

Church Backtracks on Redeveloping Cathedral Parking Lot

Robert Tritt

The Ottawa Archdiocese has poured cold water on hopes that the large vacant lot behind the Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive, currently used for parking, will be developed anytime soon. In November, it applied to make permanent a temporary commercial parking lot that has been operating on the site since 2005.

The use of the 385 Sussex property for parking has been an issue with Lowertown residents for years. In 2003, the Church asked for approval to demolish two heritage buildings and expand its parking lot. The stated long term plan was to consolidate the Church's Ottawa offices on the site, in a new building that would include underground parking. In the meantime, it needed zoning approval to use the site for commercial parking.

That application was opposed by the local community and the Council's then heritage committee. They were concerned about losing the two heritage buildings, a 1960's office building on Parent St. that had been the home of the Catholic Conference of Bishops and the Cathedral's former rectory on Guigues St. They also feared that once the buildings were gone, the Church would lose interest in replacing them as heritage by-laws require, and would never follow up with plans to redevelop the large parking lot behind the Cathedral.

A compromise was worked out: the Church could demolish the buildings,

but parking would only be allowed on a temporary basis, until plans for a new building on the site were ready. A period of 8 to 10 years was discussed at the time. Temporary zoning for a park-

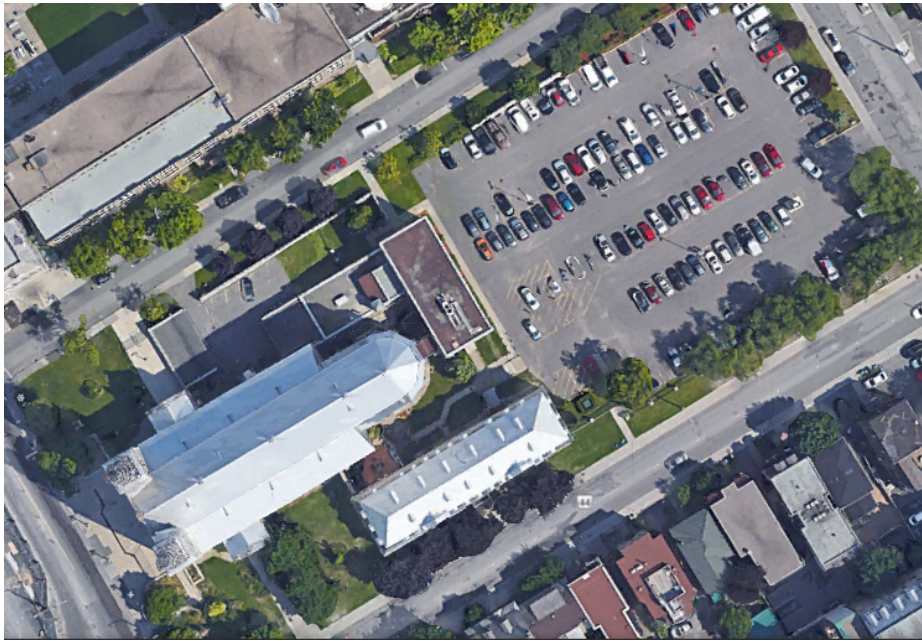
diocese is reluctant to sell the property and believes the only development of interest to private developers — typically, luxury condos — would not be appropriate. With no plans to build on

Opponents of the application, including the Lowertown Community Association, point to the city plan and policies aimed at eliminating surface parking in Lowertown. The site is in a heritage conservation district, close to the new Rideau transit station, and is far too important to be left vacant and used only for parking.

They believe the Church has had ample time to come up with a suitable development proposal, and that further zoning permission for parking, even temporary, should not be granted. If the Archdiocese is unable or unwilling keep the promise it made in 2003 to build on the parking lot, it must now find a partner who is prepared to do so.

The zoning application will come before Council in early 2015. To date, the City has refused to grant permanent zoning for parking, on the basis that temporary zoning is the only way of ensuring the long term objective of eliminating parking on the site is met. However, at City Hall, "temporary" can be a long time. The parking lot beside the Rideau Centre operated under temporary zoning for more than 20 years until work finally began on the site last year.

Whatever decision is reached by Council, Lowertown West residents and visitors almost certainly will have to live with a large vacant lot and parked cars behind the Cathedral for many years to come.



ing lot was granted for three years in 2005, was renewed in 2008 and then again in 2011. The temporary zoning expired in October 2014.

According to Msgr Kevin Beach, the Archdiocese Vicar General, a lack of funds and the need to deal with other priorities means it will be "at least 10 years" before they can implement plans to redevelop the site. The Arch-

Aerial view of Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica and parking lot
Imagery © 2015 Google, Map data © 2015 Google

the site, Beach believes the only realistic option is to re-zone the property to make the parking lot permanent, rather than continue to extend the temporary zoning every three years.

Winterfest on February 16, 2015: A Continuing Lowertown Tradition

Sandra Pilote

On Monday, February 16th, residents of Lowertown are invited to Jules Morin Park for another fun-filled Winterfest celebration. The community can again enjoy games, wagon rides and skating in this revitalized park located behind 40 Cobourg Street, at the east end of York Street. Hot dogs and hot chocolate are key ingredients of this annual Family Day event. Volunteers from the Lowertown East Residents Committee, the Lowertown Community Association and other organizations

are working to make an afternoon of fun for all ages.

The winter activities organized for outdoors will make the most of the snow and ice, with skating on the NHL-size rink and snowshoeing under the newly installed angel weather-vanes. The new Jules Morin field house will host a variety of displays, including one about the history of the Lowertown area — and the food will give you energy to see and do it all.

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. So come and play or just come and observe - but do come to meet some of your neighbours and enjoy winter.

For more information about the event or how to volunteer, please contact Katherine Van Meyl, co-ordinator for Lowertown Our Home, at email kvanmeyl@crcbv.ca or telephone at 613-789-3930, ext. 324.



Jules Morin Winterfest 2014



Winterfest drummers 2014

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ByWard Moves



Michelle Ramsay-Borg
So sad to lose **Argosy Books** at 209 Dalhousie, closed on the last day of 2014, just shy of its 31st anniversary.

We will miss owners John and Alice Hughes dearly, as well as their witty ever-changing window displays. Enjoy your retirement!
Next door, at 207 Dalhousie, local designer **Lococina** has opened a boutique in the space previously occupied by Kelly Ray, offering fashionable outfits and accessories for young professionals and mature women alike. We highly recommend a visit.
Scoteretti has moved from North Dal to a larger space at 85 Murray Street, the former location of Domus. Scooteretti electric bikes and scooters are designed right here in Lowertown, so if you're looking, think local.

Another business we were sorry to see closed is **Young Janes**, the vintage fashion shop that Mika Lemm opened at 223 Dalhousie in 2008. Like nearby Argosy Books, it bowed under the twin pressures of increasing rent and decreasing trade.
Rounding out all the happenings on North Dal is the good news that **Milk Shop** (45 William) is setting up **Smudge Beauty Bar** at Young Janes' former location, 223 Dalhousie. Manis/pedis, waxing, eyelash extensions, and of course, products.
More good news: **The Sassy Bead Co**, located at 11 Murray Street since 1993, has had a reprieve. Instead of closing as planned in December, it moved – to 159 York Street. Also happy to hear that its shopmate, **Frou Frou**, is staying put.
After 50+ years at 10 ByWard Market, **Phillip Van Leeuwen** declared bankruptcy in December. It left behind some dismayed customers awaiting orders, but also legions who have

taken pleasure in their contemporary furniture over the years.
Spoon Frozen Yogurt at 111 Clarence Street has been dark since November. This week, the windows were papered over. Looks like it has closed, but there is no sign on the door to confirm it.
Another business we'll miss: **St-Amour Fine Art Photography** at 453 Sussex Drive closed quietly after New Year's. Owner Luc St-Amour told us he is taking a health break, and may reopen in Cantley as early as this summer.
A little bit south, at 517 Sussex, **David Findlay** has posted a banner announcing the retirement of the owners at the end of April. This boutique is a favourite of women all over Ottawa; we hope another designer moves in.
Lowertown Canning is the brand on a new line of condiments, sauces and jams produced by **Lapointe's Seafood Grill** (55 York) from locally-sourced ingredients. It's generating a lot of buzz from foodies and media alike.

See 'Where to Buy' on lowertowncanning.com.
Lastly, **The Laff** (Château Lafayette) at 45 York Street celebrated its **165th anniversary** in November, the same weekend that **Rainbow Bistro** at 76 Murray Street celebrated its **30th anniversary**. Congratulations!

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

Look for our Lowertown Trivia questions.

