. From there, they propose to build a new 1,400 km stretch to the port in St. John, N.B. The pipeline enters the municipality of Ottawa near Packerham passing just west of Stittsville near Richmond and over the Rideau River where it passes into Kemptville.

When dealing with oil from the tar sands in particular, because it is so thick, a number of hydrocarbons and other chemicals are added to make a mixture known as diluted bitumen, or dilbit. Reports suggest that the higher acidity of dilbit, combined with the higher-than-normal pressures required for shipping dilbit puts more wear on pipelines and could lead to more spills. Because it is so thick and heavy, it sinks when it hits water, making it impossible to fully clean up.

Given the proposed location of the pipeline, a spill would threaten our

In Marshall, Michigan, a major 2010 bitumen oil spill continues to contaminate the Kalamazoo River. In



A danger sign at a TransCanada pumping station. Photo: Liz Bernstein

Mayflower, Arkansas, a March 2013 spill sent a river of thick, toxic oil, forcing residents to evacuate.

posal. For more information visit www.tarfree613.ca or contact liz.bernstein@gmail.com

Concerned residents in Lowertown are joining others across the city to voice our concerns about this pro-

Liz Bernstein is a member of the Ecology Ottawa Steering Committee.

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AUDIT

Continued from page 1

Ward Market, a truly great community in the heart of our city, then we have to design our streets with all users, ages and abilities in mind.”

The report calls for a complete-streets approach to Lowertown to ensure safe and comfortable streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and the mobility-impaired. This call emphasizes the need to adapt streets to more than just cars.

Some short-term audit recommendations include:

- bans on sandwich boards on sidewalks throughout the ByWard Market;
- a two meter minimum clear walking width to allow simultaneous passage of a wheelchair and a pedestrian;
- enhanced bicycle access through improved bicycle parking and signage; and
- enforcement of the 40 Km speed limit on King Edward Avenue and

Sussex Avenue.

Longer-term recommendations include improvements to:

- **Public Spaces** with added benches, trees, water fountains and public art throughout the community; enhancing the pedestrian courtyards through better signage;
- **Walking and Biking** with expanded pedestrian zones and the

creation of a William Street pedestrian area running from Rideau to Clarence Street; phase out use of curved curb radii on sidewalk intersections and return to 90 degree angles; and

- **Traffic and Parking** with a ban on truck traffic on King Edward Avenue and Rideau and Waller Streets and reduced on-street parking.

The report calls on the City of Ottawa to adopt a Complete Streets policy as part of the City's Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan, due to be tabled October 9, followed by a series of four public consultations.

“We have to put an end to planning that prioritizes cars and trucks over the health and safety of the community,” said Lowertown Community Association Board Member Sylvie Grenier. “As the area with the highest pedestrian circulation in the city, we want Lowertown and the ByWard Market to be a place where we can safely and easily work, shop and live using active means of transportation. We look forward to working with the City to implement the audit recommendations.”

To read the full report, and the summary in French visit www.scribd.com/doc/169371959

To watch a short video or sign the Complete Streets Petition visit www.ecologyottawa.ca

Liz Bernstein is a member of the Ecology Ottawa Steering Committee.



Sidewalk space was an important part of the audit. Many complain that sidewalks in the Market are not wide enough for wheelchairs and strollers. Photo: Ecology Ottawa

ONTARIO HAS A NEW CYCLING PLAN!

Good news for cyclists! Twenty year vision supports cycling to make Ontario roads safe.

Madeleine Meilleur – With the constant rise in popularity of cycling, the Ontario Government has decided to make Ontario roads the safest in Canada by releasing a new cycling strategy to promote safe cycling and encourage more people to ride their bikes to work, school and recreation destinations. Recent statistics estimate that 630,000 Ontarians ride their bicycle on a daily basis and roughly 48% of the 13 million inhabitants of Ontario ride once a week.

The new strategy reflects input from the public and expert advice from cycling stakeholders such as Share the Road Cycling Coalition, the Canadian Automobile Association, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

The new strategy presents a 20-year vision that supports cycling in four areas: infrastructure, safety, planning and research. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is in the pro-

cess of updating its bikeways planning and design guidelines. The goal is to maintain, update, and expand infrastructure for cyclists. The Ministry also plans to add new information and illustrations on bike lanes, road markings and right-of-way in future copies of the Ontario Driver's Handbook.

Madeleine Meilleur is MPP for Ottawa-Vanier.



Active Transportation Audit

if we want a vibrant and bustling ByWard Market, a truly great community in the heart of our city, then we have to design our streets with all users, ages, and abilities in mind.

RESIDENTIAL CONVERSIONS

Single-family homes converted to 20 bedroom student dorms with a single kitchen

Janet Thomson-Mar - A public meeting was held on September 16 at City Hall to learn more about the City's Zoning Study on Residential Conversions. More than 200 attendees heard presentations and participated in round table discussions aimed at gathering community input about the recent spate of residential 'conversions' in which single-family homes are renovated to as many as 20 bedrooms with a single common kitchen. In many cases the conversions include substantial increases

to the size and mass of the existing dwelling, changes to the streetscape – façade, character and setback – and parking challenges, all within existing zoning.