Answers:

(1) B, (2) A, (3) B, (4) D, (5) C

Lowertown Community Association Meetings

Regular Lowertown Community Association (LCA) meetings are held at 7 PM on the second Monday of each month at the Routhier Community Centre, 172 Guigues.
Upcoming Meetings: February 9, March 9, April 13.
LCA meetings are regularly attended by our elected councillor and the Ottawa Police Community Constable. Connect with us at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

LCA President's Letter



Liz Bernstein, LCA president

Dear neighbours,

The canal has opened, our rink at Bingham Park is busy with skaters, snow covers our parks by the rivers, and it's a beautiful winter day. It's the start of a new year, and a new term of Council, and it is my first letter to you as I am privileged to serve as the newly elected President of the Lowertown Community Association. I am excited by all before us this year, and all those working to improve our community and City.
As I sat at our Annual General Meeting at the close of last year, I could not help but be struck and inspired by the sheer amount of work we did together.
Passionate about community service in Lowertown, residents volunteered for candidates and organizations throughout the elections.
Passionate about sustainable planning and development, our planning committee members followed proposals, met developers, provided input from the community and organized many presentations for us all, involving us in discussions on Rideau development and ByWard Market.
Passionate about parks, we hosted celebrations for the 100th anniversary of MacDonald Gardens and the re-opening of Bingham Park. We celebrated the opening of a basketball court, long advocated for! We held winter and summer festivals, operated the rink, put up a mural and two gardens in Bingham Park.
Passionate about our community's heritage, residents documented threatened homes, met and briefed the Built Heritage Subcommittee, led heritage tours, hired two summer students who conducted research on houses around Macdonald Gardens and prepared oral histories.
Passionate about our environment,

we pushed for walkability audits and for Complete Streets policy, now enshrined in City policy. We worked for more protection for our trees, funding for the Ottawa River Action Plan, and a Water Environment Strategy to best protect and enhance our water resources, and pushed for a new Air Quality & Climate Change Management Plan.
Now, as the new Council takes office, we are setting priorities for the improvement of our community and Ottawa for the next four years. We shall continue to work with Councillor Fleury, the BIA and City staff so that our vision for a revitalized ByWard Market is realized in time for the 2017 anniversary celebrations — a vision that includes vibrant public spaces with safe access for pedestrians and a healthy mix of businesses.
Our planning committee members have already sat down to meet two business owners seeking liquor licenses. In pre-hearing mediation talks they have developed compromises good for both the residents and the small business owners. They've also met the Archdiocese to share community concerns about their request for a permanent surface parking lot behind the Basilica, urging them to develop the site as originally promised 10 years ago, and in keeping with the City's official plan. While no compromise was yet reached there, we've shared our views with residents and the media.
Lastly, we're excited about the creation of a Ward Council. We're working with our neighbours in Sandy Hill and Vanier Community Associations to create a new way for us to collaborate more effectively together and with Councillor Fleury to improve our community. Please join us in these exciting times !

The Echo

The Echo, a non-profit community newspaper, is supported by its advertisers and the Lowertown Community Association. Opinions expressed are those of contributors and advertisers and do not necessarily represent those of the volunteer editorial staff.
In 2015, the Echo will be published in February, May, August and November. 7,500 copies are printed and distributed free of charge to residents of Lowertown. Additional copies can also be picked up at the Routhier Centre, the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, the public library, and various commercial locations in Lowertown.
The Echo welcomes articles, letters, photographs, notices and other material of interest to its readers in the Lowertown community. Name and telephone number of contributor must be included.
If you'd like to write articles, draw cartoons or other illustrations for stories, or take photographs on assignment, please email and leave your name and telephone number at echo@lowertown-basseville.ca. No age restrictions.
The Echo reserves the right to edit in part or in whole all contributions.

E-mail/Courriel: echo@lowertown-basseville.ca
Online edition/Edition en-ligne: www.lowertown-basseville.ca/echo.html
Editor in chief: Giulia Nastase
Layout: Patrick Naubert
Advertising: Merle Reid

Deadline

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

The Echo is written, published and delivered thanks to the efforts of dedicated and talented volunteers and the support of our advertisers. Please support local businesses, especially those who advertise in and display the Echo.
Questions regarding delivery? If you live in Lowertown, the Echo is delivered free to your door. Please email if you are aware of anyone or any business in our neighbourhood who is not receiving their community newspaper.

L'Echo

L'Echo est un journal communautaire à but non lucratif dont les seuls revenus viennent des annonceurs et l'Association Communautaire de la Basse-Ville. Les textes n'engagent que leurs auteurs et annonceurs respectifs et ne reflètent pas nécessairement l'opinion de l'équipe de rédaction, qui est composée de bénévoles.
En 2015, l'Echo sera publié en février, mai, août et novembre. Son tirage est de 7500 exemplaires. Il est distribué gratuitement partout dans la Basse-Ville. On peut également l'obtenir au Centre Routhier, au Centre de Ressources Communautaires de la Basse-Ville, à la bibliothèque et dans plusieurs commerces du quartier.
Tous les articles, lettres, illustrations, photos et autre matériel qui peuvent intéresser les lecteurs de la Basse-Ville sont les bienvenus. Leurs auteurs doivent indiquer leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone.
Les personnes qui aimeraient collaborer avec l'Echo sont invitées à envoyer un email au echo@lowertown-basseville.ca en indiquant leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone. Nous apprécions la contribution de tous, quel que soit leur âge.
L'Echo se réserve le droit de modifier en tout ou en partie les documents soumis.

Volunteer Coordinator: Nathalie Martin
Translation: Carmen Forget
Graphics: Simon Caters

Date de tombée

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

L'Echo est rédigé, publié et distribué grâce au dévouement et au talent de nombreux bénévoles, mais aussi avec l'appui des annonceurs. Soutenez les commerces locaux, et tout particulièrement ceux qui font de la publicité dans l'Echo ou chez qui vous pouvez le trouver.
Questions au sujet de la distribution? L'Echo est distribué gratuitement dans la Basse-Ville. Veuillez envoyer un courriel si vous connaissez quelqu'un qui ne le reçoit pas.

NCC reveals final design for 7 Clarence Street redevelopment

Liz MacKenzie, Lowertown Community Association (LCA)

On January 14th, The National Capital Commission (NCC) revealed its final design for rebuilding 7 Clarence, the former site of the popular Memories Restaurant and Bakery.

be reclaimed stone, with limestone sheets above. There is ample room for art or green walls on two sides of the exterior of the building. Another positive is the etched glass which will reduce the 'light signature', also very important to the neighbours.

courtyard feel would be lost if it was left as a vacant lot.

It's not over yet! The approval process begins on March 12 when it goes to Built Heritage Sub-committee, followed by Planning Committee on April 14, and City Council on April 29. Construction is scheduled to start in the fall of 2015, for occupancy in 2017. There was enough discussion and support for installation of public art that a further meeting will be held for this. Send your suggestions about size, design, materiality and proposed use to info@lowertown-basseville.ca.



Winning design for 7 Clarence — front view

© National Capital Commission

NCC's community consultation for the new building was unprecedented in its inclusiveness and continual response to community concerns — many of which were very local and very vocal. The LCA participated in each step, with representatives from both its heritage and planning committees taking part, and we have ended up with a form that follows its function — a function requested by the community.

The big win is that the NCC has promised that the building will not be used as a bar or restaurant, satisfying neighbouring residents and businesses. For the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, it is hoped to have embassies use the building as an exhibit space, to publicise their current and past links to Canada.

Also, neighbours wanted to ensure that there would be a generous space between the buildings. They were heard; it is now the equivalent to four lanes. It should not be subject to patio encroachment from the restaurant next door, but we'll keep an eye on it.

Post-reveal, some people have complained that the new building will be nothing but a box. Yes, but it was always a box. However, in scale and materials it is a quite well-mannered box. Original stone will be used extensively on the interior. The first floor of the exterior will

Others have asked, "Why build anything?" City Bylaws require that when a building in a heritage district is demolished, a replacement building that is similar in scale, footprint and materials replace it. Also the Official Plan has policies to protect the public courtyards - the



Courtyard view with tall and narrow windows - less glass overall leaves room for art or green walls on two exterior sides

© National Capital Commission

Planning Committee Update

Dalhousie St. Zoning Review

In November 2014, City staff completed their review of zoning in several areas, including Dalhousie Street north of St. Patrick, to ensure consistency with the new Official Plan. The Lowertown Community Association had asked that the review of Dalhousie Street be postponed until the City had incorporated into city by-laws the heritage guidelines that apply to the area.

The City refused this request, but agreed to leave the existing zoning unchanged, including height limits ranging from four to six storeys. The two northernmost blocks, currently zoned residential, will be rezoned to allow the same commercial uses as are permitted along the rest of Dalhousie. However, the existing four storey height restriction will be retained. The final report is expected to be adopted by Council early in 2015.

Uptown Rideau Community Development Plan (CDP)

The development of a new Community Development Plan (CDP) for uptown Rideau Street, between King Edward and the Cummings Bridge, has been delayed.

Last spring a working group began studying land uses, the needs of pedestrians and cyclists, appropriate height limits and other principles that would govern future zoning along Rideau St. Among the proposed developments reviewed was the large commercial and residential project proposed by Trinity Developments at Rideau and Chapel.

The group had hoped to have a report ready by the end of 2014. However, its summer and fall meetings were postponed and draft recommendations for the new CDP are unlikely to be available for public consultation before late spring 2015.

Lowertown Trivia (1)

What Lowertown heritage building was Ottawa's first dedicated Children's Hospital in the 1880's?

A) Chinese Embassy
B) Turkish Embassy
C) Wallis House
D) Rideau Street Public Library



Answer on page 2

Lowertown Trivia (2)

Why was the 1950s proposal to build the new City hall in Macdonald Gardens Park rejected?

A) Because the sandy soil that could not support a heavy building
B) Because it was too far from the Parliament Hill
C) Because a building would block the view of residents
D) Because of the dead bodies buried in the park

Answer on page 2



ByWard Market Blizzard: A Flurry of Activity!

Snow'Art: Snow Sculptures in the ByWard Market

Jan. 30 - Feb. 16

In celebration of 170 years of Élisabeth Bruyère care.

Various locations

24th Annual Winterlude Stew Cook-Off

Friday Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.


55 ByWard Market Square (\$10 at the door of the heated tent!)

All proceeds going to the Lowertown Community Resource Centre

ByWard Market Artisan Fair

(also under the heated tent)

Feb. 7&8



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Over 3,100 parking spaces! Outdoor market open 363 days per year!

Councillor's update

Take part in the 2015 Budget!

2015 is already well underway and we have many exciting initiatives in store for Lowertown and the ByWard Market.

Council will be reviewing the 2015 budget in February and March. On February 11th we will be co-hosting a budget consultation in collaboration with Rideau-Rockcliffe Councillor Tobi Nussbaum. The consultation will take place at the St-Laurent Complex from 7-9pm. This is a great opportunity for you to share your budget ideas with our community and highlight the issues that matter most to you. For more information, please contact our office at 613-580-2482.

We will also see the completion and continuation of many investments happening in our community this year. The reconstruction of both Rideau Street and Sussex Drive will be completed this summer, the construction of the Donald-Somerset pedestrian bridge over the Rideau River will continue, and the construction of Arts Court will start, which will make a positive impact on our downtown arts community. The Confederation Line light rail tunnel will also continue to make great progress towards opening in 2018.

Many other projects are in store for our community this term. We will engage with you in the coming weeks to exchange and share ideas around term of council priorities. Here are some highlights: the By-Ward Market revitalization project, the continued investment in sidewalks, cycling lanes and road renewal, the truck tunnel study and many more. Stay tuned for more details.

Until then, I encourage you to go out and enjoy the many winter activities available to us. I hope to see you at the ByWard Market Stew Cook-off on February 6th, the Lowertown Winterfest on February 16th and skating on our community rinks and the Rideau Canal. Stay warm and enjoy our Ottawa winter!

Mathieu Fleury and team

University of Ottawa
Students Bring Cheer to
Lowertown East

Sandra Pilote, chair, Lowertown East Residents Committee

In late spring 2014, Lowertown East residents were told that the retirement residence at 240 Friel Street was about to become a new residence for students attending the University of Ottawa. The building was to go from about 200 spaces for seniors to about 350 for first year students.

Given the publicity around building conversions catering to students, residents were initially concerned about this large influx of young energy into the neighbourhood. However, in various meetings with University representatives, they heard about the plan to manage the building within the same structure and with the same supportive services available at other residences. They were somewhat reassured on hearing that students would benefit from in-house community advisors, study groups and 24/7 reception and security services. They also heard that the students would be encouraged to reach out to the community.

When September arrived, so did the students; shortly after, their presence was noticed when they distributed flyers announcing a barbecue for the folks in the nearby towers at 200 - 201 Friel Street. In spite of the persistent rain on that September day, about 50 people showed up to enjoy the halal and other food.

But the new Lowertown East residents' culinary goodwill did not stop there. In mid-October, the students baked and decorated 400 cupcakes for the Ottawa Coalition of Community Houses. In boxes of a dozen goodies, they included notes and cards written by the students for donation to our local Good Neighbours Commu-

nity House on Beausoleil Street as well as 14 others located in Ottawa Community Housing areas. The children who attend the home work club at York Street School also got to sample the little iced cakes decorated with Smarties and other treats.

On October 31, after elaborate preparations, the students opened their residence lobby - now renamed the Freaky Friday



Friel Haunted House 2014

haunted house - to the community. Costumed spooks, scary music, storytelling, and slimy things greeted the almost 200 people who dared to enter. Most came out alive and are looking forward to the next student-organized event.

Thus far, the university has lived up to its commitment to be a responsible part of Lowertown East and for nearby residents, this building filled with young university students brings a note of positive cheer to the neighbourhood. They have clearly demonstrated that they are part of the community and we hope to see them at the community Winterfest celebration to be held at Jules Morin Park on February 16th.

For self-renewal, learn belly dancing

Tracey "Halyma" Vibert

Dancing has been part of human celebration for a very long time. It's been part of our worship, part of our joy, a way to express our feelings and stories without

words, and its universal appeal helps bring us together.

The dancer who performs for an audience is a bridge connecting the ethereal realm to the physical, connecting with powerful energy, transforming it into a physical representation.

The dancer who dances for herself is journeying to a place where she can explore all of those extremes of emotion we are asked to suppress in our daily lives and interactions. Through dance, she can release the built-up excesses, shaking it all



BellyDancingForFun.com

off, being in that moment and then letting it go, and come back to her daily life with a renewed sense of self.

Accurate dance moves matter, the physical form is important, and finding those perfect combinations of dance elements to make a beautiful performance is always extremely relevant to the growth of any dancer, whether a professional or beginner.

Halyma is teaching two six-week dance courses at Routhier

Community Centre on Guigues Street, beginning January 22nd. 'Belly Dance Level 1/2' and 'Belly: Awaken Your Inner Goddess'.



City Councillor / Conseiller municipal

Mathieu Fleury

Ward / Quartier Rideau-Vanier

Looking forward to continuing
our work with you in 2015

Je suis impatient de continuer
de travailler avec vous en 2015



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Vignette du Village: Sir John A. Macdonald's Lowertown

Nancy Miller Chenier



Sir John A in winter coat

It was a little hard to get an interview with Sir John before celebrating his 200-year birthday on January 11th 2015, but it was not too difficult to collect some stories about his Lowertown experiences. Canada’s first Prime Minister, the man who helped forge the Canadian Confederation in 1867, worked, lived, played, and died in this community.

Sir John A. Macdonald spent his last years driving from Parliament along Sussex Street to his home at Earncliffe, in the northeast corner of Lowertown. He often stopped at the nearby station to hop on the Ottawa and Prescott train for a connection to his Kingston constituency. He purchased rhubarb powder for his stomach ailments from a Rideau Street drug-gist. He served as a patron of two sports clubs located in Lowertown: the rowing

club on the Ottawa River boundary and the toboggan club situated at the Rideau River boundary. One of our bridges, Macdonald-Cartier, and one of our parks, Macdonald Gardens, carry his name. And there is much more...

In 1883, during his last term as Prime Minister, Sir John purchased Earncliffe, the lovely stone Gothic Revival house that is now the home of the British Ambassador. Here, on the cliff overlooking the Ottawa River, he lived and worked until his death in June 1891. According to Lady Agnes Macdonald, his second wife, politics invaded home as well as Parliament Hill. At one point in her diary, she wrote that “...I think the very flies hold Parliaments on the kitchen table.” But it was also at Earncliffe that Sir John was able to show



Sir John A Macdonald

love and tenderness to Mary, their disabled daughter, affectionately nicknamed “Baboo.”

After marrying Agnes, Sir John became a regular attendee at the local Anglican church and had a role in the establishment of a small Anglican Mission Hall on Anglesea Square, now Jules Morin Park. In 1887, the fund raiser for the Anglesea Square Mission Fund sent a terse letter to Prime Minister Macdonald, stating that the fund was anxious to receive his promised \$10 contribution. The following month, a reply from Sir John’s private secretary explained the delay, pointing out that as Sir John had just fought a federal election, he had other things on his mind. Notwithstanding Prime Minister’s late payment, in 1894 the Anglicans managed to build their brick Mission Hall at the corner of Chapel and Clarence.

Sir John’s public persona was often on display in Lowertown. As a patron of the newly formed Osh Kosh Toboggan Club in 1888, he paraded in a torchlight procession along Rideau Street. With other enthusiasts, he tobogganed down the steep sandy hill by the Protestant Hospital (now Wallis House) and across the Rideau River. When asked to speak, he reportedly joked that his opponents would consider it appropriate for him to “go downhill” on the toboggan slide “because they had always looked on him as a slippery customer.”