The majority of the attendees were from the Sandy Hill and Old Ottawa South communities, where most of conversions have been completed to date, although there were community representatives from Glebe, Hintonburg and Lowertown in attendance as well. The City of Ottawa is

gathering input from the community and investigating best practices in other cities, and expects to bring forward recommendations in March 2014 aimed at ensuring that residential conversions are carried out in a manner that is compatible with surrounding neighbourhoods.

Additional information can be found at ottawa.ca/conversions or by contacting Tim Moerman, Planner with the City of Ottawa, at: conversions@ottawa.ca

ARTISTIC CREATIVITY TUCKED AWAY ON GUIGUES

Since opening six years ago, Galerie 240 on Guigues Street has been showcasing Ottawa visual artists as well as becoming a nexus point for the community to celebrate all the arts.

Peter Gould - Hidden away on a quiet residential street, a lush garden of mammoth hostas and a welcoming rambling veranda belie a beehive of cultural activity inside the gabled green and white stucco home. Paintings and sculpture are displayed in three elegant but cozy rooms of this historic residence that also serves as the home of Brenda and Bruce Warner. Galerie 240 not only exhibits Ottawa visual artists, but is also a venue for poetry readings, music CD launches, wedding, and garden parties. The gallery held a street party for the 2012 inaugural Nuit Blanche art festival and, at this year's event, served as a "kids' zone" for face-painting, and other activities for children.

When her husband Bruce was transferred from Winnipeg to Ottawa, Brenda decided to open a gallery to exhibit her own paintings. At that time, Brenda was a painter in Winnipeg as well as a volunteer at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. When moving to Ottawa, she identified 240 Guigues Street both as a desirable residence and the ideal location to connect, artistically, with the Ottawa community. After opening Galerie 240, Brenda quickly envisioned a greater role for the gallery. She sought to



Brenda Warner on the steps of Galerie 240's Lowertown home on Guigues Street. Photo: Peter Gould

help promote other Ottawa artists and to draw in talented people from other fields for gallery events. This led to the formation of Guild 240, a partnership between Brenda and other artists, writers, publicists and caterers that has come to drive the very busy calendar at the gallery.

Built in 1870, the house at 240

Guigues Street has an interesting history of its own. After humble beginnings as a dairy farm—attested by the occasional bone or other unusual find that Brenda and Bruce have discovered in the garden—it was later the home of a Lowertown lumber baron. It was also once a convent, the home of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. At one point, the house emerged unscathed from a disastrous fire that leveled all other structures on the block.

Brenda has a life-long interest in the visual arts. At an early age, her grandfather bought her a drawing kit by John Gnagy, American television's art teacher of the 1960s. After a career in accounting, she returned to her two passions, painting and acting. Brenda is currently represented by an Ottawa talent agency and has performed in a number of films, mostly filmed in Toronto, including "The Girl He Met Online".

Galerie 240 is currently exhibiting edgy, street-graffiti influenced paintings by Ottawa painter and photographer Valerie Burton. Brenda claims her vision for Galerie 240 is to promote bold and exciting work. She describes her own style as abstract expressionist but, like Philip Guston, she continues to give place to figurative representation in her work. Hummingbirds and ballet shoes in vibrant colours are in evidence in Brenda's paintings, along with humour in works such as "Get to the Point".

Since opening, there have been over twenty shows at Galerie 240 and fall 2013 promises to be an exciting season of cultural events at Galerie 240, with the premier exhibition of photographs by musician Stephen Fearing opening on October 4, which will include a performance by Fearing. In November, Galerie 240 will host an exhibition of work by musician Tom Wilson from the band Blackie and the Rodeo Kings.

Galerie 240 has discreet signage but is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon until six, as well as being accessible by appointment at (613) 680-0866. Further information about vernissages and other events at Galerie 240 is available online at www.guild240.com.ing. In November, Galerie 240 will host an exhibition of work by musician Tom Wilson from the band Blackie and the Rodeo Kings.

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HOMELESS

Continued from page 5

'Housing First' is an approach to ending homelessness that centers on quickly providing housing before additional services as needed. Its primary principle is that people are better able to move forward with their lives if they are first housed.

Data collected from Ottawa, Toronto and Guelph shows that the longest stay clients represented 2% of the single shelter population and required 27% of beds, while another 10% of clients who have episodic stays require 25% of the beds (Housing Needs in Ottawa: An Overview, 2013).

The LHSR has made recommendations that include an integrated system, and asked how well existing programs and services are working together. For example, at the Shepherd's of Good Hope, the LHSR audit found that there was no work pro-

gram linked to the women's shelter.