The politics of Canada were always his primary activity and one of his most difficult affairs was the case of Louis Riel. In October 1885, Macdonald appointed Fran-



Valade House on St Patrick

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

Lowertown Lost and Found: Charbonneau House at 487 Rideau

Nancy Miller Chenier

Originally built in 1907-1908 for Arthur Charbonneau, his wife Amanda Beaulieu, their seven children and live-in domestic servant, 487 Rideau witnessed one of Lowertown’s dramatic political stories. Arthur Charbonneau, born in 1870 as the youngest child of Honore, a blacksmith on St. Patrick Street, is inextricably linked to the Regulation 17 controversy that first rocked our community in 1912. Charbonneau was obviously a talented man. By 1891, Arthur was a clerk at Ottawa’s La Banque Nationale and moved steadily up in the financial sector to become manager of La Banque Jacques-Cartier in 1898. By 1901, he was Vice-President of the Ottawa Wine Vault Company and recognized as one of Ottawa’s successful businessmen.



487 Rideau Street in July 2012

But in 1915, the story of the Charbonneau family and the house changed. Arthur Charbonneau accepted a provincial appointment as the sole francophone on a small 3-person commission (the other two members were prominent Irish Catholics) set up to replace the elected Roman Catholic Separate School Board. The appointed Ottawa Separate School Commission was expected to resolve the conflict creat-

ed by the 1912 Ontario directive known as Regulation 17. This government directive severely curtailed instruction in French beyond the first two years of elementary schooling. From its emergence in 1912, the directive set French Catholics against Irish Catholics and Conservatives against Liberals. In 1915, teachers at École Guigues, a French elementary school for boys on Murray Street, openly opposed the directive. In response, funds were withheld and the elected board was replaced by the government-appointed small commis-sion.



Guigues School

In October 1915, shortly after his appointment, Arthur Charbonneau felt compelled to explain his reasons for accepting the position with the government’s commission. In an impassioned speech to a packed audience at the Monument Francais on Dalhousie Street, he claimed that, as a French-Canadian and as a supporter of separate schools, he saw a duty to try to reduce the strife. He argued that the Ontario government was well disposed to separate schools and willing to make concessions. He pointed out that he had



Ecole Guigues today

sought church help to put an end to the imbroglio.

Charbonneau’s last appeal to his francophone neighbours was to the hundreds of angry women and men gathered at École Guigues on January 7, 1916. A group of women reportedly armed with hatpins mounted guard over the students to prevent interference from any member of the government-appointed commission. Although Charbonneau attempted to explain his personal efforts to seek a



Ecole Guigues mothers used hatpins to defend students

resolution, he finally admitted failure and resigned his appointed position that day.

Politics, ethnicity, and religion were factors in Arthur Charbonneau’s decision to eventually leave 487 Rideau Street and move his family to Montreal. This successful middle class Ottawa entrepreneur from an established Lowertown family chose a side of the Regulation 17 issue unpopular with the majority of local francophones.

Although he left Ottawa to start over in another city and another province, his architectural contribution, as well as his historical legacy live on in the unusual two-storey red brick building that stands on Rideau Street at the corner of Augusta.

Lowertown Trivia (3)

In the 1960s, Cadillac Construction Limited built a 12 storey apartment building that was marketed as the most advanced and most distinctive apartment homes ever built in Ottawa. What is the name of that building?

A) The Angel's Home

B) The Seignior

C) The Cadillac Manor

D) The McCullough Apartments

Answer on page 2



Madeleine Meilleur
MPP/députée
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What's in a Name: York Street

Nancy Miller Chenier,
co-chair LCA Heritage

York Street gets its name from that “Grand Old Duke of York” referenced in the familiar children’s nursery rhyme. When Colonel By founded Bytown and laid out the street plan for Lowertown, Prince Frederick, second son of King George III and Queen Charlotte, was the Duke of York and Albany. Although this duke died in 1827, the title lives on in Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.



Frederick, Duke of Albany and York 1763-1827

In Colonel By’s early plan, York Street was 120 feet wide and was the only thoroughfare other than Rideau to extend to King Street (now King Edward Avenue). In the 1840s, York Street was the dividing line for Lowertown’s two political wards. In 1850, money was allocated to build a plank sidewalk on the south side and to macadamize the roadway with a layer of stone compacted by a dust and water mixture. Around 1909, York Street was opened for traffic from King Street to Chapel Street.



York Street from Sussex

Over the years, York Street has changed in many different ways. In the 1830s, a small mill situated just east of Dalhousie Street used water from the Bywash that ran down the middle of York Street. Residents escaped the bullets of the 1849 Stoney Monday riot by sheltering in Grant’s Hotel, now the Chateau Lafayette House. The scholarship tradition started in the 1830s by James Moffat’s school close to Sussex continues today at the York Street and Ste. Anne schools near Jules Morin Park.



York Street School

In the 1930s, the Slover’s department store (now Mother Tucker’s Marketplace) had everything desired by “most fastidious people”. Whether shopping, eating, or drinking, York Street is worth a stroll from end to end. And as you walk, look around and think of Colonel By’s original plan and of a fitting future for this Lowertown village street.

Lowertown Trivia (4)
What hospital was established on Rideau Street in the 1850’s?

A) Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario
B) Elisabeth Bruyere Hospital
C) Rideau Catholic Service Hospital
D) Carleton County Protestant Hospital

Answer on page 2

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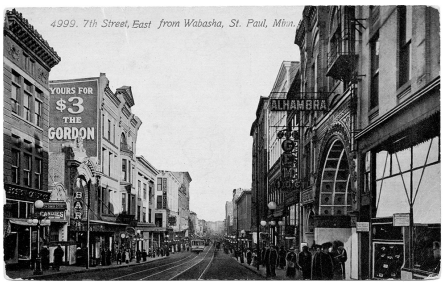


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Lowertown's Doppelgänger

Michelle Ramsay-Borg
In Minnesota, about 1,370 kilometres due west of Ottawa's Lowertown, you'll find a community that is eerily similar to ours. Saint Paul's Lowertown has both an out-



Prosperous 7th Street in Lowertown's heyday, circa 1920.
Source: Public Kitchen + Bar, Saint Paul MN

door farmers market and a 16-square-block area designated as a heritage preservation site, is bordered by a legendary river, and viewed as a great place to live. The other Lowertown is also: experiencing a crush of development; home to three shelters for homeless singles and families; feeling the effects of rising retail rents due to an influx of restaurants and bars; and, brutally cold in the winter.

Sound familiar? Yes! There are even more similarities, yet some notable differences too, beginning with the genesis of two capital cities — one under the watchful eye of a British Colonel, the other at the hands of a French Canadian bootlegger.

In the early 1820s, when Colonel By was hired to build a canal from Lake Ontario to



Smith Park, circa 1910. Now called Mears Park, it's the "beating heart of Lowertown", says lowertownlanding.com.
Source: Public Kitchen + Bar, Saint Paul MN

the Ottawa River, he purchased a vast piece of land on the south bank of the Ottawa River opposite Wrightville. His settlement came to be called Bytown.

He carved it into two sections: Upper Town, where he decided to locate military barracks, business institutions and homes for aristocrats and merchants. In the lower cedar swamp to the east of the canal, he sited Lower Town, intended to house Irish immigrants and French Canadian labourers, with a small commercial district in the vicinity of

York and George to serve them. As befits a member of the British Royal Engineers, it was an efficient example of town planning.

Not so in Minnesota, where the other Lowertown rose out of the wilfulness of a disreputable French Canadian. Pierre "L'Oeil de Cochon" Parrant was a retired fur trader and bootlegger who was kicked out of Fort Snelling in 1838. Not to be beaten, the hot-headed Parrant moved his operation about eight kilometres downstream on the Mississippi River, staking his Pig's Eye Tavern in a spot that was to become Lowertown.

Parrant's new location began to be settled by French Canadians, and soon became an important trading center and stopping point for settlers heading west. Known from the



Saint Paul's Mississippi riverfront, looking eastward to Lowertown.
Source: Wikimedia Commons

beginning as Pig's Eye or Pig's Eye Landing, in 1841 the settlement was officially named Saint-Paul by a priest from France.

Saint Paul, minus the hyphen, was incorporated as a city in 1854; one year later, Bytown was incorporated and became Ottawa. Queen Victoria chose Ottawa to be the capital of Canada in 1857; a year later, Minnesota was admitted to the union with Saint Paul becoming the capital of the 32nd state.

Fast forward now to 2014, when Saint Paul's Lowertown neighbourhood gained



Lowertown's Black Dog Café mirrors the vibe of our own Blue Bird Coffee on Dalhousie Street.
Photo by Black Dog Café, Saint Paul MN

national distinction after being named "America's top hipster zip code" by RealtyTrac, a real estate data company, and was listed as one of the ten best "up-and-coming neighborhoods" in America by newspaper

USA Today.

To explain Lowertown's "up-and-coming" designation, USA Today echoed RealtyTrac which, when crowning it top hipster zip code, noted "its age range (high proportion between 25 and 34), number of people who walk or use public transportation to get to work and ratio of rental housing units." USA Today added, "Lowertown is home to the Union Depot, served by the city's new Green Line light rail, Amtrak trains, and bus companies. Other noteworthy attributes include the St. Paul Farmer's Market (open year-round), Mears Park, a summer-long outdoor music venue, artist lofts in restored 19th century buildings, Nice Ride bike-share stations and great restaurants."

Vibrancy is a new state for Lowertown, which not so long ago was home to a sorry collection of decaying empty buildings surrounded by a crumbling infrastructure. It took commitment, determination and generous funding to turn things around. The introduction in the City's 2011 'Greater Lowertown Master Plan' provides the why, who and how it transformed.

"Capitalists made their fortunes in Lowertown during the turn of the century as the



The historic Farmers Market is as colourful and busy as the ByVard Market.
Source: Visit Saint Paul MN

area became a major center of manufacturing, wholesaling and distributing for the entire Upper Midwest. Lured by the promise of good jobs, thousands of immigrants passed through Lowertown. Fortunes were made and lost in Lowertown.

"After the Depression, Lowertown was virtually neglected and left to its own. Buildings were abandoned, streets were empty. But in the 1970s, the City of Saint Paul and the McKnight Foundation decided to reinvest in Lowertown. They took a \$10 million risk..."

Lowertown did not engage in 'urban renewal', aka large-scale demolition. Instead, it grew slowly, deliberately and incrementally. Over 3.5 million square feet of warehouse space was renovated and developed into loft homes, artists' studios and spaces for retail and hospitality businesses. Mears Park (our Majors Hill Park's twin) was rebuilt and the Farmers' Market moved in. Midway through the 30-year project, in 1983, Lowertown was listed on the National Register of Historic

Places for the significance of its river and rail connections, economic impact, architecture, and urban planning. And the city designated Lowertown's core, a 16-block square area, a Heritage Preservation Site.

In 2007, having seen its vision become a reality, the Redevelopment Corporation closed up shop. As a goodbye gift, it created the Lowertown Future Fund. Today, the Fund works solely to preserve and enhance the efforts of its predecessor organization.

As described in the Master Plan, "Today, Lowertown is a mixed-use, mixed-income community of residents who enjoy and appreciate the arts, creativity, sustainability, and their unique, historic built environment. In the same way the industrialists took raw materials and turned them into marketable products, Lowertown residents took raw buildings and streets and turned them into a neighborhood."

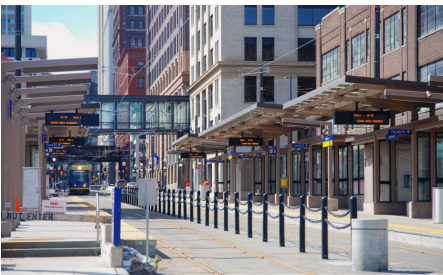
What's next for our Doppelgänger?

It's a ballpark in Lowertown's southeast corner, right by the Lafayette Bridge. Slated to open May 21, it will be home to the independent league St. Paul Saints, as well as amateur teams, concerts and special events.

Although it's a relatively small ballpark with only 7,000 seats, local bloggers are either applauding or bemoaning the changes that will come with the opening of CHS Field. Enthusiasts point to all the new dining options and entertainment venues that are moving in, while naysayers point to older residents and artists who are moving out to escape rising rents, noise, and traffic.

We know how you feel.

All photos accompanying this article are copyright their respective owners.



An LRT station in Lowertown. See the structure bridging the buildings? We have a couple of those.
Photo by Metro Transit, Saint Paul MN

The strength of Lowertown is partially rooted in the idea that you come to Lowertown to build upon what exists. You respect your surroundings and your context. You take raw space (and buildings and land) that has been neglected, you live in it, you work in it, and you turn it into something useful. You create another layer of history.

2011 Greater Lowertown Master Plan

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Lowertown's Rink Rats

John Chenier

The uncooperative weather we've experienced so far this winter has posed serious challenges to those trying to make the ice at both of Lowertown's rinks. To make good ice, you need a nice blanket of snow and lots of cold weather, preferably in that order. Not enough snow or not enough cold weather, or too much of either at the wrong time can make things very difficult.

In Lowertown West, Justin Dyet coordinates a group of community volunteers who have taken on the task of making and maintaining the ice at Bingham Park (Dalhousie and Cathcart) on behalf of the Lowertown Community Association. In Lowertown East, Claude Tremblay coordinates the efforts of community volunteers at Jules Morin Park. These groups receive \$4,200 each from the city for running the rinks for the entire season.

The challenges facing east and west locations are quite different. The boards at the Bingham rink are erected each year by city staff over a sloping grass surface that in the summer serves as the baseball diamond. It takes a thick slab of ice to level the ground and to cover the rubber that sits atop the pitcher's mound.

Over at Jules Morin, the NHL-sized rink has the benefit of permanent - and much better looking - boards and an asphalt base. This hard-packed, level surface

gives the icemakers at Jules Morin a decided advantage over the Bingham crew.

Whatever the surface, the procedure is the same: you start the ice pad by packing down and levelling a snow base and then flooding it for several days, until a smooth surface emerges. Of course it's much easier to spell it out than to actually do it, especially when the weather refuses to cooperate. Fortunately for residents of

may be a mixed blessing from the standpoint of community building, the indoor arena to serve Ottawa's eastern wards went to Sandy Hill.

Over the decades, the Lowertown rinks have experienced an ebb and flow of the city's role and community activity. City-appointed caretakers have been replaced by community volunteers. Competitive speed skating and outdoor hockey

but it takes many hours of practice to develop the skills of a champion. So it may be that the next time you walk by one of our rinks and see someone skating like the wind, you may be seeing a future Gretzky, Béliveau, Browning or Manley busy honing their skills. After all, Lowertown ice legends King Clancy, who was known as the Babe Ruth of hockey, and Jack Barber, the internationally known speed skater, developed their skills on our local outdoor rinks. Or, you may simply be entertained at the sight of someone who, for the first time, is facing the challenge of remaining precariously balanced on two thin blades on a slippery surface.

Just keep in mind that after all the skaters have gone home for the night, a dedicated crew of volunteers will be out scraping and flooding the rink so that we all, spectator and participant alike, may find enjoyment in the Ottawa winter.

On that note, don't forget that some Lowertown traditions are making a comeback. In the past several years, hundreds have shown up for free food, fun and skating at Winterfest, held annually at Jules Morin Park on Family Day - February 16th this year. Hope to see you there!



Open Air Rink at Bingham Park, Ottawa - Study 3
Photo by Stephan Gaydos

leagues, which in days gone by filled outdoor bleachers, have now moved to indoor rinks. Also gone are the annual winter carnivals that would attract thousands of participants, and the "Skate to Music" programs of the 1940s that had couples gliding around the oval rinks.

Most organized hockey and figure skating classes happen indoors these days,

Lowertown, the ice-making crews have persevered and the rinks are officially open.

When it comes to seniority, the Bingham Park rink seems to hold the bragging rights, with newsworthy events reported as far back as the 1920s - while citizens were still petitioning for a hockey rink at Anglesea Square in the 1930s. By the 1950s, however, the focus on rinks had shifted to covered arenas with indoor artificial ice, with Anglesea /Jules Morin touted as a potential site. However, in what

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Tree Ottawa needs your help

Liz Bernstein

Ottawa's trees are in danger from threats like the Emerald Ash Borer, climate change, extreme weather and poorly planned urban expansion. Sadly, the City of Ottawa anticipates losing millions of trees in just the next 3-5 years. Now, more than ever, help from concerned communities is needed to maintain the ecological balance of Ottawa's urban spaces.

On December 8th 2014, Tree Ottawa presented to Lowertown Community Association on Ecology Ottawa's MILLION tree initiative. The project is much more than just putting trees in the ground: it's also about engaging residents, private companies and public organizations in growing a greener community and future.

As Lowertown residents may remember, the Tree Ottawa initiative was launched at Bingham Park in October. We were happy to have them back to tell us how we can get more involved in planning future tree plantings in our community. Velta Tomsons, Tree Ottawa Organizer, presented potential sites for future tree plantings, including Jules Morin Park, Beausoleil Drive,

York Street, and Bordeleau Park. These are all sites that will be impacted by a variety of factors, including Emerald Ash Borer, construction, and development.