City staff acknowledge they need to do better at integrating support and are engaging other departments in the discussion. Because Ottawa spends \$170 million on housing and homelessness including salaries for 60 full time equivalent employees, and funding for 130 agencies to deliver services, Ottawa residents need to ask if they are getting the best bang for their buck.

Residents should review Ottawa's 10 year housing and homelessness plan, *A Home for Everyone: Our Ten Year Plan (2014-2024)* available online.

If you have comments or questions, please email your Lowertown Community Association at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

Leah Fleetwod is Co-Vice President of the Lowertown Community Association.



Madeleine Meilleur
MPP/députée
Ottawa-Vanier



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UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Gallery of Canada

<http://www.gallery.ca>

Free Admission
Thursdays 5-8 PM

Bytown Museum

<http://www.bytownmuseum.com>

Free Admission
First Sunday of Every Month

ByWard Market

<http://www.byward-market.com>

Oktoberfest: Free wagon rides, face painting, music & dancing, barrel racing, costumed characters. Sausage & pretzel vendors, and specials at participating businesses!
Oct 18-20

Lowertown Community Resource Centre

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

L'Patro d'Ottawa
10 Patro St
613-789-3930

Parent-Baby Playgroups:

1:30-3:30 PM
0-12 mos: Mondays
0-18 mos: Wednesdays

Groupes de jeu francophones:

Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 AM

English Language Playgroup:

Fridays 9:30-10:30 PM

Lowertown Community Assoc

<http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca>

Routhier Community Centre
172 Guiges Ave

October 22: 7 PM
November 17: 7 PM (AGM)
December 9: 7 PM

Ottawa Public Library:

Rideau Street Branch

377 Rideau St
613-241-6954

Evening Book Club
Mondays: 7-8 PM

Family Storytime / Contes en famille

Tuesdays: 10:30-11 AM

Pen and Paper Writers' Workshop

Tuesdays: 6:30-8 PM

Morning Book Club

Thursdays: 10:15-11:15 AM

Frontier College Reading Circle/Cercle de lecture Frontier College (Ages 5-10)

Saturdays: 10:45-11:45 AM

Volunteer Fair / Salon du bénévolat

Wed, Oct 09: 2-7 PM

Lecture: How the Internet works... and doesn't

Wed, Nov 20: 6:15 - 8:15 PM

Groupe de lecture Mille-Feuilles

Wed, Oct 23: 6:45 - 8 PM

Wed, Dec 04: 6:45 - 8 PM

Ecology Ottawa

<http://ecologyottawa.ca>
613-860-5353

Tree Ottawa Planting Ceremony in Bingham Park with musician Sarah Harmer and botanist Diana Beresford-Kroeger
Oct 9: 2:00 PM

Heritage Ottawa

www.heritageottawa.org
613-230-8841

Walking Tour: The Ceremonial Route Sun, Oct 20: 2 PM

Cost: \$10 (\$5 for Members)

MEET: Old Fraser Schoolhouse, Sussex Dr at John St.

Free Public Lecture: Community Perspectives on Heritage Sensitive Infill in Mature Heritage Districts

Wed, Nov 20: 7 PM

Location: Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St (corner of Laurier Ave W)

Important Contacts

Our Lowertown Police Officer:

Ryan Pierce: piercer@ottawapolice.ca

Life Threatening Emergency or

Crime in Progress **911**

Other Emergencies or

General Police Inquiries **613-230-6211**

Crime Reports Call Centre

613-230-6211 ext 7300

Crime Stoppers **613-233-TIPS (8477)**

By-Law Enforcement

(for syringe or crack pipe pick up) **311**

Ottawa Public Health

(for reporting found needles)

Jean-Guy Albert **613-580-2424 ext 23653**

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

You hear it constantly - we need you! What does that really mean? The LCA is made up of volunteers and we want you to join us. Do you like gardening? We want to start a "guerrilla" gardening group or at least establish a community vegetable garden. Do you have kids who'd like to watch movies in Bingham Park this summer? Fun! We need people interested in transportation issues to fight for better pedestrian and cycling, and safety. Not to mention, our community parks could use maintenance volunteers to keep the LCA informed on the safety of our neighborhood parks. Do you pick up trash when you visit your local park? Could you use some tools?

We need people who want to help us tackle the homelessness, drug addiction, mental health, and abandoned buildings in Lowertown. We now have a homelessness group that's working on that problem, but we need help in setting up meetings, drafting letters - it might only take a few hours a year. Simple as that!

We need photographers and artists for lots of fun heritage projects! The list goes on. We need help with fundraising by reaching out to local businesses and applying for government grants.

We have simpler tasks that need more people, like delivering the Echo! There are many options and we are happy to welcome ideas you would like to bring to us and to lead! Think about it. At the very least, join our email distribution list and come to a monthly meeting or a local event from time to time. It's simple!

Contact us at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

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www.michaelkirkpatrick.ca
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I live here

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