The residents in attendance discussed the pros and cons of the sites presented. Some proposed focusing on streetscapes rather than community parks, to help traffic calming and improve pedestrian experiences. Others suggested potential planting sites, like along King Edward Ave., around surface parking lots, and throughout the ByWard Market as part of its revitalization process.

It was inspiring to see so much interest.

To learn how you can Protect, Plant, and Promote visit <http://treeottawa.org/> or to join others in Lowertown participating in Tree Ottawa, contact LCA at info@lowertown-basseville.ca

To adopt a tree, go to <http://www.opentreemap.org/ecologyottawa/map>

Here are 3 ways you can help:

- **Protect** the trees that make Ottawa such a cherished city. Did you know the average lifespan of a newly planted city tree is 7 years? These trees need to be adopted. It's free and easy.
- **Plant** more trees. Together we are going to plant 1 million trees! One million trees is one tree for each citizen in Ottawa. Will you plant one? Join others in Lowertown to identify planting sites and organize plantings later in the year.
- **Promote** tree habitat in Ottawa: make a lasting impact by donating to Tree Ottawa, or by volunteering your time.

Stumbling Into a Planning Outcome: How the City of Ottawa Rezoned King Edward Avenue

... the municipal procedures and rationale, while technically legal,... have been so suspect that they raise process questions (and even pointed to errors of reason) – and yet the municipality still stumbled into a planning outcome which the Board could not rightfully overturn.... [Denhez 16]*

Liz MacKenzie, LCA Heritage Committee
Thus Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) Chair, M.C. Denhez, described the City of Ottawa’s handling of rezoning on King Edward Avenue.
To appeal or not to appeal
One does not casually make an appeal to the OMB. Preparation takes weeks, sometimes months: gathering information, preparing arguments and assembling exhibits. The more experienced heavy hitters you have on your side, the better. Few individuals can match their opponents’ \$20,000 — \$50,000 to commission a cultural impact statement or to retain expert witnesses, planners and lawyers to make their case. Any brave soul who files an appeal takes on City legal and planning staff and the opponents’ highly trained lawyers, planners and expert witnesses.
Ted Lawrence did just that. With research and financial assistance of three community members, Clarence Street property owner Lawrence appealed three City bylaws to the OMB.
The issues
Under appeal were three bylaws ap-

proved by City council in 2014. They were bundled together in a single report to Planning Committee, a known strategy that makes analysis and comment confusing and difficult:
The first, By-law No. 2014-24, generally rezoned several blocks along King Edward to six-storey midrise, compared to the previous lowrise limit of 11 metres.
The second, No. 2014-25, addressed properties specifically at the corner of King Edward and Clarence Street, the focus of this phase. It removed part of the Heritage Overlay, which had regulated the massing of buildings on this block of Clarence Street for four decades.
The third, No. 2014-26, was a site-specific rezoning for a nine-storey apartment hotel, several blocks away (“hotel site”).[Denhez 3]
The bylaw relating to the hotel was appealed because it allowed an exception to the newly minted height of 6 stories. The developer filed a motion to dismiss, which was upheld after a one-day hearing - leaving only two appeals in play. The appeal of the other two bylaws went forward and was heard on September 8th, 2014 by M.C. Denhez for the OMB.
The decision
The appeals were dismissed, but citizen concerns were taken seriously and Chair Denhez rewarded the effort with an eloquent decision that highlights all the City’s Heritage Section problems that became apparent during the hearing.
...the Board is compelled to dismiss this appeal, despite its dissatisfaction with the City’s paper trail. [123]
The upside: the appeal allows access to information. Lawrence was able to request all material from City files related

to the subject: emails, telephone conversations and letters. In the removal of the Heritage Overlay, these were exceedingly revealing. Another plus is that the appellant and the OMB Chair can examine staff, often getting answers that are not forthcoming from a lone citizen’s inquiry. In his decision, Chair Denhez notes:
It sometimes happens in Ontario that appellants take a case to the Board for little other reason than desperation to get a straight answer. [90]
The rezoning of King Edward Avenue
On the first appeal, (By-law 2014-24) the rezoning of King Edward Avenue, the concern was that many properties on the West side of King Edward Avenue that are in the Heritage Conservation District will be threatened by the new height increase. Rezoning allows six-storey midrises, compared to the previous lowrise limit of 11 metres (three-four storeys). Buildings on King Edward Avenue East have no protection and are vulnerable to assembly, random demolition and development under the proposed Mainstreet Zoning: a concern of the LCA Heritage Committee.
Prior to the rezoning, in August 2010, the community had taken their concerns to the Built Heritage Subcommittee and the City Planning Committee. The initial outcome was favourable: Planning Committee instructed staff to do a comprehensive study of heritage properties in Lowertown East. After months of inaction, when questioned by the community, heritage staff wrote to say that “no money was allocated to this project other than supervision”. Denhez comments:[Continues on page 10]

Definitions

Heritage Overlay: a set of zoning parameters used to protect sites that have heritage value. Those parameters limit any replacement building, in an area covered by the Overlay, to the dimensions of the building it replaces. Any work done on a site with heritage overlay requires a planning permit. This is done to conserve and enhance places of natural or cultural significance and to ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance of heritage places.

Provincial Policy Statement (PPS): applies province-wide and provides clear policy direction on land use planning to promote strong communities, a strong economy, and a clean and healthy environment. Municipalities use the PPS to develop their official plans and to guide and inform decisions on other planning matters.

Ontario Heritage Act (OHA): gives municipalities and the provincial government powers to preserve the heritage of Ontario.

Ontario Municipal Board (OMB): an independent administrative board, operated as an adjudicative tribunal in the province of Ontario, Canada. The OMB hears applications and appeals on municipal and planning disputes related to zoning, subdivision plans, official plans, specific heritage appeals under the Ontario Heritage Act, land compensation matters under the Expropriations Act, municipal financing proposals under the Municipal Act, and various other matters.

Official Plan (OP): A legal document that provides a vision for Ottawa and addresses matters of provincial interest defined by the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) under the Ontario Planning Act. It also serves as a basis for a wide range of municipal activities.

Built Heritage Subcommittee (BHSC): 4 councillor and 3 community volunteers meet monthly to advise and assist Council on matters relating heritage matters.

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[Continued from page 9]... the ensuing “review” such as it was, was not by staff but by students at Carleton University’s School of Canadian Studies — a class project, which applied only to one eighth of Lowertown East (called “the Wedge”), some distance north of the subject properties. [39]

The Association then sent repeated correspondence to the City, asking when the Committee’s mandated review would extend to the other seven eighths of Lowertown East (aside from the Wedge). The initial written response from the City’s Heritage Coordinator, Sally Coutts, was that “we will sort that one out” (January 27, 2012).[40]

However, in later correspondence, staff instead took the view that the Committee meant the Wedge only, and hence there was no further work to be done on the rest. [41]

The Board heard no persuasive explanation of how a clear direction to staff, from Planning Committee, to study heritage in “Lowertown East,” was reinterpreted to apply only to the Wedge... The more enduring concern was the reputed elimination of resources, not only from that assignment, but from most heritage assignments under the OHA, the PPS and the OP. The Board was not told how the City is supposed to perform its prescribed functions under such circumstances. As admirable as student projects may be, the implementation of Provincial and OP policy in this area cannot rely on them indefinitely. [88]

When Lawrence asked how they could prepare for designations in the absence of funding, the city’s heritage planner replied, “That’s a very good question.” And that is not a very good answer, but an answer that gravely worries heritage groups throughout the city.

Lifting the Heritage Overlay: now you see it — now you don’t

The second appeal (By-law 2014-25) addressed properties at the corner of King Edward and Clarence Street. The by-law removed part of the Overlay, which had regulated the massing of buildings on this block of Clarence Street for four decades.

A Heritage Overlay ensures that a replacement building is approximately the same height and footprint as the building being demolished. When City staff circulated their draft report on the rezoning of King Edward Avenue, there was no mention of lifting the Heritage Overlay on the Groupe Claude Lauzon Ltée’s derelict brick row houses, at 269, 277, 285 and 291 King Edward Ave. The document went to a public information meeting on October 17th, unchanged.

Demolition by neglect

The Board (OMB) is reluctant to attribute motives – even though in this case, it cannot explain why an owner would have buildings stand derelict, in such a high visibility location, for almost two decades.

Conventional wisdom has long held that there are various ways to “uglify” buildings; with determination, an owner could make the Taj Mahal look like a monstrosity – leading to political calls for its imminent demise, as its owner may have intended. One would like to think that professional planners could see beyond such a longstanding ruse. [80]

On November 27, 2013, staff produced their 32-page final report to the Planning Committee of the LCA. The community was staggered to find, in three sentences buried in the report, that the Heritage Overlay was to be removed. In a vehement response, the Association contested the recommendation submitted to the Planning Committee without consultation of either the LCA or the BHSC. The LCA appealed to Chair of the BHSC for a review, but heritage staff flatly refused to consider the request. Only when the city documents, including staff correspondence and comments were obtained, did the reason for the removal become clear.

What the record says...

By chance, the planner for Groupe Claude Lauzon Ltée. bumped into a City planning manager who alerted him to the King Edward Avenue rezoning. A quick email from Lauzon’s planner to the city planner points out the existence of a Heritage Overlay that is an “impediment to development” and requests that “consideration should be given to the removal of the heritage overlay from some properties in the corridor, eliminating the requirement to seek minor variances and/or rezoning.” (Nov. 7, 2013). Ongoing dialogue ensued and just one week later, Lauzon gets his response:

... further to our phone discussion last week I can offer the following response. I reassessed the Heritage Overlay which applies to Clarence Street... the Department will consider removing the Heritage Overlay from those properties fronting King Edward. This would include 269, 277,285, and 291 King Edward Avenue. The draft report is currently with management for review but this recommendation to remove the Heritage Overlay will be incorporated accordingly.... any questions... please do not hesitate to contact me.

Really, that simple? The city planner reassessed the Heritage Overlay? Not quite. Here’s how it went. When the file was originally circulated to Heritage Section for comment, they replied:

The Heritage Section has no specific concerns with the proposed rezoning, except that the Heritage Overlay (Section 60) should remain in place on all properties that are currently covered by it. (October 16th)

However, following the developer’s request to remove the Heritage Overlay, and considerable correspondence with staff and councillors, the Heritage Section comments:

We don’t know the rationale for the addition of the Heritage overlay on Clarence, but it likely predated the designation process. I would suggest a compromise would be to remove the HO on the properties fronting onto King Edward on the east side of the street only. This would mean 269, 277, 285, and 291. (Nov. 12, 2013)

The OMB chair took exception:

The Board heard no information on why a City staff member — let alone a heritage official — would issue personal calls on selected councilors “to simplify the redevelopment process”, on the ground that “the properties are NOT protected under the Ontario Heritage Act and... the Heritage Overlay does not protect buildings”.

Staff’s emphasis, on the properties not having been designated, was also misleading...The Board does not understand why it was told that removal of the Overlay “doesn’t necessarily mean someone will build higher; that’s speculation,” when removal of the Overlay to allow “someone to build higher” was the entire point of the discussion. . [Denhez 88]

However, Denhez denied the request to retain the Heritage Overlay, reasoning that:

The Board was told very little about the historic, architectural and cultural aspects of the subject properties, or the block itself. Indeed, City heritage staff testified that it did not even have any record of the reasons for the Overlay here... [30]... For example, the appellant might have considered bringing forward evidence of “heritage significance” — architectural, historic, cultural or social — or at least any grounds to suggest that the buildings deserved “retention” (to use the word in the By-law). [120] In short, whatever the reservations about the City’s contention that the buildings were culturally insignificant, there was simply an absence of evidence to rebut it. [122]

Denhez characterizes the staff “situation” as “not straightforward”. He writes:

The Board was not told why the Heritage Section, mandated to oversee the City’s heritage responsibilities, could offer no record of why the Heritage Overlay had been there for 37 years. After so many decades, it is unclear how the Heritage Section could conclude, within a mere day and a half, that the Overlay

should be lifted...

The recommendations

Lawrence asked that the board required the city to keep its commitment to the promised heritage review of the rest of Lowertown East beyond the Wedge, to adopt a plan for Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District (HCD), to integrate heritage resources into new development, and to commit to evaluating buildings in Lowertown East. Denhez provided 6 “parenthetical” comments on issues, which are outside the range of the OMB:

A. Though the Board cannot use this zoning appeal to compel the City to prepare an HCD plan (for the Lowertown West HCD), under s. 41.1 of the OHA, the Board does take this opportunity to remind the City that such plans were indeed part of the OHAs intent.

B. The Board was told neither how the Heritage Section is supposed to fulfill its mandate in the absence of monetary resources, nor why it would refuse nonmonetary resources, like the input of the BHSC.


C. The Board has no explanation for the apparent assumption, by the planners, that “development” could only come in one format — redevelopment.

D. The Board disagrees with the apparent assumption that the PPS heritage provisions refer only to properties designated under the OHA. That is not what the PPS itself says.

E. For decades, the City talked about revitalizing lowrise buildings along King Edward Avenue. At the time, its OP envisioned lowrise. That policy clearly failed. The Board was shown no evidence of an actual strategy to induce or guide such investment on any methodical basis. In the apparent absence of a strategy, the Board was not shown how anyone could have expected anything different, let alone a better outcome.

F. For that matter, the Board was not told of any City strategy to attract or guide investment to the improvement of existing buildings elsewhere in the undesignated heritage Overlay — or to the improvement of the building stock generally. Given the monetary stakes, the Board has no explanation. [124]

There are many other substantive issues addressed by Denhez’s 30-page decision, including environmental arguments for the reuse of existing buildings. It’s a good read. Denhez does not paint a flattering picture of the City of Ottawa Heritage Section, nor of the City for underfunding the Heritage Section, making it impossible to live up to their responsibly under



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Renovation/Rehabilitation

The Board has noted many times elsewhere that in a society which urges the reuse of items as small as pop bottles, tin cans and grocery bags (to avoid sending same to landfill), one would expect efforts to reuse items as large as buildings. [102]

the Ontario Heritage Act. Lowertown, in particular, suffers from neglectful heritage practices.

Heritage Committee members should not be quick to blame themselves for not having more background on these buildings. Surely, it is not entirely the responsibility of the community to do the work of the City’s professional heritage staff. We work where we think there is risk, but we cannot guess where the next threat will be. Community members have prepared complete briefs on significant landmarks in our community, particularly York Street School, the Prayer House on Myrand Street, the Andrew Fleck Daycare Centre and the Union du Canada building, requesting designation. They sit on shelves or computer drives at City Hall, “in the queue”.

We need the support of partners— working partners with resources— who do not see Lowertown heritage as an impediment to development, but as an important cultural resource that enhances our city.

Will councillors be moved by the Denhez Decision to provide increased resources to protect our heritage and cultural resources? Some Ontario planners are already citing his comments. We can only hope that the message hits home.

The numbers in brackets refer to the paragraph number in the text of the OMB decision. The full text of the decision is available at <http://www.omb.gov.on.ca/ecs/CaseDetail.aspx?n=PL140212>

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Le grand dérangement de la Basse-Ville

La rénovation urbaine de la Basse-Ville Est des années 1960 et 1970

Michel Rossignol

Il y a un demi-siècle, la Ville d'Ottawa initiait la rénovation urbaine de la Basse-Ville Est, un projet qui a causé bien des soucis pour les gens qui habitaient le quartier et qui suscite encore la controverse. De nombreuses maisons ont été expropriées et démolies entre 1967 et 1979 et face aux retards dans la construction de nouveaux logements, de nombreuses familles qui habitaient la Basse-Ville depuis plusieurs générations ont quitté le quartier. Cet exode s'ajoutait à celui provoqué à la même époque par la construction du pont Cartier-Macdonald et des routes d'accès dans le nord de la Basse-Ville. La vague de rénovation urbaine des années 1960 et 1970 a marqué plusieurs villes du Canada, mais en plus de changer le paysage urbain, le projet de la Basse-Ville Est a aussi bouleversé la communauté franco-ontarienne. Plusieurs francophones ont quitté cette partie d'Ottawa qui était jusqu'alors un des principaux centres de la vie francophone en Ontario. La Paroisse Ste-Anne a aussi subi des conséquences, car elle a perdu plusieurs de ses paroissiens.

Aujourd'hui, la rénovation urbaine de

la Basse-Ville Est intéresse les chercheurs universitaires qui veulent souligner les leçons des projets de rénovation urbaine des années 1960 et 1970 et bien documenter un important chapitre de l'histoire franco-ontarienne. Le Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française (CRCCF) de l'Université d'Ottawa, encouragé par l'Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville, concentre une partie de ses recherches dans le cadre de son Chantier Ottawa sur le projet de la Basse-Ville Est. Caroline Ramirez, doctorante en Géographie, prépare une thèse sur le projet et coordonne la collecte de données pour ce volet du Chantier Ottawa (voir <http://arts.uottawa.ca/crcf/recherche/chantier-ottawa/volet-geographie>). À l'automne 2014, elle a donné des conférences au Muséoparc Vanier et à l'Université d'Ottawa sur la chronologie des événements (disponible sur le site Web du CRCCF). D'ailleurs, plusieurs auteurs contribuent des articles à un livre que prépare le Chantier Ottawa sur les effets de la rénovation urbaine sur la Basse-Ville Est et la paroisse Ste-Anne. Comme le démontre le succès du livre de Marcel Séguin et un collectif d'auteurs, Ste-Anne d'Ottawa, une belle aventure humaine, les résidents d'hier et d'aujourd'hui de la Basse-Ville s'intéressent à l'histoire de leur quartier, donc le nouveau livre arrive à point.



Cette photo avec le titre “ King Edward Avenue ” montre en réalité la rue Rose au coin de Guigues (le magasin de Fernand Schryburt) avant la rénovation urbaine de la Basse-Ville Est.
Photo de Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, MIKAN 4211417

How our community is changing

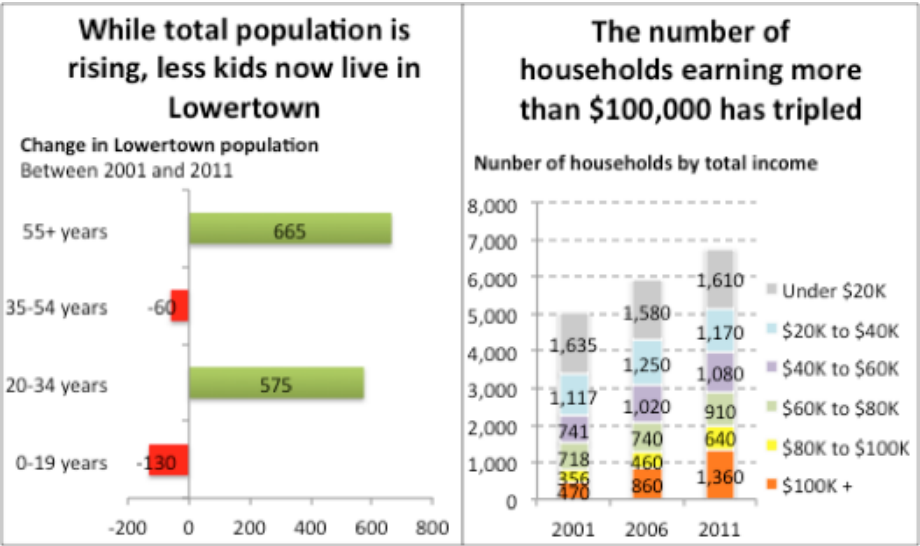
What census data says about the evolution of Lowertown

Jan-François Grabowiecki

Taking a stroll through Lowertown, it's easy to spot several recent and important changes to our neighbourhood's physical layout. Parks have been revitalized, main arteries rebuilt, and several large residential structures have been built - to name a few. But how has the group of residents

apartment or condo buildings, compared to the 30% city-wide average.

Lowertown continues to be a culturally and ethnically diverse community: 26% of residents are immigrants. As well, 27% of the population identified French as their mother tongue, about twice the city-wide average (14%), but down from 36% in 2001 - although this drop may be overstated since institutional residents are not included in the 2011 census.



who call Lowertown home changed over the years? Drawing on data from the last three censuses and the national household survey, we can see how the demographic features of our community have evolved.

In this analysis, Lowertown is the area bounded by Rideau Street to the south, Sussex Drive to the north and west, and the Rideau River to the east. Its population grew by 1,050 since 2001, reaching 12,183 residents in 2011. During this time, the number of households grew even more, by 1,105, which implies that the average household size in our community has decreased: indeed, it fell from 2.0 people per household in 2001 to 1.8 in 2011. Compared to 2001, there are 865 more households of 1 person, 345 more of 2 persons, but 125 less of 3 or more persons. This suggests that there are fewer kids in Lowertown: 135 less to be exact, and they now account for 12% of Lowertown's population, compared to a city-of-Ottawa average of 23%. The growth in population has come from adults aged 20-34 years old (+575 since 2001) and those aged 55 and over (+665 since 2001).

Looking at the types of residential dwellings, there are 1,300 more apartments — 80% of which have 5 or more stories — compared to 2001. Conversely, there are 190 fewer houses. This is not surprising, since several new condo towers were built in this time. In 2011, roughly 80% of residents in Lowertown lived in

Turning to income, Lowertown residents earn about 50% more than before: average household income grew from \$46,000 to \$68,000 between 2001 and 2011. The proportion of household earnings over \$100,000 grew from 9% of households in 2001 to 20% in 2011, a sign of gentrification.

So how do residents feel about these changes? According to Sylvie Grenier, planning committee chair of the Lowertown Community Association, “New development is good, but it is important to provide a variety of new housing sizes and types to create a healthy neighbourhood where residents can live all of their lives.”

What do you think about these changes in our community? Write us at echo@lowertown-basseville.ca

Lowertown Trivia (5)

In 1912, the Ottawa Improvement Commission contacted a landscape architect to create the park. Who was it?

A) Sir Lemire Frank
B) Charlotte Whitton
C) Frederick G Todd
D) Elizabeth MacKey

Answer on page 2

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The Rideau Chapel's Improbable Heritage

Sarah Fox

Hidden within the Canadian galleries at the National Gallery of Canada is the Rideau Street Convent Chapel - home of Janet Cardiff's *Forty-Part Motet*, a hallmark of Tudor-Gothic architecture in Ontario and a work of art in its own right. A treasure of ecclesiastical architecture, the chapel was consecrated in 1888 in the Rideau Street Convent. What is lesser known to younger generations is the story of how the chapel came to be rebuilt inside the National Gallery, a century later. That story tells of the efforts and mobilization of the Lowertown community and National Gallery staff who saved the chapel from imminent destruction. As a result, the success of one generation led to the preservation of a heritage and art historical icon to be appreciated by generations to come.

The Gothic Revival chapel was designed by priest-architect Georges Bouillon in 1887-1988 for the Rideau Street Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, a girls' school run by the Sisters of Charity. With decline in enrolment and architectural decay, in 1971 the chapel and its host building were threatened with destruction. It is only for the public appeal and the work of local groups to save the chapel that it remains a symbol of the Lowertown community to this day. Citizen groups, including Action Sandy Hill, were pivotal in the process of ensuring the chapel's survival; and from their efforts, the Heritage Canada Foundation was established.

This is a unique heritage preservation case: ironically, the Rideau Chapel cannot be called a heritage monument. Though once a notable feature of Lowertown Ottawa's historical landscape, the relocation

of the chapel from its original site into the National Gallery removes its heritage status. That being said, if we consider the term "heritage" in the context of efforts made to preserve something deemed to be an emblematic testament to the past,



Rideau Street Convent Chapel

Photo © NGC

then the Rideau Chapel and the story of its relocation exemplifies just that. The National Gallery of Canada director at the time, Jean Sutherland Boggs, acquired the chapel and it was clear that the preserved interior would soon have a new home.

In late 2014, I had the privilege of

speaking to Charlie Hill, the former curator of Canadian Art at the National Gallery, about the Rideau Chapel's integration into the Canadian collection and the history and process of its relocation and restoration. Hill describes the acquisition of the Chapel as "curious", as the National Gallery was not located on Sussex Avenue at the time, but in the Lorne Building, an office building on Elgin Street. The office building had no space to reconstruct the interior on site, and so the dismantled chapel stayed in storage from the years 1972 to approximately 1984.

Hill revealed just how ambitious of a project the National Gallery undertook in the relocation and restoration of the Chapel into the Sussex Avenue building. Walking into the Rideau Chapel today, one is immediately dwarfed by its extravagance. The reconstruction and replication efforts sought to make it more accessible to the public, while evoking the feeling for the original space as much as possible.

For example, lights are installed in the gallery interior to replicate natural light that would have been present on the original site. Reconstruction of the floor, walls and window frames was necessary for the chapel's interior to translate into the new space. The chapel retains some original glasswork in the galleries from as early as the 1920s, and the altar was easily transferred into the new building. The chapel columns were a challenge: after the demolition, they were kept in storage outside, where they lost their finish. Luckily, two columns behind the altarpiece were preserved and their

finish was replicated on the columns that populate the central space. Also housed within the chapel are sculptures that were not originally in the building, but are contemporary to it. As the Rideau Chapel is now part of the broader narrative of Canadian art, Hill says, it complements the adjacent gallery spaces and does what all other galleries do: define a particular time period of artistic expression.

Typically, preservation efforts aim to keep the heritage where it is. With relocation to a new home, where it serves a main function as a piece of art, the inspiring heritage story of the chapel runs the risk of being lost. In the new setting, different generations will value the presence of the Rideau Chapel for different reasons. Some will appreciate its beauty and aesthetic space, while perhaps unfamiliar with the preservation struggles. Others will fondly remember the contributions and efforts they made to save it from demolition. What the heritage warriors have accomplished is that the chapel survived and is recognized as a work of art and a hallmark of religious architecture in the region, ensuring that even without the official heritage status badge, the importance of the site continues to resonate in the community.

Charlie Hill's recommended reading: Luc Noppen, "In the National Gallery of Canada: One of the Most Beautiful Chapels in the Land" (Ottawa: NGC 1988)

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